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Minutes . . . Held at Big Spring Meeting-
House . . . Aug. 1819 .

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MINUTES

OF THE

Elkhorn Baptist Association,

HELD AT
BIG SPRING MEETING-HOUSE,

Woodford County.—Aug. 1819.

Saturday, Aug. 14, 1819.

Met pursuant to adjournment at 11 o'clock A.M. The introductory sermon was delivered by the Rev. elder Henry Toler, from Eph. i. 4. "According to the electio[n] which chooseth us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love."

After preaching and an appropriate prayer by brother James Hibback, the members of the Association repaired to the big Spring and commenced business.

Reports from thirty-two churches were received by the messengers as follow:

ELKHORN—J. Shackelford, I. Keller, J. Parker, W. Gass & T. Brown; rec'd by let. 5, dism'd 10, bapt'd 13, total 290	290
PEARL CREEK—A. Toler, J. Hibback, J. Sullivan; rec'd by let. 6, dism'd 1, bapt'd 1, total 8	8
MEAT CREEK—J. Anderson, W. Suggs; rec'd by let. 2, dism'd 2, bapt'd 2, total 2	2
TOWN FORK—W. Stone and J. Craig; rec'd by let. 4, rest'd 1, dism'd 1, total 2	76
BRYAN'S—J. Darnaby C. and A. Thomson; rec'd by bapt. 9, by let. 4, dism'd 4, total 17	159
BOONS CREEK—L. Burbridge and M. M. ; rec'd by bapt. 3, by let. 2, dism'd 2, total 3	100
FORKS ELKHORN—W. Hickman, W. Samuel and C. Blanton; rec'd by let. 1, dism'd 17, dec'd 4, total 22	106
MT. MORIAN—P. Wethers and K. Howard; rec'd by bapt. 2, by let. 4, dism'd 2, total 4	45

McCONEEL'S RUN—M. Duvall, R. Smith, T. Craig, and T. Alexander; rec'd by bap. 8, by let. 32, dism'd 13, excl'd 2, dec'd 5, total	196
MT. ISLAND—B. Lambert, dism'd 3, excl'd 1, total	24
SILAS—D. Biggs, rec'd by let. 4, dism'd 2, excl'd 2, deceased 2, total	124
N. ELKHORN—E. Dingle, J. Graves and J. Flurnoy, rec'd by bap. 2, by let. 2, dism'd 6, excl'd 2, de- ceased 4, total	92
GLEN'S CREEK—J. Edwards, J. Ford and S. Ramsey, rec'd by bap. 10, by let. 6, rest. 1, dism'd 15, ex- cluded 2, deceased 1, total	174
N. FORK—M. Bowler and Henry Jenkins, rec'd by bap. 2, by let. 1, dism'd 10, total	69
CLOVER BOTTOM—L. Buckhamon and R. M. Tho- mas, rec'd by bap. 4, by let. 3, dism'd 13, ex- cluded 1, total	64
HILLSBOROUGH—W. Dale, R. Long and W. Tillery, rec'd by bap. 56, by let. 11, rest'd 4, excl'd 1,	170
DAVID'S FORK—J. Vardeman, E. Darnaby, T. El- lis, A. Wilson J. Welch and J. Wethers; rec'd by bap. 20, by let. 9, rest'd 4, dism'd 7, excl'd 8, dec'd 6, total	414
MT. PLEASANT—E. Waller, S. H. Craig M. Single- ton and J. Bonnel; rec'd by bap. 14, dism'd 18, excl'd 6, deceased 1, total	260
MT. GILIAD—G. G. Boone, N. Riley, J. Scrugham B. W. Riley; rec'd by bap. 7, by let. 2, rest'd 1, dism'd 6, excl'd 3, deceased 1, total	95
LONG LICK—C. Duvall and W. Menteech; rec'd by bap. 4, by let. 15, excl'd 1, dism'd 1.	—
BETHLEHEM—T. Edes and W. Boggess; rec'd by bap. 7, rest'd 1, dism'd 5, excluded 2, total	22
GEORGETOWN—J. Thomson and J. M. Hewett; rec'd by bap. 15, by let. 8, dism'd 3, dec'd 1, total	63
HARTWOOD—J. H. Ficklin, B. Fields, G. Threld- keld and C. W. Critendon; rec'd by bap. 2, by let. 5, excluded 1, deceased 1, total	42
BIG SPRING—G. Hollaway, W. Ayres, R. Taylor, and J. Palmer; rec'd by bap. 3, dism'd 1, total	54
VERSAILLES—J. Creath, T. Bullock, P. Clay and P. Conover; rec'd by bap. 10, by let. 6, dism'd 2,	46
PROVIDENCE—D. Bryan, L. Bryan, P. Higby and J. Marrs; rec'd by bap. 1, by let. 5, dismissed 4, excluded 4, deceased 1, total	147

1st. BAPTIST CHURCH IN LEBANON—J. Fishback, B. Stout, M. Elder and A. S. Drake; rec'd by bap. 28, by let. 8, dism'd 8, excl'd 3, total	89
MT. UNION—W. Boone, R. Petty, E. Bryan and S. Boone; rec'd by bap. 3, by let. 5, dismissed 4, excluded 2, total	72
PARIS—J. Sims, E. Mason and J. Prewitt; rec'd by bap. 80, by let. 20, dism'd 4, excl'd 3, dec'd 1,	180
NICHOLASVILLE—W. G. Bruce & J. Crocket, total	20

Grand Total 3719

After the letters were read and the messengers names enrolled, a private ballot was held for Moderator and Clerk, when brethren Tho. Bullock was elected Moderator and T. Henderson Clerk.

The Association being organized proceeded—

1st. To open a door for the reception of newly constituted churches; upon which the last named church (Nicholasville) was received and her messengers presented with the right hand of fellowship and invited to seats.

2. On calling for the correspondence, the following letters and messengers were received, viz.

From North Bend—brethren Kertley and Dickens.

From Tate's Creek—brother Ambrose Smith.

From Bracken—brethren Warder, Morris and Holton.

From Union—brother Richard King.

From N. District—brother John Smith.

From Franklin—brethren Slaughter, J. & B. Taylor,
Wooldridge, Dudley and Adkins.

From Long Run—brother Zachariah Carpenter.

From Licking—brethren Dudley, Conner, Price & Thomas.

From Salem—brethren Walker and Nall.

From S. District—brother James P. Rucker.

The letters were read and the messengers invited to take seats.*

3. Called for the Circular Letter, which was handed by brother James Fishback, by whom it was written, and after being read was committed to brethren John Thomson, Davis Biggs and Peter Higby for examination, to report on Monday.

4. A letter from the Corresponding Secretary of the Ky. Auxiliary Mission Society was received and referred to the Committee of Arrangement.

*We received neither letter nor messenger from either Green River, Cumberland, Russel's Creek or Beaver.

5. On motion agreed, to suspend, for the present, a correspondence with the Beaver Association.

6. Agreed that brethren Jacob Creath, James Suggett and Lewis Sullivan with the Moderator and Clerk be a Committee of Arrangement for business on Monday.

7. Appointed brethren William Warder, Ambrose Dudley and Jeremiah Vardeman to preach on the Sabbath.

Adjourned until Monday morning, 9 o'clock.

Monday, 9 o'clock, August 16, 1819.

Met agreeably to adjournment, and after singing and prayer proceeded to business.

1st. The committee of arrangement presented the business for the association, which with some additions was adopted.

2. A letter with the fifth annual report, from the Corresponding Secretary of the General Board of Missions for the United States, was handed to the association by brother Jeremiah Vardeman, which was ordered to be noted in the business of arrangement.

3. Called for the Circular letter, which was read, received and ordered to be printed.

4. The circular addressed from the General Board, as alluded to above, and also the circular from the Kentucky Auxiliary Mission Society, which was received on Saturday, were both ordered to be read; upon which it was agreed that the Association express their grateful acknowledgments for the attention paid by the Corresponding Secretary of the General Board, and also that of the Ky. Society, and that they rejoice to hear of the pious exertions and success of the missionary cause, and take this method of recommending to the churches and friends of piety, to give them all that aid and facility which they may conceive to be their duty and privilege.

5. In reply to the suggestions made by the church at Clover Bottom on the subject of public collections on the Sabbath, the Association feels happy to find the respectful regard which that body evinces for the Lord's day—*Resolved*, Therefore, that it is inexpedient to make collections on that day, in the time of public worship. It is moreover resolved, that the resort of waggons, carts &c. to the Association, for the purpose of selling any thing on the Sabbath, is disorderly and in future we hope that means will be employed to prevent it.

6. In answer to the sentiments and opinions expressed by the church at Mountain Island on the subject of Missionary business, the Association is not conscious of having viola-

ted any rule which has been heretofore adopted: Resolved, therefore, that that church be refered to our minutes and circular for further information.

7. Resolved, that the next Association be held at the Great Crossing, Scott county, on the 2d Saturday in August 1820.

8. Appointed the following brethren to corresponding Associations, viz.

To *North Bend*—brethren J. Suggett, A. Thomson, J. Vardeman, P. Higby and J. Graves.

To *Green River*—brethren James Fishback and P. Clay.

To *Tates Creek*—breth. G. Boone, T. Watts & J. Quinn

To *Bracken*—brethren Jacob Creath, Jeremiah Vardeman Davis Biggs and James Sims.

To *Union*—breth. B. Fields. C. W. Critendon & Edes.

To *N. District*—brethren G. G. Boone, E. Mason E. Bryan, R. Petty, T. Duvall & D. Biggs.

To *Franklin*—brethren J. Creath, Geo. Hollaway Wm. Hickman and C. W. Critendon.

To *Long Run*—breth. J. Suggett, H. Toler & E. Waller.

To *Cumberland*—brother John H. Ficklin.

To *Russels Creek*—hand the letter to brother Wm. War-
der for conveyance.

To *Licking*—brethren G. G. Boone, T. Craig, H. Toler,
J. Creath, J. Fishback, J. Vardeman,
J. Suggett and E. Waller.

To *Salem*—brethren P. Conover and C. W. Critendon.

To *S. District*—brethren Geo. Bryan, J. Vardiman and
W. G. Bruce.

9. Resolved, that the churches at *Tates Creek* and *Dry Run*, at their request, have leave to be dismissed and join other Associations.

10. Resolved, that (in answer to the first Baptist Church in *Lexington*,) we recommend to the churches to receive subscription papers from the brethren of that body and afford them all the assistance in their power to aid in finishing their house.

11. Resolved, that in future, the person to preach the introductory sermon be chosen by private ballot—the highest on the polls shall preach the introductory sermon and in case of failure the next highest.

12. Resolved, that the Clerk superintend the printing and distributing the minutes, and that he be allowed the sum of fifteen dollars for his trouble. The sum of twenty-nine dollars and fifty cents was contributed by the churches for the minutes; Resolved, therefore that the Clerk have as ma-

ny minutes printed as can be had for the overpluss, after he is paid for his services, and then, in proportion to the money contributed by each church, he cause the minutes to be distributed among them.

13. Appointed brother James Fishback to preach the next introductory sermon, and in case of failure, brother Creath.

13. Appointed brother Biggs to write the next circular.

THO. BULLOCK, *Moderator.*

Attest, THO. HENDERSON, *Clerk.*

CIRCULAR LETTER.

To the Churches composing the Elkhorn Association.

BELOVED BRETHREN,

We have enjoyed the privilege and happiness of once more meeting as an Association, through the tender mercies of our Heavenly Father.

You will learn by our minutes that considerable additions have been made to some of the churches composing this Association, since our last meeting; and we are happy to inform you, that great revivals of religion have taken place, within the last twelve months, in different parts of the state of Kentucky; "the Lord is good, his mercy is everlasting, and his truth endureth to all generations." Peace prevail's in the churches. We may exclaim with the psalmist—"Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." Unity, animated and influenced by practical piety, among brethren and churches, is productive of both profit and pleasure. Of profit, because, therein consisteth the welfare and security of society; of pleasure, because, mutual love is the source of delight, and the happiness of one, in that case becomes the happiness of all. It is unity adorned with piety, that gives strength to the churches, and renders them at the same time "fair as the moon, and terrible as an army with banners." The fundamental doctrines of the gospel, "Repentance towards God and faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ," realized in their practical operations in the soul, produce the fruits of righteousness. When grace teaches the heart, then the heart teaches the mouth. "The voice of joy and thanksgiving is in the tabernacles of the righteous." *Ps. cxviii. 15.*

It is of great importance, dear brethren, that we examine ourselves and not be satisfied with our knowledge of the gospel, any farther than our consciences bear us witness, that it has produced a real, moral change in our tempers, conduct and pursuits. For there is a knowledge falsely so called. It puffeth up, but edifieth not. It is very possible, yea, very easy by the help of books, sermons and converse to acquire an orderly and systematic knowledge of divine truths; it may be learnt thus like any branch of human science and the head be well stored with orthodox sentiments, and there may be an ability to prove and defend them by argumentation, while the heart is utterly a stranger to their salutary influence.

May we come simply to the light with a desire of seeing more of ourselves and more of our Saviour; that we may be more humble and spiritual, more afraid of sin, more watchful and successful in striving against it, and in our whole conversation more conformable to our glorious head. The grace of God is an active principle and is diffusive in its operations; it extends to and operates upon all the relations the christian sustains.—It “teaches us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world, looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearance of the great God and of our Lord Jesus Christ who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto himself a peculiar people zealous of good works,” giving all diligence to add to our faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.—For if these things be in us and abound, they make us that we shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

With respect to the Missionary and Bible Societies permit us to say, that their interests embrace the most important concerns which can engage the attention of mortals. They are directed to the very purpose which occupied the time and the attention of the Apostles and of the Saints in all ages, on which their hearts have been set, and for which many of them have laid down their lives. It has been the employment of Angels ever since the morning stars sang together before the *Eternal*—Yes, it is the very same which the only begotten Son of God was engaged in while on our earth, for which he suffered on the cross and to which his love is now directed in heaven viz: *the salvation of souls*. We see the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ advancing with a rapidity and strength which mixes surprise with our satisfaction. He is by his wise providence and the operations of his grace prostrating every interest raised against it, and overturning every obstruction which lies in its way. The influences of the gospel under the smiles of our glorious Prince & Saviour are extending from one extremity of the globe to the other, *awaking into energy all the elements of moral action, elevating the depressed, consoling the wretched, dissipating the night of ignorance and idolitry, binding together the human family in the unity of spirit and in the bonds of peace, and every where its healing influences are seen, it is renewing on the face of desolated nature some image of primeval paradise*. These societies propose not to advance the riches, the honour and distinctions of this world as such, but they disseminate *the law of the Lord which is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord which is sure, making wise the simple, rejoicing the heart and is more to be desired than gold, yea than much fine gold, sweeter also than the honey and the honey-comb*. This is an interest that will prevail, for “this Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations and then shall the end come.

We are afflicted to find that the Missionary cause has opposers even in the Western Country. This we believe is in a great measure owing to misrepresentations which have originated from a distance, designed to vilify and slander the characters of those who are more immediately employed in the management of it. This opposition will cease when correct information shall be generally diffused. If

Improprieties in the management of the missionary concern or injudicious selections of persons for Missionary labours are discovered, let us endeavour by wise and proper means to have them rectified and not to destroy them. So far from relaxing our efforts under existing circumstances we ought to unite with renewed diligence and zeal in advancing this the most momentary of all interests, at the same time exercising *charitable vigilance* over the conduct of those who are immediately employed in its management and proving by our conduct that the enemies to the extension of the redeemer's kingdom have no advocates amongst us

There is a loud call for more laborers in the harvest—they are comparatively few. We submit to your pious consideration the plan of forming charitable societies within the limits of each church to raise funds to aid in the education of poor pious young men for the ministry, whom the Lord has called by his grace to the knowledge of the truth and has given a desire to preach the Gospel.

A school is now in operation for the above purpose in Philadelphia, by whose munificence two young men of piety and promise from within the limits of this association are obtaining a suitable education for the ministry.

The examples of Christ in keeping the Apostles after he called them to the work, for above three years principally with himself in a course of preparation for further labours before he dismissed them on the general business of the ministry, strongly indicates the obligation of enabling those of the present day who appear to be called by him to this momentous employment, to pursue a suitable course of preparatory improvement.

The poor of this world God often calls, not only to the knowledge of the truth, but to the sacred office of the ministry, in preparing for which their circumstances require assistance, & they afford occasions for the exercise of christian charity & munificence. Were each Baptist church in the western country through the instrumentality of societies or otherwise, to contribute only ten dollars annually, for the above purpose, what a vast prospect would open to the view (and how soon would it be realized) of more laborers in the harvest; "workmen rightly dividing the word of truth;" "able ministers of the new testament." Brethren, this is the cause of our Lord, in which the glory of his name and the salvation of souls are involved. He has given to you talents to do good, to improve—pray fervently that his kingdom come and will be done on earth as it is in heaven, and let your zealous efforts in the Redeemer's service accord with the spirit and sincerity of your prayers.

Be diligent in the cultivation and practice of family religion. Surround the family altar every evening and morning. Bring up your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Spread before them by precept and example the way of holiness, and exercise the parental authority which God has given you in righteous discipline, with sincere prayer to almighty God for his blessings upon them. Adorn the doctrines of our Saviour in all things. Trust in him with all your hearts and lean not unto your own understandings. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will direct your paths.

And now, Brethren, we commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you an inheritance among all them that are sanctified.

THOMAS BULLOCK, *Moderator.*

Attest, THO. HENDERSON, *Clerk.*