

**MINUTES**

**OF THE**

**SEVENTEENTH ANNIVERSARY**

**OF THE**

**FRANKLIN ASSOCIATION**

**OF BAPTISTS:**

**HELD AT BUCK-RUN MEETING HOUSE,**

*On the 16th and 17th Sept. 1831,*

**FRANKFORT:**

**PRINTED BY ALBERT G. HODGES.**

**1831.**



# MINUTES.

At eleven o'clock A. M. Bro. **SILAS M. NOEL** delivered a sermon, introductory to the business of the Association, from the 25th chapter and 23rd verse of Matthew's Gospel. After which, letters were received from 17 Churches, and read, and the names of their messengers enrolled, as follows, viz:

<i>Churches, and Saturday of Monthly Meeting.</i>	<i>Messengers' Names.</i>	<i>rec'd by Baptism.</i>	<i>Restored. by Letter.</i>	<i>Dis'd. by Letter.</i>	<i>Excluded.</i>	<i>Dead.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
SOUTH BENSON, 2d Saturday.	<i>William Hickman, Jr.</i> John S. Major, Littleberry Brown, John Pattie,	2	1	1	6	3	217
MOPEWELL, 4th Saturday.	William L. Graddy, George Bain, Sam- nel Pepper, Samuel Miles,	1	2	2	3	2	86
FRANKFORT, 4th Saturday.	<i>Silas M. Noel</i> , Joel Scott, George W. Graham, Isaac Wingate Jephthah •Dudley, Henry Wingate,	6	10		6	2	191
MO. OF CEDAR, 2d Saturday.	<i>Tobias Wilhoitte</i> , Thomas Pasley, Silas B. Calver,	1		2	10	2	56
BUCK RUN, Last Saturday.	<i>John Taylor, Joseph Taylor</i> , Isaac Wil- son, Benjamin Taylor, William D. Hubbell,	9	5		10	2	148
BEECH CREEK, 1st Sunday.	Samuel Jesse, Charles Ware, Lazarus Tilley,				5	2	114
INDIAN FORK, 2d Saturday.	<i>Abraham Cook</i> , Israel Christie, Jones Johnston, Henry Bohannon,	8		3	1	2	88
SIX MILE, 4th Saturday.	<i>William W. Ford</i> , James Ford, John Crook, William Trueman,	2	8	18	2	4	208
BUFFALO LICK, 3d Saturday.	<i>Tarilton Lee</i> , Gideon	1	3	1	5		81
FORKS ELKHORN, 2d Saturday.	<i>William Hickman, sen.</i> <i>Wm. Graham</i> , Ezra Richmond, <i>William E. Martin</i> , James Hayden, <i>Thomas Arnold</i> , John Bartlett,	3	1		4	1	123
ZOAR, 2d Saturday.	Chapman Harrod, <i>Benjamin Harrod</i> , Barnett Harrod,	1				2	52
MOUNT CARMEL, 3d Saturday.	John Crutcher, <i>Matthias Yount</i> ,		1		2		34
NORTH BENSON, 1st Saturday.	Samuel Hedden, Moses Tipton,	1	2		1	1	69
PIGEON FORK, 2d Saturday.	<i>Isaac Crutcher</i> , Ambrose White, Virgil Poe, Jacob Hockersmith,	2					55
MT. PLEASANT, 2d Saturday.	Gabriel Sullenger, Stephen Bryant, Morgan B. Chinn,	1			2		43
BETHEL, 1st Saturday.	Fielding Etherton, Wm. Black,	2				2	33
UNION, 2d Saturday.							

Those in italics are ordained preachers. 32 41 675.18.20.1645

Bro. Silas M. Noel was chosen Moderator, and Henry Wingate, Clerk.

After prayer by Bro. William Hickman, sen. the Association proceeded to business as follows:

Letters from Corresponding Associations were received, read, and their messengers invited to seats, viz:

Elkhorn—William Suggett, Simeon True, James B. Smith, James Suggett, John Lancaster, John I. Johnson, George Blackburn and Edmund Waller.

Concord—Sydnor D. Hanks and Joel Herndon.

Long Run—Joseph Kelley and Stephen Weakley.

Licking—Ryland T. Dillard and Henry C. Payne.

North Bend—Willis Graves.

Salem—William Thomas and Spencer Clack.

Sulpher Fork—Abram Bohannon.

North District—Isaac Farrow and James Lilley.

Baptist—John G. Mastin, Thomas Oliver and R. D. Shipp.

The Circular Letter was read, and referred to a committee of Brethren James Ford, Joseph Taylor and Wm. Hickman, jr.

Brethren William W. Ford, Benjamin Taylor, Joseph Taylor, Jephthah Dudley and Isaac Wingate, were appointed a committee to write letters to the Associations with whom we correspond.

The Moderator and Clerk were appointed a committee to arrange the business for to-morrow.

Adjourned until to-morrow morning 9 o'clock.

Closed with prayer by Bro. James Suggett.

SATURDAY, Sept. 17th, 1831.

The association assembled, and was opened with singing and prayer by bro. Edmund Waller.

The committee of arrangement made a report, which was read and adopted.

The committee to whom the circular letter was referred on yesterday, reported the same with a slight amendment, which was read and adopted.

*On motion*, The committee who were appointed at the last association to visit the church at Hopewell, were discharged, and

brethren James Ford, M. B. Chinn, Henry Bohannon, Samuel Jesse, W. W. Ford, Joel Scott, and John Taylor were appointed a committee to visit said church on the 4th Saturday in November next, who are instructed to enquire into the following matters alleged against her, viz:

1. For encouraging ministers, or teachers, to occupy her pulpit who have been excluded from our associate connexion, and from the general union of Baptists.

2. For admitting persons to her communion who have been excluded from membership.

3. For admitting to membership one or more individuals, who had been excommunicated by a sister church.

The said committee are charged to report the facts, together with the views and opinions of said church, touching the premises, to the next association. And the clerk is directed to furnish the committee with the letter from the church at Buffalo Lick, to the last, and the letter from the church at Hopewell to the last and present associations.

Corresponding letters were reported, read, and adopted, and messengers appointed to bear them, viz.

*Elkhorn*—To meet at Big Spring, Woodford county, 2nd Saturday in August, 1832—S. M. Noel, J. Dudley, John Taylor, S. Jesse, T. Wilhoite, and H. Wingate.

*Licking*—Elizabeth, Bourbon county, 2nd Saturday in September, 1832—Joseph Taylor, William Hickman, Sen. S. M. Noel, Joel Scott, and J. Dudley.

*Long Run*—Long Run, Jefferson county, time and place unknown—S. M. Noel, John Taylor, A. Cook, Jno. Crutcher, and Jno. S. Major.

*North District*—New Providence, Clarke county, 4th Saturday in July, 1832—John Taylor, Joseph Taylor, and S. M. Noel.

*Concord*—Twin Meeting House, Owen county, 4th Friday in August, 1832—Wm. Hickman, Sen. W. W. Ford, S. B. Calvert, T. Wilhoite, and John Taylor.

*North Bend*—Crews' Creek, Campbell county, 3d Friday in August, 1832—Joseph Taylor, and T. Wilhoite.

*Salem*—Gilead, Hardin county, Friday before the 1st Sabbath in October, 1831—John Crutcher.

*Sulpher Fork*—Rock Lick, Henry county; 4th Friday in September, 1831—S. M. Noel, Isaac Wingate, W. W. Ford, and Abraham Cook.

*Baptist*—Goshen, Mercer county, Friday before the 1st Saturday in August, 1832—Jno. Taylor, Wm. Hickman, Jr. and Jno. S. Major.

*South District*—John Taylor, S. M. Noel, Jno. S. Major, and John Crutcher.

*Union*—S. M. Noel, and H. Wingate.

Brethren Dillard, Waller, Suggett, Smith, Cook, and Clack were chosen, by ballot, to preach on to-morrow.

The next association to be held at Six Mile Meeting House, Shelby county, on the third Friday in September, 1832.

Bro. John Taylor to preach the next introductory sermon; and in case of failure, bro. Wm. Hickman, Jr. his alternate.

Bro. J. Dudley to write the next circular letter.

Agreed, *unanimously*, that the last Saturday in October next be set apart, in the churches composing this association, as a day of fasting and prayer.

The clerk and bro. J. Scott, to attend to printing the minutes of the present meeting.

After singing and prayer, adjourned.

S. M. NOEL, *Moderator*.

H. WINGATE, *Clk.*

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*The Franklin Association to the Churches of which it is composed—  
tendereth Christian salutation.*

BELOVED BRETHREN—

Through the munificence of our Heavenly Benefactor, we have been permitted to assemble at the time and place appointed. Our minutes will show you the business presented for our consideration, and the manner in which it was disposed of; and, in accordance with our usual practice, we address you the following letter. The letters from the Churches composing this body, generally, complain of barrenness in religious matters; but speak of a good degree of amity existing

among them. "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren, to dwell together in unity" and may the mighty God of Jacob so rule over us and dwell in us, that every step we take may be marked with humility and filial piety towards Him, who hath begotten us unto a lively hope, to be partakers of that rich inheritance provided for the Saints, by the superabundant goodness and meritorious atonement of the Immaculate Lamb of God. For when we were without strength, Christ, in due time, died for the ungodly; therefore, we should be careful not to let Sin reign in our members, nor to yield to the lusts thereof, but to live soberly, righteously and Godly, in this present world. We should not forget that the Apostle calls the Saints of the Most High, a chosen generation, a royal priesthood; and that obedience is due unto the precepts of Him who hath called us out of darkness into His marvellous light: He who was rejected of men—a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; who was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and by his stripes we are healed.

Surely Brethren, such unmerited kindness demands, at our hands, unfeigned devotion; and we ought to feel a great satisfaction whenever we have an opportunity of convening with any part of the household of faith; where we can have a free and unreserved communication of our thoughts and feelings to each other, relative to the trials and difficulties to which we are incident while the soul is shrowded in a body of sinful flesh. (And, in addition to all this, we have the assurance of God's promise, that where two or three are gathered together in His name, that he will be with them to bless them. This promise, beloved brethren, is admirably calculated to stimulate the Saints of the living God, to a regular and constant attendance at their Church meetings; and further, the Apostle directs the members of the Church not to forsake the assembling of themselves together; and it is only in the way that God directs his people to go, that his disciples may, or ought, to expect to receive a blessing. Humility, brethren, is a christian virtue absolutely necessary to the peace and harmony of Zion; for it is only when this-virtue is in full exercise in the Church, that the members feel themselves in lowliness of mind, esteeming each other better than themselves. He that humbleth himself shall be exalted. For it is the humble christian alone who is sensible of his weakness: for St. Paul says, when I am weak then am I strong. The more humble, the more comfortable the christian feels. And Brethren, as humility is so essential to the christian character, we may calculate with certainty, that Satan will exert his skill to decoy us from the heavenly path: for if he desired to have St.

Peter, strong in the faith, that he might sift him as wheat, what is it that he will not do to annoy the feeble lambs of the fold. But one thing affords abundant consolation, that is, let Satan roar and prow around the Saints of Jesus as much as he may, although he may worry, yet he cannot destroy one feeble lamb. For their lives are hid with Christ in God, and when Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall we also appear with him in glory, and nothing shall separate the true believer from Christ—neither things present, nor things to come, nor heights, nor depths, nor principalities, nor powers; the malice of neither men nor devils, with all the united powers of darkness combined, shall be able to pluck them out of the hands of Him who is their Judge, their Protector, their Father, and their Everlasting Friend: and when the Heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll, and the sun and moon shall be darkened, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat—then shall the chosen of the Lord be put in complete possession of that inheritance which is incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away. Be ye, therefore, stedfast, immovable—always abounding in the work of the Lord—for as much as ye know that your labor shall not be in vain. Let us endeavor to fill our several stations in the Church, and in the world, in such a way that we may be as way marks to the honest inquirers, who may be asking the way to Zion; and by our examples of charity, sobriety, temperance, and holiness of life, shew that we have been redeemed from the spirit of the world, and are no longer captivated with the vanities thereof.

Finally, brethren, farewell. We commend you to God, the shepherd of Israel, and to the word of his Grace, who is able to build you up in your most holy faith, and direct your feet in the way of holiness and peace, and finally, put you in possession of a crown of immortal felicity.