

MINUTES
OF THE
Eighty-Third Annual Session
OF THE
Mates Creek Association

[ORGANIZED IN 1849]

OLD REGULAR OR PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS

HELD WITH

PETER CREEK CHURCH

Phelps, Kentucky

ON

August 30, 31 and September 1, 1935

1935

Cumberland Publishing Company

Pikeville, Kentucky

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Friday, August 30th, 1935

Singing and prayer by Elder A. P. Justice from Mate Creek Association. Then the introductory was preached by Elder W. M. Stanley, Text: 1st Timothy, Chapter 4:16, "Take Heed unto thyself."

(2) Ministers left on stand Friday. (1) Elder G. B. Southerland. (2) Elder James Runyons. (3) Elder Sam Newsom.

Messengers assembled in the school house and brought to order by Elder W. M. Stanley. Prayer by Elder S. L. Woods, Indian Creek Association.

Motions: Moved and seconded that Elder W. H. Thacker stand as temporary moderator, and Elder T. M. Mounts, as Clerk, which was unanimous.

Letters from the Several Churches were read from which the next tables were prepared:

Louisa Church and Delegates: Elders A. P. Justice, Abner Justice, M. C. Slone, W. E. Thacker; Brethren: Jerry Justice, John Justice, Green Coleman, Basil Conway, Jeff Thacker, Green Thacker.

Pond Creek Church: Brethren: J. E. Dotson, Harrison Farley, J. T. Stacy, C. J. Mickey, Nicholas Varney, Thomas Blackburn, Trimble Runyon, A. J. Ball, George Hunt.

Sardis Church: Elder Jason Rains; Brethren, Floyd Mounts, G. W. Sisco, Ira Simpkins, Jack Kennady.

Big Creek Church: Elder W. M. Stanley; Brethren, Benton Smith, A. M. Boger, Albert Blackburn, A. R. Lowe, Alva Lowe.

Brushy Fork Church: Bro. G. W. Lowe.

Raccoon Church: Elder J. B. Ramey; Brethren, W. C. Warrix, J. P. Daniels, Joe Thacker, Milton Coleman.

Sulphur Springs Church: Elder A. J. Blackburn; Brethren, M. B. May, Solomon Smith, Reuben Coleman.

Peter Creek Church: Elders Noah Smith, Ballard Smith, T. M. Mounts, G. W. Smith; Brethren, Phillip Dotson, D. B. Smith, Albert Casey, Anse Casey, Willie Dotson.

Little Hope Church: Elder B. M. Fields, Bro. J. C. Hensley.

Cedar Fork Church: Not represented.

Joppa Church: Bro. G. M. Stepp.

Grapevine Church: Elder J. W. Slone, S. D. May, Hillard Justice.

Samaria Church: Elder Teddy Ball; Brethren, J. C. Hager, W. M. Smith, Hiram Smith, Jake Hatfield, Jeff Hatfield.

Little Union Church: Brethren Charley Freeman, J. H. Fuller, W. H. Prater.

Pilgrim's Rest Church: Brethren F. M. Akers, I. L. Hurd, Burley Hall.

Antioch Church: Not represented.

CHURCH	Received by Ex. & Bap.	Received by letter	Restored	Dismissed by letter	Excluded	Deceased	Present Member	Sunday of Meeting	Contribution
Louisa	5		1				59	2	2.30
Pond Creek				1		4	41	2	10.50
Sardis							26	1	2.75
Big Creek	2						24	3	10.70
Brushy Fork						1	2	4	.50
Raccoon	1						20	4	2.60
Sulphur Springs	2						16	1	1.00
Peter Creek	2	2	2	6	1	1	74	4	7.50
Little Hope					11		13	1	5.50
Cedar Fork								3	
Joppa						1	5	4	1.00
Grape Vine	3						20	3	2.75
Samaria	10	7	1	2	1		43	3	5.05
Little Union						2	11	3	2.70
Pilgrim's Rest	2					1	11	4	2.00
Antioch							30	2	
TOTALS	27	9	4	9	13	10	395		\$56.85

Organization: The Association was then organized by appointing Elder W. H. Thacker, Moderator, and Elder T. M. Mounts, Clerk, Secretary and Treasurer, then the work began:

Chosen Elder A. P. Justice, Assistant Moderator, and Elder Jason Rains, Assistant Clerk.

- (1) Newly constituted churches called for and none responded.
- (2) Abstract of principles, rules of decorum, and Constitution read and to be printed in these minutes.

(3) Correspondence from Sister Associations received as follows:
Washington Association: Elder W. B. Southerland and Elder James Runyons.

Indian Creek Association: Elder S. L. Woods.

Union Association: Elder Sam Newsom, Bro. Daniel Roberts.

Visiting Ministers Received: Elder A. R. Singleton, Washington Association; Elder W. E. Thacker, Mate Creek Association.

- (5) The Moderator is to make all temporary arrangements.
- (6) A member from each church, with all the messengers from this church is appointed to arrange the preaching at the stand for Saturday. They reported (1) Elder A. R. Singleton, (2) Elder James Runyons, (3) Elder Sam Newsom, (4) Elder S. L. Woods.

(7) Corresponding letters and bearers as follows:

Washington with the Neely Ridge Church, Dickenson County, Va., commencing Friday before the second Sunday in September, 1935. Elders: J. W. Slone, G. W. Smith, T. M. Mounts, Ted Ball, W. H. Thacker; Brethren: Albert Blackburn and D. B. Smith.

Indian Creek Association: With the Princeton Church, Mercer County, W. Va. commencing Friday before the last Sabbath in August, 1936. Elders: T. M. Mounts, Teddy Ball and Jason Rains.

Union Association: With the Pond Fork Church, Dickenson County, Va. commencing Friday before the third Saturday in September, 1935. Elders: M. C. Slone, Abner Justice; Brethren: Albert Blackburn, Willie Dotson, Messengers.

(8) Committee on arrangements as follows: Elders Abner Justice, Andy Blackburn and Harry Farley, with Moderator and Clerk, Corresponding Brethren, invited to sit with us.

Association adjourned until 9:00 o'clock Saturday morning, August 31st.

Saturday Morning, August 31st, 1935

The Association met in pursuant to adjournment and was called to order by Moderator. Prayer by Elder James Runyons of Washington Association.

(1) Roll called and the absentees marked; (2) Committee on arrangements reported and was discharged; (3) Finance Committee: C. J. Mickey, J. E. Dotson, Jerry Justice, who reported \$56.85 and \$10.50 in the treasury making a total of \$67.35. Forty dollars were expended for printing minutes, clerk service, etc., leaving a balance of \$27.35.

(4) Appointees reported and those who failed to fill their appointments were excused. (5) Committee on preaching for Sunday reported as follows: (1) Elder Abner Justice, (2) Elder A. R. Singleton, (3) Elder W. B. Southerland, (4) S. L. Woods.

(6) Union meetings as follows:

Louisa: Friday before the second Saturday in August, 1936; Elders: Noah Smith, T. M. Mounts, W. M. Stanley, A. P. Justice; Bro. Bill Dotson.

Peter Creek: Friday before the fourth Saturday in July, 1936; Elders: Ted Ball, Abner Justice, W. M. Stanley.

Pond Creek: Friday before the second Saturday in August, 1936; Elders: Ballard Smith, Ted Balls, W. M. Stanley, A. J. Blackburn.

Sardis: Friday before the first Saturday in August, 1936; Elders: W. M. Stanley, Ballard Smith; Bro. H. W. Prater.

Big Creek: Friday before the third Saturday in August, 1936; Elders: Abner Justice, W. H. Thacker, Noah Smith, A. J. Blackburn.

Little Hope: Friday before the first Saturday in July, 1936; Elders: Teddy Ball, J. B. Ramey, A. J. Blackburn, Ballard Smith.

Samaria: Friday before the third Saturday in August, 1936; Elders: Jason Rains, A. P. Justice, Ballard Smith, J. B. Ramey.

Pilgrim's Rest: Friday before the fourth Saturday in August, 1936. Elders: W. M. Stanley, A. J. Blackburn, Ted Ball.

Raccoon: Friday before the fourth Saturday in July, 1936; Elders: Jason Rains, Noah Smith, T. M. Mounts, W. H. Thacker, A. P. Justice, Bro. Bill Dotson.

Sulphur Springs: Friday before the first Saturday in August, 1936; Elders: Jason Rains, Noah Smith, Ted Ball.

- (7) Secretary reports all work up: (1) Cash left in hand \$27.35.
- (8) Circular letter called for, read and to be printed in these minutes, and that Elder A. P. Justice, prepare the next letter.
- (9) That the Clerk superintend the printing of the minutes, 1,000, in number and distribute them among the churches, and he shall be allowed \$10.00 for his services as Secretary and Treasurer, and \$30.00 for the printing of the minutes.
- (10) Our next association is appointed to meet with the Grapevine Church, Pike County, Kentucky, commencing Friday before the first Sunday in September, 1936. Elder A. J. Blackburn will preach the introductory and Elder Teddy Ball, be and is, his alternate.
- (11) This Association tenders its heartfelt thanks to the brethren and sisters and many friends who so bountifully entertained the people during this session. May God add his sweet blessings to them while here on earth, and take them in the resurrection morning with Him to the Glory Land for ever to stay with Him.
- Closed by prayer by Elder W. H. Thacker. Then adjourned until the time and place of our next association.
- Done and signed by the order of the Association.
- Elder W. H. Thacker, Moderator, Fishtrap, Ky.
Elder T. M. Mounts, Clerk, Majestic, Ky.

Sunday Morning, September 1, 1935

(1) Singing and prayer by Elder Abner Justice, Mate Creek Association. Elders on the stand, (1) A. R. Singleton, Text: "I speak and it is done." (2) W. B. Southerland, II Tim. 4: "Preach the word in season and out of season." (3) S. L. Woods, Psalms of David, 12th chapter, 6th verse: "The words of the Lord are pure words."

The preaching was harmonious, God-honoring, salvation by grace and grace alone. The poor little children of God were fed a feast of fat things, and God was glorified.

T. M. MOUNTS, Clerk.

CIRCULAR LETTER

Dearly beloved in the Lord:

According to the appointment of the Mate's Creek Association last year it is my humble duty to address you in communication in the form of a circular letter. Thinking over the matter seriously and prayerfully too, I hope, I have decided to write on the subject of the resurrection of these bodies of the dead.

In so doing will call your attention to a passage of scripture which reads as follows: "After that He was seen of James; then of all the Apostles." Cor. 15:7: "And last of all He was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time." Cor. 8: "For I am the least of the Apostles that am not meet to be called an Apostle, because I persecuted the Church of God." Cor. 9: "But by the grace of God I am what I am." 10th. Cor. 15:38: "But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased Him, and to every seed his own body." Cor. 15:57: "But thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

ELDER G. W. SMITH, Coleman, Ky.

OBITUARIES

Elder W. J. Prater was born September 5, 1867, died October 29, 1934, making his stay here on earth 67 years, one month and 24 days. He was married to Caroline McCoy June 27, 1886. To their union was born 10 children, seven sons and three daughters, of which five sons and one daughter have preceded him to the grave. He has left his widow, two sons and two daughters, one brother and one sister and a host of friends to mourn his loss.

He professed a hope in Christ and was baptized by Elder Priest Hackney into the fellowship of the Little Union Church at the age of 24 years. His membership remained with this church until death without any reference ever being brought against him. He was called to the ministry shortly after he was united with the Primitive Baptist Church and was given into the hands of Presby, date not known to the writer. Presby composed as follows: Elders Jeff May, R. T. Hackney and James May.

He lived and preached the Gospel of Christ for more than 40 years. He stood fast in the faith and was never known to swerve from the Doctrine of Christ and the Apostle's Salvation by grace and grace alone.

He was buried in the Pond Creek Church cemetery. His funeral was conducted in the Pond Creek Church house by Elders A. J. Blackburn and W. E. Stanley.

Song used in his funeral at his request was No. 299 in the Thomas hymnal,

"Servant of God, well done,
Rest from thy loved employ;
The battle's fought, the victory's won,
Enter thy Master's joy."

He was chosen as Moderator of the Mate's Creek Association when held with the Big Creek Church 1922, and was retained as Moderator of the Association until death. He was serving four churches as Moderator at his death.

We feel his loss great to the churches, but feel sure that while it is our loss it is his eternal gain.

By BALLARD SMITH.

OF BOYD FARLEY

Boyd Farley was born in Pike County, Kentucky June 19, 1876. He departed this life July 7, 1935; making his age 59 years, 18 days. He was married to Rozettie Scott, December 31, 1897. To this union was born three children; two girls and one boy. Emma Kern and Gertie, the two girls, preceded him in death; he leaves to mourn for him one son, three grandchildren, three brothers, five sisters, his beloved wife, and a host of friends.

He professed a hope in Christ and joined the Primitive Baptist Church and was baptized by Elder Anderson Hatfield at the Pond Creek Church on the second Sunday in August, 1912. He was ordained Deacon of his church on the second Saturday in May, 1915.

He was chosen as Clerk of his church on the second Saturday in February, 1920. Then on the Friday before the first Sabbath in September, 1922 he was chosen as clerk of the Mate's Creek Association. He was serving in all the above capacities at the time of his death.

He was a devoted husband and a faithful father and his doors were always open to his brothers, sisters, and friends. We feel our loss is his eternal gain.

He was sick only a short time and bore his pains well. He continually prayed to God to have mercy on him, a poor sinner, who if saved, was saved by Grace and Grace alone.

He has long been a rock of sound faith and exemplary conduct and his place cannot be completely filled. His family misses his loving kindness and companionship. His neighbors miss his cheery presence and friendly service. His church misses his able counsel and we feel that he is resting with the Fathers in Israel. God's will be done.

Written by C. J. MICKEY.

RULES OF DECORUM

- I. The association shall be opened and closed by prayer.
- II. A moderator and clerk shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.
- III. Only one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise from his seat and address the moderator when he is about to speak.
- IV. The person thus speaking shall not be interrupted by any except the moderator until he is done speaking.
- V. He shall strictly adhere to the subject, and in no wise reflect on the person who spoke before, so as to make remarks on his slips, failings and imperfections, but fairly state the case and matter as nearly as he can so as to convey his ideas.
- VI. No person shall rise and speak more than three times to one subject without liberty from the association.
- VII. No person shall abruptly break off or absent himself from the association without liberty obtained from it.
- VIII. No member of the association shall have liberty of laughing during the sitting of the association, nor whispering in time of public speech.
- IX. No member of the association shall address another in any other term or appellation but the title of brother.
- X. The moderator shall not interrupt any member in a speech, or prohibit him from speaking until he gives his light on the subject, except they break the rules of the decorum.
- XI. Names of the several members of the association shall be enrolled by the clerk, and called over as many times as the association may require.
- XII. The moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speech as another member, providing 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.
- XIII. Any member who shall wilfully violate any of these rules shall be reprovved by the association as they think proper.

ABSTRACT OF PRINCIPLES

I. 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.

II. We believe that Jesus Christ existed in his mediatorial person, as the head and life of His body, the church, from everlasting.

III. 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 fulness, and their spiritual life is hid with Christ in God.

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

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

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

VII. 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 ultimately enjoy heaven and immortal glory.

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

IX. We believe that baptism and the Lord's supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the subjects, and the true mode of baptism is immersion, foot washing an example.

X. We believe the Scriptures of the Old Testament and New Testament, 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.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

Article I. This association shall be called Mate's Creek District Old Regular or Primitive Baptist Association.

Art. II. 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 seats.

Art. III. In the letters from the different churches shall be expressed their membership in full fellowship, those baptized, received by letter, dismissed by letter, restored, excluded and deceased since the last association.

Art. IV. 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 this union.

Art. V. The association, when convened, shall be governed by a regular and proper decorum.

Art. VI. The association shall have a moderator, clerk and treasurer, who shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

Art. VII. Newly constituted churches may be admitted into the union who shall petition by letter and messenger, 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. VIII. Every church in the union shall be entitled to a representation in the association.

Art. IX. Every query presented by any church to the association, being first debated in their own church, shall be taken up by the association.

Art. X. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the association, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

Art. XI. The association shall endeavor to furnish the churches with minutes of the association, the best way and method for effecting that purpose shall be at the discretion of future associations.

Art. XII. 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 is the duty of each church in the union to contribute such sums voluntarily as they think proper, and send it by the hands of their messenger to the association, and those moneys 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 the moneys received by him, and pay out of the same according to the direction of the association.

Art. XIII. There shall be an association book kept, wherein the proceedings of every association shall be regularly recorded by the secretary chosen for that purpose, who shall receive compensation for his trouble.

Art. XIV. The minutes of the association shall be read (and corrected if need be) and signed by the moderator and clerk before the association rises.

Art. XV. 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. XVI. The association shall have power: (1) To provide for the general union of the churches. (2) To preserve inviolate a chain communication among the churches. (3) To give the churches necessary advice in matters of church difficulty. (4) To inquire into the cause why the churches fail to represent themselves at any time in the association. (5) To appropriate those moneys by the churches contributed for an association fund to any purpose they may think proper. (6) To appoint any member or members, by and with their consent, to transact any business they may see necessary. (7) 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. (8) To admit any orderly minister of our faith and order to a seat in the association. (9) The association shall have power to adjourn themselves to any future time or place they may think most convenient to the churches of the association.

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF MINISTERS

Elder Abner Justice	Fish Trap, Kentucky
Elder W. J. Prater	Coleman, Kentucky
Elder W. M. Stanley	Ransom, Kentucky
Elder J. B. Ramey	Fish Trap, Kentucky
Elder T. J. Bevins	Sidney, Kentucky
Elder A. J. Blackburn	Ira, Virginia
Elder Jason Raines	Lenora, West Virginia
Elder W. H. Thacker	Fish Trap, Kentucky
Elder W. E. Thacker	Millard, Kentucky
Elder A. P. Justice	Raystore, Kentucky
Elder G. W. Smith	Coleman, Kentucky
Elder J. W. Slone	Fish Trap, Kentucky
Elder M. C. Slone	Fish Trap, Kentucky
Elder Ballard Smith	Coleman, Kentucky
Elder Noah Smith	Coleman, Kentucky
Licentiate D. B. Smith	Coleman, Kentucky
Elder T. M. Mounts	Majestic, Kentucky
Elder Teddy Ball	Ransom, Kentucky

NAMES & ADDRESSES OF CHURCH CLERKS & NO. MINUTES

Louisa—G. C. Slone	Fish Trap, Ky.	80
Pond Creek—C. J. Mickey	Belfry, Ky.	150
Sardis—Floyd Mounts	Belo, W. Va.	35
Big Creek—Albert Blackburn	Canada, Ky.	95
Brushy Fork—G. W. Lowe	White Post, Ky.	35
Raccoon—Milton Coleman	Raccoon, Ky.	75
Sulphur Springs—J. B. May	Ira, Va.	30
Peter Creek—Ballard Smith	Coleman, Ky.	125
Little Hope—B. M. Fields	McAndrews, Ky.	95
Joppa—G. M. Stepp	White Post, Ky.	20
Grape Vine—J. W. Slone	Fish Trap, Ky.	25
Little Union—J. H. Fuller	Fed's Creek, Ky.	30
Pilgrim's Rest—F. M. Akers	Dana, Ky.	30
Antioch—L. C. Chapman	Woodman, Ky.	30
Samaria—Hiram Smith	Ransom, Ky.	50

