

What Was Started

The Hoosier State

In our last study, we traced the religious historical development from the Reformation movement to the American Restoration movement

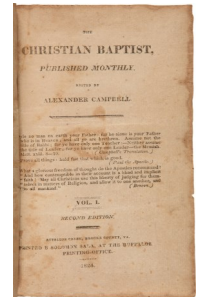
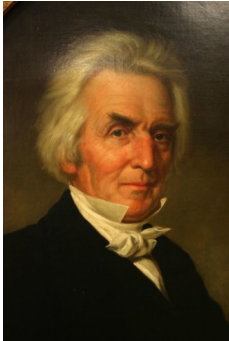
- There are many personalities, stories and events that led to the changes in thinking

1. Today, we trace the American Restoration movement as it comes to Indiana and this area

A. How people came to the same place in faith was not the same for each

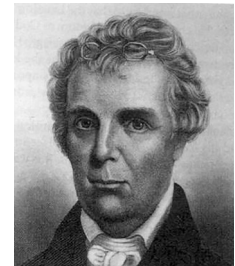
1. **Alexander Campbell (1788-1866):** Presbyterian in Virginia (now West Virginia):

- The birth of a child made him rethink about infant baptism. That study led him to leave the Presbyterians and join the Baptists.
 - His first periodical was called "The Christian Baptist"
 - Further study led him to see that baptism was for the remission of sins. He soon left the Baptists
 - He called the saved "Disciples"
 - This influence was extensive in VA, PA, Ohio



2. **Barton W. Stone (1772-1844):** one of the principle leaders at the Cane Ridge revival (1801)

- When asked to confirm the Westminster Confession of Faith to be ordained among the Presbyterians, Stone agreed as long as it went along with the Bible. He soon left the Presbyterians
- He called the saved "Christians"



3. Both of these movements were very active in Kentucky, but independent of each other

- in 1832, in Georgetown, KY the Campbell & Stone movements merged

The Rapid Growth of the Restoration Movement

- 1820: 15,000 members
- 1830: 30,000 members
- 1850: 250,000 members

Three Factors For the Spread of the Restoration Spirit

1. Simplicity of the message and the direct connection to the Bible (Bible alone)
 - the theme of unity among believers and following the pattern of Scriptures was the driving message among the restorers
2. Use of written periodicals (Campbell's Christian Baptist, 1823; Stone's Christian Messenger 1826).
 - there were 400 papers published in the 1800s by brethren
3. Defending of truth through public debates
 - Campbell—Walker (Baptist) on baptism (1820)
 - Campbell— MacCalla (Presbyterian) on baptism (1823)
 - Campbell-Robert Owen on evidences of Christianity (1829)
 - Campbell— Bishop Purcell (Catholic) on Catholicism (1837)

B. The Indiana story is very unique

1. Campbell influence from Ohio
2. Migration north from KY brought Stone influences
 - many left KY because of the slavery issue
3. The independent work of others

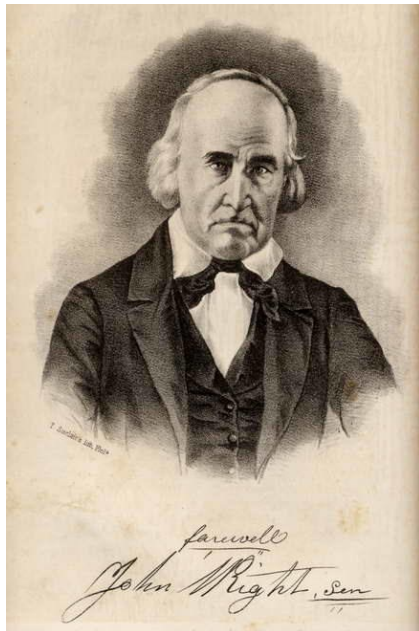
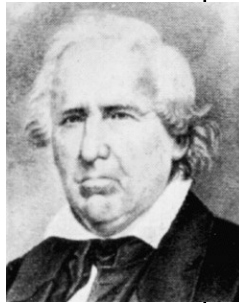
C. Three Major Influences in southern Indiana

Clement Nance (1756-1828)

- Was a neighbor of Barton W. Stone in VA
- Was with Stone in KY in 1803
- Moved to the falls of the Ohio (IN) in 1805
- He established the first Christian church in Indiana in 1805 (Floyd County)
- Was a judge in Floyd County in 1819
- Moved to Floyd's Knob and became postmaster @ Nanceville (Named after him)

Absolom Littell, Jr (1751-1824)

- Settled with family on Silver Creek in 1799
- They became part of the Silver Creek Baptist church—the first Protestant church established in Indiana (1798)
- By 1827 they dropped the name Baptist for Christian and accepted the Bible alone as the only rule of faith—greatly influenced by the writings of Campbell
- In 1837, this group known as Camp Run Christian Church built a brick building in Hamburg.
- Buried in the Silver Creek cemetery



John Wright (1785-1851)

- Came Clark County, IN in 1807
- Moved to Blue River (Washington County) in 1810
- Organized the Free Will Baptist church in Blue River
- Within 10 years he had established ten other churches—From the beginning he took the Bible as the only rule of faith
- Madison Evans: *He was the first man in Indiana that took his position on the Bible alone*—The Blue River congregation is thought to have been one of the earliest in Indiana that was devoted to the New Testament pattern.
- By 1821, there was scarcely a Baptist in the area.
- John T. Brown: *No man did more for New Testament Christianity in southern Indiana than did John Wright*" (*Churches of Christ*, (pg 218)



NEW ALBANY

- John Wright preaching in New Albany in 1823 - drew an audience of 3,000 souls who professed to be New Testament Christians
- In 1833 Alexander Campbell preached in New Albany
- An attempt was made to establish a Christian college in New Albany in 1833. The project failed. Isaac Ashton states that 60-70 have come into the church at New Albany since Campbell's visit (Millennial Harbinger, 1833)
- O. Austin writes from New Albany, "Since I last wrote you, twenty-two more have been immersed, among them were several Methodists (Millennial Harbinger, Dec 1835)
- N. Price wrote about New Albany, "The church in this place is in gospel order, with her elders and deacons and meets together on the first day of the week to break the loaf. We have a good house of our own. Our house and lot costs nearly 5,000 dollars (Millennial Harbinger, Oct 1838)
- In 1839 New Albany church numbered 215 (Millennial Harbinger, July 1839)
- In 1858 Jasper Moss held a debate in New Albany with a Universalist named W.W. Curry
- Alexander Campbell came again in 1860 and reported: "*This is one of the few places in the state where we heard what we would call good singing.*"
- In a letter written in 1861, James Mathes (1808-1892) held a meeting in New Albany
Later report in Millennial Harbinger stated that there were 40 conversions
- 1870 Knowles Shaw preached two weeks in July in New Albany with 26 additions.
- Jesse Sewell held a meeting in New Albany in 1872

The History of this Congregation

In 1913 Mr. & Mrs. William Criswell moved from Salem, IN to New Albany.

- A church was formed and started meeting in their home on Culbertson Avenue.
- Mrs. Criswell was a N.T. Christian.

Within months, the Criswell's moved to Indiana Ave and the church met in their home on Indiana Ave

A year later, a frame building was built on the east side of Silver Street (1914) - 36 years

A new building was built on the west side of Silver Street in 1950—53 years

In 2003 the church moved into the new Charlestown Road church building—20 years

Preachers

Milton Truex 1939-1944
Eugene Clevenger 1944-1946
Robert Williams 1946-1956
James Jones 1956-1958
John Gerard 1958-1963
W.C. Sawyer 1963-1965
Claude Wilsford 1965-1970
Robert Welch 1970-1975
E.C. Gilbert 1975-1977
Don Truex 1978-1984
Gary Fiscus 1984-1987
Guy Roberson 1988-1997
Frank Walton 1998-2007
Roger Shouse 2008-present
Zack Lee 2013-2015
Jason Hardin 2017-present

Elders in 1925

Cleodus Helton
Jessie Hottle
Edgar Martin

Elders in 1939

Edgar Martin
Wallace Jeffers, Sr
Rupert Hinton
William Goodman

Elders in 1969

Orel Gilliatt
Sam Jeffers
Fred Jewell
Roy Phillips
William Roberts



Silver Street Building (1950-2003)