

## THE UNITED BAPTISTS

The Baptists would hold their regular meetings for three days commencing on Saturday and closing on Monday. The Baptists were no circuit riders like the Methodist. Baptist preachers either made a preaching appointment or were invited to the independent churches. Preachers in that day would often ride horseback much as a hundred miles to an appointment, so the meeting almost had to be held for three days to justify the trip.

In the early days, the itinerant preachers came into the wilderness and preached in the homes or in the woods nearby. Then later, when the people had become better established and the Indians and Wilderness were, to some extent, tamed, the meetin' houses were built away from the settlements in an area where there were springs and plenty of space and shade and fuel nearby. . . for when the Baptist Association or any church had a Meetin' everyone for up to a hundred miles came and stayed. The people camped out just as they had done when they moved from the settled areas into the wilderness. A meetin' might last two weeks or even a month or at least until the fodder gave out. These early meetin' became the Camp Meetin' and the Protracted Meetin' of a later period.

These pioneer United Baptists were very Calvinistic in their beliefs. The Philadelphia Confession was their Creed. Predestination and Election was the warp and woof of their doctrine. They also held that a man was call of God to preach and none dared start with that call and he was not to be paid for his labors. They also believed in closed communion, baptism by immersion and the washing of feet.

Excerpt taken from:

Melton, Callie Myers, "Col. Copeland and the Twelve Cornered Church." Livingston Enterprise, 1986. (A Homecoming Highlight.) founded in 1805.