

A HISTORY OF BEERSHEBA SPRINGS HOTEL AND ASSEMBLY
1833 – 2007

By Ann Troutt

In 1941 the Tennessee Conference of the Methodist Church bought an antiquated mountain resort for the purpose of developing an assembly and retreat center. Located on the Cumberland Plateau in Grundy County, Tennessee, it consisted of 22 acres containing a pre-Civil War inn and several adjacent buildings known as the “Beersheba Springs Hotel.” The purchase price was \$3,000.¹

The resort had been a fashionable spa of the nineteenth century built to utilize a chalybeate (iron water) spring located just below the summit of the mountain. Beersheba Porter Cain had found the spring one day in 1833 while she was walking up from the foot of the mountain along a distinct path that was later said to have been a portion of the old Chickamauga Trace. Within a few months Beersheba’s husband John Cain, a McMinnville businessman, erected cabins at the top of the mountain near the bluff overlooking the Collins River Valley. The water source came to be known as “Beersheba’s Spring.” By 1836 a McMinnville physician had built a double log cabin nearby and he was prescribing the water, reputed to have medicinal properties. Soon a tavern and other buildings were constructed and in 1839 the watering place was incorporated as Beersheba Springs, making it a recognized summer resort. It consisted of the tavern, a dining room, rooms for the proprietor, his family and servants, and a cross-row of log rooms. (This cross-row is still standing and is known as Log Row. The present row of log rooms called Marvell, formerly Cozy Corner, is a similar type of construction and probably was built about the same time.) During the early years guests traveled to the watering place by private conveyance over roads that were little more than trails. By 1839 the site had become more accessible with the construction of a turnpike providing a stagecoach route passing through Beersheba Springs connecting McMinnville and Chattanooga. People came to the resort to benefit from the iron water spring and other nearby springs, to breathe the pure mountain air, to obtain relief from the heat of the lowlands, and to escape epidemics of malaria, yellow fever and cholera. They also came to enjoy the mountain vistas and waterfalls, to participate in the social life and to make political contacts.²

Within a few years Beersheba Springs was renowned throughout the state. Although quite rustic, it served many distinguished visitors. Former president Andrew Jackson, suffering from declining health, came to benefit from the waters. James K. Polk held a political meeting there in 1840 while he was serving as governor of Tennessee. When Grundy County was established in 1844, Beersheba Springs served for a short period as the county seat. The resort was often simply called Beersheba. The name was sometimes spelled “Bersheba” and the common pronunciation “BURR-shi-buh” survives to the present.³

Late in 1854 a prominent man by the name of John Armfield purchased the resort and 1,000 acres of land for \$3750. Armfield, a man of considerable resources, closed the establishment in order to make repairs and expand the facilities. He spent the next two to three years building new wood siding structures, a row of brick cabins and additional log rooms. Locating the new buildings adjacent to others on the site, he created a quadrangle configuration

of structures surrounding a grassy courtyard. The south side of the quadrangle consisted of the original log cross-row (the present Log Row). Armfield built Brick Row (still standing) on the west side near an existing row of log rooms (now named Marvell). He constructed a two-story wood siding building on the east side containing a dining room with a ballroom above and other rooms on both levels. (This building remains, although the kitchen in the rear has been replaced.) He also built on the east side a one-story wood siding structure (replaced in 2003 with two-story East Side). On the north side of the quadrangle, possibly adding to an existing building, Armfield erected an imposing two-story wood siding hotel with columned front porches. (It remains the focal point of the complex.) South of the quadrangle Armfield constructed other buildings fronting on a second grassy courtyard. (Marcella V. Smith Row, formerly Upper Neal or Post Office Row, remains as a renovated Armfield structure south of the present courtyard.) In addition to the hotel complex, on the surrounding acreage Armfield built twenty or more unique cottages on lots leased to individuals. (Today much of the community of Beersheba Springs is made up of cottages that were built on resort property.)⁴

Armfield reopened the resort the summer of 1857 and by that time several cottages were occupied. By 1858 the complex was large enough to accommodate over 400 people. Armfield brought in a French chef and French cooks from New Orleans. They served a fine cuisine on elaborate table settings in what is still the dining room today. Many guests made the trip to Beersheba by private carriage, often arriving wearing elegant clothing and expensive jewelry and accompanied by an entourage of servants. Other guests rode trains to McMinnville or Tracy City and completed the journey by stagecoach. When a stagecoach loaded with passengers and luggage made the trip from McMinnville to Beersheba Springs the driver paused before beginning the steep climb up the mountain. He signaled with a horn to those on top the number of guests who would be arriving for the next meal so the chef could be prepared. During the ascent the driver stopped the horses frequently to allow them to rest. Persons watching from the observatory above called down encouraging words. Sometimes passengers had to get out and walk over a particularly difficult spot in the road. As the coach drew up in front of the hotel, a French band was in place to salute the approaching party with festive music. Guests were congregated to welcome the newcomers and the young men were gathered for the purpose of looking over the young ladies arriving!⁵

Armfield provided for the entertainment of guests on a grand scale. He brought in a French orchestra that played for dancing each evening in the ballroom above the dining room. Tuesday nights and Friday nights were designated as grand dress evenings and on those occasions guests sported their finest attire. Sometimes a masquerade ball was held. The ballroom was also used for theatrical productions, concerts and lectures. On Sunday, church services were held there. Episcopal priests led the services on Sunday mornings; ministers of other denominations preached on Sunday afternoons and evenings. The hotel had no saloon but there were billiard rooms, card rooms and bowling alleys. Gambling was prohibited. Daytime activities included walks to Stone Door and the Old Mill, horseback rides and fox hunts. The mountain spa became known throughout the South and was at the height of its glory from 1858 to 1860.⁶

In 1859 Armfield sold the resort to a group of investors but, by 1861, the company had gone bankrupt with the advent of the Civil War. The hotel was closed during the war and the

cottages of Beersheba Springs became places of refuge for families and their guests from time to time. Women spent their time sewing, knitting, weaving and cooking for Confederate soldiers on the battlefield and in hospitals. By mid 1863 Tennessee was losing ground to the Union and there was a continuous stream of soldiers and civilians pouring through Beersheba hurrying into the deeper South. Both northern and southern armies passed through at different times and occasionally they camped on resort property. Horses were stabled in the dining room. Many of the hotel's furnishings were carried off to supply two military hospitals. The hotel and cottages were pillaged. On one occasion, the hotel was barely saved from destruction when a maid and a nine-year-old boy extinguished a fire set by fleeing soldiers.⁷

The hotel reopened in 1870 but during the ensuing years it was a financial struggle to keep it open. It continued to operate as a quiet summer vacation site and ownership changed hands numerous times during the latter part of the nineteenth century and the early part of the twentieth. Through the years the resort cottages built by John Armfield came to be owned by individuals or families and many of them have been passed down to succeeding generations until the present day.⁸

In 1920 the hotel was used as a junior high school serving students who lived in the community and others who boarded at the hotel. Students who missed spelling words were required to spend their recess time working in the courtyard. Boys grubbed out tree stumps and girls swept the porches and the courtyard area.⁹

In October 1941 the Tennessee Conference of the Methodist Church, responding to the need for an assembly and retreat center, purchased the antebellum hotel complex. The buildings had stood unused for several years and were in a state of disrepair. During the ensuing months Methodists from throughout middle Tennessee came with their hammers, mops and brushes. Individuals as well as entire families repaired, cleaned and painted, preparing to open the facilities for use in the summer of 1942. Although there was electricity in the common areas, candles provided light in the sleeping rooms. There was one bathroom for women and one for men, each containing cold-water showers. The first season of operation the new Beersheba Springs Methodist Assembly Grounds hosted Youth Assembly, Young Adult Assembly, Pastors' School, Children's Workers' Camp and three weeks of Intermediate Camp. A total of 717 persons made their way to the mountaintop that first summer in spite of the scarcity of automobile tires imposed by World War II. The next year the strain of the war continued and, even though gasoline was rationed, still more people came seeking inspiration and Christian fellowship.¹⁰

During the summers of the 1940s and the 1950s attendance increased steadily as the Assembly came to be noted as a Christian retreat center. The ballroom, renamed the "assembly hall," rollicked again with activity. Groups gathered there for Bible study, worship, hymn sings, classes, stunt shows and talent shows. During youth camps the room was used on rainy evenings for folk dancing, called folk games because some Methodists frowned upon dancing. Other evenings this popular form of recreation was held outdoors in the courtyard and, in later years, on the tennis court. Vesper Point overlooking the valley was a sacred site for outdoor services at dusk. Mealtimes were announced by the ringing of a dinner bell. Delectable home cooked type meals were served family-style on large tables in the dining room. Games of horseshoes, ping-

pong and baseball were popular and hikes to Lovers' Leap and Stone Door were favorite activities. Courts for croquet, tennis, badminton and shuffleboard were enjoyed by all ages. Porches with rocking chairs were always available.¹¹

Proper dress was important during the early days of Assembly events. Youth campers were permitted to wear shorts during the daytime but for evening activities they were expected to "dress appropriately." For most evening programs girls donned skirts and blouses or dresses and boys wore sport shirts and long pants. They were allowed to dress more casually, however, when a campfire was held. It was often suggested that people coming for a weekend retreat plan to dress for the Sunday service in the chapel as they would dress for church at home. Dresses or suits with high-heeled shoes were usually worn by the ladies and suits or sport coats and slacks were worn by the men. Men who attended the weeklong Pastors' School wore white dress shirts with ties and dress pants every day, and some wore suits. Although there were few female ministers in the Methodist Church in those days, those who attended Pastors' School also wore their Sunday best.

The Methodists of the Tennessee Conference brought many changes to the resort as they sought to update the facilities. In 1943 electricity was extended to remaining buildings. Light for each sleeping room was provided by a single bulb hanging from a cord extended from the center of the ceiling. In 1944 kitchen equipment was upgraded and electric refrigerators replaced iceboxes. In the early years of the Assembly the water system was dependant upon rainwater drained from the roofs and stored in cisterns. During periods of little rain the manager had to remind campers not to flush the toilets very often because the water in the cisterns was low. Occasionally water was hauled from McMinnville to fill the cisterns. Later, wells were dug to provide better sources of water. Additional bathrooms were built and electric pumps and water heaters were installed. In 1946 an upstairs porch was added to the back of the hotel, improving fire safety and increasing accommodations by dividing the two-room suites into separate rooms with each room opening onto a front or back porch. The wood frame kitchen was torn down in 1950 and replaced with a more fire-resistant concrete block structure. In 1952 modern telephone service became available. A row of concrete block rooms was built between Log Row and Upper Neal in 1955 and the structure was named Lower Neal. In 1958 major renovation of the hotel was completed. It included a new concrete foundation, new floor joists, flooring and ceilings throughout the first floor, and new paneled walls and gas heat in the lobby.¹²

Other changes took place at the Assembly as Methodists sought to make the place more functional for worship and fellowship. In 1944 Grace Chapel, a nearby community church, was deeded to The Methodist Church. A parsonage was constructed on Assembly property and the minister in residence was available to conduct communion services and perform other clergy functions for Assembly programs. Walkways inside the quadrangle were repaired and the roofed sections became favorite spots for adults to enjoy conversation while children played in the courtyard. In 1945 a stone observatory was built in front of the hotel to replace the decaying wood structure overlooking Collins River Valley. The observatory became a favorite site for morning watch, a brief devotional time to begin each day's activities, and it served throughout the day as a place of reflection and appreciation of nature's beauty. Also in 1945 the front porch of the hotel was refloored over a new foundation and three sets of native stone steps were built. The porch was a popular gathering place where people enjoyed rocking and conversing. In 1946

croquet and shuffleboard courts were constructed and a concrete play area called “the slab” was built for tennis, folk games and other activities. The chapel was completed in 1949 and it became a hallowed place of indoor worship for Assembly events. Organ music broadcast through amplifiers mounted atop the chapel brought an aura of reverence to the entire Assembly area during designated quiet times. In 1982 the amplifiers were replaced with a steeple erected in honor of Jim Bell, past Tennessee Conference Lay Leader.¹³

Large numbers of people continued to attend events during the summers of the 1960s and 70s and several improvements were made to the property. The creation of a water utility district on the mountain brought a dependable source of water in 1964; wells and cisterns became obsolete. (One cistern remains on display between the hotel and the chapel.) Also in 1964 a roof was built over the slab, or tennis court, and the open-air structure became “the pavilion.” It was used for basketball, folk games and other recreational activities, and for worship services and classes. In 1969 the winterizing of 22 sleeping rooms, rest rooms, classrooms, the kitchen, the dining room and the chapel enabled small groups to use the facilities during the spring and fall. However, all buildings continued to be closed each winter and, prior to closing, water pipes were drained to prevent freezing. In 1975 a cottage on the south side of the property known as Hopper House (since removed) was converted into a winterized retreat site. It contained a kitchen, a meeting area and sleeping quarters for 36 persons.¹⁴

Camping and outdoor recreation became a nationwide rage in the 1970s. In 1974 the State of Tennessee established the Savage Gulf State Natural Area with locations for backpacking, hiking, rock climbing, rappelling, and picnicking. Beersheba Springs Assembly became a home base for nature lovers who came to access the Gulf using the nearby Stone Door entrance. In 1978 the Assembly developed a campground for tent and trailer camping. It had 24 campsites, a bathhouse and a picnic shelter. (The bathhouse and picnic shelter remain.)¹⁵

The latter part of the twentieth century became a period of assessment and redirection for Beersheba Springs Assembly. Attendance at events had begun to decline and several previously hosted church groups were holding their retreats at other sites. Common complaints were that buildings were out-dated, most of them were not air-conditioned, and bedrooms did not have adjoining baths. Income was decreasing and the deteriorating buildings were expensive to maintain. Concerned individuals and various committees began exploring options for the future of the Assembly. A series of open meetings held across the Tennessee Conference of the United Methodist Church during 1986 resulted in much opposition to selling the Beersheba property. Church leaders were then faced with the challenge of finding the funds to renovate and modernize the facility, turning it into an attractive, comfortable retreat center that could be used year-round. Hiring a full-time manager to live at the Assembly and oversee its maintenance was the first step undertaken in 1991. The manager’s initial residence was the former Grace Chapel parsonage (since demolished). Interest in improvements at Beersheba gained momentum and in 1991 the Assembly celebrated 50 years as a retreat center. Artist Dan Roundtree drew a commemorative sketch of the hotel and authorized prints to be sold to raise funds for the restoration of Beersheba Springs Assembly. In 1994 a new manager’s residence was completed.¹

In 1999 the Tennessee Annual Conference approved the Together We Can Campaign to benefit the Assembly at Beersheba as well as other conference institutions. United Methodists from throughout the conference made pledges and, as payments designated for Beersheba came in, renovation and construction began to take place. Those involved tried to retain the historic integrity of the old buildings and they attempted to blend the architecture of the new buildings with the old.¹⁷

The first structure was a bathhouse built in 2002. Located in the open space of the quadrangle between Marvell and Brick Row, it was a welcome addition and a much needed facility. Next a large maintenance building was erected. Late in 2002 Turner Family Lodge was completed. It consisted of two sections, each containing a lobby with a fireplace, a kitchen and 12 bedrooms with baths. Heated and air-conditioned, it provided the first modern year-round accommodations at the Assembly.¹⁸

In 2003 sewer service was extended from Altamont to Beersheba Springs allowing connections to be made to new structures at the Assembly as well as to older buildings with their outmoded septic tanks. During 2003 the one-story East Side building was replaced with a larger two-story building that was heated and air-conditioned. It contained two meeting rooms and 22 bedrooms with baths.¹⁹

Restoration of Upper Neal was completed in 2004 and the building was renamed Marcella V. Smith Row. It consisted of eight bedrooms with baths, heat and ceiling fans. The rooms were cooled by natural mountain air flowing through front and back screen doors, as in the past. First floor sleeping quarters in the Hotel were renovated in 2004. Two suites and four bedrooms in the Bishops' Wing were provided with heat, air conditioning and modern baths. Ella Eaton Gill Dormitory was also constructed in 2004. The building contained bunk beds and a large bath in each end and it had a large meeting room and kitchen in the center. It provided accommodations for 32 persons and was heated and cooled.²⁰

By the end of 2004 there was a dilemma: with the increased sleeping capacity provided by the new buildings there was no longer a meeting place large enough for an entire group registered at the facility. United Methodists and other friends of the Assembly came through with the funds to erect a large enclosed structure and in 2006 the Samuel Boyd Smith Multipurpose Building was dedicated. Located in the center of the grounds on the site of the old pavilion, the temperature-controlled building could serve as a meeting hall, as a large classroom, or as a gym with half-court basketball.²¹

Many people have used their skills and resources to make Beersheba Springs Assembly what it is today. Several building names honor the dedication and generosity of individuals and families who have held a special appreciation for Beersheba. Marvell was named for Marvin and Dell Cook during the very earliest years of the Assembly. Marvin (W. M.) Cook was a minister of the Tennessee Conference who spent many hours repairing and building at the Assembly. The stone fireplace in the hotel lobby and the stone inlay with scripture on the observatory were his handiwork. Turner Family Lodge honored the family of Cal Turner, a member of Brentwood United Methodist Church in Nashville and an avid supporter of a number of United Methodist institutions. Marcella V. Smith Row honored a member of Forest Hills United Methodist Church

in Nashville. Marcella Smith came to Beersheba year after year for events such as Family Fellowship and each time she stayed in the row of log rooms that, after her death, were named for her. The construction of Ella Eaton Gill Dormitory utilized funds from the sale of property on Black Mountain near Crossville. In 1934 Ella Eaton Gill had donated the mountain acreage to Cumberland Mountain School, an institution of the Tennessee Conference of the Methodist Church. After the school closed, the Tennessee Conference continued to follow her wishes to allow the property to serve as a wildlife preserve and a site for nature appreciation. It was sold in 2001 to the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation to become part of the Cumberland Trail State Park. In 2006 the Multipurpose Building was named for the late Samuel Boyd Smith, a member of Belmont United Methodist Church who devoted many hours to making plans for Beersheba and other outdoor ministries during the years he served on the Tennessee Conference Camping Committee.²²

Dedicated assembly managers have supervised operation and maintenance and, often with the assistance of a spouse, have offered warm hospitality to guests since 1942. Managers and the years they served were: A. J. Davis, 1942-1948; Dennis Brown, 1949-1966; John N. Balch, 1967; James A. Jacobs, 1968-1970; Elwood Denson, 1971-1973; Herman Buchanan, 1974-1977; I. B. Pennington, 1978-1981; Robert Cate, 1982; Don Clemmons, 1983; Gerald Reid, 1984-1991; William (Bill) Woehler, 1991-1999; Larry Kalas, 1999-2001; Irmie Blanton, 2002-2005; Phillip Geissal, 2005-2006; Richard V. (Dickie) Hinton, 2007-present.

With the increased interest in camping in the 1970s, the Tennessee Conference created a full-time position of Coordinator of Camping, later termed Director of Camping. Carl Elkins served in this office from 1976 until 1984 dealing with many aspects of program and property at Beersheba and other conference camps. Succeeding directors of camping continued to supervise facilities and many dealt with program. Those directors and the years they served were: James F. Swiney, Jr., 1984-1987; James G. Hughes, Jr., 1987-1995; Terry Carty, 1995-1997; L. C. Troutt, 1998-2001; Beth Morris, 2002-present.

Facilities and program continue to be a blend of the old and new at Beersheba. The charm of yesteryear is still available in certain rooms that have not yet been modernized. Worship services are still held in the Chapel and at Vesper Point; they are also held in the new Smith Multipurpose Building and in the meeting rooms of other new buildings. Morning watch is still held on the observatory overlooking the valley; it is also held on the deck of Turner Family Lodge overlooking the wooded area. Classes are still held in the lobby of the hotel with participants sitting in rocking chairs by the fireplace; classes are also held in the new meeting rooms and Smith Multipurpose Building with presenters using the latest visual aids and sound systems. Parents still chat on the porches of the quadrangle while their children play in the open area; they also leave their infants and toddlers in the attractive nursery provided in a room of Brick Row. In the quad youngsters still enjoy tetherball, volleyball, badminton and playground equipment; they also delight in slip-and-slide mats on the grass. Young people still walk to Lovers' Leap; they also travel to nearby rivers for whitewater rafting. They still hike to Stone Door to enjoy the view from the cliff; they also engage in supervised rappelling and rock climbing on the cliff. They still swing to music in the evening; folk dancing to recorded music in the pavilion has been replaced with swaying to live band performances in Smith Multipurpose Building. Oldsters still congregate on the front porch of the hotel to quietly reminisce; only the

occasional ringing of a cell phone interrupts the tranquility. Campers still dress casually for campfires; they wear casual clothes for other activities as well. Meals are still announced by the ringing of the dinner bell; food is now selected from a serving line. Rocking chairs still beckon from the weathered porches; they summon from the new breezeways and decks as well.

In reserving the facilities at the Assembly staff has given priority to groups within the Methodist Church, renamed the United Methodist Church in 1968. Others have been welcome to use the facilities, however, for overnight events or for day activities alone. Through the years Methodists and non-Methodists have scheduled day activities that included luncheons, dinners, parties, receptions, weddings, memorial services, reunions, meetings, festivals, photography and nature classes.²³

Cooperation with the community of Beersheba Springs has been important. In 1968 the Assembly began hosting the Arts and Crafts Festival, a fund-raiser for various community projects. Held in late August, it has continued to be an annual event. In 1980 residents and friends of Beersheba Springs were successful in an effort to place the hotel complex and other buildings in the community on the National Register of Historic Places. Since 2003 a Christmas party for children in the community has been held each year at the Assembly. Staff members participate in July 4th celebrations and parades. The observatory serves as an overlook for residents of the area and for those traveling through who pause to view the beauty of the valley. The stone inset reminds all to lift up their eyes unto the hills.²⁴

Beersheba Springs Assembly has served as a place of inspiration, study and fellowship for generations of people seeking respite and spiritual direction for their lives. Samuel Boyd Smith was once asked, "What is Beersheba?" He replied, "Why, Beersheba is the crown jewel of Tennessee!" Many agree that it continues to be just that.

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- ² Blanche Spurlock Bentley, *Sketch of Beersheba Springs and Chickamauga Trace* (McMinnville, 2005) 5-20; Coppinger et al, *Beersheba Springs*, 3-36; Isabel Howell, *John Armfield of Beersheba Springs* (Nashville, 1983) 31; James L. Nicholson, *Grundy County* (Memphis, 1982) 13-14.
- ³ Bentley, *Sketch of Beersheba Springs*, 20; Coppinger et al, *Beersheba Springs*, 2, 4, 18, 153; L. Virginia French, *The Beersheba Springs Diaries* (1986) 39; Howell, *John Armfield*, 31; Nicholson, *Grundy County*, 14-21; Polk to Stokely D. Rowan, et. al, Nashville, 15 June 1840, in *Correspondence of James K. Polk, 1839-1841*, ed. Wayne Cutler (Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 1979) 492-93; Samuel H. Laughlin to Polk, McMinnville, 21 June 1840, in *Correspondence of James K. Polk, 1839-1841*, 501.
- ⁴ Bentley, *Sketch of Beersheba Springs*, 21-23; Coppinger et al, *Beersheba Springs*, 4, 8-9, 18, 119, 125; French, *The Beersheba Springs Diaries*, 5; Howell, *John Armfield*, 31-41; Nicholson, *Grundy County*, 31-33; J. Frazer Smith, *White Pillars: The Architecture of the South*, 38.
- ⁵ Coppinger et al, *Beersheba Springs*, 5, 9, 19, 113, 114; Howell, *John Armfield*, 38-43; Nicholson, *Grundy County*, 33-35; Smith, *White Pillars*, 35-39.
- ⁶ Bentley, *Sketch of Beersheba Springs*, 23; Coppinger et al, *Beersheba Springs*, 5, 18-19, 113, 114, 117; Howell, *John Armfield*, 41-43; Nicholson, *Grundy County*, 33-38.
- ⁷ Bentley, *Sketch of Beersheba Springs*, 24; Coppinger et al, *Beersheba Springs*, 5-6, 8-9, 19, 114-17; French, *The Beersheba Springs Diaries*, 5-39, 45-64; Howell, *John Armfield*, 43-58; Nicholson, *Grundy County*, 37-52.
- ⁸ Bentley, *Sketch of Beersheba Springs*, 24-25; Coppinger et al, *Beersheba Springs*, 5-153; Howell, *John Armfield*, 55-56; Nicholson, *Grundy County*, 108; Herschel Gower, "Beersheba Springs," in *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History & Culture*, ed. Carroll Van West, 56 (Nashville: Rutledge Hill Press, 1998).
- ⁹ Janelle Coats, "History of Grundy County Schools" (Ed.S. thesis, Middle Tennessee State University, 1988), 92-93; Coppinger et al, *Beersheba Springs*, 15-16.
- ¹ Coppinger et al, *Beersheba Springs*, 12; Ann Dunn, interview by the author, Sept. 12, 2007; *Journal*, 1941, 43, 64-66; *Journal*, 1942, 56-58, 95-96; *Journal*, 1943, 64-65, 67-68; Edith Martin Young, e-mail message to the author, Aug. 13, 2007.
- ¹ Frances Brown, interviews by the author, Feb. 8, 2004, Nov. 15, 2004, July 12, 2007; Dunn interview; *Journal*, 1945, 65-66; *Journal*, 1946, 57-58, 99; *Journal*, 1953, 69, 97-98; *Journal*, 1956, 95-96; "We Test Our Lives By Thine," Senior Assembly Program, June 23-28, 1947.
- ¹ Coppinger et al, *Beersheba Springs*, 7; Brown interviews June 4, 2004, Sept. 10, 2006; Thomas DeRamus, interview by the author, Feb. 15, 2004; Dunn interview; *Journal*, 1943, 65; *Journal*, 1944, 81; *Journal*, 1945, 65; *Journal*, 1946, 99; *Journal*, 1948, 77; *Journal*, 1950, 68; *Journal*, 1955, 94; *Journal*, 1958, 122; J. D. Spencer, interview by the author, Feb. 26, 2004.
- ¹ Fred and June Blankenship, interview by the author, July 24, 2007; Brown interview Nov. 15, 2004; Carol Elkins Frazer, interview by the author, July 31, 2007; *Journal*, 1945, 65; *Journal*, 1946, 99; *Journal*, 1949, 83; *Journal of the Tennessee Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church*, 1981, 197.
- ¹ *Journal*, 1964, 60; *Journal*, 1967, 137; *Journal*, 1974, 118; *Journal*, 1975, 154; *Journal*, 1977, 206; *Journal*, 2001, 305.
- ¹ Joan (Mrs. I. B.) Pennington, "Methodist Assembly Grounds," *Warren County (TN) News*, Oct. 15, 1979; "Savage Gulf," Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Natural Areas, <http://www.state.tn.us/environment/na/natareas/savage/>.
- ¹ *Journal*, 1991, 246-47; *Journal*, 1992, 241-42; *Journal*, 1995, 355-57; *Journal*, 1996, 303-19; *Journal*, 1997, 447; *Journal*, 1998, 377; "Open Meetings To Be Held," *United Methodist Reporter*, Aug. 15, 1986; "Open Meetings Yield Different Opinions," *United Methodist Reporter*, 1986; "Camp Committee Begins Planning for Beersheba," *United Methodist Reporter*, Nov. 10, 1995; William Woehler, e-mail message to the author, Mar. 1, 2004.
- ¹⁷ *Journal*, 1999, 301, 433-36; *Journal*, 2001, 305-6; George Pope, interview by the author, Mar. 8, 2004.
- ¹ *Journal*, 2002, 327-31; *Journal*, 2003, 375-76.
- ¹ *Journal*, 2001, 305-6; *Journal*, 2003, 375-76; *Journal*, 2004, 300-301.
20. *Journal*, 2004, 300-301; *Journal*, 2005, 236-37.
- ¹ *Journal*, 2006, 273-74; *Journal*, 2007, 238-239.
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- ²³ Joan Pennington, "Methodist Assembly Grounds," *Warren County (TN) News*, Oct. 15, 1979.

²⁴. Article No. 86: "Margaret Brown Coppinger," in *The Heritage of Grundy County, TN*, 28 (Waynesville, NC: Walsworth Publishing Company, 2005); *Journal*, 1980, 218-24; Howell Pearre, "Beersheba Springs Site of Arts, Craft Festival," *Nashville Banner*, Sept. 24, 1969; "Belmont United Methodist Church Links Itself to the Children of Grundy County this Christmastime," *United Methodist Reporter*, Dec. 19, 2003; "Methodist Assembly Participates in Community 4th of July Celebration," *United Methodist Reporter*, July 15, 2005.

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