

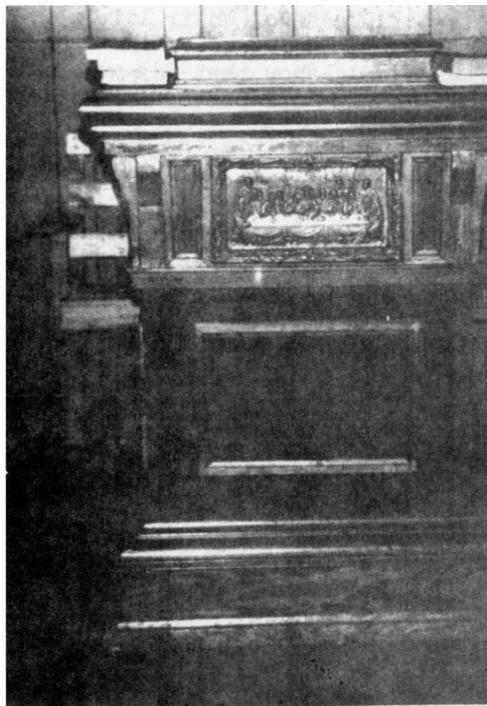
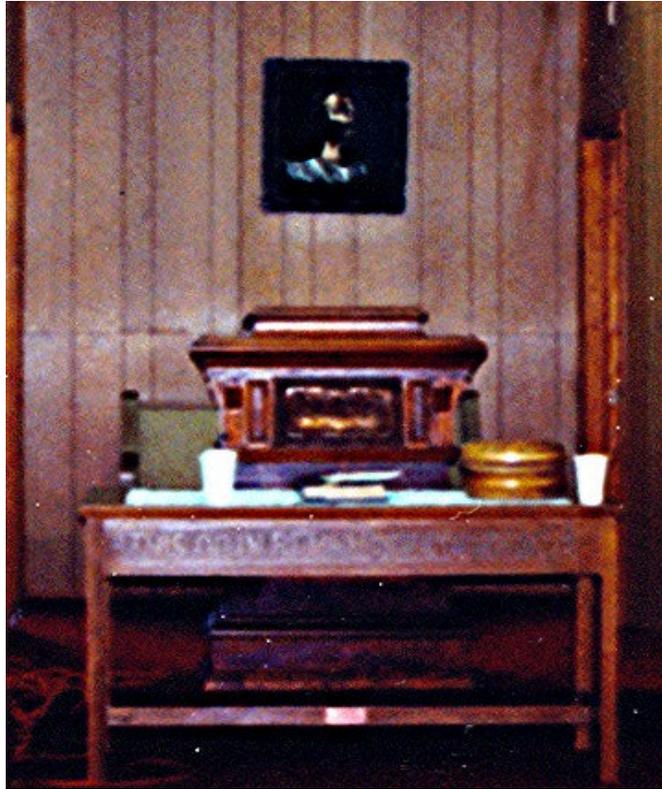
A Short Story one Sunday Morning

I found a story much like this one of Early Lawrence County. The only Cumberland Presbyterian Church around Strawberry during this time was John and Eda Milligan's Campground Church but this story doesn't necessarily reflect an account of their church.

The people who attended this church on Sunday mornings would come from miles around. Very early in the morning, through the valley mist, you could hear the creaking of ox carts and horse drawn wagons coming in from all directions. Of course the women and children would be dressed in their Sunday best, all loaded in the wagons with their husbands driving the teams that pulled them; the family's dogs chasing after them to keep up with their owners.

This Sunday morning, everyone filed into church; the men standing their rifles up in the corners of the back wall where everyone's coats were hung. The dogs remained outside and would lie quietly in the early morning sun.

Halfway through the Preacher's sermon this Sunday, as they all sat there in their piety, the dogs outside started to bark. Then they went into long howling whines. Then, all of a sudden, the men inside heard them take off to the woods, baying as they ran. The Preacher at the pulpit, watching the expressions on the men's faces couldn't take the humor of the scene any more and finally said, "Ladies and gentlemen, we are going to take a short recess from services this morning so the men can go and take after the panther or bear that the dogs just discovered." The men, creating much of a ruckus, got up, hurried for their rifles and out the door they clamored, all in pursuit of their hounds. They caught up to a bear the hounds had treed, shot and killed it and within a short time, came back to church. Once again behind the pulpit, the Preacher said, "Let's pray to God for giving us his wonderful bounty and let's also pray for our devout womenfolk that remained steadfast in their faith while their men were away." The ladies erupted into laughs and smiles all around.



John Milligan's Original Pulpit

Church Buildings of the Milligan Campground

The Milligan Campground Cumberland Presbyterian Church and Cemetery still exists today. The small congregation there is in their third building on the original site of John and Eda Milligan's 1st church building. A replica of their church also still exists today and is currently located a few miles to the Northeast of the Milligan Campground. It is the Lebanon Presbyterian Church and Cemetery, in Lynn, Arkansas. Lynn is just outside of the New State Park at Powhatten, Arkansas. This log structure (walls only) is typical of what John and Eda Milligan's original church building looked like and is also of frontier architecture, as John was taught to build in his youth in Triadelphia.



This is a replica of John Milligan's original church Building at the Campground, complete with ports in the walls.

These ports were later used as log supports for a loft Inside the building where the members slaves would be seated.

Shown above and on the next page is the original Lebanon Presbyterian Church building in Lynn, Arkansas that was erected in 1852. Grandma Goldie Bell Milligan use to tell us that John Milligan and his boys helped build the walls of this church building.

Special note: John Ellis Milligan (son of Israel Henry and Harriet Jane Curtis) and Margret Parsley are buried in the cemetery just adjacent to this church on the far side of this building.



1st Church Building Documentation

The following “Minutes of Session” document is a reproduction from an original dated April 7, 1877. It is the minutes of an Elder’s Meeting of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church at the Milligan Campground in Strawberry, Arkansas. The meeting itself was conducted at the home of Andrew Milligan at 5 o’clock P.M. I am going to transcribe this document below. With spelling errors, it says:

Minutes of Session

The session of the Strawberry congregation of the C.P. Church met at Brother A.J. Milligan’s at 5 o’clock P.M. opened by prayer. Role called presan: Jesey Shaw, pastor; Elder’s presan; J.A. Milligan, John Milligan Jr., J.A. Craig, Isriel Milligan. Absent J.A. Baker, Brother M. Raney on motion was invited to a seat as an advisory member. Reading minutes of last session dispensed with the session taken up the cases of the following named persons for immoral conduct and ordered then to be notified to meet the session on the 12th day of May, 1877 at 3 o’clock P.M.: F.P. Milligan, playing cards, drunkenness, and dancing; W.K.P. Milligan, playing cards and dancing; Mary A. Bell, dancing; Marhy A. Smithe, dancing, Lyda Milligan, dancing; Ann Henson, dancing; May E. Milligan, dancing; James edington, dancing; Lorinda Steadman, dancing; Eliza Milligan, dancing; Eady Edington, dancing, James Crooms allowing dancing in his hous and

dancing; Rebeckey Bailly, Allowing dancing in hur hous; Catherine Ingram, swearing. On motion, session adjourned to meet at the church hous on Saturday before the second sabbath in June, 1877, at 3 o'clock P.M. Adjourned by prayer Jessey made.

A. Craig, Clerk

Some of the mentioned people:

F.P. Milligan is Franklin Pierce Milligan, son of Ellis R. and Mahala Light (Billings) Milligan

W.K.P. Milligan is William Kay Patterson Milligan, son of Israel Milligan
Mary A. Bell

Martha Smithee

Lydia Milligan is Lydia Jane Milligan, daughter of Ellis R. and Mahala Light (Billings) Milligan

Ann Henson, this is Mahala Ann Milligan, daughter of Ellis R. and Mahala Light Milligan (she married Jefferson G. Henson at a young age)

May E. Milligan most likely is May Elise Milligan, also a daughter of Ellis R and Mahala Light (Billings) Milligan

James Edington

Lorinda Steadman

Eliza Milligan is the daughter of Israel Milligan

Eady Edington

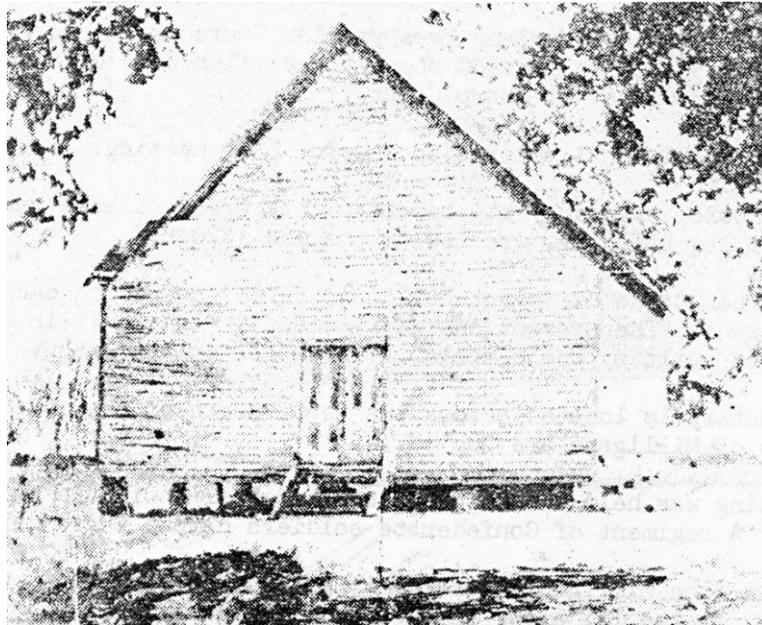
James Crooms

Rebecca Bailey

Catherine Ingram

The 2nd Church Building

The new 2nd church building was built in 1910. It was a lap sided and whitewashed wood structure. This building served the congregation until 1946.



The 2nd Church Building erected in 1910. This photo was found in the book, "Our Milligan Heritage" by Eunice Baker and Odessa McGowan of Bono, Arkansas, 1985.

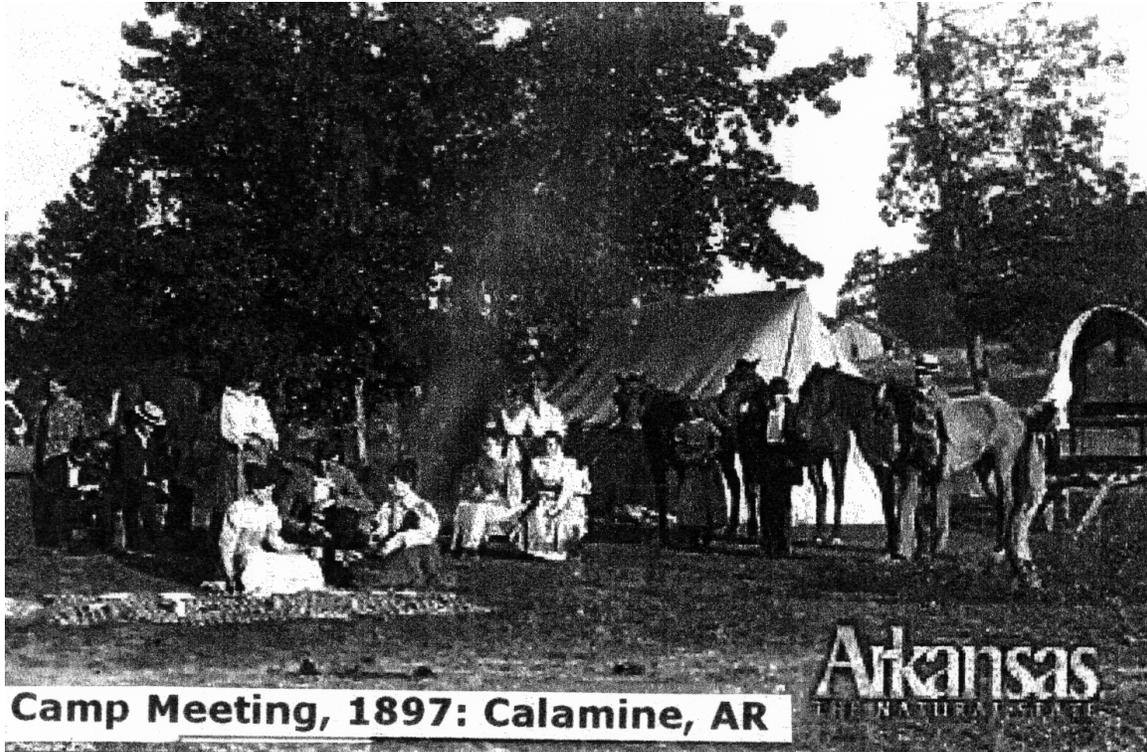
The 3rd Church Building



The third church building is made of local sandstone, (like some of the Grave Stones in years gone by) was erected in 1946. It still looks much like it did back then in those post WWII years. The picture above, taken in October of 2007, shows the minor modifications of a front porch (notice the “Campground Cumberland Presbyterian Church “1823-1946” door plaque in the porch gable) and a small utility room on the NE back corner. As you come out of the Churches front doors, you end up gazing on the Milligan Campground Cemetery and it’s 3 giant cypress trees just on the other side of the gravel drive area. Many horse drawn wagons use to park in front of this site in years past.



A Real Campground Meeting



Calamine is located near the Milligan Campground outside of Strawberry. Look Close! I wouldn't be half surprised that some of the people pictured were from the Milligan Family. Even knowing their names, I still couldn't tell who was who. Can You?



John II's Family (time line)

John and Eda went on to have a large family; 13 children in all; 7 girls and 6 boys. (Only their first marriages are listed)

Mary Ann Milligan born in 1819

Hulda Milligan born in 1820

(John's Militia Service 10 July 1820)

(John and Eda witness the birth of John Carnahan's Cumberland Presbytery at John A. Craig's House in Batesville, Arkansas. Start building their Church at Milligan's Campground in 1823.)

James Lancer Milligan born 3 Dec. 1823 - 4 Sept. 1882

Ellis R. Milligan born in 1825-16 Feb. 1862

(The Milligan Campground Congregation is Organized in 1825)

(John becomes a candidate for the Ministry 23 May 1826)

(John receives his license to Preach 6 March 1827)

Israel Milligan is born in 1827 - 7 Dec. 1887

John Junior Milligan is born 6 Feb. 1829 - 9 April 1906

George Washington (G.W.) Milligan is born in 1831 – 1874 became an Ordained Presbyterian Minister and Sharp County Justice of the Peace.

Eady Milligan is born in 1832 - 1912

Sarah Jane Milligan is born in 1834

Melissa Aveline Milligan is born 3 August 1837 – 25 May 1862

Mary Ann Milligan marries William Harvey Smith 18 Oct. 1838

Lydia J. Milligan is born in 1839

(James Lancer marries Edith Evaline Sexton 11 Dec. 1840 by John Milligan (MG))

(Hulda Milligan dies and is buried in the Campground Cemetery in 1840)

(John receives his Ordination Documents, 29 Feb. 1840)

Elvira Milligan is born 8 Dec. 1841 – 1 Sept 1866

(John Milligan is elected to the State House of Representatives and serves in the 4th State Assembly, 7 Nov. 1842 - 4 Feb. 1843)

(Ellis R. Milligan marries Mahala Light Billings 28 Feb. 1843 by Rev.

John Milligan (MG))

Andrew J. Milligan is born 9 Oct. 1844 – 23 March 1907

Israel Milligan married Clarissa Dukes 23 Dec. 1847 by Rev. John Milligan (MG). John Milligan spelled her name “Clarysa” on the original marriage certificate.

(The Honorable John Milligan serves as a Lawrence County Law Judge from 1850 – 1852)

John Milligan Jr. married Luesa Gardner 17 Jan 1850

George W. Milligan married Martha Mae Bone (she was the sister of Sarah Jane Milligan’s husband, Porter A. Bone)

Eady Milligan married George R. West 30 Jan 1853.

Melissa Aveline Milligan married Dr. Enoch Softly 11 May 1854.

Sarah Jane Milligan married Porter Bone 24 May 1855. He is the brother of G.W. Milligan’s wife Martha Mae Bone.

Lydia J. Milligan Dies about 1858

Elvira Milligan married Samuel A. Massey 24 June 1858.

Ellis Ragsdale Milligan dies 16 Feb 1862

Melissa Evaline dies 25 May 1862 giving birth to Faith Jane Softly.

Elvira Milligan dies 1 Sept 1866

Rev. John Milligan dies 12 Jan 1867

Andrew J. Milligan married Mary L. Smithee 28 Nov 1866

George W. Milligan Dies 1874

James Lancer dies 4 Sept 1882

Eda Jeffery Milligan dies 1886

Israel Milligan dies 7 Dec. 1887

John Milligan Jr. dies 9 April 1906

Andrew J. Milligan dies 23 March 1907

Eady Milligan dies 1912

James Lancer, Ellis R., Israel W., John Jr., George W., and Andrew J. all went on to have fine families of their own. Some of the Boys became Elders in the Church and some of these went on to receive their own Ordination Certificates to become Ministers themselves. All of the girls, except for Hulda and Lydia, went on to have very fine families. Most of John and Eda’s children are buried in the Campground Cemetery with their wives and husbands and members of their individual families. Milligan Family “Oral history” claims that Hulda, John and Eda’s 2nd born child, was snake bit as a young woman and died from the venom in her wounds. We find, in the original cemetery records and graves list of the Campground that she died in 1840 at the age of 20 years old. She was the first person buried in the Campground Cemetery (at her own request) and lays at rest beneath one of the 3 giant Cedar trees that still stand in the cemetery today. Lydia also