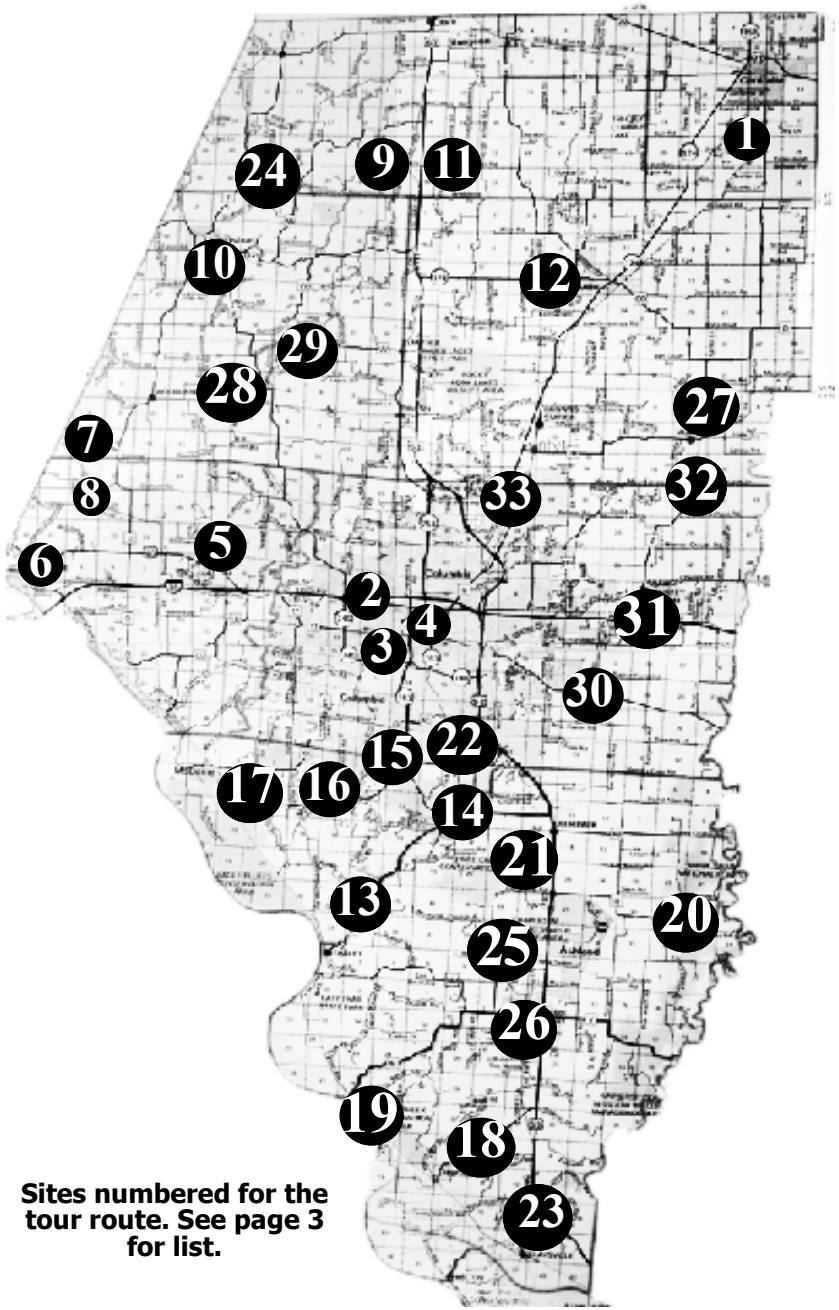
Tour #6

Map of Boone County



Sites numbered for the tour route. See page 3 for list.

A Driving Tour of

Selected Cemeteries in Boone County

TOUR #6
See back cover for detailed map of this tour

Midway Locust Grove Church Cemetery

BOONE COUNTY History & Culture CENTER

Boone County Historical Society
Historic Sites Committee

Welcome to your Tour

We live in a beautiful and historic part of a wonderful country. What better way to explore both than a historic driving tour? This book differs from others in the series in that if focuses only on a few selected cemeteries in the estimated 260 sites in the county. We have included only a few of the many family cemeteries, for privacy reasons, although some of them may be open for public viewing. Please observe privacy notices. You may pick and choose segments and start anywhere that fits your fancy. Use the accompanying map to plan your trip.

This driving tour of the county is a fun way to do that. We hope you will include the Boone County History and Culture Center, 3801 Ponderosa Street, as part of this tour or any other time you choose. The culture center and museums are open 10:00 to 5:00 Wednesday through Saturday.

You may walk around the Village at Boone Junction at any time during daylight hours. To get a personalized tour of the interior structures in the village, (April to Oct) and Maplewood, plan days ahead and phone 573-443-8936 to schedule an appointment.

We encourage your feedback. You can visit us on Facebook at *@boonehistory* to make comments.

The Historic Sites Committee of the Boone County Historical Society urges all—the native, the newly-arrived, and the visitor—to take time out to enjoy the legacy left by so many who have preceded us. Many of these sites have been recognized by the BCHS Historic Sites Committee.

Look for the STAR symbol. It identifies properties recognized by the BCHS Historic Sites Committee, and the year of designation.

GPS coordinates — We have included GPS coordinates with these sites. They may not be exactly on the site, but should get you close enough to locate the site. Please let us know of any errors in these coordinates. Thank you.

32 Grandview Baptist Church

8300 N. Route Z (Just north of Route HH)
Centralia, MO 65240
GPS: 39.04528, -92.16665

The congregation calls its church The Lighthouse on the Prairie, for it is where they were established December 25, 1869, and "where we shine as a beacon to the world." The location is at the head of the Two Mile Prairie area of Boone County. The frame church building was erected in 1874 and dedicated May 27, 1877. It has had several additions, including the one on the right in the photo, built by "The Carpenters for Christ, June 7-15, 2001, Attalla, AL. There are over 400 burials in this cemetery.

33 Oakland Christian Church

2929 E. Oakland Church Road
Columbia, MO 65202; Northeast of Prathersville
GPS: 39.02934, -92.29293

BCHS *Historic Site,* nominated in 1997

Oakland Christian Church is a country church at the north edge of sprawling Columbia Suburbia, known best for its country charm and practices. The church's history is the story of a community, the people, and their faith in God.

They needed a place of worship so they put their heads together and got their pocketbooks out. The church they built wasn't large, as was typical at the time. The building was erected at a cost of $2,400 and, although the structure has been renovated and expanded over the years, worship continues in the historic sanctuary built in 1872. The Oakland Cemetery has over 680 burials.

30 Olivet Christian Church

1991 S. Olivet Church Road
Cemetery—7201 Route WW —
342 markers
Columbia, MO 65201

GPS: 38.92789N, -92.23056W

Olivet Church arose a few years after the Civil War in the community of Harg, just east of Columbia, as farm families on the eastern side of Columbia began to meet in homes and summer brush arbors for worship. The church was formally chartered on January 17, 1874, as a congregation in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

In the years since its founding, Olivet has built a new building to provide room for more activities and people. The Old Church still stands on the corner of the lot, built in the spring of 1874 at a cost of $2,000, and was dedicated August 16, 1874.

31 Shaw Cemeteries

Intersection of Rt. Z and E. St. Charles Rd.

GPS: 38.97365N, -92.120324W

Early fame came to the area with two churches sharing the nearby property. The Prairie Grove Baptist and Prairie Grove Methodist-Episcopal churches no longer exist, but their cemeteries remain within sight of each other to provide historical views to the past.

The Methodist congregation was organized about 1853 and the sanctuary was erected in 1872-73 at a cost of $1,500.

The Baptists were organized in 1875 and built their sanctuary that same year at a cost of $1,700. Before the structure was built, the two congregations met in the Methodist church building. The church was a branch of the Millersburg Baptist church. There are at least 200 burials within the 2 cemeteries.

Sites on the Tour. See map on back

1. Centralia Battlefield Memorial
2. Memorial Park Cemetery, Columbia
3. Jewell Cemetery, Columbia
4. Columbia Cemetery
5. Midway Locust Grove Cemetery
6. Rocheport Cemetery
7. Old Bethel Cemetery
8. Walnut Grove Cemetery
9. Riggs Cemetery
10. Harrisburg Cemetery
11. Locust Grove Baptist Cemetery
12. Red Top Christian Church Cemetery
13. Nashville Baptist Church Cemetery
14. Rock Bridge Cemetery
15. Bethel-Hickam Cemetery
16. Old Union Primitive Baptist Cemetery
17. Mount Celestial Church Cemetery
18. Bond's Chapel Methodist Episcopal Cemetery
19. Goshen Primitive Baptist Cemetery
20. Johnson Family Cemetery
21. Harris Family Cemetery
22. Little Bonne Femme Church Cemetery
23. Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church Cemetery
24. Perche Baptist Church Cemetery
25. Log Providence Baptist Church Cemetery
26. New Salem Baaptist Church Cemetery
27. Mt. Zion Methodist Church Cemetery
28. Bethlehem Cemetery
29. Red Rock Methodist Church Cemetery
30. Olivet Christian Church Cemetery
31. Shaw Cemeteries, Prairie Grove Baptist & Methodist churches
32. Grandview Baptist Church Cemetery
33. Oakland Christian Church Cemetery

The Historic Sites Program of the Boone County Historical Society

Inaugurated in 1994, the Boone County Historical Society's Historic Sites program identifies and recognizes historic sites in Boone County. The program also attempts to compile information on all historic sites in Boone County.

Sites are nominated by the general public and by members of the Boone County Historical Society's Historic Sites Committee. The Committee then selects, from these nominations, sites to be included on the *Register of Boone County Historic Sites.* Sites are selected for one, several or all of the following reasons:

Associative significance: The site is associated with events or with the lives of persons significant to the history of Boone County.

Intrinsic significance: The site embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; or represents the work of a master; or possesses high aesthetic value.

Informational significance: The site yields or may likely yield information important to the history or prehistory of Boone County.

BOONE COUNTY History & Culture CENTER

Boone County History & Culture Center
3801 Ponderosa Street, Columbia, MO 65201
BooneHistory.org | (573) 443-8936
Info@BooneHistory.org
@BooneHistory on social media
For current hours: check website or call

28 Bethlehem Cemetery

9501-9595 Callahan Creek Rd. - 734 memorials

GPS: 39.0653, - 92.45164

All that remains of the first church in the Harrisburg area, Bethlehem Church, is the cemetery on the eastern end of Callahan Creek Road, just west of Route E.

Rev. Green Carey came to the area in 1834, and was a member of the church, serving as pastor for 31 years, performing more than 500 marriages.

The church building was moved further west and continued to serve the Harrisburg area until it closed. The structure was then disassembled and rebuilt at Overton just across the Missouri River in Cooper County, where it is a community hall.

29 Red Rock Methodist

4760 W. Squire Court Road, Harrisburg; Route YY — About 270 memorials

GPS: 39.10634, -92.40161

Red Rock United Methodist Church began serving the area in 1875. The pastor is Clark Chickering.

Among the early leaders of the church, the Rev. David Squires is frequently considered a founding father of the early church.

He came to the area from Kentucky with his family at age 4 around 1860. David pursued a career in ministry, and reportedly served as a circuit rider for the Methodist denomination. He delivered his first sermon just after his 18th birthday in 1875. The first church was built in 1887; it was destroyed by weather. The present church was dedicated in 1916. While David and his wife, Ella, are buried in Memorial Park Cemetery in Columbia, is mother, Rebecca, is buried in Red Rock Cemetery. Her tombstone reads: Rebecca F. Wiggs Squires, born in NC, 1823, died August 21,1887, aged 63 years.

27 Mt. Zion Methodist Church

10071 E. Mount Zion Church Road
Hallsville, MO 65255 GPS: 39.07378, -92.22473

BCHS *Historic Site,* designated in 1998

On December 28, 1861, this churchyard was hallowed by blood of Missourians who volunteered to fight in defense of their homes and for the right of secession. Colonel Caleb Dorsey and his 350 Missouri State Guard recruits, operating to disrupt Federal supplies moving on the North Missouri Railroad, were camped about 100 yards east of here when they came under attack by five companies of cavalry and five companies of sharpshooters.

On the previous day, Dorsey's command, including men from Boone, Callaway, St. Charles, Pike, and Lincoln counties, skirmished with Prentiss sharpshooters along the road from Hallsville. On the 28th, at about 8 a.m., Prentiss attacked their camp, making three separate charges. Firing was fierce and combat hand-to-hand. At about 11 a.m., after two Federal Reserve Companies were thrown into the fray, the battle ended. Though casualty numbers are unclear, seven Missouri State Guard soldiers killed in the battle are buried here, their graves marked with nameless stones. The site was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2013. There are over 800 burials.

www.findagrave.com

Find a Grave is an excellent place on the internet to look for burial and other final disposition information for your family, friends and famous people. The site provides tools that let people from all over the world work together, share information and build an online virtual cemetery experience.

1 Centralia Battlefield

GPS: 38.17851, -92.10711

BCHS *Historic Site,* designated in 1994

While the battlefield is not a traditional cemetery, it is a memorial to one of the most significant loss of lives in the Civil War. The Centralia massacre and battle is one of the, if not THE most significant event in the county's history. Switzler's *History of Boone County* gives a detailed account of both.

On September 27, 1864, about 80 of Bloody Bill Anderson's guerillas raided Centralia, robbing and plundering the entire town. While they were there, the northbound train from St. Louis arrived, carrying discharged and furloughed Federal soldiers among the passengers.

The soldiers were taken off the train, stripped of their clothing and equipment, lined up and executed on Anderson's command. Following the massacre, the guerrillas retreated to a farm several miles south of town. Meanwhile more Federal troops arrived in Centralia and pursued the guerillas, not knowing a trap for their arrival had been set. As Switzler describes it, "It was the wildest and the most merciless, and in proportion to the number of forces vanquished, the most destructive of human life." Out of a total force of about 90 in line of battle, and 30 others holding the horses,108 fell before the remorseless revolvers of Bloody Bill's guerillas.

Centralia Cemeteries
Worth a visit while you are in the area.

Centralia Cemetery
19101 N. Rangeline Road
Grandview Baptist Church Cemetery
8300 N. Route Z (See #32 on page 23 of this booklet)
City Cemetery
Highway 22 between North Rollins and North Jefferson
Union Church Cemetery
10900 Union Church Road
GPS: 39.17500, - 92.16360

2 Memorial Park Cemetery

1217 Business Loop 70 W., Columbia

GPS:38.87050, -92.412277

Memorial Park Cemetery offers traditional ground burial, lawn crypts, mausoleum entombment and, in our Eternal Life Garden, various options for cremation memorialization. These cemetery grounds also feature several options for designing personal mausoleums, providing future generations with their own choices of everlasting remembrance.

Calvary Cemetery was opened north of Memorial Park in 1929 as an African American Cemetery. In the 1940's, Memorial Park purchased Calvary Cemetery and there has been no distinction between the two since. However, many death certificates still refer to that part as Calvary Cemetery.

Sometime before the purchase, all records for Calvary were burned so many unmarked, unknown graves exist among the estimated 27,000 there.

3 Jewell Cemetery

GPS: 385511, -922010

2803 South Providence Road, Columbia, MO 65203

Jewell Cemetery State Historical Site is a publicly owned property maintained as a state historic site by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The property became part of the state parks system in 1970.

Among the notable persons buried in the 4.5-acre cemetery, which holds the remains of more than 40 descendents of George A. Jewell, are Missouri governor Charles Henry Hardin and the educator William Jewell, who established the college in Liberty, Missouri that bears his name.

Has a sign on the gate says "no one not the husband, wife, or child that is a descendant of George Jewell can be buried here."

25 Log Providence Missionary Baptist Church

GPS 38.840718, -92.273756

BCHS *Historic Site,* designated in 2016

From Highway 63, exit at the Columbia Airport/Log Providence Road exit. Follow Log Providence Rd. about 2 miles to the end. It turns sharply to the right after ½ mile and then to the left after another ½ mile.

In 1866, shortly after the Civil War ended, a group of newly freed African Americans, who had previously worshiped at the white Little Bonne Femme and New Salem Baptist churches, met to organize a church of their own. A four-acre plot of land was purchased from Eli Bass for $20.00, and a log church was built on the property by the men of the congregation. A frame building replaced the log one in 1879, and the current structure was erected in 1925.

26 New Salem Cemetery

North of Ashland on Highway 63. GPS: 39.799653, -92.252345

BCHS *Historic Site,* designated in 2016

New Salem Baptist Church is intimately tied into the early history of Boone County, and with one of the premier early county families. The land on which it stands was once a part of the Eli Bass plantation. The Bass family donated the land for the church, and were some of the founding members of the congregation. Eli's headstone is the tallest monument in the cemetery!

The congregation was organized in November 1828 by members leaving Little Bonne Femme Baptist Church. The first building was completed in 1830. This early brick structure served the congregation until 1878, when the present frame building was completed and dedicated. This is still an active, functioning church, with services every Sunday. The cemetery holds more than 2,380 burials.

24 Perche Baptist Church Cemetery

20301 N. Perche Church Road, Clark,

GPS: 39.2007218, -92.4224715

The Disciples of Christ founded Perche Church June 14, 1835. A small log building was built with a fireplace in each end. In 1874 under the supervision of Bethlehem Baptist Church near Harrisburg, Missouri, the Baptist Organization was formed. The Baptist Organization later joined the Christian denomination in the use of the small log building. Each denomination had its own Sunday for worship.

In 1880, a frame structure was built. It was 34' X 50' in size and was built at a cost of $1200.On October 4, 1880, the Baptist's organized as a church with 23 charter members.

The present church was constructed in 1915 and 1916. Materials from the nearby creek were used to make the concrete blocks to construct the church. All of the sand at the creek would be used and the members felt that sand would have to be purchased to form the blocks but rains would come and more sand washed to the nearby creek to be used for the construction. Members of both the Baptist and the Christian denominations donated much of the labor. Sears Roebuck presented as a gift to the church, the bell that hangs in the tower. The stained glass windows were shipped here from England. They came to Sturgeon by rail and men from the church hauled the windows by horse and wagon from Sturgeon to the church.

Baptisms were held in the nearby creek for many years. The Christian denomination has not held services here for many years. Currently the Baptist denomination has services each Sunday with many other activities throughout the year.

Written by Mary Lou Shelnutt.

4 Columbia Cemetery

30 E. Broadway
Columbia., MO 65201

GPS: 38.94940, -92.336.40

BCHS *Historic Site,* designated in 1996

The section of the cemetery designated as the "original cemetery" has been in use since 1820 when the original town was platted. Six town lots in the southwest corner of town were set aside for a common burying ground. On March 17, 1829, Daniel P. Wilcox and his wife Elizabeth deeded these same lots to the Trustees of the Corporation of the Town of Columbia for their care. Neglect and haphazard burying practices led to the incorporation of the Columbia Cemetery Association by the Missouri General Assembly in 1853.

In 1859 land was purchased to provide an entrance from Broadway. In 1873 another purchase to the south and east brought the cemetery acreage to twenty four. The City Council officially conveyed the original six lots to the association.

The present cemetery has several historic areas. Besides the original old lots, there are Jewish and Black sections. Within its grounds lie two Revolutionary War soldiers, Samuel Elgin and William Orear; and veterans of every war from 1812 to Vietnam. Buried here are at least six Presidents of the University of Missouri, Presidents of Stephens and Christian (Columbia) Colleges, and a short -term Governor, Abraham J. Williams.

Its 10,300-plus monuments are a roll call of Boone County's pioneer and influential families. The many sizes, shapes and symbols of the old markers—from very grand to very simple—gives a sense of dignity and peace. Over 11,000 burials, including at least 42 members of the USCT of the Civil War.

5 Midway Locust Grove Church

2600 N. Locust Grove Church Road,
Columbia, MO 65202

GPS: 38.986383, -92.448457

BCHS *Historic Site,* designated in 1998

Locust Grove was founded in 1817 and was one of the two oldest Methodist churches west of the Mississippi still in continuous service until it disaffiliated with the denomination in June of 2023.

Served by circuit riders, the first meetings were held in homes until 1830, when two and one-half acres were deeded to the congregation for the building and cemetery.

The first burial in the cemetery was in 1835. Those interred there include veterans of the War for Independence, the War of 1812, and the Civil War and more recent conflicts.

The first building on the site was the Old Brick Chapel built in 1830. The present sanctuary dates to 1870. Locust Grove has had several additions made, and continues to thrive. The congregation has more than doubled in recent years. Some families have worshipped there for six generations.

6 Rocheport Cemetery

304 N. Gaw Street, Rocheport, MO

GPS:38.98090, -92.55904

Within the gates of this quaint hillside cemetery lie the babies, young men and women and founders of Rocheport. Old age was seldom reached; accidents and disease were the prevailing causes of death. Outbreaks of cholera and measles claimed the lives of many. In 1852, 23 victims of the two diseases were buried. The most angelic tombstone is that of Magdalene Chinn, daughter of railroad doctor E.H. Chinn. She died of consumption in 1912 before her wedding could take place. With more than 1200 memorials, the cemetery is well maintained and constantly restored.

22 Little Bonne Femme

5350 E. Bonne Femme Church Road

GPS: 38.87804, -92.25758

BCHS *Historic Site,* designated in 1999

Little Bonne Femme Church & Academy. Sixteen "Regular Baptists" formed a church in December of 1819 in the nearby home of Anderson Woods. Soon after, they erected a simple church on this site. Other church buildings followed with parts of the current sanctuary dating to 1845. It continues strong today, now being the second oldest Baptist church in continuous operation West of the Mississippi.

This site also was the location of the first institution of higher education in Boone County, the Little Bonne Femme Academy. Established in 1829 for males only, it is considered by some to be the forerunner of the University of Missouri.

23 Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church Cemetery

21479 Mt. Pleasant Road, Hartsburg; near Highway 63

GPS: 38.708414, -92.255103

Organized in 1858 as the Claysville Church, the members changed the name to Mount Pleasant United Baptist Church in August of the same year. Pictured is the gravestone of Elizabeth (Glenn) Jones, wife of Mosias Jones. Mosias came to Boone County in 1818 along with his brothers, Christopher and Tyre Jones, among the area's earliest settlers.

A founding member of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Mosias served as a member of the first grand jury held in Boone County. He had previously helped found the New Salem Baptist Church, north of Ashland. The members erected the first Mt. Pleasant chapel in 1861, and possibly built another one in 1881. Their church burned in 1956 and the members built a new one a quarter mile north of the cemetery. Over 1,570 known burials.

20 Johnson Family Cemetery, Englewood area, 186 memorials.

GPS:38.827527, -92.156658

Johnson Family Cemetery in the Englewood area, is one of the most beautiful and well-preserved family cemeteries in the county. Stop for a stroll and enjoy the serenity of the place. Established in 1849 by the Isaac and Hannah Johnson family, it continues to inspire all who see it to respect those who have gone before.

21 Harris Family Cemetery

7899-8199 South Tom Bass Road at Deer Park

GPS:38.85560, -92.25000

BCHS *Historic Site,* designated in 2022

The Harris Cemetery is one of the most historically significant, well-preserved and unique burying grounds in Boone County. Early Harris and Woods families arrived in1817, prior to the creation of the county and played a prominent role in the growth of the county. The cemetery is the final resting place for those pioneers and their descendants. The patriarchs of the Harris Cemetery include Overton Harris, first sheriff and county collector of Boone County and his wife, Mary Rice Woods, sister to Anderson Woods who arrived in 1816.

The Harris Cemetery has been well maintained due to the foresight of Judge David Hickman Harris, grandson of Overton Harris. He left considerable funds in his estate for that purpose & created a Harris Cemetery Trust that continues to provide funds for maintenance through the non-profit Harris Cemetery-Boone County corporation. His estate also directed the erection of a large memorial stone inscribed with the family name "Harris" and placed at the center of the west end of the cemetery.

Larry Joe Pauley, on his own initiative, worked for 18 months clearing brush, hauling it away, and working to improve the overall appearance of the grounds.

7 Old Bethel Cemetery

Route EE—Sycamore Hills Subdivision

GPS: 39.042117, -92.519626

BCHS *Historic Site,* designated in 2008

The Old Bethel Cemetery is also the site of Bethel Baptist Church, the first church organized in Boone County, although no trace of the church building itself has been found.

The cemetery now is a common ground in the Sycamore Creek Subdivision. The cemetery is among a grove of trees where tombstones are lying flat on the ground, leaning against trees, or propped up in various places. Some of the stones obviously were never engraved, as they look as if they were just pulled from the creek bed to mark a grave site.

8 Walnut Grove Cemetery

W. Old Rocheport Gravel Road

GPS: 39.01250, -92.52330

BCHS *Historic Site,* designated in 2005

Taken from the Columbia Missouri Statesman; October 13, 1854 by Mary Helen Catlett Allen .

"All that remains of the Walnut Grove complex of church, academy and cemetery, is the cemetery of 390 memorials and evidence of some of the buildings.

"The building was about forty feet front by sixty deep with sufficient height to present symmetry of proportion and to secure comfort.

"This church was situated on an elevated position, in the center of a beautiful grove of walnut trees, and is decidedly the neatest and most comfortable, and we believe, the largest country church in the county. The neighborhood surrounding it is intelligent, wealthy and populous. The church, organized out of Old Bethel Church, was built by the Baptist denomination, and will be publicly dedicated to the service of God on Monday, the 30th."

9 Riggs Cemetery

GPS: 39.17163, -92.34552

801-823 W. Williams Road, Sturgeon, MO 65284

Union Cumberland Presbyterian Church Cemetery, founded in 1832, is located about 12 miles north of Columbia and one and a half miles west of Old Highway 63 on Williams Road. It is also known as Riggs Cemetery. It is reported that Robert Rowland settled in the area in 1827, cleared the land, donated the site for the church, and was the leading spirit in organizing the church in 1832. A recent internet site reported the cemetery has 562 memorials.

10 Harrisburg Cemetery

GPS: 39.14134,-92.45545

Harrisburg, in the northwest corner of the county, was named in honor of John W. Harris, owner of the Model Farm. It was surveyed for the Chicago and Alton Railroad, with a promise of becoming an important city. Unfortunately, the railroad was abandoned and the expected prosperity failed to occur, although it became a viable village which it is today. The first church was a Christian Church built in 1872. It was replaced with a new building in 1980.The Baptist Church was built in 1887 and is still in use. The cemetery has an estimated 750 memorials with burials ranging from 1865 to today.

18 Bond's Chapel Methodist Episcopal

Route A 2.5 miles east of Hartsburg

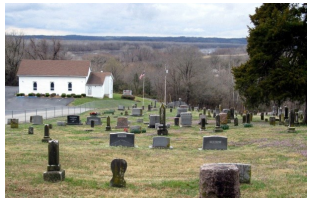
GPS: 38.70939, -92.28552

In 1993, the National Register of Historic Places recognized Bond's Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church, as a simple, late nineteenth-century rural church. Bond's Chapel took its name from Henry Pope Bond, D.D., an itinerant Methodist preacher, who served as pastor of the congregation in 1884 and 1885. Constructed around 1884, Bond's Chapel is a simple rectangular building set on corner piers. The use of native materials and the conscious rejection of elaborate ornamentation reflect the values of the early Methodists. Descendants of the original builders continue to maintain the church and cemetery. 329 known burials.

19 Goshen Primitive Baptist Church

500 W. Cedar Tree Lane, South of Easley

GPS. 38.73466, -92.35500



On August 9, 1832, Berryman Wren and fifteen other local residents met to form the Goshen Church of Christ in Wilton. Berryman Wren served as the first minister until his death in 1867. When the building burned in 1875, they built the current chapel. In 1890, the church almost dissolved due to disagreements between two separate groups of members. Each claimed the church as their own, and attempted to lock the other group out. The dispute lasted more than five years, but the congregation eventually settled their differences. By 1919, the church had 220 members, one of the strongest Primitive Baptist Churches in the country.

In the cemetery, visitors may find the graves of Captain Armstead L. Vandiver and Private William T. Nevins, and the grave of Leasel Littlebury Lindsey, a local miller and church member of the Civil War era.

10 Mount Celestial Cemetery

6551 Mt. Celestial Church Road, which loops off of Route K just east of McBaine.

GPS: 38.870506, -92.412277

BCHS *Historic Site,* designated in 2017

The descendants of former slaves of the nearby plantations formed the original congregation of Mount Celestial Baptist Church. The membership built a sanctuary around 1887. The most recent building possibly from the mid -20th century had deteriorated and has been demolished and replaced with a pavilion for special events.

The cemetery sits on the hill behind the church site. One of the earliest marked graves, the burial of Madora McBaine dates to 1896. She died young, at the age of 34. Other burials include George Washington Davis (1849 – 1931), a carpenter active in the organization of the church, and his wife, Susan J. Warren (1847-1918). There are at least 168 known burials in the cemetery.

In 1947, a flood of the Missouri River destroyed homes and many members moved into the city. In 1968, Rev. George T. Butler assumed the pastorship of the church and served until 1974, when he passed away at the age of 89. Ray Warren then took over the pastorship. In his youth, he had attended Frederick Douglass high school in Columbia, and played football. His family had attended Log Providence Missionary Baptist Church, a rural church also south of Columbia. He served as pastor until he passed away in 2015.

In 2005, the church congregation moved to a new home in Columbia; the Mt. Celestial Missionary Baptist Church now resides at 1410 Grand Avenue, Columbia, Missouri.

11 Locust Grove Baptist Church

18010 N. Thomas Hill Road
Sturgeon, MO 65284

GPS: 39.17034, -92.318.41

The Locust Grove Baptist Church was established in or before 1890 and was active until the 1950's. The property was deeded to the Church on October 30, 1888 by Samuel Newton Woods and his wife, Caroline Woods. Samuel was born February 26, 1843, and remained in the area. He died May 7, 1911, with his funeral and burial being at the church and cemetery on his donated property.

The cemetery had its first burial in 1882, Mrs. Mollie Sublett, It is a perpetual care cemetery and is well maintained with a new chain link fence surrounding the entire property. There are at least 360 known burials.

12 Red Top Cemetery

14355 Route UU, Hallsville, MO 65255

GPS: 39.121014
-92.24190

BCHS *Historic Site,* designated in 1997

Red Top Christian Church is one of the oldest churches in central Missouri. It was established in 1822 with about a dozen members, settlers who had moved from Kentucky to Boone County. This was before the formation of the Disciples of Christ denomination.

They subscribed to no creed or confession of faith. They recognized the elders of the church as pastors to whom all questions of differences were referred. The organization merged with the Christian Church. The name was changed sometime after 1868.

The first church building was a log house built in 1822. The present sanctuary was built in 1867 at a cost of about $3,200, and membership expanded to 320 members. **1063 memorials**

13 Nashville Baptist Church Cemetery

355 W. Nashville Church Rd.
Between Pierpont and Easley

GPS: 38.82435
92.34988

On April 22, 1834 in Nashville on the Missouri River west of here, a group of settlers organized the Nashville Baptist Church at the home of James Cunningham. In the first eleven years, they met in their homes, lacking a dedicated church building. James Cunningham and Jacob Kuykendall served as the first deacons.

A flood in 1844 washed away many of the buildings in Nashville and many residents relocated to the upriver town of Providence. An 1850 directory lists Providence as the location of the Nashville Baptist Church. In 1871, the members erected a new building on the ridge, two miles from the river.

In 1974, the congregation built the current church building across the road from the cemetery, which has more than 1,130 identified graves.

14 Rock Bridge Cemetery

2821 E Highway 163, east of Pierpont

GPS:38.8689,
-92.30000

Rock Bridge Cemetery is an African-American cemetery on Highway 163 about halfway between Pierpont and Deer Park. Watch for a state park sign on the north side marking a special use area driveway.

The cemetery is quite large with room for more memorials. Present ones are located in clusters, apparently by family, spaced throughout the area with plenty of space in between. New memorials continue to be added, with more being added since 2018. These were not timely deaths, but memorials from previous departures. 134 known burials here.

15 Bethel Baptist Church and Bethel-Hickam Cemetery

201 E. Old Plank Road, Columbia, MO 65203

GPS: 38.89115, -92.34518

In April of 1855, twenty community members met at a local schoolhouse to discuss forming a Baptist congregation.

Rev. J.T.M. Johnston served as pastor from 1857 to 1862. For the first three years, the congregation used the schoolhouse for their meetings. In 1859, Johnston deeded two acres of land next to the plank road for the church building. That October, the congregation began building the church, using lumber from black walnut trees that grew on the church grounds.

Behind the church lies the Bethel-Hickam Cemetery. Some of the earliest burials date back to the 1830s, William Nichols in 1837 and his wife, Frances in 1839. The burials there of John Hickam and his wife, Christiana, parents of Lycurgus Hickam, predate the organization of the church.

16 Old Union Cemetery

6401 S. Sinclair Rd., Columbia, MO 65203

GPS: 38.87836, -92.382248

Also known as Union Primitive Baptist Cemetery, there are just over 450 memorials here. In 1819, Berryman Wren came from North Carolina and became an active member of Bonne Femme Church. He and several others left to form Union Church.

In 1837 the church split over a controversy on mission work. Those who opposed the work being done called themselves Primitive Baptists, and those who wanted to pursue the missions left the association. In 1875 the members built a frame building next to the cemetery in which rest the remains of many early landowners, including William and Polly Warren, Turner McBaine, his wife Nancy Greenhalgh, and his mother, Elizabeth Carrick McBaine.