

Religion

In spite of the 1831 law forbidding blacks to “preach or exhort in public,” one small congregation was formed under a tree near what is now Hargett Street in Jacksonville. The Reverend Cornelius Scott led the worshippers and oversaw the construction of a log church in the same area in about 1864 according to tradition, which is now known as the Sandy Run Missionary Baptist Church. At the end of the Civil War, African Americans began organizing more churches. A large number came from the white Methodist tradition, which led to the formation of several African Methodist Episcopal and African Methodist Episcopal Zion churches such as Blooming Hill AME started in about 1865, St. Thomas AME (1869), and Little Zion and Saint Paul AMEZ churches, both established about 1870. Other congregations sprang up, with at least twenty-one in place by 1943.



Sandy Run Missionary Baptist Church, Jacksonville



Harrison Chapel AME Church, Richlands



St. Julia AME Church before 2009 demolition