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MINUTES

MINUTES
OF THE
FORTY-EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY

— OF —

Laurel River Association

— OF —

UNITED BAPTIST

HELD WITH THE CHURCH AT

LONG BRANCH, LAUREL COUNTY, KY.,

— ON —

October 3rd and 4th, 1879.

OFFICERS

ELDER HERMAN JONES, N., Moderator.

D. R. BROCK, C. S. E.

J. L. WEAVER, Assistant.

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1879

MILITARY

FOURTY-FIFTH ANNUAL BANQUET

Leavel River Association

UNITED STATES

LONG BRANCH, FARMER COUNTY, KY.

COLORED BROTHERS

MINUTES:

FIRST DAY, OCTOBER 3, 1879.

THE LAUREL RIVER ASSOCIATION OF UNITED BAPTISTS met in its forty-eighth annual session with the Church at Long Branch, Laurel County, Kentucky. The annual sermon was preached by Elder A. G. Whitt from Romans, 8th Chapter and 17th Verse.

Elder Hiram Johnson, Moderator of the last session, then called the Association to order, after which letters from the Churches were presented and read by W. B. Estes and J. W. Moren and messengers enrolled and statistics recorded as follows: (See table of statistics).

The Association then proceeded to ballot for officers, choosing Elder Hiram Johnson Moderator, D. R. Brock Clerk and J. I. Weaver Assistant Clerk.

1. Motion to have the rules of decorum read; adopted.
2. An invitation extended for the reception of new churches. A letter was presented by Union Rockcastle, and, after some discussion, a motion was made to receive it; but, on a vote being taken, the chair decided that it was rejected, ruling that an objection by a single delegate was sufficient to reject; but, on motion to appeal from the decision of the chair, this decision was over ruled, the Association deciding that the vote of the full delegation of one Church was necessary to reject a Church. Thus the Church was received and her messengers invited to seats.

3. Corresponding letters called for and the following received: Lynn Camp—letter and messengers Elders E. H. Revel, Philip Foley, George W. Proffitt and brethren N. J. Stanberry and John Helton; their next session to be held with the Church at Robertson Creek, in Laurel county, on Friday before the third Saturday in September, 1880. Rockcastle—by her messengers, Elders J. C. Carmical, A. J. Pike and brother H. C. Gentry; their next session to be held with the Church at Hopewell, Rockcastle county, on Friday before the second Saturday in October, 1879; their statistics: baptized 128, total 1,065.

4. Agreed that we hold our next session with the Church at Slate Hill, in Laurel county, four miles south of London, on Friday before the second Saturday in October, 1880.

5. D. R. Brock read a history of the Church at Rough Creek, which was received and ordered to be appended to the minute.

6. J. I. Weaver is appointed to write a history of the Church at Slate Hill.

7. Ordered that one member from each Church with the entire delegation from Long Branch be a committee on divine services, who retired and brought in report that Elders J. C. Carmical and A. J. Pike preach at the church house to-night.

8. J. W. Moren is appointed to write a corresponding letter.

9. A. G. Whitt, W. B. Estes and Russel Weaver, with the Moderator and Clerks, are appointed a committee to arrange business for to-morrow.

10. Motion to adjourn until to-morrow morning 9 1-2 o'clock; adopted. Prayer by Elder A. J. Pike.

SECOND DAY, OCTOBER 4, 1879.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder A. P. Smith.

1. Corresponding letter received from Booneville Association, but no messenger; their next session to be held with the Church at Papaw School House, Lee county, on Thursday before the third Saturday in September, 1880.

2. The committee on arrangements made their report which was adopted and the committee discharged.

3. The committee on divine service reported as follows: Brother Fletcher to introduce the services and Elders John Yeager and Philip Foley to preach in the forenoon to-day, and Elders Carmical and Pike in the afternoon, at night E. H. Revel and A. P. Smith, and on Sunday Elders J. C. Carmical; A. J. Pike and Hiram Johnson. Report adopted and committee discharged.

4. Corresponding letter called for, read and adopted, and the following messengers appointed to corresponding asso-

ciations: To Lynn Camp—A. P. Smith, L. M. Sharp, W. B. Estes and J. B. Lewis; To Rockcastle—Joel Philpot, B. F. Catching, T. P. McCracken and W. R. McCowan; To Booneville—Jessie B. Lewis, W. R. Wise and E. D. Powell; To Irvine—W. B. Estes, T. P. McCracken, Jessie B. Lewis and Joel Philpot; To Cumberland River—B. F. Catching; To North Concord—Russel Weaver, Joel Philpot, Andrew Jackson, L. M. Sharp and A. G. Whitt.

5. Elder W. B. Estes is elected to preach the next annual sermon and John B. Lewis alternate.

6. Report of committee on obituaries read, adopted and committee discharged.

7. Report of our evangelist called for, read and received.

8. Elder J. B. Lewis asked permission to report his labors, which was granted, and the privilege extended to all other ministers. Elders Lewis and Moren presented their reports.

9. On motion W. B. Estes, Russel Weaver, T. P. McCracken, John B. Lewis and A. G. Whitt were appointed a committee on Sabbath-schools, and each of our churches that have not done so, are advised to organize a Sunday-school.

10. T. P. McCracken, W. B. Estes, Russel Weaver, B. F. Catching and A. G. Whitt are appointed a committee on obituaries.

11. Ordered that the clerk superintend the printing and distribution of minutes, and that the Principles of Union and Rules of Decorum be printed with them, and that we have eight hundred copies printed, and that the clerk have what money may be left over as a compensation for his trouble.

12. W. B. Estes, B. F. Johnson and Andrew Jackson are appointed a committee on finance, who report for printing twenty dollars and fifteen cents.

WHEREAS, The Baptists in Kentucky are now engaged in raising funds for the endowment of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, therefore

Resolved, That we endorse the movement and advise our *brethren of means* to contribute liberally for the endowment of said institution. A. JACKSON.

Resolved, That this Association advise the churches in her union, as far as they are able, to adopt the plan of semi-monthly preaching and to contribute freely to the support of their pastors. J. W. MOREN.

Resolved, That we return our thanks to the brethren and sisters of Long Branch and the friends in this vicinity for their kindness and the hospitable entertainment given us during our stay among them.

The minutes were then read, corrected and approved.

13. Adjourned to meet with the church at Slate Hill on Friday before the second Saturday in October, 1880. Benediction by W. B. Estes.

HIRAM JOHNSON, Moderator.

D. R. BROCK, Clerk. }
J. I. WEAVER, Ass't. } LONDON, KENTUCKY.

On Sunday, October 5th, a very large and attentive audience assembled at the stand and were well entertained with preaching by Elders W. B. Estes, J. C. Carmical and Hiram Johnson.

EVANGELISTS' REPORT.

To the Laurel River Association of United Baptists:

DEAR BRETHREN:—I submit the following report as your evangelist for the past year: Labored in the work 99 days, delivered 118 sermons and exhortations, traveled about 650 miles, baptized 17, witnessed 34 accessions to the church, received \$9 82. All of which is respectfully submitted. October 4, 1879. Respectfully, W. B. ESTES.

Elder J. B. Lewis reports that he has traveled 316 miles, labored 52 days, preached 27 sermons, delivered 37 exhortations, baptized 28, and received 32 into the church, received \$16 30.

Elder J. W. Moren labored 121 days, traveled about 700 miles, delivered 108 discourses, witnessed 43 accessions, received \$11 35.

History of the Church at Rough Creek.

The Church at Rough Creek, located about five miles east of London, in Laurel county, was constituted at the residence of Chapman Watkins, on the second Saturday in June 1835, by Elders William Hopper, David Weaver and F. Perman, with ten members from Providence. This number was, however, reduced to eight members before there were any accessions to the church. These first members are all dead with, perhaps, one exception. Elder Perman, of Lynn Camp, was the first pastor, and served until his death in 1842. Wm. Jackson was the first clerk and first deacon ordained in the church. Daniel Garrard donated land for a site, upon which the church immediately erected a house of worship. In the same year she asked admission and was received as a member in the Laurel River Association. In the year of 1837 George Brock, Chapman Watkins and Isaac Durham were licensed to preach, and in 1841 George Brock was ordained to the ministry; and in 1842, upon the death of Elder Perman, he was called to the pastoral care of the church, which was still very weak, numerically, numbering at this time only seventeen members. But,

during the latter part of this year and the early part of 1843, she enjoyed a gracious revival, which resulted in sixty-five additions to the church. Of this revival I have heard the pastor say: "That persons who came to the meeting apparently as idle spectators, manifesting no concern whatever, who chanced to come in front of the door, and before they would enter the house, seeing such powerful manifestations of the Spirit and love of God in the church, the tears of contrition would begin to flow, when they would at once enter and throw themselves at the altar of prayer." Thus having come perhaps to mock, they remained to pray. Although she has, since that time, passed through cold and dark seasons of adversity, she has also been blessed with many seasons of rejoicing and prosperity. The most important of which, as respects additions to her numbers, was in 1854-5. She received by baptism 23; in 1860-1; by baptism fifty-one; in 1861 she received by baptism 27; in 1871 by baptism 47, and in 1874 by baptism 22. The church has built four houses. The first, built in 1835, was a rough log house. The second a more commodious hewed log house, erected in 1844, which was destroyed by fire about the year 1855. The third, a similar house to the second, somewhat larger, was built on the same site, which having become dilapidated, in 1877 through the influence of the pastor (Elder Brock) a frame house was erected, which only lacks painting and being furnished with proper seats of being complete. Elder George Brock was pastor of the church until his death, February 18, 1879. Thus the church has had three pastors, four clerks, ordained 3 ministers and 5 deacons, constituted one, and in part, other churches—received by baptism, letter, restoration, etc., about 480 members; her present number is about 172. Formerly the church was strict in discipline and cautious in the reception of members. The object in requiring applicants for membership to relate their experience seems to have been better understood in those times (which is to procure christian fellowship, which should of necessity precede church fellowship). An important idea which we seem to have almost lost sight of. The church has also grown loose in discipline, and being thus made to carry so much carnality, she is at present in a cold and almost lifeless condition. Respectfully submitted, D. R. BROCK.

Corresponding Letter.

The Laurel River Association of United Baptists to the

Associations with whom we correspond, Greeting:

DEAR BRETHREN.—We are having a pleasant session; our churches are well represented and we have a full delegation. We received by baptism last year 106 members. Our total membership is 2009. We are glad to meet so good a corresponding delegation as we have this session. Our Association is anxious to keep up correspondence with you, and ask you to send your letters and messengers to our next Association, which will be held with the church at Slate Hill, four miles south-east of London, on the State road, in Laurel county, beginning

on Friday before the first Saturday in October, 1830. We remain yours in Christ. This done by order of the Association and signed by

HIRAM JOHNSON, Moderator.

D. R. BROCK, Clerk.

Report of the Committee on Obituaries.

Elder George Brock was born in Claiborne county, Tennessee, 12 miles west of Tazewell, on the 25th of September, 1809, and came to Kentucky March 18, 1827, and joined the church at Providence the first Saturday in April, 1830, and was baptized by William Hopper; he was licensed to preach in July, 1837, and ordained to the ministry on the 14th of November, 1841. Pastor of the church at Rough Creek for about 37 years. Died February 18, 1879, in full assurance of faith, leaving the very best of evidence that he was fully prepared for that blessed home beyond the River of Death. He was aged 69 years, 7 months and 22 days. Few men have lived in the mountains who have left such a record as this beloved brother. He was a zealous Baptist, and loved by all who knew him. He had very few enemies, and left his impressa wherever he went, but he is gone to his home above, and let us, dear brethren in the ministry, emulate his example of self-sacrifice in the ministry, so that when our days are over on earth it may be said of us, well done, good and faithful servants.

Brother Levi Jackson was born in Tennessee on the 17th day of March 1816, came to Kentucky when quite young; was a member of the church at Rough creek for about 14 years. He was a consistent, orderly walking christian, truly a fellow-helper to the cause of truth; he was the minister's friend. His christian benevolence was a prominent feature in his character. Died on the 17th day of July, 1879, in full assurance of a blessed immortality beyond the grave.

Catharine Kirby was born in Knox county, Kentucky, December 27, 1811. Died January 21, 1879. She was a member of the church for a number of years. She was a kind-hearted sister, and very zealous in her belief. She was perfectly willing to depart this life.

S. W. Lynch was born December 1, 1831, and died very suddenly March 14, 1879; was a member of the church for 18 years; was a very quiet, good citizen and an unpretending member of the church.

Joseph McCowan died — 1878, joined the church in 1860. He died in full confidence of a blessed immortality.

W. B. ESTES, }
D. R. BROCK, } Committee.
J. I. WEAVER, }

PRINCIPLES OF UNION.

—o—

1. We believe in one living and true God; the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, equal in essence, power and glory; yet these are not three, but one God.
2. We believe the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the word of God, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice.
3. We believe in the fall of Adam, and the corruption of human nature, and the impotency of man to recover himself by his creature ability.
4. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the righteousness of Jesus Christ imputed to them.
5. We believe the Saints will continue in a State of grace, and that not one of them shall finally be lost.
6. We believe there will be a resurrection of the dead, and general judgement and that the happiness of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.
7. We believe that the visible Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful persons who have attained fellowship with each other and have given themselves up to the Lord and one another, having agreed to keep up a Godly discipline agreeable to the rules of the Gospel.
8. We believe it to be the duty of all Churches to make an abridgement of their principles as deduced from the scriptures, as their covenant or constitution.
9. We believe that Jesus Christ is the great head of the Church, and that the government is with the body.
10. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Lord, and to be continued by his church until his second coming.
11. We believe that true believers are the only proper subjects of baptism, and that immersion is the proper mode.
12. We believe we have no right to admit any to commune with us at the Lord's table but orderly baptized church members.
13. We believe it to be the duty of all churches to keep a church book, and record their official church acts.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.
2. One person only shall speak at a time, who shall, when he is about to make any remarks, rise from his seat and address the Moderator.
3. The person speaking shall not, while occupying the floor, be interrupted by any one except the Moderator until he is done speaking, nor shall the Moderator interrupt any member or prohibit him from speaking until he gives light on the subject, unless he should violate these rules of decorum.
4. The speaker shall strictly adhere to the subject, and shall, in no wise, reflect on, or make remarks on the imperfections of the person that spoke before him, but shall fairly state the facts in the case and convey his ideas as nearly as he can.
5. No person shall abruptly absent himself from the Association without leave.
6. No person shall speak more than three times on any subject without leave from the Association.
7. No member shall have the liberty of laughing or whispering during business or public speaking in the Association.
8. No member of the Association shall address another in any other appellation than that of brother.
9. The names of the several members of the Association shall be enrolled by the Clerk, and called over as often as the Association shall require.
10. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speech as another member, provided the Chair be filled, but he shall have no vote unless the Association is equally divided.
11. Any person making a motion, and it being seconded, shall be taken under consideration, unless withdrawn by the person who made it.
12. Any person being invited to a seat with us and accepting the same, shall be at liberty to make any motion they may think proper for the benefit of the Association.