

Self-Guided Restoration Tour

Bethany, WV

2023

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Introduction

This booklet is made for the purpose of leading someone through a self-guided tour of the main Restoration History Sites of Bethany, WV in a long day. If a person chose to do the research, the person could spend weeks going from site to site visiting each place. This tour will start in the western part of Wellsburg, WV, then east to Bethany, WV, then further east to Washington, PA.

Important to note is that in older historical books and in many notes today, many of these West Virginia locations are mentioned as being in Virginia. Remember that West Virginia split from Virginia in 1863 in the middle of the Civil War when Virginia was too busy with the war to do anything about the split. Please make this note.

Please note some of the roads one must travel on are at times one lane, gravel, or in need of serious repair. They are also mountainous roads, thus winding roads are everywhere, elevation changes are common, and the speed limit is often 25-30mph.

Also, I have spent much time researching all this, but it doesn't mean I got everything right. Please let me know if you find a mistake. I tried to add pictures to help you locate sites as well.

Please note tour times. You can complete an entire self-guided tour in under 7 hours of all these sites, not counting stops to eat, etc. If you do the Campbell Mansion Tour, add an additional 1hr 15minutes. If you go into West Middletown, add 15 minutes. If you hike to the coordinates where historians believe the Campbells were baptized, add an hour. In short, in the summertime you can easily do the entire tour in one day.

Below are two sections, the first mentions sites, addresses, and quickest route to see each site; then there is a longer section describing each site.

Sites, Distances, & Times

Wellsburg, WV

Estimated self-guided tour time is 50 to 75 minutes.

1. Cross Creek Baptist Church - 4426 Cross Creek Rd, Wellsburg. N 40°18.353 W 080°34.734. Start at the Dollar General Market Place on the corner of Hwy 2 and Cross Creek Rd (16470 River Road, Wellsburg. Take Cross Creek Rd (Some signs say Bruin Rd) and follow it for 1.2 miles until address and you will see the Cross Creek Baptist Church Cemetery on left. Be careful, it is a winding road. You will pass a High School on the right, then go under an old railroad track and it will be on your left. Time needed 10 minutes.
2. Original Wellsburg church of Christ location - N 40°16.479 W 080°36.709. 4 miles from Cross Creek Baptist Church. Go to town, and at 12th and Main is an old Car Business on the corner, as of 2023 there are still antique cars seen through the windows. 8-minute drive. Time needed 5 minutes.
3. Wellsburg Church of Christ, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) - Found on Main and 10th Street. Physical address near 1001 Charles Street. Just .3 miles from the original location. N 40°16.354 W 080°36.711. 2-minute drive. Time needed 5-10 minutes, if you can get inside, then 20-30 minutes.
4. Selina Bakewell Property and Patrick Gass Bust - 542 Main Street, Wellsburg. Pass the courthouse on the left and park at the wharf on the right. N 40°16.138 W 080°36.844. .3 miles from Wellsburg Disciples Meeting House, 2-minute drive. Time needed: 10 minutes. The Gass bust is across the street on the wharf.

Bethany

Estimated self-guided tour time is 1hr 30 m to 2hrs. Including mansion tour 3hrs 15 min.

The population of Bethany is 1,029. The town is small, and everything is close together. For a proper tour of everything in Bethany, contact the Disciples of Christ Historical Society in Bethany at 304-829-6027 or email info@disciplehistory.org. You can easily spend an entire day in Bethany.

1. Bethany College – From Selina Bakewell House to East Campus Drive off Main, across the road from Bethany Memorial Christian Church is 7 miles, 13 minutes away. Take 67 E to Bethany and turn left onto East Campus Drive. A quick visit of Old Main, the main entrance, and Centenstone takes 20 minutes. N 40°12.352 W 080°33.583.

2. Bethany and Alexander Campbell Historical Marker. 40°12.312, W080°33.449. Located on Main Street directly across from the college. 2-minute drive from college. 5-10 minutes total time.

3. Old Meeting House – Bethany church of Christ. Historic Bethany church of Christ Cemetery. N40°12.381, W080°33.255. On the corner of Main and Church Street, about .4 miles west of the college entrance. 2-minute drive from Historical Marker. From this spot you can visit the Old Meeting House, the church graveyard, and the two houses used for printing Campbell's materials. 20-25 minutes total time unless you can get into the Meeting House.

4. Print Houses - #1 – On the corner directly south of the Meeting House, across the road from the cemetery. This is a private residence. #2 – 100 Main Street, across Main Street from the Meeting House. See pictures of houses below. This is owned by the college and is now reserved for visiting scholars. The time needed is included in #3, the Old Meeting House stop.

5. Campbell Mansion, Study, Disciples of Christ Historical Society. 7229 Bethany Pike (Main Street) Bethany. N 40°12.451 W080°32.913. One minute from Bethany church of Christ Meeting House. Please park at the Historical Society and check in if you are visiting from 10:00-4:00. Please call ahead if you want a tour of the mansion and study. 20-30 minutes without tour and 60-90 minutes with tour.

6. God's Acre, Campbell Cemetery – Directly across the road from Disciples Historical Society. There are two cemeteries on the hill, the one on the left, surrounded by large stones is God's Acre. N40°12.332 W080°32.805. There is a mailbox on the left and when you enter you can often find a map inside. 20-30 minutes.

Washington and West Middletown, PA

There are many different country roads to take to these places. Some roads are narrow, one lane, gravel, one lane bridges, caving in on the side of the hills. The speed limit is often 20-25, take your time. Note there is often no cell phone service. Please, print out GPS Maps before you go. The estimated time on this trip includes a quick stop at each site.

Estimated self-guided tour time is 3 hours and 15 minutes. Add 15 minutes if you plan to do the West Middletown Detour (As described in Pleasant Hill Female Seminary notes).

Add an hour if you plan to hike to where Thomas and Alexander Campbell were baptized. If you travel to all, then the estimated time on this section of the tour is 4 hours and 30 minutes.

1. Dutch Fork Christian Church, Donegal Township, PA. 48 Dutch Fork Church Road, Claysville, PA, 15323. N40°09.704 W080°27.975. 6.3-7.7 miles, depending on route taken (15-20 minutes) from God's Acre. Including driving time 20-30 minutes, unless someone is there to let you in. The church is found on GPS. Turn right out of God's Acre on 67 East and continue on it until you enter Pennsylvania, and it becomes 331 (Brush Run Road). Brush Run Road then dead ends, but go right onto Lake Road, which becomes Dutch Fork Road, and the meeting house is where T541 (Jansen Road) dead ends into it. The meeting house is on the right, you can't miss it. Be careful. Brush Run and Lake Road both are one lane at times and some of the road has washed out (as of 2023).

2. Baptism Site of Thomas and Alexander Campbell. Buffalo Creek. 40.17791, 80.42.853. The closest point with an address is Sawhill Covered Bridge at 4028 Buffalo Creek Rd, Claysville, PA. 5.5-7 miles (Depending on GPS route selected.) 15-20 minutes from Dutch Fork Christian Church. If you just want pictures of the creek, go to Sawhill Covered Bridge; it is beautiful. The easiest spot to get to exact coordinates (note, these coordinates are a good guess as to where the baptisms actually took place) is go to entrance #2 on maps below. #2 entrance to coordinates is almost 1.1-mile hike on a nice wide trail, often unmowed, easily passible that state vehicles often travel. There is a hill to climb both ways. Estimated time, including driving time if you just plan to take pictures, 25-30 minutes. If you plan to walk to coordinates, add an hour to the driving time, 90 minutes. **Note – This is State Hunting and Fishing Ground. Please note hunting seasons and wear something bright as recommended by State Laws and Hunting Associations. As of 2023 hunting is illegal in Pennsylvania on Sundays, except for crows, foxes, and coyotes.**

3. Brush Run Church – There is a gate blocking vehicle entrance to this site. There is a camp house to the left of the gate and their address is 61 Campbell Lane, Avella, PA, 15312. The GPS coordinates to the Historic Marker are N.40°12.929, W080°24.522. Right before you get to Brush Run Church, the road becomes gravel and is very rough at times.

After leaving where Campbells were baptized, go back out to 221, turn right, cross bridge, take right to 331. You will be on 331 for 2-3 miles and will come to Farrar School Road, a gravel road; turn sharp left and you will see the old Farrar (One-Room) School Building (It is red, and assuming it is still there.). Drive up to split on left for Campbell Lane, drive until it ends at a green gate, the camp house will be by the left. At the green gate, walk about 200 yards following the tire tracks near the fence line and camp houses, and you will eventually see the stone. There were also two green picnic tables there in 2023. Stay along the fence line. This is private property, but the owner allows people to visit. Including the drive time 45 minutes.

4. Brush Run Church Baptismal Site – 40°12122, -080°24085. 1.6 miles, 7-minute drive. Go back out to 331, turn left, then in 1.4 miles you will see a Green Historical Disciples of Christ marker pointing to the actual site. The Keystone Coon Hunters Club (1720 Brush Run Road, Avella, PA, 15312) is beside the property with the Historical Marker. It takes less than five minutes to walk to the creek. 20 minutes total time.

5. Pleasant Hill Female Seminary – Approximately 6.3-8.2 miles, depending on which GPS route you take, from Brush Run Church Baptismal Site. Located at 122 Seminary Road, Avella, PA. N40°07836, W080°20203. From Brush Run Baptismal Site, stay on 331 and turn right on 231 (Scenic Drive) and go until you get to 844 at Breezy Heights Tavern. Turn right on 844, then before you enter West Middletown, turn left on Seminary Road. All that is left from the Seminary is a small portion of an old dorm, which someone built on to, but you can see in the building which is the original part. Including driving time, 20 minutes. Note, this is private property.

6. Welsh House – 360 Welsh Road, Washington, PA, 15301 – N40°14846, W80°16752. 13 miles, 20 minutes. Note, this is located on a public gravel road, but the property is privately owned. 25 total minutes. This house is 13 miles from Pleasant Hill Female Seminary. GPS will take you to the house. From Seminary continue down Seminary Rd 1.3 miles until it dead ends, then turn right on 50 East for 6.6 miles. Turn right on 18 South for 4.0 miles to Welsh Road and turn left on Welsh Rd and in 1.2 miles there is a large field on the right and house is behind the field, left of the gravel public road.

7. First House Location of Thomas Campbell – 101 South College Street, Washington, PA, 15301. N 40°10'17.4", W 80°14'55.9". Today this is the First Baptist Church. 7.3 miles, 17-minute drive. 20-25 minutes total time.

8. Observer Publishing Company & Declaration and Address Historical Marker – 122 South Main, Washington, PA, 15301. N 40°10'14.6", W 80°14'59.6". Drive down Strawberry until Main Street and turn right. O.P.C. is directly on the right. If you can find parking before you turn on Main Street that would be good.

Site Information

Wellsburg, West Virginia

1) Cross Creek Baptist Church – There is a debate about where the meeting house was. Local church historians claim the building was in front of the graveyard thus sitting where the road runs through today. However, the property owner Ken Ulrich, who is in his mid-70's in 2023, says his great grandfather, Feester, purchased the land from the Sanders family. The Ulrichs have been living on all sides of the cemetery since. They claim the building was slightly behind the cemetery where two newer gravestones are separated from the others.

This is the location where Alexander Campbell preached his famous Sermon on the Law for the very first time. As the Campbells were working their way to a biblical understanding of Restoration the Brush Run Church united with the Redstone Baptist Association in 1813. Alexander was becoming a famed preacher in those parts and in 1816 when the Redstone Baptist Association was holding their annual meeting at Redstone Baptist most preachers wanted to hear Alexander preach, but the host preacher selected Elijah Stone, from Ohio, but he ended up sick. So, Alexander preached about the clear distinctions between the Old and the New covenants, and the limitations of the Old. This didn't go well. As many in the audience were infuriated. This already shaky union between the Campbells and the Redstone Association was headed to a split with the Brush Run church and the faithful from other local Baptist churches eventually separating themselves.



L – Middle of cemetery facing the road. Local Campbell Historians claim the building was located in the front in the middle of the road. Top R – Family which have lived on both

sides of the cemetery for over 100 years claim the worship building was in the back by the two more modern stones that sit by themselves. Bottom R – Cemetery picture.

2) Original Wellsburg church of Christ location – This is the location of the original building, which Campbell established in Wellsburg. Please note famed explorer Patrick Gass built the original building, which was eventually destroyed by fire.

Members of the church started worshipping in Wellsburg in 1814. What happened was the Brush Run congregation could not keep its membership, because they were too far out in the country to find work, so they kept leaving. It was agreed upon on June 8, 1814, that the entire congregation would move to Zanesville, Ohio, because there they could purchase land, and be close enough to a city for employment. When John Brown, Alexander's father-in-law, heard of the plans, in order to keep his daughter and grandchildren around, he deeded his entire farm to Alexander. Since he was not going with the group, it appears the groups slowly migrated to Wellsburg, Virginia (Now West Virginia) and started worshipping in homes and the courthouse. Alexander raised \$1,000.00 in 1815 for the Meeting House construction in Wellsburg in 1816. Thomas and Alexander Campbell and Walter Scott all preached in the original building. This is the second congregation established by Campbell.



Patrick Gass – Explorer with
Lewis and Clark Expedition



Original Location of Wellsburg church of Christ

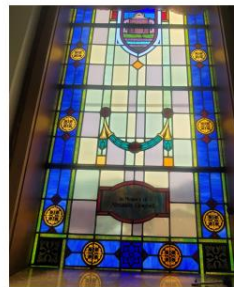
3) Wellsburg Christian Church – This is an amazing stop if you have time. In 1848, they tore down the original building and repurposed the bricks in the lower portion of the new building finished in 1849. The Christian Church ended up with it during the 1906 split, but then they became a Disciples congregation during their split in 1927. Today it is an Independent Disciples of Christ congregation.

This building was constructed during Alexander Campbells life. As a matter of fact, he led the construction efforts, and had the bell outside cast in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The original part of the building is the front section, the back educational wing was added in the 1930s. This is where Alexander preached.

Inside the building you will find the original pulpit that Alexander stood behind and some beautiful stained-glass windows, one even dedicated to Campbell. They have a stack of original Millennial Harbingers.



Alexander's Pulpit in Wellsburg



Dedicated to A. Campbell. Notice the famed study at top.

4) Selina Huntington Bakewell Property – Selina was born in Litchfield, England in 1802 and passed away in 1897. Her parents moved to America when she was young and eventually settled on the Ohio Riverbanks, a beautiful location. This house is not their original house, but it is built upon the property their house stood on. From their house, they would sell glass wares and other products to locals and people sailing up and down the Ohio, a popular means of travel in those days. She became very close to the Campbells. He baptized her into Christ when she was 19. She was the babysitter for the Campbells. But as Alexander's first wife Margaret Brown lay dying in 1827, she asked Alexander to marry Selina after her passing, so she could raise their children together. Though Selina was 20 years younger (Very common in those days) they married and had

six children together. Though Alexander had 14 children, several passed in infancy with what they called consumption (Tuberculosis).

Selina became more than a wife to Alexander; she became one of the greatest women in the Restoration Movement in the 19th century. She wrote for the *Millennial Harbinger*. She was very interested in missions and constantly called upon others to support missionaries. She established the Christian Women's Board of Missions in 1874 and served as its president. This was an effort led and operated by women in the movement to send missionaries to help disenfranchised women and children. They primarily focused on Jamaica and India. They even sent full-time missionaries.

Should be mentioned that she also wrote memoirs about their home life called "Home Life and Reminiscences of Alexander Campbell," which can be purchased on Amazon.



Selina Campbell



Selina Bakewell Property

5) Patrick Gass Bust – Right across the road from the Selina Bakewell House, beside the parking lot at the wharf is a bust and markers dedicated to Gass. Born in 1771 and died in 1870. Historically he is known as a leading captain in the Lewis and Clark expedition. He was a master carpenter and could quickly and efficiently build about anything. He was in charge of making and fixing their wagons, hewing canoes, building winter quarters for the expedition and at times he even led the expedition while Lewis and Clark took minor ventures elsewhere. Patrick wrote and published the first journal about this expedition in 1807, seven years before Lewis and Clark published their journals. It may have been the success of his journal that caused them to print their journals. Patrick's journal was sold all over America and overseas, translated into several languages.

He also built the house of James Buchanan Sr. He was a friend of his son, James Buchanan Jr, who was the 15th president of the United States. Patrick was also a member

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Bethany

1) Bethany College – Owned by the Disciples of Christ, was founded in 1840 at a literary and scientific school. He hired some of the brightest minds in America under the age of 30, and modeled the curriculum after the University of Virginia, the pride of Thomas Jefferson. Many of our great Restoration Leaders of the 19th century studied Bible here. As you drive up Campus Drive you will see Old Main. This building was designed to be a replica of the main campus building in Glasgow where Alexander attended for a short time. He drew the plans from memory, so it is not an exact replica, but close.

There are many wonderful things to see here. Their library holds some of Thomas Campbell's original library. Some of the books are rumored to be water-stained from the shipwreck Alexander went through as they just started their journey to America. At least five United States Presidents have visited these halls and there are markers for such. At the entrance to Old Main there are some historical plaques and pictures honoring the Campbells. There is also the Centenostone, which is a small monument made of 23 stones. Each stone comes from a famous site from the Restoration Movement. The top stone was the stone Alexander Campbell stood on when he preached his first sermon after he and 13 congregations were expelled from the Redstone Baptist Association.



Front Main Entrance Seen in Above Picture

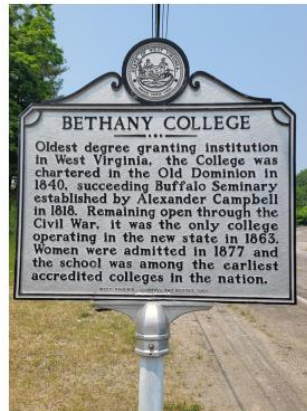


Plaques Found in Main Entrance

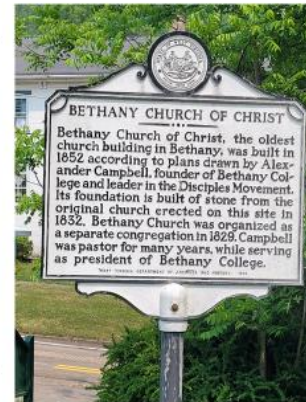


Famed Centenostone – Made up of 23 stones from famous Restoration Sites. Alexander stood on the top stone when he preached after 13 congregations were expelled from the Redstone Association. 1 – Foundation of Alexander Campbells, 2 – Welsh Home, where Declaration and Address was written, 3- Brush Run church, 4- Brush Run Creek, 5- Wellsburg church of Christ, 6- Cross Creek Baptist Church where “The Sermon on the Law” was preached. 7 – Buffalo Seminary, operated in A. Campbells home, 8 – T. Campbell’s Study built by A. Campbell. 9 – School building where A. Campbell’s children were instructed. 10 – Millennial Harbinger Printing Press Building. 11 – Where “Sermon on the Rock” was to mark the final breaking point with the Redstone Baptist. 12 – Dr. Robert Richardson’s Home. 13 – Primary Department of Bethany. 14 – Old Bethany Church. 15 – Pendleton Heights which was the president’s home for Bethany College. 16 – Last home of Millennial Harbinger printing press. 17 – Moses Lard’s home in Bethany. 18 – Campbell Cemetery. 19 – Pleasant Hill Seminary. 20 – Original college building. 21 – Hibernia the home of Robert Milligan. 22 – Cane Ridge Meeting House. 23 – The top stone, description above.

2) Bethany and Alexander Campbell Historical Marker. Located on Main Street directly across the college.



3) Old Meeting House – Bethany church of Christ. Historic Bethany church of Christ cemetery. This is one of three local congregations established by Campbell (Wellsburg and Dutch Fork). Notice the design of the building. He designed it himself and there were others constructed in local towns built the same. There is one, now no longer used in West Middleton, but, yet someone takes good care of it. Notice the graveyard. Many of the original members and their families are buried there.



4) Print Houses – Alexander used at least two houses to print his Christian Baptist, Millennial Harbinger, and other works in Bethany. The first is at the end of Church Street south of the meeting house, (Note the picture, you can see it from the Meeting House). The second house is across Main Street from the Meeting House, the address is 100 Main Street. Alexander used the basement here for his printing. The college owns the

house and for a while her president would live in it, but now it is reserved for visiting scholars.



5) Campbell Mansion, Study, Disciples of Christ Historical Society.

In 1809 Alexander Campbell was engaged to be married to Hannah Acheson, a daughter of John Acheson, from Ireland, who emigrated to America but had already died by then. She lived in Washington, PA, probably with her uncle Thomas who helped the Campbells quite a bit as they started life in America. According to the Archivist at Bethany, Alexander broke off the engagement after delivering books to John Brown in Bethany and falling for Margaret. The story goes, as Alexander was walking up the sidewalk, Margaret, Brown's daughter, saw Alexander out the window and told her friend, "I am going to marry him." Indeed, she did, and the two settled at that homestead, and it was deeded to him two years after their marriage. Mr. Brown knew Thomas had moved away and the Brush Run church was moving to Ohio to start a new life and to keep Alexander from following, he deeded to him the house and the entire farm. According to the Acheson family, as seen in the book, "A History of the Acheson Family on the Paternal Side" by A.W. Acheson, Hannah broke off the engagement, and the family no longer knew why. She never married, but continued to worship with the Campbells and became a member of the church. She died at age 52 after secluding herself from the world for years.

Alexander raised sheep! Not many know that! He would keep between 1,000-1,500 and though wasn't dead set against slavery, he brought over several Irish men to work his farm. As their lives grew, he would add on to the Mansion area. He added on to the

house a couple times, adding a guest room, where his hospitable family hosted many, even President of the United States, James A Garfield, spent many a night with them.

The famed Study, an octagon, not very large at all, was built in 1832, with special windows that brought in light from above this was his Bible office. His farm office was upstairs in the mansion. There is a pulpit in the middle of the study and rumor had it, he always stood while studying, but he did have a desk in the study he used, as seen in the picture.

Today, the Disciples Historical Society does a good job of maintaining the mansion. While visiting, I saw two groups of teenagers from Disciples of Christ congregations painting the fences as a summer charitable project. The mansion is filled with artifacts related to the family. No pictures are allowed inside any longer but can be found online.

This was Alexander's adult home, the only place he and his wives and children called home. If you visit during operational hours, please check in at the main office.



Alexander's Study – Notice "The Light From Above" – Also, the room in the back was added later. It has been mentioned he only had a "Standing Desk" but notice the picture of him behind a desk.



Campbell Mansion

The picture top right is the original house. He added the middle section to help with the Buffalo Preaching School, est. 1818. The third part, far left, was a guest house. President James Garfield stayed often in that house and even had his own chair, which is still in the house today.



6) God's Acre, Campbell Cemetery – Maps and Game are often found in mailbox to the right after you enter from main steps.

Amanda Campbell was born in 1820 and then died six months later, becoming the first Campbell to die in America. At that time Alexander selected the hillside above the mansion as a family burial plot and named the plot "God's Acre."

God's Acre isn't a huge cemetery but 13 out of 14 of Alexander's children are buried here, along with his parents, and other descendants. Thomas Campbell's gravestone was stolen many years back and replaced with a new one. After it was replaced, someone found it in a field in a neighboring town, and it is now housed at the mansion.

W.K. Pendleton, a son-in-law twice to Alexander, is buried here. He was also the second president of Bethany College. He is buried beside both wives. His monument is the tallest in the cemetery.

Matthew and Jane McKeever are buried here. Jane was Alexander's sister and they lived in West Middletown. Outside of Middletown she established the Pleasant Hill Seminary For Women. Their home also operated on the underground railroad.

James T & Julia Ann (Sowers) Barclay – His family were some of the first settlers from Europe. They were a very influential and powerful family. His grandfather was close friends with George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, and the first ambassador of America to France. He married Julia Ann Sowers of Staunton, Virginia, and then they moved to Pennsylvania where he studied medicine and became a doctor. After obeying the gospel, he had a great desire to do mission work, but his mother begged him not to. He purchased Thomas Jefferson's Plantation, from a grandson of Jefferson according to The Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine. It was actually Alexander Campbell who bought it and held it for them. When his mother died, the American Christian Missionary Society sent him to Jerusalem in 1850. He was the first missionary of the ACMS. He stayed 3 ½ years and learned Arabic, baptized 31, practiced medicine, and got into archeology. Some of his work was admired by many archeologists in the 19th century. An ancient gate he found is named Barclay's Gate. When he came back to America, he accepted a job from the American Government to work with the Philadelphia Mint to create bills that could not be counterfeited, and coins that would not wear out. He did his job so well the Senate and House wanted to give him \$100,000.00 for appreciation, but it fell through by one Senate vote. In 1858 he found his way back to Jerusalem, but due to problems they had to move to Joppa where they baptized five. Because of the Civil War, funds began to dry up with the ACMS, and as they were contemplating bringing him home, he resigned, came home, moved to Bethany, and taught at the

college. At this time his son met Decima Campbell, one of Alexander's daughters, some say his favorite. He then moved to Alabama and established a congregation and worked there until he died. He was initially buried in Alabama. His wife, Julia Ann, then moved to Bethany and lived in the Campbell mansion with her son and Decima until she died. During that time frame, his body was exhumed and reburied at God's Acre and Julia, upon her death, was buried beside him.



God's Acre in Middle, Pendleton Grave Markers.



Top L – Barclay's Graves (First Missionary Family of American Missionary Society,
Bottom L – Campbell Graves, R – Alexander Campbell Marker

Washington and West Middletown, PA

1. Dutch Fork Christian Church, Donegal Township, PA. Another of the three local congregations established by Alexander Campbell (Bethany and Wellsburg are the other two.). Fire destroyed the original building, but there is nothing new about the new structure, which is built on top of the old. Moses E Lard and James A Harding would preach at this congregation as they attended Bethany College.



2. Baptism Site of Thomas and Alexander Campbell

There are two baptism sites associated with the Campbells. They were baptized on David Bryant's farm (Much of which is on State Game Lands #232), in Buffalo Creek, and the Campbells would baptize penitent believers of Brush Run church at Brush Run Creek (Though the very first believers were baptized at Buffalo Creek).

40.177791, 80.42853 is the estimated spot of their baptisms. Alexander wrote they were baptized two miles above the mouth of Buffalo Creek. Assuming Alexander could precisely predict the distance, (maybe he could because of the road that ran along the creek bed), then it is estimated they were baptized at these exact coordinates. Thomas wrote about the spot and said there was a deep hole in the creek where they were baptized, because he had baptized a few people there before they were baptized themselves. He said they would have people walk into the water hole until they were about upper chest to shoulder deep, then from roots along the bank he would baptize them. This was 200 hundred years ago. That hole may have been natural, or man-made.

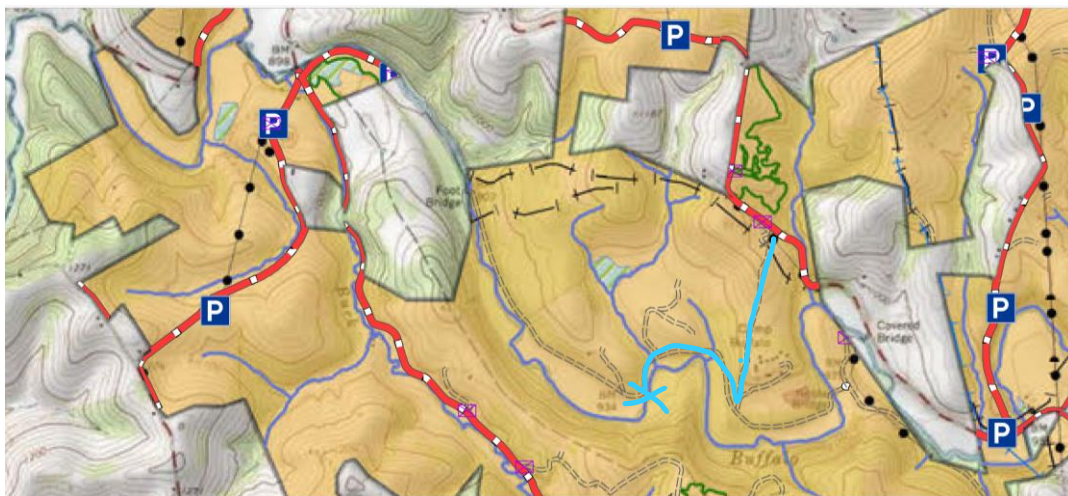
Either way, creek beds often move, and there is no telling exactly where they were exactly baptized even if you found a deep hole today.

I am including several pictures to help you find the spot. But, simply put, if you get lost, you are surrounded by roads or the creek, which leads to bridges in either direction.

The easiest way to find the old road that leads to the easiest path to the baptism spot is to set GPS Coordinates to Sawhill Covered Bridge - 4028 Buffalo Creek Rd, Claysville, PA, 15325. N40°8014, W-080°41621. From Dutch Fork Christian Church take 231, for about 3 miles, then turn on 221, which is Buffalo Creek Road, stay on it for a little over 2 miles and you will see the Covered Bridge on the right. About a 1/3 of a mile back up the hill before you arrive at Sawhill Covered Bridge is the old Camp Buffalo Road, which is blocked by at State Game Gate, #232 B (Maybe 8. Hard to tell.). There is a small white road marker across the road SR 221/380. From the gate you will have to walk 1.35 miles to the baptismal site (note the light blue line). Follow the old road up a hill and as you are going down the other side, you will intersect with Polecat Road in .65-.70 miles (there are no road signs). Go right and stay left, following the creek bed, when you get to another split in the road. The baptismal site is .4 miles from where Camp Buffalo Rd and Polecat Rd intersect.

Note, I stood at 40.17791, -80.42865. I stood at the exact latitude, but off a few seconds from exact longitude, and I didn't get any closer. The exact predicted site is maybe 100 yards on the other side of the stream.

Pennsylvania State Hunting Grounds Map





Entrance #2 on Maps
Sawhill Covered Bridge



Entrance #3 on Maps – Fastest, Safest, Easiest Way
State Road 221 – Up the hill from Bridge
The road marker is on opposite side of gate.



Walking down Camp Buffalo Road the picture on the far left is a cluster of trees you will see first. They are on the left beside the old road. Then walk a few yards farther down and you will see from the old road the middle picture of a tree right beside the creek. Go to the right of the tree beside the creek and you will see this flat rock (If still there). That is the exact latitude with the longitude there being just a few feet away.

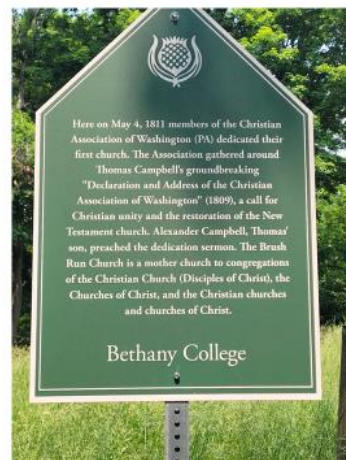


Somewhere in this general area is where historians predict the baptisms took place.

Directions To Baptism Spot From Washington, PA

Coming from Washington, PA. Take 844 from Washington to Canton, PA, drive through Canton, and turn left on PA-331 (Brush Run Road). There has been a large red building at the intersection there for years. Stay on 331 for 3 miles and take a left on Green Cove Road. In 2 miles, turn right on 221 (Camp Buffalo Rd). Stay on 221, passing Sawhill Covered Bridge along the way, for almost a half mile. On the left is old Camp Buffalo Road, blocked by gate 232b.

3. Brush Run Church – The Brush Run church of Christ was built on a farm owned by Paul Dunkle, and then sold to the Thomas Miller Family, located two miles southeast of West Middletown. The building was built by John Boyd, and it was small and cheap, and even then, they took out a loan for it and were sued for the balance of \$93.60 on August 11, 1813. By the 1840s the congregation ceased to exist. Thomas moved elsewhere and Alexander was living in Bethany and established three congregations in that area. In 1842, the Meeting House was purchased by George McFadden, who moved it to West Middletown and used it as a blacksmith shop, then a post office in 1869. The building was eventually moved to Bethany, where it fell into disrepair and was destroyed.



Brush Run Church Location

4. Brush Run Church Baptismal Site – This is where the Campbells would baptize those who would become members of the church at Brush Run.



5. Pleasant Hill Female Seminary – Before you head to the seminary remains, you may want to drive to West Middletown, and there you will see the McKeever Library, a replica on the road, of the Alexander Campbell Study. Then on up from it you will see another old Christian Church building that is no longer used for worship, but someone is clearly taking care of it. This construction is just like the one Alexander built at the Bethany Meeting House.

Jane Campbell McKeever (1800-1871) is Thomas Campbell's daughter and received a great home-schooled education. When she was 19, she opened a school in West Middleton, PA, for both boys and girls. She married Matthew McKeever (1797-1884) two years later and they went on to have 20 children, some of whom were adopted. During their marriage they became famed abolitionists and ran a station of the underground railroad. In the early 1840s the school outgrew their home, and they built school buildings in 1841/1842 and started the Pleasant Hill Female Seminary. Her brother, Alexander, started Bethany College in 1840. Her program was a three-year program, and she ran it for 25 years. She had planned for her son Thomas to run the school after her retirement, but he suddenly died after he took control of the school, and she operated in until 1869. They had their last graduating class then, and the school soon closed. It was a famed school, with students from the area and as far out as Canada. The school itself was used as a station for the underground railroad.

West Middletown Detour



Jane Campbell McKeever



The portion on the left is the last remains of Pleasant Hill Female Seminary.



**McKeever House
56 East Main
Underground Railroad**

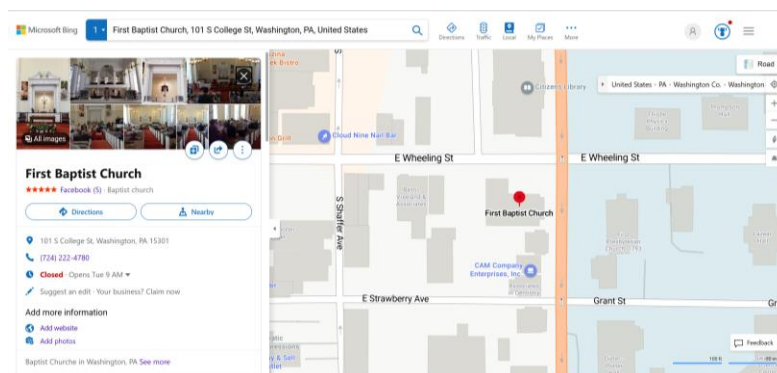
6. Welsh House – This house is where the Declaration and Address was written by Thomas Campbell and Thomas Acheson in 1809.

It is a little-known secret that Thomas Campbell didn't write the entire document by himself. His good family friend from Ireland, Thomas Acheson helped, and the original copies had both names as authors, but since Acheson never left denominationalism, his name slowly was dropped from history, and he is now all but forgotten.

The house has been updated over the last few years. The chimney was taken off the house and it was white but now painted brown, and it is off Welsh Rd by 250 yards or so. The road up to the house is a public road but remember this is a private residence and the owners are not related to the Restoration Movement at all.



7. First House Location of Thomas Campbell – According to the “Bryant Family History, Ancestry and Descendants of David Bryant, 1756,” the home was fronting Wheeling, and College was to the side, and backed into Strawberry Alley. Today, the First Baptist Church sits on the front of this original property, and the side of the building faces Wheeling. They bought this land directly across College Street from the Presbyterian Church, which is still there, and that only makes sense because they and the Campbells were Seceder Presbyterians. They built a very rough structure for the Campbell family in 1809/1810.



The Bryant Family purchased the lots on August 25, 1810, from W. M. & Isabella Hoge, “They are described as fronting one hundred and twenty feet on Belle Street (now Wheeling Street) and extending back along Second Street (now College), two hundred and forty feet to Strawberry Alley.” This plot has a long-recorded history. It was sold to Alfred Woods for \$275.00. Then on April 1, 1840, sold to Joseph Smith for \$400.00, who divided the property up, and sold the lot the Campbell House was on in March 31, 1854 to Margaret Wright for \$650.00. Her deed said the property fronts Second Street (Wheeling St today.) for 80ft and extends back 120ft.” (Read more in the above book, which sells on Amazon.)



First Home of Thomas Campbell in America.

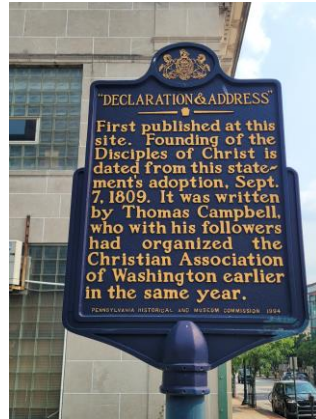
Thomas owned two houses in Washington, PA, and though he moved quite a bit, he always came back here. Towards the end of his life, he lived and died at the Campbell Mansion in Bethany. The first house was just rough, described in the Acheson Family History book as the worst property in that location and “a hole in the ground.” The second house is supposedly still standing, and I was told it can be found on Main Street and is now a Bed and Breakfast, but I have not been able to find the location.

The first and maybe even the second house were built for him by General Thomas Acheson, a Major General in the War of 1812. Acheson and Campbell were neighbors and old family friends in Ireland. Thomas Acheson moved to Washington, PA in 1786, and his brother David ended up there too. Together they opened five stores, one as far as Cincinnati, Ohio, and they did quite well for themselves.

The Achesons and Campbells were very close. Alexander was engaged to John Acheson’s (The first Acheson brother to move to America.) daughter, Hannah, before the engagement was broken off. One of Alexander’s sisters married into the Bryant Family and became part of the first group of Christians baptized at Buffalo Creek, even before Thomas and Alexander were baptized.

8. Observer Publishing Company & Declaration and Address Historical Marker

This Publishing Company is the first to publish the Declaration and Address. Also, beside the business on the sidewalk is a Historical Marker about Thomas and the Declaration and Address. I have been told that inside the Publishing House they have a printing press that dates to the period of the first print. It is not the same press. I have been told if you ask nicely, they will allow you to see it.



Extra Reading:

Bryant Family History, Ancestry and Descendants of David Bryant (1756). Compiled by Clara Vaile Braiden

History of Washington County, Christian Church of Disciples of Christ

The First American Home of the Rev. Thomas Campbell and the First Disciple Church Erected by That Denomination – Standard Publishing 1897

A History of the Acheson Family On The Paternal Side, A.W. Acheson, S.A. Clark & Company, Pittsburgh, 1878

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