

MINUTES

OF THE EIGHTY-FOURTH ANNUAL
SESSION OF THE

MATES CREEK ASSOCIATION

[ORGANIZED IN 1849]

OLD REGULAR OR PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS

HELD WITH

GRAPEVINE CHURCH

PIKE COUNTY, KENTUCKY

ON SEPTEMBER 4, 5 AND 6, 1936

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Cumberland Publishing Co., Pikeville, Ky.

- 1936 -

MINUTES—Friday, September 4, 1936

Association called to order by Moderator W. H. Thacker. Singing and prayer by Elder Hadley Edwards. Then the introductory was preached by Elder Teddy Ball from Text, Luke 12-32 verse.

Ministers left on stand Friday: Elders G. W. Smith, Milford Hall, Sam Newsom and G. B. Sutherland.

Messengers assembled in Grapevine schoolhouse and were brought to order by Moderator W. H. Thacker. Prayer by Elder G. B. Sutherland.

Letters from the several churches were read from which the following table was prepared:

Louisa Church and Delegates: Elders Abner Justice, W. H. Thacker, A. P. Justice, M. C. Slone and Jerry Justice.

Sardis Church: Bro. Ira Simpkins.

Pond Creek Church: J. T. Stacy, A. J. Ball, Albert Blackburn and J. C. Mickey.

Big Creek Church: Albert Blackburn and A. M. Bogar.

Brushy Fork Church: Not represented.

Raccoon Church: Milton Coleman, W. C. Worrix, J. P. Daniels, and Elder J. B. Ramey.

Sulphur Spring Church: S. K. Smith.

Peter Creek Church: Elders G. H. Coleman, Willie Dotson, D. B. Smith, Harrison Smith, Tom Coleman and G. W. Blair.

Little Hope Church: Elders B. M. Fields and Mitch Blackburn.

Cedar Grove Church: Not represented.

Joppa Church: G. M. Stepp.

Grapevine Church: Elders J. B. Ramey, Thomas Justice, Hillard Justice and Stewart Justice.

Samaria Church: Elders Teddy Ball and L. C. Hughes.

Little Union Church: Charlie Freeman, H. W. Prater and James Fuller.

Pilgrim's Rest Church: Not represented.

Antioch Church: Elders T. M. Mounts, L. C. Chapman, Albert Casey and Buddie Dotson.

John's Creek Church: Paris Coleman, Jackson Coleman and Noah Smith.

CHURCH	Received by Ex. & Bap.	Received by Letter	Restored	Dismissed by Letter	Excluded	Deceased	Present Member	Sunday of Meeting	Contribution
Louisa	2		1			2	60	2	4.35
Pond Creek	2			1	2	2	38	2	7.00
Sardis							26	1	2.35
Big Creek	10						34	3	8.80
Brushy Fork							2	4	
Raccoon						1	19	4	2.80
Sulphur Springs							16	1	1.40
Peter Creek	8		3	6			78	4	7.10
Little Hope	2						15	1	6.63
Cedar Fork								3	
Joppa							5	4	1.00
Grapevine	6				5	2	17	3	4.40
Samaria	3				3	2	41	3	4.15
Little Union							11	3	2.50
Pilgrim's Rest							11	4	
Antioch	3	7				1	45	3	6.63
John's Creek	3		7			1	15	1	4.20
TOTALS	39	7	11	7	10	11	433	46	\$56.28

Organization: The Association was then organized by appointing W. H. Thacker, Moderator, and T. M. Mounts, Clerk, Secretary and Treasurer; A. P. Justice, Assistant Moderator, and Jason Rains, Assistant Clerk.

1. Newly constituted churches called for. On motion and second John's Creek Church was unanimously received and given the right hand of fellowship.

2. Abstracts 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—Delegates, Elders G. B. Sutherland, Hadley Edwards and W. M. B. Sutherland.

Indian Creek Association—Delegate, Elder G. L. Walker.

Union Association—Delegates, Elders J. E. Craft, Sam Newsum, Charlie Compton and Mart Bowling. Elder Milford Hall was also a visitor from Union Association.

4. The Moderator is to make all temporary arrangements.

5. A member from each church, with all the messengers from this church, are appointed to arrange for the preaching at the stand Saturday. They reported: (1) Elder Charlie Compton, (2) Elder Andy Jones, (3) Elder G. L. Walker, (4) Elder G. B. Sutherland.

6. Delegates appointed to visit sister Associations as follows:
 Washington Association—Elders G. H. Coleman, W. M. Dotson, Teddy Ball and B. M. Fields.
 Meets with Mt. Calvary Church, Coal City, W. Va.
 Indian Creek Association—Paris Coleman and L. C. Hughes.
 Union Association—Elders W. M. Dotson, Abner Justice, G. H. Coleman and Paris Coleman.
7. Committee on Arrangements was appointed as follows:
 Albert Blackburn, Abner Justice, G. H. Coleman and Teddy Ball.
8. The Association admonished those churches which made no report or sent a letter to the Association to be printed in the Minutes.
 Association adjourned until 9 o'clock Saturday morning.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1936

The Association was called to order by Moderator W. H. Thacker.
 Prayer by Elder J. B. Ramey.

1. Roll called and the absentees marked.
2. Committee on arrangements reported and was discharged.
3. Finance committee reported \$64.31.
4. Delegates appointed last year to visit sister Associations reported. Those unable to fill their appointments were excused.
5. Committee on preaching for Sunday reported as follows:
 (1) Elder W. B. Sutherland, (2) Elder Milford Hall, (3) Elder Hadley Edwards, (4) Elder J. E. Craft.
6. Union meetings as follows:
 Louisa Church: Friday before the second Saturday in August, 1937; Elders T. M. Mounts, Paris Coleman and W. M. Dotson.
 Sardis Church: Friday before the first Saturday in August, 1937; Elders Teddy Ball and H. W. Prater.
 Pond Creek Church: Friday before the second Saturday in July, 1937; Elders Teddy Ball, W. M. Stanley and H. W. Prater.
 Big Creek Church: Friday before the third Saturday in August, 1937; Elders Teddy Ball, J. B. Ramey, G. H. Coleman and Paris Coleman.
 Brushy Fork Church: Not represented.
 Raccoon Church: Friday before the fourth Saturday in July, 1937; Elders T. M. Mounts, W. H. Thacker, A. P. Justice, W. M. Dotson and Paris Coleman.
 Sulphur Spring Church: Not represented.
 Peter Creek Church: Friday before the fourth Saturday in July, 1937; Elders T. M. Mounts, A. P. Justice, M. C. Slone, W. M. Dotson and Paris Coleman.
 Little Hope Church: Friday before the first Saturday in July, 1937; Elders Teddy Ball, A. P. Justice, W. H. Thacker and G. H. Coleman.
 Cedar Grove Church: Not represented.
 Joppa Church: Not represented.

Grapevine Church: Friday before the third Saturday in July, 1937; Elders Teddy Ball, A. P. Justice, W. H. Thacker and Paris Coleman.

Samaria Church: Friday before the third Saturday in June, 1937; Elders W. H. Thacker, W. M. Stanley, A. P. Justice, G. H. Coleman, Paris Coleman and H. W. Prater.

Little Union Church: Not represented.

Pilgrim's Rest Church: Not represented.

Antioch Church: Friday before the third Saturday in July, 1937; Elders A. P. Justice, M. C. Slone, B. M. Fields and W. M. Dotson.

John's Creek Church: Friday before the third Saturday in August, 1937; Elders A. P. Justice, W. H. Thacker and W. M. Dotson.

7. Secretary reports all work up. Cash left on hand—\$41.66.

8. Circular letters called for and read, and ordered to be printed in these minutes. Elder M. C. Slone was selected to prepare the letter for next year.

9. The clerk was authorized to superintend the printing of the minutes, 1,000 in number, and distribute them among the churches. He shall be allowed \$10.00 for his services as Secretary and Treasurer, and \$40.00 for the printing of the minutes. Balance left—\$41.66.

10. Our next Association is appointed to meet with Samaria Church, at Ransom, Pike County, Ky., commencing on Friday, September 3, 1937. Elder A. P. Justice is to preach the introductory, and Elder W. H. Thacker to be his alternate.

11. This Association tenders its heartfelt thanks to the brethren and sisters and many friends who so bountifully entertained us 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 J. E. Craft. Then adjourned until the time and place of our next Association.

Done and signed by order of the Association.

ELDER W. H. THACKER, Moderator.

ELDER T. M. MOUNTS, Clerk.

SUNDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 6, 1936

Singing and prayer by Elder G. L. Walker. Elders on stand: (1) W. B. Sutherland, Text: II Tim. 4: "Preach the word in season and out of season"; (2) Milford Hall, Text: "Jesus said, Of the cup that I give to thee, drink"; (3) Hadley Edwards, Text: St. John 17:1-2; (4) Charley Craft, Text: Luke 14:18.

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

T. M. MOUNTS, Clerk.

CIRCULAR LETTER

Dearly Beloved, in the Lord:

According to the appointment of the Mates Creek Association last year it is my humble duty to address you. A communication in the form of a circular letter after thinking the matter over seriously, and asking God to direct my mind and to enable me to write about His wonderful Grace I will call your attention to a passage of scripture, Eph. 2nd chapter, 5th verse, as follows: "By Grace ye are saved." In my mind the writer was talking about mortal men and mortal women being saved right here in time. Gen. 6th chapter, 8th verse, says: "But Noah found Grace in the eyes of the Lord," and this Grace was sufficient to save Noah and his wife, his sons and their wives. What would Noah have done without this Grace? Perished like the rest of the world. God who is rich in mercy for His great love wherewith He has loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us to gather with Christ by Grace you are saved and hath raised us up together and made us to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. I find that after God's children had been evil in treated four hundred years His Grace saved and delivered them. Take up Paul after he had persecuted and wasted the Church, God visited him with His Grace and saved him, then he wanted to live without sin but God spoke to him saying: "My Grace is sufficient for thee"—not only sufficient for Paul but sufficient for everyone that God give His Son in the covenant of Grace.

Dear brethren, I have been thinking for a long time that if it was not for the Grace of our Lord that we would be denied the right to sit together in those heavenly places. Oh, what a world of sin and of trouble this world would be if it were not for the Grace of God to save us from the hands of wicked men and false doctrine and false teachers, and some times I think we need to be saved from false brethren.

Dear brethren, pray that I may find that wonderful Grace, that saving Grace, the Grace of God, to save me and to keep me in the way that I may enjoy the sweet drippings of the everlasting Gospel and to show forth his praise while here on earth and when Christ comes the second time without sin, unto salvation to collect His jewels home, that I may join Him to enjoy this Grace forevermore. Brethren, stand fast in the Lord and earnestly contend for the doctrine of salvation by Grace and Grace alone.

Your brother in hope of eternal life,

A. P. JUSTICE.

OBITUARY

BALLARD SMITH

Ballard Smith, son of Curtis and Jane Smith, was born July 8, 1885; died September 2, 1936. He was united in marriage to Cordelia Smith August 11, 1904. Unto this union was born thirteen children, eight sons and five daughters, of which two sons and two daughters preceded him in death at early age.

He was united to the Peter Creek Primitive Baptist Church on the fifth Sunday of May, 1915; baptized by Elder W. J. Prater. He remained a member of this church the balance of his life and served his church as clerk for the last several years of his life. He was called to the ministry and made his first attempt in the Peter Creek church house the fourth Saturday in March, 1932. The songs used were 530 in Thomas and 256 in Gold Book, "In all my Lord's appointed ways."

He was granted licenses January 4, 1933; given unto the hands of the Presbytery Sunday, June 4, 1933, by the following Elders: Abner Justice, W. J. Prater, G. W. Smith, and Deacons Jordan Dotson and Albert Casey.

His last attempt was made in the Peter Creek stand, on the fourth Saturday in March, 1936. Text used, "Tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until endowed with power from on high." Reference is Luke, 24th chapter, 49th verse, the last language of our Saviour when He was raised from the grave.

Bro. Smith was chosen as Moderator of the Samaria Church in 1934 and was serving the Samaria Church and the Pilgrim's Rest Church as Moderator at the time of his death. Bro. Smith bore his sickness with patience. He was a devoted husband, a loving father. His brethren and sisters miss his wonderful counsel, his neighbors miss his presence, his wife misses his loving companionship. So we can witness with the Apostle: "He fought a good fight; he kept the faith." Henceforth there is a crown laid up in heaven for him—not for him only—but for everyone who loves his appearance and we feel to say with truthfulness that our loss is his eternal gain.

Written by Elders Teddy Ball and Freelan Smith, son of Ballard Smith. Conducted at his request. Elder Teddy Ball to hold prayer and read the obituary and preaching by Elders Paris Coleman (2) and W. M. Stanley (3).

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 on 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 reproved 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 fullness, 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.

Article 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.

Article 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.

Article 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.

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

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

Article 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.

Article VIII. Every church in the union shall be entitled to a representation in the association.

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

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

Article 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.

Article 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.

Article 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.

Article 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.

Article 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.

Article 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. M. Stanley.....	Ransom, Kentucky
Elder J. B. Ramey.....	Fish Trap, 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
Elder T. M. Mounts.....	Majestic, Kentucky
Elder Teddy Ball.....	Ransom, Kentucky
Elder B. M. Fields.....	McAndrews, Kentucky
Elder William Dotson.....	Stone, Kentucky
Elder D. B. Smith.....	Coleman, Kentucky

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF CHURCH CLERKS AND NUMBER 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—G. W. Blair.....	Feds Creek, 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.....	Feds Creek, Ky.	30
Pilgrim's Rest—F. M. Akers.....	Dana, Ky.	30
Antioch—L. C. Chapman.....	Woodman, Ky.	30
Samaria—Teddy Ball.....	Ransom, Ky.	50
John's Creek—Jackson Coleman.....		

