

MINUTES

—OF THE—

THIRTY SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

—OF THE—

OLD REGULAR BAPTIST

Mate's Creek Association,

(ORGANIZED IN 1849.)

HELD WITH THE

BRUSHY FORK CHURCH,

PIKE COUNTY, KY.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 5 & 6, 1884.

PRINTERS' FEE
POST-OFFICE FEE
TOTAL

LOUISVILLE, KY.

Brewer's Printing House, 236 Fifth Avenue,
1884.

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Names of Churches.	Names of Delegates.	Saturday of Meeting.	By Exp and Baptism	Rec. by Letter.	Dis. by Letter.	Restored.	Excluded.	Deceased.	Total.	Contributions.
Louisa	J. M. Justice, A. Smith, W. H. Blackburn	2	1	2			1		27	\$1 65
Big Creek . . .	B. Hatfield, G. Pinson, M. B. May J. M. May, D. May	3		11	14	3			48	1 60
Pond Creek . .	A. Hatfield, J. Rutherford, Eli Williamson, S. Farley	2						1	24	2 15
Enon	Richard Hatfield	1						1	53	2 65
Sardis	G. W. Maynard, T. Harris	4	1	1				1	55	1 00
Brushy Fork . .	W. W. Fields, J. Williamson, J. McCoy, J. Burris	1							44	2 15
Raccoon	S. Coleman, J. Goff	4	1				1		24	1 25
Sulphur Spring	J. Davis, J. Charles	1	4		3	1	1	1	67	1 25
Peter Creek . .	H. S. Carter, J. Dotson	4	5	1					26	3 65
Big Branch . . .	Not represented	4							15	75
Philadelphia . .	Letter but no Delegate	3					2		14	50
Little Hope . .	W. J. May, H. May, W. A. Varney, R. T. Hackney	1						1	26	4 00
New Hope . . .	H. Smith, P. B. Justice	3	1				1		24	1 50
Cedar Fork . . .	H. Davis, M. Chapmain, N. Fredric, J. Fredric		1	4	1				14	1 00
Bee Branch . . .	Not represented	2							43	00
Laural Bottom,	Letter but no Delegate		8	3					32	1 00
Sand Lick. . . .	Letter but no Delegate		5				1		16	50
Zion	J. D. Riffe, T. J. Bevins, B. Statton, A. Maris, W. Maris	4							14	75
18 Churches.	40 Delegates.	37	22	18	4	7	5	569	\$27 35	

MINUTES.

The introductory sermon was delivered by Elder Peter Adkins, from Psalms 68-11: "*The Lord Gave the Word.*" After a short intermission the delegates assembled in a grove, and were brought to order by singing and prayer. Prayer by Elder M. A. Lester.

Then read the letters from the several churches, and minuted the foregoing table. Then organized by appointing Elder Basil Hatfield, Moderator, W. J. May, Clerk, Treasurer and Secretary, and proceeded to business in the following order:

FIRST—Called for newly constituted churches; received one by the hands of her delegates, Elder John D. Riffe, and Bros. T. J. Bevins, B. Staton, A. Marris, and W. Marris—called Zion Church. Constituted August 20, 1884, by a Presbytery consisting of Elders G. Pinson, J. Williamson, and W. J. May.

SECOND—Transient Ministers called for—Elders P. Adkins, D. A. Maynard, J. J. Childress, J. Gibson, and Bro. W. R. Collins accepted.

THIRD—Corresponding letters called for, and handed in as follows: New Salem, by the hands of N. T. Hopkins, J. W. Compton, L. Compton, B. F. Meed. Union, by the hands of D. L. Kindrick, A. Ratliff. Elkhorn, by the hands of M. H. Lester, L. Clevenger, M. J. Stiltner. Zion, by the hands of Elias Stepp, J. W. Mullet, Ali Ward. All the above Correspondents received the right hand of fellowship from the Moderator, and were received and welcomed to a seat.

FOURTH—Corresponding letters were written as follows: To Union, to be held with the Elkhorn Church, Pike County, Ky., to commence Friday before third Saturday in September, 1884. Elders B. Hatfield, J. Williamson, D. A. Maynard, W. R. Collins, Delegates.

New Salem, to be held with the Hopewell Church, McGoffin County, Ky., to commence Friday before the fourth Saturday in Sept., 1884. Elders J. Williamson and Brother J. McCoy, H. Davis, Delegates.

Sand Lick, to be held with the Indian Bottom Church, Letcher County, Ky., to commence Friday before the first Saturday in October, 1884. W. W. Fields, J. Williamson, H. May, Delegates.

Washington, to be held with the Johnson Bottom Church, Buchanan County, Va., to commence Friday before second Sabbath in September, 1884. P. Coleman, J. May, H. Hall, J. Williamson, W. H. Blackburn, S. Coleman, Delegates.

Three Forks of Powell's River, to be held with the Little Stone Gap Church, Wise County, Va., to commence Friday before the fourth Saturday in August, 1885. W. W. Fields, A. Hatfield, D. A. Maynard, H. S. Carter, and H. May, Delegates.

Elkhorn, to be held with the Panther Creek Church, McDowell County, Va., to commence Friday before the fourth Saturday in Sept., 1884. A. Hatfield, J. D. Riffe, J. Fredric, J. Davis, P. B. Justice, H. Smith, H. Coleman and H. S. Carter, Delegates.

Zion, to be held with the Friendship Church, Johnson County, Ky., to commence Friday before the second Saturday in September, 1884. W. W. Fields, J. McCoy, Delegates.

The Clerk wrote all the corresponding letters.

FIFTH—A member from each church was appointed with the members of the Brushy Fork Church, to arrange the preaching at the stand, who reported for Saturday. First, J. W. Mullet; Second, Elias Stepp; Third, J. J. Childress; Fourth, M. H. Lester.

SIXTH—Committee of arrangements were appointed as follows: Elders J. Williamson, W. W. Fields, A. Hatfield, P. Adkins, J. M. Justice, with the Moderator and Clerk. Correspondents and Transient Ministers were invited to sit with them.

Adjourned till Saturday morning 9 o'clock.

SATURDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 6, 1884.

The Association met according to adjournment, and after prayer by Elder B. Hatfield, proceeded to business in the following order:

FIRST—Delegates names called.

SECOND—Committee of arrangements reported and were discharged.

THIRD—Constitution and Rules of Decorum read.

FOURTH—W. W. Fields, A. Hatfield and T. J. Bevins were appointed finance committee.

FIFTH—Those appointed to Sister Associations and Union meetings, made their report, which was satisfactory.

SIXTH—Union meetings were appointed as follows: Little Hope, to commence Friday before the first Saturday in July, 1885. Elders J. D. Riffe, Peter Adkins, B. Hatfield and J. M. Justice attend.

Louisa, to commence Friday before the second Saturday in July, 1885. Elders Peter Adkins, B. Hadfield, A. Hatfield and J. Williamson attend.

Peter Creek, to commence Friday before the fourth Saturday in July 1885. Elders J. Williamson, B. Hatfield, James M. Justice attend.

Sulphur Spring, to commence Friday before the first Saturday in August 1885. Elders A. Hatfield and J. Williamson attend.

Zion, to commence Friday before the fourth Saturday in August, 1885. Elders J. Williamson, J. M. Justice, H. Davis and W. R. Collins attend.

SEVENTH—Committee on Ministry for Sabbath reported as follows: First, M. J. Stiltner; Second, M. H. Lester; Third, J. M. Mullet; Fourth, J. J. Childress.

EIGHTH—Committee on finance reported, \$27.35.

NINTH—W. J. May is appointed to superintend the printing of the minutes, 500 in number, and distribute the same among the Churches, and he is allowed out of the contribution \$6 for his services as Clerk, Treasurer and Secretary.

TENTH—Ordered that the Constitution and Rules of Decorum be annexed to these minutes.

TWELFTH—Corresponding letters read and received.

THIRTEENTH—The obituary of Elder John Ferrell was brought forth, read and received, and ordered to be annexed to these minutes.

FOURTEENTH—We humbly desire our Sister, Zion Association, to inquire into the course of her Correspondent Associations, as to open communion, and think she ought to erase the word *United*, and insert Old Regular.

FIFTEENTH—As Advisory council, we say to all the Churches in our Union, to write your names—We the Old Regular Baptist Church of Jesus Christ.

SIXTEENTH—W. W. Fields and John McCoy is appointed to visit the Big Branch Church, and Jerry Davis and P. B. Justice to visit the Bee Branch Church as committees, to inquire into the cause why they have failed to represent themselves into the Association; and to report at our next Association.

SEVENTEENTH—We as advisory counsul, say to Raccoon Church, to ask Elder John Conaway to return his letter.

EIGHTEENTH—Our next Association is appointed with the Old Pond Creek Church, Pike County, Ky., to commence Friday before the first Sabbath in September, 1885, and that Elder A. Hatfield preach the introductory Sermon, and Elder John D. Riffe his alternate.

NINTEENTH—*Resolved*, That this Association tender its thanks to the people of this vicinity, who, for miles around, opened their doors and kindly and freely entertained the people who attended, also to all those on the way who opened their doors and were not forgetful to entertain strangers. May the Lord bless each and all of them, according to his own will and purpose.

BASIL HATFIELD, MODERATOR.

W. J. MAY, CLERK.

SABBATH MORNING.

A well ordered congregation assembled at the stand. Elder J.M. Justice opened the services by prayer, then M. J. Stiltner preached from Ecl. 12-13. Fear God and keep his commandments, &c. M. H. Lester from Hag. the 2-9, The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, &c. J. W. Mullet from 1 Cor 15-14, And if Christ be not risen, &c. J. J. Childress from Exodus 39-26, A bell and a pomegranate, &c. The Brethern came richly laden with good news from a far country. May God bless their labors according to his own will, Amen.

W. J. MAY, Clerk.

OBITUARY OF ELDER JOHN FERREL.

Elder John Ferrel, the subject of this notice, was born in Russel County, Va., July. 1807; when quite young his parents moved to Sandy, in Logan County, Va., where he lived in that neighborhood, until he departed this life. He professed religion when about thirty years old, and joined the Old Regular Baptist Church at Enon, and was baptized by Elder Thomas Kirk; where he remained a member until death. He was licensed to preach, and shortly ordained to the Ministry. From the best information that we can get, he was ordained by Elders John Wallis and Thomas Kirk. Thus we see our brother preached the gospel about forty seven years; and he was one of the most humblest men in the stand, that ever lived. He was not a real Doctrinal preacher, but was one of the most warmest exhorters that we ever did see get up in a stand; his appearance was meek and lovely. Brother Ferrel was much edifying to the cause of Christ. He was faithful to attend his appointments. He had been ailing for some time, but was going about. He had ate his dinner on the same day that he died, and was walking across the house, while his wife was lying on the bed sick. Brother Ferrel went to her bed, and said to her, "bless your soul" and then fell dead in the floor. He died on the twenty-fifth day of June 1883; aged seventy-seven years; leaving an aged wife and nine children living, and five dead. Brother Ferrell has left his companion and children, and a number of grand children, relatives and friends, together with the Church to mourn their great loss; while we believe their great loss is his eternal gain: For we believe that our brother is gone to that bright world above, where the weary is at rest. We call our minds back and remember his sweet voice, and the many tears that flowed from his eyes; and have to say that we never will hear his voice hear again; but we trust that he has joined that sweet company around the throne of God, to sing praises forevermore. May his counsel and sweet voice never be forgotten by his children and friends. So we will close these lines. Done and signed by

ELDER A. HATFIELD.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1ST.—This Association shall be called : “ Mate's Creek District, Old Regular Baptist Association.”

ART. 2ND—The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different Churches in our Union, and duly sent to represent them in the Association, who shall be members whom they judge best qualified for that purpose, and producing letters from their respective Churches, certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to a seat.

ART. 3RD—In the letters from the different Churches, shall be expressed their number in full fellowship, those baptized, received by letter, dismissed by letter restored, excluded and deceased since the last Association.

ART. 4TH—The members thus chosen and convened, shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor shall they have any clerical power over the Churches, nor shall they infringe on any of the internal rights of any Church in the Union.

ART. 5TH—The Association when convened, shall be governed by a regular and proper Decorum.

ART. 6TH—The Association shall have a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

ART. 7TH—New Churches may be admitted into the Union who shall petition by letter and Delegate, (and if found upon examination to be orthodox and orderly), shall be received by the Association, and manifested by the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

ART. 8TH—Every Church in the Union shall be entitled to a representation in the Association.

ART. 9TH—Every query presented by any Church to the Association, being first debated in their own Church, shall be taken up by the Association.

ART. 10TH—Every motion made and seconded, shall come under the consideration of the Association, except it shall be withdrawn by the member who made it.

ART. 11TH—The Association shall endeavor to furnish the Churches with the minutes of the Association; the best way or method for effecting that purpose shall be at the discretion of future Associations.

ART. 12TH—We think it absolutely necessary that we should have an Association fund, for defraying the expenses of the same, for the raising and supporting of which we think it the duty of each Church in the Union, to contribute such sums voluntarily as they shall think proper, and send it by the hands of their delegates to the Association; and those monies thus contributed by the Churches, and received by the Association, shall be deposited in the hands of the Treasurer, who shall be accountable to the Association for all monies received by him, and pay out of the same according to the directions of the Association.

ART. 13TH—There shall be an Association book kept, wherein the proceedings of every Association shall be regularly recorded by a Secretary chosen for that purpose, who shall receive a compensation yearly for his trouble.

ART. 14TH—The Minutes of the Association shall be read, (and corrected if need be) and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association arises.

ART. 15TH—Amendments to this plan or form of government may be made at any time by a majority of the Union, when they may deem it necessary.

ART. 16TH—The Association shall have power :

FIRST—To provide for the general Union of the Churches.

SECOND—To preserve inviolably a chain of communication among the churches.

THIRD—To give the Churches necessary advice in matters of Church difficulty.

FOURTH—To inquire into the cause why the Churches fail to represent themselves at any time in the Association.

FIFTH—To appropriate those monies by the Churches, contributed for an Association fund to any purpose they may think proper.

SIXTH—To appoint a member or members, by and with their consent, to transact any business they may see necessary.

SEVENTH—The Association shall have power to withdraw from any Church in this Union, which shall violate the rules of this Association, or deviate from the orthodox principles of religion.

EIGHTH—To admit any orderly Minister of our faith and order, to a seat in the Association.

NINTH—The Association shall have power to adjourn themselves, to any future time or place they may think most convenient to the Churches in the Association.

RULES OF DECORUM.

FIRST—The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

SECOND—A Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by the suffrage of the number present.

THIRD—Only one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator when he is about to speak.

FOURTH—The person thus speaking, shall not be interrupted by any, except the Moderator, till he is done speaking.

FIFTH—He shall strictly adhere to the subjects, and in a wise reflect on the person who spoke before, so as to make remarks on his slips, failings or imperfections, but shall fairly state the case and matter as nearly as he can, so as to convey his ideas.

SIXTH—No person shall abruptly break off, or absent himself from the Association, without liberty obtained from it.

SEVENTH—No person shall rise and speak more than three times to one subject, without liberty from the Association.

EIGHTH—No member of the Association shall have liberty of laughing during the sitting of the same, nor whispering in time of a public speech.

NINTH—No member of the Association shall address another in any other term or appellation, but that the title of brother.

TENTH—The Moderator shall not interrupt any member in, or prohibit him from speaking till he gives his light on the subject; except he break the rules of this Decorum.

ELEVENTH—Names of the several members of the Association, shall be enrolled by the Clerk, and called over as often as the Association may require.

TWELFTH—The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privileges of speech as another member, provided the chair be filled, and he shall have no vote except the Association be equally divided, in that event, he shall give the casting vote.

THIRTEENTH—Any member who shall willingly violate any of these rules, shall be reprov'd by the Association as they may think proper.