

Overheard at the Train Station

was responsible for bringing the South Kentucky Sunday School Association and the Missionary Association together in a reunion of sorts. During his tenure, he is said to have helped to organize over 275 churches.

H.W. was born in Murfreesboro, Tennessee on May 13, 1860. He married Mollie Turner on May 30, 1883

While in Carrollton in 1885, H.W. lectured on temperance.

In 1888, H.W. preached at Newtown Christian Church.

The State Missionary Convention was held in Georgetown in 1896 and it was noted that H.W. reported \$12,000 raised for state missions and 2000 new members were added. All of the missions together totaled \$52,000 and the state maintained three schools.

On June 8, 1902, H.W. preached at Cane Ridge after celebrating his in-laws' golden anniversary and his own 19th wedding anniversary.

H.W. preached in Paris on August 24, 1902 and that night in the Baptist church for a union service.

The 1905 State Convention was held in Maysville, in the opera house there because the Church could not hold the crowd. At a previous convention in Maysville H.W. was elected Recording Secretary and he was elected as Corresponding Secretary fifteen times between those conventions.

In 1909, during the landmark General Convention of the Disciples of Christ in Pittsburgh, H.W. spoke at the Thursday gathering. This was the centennial of the Declaration and Address written by Thomas Campbell in 1809 and marked the dedication of the steamship Oregon which was on hand, then disassembled and shipped to Africa for Mission Work. Kentucky had over a 1000 delegates, possibly the largest delegation. It was also the same week when the World Series was played at Forbes Field where the Disciples held a communion service with over 500 deacons. They had to finish the service in time for the game later that day.

Later that year, H.W. would report that many of the records of the previous 50 years had been lost but that the gains made by the churches in Kentucky were significant. What was lost cannot be overstated.

H.W. preached in the Paris church on Feb. 7 1915 where over \$60.00 were raised for State missions.

In 1917, In September, H.W. preached at North Middletown both in the morning and evening services.

2024 Storms Bring Down Trees Around Cane Ridge

May 19, 2024 saw heavy winds and rain which uprooted several trees. While in the process of removing those trees and several other dangerous and damaged limbs, the remnants of Hurricane Helene caused even more damage. In the course of the year, we have removed more than a dozen trees and large numbers of hanging limbs and other dead foliage around the grounds at a cost of a little over \$17,000. In particular, the graveyard and the exit driveway have been opened up significantly. Donations toward the cost of these and other expenses are welcomed.

A sad chapter in the Elliott's family history saw H. W. Jr. arrested due to the theft of \$50,000.00 from the Deposit Bank of Sulphur, where he was cashier. He received a sentence of 10 years in the state penitentiary. His brother, William was bookkeeper of the bank and was charged but no action was taken by the jury against him. H.W. Jr. served five years of his term before being freed.

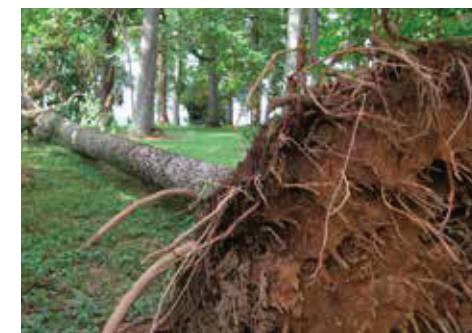
In 1938, H.W. Jr. died at the age of 50 of a heart attack. He was living in Lexington and was reported to be an Elder at Woodland Christian Church.

In August of 1926, Mrs. Elliott died at 69 years old after a long illness. She was buried in the Sulphur Cemetery.

At his retirement, he was granted a pension from the Christian Church for his many years of service. His pension was reduced, however, in 1933 from \$150.00 to \$50.00 per month, owing in part to the depression.

H.W. died on Sunday, March 11, 1945 at his home in Sulphur.

And this is where our final intersection occurs, bringing us back to the beginning. In 1901, Louis Rogers, of the Cane Ridge neighborhood, rode into Paris to meet Elder H. W. Elliott of Sulphur, Kentucky, who was to preach at Cane Ridge. At the train station, Rogers heard someone greet the eminent "Brother Elliott" and immediately took possession of Elliott and brought him the 8 miles to Cane Ridge. Apparently, the two had an amiable discussion the whole way, but it was only upon arriving at Rogers' home, that they realized the man Rogers had picked up at the station, was really Prof. R. H. Ellett, who had been scheduled to preach in Paris. Being late in the day, he was given a night's lodging and returned to Paris in time to preach in the Christian Church there on Sunday. Elder H.W. Elliott was sick and had missed the train, failing to arrive at Cane Ridge.



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Closing Day 2024

On one of the warmest Closing Days of recent memory, many gathered for a brief service and reception on October 31.

As a celebration of All Saints' Eve, we remembered those who had gone on before us. We also remembered three ministers who had served or preached in the Cane Ridge Meeting House, H.W. Elliott, Richard Ellett and Milton Elliott. Text of the talk can be found on page 2.



Curator James Trader leads worship and speaks on Milton Elliott, Richard Ellett and H. W. Elliott.



At left: Former Cane Ridge Trustee, Hattie Buckner, and Current Trustee, Jim Lovell at the 2024 Closing Day service.



Pictured Below: Many of those who attended the Closing Day Service on October 31, 2024.

To donate to Cane Ridge online, go to



<https://www.givelify.com/donate/MzcxNTg=/selection>

or scan the QR code



SPEAKER

The Curator is available to preach or speak to a fellowship group about Cane Ridge throughout the year. Please contact Cane Ridge to schedule a speaking engagement as early as possible. Honoraria or Donations for the ministry of Cane Ridge are expected, and, depending on the amount of travel required, mileage and housing may be necessary.

GIFTS TO CANE RIDGE

Gifts to continue the mission and ministry of Cane Ridge should be sent to:
Cane Ridge, P.O. Box 26, Paris, KY 40362-0026



Notes from the Ridge

By James H. Trader, II

Milton Elliott, R.H. Ellett & H.W. Elliott

Many ministers have spoken from the pulpit in the Cane Ridge Meeting House over the years. A number were pastors of the congregation and others spoke on one or more occasions. We're discovering more information about these ministers as newspapers from the past couple of hundred years are being scanned and uploaded into a number of internet databases. At our opening and closing services for each year we focus on one or more of these people who have graced the pulpit in the old Meeting House. Some of them have connections to each other beyond Cane Ridge. On October 31, 2024, we discussed the three men named above. (No photo has been found of Milton Elliott.)

Richard Howell (R.H.) Ellett was born in Mississippi on June 29, 1857. He holds the distinction of being the last pastor of the Cane Ridge Christian Church from 1917 until 1921.

Ellett had three brothers: Joseph, William and Jack, and three sisters, Coral, Virginia and Mrs. James Hutchinson.

He would marry Kate Barkley Ellett of Leesburg in Harrison County.

Ellett had a daughter, Mary Ashbrook Ellett, and a son, Lawrence H. Ellett. Lawrence was the offspring of Ellett's first marriage, of which I've found little information.

The Christian Church in Chillicothe, Missouri called Ellett as pastor in 1902. His salary was reported to be \$1200 a year. Kate remained in Lexington when he began his ministry there. He remained in Chillicothe for about 3 years. While there he contributed to the local newspaper regularly on such subjects as "Keeping the Ballot Pure," decrying the buying of votes and bribery. He also wrote about "Shame as a Factor for Good in the Christian Life," and that "The Sunday Laws" prohibiting Sunday Baseball and Sunday Saloons should be enforced as well as the other laws prohibiting Sunday Business.

Ellett moved to the Christian Church of Bellingham, Washington in October of 1904. In 1906, he was chosen as President of Bellingham Ministerial Association.

In June of 1907, Ellett began as pastor of the Iola, Kansas Christian Church. The Iola Register reports, "Rev. Ellett is a southerner. In 1874 he moved from Feliciana, Louisiana, where he spent most of his childhood, to Buron, Harvey County in [Kansas]...He attended Bethany College, in West Virginia, and from there went to Kentucky



R.H. Ellett



H.W. Elliott

University at Lexington, where he graduated in 1884. He received the degree of A.B. and A.M. from this college. He then became connected with the college as teacher, remaining there sixteen years. The last nine years of his connection with the college he was professor of mathematics. While a teacher in the university he preached occasionally in and about Lexington. In 1901, he decided to give up his work as teacher and enter the ministry."

He had still been a student when he was hired as assistant professor in the academy, a part of the University, and as principal of the academy in 1886.

In 1896, he was likely the pastor of Newtown Christian Church.

Ellett had, for a brief time, been pastoring the Chestnut Street Christian Church in Lexington. (This congregation would live on in other congregations of Lexington, including Victory and Castlewold.)

On one occasion, it was reported that, despite a severe attack of tonsillitis, Ellett preached two sermons in the church. Because he could only speak at intervals, hymns were sung between these periods.

It was reported that Ellett might be moving to Eufaula, Oklahoma in 1910 to superintend the erection of a church there, but it doesn't seem to have happened.

For many years, he was an instructor at Transylvania College. Note that, at this time Transylvania had been named Kentucky University from 1865 until 1908, when it would reclaim the name Transylvania. While there, he was active in the Central Kentucky Union of Christian Ministers. While in Lexington, he was active in the Broadway Christian Church, where he sang in the church's chorus as a tenor.

We know that in October, 1901 he preached at the Maysville Christian Church at least once.

In 1910, Ellett was one of several ministers listed as having preached in the Leesburg Christian Church. A notice in the Kentuckian-Citizen in December of 1884 said that Ellett preached "a most excellent discourse even with

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Richard H. Ellett Serves as Last Cane Ridge Pastor

a low attendance due to bad weather and it not being generally known he would preach." It is quite likely that this is where he met his wife, Kate. He was contracted by the Leesburg church in January of 1885 to preach there on the first Sunday of each month.

In 1912, it was noted that Ellett, of Iola, Kansas, was called to the Clintonville Christian Church and preached on Feb. 18 at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. By August, he was on the committee of the Bourbon County Bible School Convention, which met at the Clintonville Church. And, in August of 1912, Ellett conducted a protracted meeting at the North Middletown Church.

He served as pastor of the Clintonville Christian Church for nine years. In 1915, Ellett and Newton Shropshire began a revival at the Bethlehem Christian Church. According to the newspaper it was to continue each evening until further notice.

Mrs. Ellett was a regular speaker as well, and in 1915 she spoke to the Paris Christian Women's Board of Missions.

In January of 1916, Ellett exchanged pulpits with W.E. Ellis at the Paris Christian Church.

In March of 1918, Ellett exchanged pulpits with F.M. Tinder of the North Middletown Christian Church.

The College in North Middletown, which had originally opened in a log cabin during the Civil War as the Patterson Institute, was destroyed in 1889 by a fire, which also destroyed the North Middletown Deposit Bank and five other buildings. The school lost 7 pianos and the resident students and faculty escaped with only their night clothes. The Classes were, for a time moved to the public school. 1890 ordinances forbid the erection of frame houses on Main Street. The school would be rebuilt and continue. T.J. Patterson had sold the institute to become President of Hamilton College in Lexington.

While F.M. Tinder was on vacation from North Middletown in August of 1924, Ellett filled the pulpit there. In 1926, he also filled Tinder's pulpit.

An accident in 1925 was said to cripple Ellett's back but he was able to return to the classroom after several days. The school continued to thrive, with more students enrolled than ever before in 1925.

The closing exercises of the North Middletown Graded School on 1927 were held and a baccalaureate was preached by Ellett, followed by a piano recital of the students of Mrs. Harry Richarts.

In August of 1927, Ellett preached in the new building of the Mt. Sterling Christian Church.

And now we meet our first intersection. In 1914, the Bourbon County Teacher's Institute was held at the courthouse in Paris. R.H. Ellett was one of the organizers and spoke on "Civil Government." Ellett was also part of a quartet who entertained. He was joined on the program by Professor A.L. Boatright of Transylvania University. Boatright had led the music for a revival in Sapulpa, Oklahoma alongside Ellett in 1910. Joining them in the program was Milton Elliott, who spoke on "Discipline."

This Milton Elliott was an educator, textbook salesman and member of

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held at the North Middletown Church with R.H. Ellett offering the invocation and R.H. Crossfield, president of Transylvania, delivered the main address. The buildings stood empty for about two years.

F.M. Tinder began at North Middletown Christian Church as pastor in October of 1917 and a reception was held for him and for Elder R.H. Ellett who was to become the new College President.

In 1916, the state board of education issued a three-year high school certificate to Ellett, certifying him to teach. He leased the College property in North Middletown in July of 1917. In September of 1917, Ellett preached at North Middletown Christian Church and he was to open the College School in North Middletown on Monday, September 17. The Kentuckian-Citizen reported an attendance of 70. The faculty was reported to be R. H. Ellett, Miss Mary Ellett (his daughter), Miss Elizabeth Andrews, Miss Louise Myall and Miss Florence Dick. The school for a time was the only coed school in the county.

In 1919, the College was closed for a week as the Ellett's had come down with the flu. This being the era of the Spanish Flu pandemic, it is likely any outbreak was treated quite seriously.

The baccalaureate for the Kentucky Classical and Business College was held at the North Middletown church in June of 1918, with Ellett preaching.

In 1924, the Kentucky Classical and Business College was consolidated into a graded school and in 1927, it would be turned over to the Bourbon County Board of Education. Mary Ellett remained as one of the teachers in the school.

A revival at North Middletown, led by Ellett and F. M. Tinder in 1920 saw eleven confessions of faith.

In 1924, we know that Ellett was on the Board of Regents of the Midway Female Orphan School, now Midway University.

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Also in 1927, the Ellets returned to Leesburg. While moving belongings between Leesburg and North Middletown in 1928, the Ellett's lost two cans of clothing along the road. A classified ad in the Kentuckian-Citizen requests any who find them to contact the family in North Middletown.

In 1930, Ellett gave the communion prayer during the anniversary celebration at North Middletown Christian Church. The North Middletown Christian Church history says that both Ellett and Professor E.B. Buffington taught at the Kentucky Classical and Business College. Buffington would also preach at Cane Ridge.

R.H. Ellett died at the age of 75 at his home in North Middletown on April 28, 1933. Funeral services were held at North Middletown Christian Church, conducted by Mark Collis, pastor emeritus of Broadway Christian Church in Lexington. He was assisted by John W. Jones and Rev. N.L. Shropshire. North Middletown members and officers served as pallbearers.

He was buried in the Lexington Cemetery on Monday, April 29, accompanied by a number of friends. Mary Ellett qualified as executor of R. H. Ellett's estate.

Kate Ellett died at her home in Lexington on June 11, 1938, she was 79 years old. F. M. Tinder, pastor of North Middletown Christian Church officiated at the service. She was laid to rest beside her husband in the Lexington Cemetery.

In 1945, Mary Ellett married Henry Boardman of North Middletown in a service at the Paris home of Rev. Frank M. Tinder, officiated by Rev. Fred I. Gardner, pastor of North Middletown Christian Church. By this time, she had become the home economics instructor in the North Middletown High School. They made their home in North Middletown, where her husband was engaged in farming.

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Cane Ridge Ministers Often Taught School as Well

the State Parole Board who died in 1954. He had taught in Lexington, at Kentucky University, and at the West Kentucky College in Mayfield. He was involved with athletics while at Kentucky University. And, he was the son of Milton Elliott, Sr. In articles of the period it is hard to know which Milton is being referred to since they were often working at the same institutions at the same time or in the same area. As a rule of thumb, Milton Sr. is often referred to as Rev. Elliott and Milton Jr. is referred to as Prof. Elliott.

Milton Elliott, Sr. was from Monticello, Kentucky and was married and had nine children. He was a student of the College of the Bible at Kentucky College from 1871 until 1873. Mrs. Joan Phillips Elliott, also of Monticello, was a graduate of Hamilton College.

In 1885, Elliott and Elder Joseph Ballou held a 12-day meeting at the Tate's Creek in Madison County where 85 persons were added to the church. He was a popular revival speaker throughout central Kentucky.

Elliott was the principal at the Elliott Institute in Kirksville, near Richmond Kentucky. An 1888 advertisement notes that the Elliott Institute was for males and females and gives the tuition per month between \$2.00 and \$4.00, board at \$2.75, Instrumental Music at \$4.00, drawing at \$2.00 and Painting at \$3.00. Courses include Latin, Greek, German, French and Bookkeeping. In 1888, he filled the pulpit at the Richmond Christian Church twice a month. In 1890, the Elliotts welcomed their ninth child, a surprise as the mother was 48. The Stanford paper reported that Elliott, at 53, was preaching once or twice every Sunday and conducting a large school and "the work seems to agree with him, as he is fattening right along in his work."

Sadly, the school, the opera house and the school dormitory burned in 1906.

Elliott apparently was filling a regular appointment at Turnersville and preaching at McKinney at night. During a meeting he held at Ford in Clark County there were 57 additions. And, in June of 1888, Elliott preached at the Clintonville Church.

Milton Elliott was the Chair of the Program of the Sunday School Convention for Madison County in 1891.

And, in 1889, he preached at the Mt. Vernon Christian Church and in 1893 the church in Stanford noted he preached the first and third Sundays.

In 1890, Elliott was scheduled to preach at the Stanford church which proudly noted that they how have a new

pair of noiseless doors.

The newspaper reports that Elliott was offered the presidency of Christian College in Columbia, Missouri, the largest female boarding school in Missouri. This had been the Camden Point Female Academy which later opened the Missouri Female Orphan School and later, following a fire, they were incorporated into the Missouri Christian College, which would be renamed Daughter's College in 1900 and then renamed William Woods College. He'd also been offered presidencies in New Mexico and Central Kentucky. There was much consternation over these offers but he remained in Kentucky.

Elliott conducted a series of meetings in 1894 at Cane Run near Burgin and Danville. He was employed to preach on the second and fourth Lord's day.

In Richmond, in 1895, the old public school in Brookstown was burned by arsonists. The frame house had several benches made from logs taken from the building which it replaced. Among the educators who taught in the Brookstown school was Milton Elliott.

Garrard College in Lancaster employed Elliott as president of the Female College in 1893. As in many of the colleges of the days, young ladies boarded in the college and young boys boarded in town. Two of Elliott's children, H.H. and Minnie L. were employed on the faculty. The campus had 8 acres with a boarding hall and the college building. They could accommodate a family, teacher and 40 boarders.

In 1895, Elliott left Garrard College and moved on to West Kentucky College, which had been the Southern Female Institute, at Mayfield where he served as president for 8 years. In 1895, the enrollment was 145. In 1900, the enrollment at West was 306, the largest in the history of the college. An ad in the September 25, 1895 Mayfield Weekly Monitor notes the courses offered, including Instrumental and Vocal Music, Art and Elocution, Shorthand and typewriting.

As a sign of the times in newspaper reporting, Nathan Elliott, Milton Sr.'s son was often noted for his oratorical skills, while the Interior Journal of Stanford reported in 1898 that Miss Mamie Elliott, daughter of Prof. Milton Elliott, which shows that she is almost as handsome as her sister, Miss Minnie.

Elliott became the principal of the Kentucky Classical and Business College. In June of 1904, the college celebrated the commencement with a dinner, "dainty refreshments" and the Winchester Orchestra. An art exhibit followed the

next day with an entertainment at the Christian Church. The paper reported that, "North Middletown on account of its healthful location, its cultivated and moral people, its freedom from saloons and other temptations, is an especially safe place for the education of our youth. In his time as principal, he included in the curriculum: orchestra, art, music, business and classical studies.

He pastored the Cane Ridge Church for about 2 years, 1905-1906. On September 9 of 1906 Elliott exchanged pulpits with Elder W.S. Willis of Clintonville.

On January 6, 1907, Elder C.W. (Coleman Woodford) Dick, pastor of the North Middletown church filled the pulpit at Cane Ridge for Elliott. C.W. Dick was the grandfather of newsmen David Dick and the great-grandfather of Sam Dick of channel 27 news. An article in January reports that Elliott had been ill for several weeks and did not show improvement.

In 1906, the Elliotts had a family reunion at the College. The paper notes the family members who were in attendance and reports that there has been no death in the family.

However, Elliott died at the age of 70 on February 7, 1907. It was noted that many of his children were already home to see their father, who was not well. His funeral was held at the Broadway Christian Church in Lexington. His services were officiated by Elders L.H. Reynolds and J.W. McGarvey. Minnie Elliott, daughter, and Prof. Atkins finished out the school term.

Mrs. Elliott died in July of 1921, at the age of 79. Of note, when she was a small child in Monticello, she saw two men who were arrested and sentenced to death for being confederate spies. The charges were a bit convoluted but sentiment was high. She appealed to her father, a Union man, and he helped to free them. Her reminiscences were published in the Paris newspaper in 1903.

And here is our next intersection. During the time of both R.H. Ellett and Milton Elliott, the Kentucky Corresponding Secretary was H.W. Elliott. The Corresponding Secretary was also the State Missionary Evangelist and was usually known as the State Secretary, what we now know as the Regional Minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). H.W. would be Secretary for 33 years. Some sources say 37 years. During his time the State Office was in Sulphur, Kentucky until his retirement in 1925. He

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