

The Gates Creek Church of Separate Baptists organized in 1786 by Andrew Tribble who was its first pastor and continued to serve the church in that capacity almost until the time of his death.

A brief word about Mr. Tribble's life — he was born in 1741 died in 1822. He was for a time a member of Gold Mine Church in Louisa County, Virginia from which he was sent as a messenger to the first meeting of the General Association of Virginia in 1771. After this he accepted the pastoral care of a church in Albemarle County it being near the residence of Thomas Jefferson, that statesman frequently came to Mr. Tribble's meeting.

The Virginians and especially the able and learned R. B. C. Howell asserts that Mr. Jefferson conceived the idea of a popular government for the American States while observing the business transaction of the little Baptist Church of which Mr. Tribble was pastor. He (Mr. Tribble) came to Kentucky in 1783, moved to Clark County in 1786, united with Howards Creek Baptist Church now Providence.

A few hours before his death he said to his son Peter and another young preacher standing at his bedside, "Boys you see me here now. In a few days I shall be gone. I give you this charge. Play the man for your God."

Back to the history of the Church. (Spencers
History of Kentucky Baptist. Volume I page 128).
Tates Creek was a flourishing Church from the
beginning for in 1790 it had a membership of
two hundred ten (210). Among its earlier members
were Squire Boone and Thomas Shelton both
preachers. In 1790 it was one of the largest
churches in Kentucky.

This meeting house was of stone and stood
on shallow Ford where that stream crosses
the old dirt road three and one-half miles
north of Richmond on the old Sam Fox place.
This farm is now owned by Mr. B.M. Dgo.

In 1849 this building was destroyed by
fire. The land sold to Mr. David Irvine and
the membership built Republican - now a
missionary Baptist Church located one mile
from the Lexington Pike on the Old Boonesborough
Road -

Among its more recent Pastors have been
Richard French, B. F. Petty, B.A. Davis, A. G. Ross,
G. J. Amerson, A. G. Swanson and P. B. Akin.

At present this Church has a membership
of two hundred eighty five (285). Mrs. Biggestaf
Mrs. Thomas Williams ^{and Mrs. Biggestaf} are its oldest living
members. Each have been members over fifty years.
(60 yrs) G. C. Burgin, Frank Burgin and Minnie
Hayden have been members over fifty years (50 yrs).

Time and space would prevent giving in detail the loyal, faithful, consecrated efforts of Smiths, Williams, Deatherage's, Chenault's, and others that have given of their time, influence, talent, and means as making Republican Church a spiritual influence not only in this Community, but throughout the South.

R. W. Heflin

This letter does not belong to our
Lutes Creek Association.
as you will see from looking
of this letter (~~was~~ Rice Dister)