

W. G. Hatfield

Minutes of the
Ninety-second Annual Session
Of the
Mates Creek Association
Of Old Regular Primitive Baptists

Held with Peter Creek Church, Coleman, Pike County,
Kentucky, Friday, Saturday and Sunday,
September 1, 2, 3, 1944

OFFICERS

Elder W. H. Thacker, Moderator	Fish Trap, Kentucky
Elder A. P. Justice, Assistant Moderator	Raystore, Kentucky
Elder T. M. Mounts, Clerk	Box 5, Majestic, Kentucky
Elder M. C. Slone, Assistant Clerk	Fish Trap, Kentucky

PROCEEDING OF THE

Mates Creek Association

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1944

The Mates Creek Association of Old Regular Primitive Baptists met in its ninety-second session with Peter Creek Church, Coleman, Pike County, Ky., on Friday before the first Sunday in September, 1944.

Association called to order by the moderator, Elder W. H. Thacker. Singing and prayer by Elder E. S. Stevens. The introductory was preached by Elder J. A. Justice. His subject was, text, John iii. 1.

Ministers left on the stand Friday were: Elders N. R. Edwards, Raleigh Compton, G. B. Sutherland, Hadley Edwards, and B. E. Dotson, from Powell's Valley Association.

Messengers assembled in Peter Creek Church and were called to order by the Moderator, Elder W. H. Thacker.

Prayer by Elder A. R. Singleton, of the Washington Association.

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

Louisa Church and delegates: Elders W. H. Thacker, A. P. Justice, M. C. Slone, and Brother Bradley Worrix.

Sardis Church and delegates: Not represented.

Pond Creek Church and delegates: W. J. Hatfield, Anderson Farley and C. J. Mickey.

Big Creek Church and delegates: Elders Joe Thacker, John Fuller, Brethren Benton West, Paris Blackburn, Lafe Smith.

Raccoon Church and delegates: Received by letter.

Sulphur Spring Church and delegates: Elder A. J. Blackburn, Brethren S. K. Smith and Joe Conn.

Peter Creek Church and delegates: Brethren Joe Dotson, R. N. Dotson, Phillip Dotson and Roland Dotson.

Little Hope Church and delegates: Elder M. H. Ball, Dewey Dotson, Johnnie Blackburn and J. M. Blackburn.

Joppa Church and delegates: Not represented.

Grapevine Church and delegates: Elder J. W. Slone, and Brother Tom Justice.

Samaria Church and delegates: Elder Teddy Ball, Brethren C. C. Dotson, Bob Dotson, Kit Ratcliff.

Little Union Church and delegates: Not represented.

Pilgrim's Rest Church and delegates: Not represented.

John's Creek Church and delegates: Elders Paris Coleman and W. N. Smith, Brethren Jackson Coleman and Ira Smith.

Antioch Church and delegates: Elder T. M. Mounts, L. C. Chapman and Albert Casey.

CHURCHES	ADDRESS OF CLERKS	Rec by Exp and Bap	Received by Letter	Rec by Relation	Restored	Dismissed by Letter	Excluded	Died	Number of Minutes	Total Membership	Sunday of Meeting	Contribution
Louisa.....	M C Slone, Fish Trap, Ky.....	3						2	100	66	2	12 50
Pond Creek.....	C J Mickey, Belfry, Ky.....	3					3		100	53	2	10 00
Sardis.....	Ira Simpkins, Hench, Ky.....								35	19	1	None
Big Creek.....	Benton West, Canady, Ky.....	5							100	36	3	11 20
Raccoon.....	Milton Coleman, Raccoon, Ky.....					1			100	20	4	7 27
Sulphur Springs.....	J B May, Ira, Va.....	1		2					30	13	1	4 00
Peter Creek.....	Roland Dotson, Stone, Ky.....	4				2	2	1	100	67	4	7 00
Little Hope.....	M H Ball, McAndrews, Ky.....								100	30	1	10 00
Joppa.....	G M Stepp, Whitepost, Ky (post office, Nolan, W Va).....								20	4	4	
Grapevine.....	Stewart Justice, Fish Trap, Ky.....	1					2		75	26	3	5 00
Samaria.....	Bob Dotson, Hardy, Ky.....	4	1				1	1	125	70	3	13 50
Little Union.....	J H Fuller, Feds Creek, Ky.....								50	9	4	
Pilgrim's Rest.....	F M Akers, Dana, Ky.....								30	15	4	
Antioch.....	L C Chapman, Freeburn, Ky.....								40	18	3	2 00
John's Creek.....	Jackson Coleman, Simmers, Ky.....	3					1		75	18	1	7 18
Totals.....		23	2	2	3	7	6		1080	464		89 65

Organization: The Association was then organized by appointing Elder W. H. Thacker, Moderator, Elder A. P. Justice, Assistant Moderator, and Elder T. M. Mounts, Clerk and Secretary-Treasurer, and Elder M. C. Slone, Assistant Clerk.

1. Newly constituted churches called for. None.
2. Abstract of Principles, Rules and Decorum and Constitution read, and to be printed in these minutes.
3. Correspondence from sister associations received as follows:

Washington Association—Delegates: Elders E. S. Stevens, Hadley Edwards, N. R. Edwards, G. B. Sutherland and Raleigh Compton.

Indian Creek Association—Delegates: Elder Gilbert Walker.

Union Association—Delegates: Received by letter and minutes. Elder Charles Compton seated as a visitor.

Received Elder B. E. Dotson and wife, Vesta, as visitors from Powell's Valley Association. Elders A. R. Singleton and E. S. Stevens as visitors from Washington Association. Brother M. M. Edwards, Elders Ance Casey, G. W. Smith, Lonnie Worrix and Elder Dan Adkins as visitors from Mates Creek 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. They reported.
6. Delegates who agreed to visit sister associations are as follows:

Washington Association: Elders T. M. Mounts, Teddy Ball, W. N. Smith, Paris Coleman, W. H. Thacker, Joe Thacker, G. W. Smith.

Union Association: Elders T. M. Mounts, M. C. Slone and J. W. Slone.

Indian Creek Association: Elders T. M. Mounts, Teddy Ball, W. H. Thacker, John Fuller, Paris Coleman, A. P. Justice and G. W. Smith.

7. Committee on Arrangements was appointed as follows: Bob Dotson, Phillip Dotson and Albert Casey.

8. Committee on Finance was appointed as follows: Andy Blackburn, Benton West and Ance Farley.

Association adjourned until 9 o'clock Saturday morning.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1944

The Association was called to order by the Moderator, Elder W. H. Thacker. Prayer by Elder Hadley Edwards, of the Washington Association.

1. Roll called and the absentees marked.

2. Committee on Arrangements reported and were discharged.

3. Finance Committee reported \$89.65.

4. Delegates appointed last year to visit sister associations reported. Those unable to fill their appointments were excused.

5. The following preachers were on the stand Saturday: Elders Raleigh Compton, G. B. Sutherland, Gilbert Walker and Hadley Edwards.

6. Committee on Preaching for Sunday reported as follows: Elders Gilbert Walker, B. E. Dotson, E. S. Stevens and A. R. Singleton.

7. Union meetings as follows:

Louisa Church and delegates: Meets Friday before the second Sunday in August, 1945. Elders T. M. Mounts, Teddy Ball, John Ball, John Fuller and W. N. Smith.

Sardis Church and delegates: Meets Friday before the first Sunday in August, 1945. No union meeting.

Pond Creek Church and delegates: Meets Friday before the second Sunday in July, 1945. Elders John Fuller, Paris Coleman, W. H. Thacker, Joe Thacker and Teddy Ball.

Big Creek Church and delegates: Meets Friday before the third Sunday in August, 1945. Elders A. J. Blackburn, Paris Coleman, W. H. Thacker, Teddy Ball and J. A. Justice.

Raccoon Church and delegates: Meets Friday before the fourth Sunday in July, 1945. Elders John Fuller, J. A. Justice, Teddy Ball, Paris Coleman and T. M. Mounts.

Sulphur Springs Church and delegates: Meets Friday before the first Sunday in August, 1945. Elders Teddy Ball, Joe Thacker, H. W. Prater and G. W. Smith.

Peter Creek Church and delegates: Meets Friday before the fourth Sunday in July, 1945. Elders Paris Coleman, John Fuller, Joe Thacker, Teddy Ball and W. H. Thacker.

Little Hope Church and delegates: Meets Friday before the first Sunday in July, 1945. Elders A. J. Blackburn, Joe Thacker and John Fuller.

Joppa Church and delegates: Not represented.

Grapevine Church and delegates: Meets Friday before the third Sunday in July, 1945. Has the Association.

Samaria Church and delegates: Meets Friday before the third Sunday in June, 1945. Elders A. P. Justice, W. H. Thacker, W. N. Smith, John Fuller, Paris Coleman, T. M. Mounts and Dan Adkins.

Little Union Church and delegates: Meets Friday before the fourth Sunday in July, 1945. Not represented.

Pilgrim's Rest Church and delegates: Meets Friday before the fourth Sunday in July, 1945. Not represented.

Antioch Church and delegates: Meets Friday before the third Sunday in July, 1945. No union meeting.

John's Creek Church and delegates: Meets Friday before the first Sunday in July, 1945. Elders John Fuller, Teddy Ball, J. A. Justice and Dan Adkins.

8. Secretary reports all work up. Cash left on hand, \$120.04.

9. Circular Letter called for and read, and ordered to be printed in these minutes. Brother C. J. Mickey was selected to prepare the letter for next year.

10. The clerk was authorized to superintend the printing of the minutes, 1,200 in number, and distribute them among the churches. He shall be allowed \$10.00 for his service as Secretary-Treasurer, and \$40.00 for the printing of the minutes. The balance left in the treasury, \$70.04.

11. Our next Association is appointed to meet with Grapevine Church, at Fish Trap, Pike County, Kentucky, commencing on Friday before the first Sunday in September, 1945. Elder G. W. Smith to preach the introductory, and Elder A. P. Justice to be his alternate. Paid to the churches by the clerk, as follows: Louisa Church, \$10.00; Samaria Church, \$10.00; Grapevine Church, \$10.00; Pond Creek Church, \$10.00; Sulphur Springs, \$30.00.

12. 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 forever to stay with Him.

Closed by prayer by Elder Charles Compton. 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 A. P. Justice, Assistant Moderator.

Elder T. M. Mounts, Clerk.

Elder M. C. Slone, Assistant Clerk.

SUNDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 3 1944

Singing and prayer by Elder T. M. Mounts, Mates Creek Association.

Elders on the stand: First, Elder Gilbert Walker, Indian Creek Association; text, St. John xi. 35, "Jesus wept." Second, Elder B. E. Dotson, Powell's Valley Association; text, "The angel appeared unto Joseph, and said: fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife:

for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost, and she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins." Third, Elder E. S. Stevens, Washington Association; text, John xix. 30. Fourth, Elder A. R. Singleton, Washington Association; text, St. John xi. 29.

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.

Elder T. M. Mounts, Clerk.

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF MINISTERS

Elder W. M. Stanley, Ransom, Ky.
Elder A. J. Blackburn, Ira, Va.
Elder W. H. Thacker, Fish Trap, Ky.
Elder W. E. Thacker, Millard, Ky.
Elder A. P. Justice, Millard, Ky.
Elder G. W. Smith, Coleman, Ky.
Elder J. W. Slone, Fish Trap, Ky.
Elder M. C. Slone, Fish Trap, Ky.
Elder Noah Smith, Coleman, Ky.
Elder T. M. Mounts, Majestic, Ky.
Elder Teddy Ball, Ransom, Ky.
Elder Paris Coleman, Coleman, Ky.
Elder W. N. Smith, Coleman, Ky.
Elder A. J. Ball, Surosa, W. Va.
Elder Anse Casey, Coleman, Ky.
Elder H. W. Prater, Ransom, Ky.
Elder Joe Thacker, Canada, Ky.
Elder M. H. Ball, McAndrews, Ky.
Elder John Fuller, Canada, Ky.
Elder Anderson Justice, Fish Trap, Ky.
Elder Lonnie Worrix, Goody, Ky.
Elder Charlie Holsinger, Mossy Bottom, Ky.
Elder Joe Slone, Jr., Fish Trap, Ky.
Elder Dan Adkins, McAndrews, Ky.

CONSTITUTION

Article I. This Association shall be called Mates 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 messengers, 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 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 expense 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 (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 an inviolate chain of 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 ministers 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.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

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, and foot-washing is 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.

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 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, 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.

XIII. That any member who shall willingly violate any of these rules shall be reproved by the Association as they think proper.

CIRCULAR LETTER

To the ministers and messengers who may compose the Mates Creek Association, when convened with Peter Creek Church, at Coleman, Pike County, Kentucky, September 1, 2 and 3, 1944:

Dear Brethren—Being selected at our last Association to write a letter in a form of a circular to be submitted for consideration at this present session. Dear brethren, if the Lord will give me a mind to say something in the way of comfort to you, I will call your attention to a portion of Scripture recorded in Isaiah lii. 3, "Ye have sold yourselves for nought; and ye shall be redeemed without money." Dear brethren, to my mind this was Israel redeemed from the curse of the law. The Prophet Isaiah saw by the Holy Spirit of God that Christ Jesus would come at the appointed time of God and redeem Israel from their sins. Dear brethren, it was not money that did redeem us, but by the precious blood of the Lamb (Hebrews ix. 12), having obtained eternal redemption for us. The children of God were purchased by the blood of Christ on the cross of Calvary. All Israel shall be saved with an everlasting salvation in the Lord. I believe that Christ died for all that will be in the glory world. No human help was needed to save or redeem the family of God. It was finished before we were in this world; "for by grace ye are saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God." Luke i. 68: "He hath visited and redeemed His people." Brethren, I believe Israel, Zion, Jerusalem and the Church have been redeemed—it is finished. My hope is that Christ shed His blood for this poor sinner. It is the redeemed that trust in the name of the Lord. It is the redeemed that are born again. It is the redeemed that are chosen to show forth His praises in this world. It is the redeemed that God sends the Spirit in their hearts. It is the redeemed that compose the visible kingdom on this earth. It is the redeemed that sing praises to God. It is the redeemed that shout and sing, it is finished. It is the redeemed that will be in the glory world, without the loss of one.

Dear brethren, I believe that there will be a resurrection of the bodies of the just and the unjust, and that the happiness of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked shall be eternal. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life." If you preach no resurrection, you preach no Christ. Now, may the Lord lead you in the good old way, salvation by grace; that God may guide and direct us in all our trials in this poor world for our good. This is my prayer for Christ's sake. In hope of eternal life. Amen.

Anderson Farley.

Box 35, Hardy, Ky.

OBITUARIES

TOLITHA CHAPMAN

Tolitha Chapman, of Belfry, Ky., better known as Aunt Tol, the daughter of Johnnie and Lydie Blackburn, was born May 27, 1856, in Pike County, Kentucky. She was married to Marion Chapman in the year of 1875. To this union 12 children were born, five boys and seven girls. Her husband, four boys and three girls preceded her in death. She was a member of the old regular Primitive Baptist Church of Jesus Christ called Little Hope. She joined the church 66 years ago; and the church has lost a good member, one who will be missed by all who knew her. We feel our loss is her eternal gain. Her funeral was preached by Elder Teddy Ball. She was laid to rest in the family cemetery to await the second coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Little Hope Church.

ALLEN MAY

Brother Allen was born July 17, 1869, and departed this life December 4, 1942, making his stay here on earth 73 years, 4 months and 18 days. He was married to Katie Blackburn 54 years ago. Eleven children were born to this union, seven of which preceded him in death. He professed a hope in Christ in August, 1938, and was baptized by Elder Teddy Ball, and lived a faithful member of the Little Hope Church until his departure. He leaves four children, 56 grandchildren, one brother, his faithful companion, and a host of friends, who sadly miss his sweet fellowship, but left a sweet hope of eternal happiness. Written by Elder M. H. Ball.

MARGARET DOTSON

Margaret Dotson, daughter of Elder Cardil Hatfield and Pricey Ball Hatfield, was born February 21, 1885. She departed this life November 3, 1943, making her stay on earth 58 years, 8 months and 28 days. She was married to George Dotson, September 25, 1902, and to this union were born six children. Two children have preceded her in death, and her husband. Three girls and one boy are left to mourn their loss. She and her husband joined the Primitive Baptist Church, and were baptized by Elder G. H. Coleman, about 25 years ago. She lived a faithful Christian until her death. She was always faithful to fill her seat in the church when she was able. The church has lost as good a member as they have, and the members at Samaria Church will greatly miss her friendly handshake and the sweet smile on her face. She was a great friend to all her neighbors, and they all loved her. I have heard her say many times she would like to live a Christian here, and that she wanted to die shouting. The good Lord granted her prayer on November 3, 1943. She left this world shouting and praising the Lord. "This one who bore the tender charm, the one whose voice was sweet." Written by Teddy Ball, her cousin.

LILE JUSTICE

The death angel visited the room of Lile on November 1, 1943, and conveyed her spirit home to God on high. Lile was born in 1860. She was married to Gree-Justice. To this union were born eight children. Her husband, two girls and one boy preceded her in death. Four boys and one girl are left to mourn the loss of a dear mother. Lile was united with the Primitive Baptist Church May 30, 1937, and she was a faithful member until death. The church has lost a good sister and the children a good mother; but we do not doubt but what our loss is her eternal gain.

Elder Lonnie Worrix.