X Entered

MINUTES

OF THE

MISSOURI BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT

Feefe's Creek Meeting-House,

ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI.

4th, 5th & 6th Sept. 1824.

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ST. LOUIS,

PRINTED BY D. GREEN.

1824.

The Association having convened, the meeting was opened with a sermon by rother Lewis Williams from Isaiah IX. 6. "For unto us a child is born," &c.

1. *The letters from the churches were read, and the names of the preachers and delegates enrolled.*

(PREACHERS NAMES IN SMALL CAPITALS.)

CHURCHES.	MINISTERS & DELEGATES.	Baptised.	Rec. by Let.	Dis'd. by Let.	Excluded.	Restored.	Dead.	Present No.	Monies Paid.
Feefe's Creek.	THOMAS R. MUSICK,								$
	Lewis Martin Sen.								
	Richard Sullens,								
	Uri Musick, - - - - - -		2	2	1		2	43	3, 00
Bœuf. - - -	Thomas Smith,								
	Zimri Smith,								
	James Brown, - - - - -		1	1		1	1	28	2,87½
St. Louis. - -	JOHN M. PECK, - - -	15	4	1	2			54	1,25
Du Bois. - - -	LEWIS WILLIAMS, - - - -	1		1	1			18	1,25
Bonhomme. -	Stephen Hancock,								
	James Breckenridge,								
	John Russell, - - - - -		3	1				14	1,87½
Heatherly's Creek	No intelligence—*last returns,*							12	
Point Labaddie.	*No letter,*								
	Hugh Barclay,								
	John Stites, - -	1						12	0, 50
Gasconade.	No intelligence—*last returns*							23	
Sandy.	A letter received,								
	Delegates not present.	3						11	
	Total.	20	10	6	4	1	3	212	10 75

The last church was received this session, it having been constituted by brother WILLIAMS while travelling under the appointment from this Association, on the plan adopted last year.

II. Corresponding brethren DAVID BADGELEY and ABSALOM BAINBRIDGE present, took their seats.

III. Resolved that John S. Ball who is present, a licentiate preacher in the St. Louis Presbytery, be invited to a seat with us in council, which was accepted.

IV. The Association chose THOMAS R. MUSICK Moderator and JOHN M. PECK Clerk.

V. Called for the correspondence from sister Associations.—*Mount Pleasant,* no intelligence.

Bethel, a letter—no Delegate.

Illinois—No letter.

Cuivre.—A letter—ABSALOM BAINBRIDGE, Daniel Colgan Delegates.

The correspondence from the Baptist Board of Foreign Missions was read. Also a letter was read from MOUNG SHWA BA, a converted Burman, and now a preacher of the gospel in connection with the Baptist missionaries in Burmah, which letter produced much interest.

Brother LEWIS WILLIAMS was appointed to write the corresponding letter to the Mount Pleasant association, and J. M PECK to bear it.

Brother John Russell to write to the Illinois Association, and brother THOMAS R. MUSICK and J. M. PECK to bear it.

Brother Hugh Barclay to write to the Bethel Association, and Lewis Martin Sen. to bear it.

Brother J. M. PECK, to write to the Cuivre Association, and LEWIS WILLIAMS, THOS. R. MUSICK, and J. M. PECK to bear it. Brother PECK was instructed to write to the Cape Girardeau Association, expressing the cordial friendship of this body, and our thanks for a few copies of their minutes.

VI. Appointed Lewis Martin, Sen. James Brown, LEWIS WILLIAMS. James Breckenridge, John Stites, with the Moderator and Clerk, to be a committee of arrangement, prepare a circular, discuss the business, & present it before the Association on Monday. The brethren appointed to write a history of this association for a circular, having failed from circumstances beyond their control, they were continued on that business till next association.

VII. Appointed brethern, PECK, BAINBRIDGE and BALL to preach tomorrow, and that service begin at half past ten o'clock A. M.

Adjourned to meet on Monday, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

Brother PECK prayed,

Lords Day, September 5th.

Preaching as follows:—JOHN S. BALL, from 1 Tim. 1, 15.

A. BAINBRIDGE, from 1, Cor 1, 9.

JOHN M. PECK, from the parable of the unjust steward, Luke XVI, 8, 9

MONDAY, *September* 6.

The Association having convened, the moderator prayed,

VIII. The committee of arrangements reported a return of receipts fo the travelling preachers fund, with the appropriation of the same, togethe with an address to the churches, and the arrangement of business, whic was accepted and they were discharged.

IX. The association resolved that the funds returned, be appropriated brother LEWIS WILLIAMS' benefit, and the names of the contributors published on the minutes.

Cash Receipts by brother WILLIAMS.	
James Greenstreet,	$4, 00.
James Brown,	4, 00.
Stephen Hancock,	1,
James Breckenridge,	1,
Samuel Dent,	1,
Abr'm. Hildebrandt,	0, 50,
John Jones, Sen,	0, 50,
Mrs. Jones,	0, 25
Ninian Hamilton,	1, 00,
Cash,	1, 00,
David Darst,	0, 5 ,
	$ 14 75,

Produce.	
Kinkead Caldwell, Esq.	$2, 00.
Doct. John Young & William Owens.	8, 00,
John Gall,	1, 00,
Produce	$11, 0
Cash,	14, 7
Paid brother Williams,	$25, 7

Received by John Russell, agent and paid to L. Williams.

Samuel Shaffer,	$1, 00,	Brought orward,	$12, 00,
J. M. Jamison,	1,	James Breckenridge,	2,
Mrs. Caulk,	0, 50,	Eve Breckenridge,	1,
Nicholas Long,	1,	Moses Bonhom,	1,
J. Williamson,	0, 50,	Benjamin, (black)	0, 40,
William Long,	1, 00,	Margaret Breckenridge	0, 50.
Margaret Fitzwater,	0, 50,		
James Long,	1, 00,	Rec'd. by John Stites,	$16, 90,
Leah Long,	1, 00,	and paid L. Williams.	
Col. Justus Post,	2, 00,	John Stites,	2, 00,
John Russell,	2, 00,	James North,	1, 00,
Laura A. Russell,	0, 50,	Hugh Barclay,	1, 00,
	$12, 00,		$4, 00,

Summary accounts per returns.

Lewis Williams, - - - - - - -	$25, 75,
John Russell, - - - - - - -	16, 90,
John Stites, - - - - - - - -	4, 00,
By J. M. Peck, his own subscription, - - -	7, 50,
	$54, 15.

Deduct travelling expences for brother WILLIAMS, $1, leaves $53, 15 paid to brother WILLIAMS.

X. The address in the room of the circular, was read and adopted.

Appointed Lewis Martin, P. John Russell, John Stites, Matthew Cauldwell C. Baily, William Dodds, with the moderator & c erk for a committee to receive subscriptions, collect for, & appropriate the travelling preachers fund.

XII. Brethren, MUSICK, WILLIAMS, and HOLMES, were nominated as travelling preachers.

XIII. Appointed the next association to be held at Bœuf, New Port, Franklin County on the *Saturday before the third Lords day in September* 1825. Brother MUSICK to preach the introductory sermon, and brother PECK in case of failure.

XIV The funds were called for:

Contributed by the churches, - - - - $10, 75.

As audited by the undersigned, LEWIS WILLIAMS,
HUGH BARCLAY.

XV. Appointed J. M. PECK to superintend the printing and distribution of the minutes.

XVI. The association give notice to the brethren and public that the COLUMBIAN STAR, published in Washington City, by John S. Meeham, can be obtained at three dollars a year, if paid within six months after subscribing, or four dollars if deferred to a late period (the subscribers paying postage) by application to brethren PECK and WILLIAMS, and the money received will be applied to the travelling preachers fund of this association.

Also a "GENERAL BAPTIST TRACT SOCIETY," has been formed in Washington City, and the churches are notified that if they choose to form auxilary tract societies, they can receive the value of their contributions in TRACTS by applying to brother PECK.

The minutes were read, and the association adjourned in much harmony with singing the 133 psalm, C. M. and prayer by brother WILLIAMS.

THOMAS R. MUSICK, *Moderator.*
JOHN M. PECK, *Clerk.*

ADDRESS.

The ministers and delegates composing the Missouri Baptist Associatioo, to the churches they represent.

Dear Brethren.—Circumstances beyond our control, having prevented the circular on, the history of the Baptists in this part of the state, proposed in our last minutes, therefore, we proceed to address you by exhibiting a brief statement of the labours of our brethren who were appointed last year as travelling preachers.

In the month of January, brother Peck made a tour through most of the churches in our body, explained the object of the association in employing travelling preachers, and succeeded much beyond his expectations in obtaining the necessary means. He declines receiving any part of the subscription, and has contributed from his own funds $7, 50, and pledges himself to to do more. Members of our churches, professors of other denominations, and people of the world readily co-operated in subscriptions. In a part of this route he was accompanied by brother Williams. They formed a growing disposition amongst the people to hear the gospel, and strong desires were expressed that the plan should go into immediate effect, and that broth- Williams should devote his time the ensuing season to this work. Though this arrangement must cause a partial suspense of his labours in the churches where he lives, many of the brethren there, not only cheerfully acquiced, but have made liberal contributions, that more remote and destitute places might receive a portion of gospel labours. Such sacrifices will not be lost. "The liberal soul shall be made fat, and he that watereth shall be watered himself." By these means, brother Williams has been enabled to devote his time exclusively for six months past, in travelling and publishing the gospel. The churches and settlements on Gasconade, have received a portion of his labours. Bœuf, Du-Bois, and Point Labaddie, have been supplied about one half of the time. The church and settlement in Bonhommme, have been regularly supplied once in two months, for which the brethren and friends have expressed their grateful acknowledgements, not merely in words, but in liberal contributions. The settlements near the Merrimack on the north side, and those extending along the meanderings of Big-River on the south, have received repeated visits. On Sandy Creek, in Jefferson County, a number of Baptists have long resided, as sheep without a shepherd. With the labours of our brother, aided by brother Musick, this settlement has been attended to, a church has been constituted and ad-

ded to our number. Some have been baptised, and favourable indications of a gracious revival are manifested. Brother MUSICK, besides his route to Sandy, has made an excursion through the settlements to the Gasconade, where he was accompanied by brother WILLIAMS. Here the brethren parted, and brother MUSICK continued his route past the seat of government, to the Factory bottom. Here he crossed the Missouri to the settlements on the north side, where he baptised six persons upon a profession of faith, and continued preaching and visiting from house to house till his return. On this route including the trip to Sandy, the brother spent 56 days, but generously declined receiving any avails from the fund.

Thus, brethren, we have given you a very brief sketch of our efforts since adopting the plan for travelling preachers, recommended by some of the churches, and published in our last year's minutes. God has graciously smiled upon our feeble endeavours, enlarged our borders, and strengthened our stakes. Eleven persons have been baptised by our brethren while travelling. One church has been constituted, and an extensive range of settlements have received a partial supply of gospel labours, which must have remained destitute, had not these measures been adopted.

Our brethren on Sandy write in their letter of introduction—"Some of us for many years past have been deprived of gospel privileges, and have wept and prayed over our forlorn state. No ambassador of Christ of our order appeared amongst us to proclaim the news of redeeming love. No spiritual father brought us the bread of life. Hungering and thirsting for the precious gospel, we remained in this remote settlement till well nigh famished. And unless you have long fed upon husks, and received no spiritual nourishment, you cannot realize our joy, when we learned from our dear brethren, that the Association had adopted a plan to supply the destitute, and collect the wandering sheep into the fold. We are a little band, remote from any other church of our order. We hope you will be encouraged to continue your useful labours in sending us travelling preachers, not only for our benefit, but for the prosperity of religion in every settlement around, and it is our desire to contribute our mite of expense as God may give us ability."— The Bonhomme church writes,—"We deem it unnecessary to call your attention to the vital importance of regular stated preaching. Without it a painful experience has taught us that the cause of Zion languishes, that professors become cold and languid, and are peculiarly exposed to wander into bye and forbidden paths.

The plan adopted by the last Association, we have no doubt, is by far the best that has ever been devised to supply us with the ministration of the gospel, and the blessings which have attended those efforts, leave no doubt in our minds but they are such as the God of Israel delights to own and bless.

With these views, brethren, can any one doubt the utility of systematic measures to promote the gospel amongst us? The amount received in every instance is the offering of a FREE WILL. *No one can be compelled in the United States to contribute for religious purposes.* "*Freely ye have received, freely give.*"

Are motives wanting to animate us in persevering efforts to promote the prosperity of our churches and the vital interets of men? In his own breast the good man finds a host. The consolations of grace—the welfare of the immortal soul—the honor of a Divine Redeemer, are all found in a persevering attachment to the cause of Christ.

Do we admire that spirit of enterprise that prompts our citizens to traverse the western wilds for game, to dig the bowels of the earth for mineral,

or to extend the cultivated districts of our country? And shall our courage wither—our nerves relax—our spirits droop—and our pulses beat languid and cold on the momentuous subject of the salvation of men? Shall the lover of wealth in his ardent thirst for gold—the ambitious in his untiring pursuit of fame—the man of pleasure in his career of dissipation—the scholar in his unwearied researches after knowledge—Shall all these reprove our sloth and inactivity in the kingdom of God? No brethren, let us awaken to a system of efforts, put our trust in the God of the armies of Israel, march forward to the holy contest, and let there be no longer occasion to say, "The children of this world are wiser in their generation than the children of light." Our session has been animating and harmonious. May the blessings of God attend.—Amen.

THOMAS R. MUSICK, *Moderator.*

JOHN M. PECK, *Clerk.*

COVENANT.

We whose names are underwritten, being desirous to be constituted a church of Jesus Christ in this place, and having all due knowledge of one another in point of a work of grace on our hearts, religious principles, and moral character, and being desirous of enjoying the privileges that appertain to the people of God, in a church relation, Do, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, voluntarily and freely give ourselves up to the Lord, and to one another according to his word, to be one body under one head, jointly to exist and act by the bands and rules of the Gospel, and do promise and engage to do all things by DIVINE ASSISTANCE, in our different capacities and relations, that the Lord has commanded us, and required of us; PARTICULARLY, to deny ourselves, take up our cross, follow Christ, keep the faith, assemble ourselves together, love the brethren, submit one to another in the Lord, care for one another, bear one another's burdens, endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace.

This is the COVENANT, we solemnly enter into in the fear of GOD, humbly imploring the Divine assistance and blessing, that we may be built up and established to the glory of GOD, the advancement of the redeemers interest, and the comfort and edification of our own souls, through the infinite riches of free grace which is in Christ Jesus our Lord; and now to the only wise GOD, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, be worship, and honor, and glory, and obedience rendered, now and evermore.—AMEN.

Done at St. Louis, Territory of Missouri, on the 8th day of February, in the year

of our blessed Lord and Saviour one thousand eight hundred and eighteen.