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The following historical information on churches was obtained from a special “Centennial Issue” of *The Tishomingo County News—The Vidette—Belmont News* for Thursday, July 1, 1976. This historical information, transcribed by RaNae Vaughn, was found on pages 1 and 14.

Even before the County was organized in 1836, pioneers from the Carolinas, Virginia, and George were moving into Tennessee and Alabama, and from there into Mississippi, locating among the Indians in what was to become Tishomingo County. All homes were built of logs; no sawed lumber was available. School and church services were conducted in the same building with the exception of when church services were in homes as religious services were not neglected.

These were sturdy pioneers who came here — good, staunch, and true to their faith.
Into the Red Man’s land they came — they came,
But not alone — for they brought the Master’s name.
That precious name they lifted high,
So the Red Man could see as he passed by.
And seeing he stopped and thought on his way,
Till now he worships the white man’s Guide and Stay.
With the faces all alight with God’s eternal life — committing their all to His guidance
and protecting care, these God-fearing pioneers pressed on into the face of hardship and
stern privations — “to somewhere in the west,” as their church letters indicated —
pressed on to help build up Christian civilization, and to honor their Creator.

A Methodist Church stood near Shady Grove Cemetery. This belonged to the Eastport Circuit. Kosey, Wells, Henderson, Fife, McCutcheon, and McMillan were some of the preachers who served that charge.

The Baptist built the first place of worship in the town limits. Rev. Hughes who lived in Burnsville was the first preacher. J. A. Wheelock was the pastor in 1860, and the church belonged to the Big Bear Creek Association. The Methodist Church was built in 1858. G. P. Hammerly was the first Sunday School Superintendent and served for more than 50 years. John Barcroft, A. L. Pritchard, J. M. Boone, and R. L. Harper were some of the earliest preachers.

The Episcopal Church was built in 1873 on ground donated by R. W. Price. A few women are also given credit for the building and furnishings. Bishop Greene made his first visitation to the town in 1866 and gave \$200 as a nucleus for the church. The first marriage was Jas. Mhoon Brinkley and Clara Foote which was solemnized by Bishop Quintard.

In about 1869, the Catholics started a place of worship near Mrs. Zola Graham's home and back of Mrs. Powell's home. Although the building lacked a roof, it was about half finished when a severe wind storm destroyed the home building. There were only a few Catholics in the County, and no effort was made to rebuild. Many years later, Mr. Webster Price erected a small attractive church that was built entirely with donated money and land. After Mr. Price's death, the church was torn away by the Catholic Church and carried to Corinth. The land was returned to Mrs. Mary Price.

The Christian Church, the youngest of the town churches, was built in 1889. Services had previously been held in the Court House and Presbyterian Church.

The Baptist Church, a frame building, was destroyed by fire in August 1914. Later, a beautiful brick building replaced the old structure. In 1964, the Iuka Baptist Church Auditorium, constructed in 1915, was torn down to make way for a new \$145,000 Baptist Church.

A band of consecrated women, coming from different homes, met in 1869 to make plans for a Presbyterian Church. The church book with the names of these saintly women was lost many years ago and there are several whose names are forgotten, but their record is kept on high. Those who are remembered are Mesdames Krause, Word, Ware, Settle, McCalla, and Leckey. Ground on the south side of town was secured, and a substantial church built. Revs. Kimmons, Hutton, Gaillard, Steen, and Parks were some of the early ministers.