

## MARSHALL GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

John Marshall, the son of Robert Marshall and Jemima Butler Marshall, gave a parcel of land for a church and small cemetery. Rightly so, it was given the name Marshall Grove. If there ever came a time that the Church ceased to function, the land was to revert to the Marshall heirs. The Church was in operation in 1881. John Marshall died on November 27, 1892.

The men of the community cut the timber to build the, Church. The structure was approximately thirty feet by fifty feet with two front doors. Men and women had separate entrances. Preacher Jim Ogle from Boogertown (great grandfather of Grace Seaton Whaley) composed a song about the building of this church. Robert L. Marshall and Lizzie Emert Jenkins, who have passed their four score years and seven, remember the first line of the song. It was, "We met on a cold frosty October morn,"

When Lizzie Emert Jenkins entered Lincoln Memorial University, she heard this song that she sang as a child about the building of the Marshall Grove Church. Lizzie later realized it had been introduced by Tom and Dave McCarter from Upper Middle Creek. They became physicians and located in Knoxville.

Robert L. Marshall recalls being janitor at Marshall Grove when he was a boy. Three ministers that he spoke of were Rev. Conner, Rev. Coaker and Rev. John Stott.

In 1916 Preacher Bob Marshall, son of John Marshall, a noted Bible and Greek scholar and an outstanding teacher, came to the farm on Middle Creek, his boyhood home. He preached at Marshall Grove weekly until his death in 1950. Preacher Bob was a minister of the gospel for 52 years. He preached the opening sermon at the first homecoming at Marshall Grove Church on Sunday, July 26, 1931,

Text Matthew XVI: 16-17, Subject: Building the Church nineteen hundred years ago and at Marshall Grove fifty years ago.

This Church served Pigeon Forge as well as the Middle Creek area until sometime after 1914. It was the only Baptist Church in this area until in 1914; Mr. Samuel Large gave land for the Pigeon Forge First Baptist Church and Cemetery.

The Church was on the right of way for the new Upper Middle Creek It was moved to a new location and was burned as a malicious prank on Halloween night, 1970. Thus ending the era of a Church where many souls were saved.

Compiled by Reba Caughron Hood  
1978