

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

Held with Grapevine Church, Fish Trap, Pike County,
Kentucky, Friday, Saturday and Sunday,
August 31, September 1, 2, 1945

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

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PROCEEDING OF THE Mates Creek Association

FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 1945

The Mates Creek Association of Old Regular Primitive Baptists met in its ninety-third session with Grapevine Church, Fish Trap, Pike County, Ky., on Friday before the first Sunday in September, 1945.

Association called to order by the moderator, Elder W. H. Thacker. Singing and prayer by Elder A. P. Justice. The introductory was preached by Elder G. W. Smith. His subject was St. John X:11.

Ministers left on stand Friday were Elders Sam Newsom, Union Association, M. C. Miller, Washington Association, A.A. Mircall, Powell Valley Association.

Messengers assembled in Grapevine Church and were called to order by Moderator W. H. Thacker.

Prayer by Elder Hadley Edwards, Washington Association.

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

Louisa Church and delegates: Elders W. H. Thacker, G. A. Collins, Bradley Worrix, T. I. Blackburn.

Sardis Church and delegates: Not represented.

Pond Creek Church and delegates; W. J. Hatfield, C.J. Mickey, Anderson Farley, George Hunt.

Big Creek Church and delegates: John Fuller, Benton West, Phillip Smith, Paris Blackburn.

Raccoon Church and delegates: Milton Coleman, Joel Thacker, Link Justice.

Sulphur Spring Church and delegates; S. K. Smith, Joe Conn, A. J. Blackburn.

Peter Creek Church and delegates: G. W. Smith, Ance Casey, George Blair, R. N. Dotson, Roland Dotson, Phillip Dotson, Bud Dotson.

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

Joppa Church and delegates: Amy Roberts.

Grapevine Church and delegates: Hillard Justice, J. T. Justice, Orvil Justice, Stewart Justice.

Samaria Church and delegates: Teddy Ball, Kit Ratliff, Bob Dotson, Steril Hatfield, C. C. Dotson, Willie Hatfield, Bud Hager, Jim Varney.

Little Union Church and delegates: J. H. Fuller, George W. Blair.

Pilgrim's Rest Church and delegates: Not represented.

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

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

ORGANIZATION

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

1. Newly constituted churches called for. None.
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: Elbers Hadley Edwards, G.B. Sutherland, Raleigh Compton, M. C. Miller.

Indian Creek Association--Delegates: Elders Robert R. Booth, P. P. Kiblinger. Visitor: A. M. Wyoit.

Union Association-Delegates: Elders Sam Newsom Charley Compton.

Powell Valley Association--Visitors: Elders B.E. Dotson, A. A. Mircall.

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: G.W. Smith, Paris Coleman, W. N. Smith.

Indian Creek Association: C.J. Mickey, W. H. Thacker, G. W. Smith, C. C. Dotson, A. P. Justice, Teddy Ball, M. C. Slone.

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

Powell Valley Association: A.P. Justice, Teddy Ball, Bob

Dotson.

Rock Spring Associaton: T. M. Mounts, Joe Thacker.
[Friday before the fourth Sunday in August, 1946].

7. Committee on arrangements was appointed as follows: W. J. Hatfield, Teddy Ball, Anderson Farley.

8. Committee on finance was appointed as follows: Roland Dotson, Johnnie Blackburn, Paris Coleman.

Preaching at the church house Friday, August 31, 1945, by Elders Raleigh Compton, P. P. Kiblinger, B. E. Dotson.

Association adjourned until 9 o'clock Saturday morning.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1945

The Association was called to order by Moderator W. H. Thacker. Prayer by Elder R. R. Booth.

1. Roll called and the absentees marked.

2. Committee on arrangements reported and discharged.

3. Finance committee reported \$97.94.

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 G. B. Sutherland, A. A. Mircall, Raleigh Compton, B. E. Dotson.

6. Committee on preaching for Sunday reported as follows: Introduction by Hadley Edwards, 1. P. P. Kiblinger, 2. A. A. Mircall, 3. Charley Compton, 4. A. R. Singleton.

7. Union meetings as follows:

Louisa Church and delegates: Meets Friday before second Sunday in August, 1946. John Fuller, John Blackburn, Teddy Ball, N. B. Smith, Joe Thacker.

Sardis Church and delegates: Meets Friday before first Sunday in August, 1946. No union meeting.

Pond Creek Church and delegates: Meets Friday before second Sunday in August, 1946. A. J. Blackburn, W. H. Thacker, Joe Thacker, Teddy Ball.

Big Creek Church and delegates: Meets Friday before third Sunday in August, 1946. Noah Smith, Paris Coleman, A. P. Justice, W. H. Thacker.

Raccoon Church and delegates: Meets Friday before fourth Sunday in July, 1946. T. M. Mounts, M. C. Slone, G. W. Smith, W. H. Thacker.

Sulphur Spring Church and delegates: Meets Friday before first Sunday in August, 1946. A. P. Justice, Dan Adkins, Teddy Ball, Kit Ratliff.

Peter Creek Church and delegates: Meets Friday before fourth Sunday in July, 1946. Paris Coleman, A. P. Justice, Teddy Ball, Joe Thacker, Johnnie Blackburn, John Fuller.

Little Hope Church and delegates: Meets Friday before first Sunday in July, 1946. A. J. Blackburn, Johnnie Blackburn, W. H. Thacker, Joe Thacker.

Joppa Church and delegates: W. H. Thacker, Joe Thacker, John Blackburn, Teddy Ball.

Grapevine Church and delegates: Meets Friday before third Sunday in July, 1946. Joe Thacker, A. P. Justice, G. W. Smith.

Samaria Church and delegates: Meets Friday before third Sunday in June, 1946. N. R. Smith, Paris Coleman, A. J. Blackburn, Johnnie Blackburn, A. P. Justice, Dan Adkins.

Little Union Church and delegates: Meets Friday before fourth Sunday in July, 1946. A. J. Blackburn, John Blackburn, W. H. Thacker, Joe Thacker.

Pilgrim's Rest Church and delegates: Meets Friday before fourth Sunday in July, 1946. No union meeting.

Antioch Church and delegates: Meets Friday before third Sunday in July, 1946. No union meeting.

John's Creek Church and delegates: Meets Friday before first Sunday in July, 1946. Joe Thacker, John Fuller, Benton West, Paris Coleman, John Blackburn.

8. Secretary reports all work up. Cash left on hand \$97.94.

9. Circular letters called for, read and ordered to be printed in these minutes. Elder Dan Adkins was selected to prepare the letter for next year.

10. The clerk was authorized to superintend the printing of the minutes, 1400 in number, and distribute them among the churches. He shall be allowed \$10.00 for the services as secretary-treasurer, and \$50.00 for the printing of the minutes. The balance left in treasury, \$37.94, given to Grapevine Church.

11. Our next association is appointed to meet with Samaria Church at Ranson, Pike County, Kentucky, commencing on Friday before the first Sunday in Sept., 1946. In coming to our Association at this church on Blackberry Creek by the way of Williamson, W. Va., come up Pond Creek to Hardy, Ky. In coming through Pikeville, Ky., come to Hardy, Ky., and across the hill to Ranson.

Elder A. P. Justice to preach the introductory and Elder Johnnie Blackburn to be his alternate.

Preaching in afternoon at David Bevins by Elders A. A. Mircall G. B. Sutherland, Teddy Ball; at the church house, Elders N. R. Edwards, Raleigh Compton, M. C. Miller.

The Washington Association meets with Slate Creek Church on Slate Creek, Grundy, Virginia, Friday before the second Sunday in September, 1946.

The Indian Creek Association meets with Camp Creek Church at Flat Top, W. Va., Friday before the fourth Sunday in Aug., 1946.

12. This Association tenders its heartfelt thanks to the brethren 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 Sam Newsom, Union Association; 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 2, 1945

Singing and prayer by Elder Hadley Edwards.

Elders on stand: 1. P. P. Kiblinger, Indian Creek Association; no text. 2. A. A. Mircall, Powell Valley Association; text: Hebrew VI: 17. 3. Charley Compton, Union Association; no text. 4. A. R. Singleton, Washington Association; no text.

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, Ky.

Elder Ance 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 reprov'd by the association as they think proper.

CIRCULAR LETTER

To the ministers and messengers that compose the 93 annual sessions of the Mates Creek Old Regular Primitive Baptist Association when convened with the church at Grapevine, Pike County, Ky., August 31, September 1 and 2.

Dear Brethren,

I was chosen at our last association to write a letter in the form of a circular. First, I think that Brother Farley made a mistake in choosing a poor sinner as I feel to be to write something of comfort to God's dear children. Brethren, I feel like it is love that has brought us together this morning and would love if it could be God's will that we work together for love and peace through this association. I hope the Lord will guide my poor mind to write something that will be interesting to you brethren. I will call your attention to Jeremiah 31 : 3 : "Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love, therefore with my loving kindness have I drawn thee." Now, brethren, I believe that drawing took place with God's people when they were dead in sins and trespasses. It then drew them out of darkness and set them in the light and glorious liberty. Now I mean the children of Israel, the beloved of God. Brethren, I call your attention to a scripture in Leviticus 25 : 55 : "For unto me the children of Israel are servants; they are my servants whom I brought forth out of Egypt: I am the Lord, your God." Now here is the Lord I trust I have been serving for the last eleven years. "Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the Lord; if ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments and do them then I will give you rain in due season and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit."

Dear brethren, all of this failure is on our part. The Lord has promised to never forsake His people. Brethren, God even went in the fiery furnace and preserved those poor children and brought them out and set them free. Our God is a powerful God of love, one that has loved us with an everlasting love and by His loving kindness He has drawn us.

May God bless every one present at this association.

Your brother-in-love if one at all,
C. J. Mickey

OBITUARIES

PEARL WHEELER

Pearl wheeler, son of Frank and Mary Blackburn Wheeler, was born Aug. 30, 1921. In his early age he was married to Miss Crawford. They had no children. He departed this life May 3, 1945, and leaves to mourn his loss his father, mother, wife, one brother, one sister and a host of friends. We are satisfied that our loss is his eternal gain. He was a strong believer in the doctrine, salvation by grace.

Written by Elder Teddy Ball.

HOWARD AND AMY HATFIELD

Sister Amy Hatfield, wife of Howard Hatfield, departed this life May 30, 1945. She was a member of the Primitive Baptist Church for about fourteen years and lived a faithful member until her death. Her husband departed this life August 14, 1945, making two months and nineteen days between their deaths. Mr. Hatfield was a good citizen, a good husband and a faithful father. They were loved by all who knew them. They leave to mourn for them two sons and three daughters, Philip and Fred Hatfield, Mrs. Frank Smith, Mrs. Vergie Smith and Mrs. Roby Hatfield all of Ransom, Ky. The Samaria Church of Primitive Baptists has lost a good member. Her seat can never be filled. May the good Lord bless all of their children to trust in Him that they may see daddy and mother some sweet and happy day.

Written by Elder Teddy Ball.

MAGGIE B. THACKER

The mighty angel of death came into our midst on September 7, 1942, and took away our beloved sister, Maggie B. Thacker, the daughter of Daniel and Surilda Blackburn. She was born April 17, 1881, and was married to Elder W. H. Thacker December 25, 1902. To this union was born nine children, four sons and five daughters. One son and one daughter preceded her in death. She leaves to mourn for her, her husband, eight children, three brothers, one sister, other relatives and a host of friends. She was a member of the Louisa Primitive Baptist Church, having joined the church October 1, 1910. She was baptized by Elder Isaac Justice about thirty-three years ago. As a faithful member the church will miss her presence and her vacant seat will never be filled. Her husband and children have lost a good and faithful wife and mother, one who was always ready to come to their aid in time of need. She was laid to rest in the family cemetery to await the final call to come forth to be fashioned like unto the One she dearly loved and tried each day of her life to serve. We have a hope to believe that our loss is her eternal gain. Her funeral was preached by Elders A. R. Singleton, Teddy Ball and Joe Thacker.

CHURCHES	ADDRESS OF CLERKS	Rec. by Exp. and Bap.	Rec. 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, Kentucky	2	0	0	0	0	1	4	125	66	2	\$3.33
Pond Creek	C. J. Mickey, Belfry, Kentucky	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	125	56	2	12.00
Sardis	Ira Simkins, O'keefe, West Virginia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	00	19	1	---
Big Creek	Benton West, Canada, Kentucky	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	125	34	3	12.00
Racon	Milton Coleman, Raccoon, Kentucky	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	125	21	4	5.24
Sulphur Spring	J. B. May, Ira, Virginia	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	20	1	4.00
Peter Creek	Roland Dotson, Stone, Kentucky	3	0	0	0	1	0	4	125	65	4	13.65
Little Hope	M. H. Ball, McAndrews, Kentucky	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	125	30	1	6.00
Joppa	Tennie McCoy, Nolan, West Virginia	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	25	8	1	4.60
Grapevine	Stewart Justice, Fish Trap, Kentucky	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	75	24	3	6.45
Samaria	Bob Dotson, Hardy, Kentucky	9	0	0	0	0	1	3	150	76	3	12.00
Little Union	J. H. Fuller, Feds Creek, Kentucky	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	50	7	4	4.00
Pilgrim's Rest	F. M. Adkins, Dana, Kentucky	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	00	15	4	---
Antioch	L. C. Chapman, Box 5, Majestic, Kentucky	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	30	17	3	2.00
John's Creek	Jackson Coleman, Simmers, Kentucky	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	100	18	1	6.00
	Totals	33	0	0	0	1	5	17	1225	472	-	97.94