

**Minutes**  
OF THE  
**One Hundred Third**  
**Annual Session**  
OF THE  
**Mates Creek District**  
**Primitive Baptist Association**  
HELD WITH  
**The Louisa Church**  
MILLARD, PIKE COUNTY, KENTUCKY  
SEPTEMBER 2, 3, 4,  
**1955**

Next session to be held with the Calvary Church at Varney's Branch, Pike County, Kentucky, to begin Friday before the first Sunday in September, 1956, at 10 a. m., and Elder Fonso Justice is to preach the Introductory Sermon, Elder Joe Thacker is to be his alternate



— Officers —

ELDER W. H. THACKER .....	Moderator
ELDER A. P. JUSTICE .....	Assistant Moderator
BROTHER STEARL HATFIELD .....	Clerk
BROTHER J. E. HATFIELD .....	Assistant Clerk

THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST PUBLISHING HOUSE  
Elon College, North Carolina



# *Proceedings*

OF THE MATES CREEK PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION  
HELD WITH THE LOUISA CHURCH, SEPTEMBER 2, 3, 4, 1955.  
FRIDAY MORNING, September 2, 1955.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator. Prayer by Elder Fonso Justice. The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder A. P. Justice, text Heb. 2:6, "What is man that thou art mindful of him," etc.

Ministers left on the stand for Friday:

1. Elder Dewey Mullens of the Union Association.
2. Elder M. M. Edwards of the Washington Association.
3. Elder Levi Saylor of the Powell Valley Association.
4. Elder J. H. Blackburn of the Mates Creek Association.
5. Elder Eli Estep of the Mates Creek Association.

Messengers assembled in the Louisa Church and were called to order by the Moderator.

Prayer by Elder Teddy R. Ball.

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

Louisa Church: Elders W. H. Thacker, A. P. Justice, and W. E. Thacker, Brethren Flem Justice, A. L. Justice, Johnnie Leedy, and Bradley Warrix.

Pond Creek Church: Elders Frank Wheeler, and Teddy R. Ball, Brethren F. C. Runyon, W. J. Hatfield, Willard Blackburn, Anderson Farley, Grant Blackburn, and Bob Dotson.

Big Creek Church: Elders Joe Thacker and John Fuller, Brethren Daniel May, Daniel Roberts, Joe Stanley, John Smith, M. B. Blackburn.

Raccoon Church: Elders M. C. Stanley, Fonso Justice and Monrow Justice, Brethren Joe Morris, Milton Coleman, Dave Newsome, and John Newsome.

Sulphur Springs Church: Elders A. J. Blackburn and J. H. Blackburn, Brethren Ira Simpkins, and S. R. Smith.

Peter Creek Church: Elder Anderson Casey, Brethren Raymond Wagner, Buddy Dotson, Philip Dotson, Leo Coleman, and Roland Dotson.

Little Hope Church: Brethren Dewey Dotson, Ballard Ball, Bobby Blackburn, Will Runyon, and Lee Stiltner.

Joppa Church: Elder Dan Adkins, Brethren Adron Varney, Estill Varney, Bill McCoy and Floyd Stepp.

Grapevine Church: Elder V. V. Justice, Brethren Arvil Justice, Hillard Justice, and Steward Justice.

Samaria Church: Elder Teddy R. Ball, Brethren C. C. Dotson, Willie Hatfield, Stearl Hatfield, Jim Varney, Elias Hatfield, Jessie Hager, John Coleman, and J. E. Hatfield.

Johns Creek Church: Brethren Noah Smith, Jr., Harvey Coleman, Johnnie Stiltner, William I. Smith, and Taylor Coleman.

Calvary Church: Elders Wallace Chapman, Glenn Vipperman, and Brethren Rosco Varney, Sid Varney, Roosevelt Coleman, and Robert Vipperman.



## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Association then elected Elder W. H. Thacker, Moderator, Elder A. P. Justice, assistant Moderator, Brother Stearl Hatfield, Clerk, Secretary and Treasurer. Brother J. E. Hatfield, assistant Clerk.

## PROCEEDINGS OF BUSINESS

1. Newly constituted churches called for. None reported.
2. Abstract of principles, Rules of Decorum, and Constitution read, and to be printed in the Minutes.
3. Messengers appointed last year to visit sister associations reported and those unable to fill their appointment were excused.
4. Correspondence from sister Associations received and seated as follows:

Washington Association: Elder E. S. Steven, Harmon Kiser, and R. L. Bostic.

Indian Creek Association: Elder Lowell Lilly.

Union Association: Elders Sam Newsom, Dewey Mullins Joseph Church, Bert T. Hall, Andy Wright, J. M. Profitt, Brethren Booten Hamilton, and Pat Church.

Senter Association: Elder Edd Davis, Brother C. T. Severt.

Fishers River Association: Elders Mat Edwards and Bruce Thomas. Visiting brethren received and seated as follows:

Washington: Brother Emory Blankenship.

Indian Creek: Brethren Frank Layne and wife, Ira Mann and wife, Henry Mann and wife, Harry Morgan and wife, and Sister Virgee Lilly.

Union: Sister Maudie Hall.

Fishers River: Brethren O. W. Sisk and wife, W. R. Goins and wife, J. I. Lawson and Sister Odessa Edwards.

Visiting Elders from the Mates Creek Association: Elders Joe Slone, and Green Coleman.

Visiting Elders seated as follows: Elder Fletcher Beasley of the Big Creek Church in Stokes County, N. C., Elder M. M. Edwards, Washington Association; Elder Leland Street, Washington Association; Elder Henry H. Viers, Washington Association, and Raleigh Compton, of the Washington Association.

5. The Moderator is to make all temporary arrangements.
6. A messenger from each church together with all messengers from the Louisa Church was appointed to arrange for the preaching at the stand. They reported for Saturday:

1. Elder Sam Newsom of the Union Association.

2. Elder J. P. Holbrook, of the Union Association.

3. Elder Fletcher Beasley, of the Big Creek Church.

4. Elder M. M. Edwards, of the Washington Association.

5. Elder E. S. Stevens, of the Washington Association.

7. Messengers who agreed to visit sister Associations are as follows:

Washington: Elder Frank Wheeler, Fonso Justice, Paris Coleman, and M. C. Slone, Brother M. B. Blackburn.

Indian Creek: Elders Frank Wheeler, Teddy R. Ball, and Dan Adkins.

Senter: Elders Joe Slone, Jr., V. V. Justice, Teddy R. Ball, and Brother John Stiltner.



Union: Elders M. C. Slone, W. H. Thacker, Joe Thacker, Guy Campbell, Brother M. B. Blackburn.

Fishers River: Elders Teddy R. Ball, Frank Wheeler, Fonso Justice.

8. Moved and seconded the Association send Minutes to the following Associations: Mountain, Indian Creek, Washington, Senter, Union, Powell Valley, Roaring River, Abbotts Creek, Fishers River, and St. Clair's Bottom.

9. Committee on Arrangements was appointed as follows. Brethren W. J. Hatfield, Roland Dotson, and Dan Adkins.

10. Committee of Finance was appointed as follows: Brethren Abner L. Justice, Joe Morris, and F. C. Runyon.

Moved and seconded that the Association be adjourned until 9 a. m. Saturday morning.

#### SATURDAY MORNING, September 3, 1955.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment and was called to order by the Moderator. Prayer by Elder E. S. Stevens of the Washington Association.

1. Roll called and absentees marked.

2. Committee on Arrangement reported the following and were discharged: That the Association carry on its work for Saturday in the usual manner. Moved and seconded that the Association receive the work of the Committee. Moved and seconded that the Moderator appoint a Committee of three to appoint two messengers to visit each of our corresponding Associations.

3. Finance Committee reported \$129.55, and was discharged.

4. Committee of preaching for Sunday reported as follows:

1—Elder Levi Saylor; 2—Elder Mat Edwards; 3—Elder Lowell Lilly; 4—Elder Edd Davis.

5. Union Meetings and their appointees as follows:

Louisa Church: Meets Friday before the second Saturday in August, 1956. Elders Teddy R. Ball, Joe Thacker, and Frank Wheeler to attend.

Pond Creek Church: Meets Friday before the second Saturday in June, 1956. Elders Teddy R. Ball, W. H. Thacker, A. P. Justice and John Blackburn to attend.

Big Creek Church: Meets Friday before the third Saturday in August 1956. Elders W. H. Thacker, Dan Adkins, Fonso Justice, Monroe Justice, Paris Coleman, and J. H. Blackburn to attend.

Raccoon Church: Meets Friday before the fourth Saturday in July, 1956. Elders Joe Thacker, Joe Slone, Jr., Dan Adkins, M. C. Slone, W. H. Thacker, and Frank Wheeler to attend.

Sulphur Springs Church: Meets the first Saturday in August, 1956. Elders Paris Coleman, Fonso Justice, John Fuller, Homer Little and Teddy R. Ball to attend.

Peter Creek Church: Meets Friday before the fourth Saturday in June, 1956. Elders John Fuller, Frank Wheeler, Dan Adkins, Paris Coleman, Teddy R. Ball, and J. H. Blackburn to attend.

Little Hope Church: Meets Friday before the first Saturday in July, 1956. Elders Frank Wheeler, W. H. Thacker, Joe Thacker, V. V. Justice, Paris Coleman A. P. Justice, and John Fuller to attend.



Joppa Church: Meets the First Saturday in June, 1956. Elders John Fuller, Frank Wheeler, Wallace Chapman, Fonso Justice, W. H. Thacker, and Paris Coleman to attend.

Grapevine Church: Meets Friday before the third Saturday in July, 1956. Elders Dan Adkins, Frank Wheeler, A. P. Justice, Guy Campbell, and Paris Coleman to attend.

Samaria Church: Meets Friday before the third Saturday in July, 1956. Elders W. H. Thacker, A. P. Justice, A. J. Blackburn, Frank Wheeler, Teddy R. Ball, and Dan Adkins to attend.

Johns Creek Church: Meets Friday before the second Saturday in July, 1956. Elders Teddy R. Ball, Dan Adkins, Kit Ratliff, Joe Thacker, W. H. Thacker, J. H. Blackburn, and Joe Slone, Jr., to attend.

Calvary Church: Meets Friday before the first Saturday in June, 1956. Elders Kit Ratliff, Joe Slone, Jr., Teddy R. Ball, A. P. Justice, Paris Coleman, Wallace Chapman, Fonso Justice, Anderson Casey to attend.

6. Secretary reports all work up and cash left on hand \$129.55.

7. Circular Letter called for, read, received and to be printed in the Minutes, and that Teddy R. Ball to prepare the next.

8. Agreed that we have 1600 copies of our Minutes printed, and annex our Constitution, Articles of Faith, Rules of Decorum, and Obituaries of Brethren Adron May, Tom Jude, Jeff Davis, Bud Hager, Joe W. Slone, Joel Thacker, Asia Varney, Floyd Blackburn, Paris Blackburn, and Hibbard Thacker; Sisters Eliza Farley, Polly A. Justice, and Sister Margie Coleman Hackney.

9. Agreed that the brother Clerk superintend the printing and distribution of the Minutes, and to pay for same from funds in his hand, and the balance of the funds to be left in his hands until the next Association.

10. The finance was disposed of as follows:

Balance left on hand from last year .....	\$240.01	
Amount received from the churches .....	129.55	\$369.56
Paid for Minutes (1954) .....	\$115.00	
Allowed the Moderator .....	15.00	
Allowed the Clerk .....	10.00	
Total cash paid out .....	140.00	
Balance cash left on hand .....	229.56	\$369.56

11. Agreed that our next Association be held with the Calvary Church at Varney Branch, Pike County, Kentucky, and to begin Friday before the first Sunday in September, 1956, and that Elder Fonso Justice is to preach the Introductory Sermon and that Elder Joe Thacker be his alternate.

Leave the Pikeville-Williamson highway at Johns Town, (mouth of Bent Branch) and take State Route No. 632 up Johns Creek to the Association.

The Washington Association will be held with the Mt. Zion Church at Drill, Virginia. Go up Garden Creek and across the hill, and will begin Friday before the second Sunday in September, 1956.

The Indian Creek Association will be held with the Mt. Zion Church at Ronceverte, W. Va., and will begin Friday before the last Sunday in August, 1956. To go from Mates Creek Association, you will go to Princeton, W. Va., turn right at Princeton and go to Rich Creek, turn left there and the Association will be held 1 and one half miles this side of Ronceverte on right side of highway.



Minutes read and approved. Closed by prayer by Elder Mat Edwards, then adjourned until the time of our next Association.

W. H. THACKER, Moderator,  
A. P. JUSTICE, Assistant Moderator,  
STEARL HATFIELD, Clerk,  
J. E. HATFIELD, Assistant Clerk.

## EVENING MEETINGS

### Friday Evening:

At Louisa Church: Elders M. M. Edwards, Fletcher Beasley, Lowell Lilly, and Edd Davis.

At Coon Creek Church House: Elders Dan Adkins, Frank Wheeler, Johnnie Blackburn, and Mat Edwards.

At Marshal Justice Home: Elders J. P. Holbrook, M. M. Edwards, and R. L. Bostic.

At Brother Lonnie Warrix Home: Elders E. S. Stevens, John Fuller, Paris Coleman, and Dewey Mullins.

At Brother Will Epp Thacker's Home: Elders Lowell Lilly, Edd Davis, and Fletcher Beasley.

### Saturday Evening:

At Grapevine Church House: Elders A. J. Blackburn, Raleigh Compton, and J. H. Blackburn.

Brother Noah Smith's Home: Elders E. S. Stevens, Fonso Justice, Ostill Smith, and Wallace Chapman.

Brother Abner Justice Home: Elders Frank Wheeler, Lowell Lilly.

Louisa Church House: Elders Bert T. Hall, L. S. Street, Henry Vires, and Fletcher Beasley.

Coon Creek Church House: Elders M. M. Edwards, and Edd Davis.

Brother Teddy R. Ball Home: Elders Mat Edwards, J. H. Blackburn, Levi Saylor, and Fletcher Beasley.

Brother Green Coleman's Home: Elders J. P. Holbrook, Dewey Mullins, and Sammy Newsom.

Sister Tennessee Hunt's Home: Elders Paris Coleman, Harmon Kiser, and Joe Slone, Jr.

## SUNDAY MORNING, September 4, 1955.

Singing and prayer by Elder Raleigh Cumpton of the Washington Association.

1. Elder Levi Saylor of the Powell Valley Association, no special text.  
2. Elder Mat Edwards of the Fishers River Association, text, John 4:29, Come see a Man which told me all things that ever I did, Is not this the Christ?

3. Elder Lowell Lilly of the Indian Creek Association, text Eph. 2:1, And you hath He quickened who were dead in trespasses and sins.

4. Elder Edd Davis of the Senter Association, text, Isa. 28:17, Judgment also will I lay to the line, etc.

To conclude our beloved Moderator came forward and thanked the people of the community for so wonderfully taking care of the Association and God for His tender mercy. This ended another wonderful Association for old Mates Creek.

Everything was done in peace and love, and God's love was manifested. Surely we are standing on the Rock.

—The Clerk



## CIRCULAR LETTER

Dearly beloved brethren in the Lord: As I was appointed by our Association last year to write to you in the form of a Circular Letter, I will try in my weakness to write to you, hoping that the Lord will lead my mind.

My mind has been resting for some time on a portion of scripture, saying, What is man that thou art mindful of him? Dear brethren, to look at man from one standpoint, he is nothing but a poor dying dust worm of the earth. He can't live or move without the Lord; he cannot have a good thought, neither can he die without the Lord. So man in that standing is nothing.

Dear brethren, let us look at man in this way for a few minutes, if the Lord will. Man is the work of the hands of God, and oh, how God loved him! Then what is man? God made him in His own image, in the image of God created He them, male and female. So this man is precious to his Maker, and God gave the man dominion over all His creation. Oh how He loved the man, and dear brethren, I believe that it was the man that God formed of the dust of the ground and that it was the man that violated the law of God and brought sin into the world, and death by sin. Dear brethren, did the Lord hate this man? After he violated His law? I would love to say, No, His love for him was everlasting.

God did not love this man's wrong, neither does He love the wrongs of no man, but He loved him when he was dead in trespasses and in sin.

Now man sold himself for naught and had nothing to pay with, neither could this world and all the powers thereof bring anything or do anything that would pay the redemption price for man, it took a holy sacrifice, and it could not be found among sinful beings on earth, but

God's love for man was so great that He gave His only begotten Son to come into the world and to be crucified, and to shed His precious blood to redeem fallen man, and dear brethren, it was man, His people, wherever they may be that He did redeem. He redeemed them out of every kindred, tongue and nation. God redeemed to Himself a people.

The scripture says, Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God. So dear brethren in the Lord, it was the love that God had for man, His people, that He sent His Son to save them. Oh how He loves poor, weak man! And when we speak of man, we mean God's people, men, women and children.

We can see that God's love was unspeakable. So dear brethren, did God send His Son into this world to save man, which is the object of His love, created in the image of God, and just bless them to live here in this troublesome world for a while and then die and rise no more? No, dear brethren, God will come and collect His people home some sweet day. The scripture says, It is appointed to man once to die. So dear brethren, it was man that died, the very thing that God sent His Son to save. Job asked the question, If a man die, shall he (the man) live again? Job answered and said, All my appointed time will I wait till my change comes. He will call and I will answer. So to my mind Job was looking for the time when he, the man that dies should live again. The scripture says, Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord. So what is it that dies? Is it not the man, His people? The Lord said He taketh man's breath and he dies, so it must be the man that dies, and just as sure as it is the man that dies, then it is the man that shall live



again. We understand that the scriptures teach that the dead in Christ shall rise first. So then if it is the man that dies, he (the man) has the promise from One who cannot lie that he will live again.

The scriptures say that the spirit goes back to God who gave it, so it is not dead. Then it is the man that dies, and dear brethren in the Lord, I am looking for the One that came into this world and did save all that the Father gave Him, and said none was able to pluck them out of His Father's hand. He will get all of His people, without the loss of one, and will take them home to live with Him forever, where, as the scripture says, they can die no more.

These are wonderful thoughts, that God loved His people so well that He will never forsake them.

So dear brethren, in my closing at this time I want to say, I have a precious hope that my loved ones together with all saints of God that suffer and mourn and weep here in this world, and sink back in death, that it is the mortal man that dies, that shall be changed from mortal to immortal and shall be caught up to meet our King and Captain in the mid way of the air to ever be with Him. What a happy meeting that will be!

May the Lord bless you all is my prayer. Your unworthy brother I hope, in the Lord.

—ELDER J. H. BLACKBURN

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### NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF MINISTERS

A. J. Blackburn, Ira, Va.	Kit Ratliff, Ransom, Ky.
W. H. Thacker, McAndrews, Ky.	Dan Adkins, McAndrews, Ky.
M. C. Slone, Fishtrap, Kentucky	Wallace Chapman, Belfry, Ky.
A. P. Justice, Millard, Ky.	Frank Wheeler, Stone, Ky.
W. E. Thacker, Millard, Ky.	George Hunt, Hardy, Ky.
Teddy R. Ball, Phelps, Ky.	Fonso Justice, McVeigh, Ky.
Noah Smith, Coleman, Ky.	W. M. Dotson, Stone, Ky.
Joe Thacker, Canada, Ky.	Hommer Little, McCarr, Ky.
John Fuller, Canada, Ky.	James Earl McIntosh, Hardy Ky.
Charley Holsinger, Pikeville, Ky.	Benton West, Canada, Ky.
W. H. Praiter, Williamson, W. Va.	Glen Vipperman, Meta, Ky.
Lonnie Warrix, Fishtrap, Ky.	Green Coleman, Millard, Ky.
Anderson Casey, Coleman, Ky.	Monroe Justice, Canada, Ky.
Paris Coleman, Coleman, Ky.	Ostil Smith, Canada, Ky.
W. N. Smith, Coleman, Ky.	Plenna B. Justice, Millard, Ky.
J. H. Blackburn, Ira, Va.	V. V. Justice, Fishtrap, Ky.
Joe Slone, Jr., Fishtrap, Ky.	

### LICENTIATES

J. C. Cantrell, Huddy, Ky.	Guy Campbell, R.2, Pikeville, Ky.
Williard Dotson, Redjacket, W. Va.	Opie Thacker, Canada, Ky.
Clark Owens, Pinsonfork, Ky.	Eli Estepp, Phelps, Ky.



## — OBITUARIES —

### HIBBARD THACKER

It is with a sad and aching heart I try to write the obituary of my loving father-in-law, Hibbard Thacker. He was born March 30, 1879, and departed this life December 30, 1954, making his stay on earth 79 years and 9 months. He was married to Nancy Jane Justice in 1901. To this union was born 11 children, six girls and five boys. His wife and four children have preceded him in death. He is survived by two boys, Martin and Miles Thacker, and five girls, Martha, and Mary Thacker, Sarah Blackburn, Ollie Ratliff, Nellie Bilter. Dad never did make any confession to the church, but filled his seat as faithfully as any member of the Louisa Church. He had a sweet hope of heaven and immortal glory. He told us a night or two before he died that he had a better home awaiting for him.

We have lost a good father and a good citizen of our community, but we hope our loss is his eternal gain.

Written by his daughter-in-law,

—MRS. MILES THACKER

### POLLY A. JUSTICE

It is with a sad and aching heart I attempt to write the obituary of my dear wife, Polly A. Justice. She was born February 12, 1887, and deceased December 8, 1954, making her stay on this earth 67 years, 9 months and 26 days. She joined the Primitive Baptist Church the third Saturday in July, 1935. She was married to Stewart Justice at Millard, Ky., July 5, 1906. To this union were born 10 children, of which 8 are living. Two preceded her in death. There are 5 boys and 3 girls living.

She is sadly missed by all, but we feel our loss is heaven's gain.

Written by her husband,

—STEWART JUSTICE

### MARGIE COLEMAN HACKNEY



Margie Coleman Hackney was born February 28, 1892. She was a daughter of Jordan and Alice Dotson of Coleman, Ky. She was married to Roland Coleman July 24, 1909, who preceded her in death. To this union were born 8 children, two preceded her in death. She later married Andy Hackney. She joined the Primitive Baptist Church December, 1931, and was baptised by Elder W. J. Prater. She lived a faithful member until death. She died September 20, 1954. Her home was a home for the Baptist people. The church has lost a faithful member, her children have lost a good mother, her brothers and sister a good sister.

Written by her brother.

—ROLAND DOTSON



## ELIZA FARLEY

Sister Eliza Farley, a daughter of A. T. and Barbara Jane Bevins Scott was born June 27, 1881, deceased October, 29, 1954, making her stay on earth 73 years, 4 months and 2 days. She was married to Anderson Farley September 18, 1901. To this union were born four children two girls Mrs. Joe Johnson, Belfry, Ky., Mrs. Chester Miller, Huntington, W. Va., two sons, Okie Farley, Charleston, W. Va., and Clyde Farley, Gary, Ind., deceased. One sister, Mrs. T. C. Scott, Williamson, W. Va., two brothers, T. S. Scott, Leckieville, Ky., and J. B. Scott, New Mexico; one half brother, Ross Scott, Hardy, Ky; twelve grandchildren and eight great grandchildren and a host of friends and relatives to mourn her loss. She was laid to rest in the Julius Scott cemetery.

She joined the Primitive Baptist Church of Pond Creek and was baptised the second Sunday in May, 1939 by Elders W. M. Stanley and Teddy Ball. She was a faithful member until she was unable to attend church. Funeral service was conducted by Rev. George Hunt, Hibbard Thacker, and Teddy Ball.

She had a sweet hope of heaven and immortal glory. She believed in the resurrection of the dead and would often say if you take the hope of the resurrection away from me, you have taken all I live for.

The family, brothers and sisters do hope and pray that we will meet her beyond the grave just over the glory land.

Written by her husband and daughter,

—ANDERSON FARLEY and MRS. HAZEL MILLER

## PARIS BLACKBURN

Brother Paris Blackburn was born July 1, 1870, and departed this life July 9, 1955, making his stay on earth 85 years and nine days. He was married to Leona Smith who preceded him in death February 3, 1944. To this union were born 8 children of whom four preceded him in death. He joined the Primitive Baptist Church at Big Creek and was baptized by Elder Joe Thacker, Aug. 22, 1943. He was ordained as deacon of Big Creek Nov. 22, 1949. He lived a faithful member until death, always filling his seat in Church. He leaves to mourn four children, J. B. Blackburn, Roy Blackburn, and Mrs. Edna Elswick, all of Canada Ky., and Mrs. Emma Williamson of Toler, Ky; one sister, Mrs. Kathrine (Blackburn) Maynard of Portsmouth, Ohio; four half sisters and two half brothers; 34 grandchildren, 61 great grandchildren and five great, great grandchildren. His friends have lost a good neighbor, the church a faithful member, but we feel assured that our loss is his eternal gain.

Written by a brother in the Lord I hope. —M. B. BLACKBURN

## FLOYD BLACKBURN

Brother Floyd Blackburn was blessed to live here in this world to be about 75 years of age. He was married to Cora Blackburn. To this union were born 10 children. His wife and two children preceded him in death, leaving 8 children, many friends and relations to mourn his loss. He united with the Primitive Baptist Church several years ago. He lived a faithful member until death. We miss him, but we feel that our loss is his eternal gain.

In peace may his body repose.

Fresh buds of affection will bloom,

While o'er his grave waves the lily

Until Christ in His glory shall come.

Written by an unworthy brother in hope.

—FRANK WHEELER



## JOEL THACKER

By the request of some of the bereaved children it falls to my unworthy lot to try in my weakness to write an obituary of our beloved brother Joel Thacker. Brother Joel was born May 11, 1870 and died December 30, 1954, making him 85 years, 7 months, and 22 days on earth. Brother Joel joined the dear old church on the fourth Sunday in July, 1932, and continued a true and faithful member until death.

Brother Joel always said true religion is just what you lived and he certainly proved it by his long life. Brother Thacker was a true believer in the resurrection. He always contended that these vile bodies would come forth from the grave at Christ's second coming and that all of God's children would ultimately enjoy heaven together.

The community has lost a good citizen and the church has lost a good member. We earnestly trust that our loss is his eternal gain.

Written by—

JOE MORRIS

## JEFF DAVIS

Uncle Jeff was born March 9, 1872, and died May 9, 1955. He was the son of Joseph M. Davis and Chloe Anne (Curry) Davis. He is survived by his widow, Vicie Keesee Davis and two sisters, Mrs. Hi Keesee and Mrs. Harry Chafin both of Matewan, W. Va., and several nephews and neices.

He joined the Primitive Church several years ago and lived a faithful member until death. He is missed by all who knew him, but we feel that he is resting from his labors and that our loss is his eternal gain.

Written by—

ELDER TEDDY R. BALL



## ASA H. VARNEY

Asa H. Varney of Huddy, Ky., was born January 28, 1888. He was a son of Floyd and Jane Trout Varney, and died January 26, 1955. He was married to Dixie Blackburn, September 4, 1909, who survives him. He left four children to mourn his loss. He joined the Primitive Baptist Church April 13, 1949, and lived a faithful member until death.

He believed the doctrine of salvation by the grace of God. He had a hope that when our blessed Savior hung on the cross and the blood ran down His sweet side that that blood was shed for him. He rejoiced in hearing the gospel preached. I can almost see him yet when he would kneel down and wash his brethren's feet. The church has lost a faithful member.





His wife a good husband, and his children a good father. I believe that when our Savior comes back again to collect His jewels that He will hear that voice and come forth like the Son of God, and be taken home to ever be with the Lord.

Written by—

—ROLAND DOTSON

### J. W. SLONE



It is with a sad heart and much sympathy that I write of the life of my Father, Joe W. Slone. He was born February 13, 1859, deceased this life April 13, 1955, making his stay on earth 96 years, and two months..

In early life he married Nancy Jane Rains. To this union were born ten children, four sons and six daughters, seven of whom preceded him in death. In early life he joined the Primitive Baptist Church and lived a faithful member until death.

He was called to the ministry and was a strong believer in salvation by the grace of God. I have heard him say that he had an humble hope that he would live again. We miss his presence here. We hope that our loss is his eternal gain.

Written by his unworthy son,

—M. C. SLONE

### BUD HAGER



By the request of the family and Sister Hager, I will write the obituary of our beloved Brother Bud Hager. He was born June 4, 1870 and deceased January 10, 1955. He was married to Caldonia Dotson about sixty years ago, and to this union were born nine boys and two girls. Two boys and one girl preceded him in death, leaving the following: Bradley, Jessie, Dewey, James, William, Ransom, and one daughter, Nellie Whitt to mourn their loss. He lived to see all of his children but two profess a hope in Christ. Uncle Bud joined the Old Primitive Baptist Church forty-four years ago and lived a faithful member until death.

He was baptised by Elder Anderson Hatfield, later he was ordained a deacon of the Samaria Church. In this he served faithfully until death. I feel that no man will ever be able to tell just how humble and how close Uncle Bud lived to his heavenly Master. His life was a light to his children and neighbors and friends. The life he lived was true evidence of a man of God. He always stood firm in the doctrine of grace and told me before he died that he believed in a God to whom all things are open and naked to His all-seeing eye.

Uncle Ben was not one who could be carried about bywinds of doc-



trine, but stood faithful until death.

May the God of all grace enable his children and the church to remember his sweet counsel and his life. He has told so many sweet dreams and visions that the good Lord had visited him from time to time since he was twelve years old. So when the pale horse and his rider came his spirit to carry away to the glorious paradise of God our Savior and his poor body to lay to rest in the family graveyard to wait till the glorious resurrection of the bodies of the saints, then all the redeemed or the church shall be presented to the Father without spot or anything, a glorious church, the church Christ redeemed with His precious blood, then Uncle Bud will see the Savior for himself and not another. Written by an unworthy servant, if one at all.

—TEDDY R. BALL

### TOM JUDE

Tom Jude, son of Floyd and Parlee Jude was born September 1, 1894, deceased June 2, 1955, making his stay on earth 60 years, 9 months, and one day. He was first married to Virgie Harrison, who deceased before him. To this union were born 6 children. Later he was married to Clara McCoy, and they have five children, one stepdaughter, and son. He had two sisters, Tennie McCoy and Amy Chapman to mourn the loss.

He joined the Primitive Baptist Church around nine years ago, and lived a faithful member until death. We feel to say, surely our husband and father's loss is his heavenly gain. He is sadly missed by all who knew him, mostly hi family. Written by wife and daughter.

— CLARA JUDE and JEAN STATEN

### ADRION MAY



It is with a sad heart that I try to write the obituary of my dear father Adrion May. He was born February 12, 1875. He lived in this world 79 years, 9 months, and 21 days. He was married to Estello Rutherford May and to this union were born six children. Four children and his wife preceded him in death. Oh, how we miss our dear father and mother. A place is vacant in our home that never can be filled.

He joined the Primitive Baptist Church the third Sunday in July, 1936 and lived a faithful member until death. He leaves two children and a host of friends to mourn their loss. We hope by the grace of God that our loss is his eternal gain.

In memory of our father. Days of sadness will come, silent tears will so often flow of a dear loving father we all loved so well, We remember how you suffered, lingering in this world of sin. You fell asleep. Your prayers were answered. The Savior came and took you home. Sleep on, precious Father, take your long and peaceful rest. We all loved you so dearly, but our dear Lord loved you best.

Written by his daughter,

—VIRGINIA THACKER



Church	Name, Address of Moderator	Communion Meeting
Louisa—Elder A. P. Justice, Millard, Ky. ....		July, 2nd Saturday
Pond Creek—Elder Teddy R. Ball, Phelps, Ky. ....		June 2nd Saturday
Big Creek—Elder Joe Thacker, Canada, Ky. ....		June, 3rd Saturday
Raccoon—Elder M. C. Slone, Fishtrap, Ky. ....		June, 4th Saturday
Sulphur Springs—Elder A. J. Blackburn, Ira, Va. . .		July, 1st Saturday
Peter Creek—Elder Teddy R. Ball, Phelps, Ky. . . .		June, 4th Saturday
Little Hope—Elder W. H. Thacker, McAndrews, Ky.,		July, 1st Saturday
Joppa—Elder Dan Adkins, McAndrews, Ky. ....		June, 1st Saturday
Grapevine—Elder J. H. Blackburn, Ira, Va. ....		July, 3rd Saturday
Samaria—Elder Teddy R. Ball, Phelps, Ky. ....		July, 3rd Saturday
Johns Creek—Elder Paris Coleman, Coleman, Ky. . .		July, 2nd Saturday
Calvary—Elder Joe Slone, Jr., Fishtrap, Kentucky,		June First Saturday

### ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe in one true and living God, who is the Creator, upholder, and righteous disposer of all things; and that He is self-existent, independent, omnipotent and eternal.
2. We believe that Jesus existed in His mediatorial Person as the head and life of His body, the church, from everlasting.
3. We believe 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.
4. 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.
5. We believe the atonement made by Christ was full and complete and exclusively for the elect, or heirs of promise.
6. We believe the doctrine of God's predestination in every sense as the Bible teaches it.
7. We believe that all the elect vessels of mercy, chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world, shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the regenerating power of God's grace, and shall ultimately enjoy heaven and immortal glory.
8. We believe that there will be a resurrection of the bodies, both of the just and the unjust, and the happiness of the righteous shall be eternal and the punishment of the wicked shall be everlasting.
9. 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.
10. We believe the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as translated under the reign of King James, are a revelation from God, inspired by the Holy Ghost, and that the New Testament is the standard of faith and the only authorized rule of practice to the church of God under 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**

1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.
  2. A Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.
  3. Only one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator when he is about to speak.
  4. The person thus speaking shall not be interrupted by any except the Moderator until he is done speaking.
  5. 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 as to convey his ideas.
  6. No person shall rise and speak more than three times on one subject without liberty obtained from the Association.
  7. No person shall abruptly break off or absent himself from the Association without liberty obtained from it.
  8. No member of the Association shall have liberty of laughing during the sitting of the Association, nor whispering in time of public speech.
  9. No member of the Association shall address another in any other term or appellation but the title of "Brother."
  10. 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.
  11. 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.
  12. 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.
- rules shall be reprov'd by the Association as they think proper.

## **CONSTITUTION**

1. This Association shall be call'd Mates Creek District Primitive Baptist Association.
2. 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.
3. In the letters from the different churches shall be expressed their membership in full fellowship, those baptised, received by letter, dismissed by letter, excluded and deceased since the last Association.
4. The members thus chosen and convened shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage nor shall they have any clerical powers over the churches, nor shall they infringe on any of the internal rights of any church in this union.
5. The Association when convened, shall be governed by a regular and proper decorum.
6. The Association shall have a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.
7. 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.

8. Every church in the union shall be entitled to a representation in the Association.

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

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

11. 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.

12. 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 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 messengers to the Association, and those monies 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 monies received by him, and pay out of the same according to the Association.

13. 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.

14. The Minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if need be, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association arises.

15. Amendments to this plan or form of government may be made at any time by majority of the union when they deem it necessary.

16. The Association shall have power: (1) To provide for the general union of the churches. (2) To preserve inviolably a 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 monies 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 time or place they may think most convenient to the churches of the Association.



## Statistical Table

CHURCHES	NAMES OF CHURCH MESSENGERS										
		Rec'd by Baptism	Rec'd by Letter	Rec'd by Relation	Restored to Fel.	Dis. by Letter	Excluded	Deceased	Tot. Membership	Sat. of Meeting	Contributions
Louisa .....	Bradley Warrix, Fishttrap, Ky. ....	5	1	1	1	3	..	3	87	2	\$15.00
Pond Creek .....	F. C. Runyon, Belfry, Ky. ....	3	1	..	..	..	..	1	122	2	\$15.00
Big Creek .....	M. B. Blackburn, Canada, Ky. ....	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	50	3	12.00
Raccoon .....	Joe Morris, Raccoon, Ky. ....	3	..	..	..	1	..	2	50	4	12.00
Sulphur Springs .....	J. B. May, Kelsa, Va. ....	2	1	..	1	..	3	1	37	1	6.00
Peter Creek .....	Roland Dotson, Stone, Ky. ....	7	1	..	..	..	..	3	85	4	13.55
Little Hope .....	Dewey Dotson, Pinsonfork, Ky. ....	2	3	..	..	..	..	1	39	1	5.00
Joppa .....	Estill Varney, Hatfield, Ky. ....	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	14	1	5.00
Grapevine .....	Stewart Justice, Fishttrap, Ky. ....	6	1	..	..	..	2	1	29	3	10.00
Samaria .....	J. E. Hatfield, McCarr, Ky. ....	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	140	3	15.00
John's Creek .....	Noah Smith, Jr. Coleman, Ky. ....	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	45	2	11.00
Calvary .....	Roscoe Varney, McAndrews, Ky. ....	..	..	..	2	6	7	13	10	1	10.00
	Totals .....	32	6	..	2	6	7	13	708	..	129.55



