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SOUTHERN BAPTIST

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MINUTES
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OF THE

FIFTIETH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

SOUTH DISTRICT

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH THE

COLLINSVILLE CHURCH, MADISON COUNTY,

September 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 1870.

BELLEVILLE, ILL.

KIMBALL & TAYLOR, PRINTERS, ADVOCATE OFFICE.

1870.

Rev Luther Stone
to 714 Michigan Ave,



MINUTES.

THURSDAY, September 1, 1870.

The South District Association of Baptist Churches in Illinois, convened with the Collinsville Church, in Madison county, in its Fiftieth Annual Session, at 2 o'clock, P. M.

Elder SILVER being absent, the Introductory Sermon was preached by his alternate, Elder CYRUS THOMAS, Belleville, Ill., from the words: "One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism," Eph. iv. 5.

Elder DEPPE, former Moderator, called the Association to order for the transaction of business.

On motion, the rules of order were suspended to allow Rev. I. S. MAHAN, Agent American Baptist Home Mission Society, and General Association, who had but a short time to remain, an opportunity to present the cause of "Home Missions."

The letters from the Churches were then read, showing statistics, &c. (See table).

Election of officers: Elder T. W. B. DAWSON elected Moderator, and M. W. WEIR, Clerk.

Reading Constitution and Rules of Order by the Clerk.

The following committees were then appointed, viz:

On Religious Exercises, Deacons of the Collinsville Church. To arrange, digest and prepare business for the Association: Bros. J. M. Cochran, L. W. Scanland, Louis Holcomb, W. S. Post and Lyman Barber. On Family Worship, Bros. Scanland and Post. On Temperance, Bro. Deppe. On Home Missions, Post and Cochran. On Foreign Missions, Bro. Whitlock. On Observance of the Sabbath, Bros. Ross, Cochran and Roach. On Periodicals, Bro. Thomas. On Obituaries, Bros. Post and Thomas. On Benevolent Contributions, Bros. Wiggins and Sylvester Lemen.

An invitation being given to new Churches to unite with this body, the New Silver Creek Church applied for membership, and was received, the Moderator extending hand of fellowship to the delegates of said Church. (Subsequently the High Prairie Church applied for membership and was also received).

The Committee on Religious Exercises reported preaching to-night by Rev. G. J. JOHNSON, Dist. Sec. Am. Bap. Publication Society; prayer meeting at 8 o'clock, to-morrow morning, and preaching to-morrow at 11 o'clock, by Rev. W. S. Post, D. D. After which the Association adjourned to meet at 8 o'clock in the morning for prayer, and at 9 o'clock, for the further transaction of business.

FRIDAY MORNING, 9 o'clock.

Prayer by Bro. Post.

Minutes of previous session read and approved.

The Committee on Home Missions submitted the following report:

Resolved, That we approve the plan of co-operation between the American Baptist Home Mission Society and the Illinois Baptist General Association, and rejoice in the successful work of missions which they are carrying on, especially in Southern Illinois.

Resolved, That a Board of Missions, consisting of one person from each church in the Association, be appointed, who shall have the charge of raising funds for the support of a missionary within the bounds of this Association, and who shall be empowered to secure and support a missionary, in connection with the Home Mission Society and General Association, if practicable, to labor at such points as shall be thought best by said Board.

Resolved, That we recommend each church to make an earnest effort, on a day to be set apart for the purpose, to secure a contribution for this object from every member.

Resolved, That _____ be appointed a member of the Board of the Illinois Baptist General Association.

Report accepted, and committee discharged.

Moved that the resolutions in said Report be acted upon one by one. Carried.

After thorough discussion, the resolutions were adopted one by one—then the Report as a whole. The blank in the last resolution was filled by a vote of the Association with the name of Elder J. M. COCHRAN.

The Board provided for in second of above resolutions, was then appointed as follows, viz :

From Belleville Church, Elder Thomas : Bethel Church, Levi Piggott : Collinsville Church, L. W. Scanland : Freeburg Church, Louis Holcomb : Oak Hill Church, Elder Cochran : Pleasant Ridge Church, Elder Ross : Red Bud Church, J. Lauer : Troy Church, Eld. Dawson : New Silver Creek Church, Eld. Deppe : O'Fallon Church, G. W. Darrow : Waterloo Church, E. P. Slate.

(The said Board was instructed to hold a meeting as soon as practicable during the session of this Association, to appoint an Executive Committee.

The said Board met at 3 o'clock, P. M., organized by electing Elder DAWSON, chairman, and Elder COCHRAN, secretary.

Moved that an Executive Committee of five be appointed, with discretionary powers, three of whom shall constitute a quorum to do business, to carry out the instructions of the Board. Carried.

Cyrus Thomas, G. W. Darrow, J. M. Cochran, W. D. Ross and Lewis Scanland, were elected said committee. Moved that said committee be instructed to procure the services of a Missionary, if possible, and, if practicable, in connection with the Home Mission Society, and the Illinois General Association. Carried.

Board adjourned to meet at Oak Hill, on the last Saturday in September, at 10 o'clock, A. M.)

The Committee on Benevolent Contributions submitted the following report :

“That all general recommendations of this Association have heretofore failed for want of system; your committee therefore recommend that quarterly collections be taken for certain specified objects, and that each church in this Association, at its next monthly meeting, enter the following resolution on its records : *Resolved*, That this church take up quarterly collections for the following benevolent objects, viz : The Sabbath School connected with this church; the Home Mission Society for the State of Illinois; the Foreign Mission Society, and the Bible and Publication Society; and that notice of one or more weeks be given previous to said collections. That a report of said collections be rendered to the subsequent session of this Association.”

Report accepted and the committee discharged, and, on motion, the report was adopted.

The Committee on the Observance of the Sabbath submitted the following report :

“That the desecration of the Sabbath is one of the greatest moral evils with which we have to contend; that as ministers and laity we ought kindly to rebuke this evil whenever we have occasion so to do; and that as social visits made on the Sabbath, or conversations on worldly themes, are violations of the sacredness of that day, we ought to abstain from those practices ourselves, and discourage them in others. That we recommend that every pastor preach at least one sermon a year on the proper observance of that day.”

Report accepted and committee discharged, and, on motion, the report was adopted.

Visiting brethren were invited to take seats in the Association; invitation accepted by Bro. Badgley, of Apple Creek Association.

Elder J. M. COCHRAN then read to the Association a history of the Bethel Church, prepared by himself. Referred to a committee composed of Bros. COCHRAN and POST, to abridge for publication in the Minutes. (See page 9.)

The hour for preaching having arrived, Rev. W. S. Post, D. D., delivered a discourse from John iii. 7, "Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

The Committee on Temperance submitted the following report :

"That temperance is the fruit of the spirit, (Gal. v., 22-23) and therefore every christian should be temperate in all his words and actions. That christians should abstain from the use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and also from the use of tobacco. We are the Lord's, having been bought by the precious blood of Christ, and our time, influence and money should all be used to honor our Master, and to do good to our fellow man. That we have no right to spend money for that which does no good, still less for intoxicating drinks and tobacco, which are productive of so much evil."

Report accepted and committee discharged, and, on motion, the report was adopted.

On motion, Association adjourned till 4 o'clock this afternoon.

FRIDAY, 4 o'clock, P. M.

Minutes of previous session read and approved.

The Committee on Obituaries submitted the following report, which was adopted, and ordered to be printed in the minutes :

Elder JAMES LEMEN was the third son of Rev. James and Catharine Lemen, who emigrated from Virginia to Illinois in 1786. They were the parents of six sons and two daughters, all of whom attached themselves to the Baptist Church. Four of the sons were active ordained ministers of the gospel. Elder James Lemen was born in Illinois October 8th, 1787. He was the second white child born of American parents in the territory, Enoch Moore being the first. Elder Lemen made a profession of religion about the age of twenty, and immediately commenced preaching; but he did not attach himself to the church till he had fully made up his mind what course to pursue. He then united with the only Baptist Church at that time in the Territory of Illinois, viz. New Design. He was ordained by this church to the work of the gospel ministry. In 1809 he, in connection with Elder John Baugh, constituted what was then called Cantine Creek (now Bethel) Church. Elder Lemen remained a member of this church to the time of his death—over sixty years. For most of this time he was an active, efficient minister of the gospel, traveling far and wide, organizing and building up churches, and laboring with marked success in the work of his Divine Master, in Illinois, Missouri and other Western States. Elder Lemen's father was the first person baptized by immersion in Illinois. He assisted at his own father's ordination. He preached his father's funeral sermon. His brother Joseph preached that of their mother. For the last few years his health was such that he was confined almost entirely to his rooms at home. In the twenty-sixth year of his age, December 8th, 1813, he was married to Polly Pulliam. They were the parents of eleven children—six of whom are in the "better land," and five, together with the bereaved mother and widow, are left to mourn the loss of their best earthly friend. On Tuesday evening, February 8th, about 5 o'clock, the labors and prayers and sufferings of Elder James Lemen were ended. Full of years and of honors, of faith and of hope, he fell asleep in Jesus—"blessed sleep, from which none ever wakes to weep." His companion being unable to go to Bethel Church, brief services were held at his late residence, the pastor of the church officiating. His remains were then taken to the church, where an immense concourse of his relatives and friends were assembled, with moistened eyes and sad hearts, to pay the last tribute of respect and affection to the dear departed. The sermon was preached by Rev. William S. Post, D. D., Elders Cochran, Hill and Roach assisting in the services. His own son, Sylvester, made some expressive and touching remarks. The singing by the choir was appropriate and beautiful.

As a *man*, Elder James Lemen was well known for industry, integrity and punctuality; as a *christian*, for consistency, humility and benevolence; as a *minister and pastor*, for untiring zeal, fidelity, and devotion to the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom. Sound judgment, correct principle, humble demeanor, with cheerful sociability, marked all his public ministrations and mingled with all his conversation in smaller circles or with individuals. In him young preachers found a father and a friend; distressed churches a healer of breaches, though he was firm and uncompromising in his principles. Tempted and sorely tried souls had in him a kind and sympathizing counselor and guide. His many arduous and self-denying labors for the salvation of souls, for the purity and peace of the churches, for the success and usefulness of ministers, will never be fully known or appreciated until the time when he shall stand before the Judge of all the earth and hear the words of His mouth—"Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

To use the language applied to another devoted minister of the gospel, we may say of Elder Lemen: The records of many churches and the minutes of numerous councils and associations bear concurrent testimony to his zeal and usefulness in the Zion of our God. Deriving a strong mind from his Creator, improved by much reading, observation and experience, Elder Lemen was justly esteemed a valuable counselor and friend, an able minister of Christ, and a successful preacher of the glorious gospel of the blessed God. Beholding the truth in a strong and clear light, glorying in its refining, elevating and saving power, he promptly

rejected everything which he deemed incompatible with the principles and spirit of the gospel. The sternness of his virtue, the honesty of his decisions, and the candor of his advice, sometimes kindled unfriendly feelings and provoked censure. But with charity for all his brethren and with malice towards none, wherever he found the *path of duty* he fearlessly and boldly advanced in it, regardless of all consequences to himself. With the imperfections of a man, he may have sometimes erred in judgment; but all who enjoyed the pleasure of his acquaintance must admire the purity of his sentiments and the rectitude of his intentions. He courted not popularity; he sought not the applause of men. He desired the approbation of his own conscience and the approving smiles of Heaven. Thus lived and labored and died this devoted servant of Christ, and long will his memory be cherished amongst the Baptists of this country. He has gone to his fathers and his brothers, but "his works do follow him" in lines of fadeless glory to the skies. May his mantle fall upon his juniors in the ministry, many of whom have often sat with delight to receive lessons of wisdom from his lips.

"Fallen is the man, who long has stood
A pillar in the house of God.
Fallen, did I say? He's raised on high,
And stands a pillar in the sky."

The following resolutions were also offered by the Committee, viz :

WHEREAS, God, in His wisdom and goodness, has seen fit to remove from us our loved brother, Rev. JAMES LEMEN; therefore,

Resolved, That in his death the ministers and churches of this Association have lost a staunch friend and a wise counselor. That by his firm adherence to and advocacy of bible doctrine, coupled with his consistent christian life, he not only endeared himself to us while he lived, but left a name and a memory that unite us to him and the God whom he loved—a memory that gives warning in danger, cheerfulness in adversity, and humility in prosperity, continually reanimating us with christian hope and zeal. That in this heavy blow we recognize Him who handles the rod, and that we praise Him for the grace which enabled the departed and ourselves to know it was for our mutual, eternal good. That we sympathize with the afflicted relatives, hoping they may so imitate the virtues of the departed that he shall not prove to be *lost* to them, but only *gone before*.

On motion, the resolutions were adopted.

The Committee on Family Worship submitted the following report :

"Family worship we believe to be enjoined by God; that it is a duty incumbent upon all families, and especially those professing to be christian. Said Joshua: 'As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.' The words of David are: 'Evening and morning and at noon will I pray and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice.' The Savior also enjoins on us daily prayer: 'Give us day by day our daily bread.' And we believe there is no duty more clearly enjoined upon christians than daily family prayer. Jeremiah said: 'Pour out thy fury, O Lord, upon the heathen, and the families that call not upon Thy name.' May the fury of the Lord be averted from us and our families by our daily calling upon God."

After a highly interesting and profitable discussion thereon, the report was adopted.

The Clerk, in behalf of the Treasurer, submitted the following Treasurer's Report, which was referred to an auditing committee, composed of Bros. Scanland and Darrow :

Wm. H. Bowler in account with the South District Baptist Association for the year 1869-70.	
DR.	
To balance received from former Treasurer.....	\$ 1 77
To cash received from the churches for minutes of A Association.....	29 55
	\$31 12
CR.	
By cash paid for printing minutes, 1869.....	\$25 00
By postage on minutes, and stationery.....	1 12
By balance in treasury September 1st, 1870.....	5 00—\$31 12

The Auditing Committee reported same correct. On motion, the report was adopted.

The balance in Treasury was, on motion, voted to Clerk for services in preparing Minutes of last Association for publication.

Moved that this Association hold its next session with the Belleville Church. Carried.

On motion, Bro. D. D. ROACH was appointed to preach the Introductory Sermon, and Bro. H. S. DEPPE was appointed his alternate.

Moved that on to-morrow a collection be taken to defray additional expenses of printing Minutes of this Association. Carried.

The Committee on Religious Exercises reported a Sabbath School Lecture to-night by E. D. JONES, Esq., of St. Louis.

On motion, Association adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

SATURDAY, Sept. 3, 9 o'clock, A. M.

Prayer by Bro. S. LEMEN.

A history of the Troy Church was presented and read; on motion, same was adopted, and ordered to be filed by the Clerk for future publication in the Minutes of this Association.

On motion, the Association proceeded to appoint corresponding delegates to Sister Associations.

Bro. J. M. COCHRAN was appointed to the General Association.

"	H. S. DEPPE	"	"	"	"	Nine Mile	"
"	— — —	"	"	"	"	Edwardsville	"

The Association then went into Committee of the Whole, Rev. J. M. COCHRAN in the chair, to consider the condition and needs of the Churches in this Association. After a full and free discussion, the Committee rose and reported, and the Moderator resumed the chair.

The Committee on Foreign Missions submitted the following report :

WHEREAS, Our Lord requires us in His great commission to preach the gospel to every creature; and whereas, our Missionary Union is doing its great and glorious work in converting the heathen to Christ; and whereas, we have already agreed to make one public collection annually for that Society; therefore,

Resolved, That we earnestly and affectionately recommend to every member of our churches to contribute liberally for this Christ-like work.

On motion, the report was adopted.

The Association then took a short recess, after which Rev. J. M. COCHRAN delivered a discourse from Heb. xii, 15, "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God."

The Committee on Periodicals submitted the following report :

Resolved, That it is the privilege and duty of every Baptist family in this Association to read some religious newspaper and missionary magazine of our own denomination, and also other Baptist periodicals and books, so far as possible. That we commend the "Central Baptist," "Standard," "Watchman and Reflector," "Examiner and Chronicle," "Macedonian and Record," and "Missionary Magazine."

On motion, the report was adopted.

A collection was then taken up for printing Minutes—amount collected \$12 76.

The Committee on Religious Exercises reported preaching to-night by Rev. J. M. LAPPIN, and to-morrow morning by Rev. W. S. POST.

There being no further business to transact, the Association then adjourned, with prayer by Rev. J. M. LAPPIN.

M. W. WEIR, *Clerk*.

T. W. B. DAWSON, *Moderator*.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

SATURDAY, September 3.

The South District Baptist Sunday School Association, in accordance with the provisions of its Constitution, convened at 2 o'clock, P. M.

Prayer by Rev. D. D. ROACH.

Singing.—“All hail the power of Jesus' name.”

The Report of the Secretary of the Board of Directors was then read and adopted, as follows :

“Your missionary, (Bro. G. W. Darrow) appointed at the commencement of the year in connection with the Bible and Publication Society, has, from unavoidable circumstances, been able to devote but about one-half of his time to Sunday school and colporteur work. The following is a brief summary of his labors : Labored 153 days. Traveled 1,550 miles. Sold 60 copies of the Word of God. Gave away 75 copies. Distributed 5,500 pages tracts. Made 52 Sunday School addresses. Held and attended 62 meetings for prayer. Visited 1,225 families, and conversed with many of them on religion. Found 24 families destitute of the Bible, and supplied 64 families with it. Organized 10 Sunday Schools, employing 50 teachers, and having about 350 scholars in attendance. Sold \$160 worth of religious books, and gave away \$75 worth including papers and tracts. Collected on pledges, \$87, and received for his labors \$200, being the full amount due him by your Association.

At the beginning of the year we had on hand, in Bibles, Testaments and tracts, the value of \$169 05. Of these our missionary has sold and given away in value, \$46 65; and we now have on hand of Bibles, Testaments and tracts, \$122 40 worth. There has been contributed by the churches and individuals for this work, through the Bible and Publication Society, \$350 35.”

Notice having been given that the beautiful Banner belonging to the Association would be presented to the Sabbath School showing the best record for the past three months, reports from the different Schools contesting for the Banner were received. Written reports were furnished from the Schools at Bethel, East St. Louis, Lebanon and Oak Hill, and verbal ones from the Schools at New Silver Creek, New Design, Troy and Waterloo. Revs. POST, HILL and LAPPIN were appointed the judges. It appearing that the record of the Lebanon School was the best, the Banner was presented to that School.

Bro. Post offered the following resolution :

“That we most heartily commend to the Pastors of Churches, the Superintendents and Teachers of Sunday Schools, the beautiful and appropriate medals prepared by Rev. J. M. Cochran, for rewards of merit and encouragement to worthy Sabbath School scholars.”

On motion, same was adopted.

Rev. GLADINGHAIGEN presented the needs of the colored Baptists in Canada, and received a contribution from the Association of \$10 29 for their relief.

On motion, adjourned to meet with the O'Fallon Sunday School in May—due notice of the time of meeting to be given by the Board of Directors.

T. W. B. DAWSON, *Moderator.*

CYRUS THOMAS, *Clerk, pro tem.*

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I. This body shall be known as the South District Baptist Sabbath School Association, and shall hold its annual meetings in connection with the Association from which it takes its name, beginning at 2 o'clock, P. M., on the last day of the regular session of said Association.

ART. II. Its object shall be the promotion of Sabbath School work within the bounds of the Association, by such means as may from time to time be deemed advisable.

ART. III. Its membership shall be composed of messengers from the Sabbath Schools uniting with us, no school to send more than five, in addition to the Superintendents and Pastors connected with the Association.

ART. IV. Its officers shall consist of a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall be the same as those of the South District Association.

ART. V. The Superintendents and Pastors of this body shall constitute a Board of Directors, which shall make such rules for their guidance as may be deemed necessary, make all arrangements for the meetings of the Association, and have a general supervision over its work.

ART. VI. This Constitution may be altered or amended at any regular meeting of the Association, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

Churches.	Messengers' Names.	Baptized.	Rec'd by Letter.	Restored.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Deceased.	Present No.	No. S. Schools.	No. Teachers.	No. Pupils.	Vols. in Library.	Expended for Sunday Schools.	For Printing Minutes.	For Home Missions.	For Amer'n Baptist Pub. Society.	For Bible Cause.	For Foreign Missions.	For other objects.	Home Expenses.	Total from each Church.
Belleville.....	Cyrus Thomas, Pastor, Frederick Mettels, Louis Snyder, M. W. Weir, Charles Gooding, M. W. Anderson, W. S. Post, Pastor, Geo. W. Bowler, Levi Fiegott, Sam'l Whitlock.....	1	3	12	3	138	112	134	236	\$33 43	\$5 00	\$24 65	\$94 00	\$25 15	\$80 35	\$1230 81	\$1,463 41		600 00	630 50	
Bethel.....	L. W. Scanland, W. F. Bowler, W. K. Lemmen, W. D. Gardiner, Solomon Tefer, Louis Holcom, Albert Anthony, James Woods, Benjamin Francis.....	8	7	4	1	3	102	113	60	100	10 00	2 50	8 00							600 00	630 50
Bushy Grove.....	Not Reported.....	9	10	4	1	2	96	1	7	40				5 00		100 00		62 00	300 00	467 00	
Collinsville.....	Not Reported.....	15	4				1	10	106	75	78 75									150 00	151 00
Freeburg.....	Sam'l Clark, W. Manville, J. M. Cochran, Pastor, John Bader, Wm. Feach, Jr., J. N. Frazier.....	4	2	2	1	66	1	9	65	450	53 10	2 50	5 25	13 00				15 55	400 00	489 00	
High Prairie.....	D. D. Roach, Pastor, Sylvester Lemmen, G. W. Darrow, S. H. Wiggins, W. D. Ross, Pastor, E. Cox, L. M. V. Langenfelder, L. M., J. Hoffmann, J. Smith, A. Noblett.....	20	2	2	2	31								2 00							2 00
Lebanon.....	Not Reported.....	8	2	3	2	101								2 00	7 50			9 00			18 50
New Silver Creek.....	Not Reported.....	4	2	1	1	25								75							75
O'Fallon.....	No Messengers.....																				
Pleasant Ridge.....	No Messengers.....																				
Red Bud.....	H. S. Deppe, Pastor, T. W. B. Dawson, O. M. John Padon, O. M. And, Waddle, Wm. Mize, James P. Anderson, Lyman Barber, L. M., F. Cornman.....	4	9	2	2	1	81	110	70	150	25 00	3 00				42 45				450 00	530 45
Shiloh Valley.....	Not Reported.....	8	2	2	2	1	64	114	125	220	100 00					42 45				80 00	180 00
Troy.....	Not Reported.....																				
Watertoo.....	James Miles, E. P. State.....																				
Total		96	27	170	11	15	899	8	81	110	70	150	25 00	3 00	42 45			925 15	1116 30	33210 81	\$3,986 76

ADDRESS OF CLERKS AND PASTORS.

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>When Org'zed.</i>	<i>Ministers and P. O. Address.</i>	<i>Clerks and P. O. Address.</i>
Belleville.....	Sept. 17, 1831..	Cyrus Thomas, Pastor, Belleville.	M. W. Weir, Belleville.
Bethel.....	June 14, 1806..	W. S. Post, D. D., Pastor, Collinsville.	Samuel Whitlock, Collinsville.
Bushy Grove.....			W. H. Bowler, Collinsville
Collinsville.....			G. C. Patterson, Freeburg.
Freeburg.....	1857.	H. S. Deppe, O. M. Freeburg. E. J. Palmer, O. M. Carbondale. J. S. Short, L. M. Freeburg.	
High Prairie.....			
Lebanon.....			
New Silver Creek.....	March 5, 1870.	W. Manville, L. M. Shiloh.	W. Manville, Shiloh.
Oak Hill.....		J. M. Cochran, Pastor, O'Fallon.	Wm. Peach, jr. O'Fallon.
O'Fallon.....		D. D. Roach, Pastor, O'Fallon.	S. H. Wiggins, pro. tem. O'Fallon.
Pleasant Ridge.....		W. D. Ross, Pastor, Lebanon. E. Cox, L. M. V. Lingenfelter, L. M. "	A. P. Hart, Lebanon.
Red Bud.....			J. Lauer, Red Bud.
Shiloh Valley.....			
Troy.....	1833.	T. W. B. Dawson, O. M. Troy. John Padon, O. M. Troy. Lyman Barber, L. M. Troy.	T. W. B. Dawson, Troy.
Waterloo.....			J. H. H. Wallace, Waterloo.

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH.

ORIGIN.

The Bethel Baptist Church, St. Clair Co., Illinois, had its origin in an arm of the New Design church the 14th day of June, 1806.

The following is a record of its first meeting:—"Arm of the Baptist church of Christ at New Design. Met according to appointment in Richland, on Saturday, the 14th day of June, 1806, at Wm. L. Whitesides.

1. Joseph Chance, Moderator. 2. The Arm agrees with the church at New Design in the appointment made in order to try to gain a fellowship with the Baptist brethren in the Illinois.

The Arm found in peace. Signed by order of the Arm. BENJAMIN OGLE, Clerk."

This Arm was constituted an independent church by the name of Richland Creek, the 12th of Sept. 1807, by Rev. Joseph Chance, Rev. Robert Biazele, and Rev. Edward Ratoliff.

On account of a difficulty arising from a difference of views among its members upon the subject of Slavery the church was divided on the 9th of Dec. 1809. One part retaining the name of Richland Creek church; the other taking the name of "The Baptized Church of Christ, Friends to Humanity, Denying Union and Communion with all Persons Holding the Doctrine of Perpetual, Involuntary, Hereditary Slavery."

And on the 10th day of Dec. 1809, were duly constituted and publicly recognized as a regular Baptist church, by Rev. James Lemen, Jr. and Rev. John Baugh. And for thirty years afterward was known by the name of "Canteen Creek church, Friends to Humanity." And through all the vicissitudes of its history, it has never lost this distinctive feature of its character "friends to humanity."

OFFICERS.

MINISTERS.—The following Ministers have been ordained by this church, since its constitution, Dec. 10th, 1809.

Benjamin Ogle, Feb. 3d, 1810. James Lemen, Sr. and Joseph Lemen, Feb. 4th, 1810. James Garretson, June 20th, 1813. Henry Ross (previously a Cumberland Presbyterian) Oct. 7, 1832. Joel Terry, April 7th, 1839, and Samuel Kelley, April 7th, 1847.

Persons licensed to preach by this church, and ordained after leaving it:

Austin Symms, Feb. 2d, 1822. James Pulliam, April, 1822. Samuel Woods, January, 1825. Daniel Murphy, Aug. 1830. Wm. H. Briggs was received as a Licensed preacher into the church, Dec. 1836. Subsequently dismissed and afterwards ordained to preach the Gospel.

Members that became Ministers of the Gospel after being dismissed from the church: Josiah Lemen, Moses Lemen, Harmon Dace, Lynn Craig, Wm. J. Pritchett and Warren Beadle.

Ordained Ministers received as Members of this church: James Lemen, Jr. Dec. 1^o, 1809. Daniel Hilton, April 1821. Joseph Chance, March 1829. J. M. Peck, April 6th, 1851. W. T. Rawson, Feb. 10th, 1856. E. J. Palmer, Oct. 6th, 1860. J. M. Cochran, July 4th, 1868.

Ministers elected and that have served as Pastors of the church: Rev. James Lemen Jr. elected Nov. 7th, 1840 and served two years. Rev. Moses Lemen, elected January 1st, 1846 and served one year. Rev. J. M. Peck D. D. elected Feb. 1st, 1851, resigned Oct. 9th, 1853. Rev. James Lemen, Jr. and Rev. Joseph Lemen, elected co-pastors Nov. 5th, 1853, and served one year. Rev. D. M. Howell elected April 7th, 1855, resigned March 7th, 1857. Rev. J. H. High, elected May 1st, 1858, for a term of six months. Rev. Elijah Dodson, elected January 1st, 1859, and died on or about April 1st, 1859. Rev. E. J. Palmer, elected January 14th, 1860 and served two years. Rev. H. S. Deppe, elected Dec. 3d, 1864, served 3 years. Rev. J. M. Cochran, elected Dec. 7th, 1867, and served two years. Rev. W. S. Post, D. D., elected Dec. 1869, and is serving the church at the present time.

DEACONS.

STEPHEN TERRY, (the first deacon) was elected Sept. 20th, 1820. He was a faithful servant, and died 1827. He was the father of Elder Joel Terry.

GIDEON SCANLAND, chosen and ordained deacon in March, 1827, and after faithful service, died April 17th, 1833.

SAMUEL McCLAIN, chosen and set apart to the work of the deaconship at the same time with Bro. Scanland. He was dismissed from the office by his request in 1829.

JOHN HART, chosen and set apart to the service of deacon, July, 1831. He magnified his office and died beloved by all his brethren, Nov. 1st, 1832, aged forty-seven years.

ELISHA FREEMAN, appointed deacon, Feb. 1833. He honored his office until age and infirmities discharged him from active service, and died January 28th, 1854.

WM. HART, elected deacon, in the place of Gideon Scanland, Aug. 3d, 1833, and served the church faithfully till the Master called him home, Dec. 2d, 1842.

GEORGE C. HART, son of deacon John Hart chosen and ordained deacon in May, 1843. He removed to Belleville in 1846, and at his request was excused from service in that office.

SAMUEL BAIRD, was also chosen and ordained to the deaconship, at the same time with George C. Hart, and died April, 1st, 1856.

LEWIS SCANLAND, elected and ordained deacon, in 1851, and dismissed to go into a new church organization at Collinsville, Feb. 7th, 1857.

WARREN BEADLE, chosen deacon, Aug. 2d, 1851, and dismissed to unite with the Unity church, April 4th, 1857.

LEVI FIGGOTT, elected deacon, June 5th, 1858, ordained July 4th, 1858, and still serves the church in that office.

JAMES B. LYON, chosen deacon, June 5th, 1858, ordained July 4th, 1858, dismissed April 7th, 1860.

SILVESTER LEMEN, elected deacon, Nov. 3d, 1860, ordained January 6th, 1861, dismissed to go into a new church organization at O'Fallon, Feb. 2d, 1867.

AUGUSTUS D. BEADLE, elected July 6th, 1867, ordained Aug. 4th, 1867, dismissed 1869 to unite with the Baptist church in Kansas City, Mo.

SAMUEL SIMPSON, chosen and ordained deacon, 1870.

CHURCH CLERKS.

ROBERT LEMEN, was chosen clerk of the church at its organization in 1809, and served till Oct. 5th, 1844, nearly 35 years.

JAMES H. LEMEN, elected clerk April 4th, 1845, and served faithfully till Feb. 9th, 1856, eleven years.

JAMES HEART, elected clerk Feb. 9th, 1856, served till April 4th, 1857, one year and two months.

G. W. BOWLER, elected clerk May 2d, 1857, served till July 6th, 1861. Four years and two months.

S. WHITLOCK, chosen clerk Nov. 2d, 1861, and still serves the church with much acceptance.

MEMBERSHIP.

The constituent members were, James Lemen, Sr. and his wife Cathrine Lemen, Robert Lemen and his wife Hetty Lemen, Joseph Lemen and his wife Polly K. Lemen, and Benjamin Ogle.

Rev. James Lemen, Jr. who assisted Rev. John Baugh in constituting the church, joined at night after its organization, Dec. 10th, 1809, and retained his membership in the church for more than sixty years, a faithful soldier of the Cross, till the great Captain of our salvation promoted him to higher service and honor in the Church Triumphant.

The number added since its organization, is by Baptism, 543. By Letter, 170. By restoration, 10. Making in all as near as can be ascertained from the records 723 members who have belonged to the church.

Of these 393 have been dismissed by letter, a large portion of which to form new churches, 112 have been excluded, 21 dropped from the roll of membership, and 142 have died—making the present membership 113.

In the early history of the church its monthly meetings, were held in the settlement south of Canteen Creek, and at New Design, Monroe County, alternately. The places of these meetings were about thirty-six miles apart. The church had no regular appointed pastor for many years, but was supplied with preaching at its monthly meetings in most cases by Elders James Lemen, Jr. and Sr. and Joseph Lemen, Benjamin Ogle and James Garretson. In the intervals of monthly meetings, the preachers of this church were engaged on the Sabbath and frequently on week days in preaching to the destitute in the scattered settlements on both sides of the Mississippi River. There was no failure of monthly church meetings during the first ten years of its history and for nearly eleven years the church had never elected a deacon.

In 1824 the church erected its first house of worship. It was a frame building 30 by 40 feet, which for several years they occupied in an unfinished state, with rough benches for seats. The house cost about \$550.

During the ten years from Dec. 1830, to Dec. 1840, the church was prosperous and made progress. The whole number baptized during this time was two hundred and eight (208). It was during this period the church adopted the practice of making contributions for Missions and other benevolent objects, and at the same time begun to make some compensation for the services of their ministers.

In 1838, the church adopted measures to erect a new meeting house (the one it now occupies). The house was finished and opened for public worship, Sept. 5th, 1849. The Dedication sermon was preached by Rev. J. M. Peck, D. D. The house cost about \$4100. Upon the opening of their new house of worship the name of the church was changed from Canteen Creek, to Bethel.

The records show that the church has been distinguished for its Revivals and Baptisms. There have been thirteen distinct revivals since May, 1819, during which a series of meetings were held day and night from one to four weeks.

Another marked feature of the church, is its adhesion to one of the fundamental principles of its constitution (*i. e.*), its opposition to slavery both in its spirit and letter. The constitution of the church was extraordinarily marked for its anti-slavery character, and whenever called to act with reference to this subject, the church has always adhered tenaciously to this primary fundamental principle of its constitution.—“Friends to Humanity, Denying, Union and Communion with all Persons Holding the Doctrine of Perpetual, Involuntary, Hereditary Slavery.” To illustrate this we take a few extracts from its records:

“May 1st, 1830. Bro. Gideon Scanland, a member of this church, an heir with others to the price of a certain negro man, comes forward and asks the advice of the church: ‘What use should be made of the money?’

Ans. According to the principles of humanity, the opinion of the church is, that the most charitable and best use that can be made of the money is to pay it over to the Negro Man, who is the proper owner, it being a part of his price, believing that the sale of

human souls and bodies is a violation of the Law of God. To which Brother Scanland submitted. ROBERT LEMEN, Clerk."

"April 7th, 1832, Mr. Jenkins, Sr. offered his membership to this church, but was rejected in consequence of being an heir with others to the price of a certain portion of negroes and intending to receive the money, and keep it from the proper owners, the church considering that each negro was the proper owner to the price of himself. R. LEMEN, Clerk."

"Saturday, May 7th, 1864. The case of Bro. E. J. Palmer was taken up on the charge of Bro. B. Scott of "helping fugitive slaves to obtain their freedom." Bro. Palmer plead guilty to the charge. Whereupon the following resolution was offered, and after a motion to adopt it, the ayes and noes were called for, and resulted in 31 in favor and 12 against the resolution as follows: 'Resolved, that the church do not criminate, Bro. Palmer on the charge of assisting fugitive slaves to escape from their masters.'"

In consequence of this action of the church, certain persons, members of other churches attempted to obtain a censure or dis-fellowship of Bethel church, by the South District Baptist Association at its meeting at Oak Hill, 1868, but most signally failed, and instead, brought upon their own heads severe and deserved reprobation.

NEW CHURCHES ORGANIZED.

The following churches have been formed in whole or in part from the membership of Bethel Church:

Fountain Creek church, Madison Co. 1821; Union, (now Troy) church, Madison Co. 1833; Rock Spring (now extinct), St. Clair Co. 1835; Turkey Hill church, 1835; Oak Hill church, St. Clair Co. 1852; Collinsville church, Madison Co. 1857; O'Fallon church, St. Clair Co. 1867.

"Truly has Bethel church been a Mother in the Israel of our Zion. And it is proper and just that now in the seventh decade of her labors, sufferings, and triumphs in the kingdom of Christ, and in view of the providential and merciful dealings of God in all her history, she should present this brief sketch, setting it up as a memorial stone in the annals of the Association, "Calling it Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

SUMMARY OF FAITH.

This Association believes that the Holy Scriptures, being given by the inspiration of God, are the only rule of faith and practice in the churches of Christ: and teach (among other truths) the self-existence of one infinite and holy God, who is revealed to us in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Ghost;—the eternal and essential deity of Christ;—the entire depravity and lost condition of all men: the holiness, and unchanging obligation of the divine law, that requires supreme love to God, and corresponding affection to all men; the necessity of a change of heart, called the "new birth," and which is effected by the Holy Spirit as the agent, and the word of God as the means; the duty of all men who hear the Gospel to repent of sin and believe in Christ, and that a wicked heart is no excuse; the unchanging purpose of God in all his works; the free pardon and justification of every believer in Christ, through the redemption in Him; the perseverance of the Saints; the duty of every believer to be baptized in water, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, before membership in the church; the duty of the church to partake of the Lord's Supper; the entire independence of each church in government and discipline; the duty of each believer to obey all the laws of Christ; our obligation to observe the Lord's day, or Christian Sabbath; the resurrection of the dead, and final judgment; with the eternal punishment of the wicked and salvation of the righteous.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I. This body shall be known as the South District Association of Baptist Churches in Illinois.

ART. II. It shall be composed of the ordained ministers and licentiates belonging to the churches composing this body, together with those ordained ministers acting as supplies or pastors; and such other brethren as the churches shall send as messengers to each annual meeting.

ART. III. The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator and a Clerk, who shall be chosen for each session, as soon as the names of the ministers and messengers are enrolled, and shall be elected by private ballot, without nomination or debate.

It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside during the session, and until a re-election; enforce the rules, preserve order, reprove any improprieties, decide on points of order (subject to an appeal, by a majority of members, to the body, which shall be without debate.) He may speak on all subjects after calling a member to the Chair, and he shall examine and correct the Minutes.

It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a correct account of the proceedings of the session, and at the close furnish the standing Secretary a copy of said proceedings.

It shall be the duty of the Standing Secretary (who, by virtue of his office shall be a member of this body), to receive and take care of all books and papers belonging to the Association; to receive communications addressed to the body during the recess, and lay them before the Association, and be its organ of correspondence in communicating such information as may be called for from other religious bodies.

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive and take charge of all funds contributed to the Association for its expenses, or for any benevolent purpose, and pay them out according to the order of the Association, or that of any standing committee having charge of any specific business during the recess. Any funds contributed for a specific object shall be paid out only for that object. And he shall exhibit a report in detail at each annual meeting, to be examined and certified by an auditing committee.

Art. IV. It shall be the duty of the churches to send with their messengers a report of their condition and progress, with the additions and diminutions of the past year, in the particular form as is printed in the table of churches, with the whole number of members. Each church shall forward money in proportion to the number of its members, to print the Minutes, and each church shall receive Minutes in proportion to the amount of money paid; and each church of one hundred members or less, shall be entitled to send three messengers, and one for every additional twenty-five.

Art. V. Churches desirous of being received into this body, may apply by letter and messengers, and upon presenting their articles of faith, if found sound in faith and correct in practice, they may be received by vote and given the hand of fellowship.

Art. VI. If any church departs from the faith of the Gospel, or becomes disorderly in practice, on due proof thereof, the Association may drop its name from the Minutes, and thus rid itself of all responsibility on account of the disorderly member.

Art. VII. The Association shall hold an annual meeting, to commence on the Thursday before the first Sabbath in September, at such place as shall have been previously appointed.

Art. VIII. The Association may open and hold correspondence with other Associations and Missionary Conventions, as it may think proper.

Art. IX. When a church shall neglect making a communication to the Association for two years, it shall be dropped from the Minutes, unless two or more members shall request its continuance, and will engage to visit said church, inquire into its standing, and report at the next Association.

Art. X. It shall be the duty of the Association, from time to time, to suggest to the churches such measures as may be thought most expedient to promote the spread of the Gospel in the world.

Art. XI. This Constitution shall be and remain in full force until altered or amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present, and on the last day of the session.

RULES OF ORDER.

1. The business of each day shall be opened and closed with prayer. On the first day there shall be an Introductory Sermon, at the hour of 2 o'clock, P. M. by some person previously appointed, or his alternate, and should both fail, then a preacher shall be named, and a vote taken for the occasion.

2. In the absence of the Moderator, the Clerk shall call the Association to order, and the oldest minister present shall officiate as Moderator until one is chosen.

3. Ministers and members of the Baptist Churches present, are invited to sit with us, may speak on all subjects, but vote on none.

4. No subject shall be discussed without a motion and a second, unless introduced by a committee appointed for the purpose; and no person shall speak more than twice on any subject, without leave of the Association.

5. All subjects shall come up in the order in which they stand, unless by vote or agreement they shall be made the order of a particular day or hour. In filling blanks, the largest sum, the highest number, and the longest time, shall be taken first.

6. Every motion shall be put in writing, and each member, when speaking, shall arise from his seat, address the Moderator, avoid all personal reflections and if he depart from the subject, he may be called to order.

7. The Moderator shall nominate all committees, unless otherwise ordered by the Association. A committee to arrange the religious exercises and designate the preachers shall be appointed immediately after organization; and a committee to arrange, digest and prepare the business; and such other committees as the Association may direct, shall be announced as soon as the morning of the second day of the session.

8. The Constitution and rules of order shall be read immediately after being organized.

9. The Constitution of this Association, and the rules of order, and the Constitution of the South District Baptist Sabbath School Association, shall be printed each year with the Minutes of this Association.

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