

MINUTES
OF THE
FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
MATES CREEK ASSOCIATION
(ORGANIZED IN 1849.)
OF
OLD REGULAR BAPTISTS.

HELD WITH
BIG CREEK CHURCH, PIKE CO., KY.,
AUGUST 30, 31, AND SEPT. 1, 1907.

Footprints Press, Green Forest, Ark.

MINUTES.

The introductory sermon was preached by Eld. A. Hatfield from 1 Cor. 3: 11, "For other foundation can no man lay than that that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." Then the messengers assembled in the meeting-house and were brought to order by the Moderator. Prayer by D. H. Riner. Letters from the several churches were then read, from which the annexed table was prepared.

The association then proceeded to business by appointing Eld. A. Hatfield Moderator, and W. J. May, Clerk and Treasurer.

1. Called for newly constituted churches, but none responded.

2. Correspondence received as follows:

WASHINGTON—By the hand of W. J. Prater, who certified his appointment and was received. Minutes came afterward by mail.

UNION—By the hands of J. Hall, C. Bartley, D. Adkins and J. Case, with minutes.

ELKHORN—By the hand of H. M. Farley.

THREE FORKS—By the hands of D. L. Kindrick, D. H. Riner, with minutes.

SAND LICK—By the hands of P. Adkins, R. Blair and S. R. Combs, with minutes.

NEW SALEM—By the hand of S. Click.

All the above correspondents received the right hand of fellowship from the Moderator, and took seats with us.

3. Visiting ministers received as follows: R. T. Hackney, J. D. Riffe, B. Hatfield, J. M. Wyatt, J. B. Adkins, A. Justice and J. W. Slone.

4. Agreed that the Moderator make all temporary appointments.

5. A member from each church was appointed to arrange the preaching at the stand, who reported for Saturday: H. M. Farley, D. H. Riner, W. J. Prater and Peter Adkins, who

preached in the order of their names.

6. Corresponding letters written as follows :

WASHINGTON—With the Sand Lick church, Dickenson Co., Va., Friday before the Second Sunday in Sept., 1907; Eld. J. D. Riffe and Bros. H. W. May, D. B. Smith and E. D. Coleman, attend.

UNION—With the Millstone church, Letcher Co., Ky., Friday before the Third Saturday in Sept., 1907., Elds. W. R. Collins, A. Justice, I. Justice and Bro. N. Blackburn, attend.

THREE FORKS—With the Little Stone Gap church, Wise Co., Va., Friday before the Fourth Saturday in Aug., 1908; Eld. J. M. Wyatt, J. B. Weddington attend.

SAND LICK—With the Colly Creek church, Letcher Co., Ky., Friday before the Second Saturday in Sept., 1907; Elds. W. R. Collins and A. Justice attend.

ELK HORN—With the Providence church, Wyoming Co., W. Va., Friday before the Third Sunday in Sept., 1907; Elds. J. M. Wyatt, J. B. Weddington and Bros. A. Runyan and F. Mounts attend.

NEW SALEM—With the Antioch church, Floyd Co., Ky., Friday before the Fourth Saturday in Sept., 1907.

The Clerk wrote all the corresponding letters.

7. Committee on arrangements as follows : J. B. Weddington, J. M. Wyatt, C. Hatfield, J. D. Riffe, with the Moderator and Clerk. Correspondents and visiting ministers were invited to sit with them. Then adjourned till Saturday morning, 9 o'clock.

SATURDAY MORNING.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment, and after prayer by Eld. J. Hall, proceeded to business in the following order :

1. Called the roll.
2. Committee on arrangements reported, and was discharged.

3. Constitution and Rules of Decorum read.

4. T. J. Bevins, A. R. Hatfield, and J. B. Ramey were appointed finance committee, and reported \$45.40. They left in Clerk's hand, \$15.00 for printing Minutes, and paid Clerk \$10.00 for his services, and Secretary \$2.00 for his work, leaving \$18.40, which they distributed to Ministers appointed to attend the sister Associations.

5. Called on last year's appointees, who reported satisfactorily.

6. Committee on preaching reported for Sunday: Robert Blair, D. H. Rinier, and Joseph Hall, who preached in the order of their names.

7. Union meetings were appointed as follows:

Louisa—Friday before the Second Saturday in Aug., 1908; Elders C. Hatfield, W. R. Collins, and W. J. May attend.

Big Creek—Friday before the Third Saturday in Aug., 1908; Elders J. D. Riffe, W. S. Weddington, and B. Hatfield attend.

Pond Creek—Friday before the Second Saturday in Aug., 1908; Elders J. M. Wyatt, J. B. Weddington, I. Justice and W. S. Weddington attend.

Sardis—Friday before the First Saturday in Aug., 1908; Elders J. D. Riffe, W. S. Weddington, J. B. Weddington attend.

Raccoon—Friday before the Fourth Saturday in July, 1908; Elders I. Justice, J. D. Riffe, W. S. Weddington, and C. Hatfield attend.

Sulphur Spring—Friday before the First Saturday in Aug., 1908; Elders A. Justice, W. R. Collins, and C. Hatfield attend.

Peter Creek—Friday before the Fourth Saturday in Aug., 1908; Elders J. B. Weddington, B. Hatfield, and A. Justice attend.

Cedar Fork—Friday before the Second Saturday in July, 1908; Elders J. D. Riffe and J. M. Wyatt attend.

Cedar Grove—Friday before the Third Saturday in July, 1908; Elders C. Hatfield, D. A. Maynard and Bro. D. B. Smith attend.

Samaria—Friday before the Third Saturday in Aug., 1908;

Elders I. Justice, A. Justice, and W. R. Collins attend.

8. Circular letter called for, read and received, and ordered to be printed in these minutes, and A. Runyan prepare the next.

9. Ordered that our Abstract of Principles be printed in these minutes.

10. Secretary reported work all up.

11. Article No. 13, regarding double marriages in our minutes of 1885, be and is so amended that nothing therein shall be so construed as to either exclude or debar the innocent party from membership in the church, and the church alone is the judge of the fitness of the one applying for membership.

12. Obituary of Elders H. Davis and M. Slone be printed in these minutes.

13. W. J. May is appointed to superintend the printing of the minutes—800 in number, and distribute the same among the churches, and he is allowed out of the contribution \$10.00 for his services as Clerk and Treasurer.

14. Our next Association is appointed with the Little Hope church, Pinsonfork, Pike Co., Ky., Friday before the First Sabbath in Sept., 1908., and Eld. J. B. Weddington preach the introductory sermon, and J. D. Riffe be, and is, his alternate. Pinsonfork is 10 miles South-east of Matewon and Williamson on the N. W. R. R.

Then adjourned till the time and place of our next Association.

A. HATFIELD, Moderator.

W. J. MAY, Clerk.

This Association tenders its heart-felt thanks to the brethren, sisters, and many friends who opened their doors so freely, and entertained and took care of all who were in attendance. May God's mercy and kindness still sustain and keep them now and forever, is the prayer of this body.

CLERK.

SUNDAY MORNING.

A large and seemingly interested congregation assembled around the stand, at the hour appointed for the services. Prayer by Eld. B. Hatfield. Then R. Blair preached from Gal. 3 :

23, 24, "But before faith came, we were kept under the law," etc.; D. H. Riner from John 10: 11, "I am the good Shepherd," etc.; J. Hall from John 3: 7, "Ye must be born again." All the preaching during the session was strictly "salvation by grace," and was of much comfort to God's people. In fact, the association was a wonderful and God-blessed meeting in every deed.

CLERK.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

DEAR BRETHREN: It has fallen to me to address you in the form of a circular letter; therefore, I will call your attention to the 21st chapter and last verse of Revelations, "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth; neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's Book of life." It is the city of the living God, and it is impossible for any thing to enter into it, but them that are written in the Lamb's book of life. Jesus dwells in this City, and is alive forevermore, and has said, that all my members were written in thy Book, when in continuance they were fashioned, when as yet there were none of them.

This is the Book of God and they are all written in it, and at God's own time they will all be made manifest; for it has pleased God to call them out of darkness into his marvelous light, for to show forth his praise.

Then dear brethren, having this hope, what manner of persons ought we to be? No wonder the Apostle said, "Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ." Then may it be the will of the Father to enable us all by his grace to fulfill the law of Christ, and dwell together in love and oneness of the Spirit. So I will close. Yours in hope,

W. S. WEDDINGTON.

OBITUARY.

Eld. Henry Davis was born May 15, 1843, and died July 13, 1906; making his stay on earth 63 years, 1 month, and 28 days. Bro. Davis joined the United Baptist organization, and

when the Lord opened to him and showed him he was not in the church, and led him about and instructed him, he was lead to the Old Regular Baptist Church, where he remained until he was called to his long eternal home. He always contended for the faith once delivered to the saints, and salvation by grace alone.

Bro. Davis was an humble-hearted man. To him and his companion were born twelve children. Six of them preceeded him to the grave, and six of them, and his companion, together with the church, to mourn their loss, while it is his eternal gain, I hope. He was baptized by Eld. Gabriel Riffe.

J. B. WEDDINGTON.

Eld. Mitchel Slone was born May 10, 1824, and died Mar. 26, 1907. He attained the age of fourscore and two years, and ten months.

He united with the Primitive Baptist Church about the year of 1845, and was baptized by Eld. Wm. Tacket, in fellowship with the Old Chloe church, and began his ministry soon afterwards. He contended earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints, and was not carried about by every wind of doctrine. He was Moderator of Raccoon, Philadelphia, and Greasy Creek churches for a number of years. Was married to Pop Justice, and to this union was born one son; and she passed away from time. Then he married Pricy Justice. To this union were born nine children; five boys and four girls. He was assistant Moderator of the Louisa church until his death. His memory was wonderfully good. He could read fine print without glasses. His calling was to preach the Word. He had the gift of healing.

J.W. SLONE, his son.

ABSTRACT OF PRINCIPLES.

1. We believe in one true and living God, who is the Creator, Upholder and Righteous Disposer of all things, and that he is self-existent, independent, omnipotent and eternal.

2. We believe that Jesus Christ existed in his mediatorial

person, as the Head and Life of his body, the church, from everlasting.

3. We believe in the doctrine of eternal, personal and unconditional election, that the elect, or church, is, and was, and shall forever remain, his body and fullness; and that her spiritual life is hid with Christ in God.

4. We believe the doctrine of the total depravity of human nature, and that a recovery from that condition is wholly and exclusively by the sovereign, free and unmerited grace of God.

5. We believe the atonement made by Christ was full and complete, and exclusively for the elect, or heirs of promise.

6. We believe the doctrine of God's predestination in every sense, as the Bible teaches it.

7. We believe that all the elect vessels of mercy, chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world, shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the regenerating power of God's grace, and shall all ultimately enjoy heaven and immortal glory.

8. We believe there will be a resurrection of the bodies, both of the just and the unjust; and that the happiness of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

9. We believe that baptism and the Lord's supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only subjects, and the true mode of baptism is immersion.

10. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as translated under the reign of King James, are a revelation from God, inspired by the Holy Ghost; and that the New Testament is the standard of faith, and the only authorized rule of practice to the church of God under the gospel dispensation. We therefore consider ourselves solemnly bound by our allegiance to the King of Zion to reject, disclaim and disfellowship all modern and ancient religious institutions or societies, of which we have neither precept nor example in the New Testament.

NAMES OF ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR ADDRESSES.

W. J. May, Pinsonfork, Ky.	A. Hatfield, Ransom, Ky.
C. Hatfield, Hatfield, Ky.	B. Hatfield, Flat Gap, Ky.

J. D. Riffe, Ransom, Ky.	J. M. Wyatt, Hallsville, W. Va.
J. May, Hurly, Va.	J. B. Weddington, Warfield, Ky.
W. Spence, Myrtle, W. Va.	J. C. B. Adkins, Millard, Ky.
D. A. Maynard, Zebulon, Ky.	T. Conway, Fish Trap, Ky.
W. R. Collins, Zebulon, Ky.	R. T. Hackney, Pinsonfork, Ky.
I. Justice, Fish Trap, Ky.	A. Justice, Millard, Ky.
W. S. Weddington, Nolan, W. Va.	

NAMES OF CHURCH CLERKS AND THEIR ADDRESSES.

T. J. Bevins, Canada, Ky.	J. B. Weddington, Warfield, Ky.
A. Runyan, Myrtle, W. Va.	G. M. Stepp, Nolan, W. Va.
James Keesee, Ransom, Ky.	D. Mead, Fish Trap, Ky.
Joe Coleman, Millard, Ky.	C. Hatfield, Hatfield, Ky.
J. H. May, Paw Paw, Va.	G. H. Coleman, Coleman, Ky.
M. Ball, Pinsonfork, Ky.	
W. A. Retherford, Williamson, W. Va.	

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	NAMES OF MESSENGERS.	Saturday of Meeting	By Exp. and Bapt.	Restored	Received by letter	Dismissed by letter	Excluded	Deceased	Total Membership	Contribution
Louisa	N. Blackburn, J. Justice, D. Blackburn, J. H. Justice	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	34	\$3.50
Big Creek	T. J. Bevins, W. Stanley, E. Chapman, O. R. Lowe	3		1	1	2	1	4	36	4.95
Pond Creek	A. Hatfield, W. A. Retherford, T. G. Farley, A. R. Hatfield	2							44	11.00
Sardis	A. Runyan, F. Mounts	1	4	1					32	2.50
Brushy Fork	Not represented	2								
Raccoon	D. A. Maynard, J. B. Rany, W. R. Collins, W. Worix	4		1					26	3.25
Sulphur Spring	J. H. May, A. J. Blackburn	1							13	1.60
Peter Creek	E. D. Coleman, G. H. Coleman, D. B. Smith, Noah Smith	4	2	5					50	4.00
Little Hope	W. J. May, H. May, M. Ball, H. W. May	1		1					37	6.15
Cedar Fork	J. B. Weddington	2		1			4		14	1.50
Ioppa	W. S. Weddington, M. Parsley	4							11	1.85
Cedar Grove	L. Justice, S. D. May	3	1		1				20	1.50
Samaria	C. Hatfield, T. Hatfield	3				1	1		10	
	Total	81	11	1	4	7	6	327	\$45.40	