

A large haystack in a field with a needle stuck into it. The background shows a line of trees under a bright sky.

A Needle in a Haystack?

Finding Your Ancestors Using Baptist Records

Daniel Williams

*University Archivist and Head of Archives,
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Mercer University

What Baptist Records Do We Have?

- Baptist churches
 - Business meeting minutes
 - Financial records
 - Membership lists
 - Published histories
 - Bulletins
- Baptist associations
 - Annual meeting minutes
 - Published histories
- Georgia Baptist Convention
 - Annuals
 - *Christian Index*
- Other Baptists
 - Primitive Baptists
 - Free Will Baptists
 - African-American Baptists
 - And more...

Common Genealogical Inquiries

- Do you have the records of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Dodge County? My great-grandmother was a charter member.
- My grandfather was a pastor in South Georgia. Can you help me learn more about him?
- I'm looking for an obituary of Rev. Andrew Jones. Do you have one?



Common Genealogical Inquiries

- I think my ancestors were Baptists, and they lived in Clayton County. Can you help me find them?
- I need to prove that John Smith is the son of James Smith, and I know they went to Bethlehem Baptist Church in Bibb County.
- Can you help me find my or my relative's baptism record in Mount Olive Baptist Church in Fulton County?



Church Records: Membership Lists

- Membership lists are your friend if you need to prove that someone was actually in a place
- List of people who joined, left, or were expelled from the church
- Often grouped by men and women
- Race is also noted pre-Civil War
- The presence and quality of these depends on the church clerk

CHURCH ROLL - POWELTON CHURCH - HANCOCK CO., GEORGIA
 Abstracted & Indexed by Mrs. Frances West Reid (Mrs. Henry Reid) Athens, Ga.

	When joined	How	*A- Where from	When left	How	Remarks
Ellen S. Acree	Mar. 1, 1828	Exp				
Samuel Akins	May 2, 1788	Exp				
Samuel Eakins				Nov. 6, 1802	letter	
(wife) Esther Eakins				Nov. 6, 1802	letter	
Bro. Cornelious Alford	Aug. 15, 1843	Exp				
Mary Ann Alford	Aug. 15, 1843	Exp				
Amanda Alford	Sept. 30, 1843	Exp		Dec. 22, 1849	letter	
Tabitha Alford	June 20, 1828	Exp		Dec. 22, 1849	letter	
Elizabeth Alford	Dec. 3, 1831	Exp				
Mary Allen	Apr. 12, 1828	Exp	Joined at Mt. Zion Meeting	May 31, 1828	letter	
Wiley Allen	May 6, 1837	letter	Salem (Taliaferro Co.)	Nov. 10, 1845	letter	
(Wife) Allen				Nov. 10, 1845	letter	
Matilda Allen	May 6, 1837	letter	Salem (Taliaferro Co.)			
Berry A. Allen	Feb. 1, 1840	Exp				
B. R. (?) Allen				Aug. 1, 1845	letter	
Cassander Allen	July 30, 1841	letter	New Providence Ch. at Salem	June 1843	death reported	
John Amerson	Apr. 30, 1842	Exp		Jan. 6, 1844	letter	
Marcus Andrews	Mar. 27, 1812	letter	Whatley Hill Ch.			
Nancy Andrews	May 6, 1820	letter	Bethesda Ch. Greene Co. Ga.	Feb. 1, 1823	letter	
William Andrews	Aug. 25, 1849	Baptism				
Martha Andrews	Aug. 25, 1849	Baptism				
Elizabeth Askew	Apr. 26, 1828	Exp		June 6, 1835	death announced	
Amanda I. Askew	Aug. 2, 1828	Exp				
Mary Ann Askew	Aug. 2, 1828	Exp		Jan. 3, 1829	letter	
Sarah M. Askew	Aug. 20, 1841	Exp		Nov. 6, 1841	letter	
John Askew	Feb. 29, 1840	letter	Irwinton Ch. Alabama	Nov. 6, 1841	letter	
Elizabeth Askew	Oct. 17, 1840	Exp				
Richard L. Askew	Aug. 10, 1843	Exp		Feb. 28, 1845	letter	
Benjamin F. Askew	Aug. 14, 1843	Exp				

Names of States	Received		Discovered	
	Name	Time	Name	Time
Aldredge E. P.	Letter 8	Aug. 1840	Dubin	24 Jan 1891
Aldredge John N.	" 71	Apr. 1874	Letter	7 May 1881
Aldredge Jas. N.	Expen 13	Aug 1849	Excluded	10 Aug 1849
Allen Charles	" 13	" 1888	Letter	9 May 1894
Aldridge Coley	" 14	" 1887	Dubin	7 March 1890
Biech John G.	Letter 14	Aug 1889	"	"
Beck William	Letter 12	May 1878	Letter	13 Sept 1890
Brook C. J.	Letter 7	May 1877	Excl'd	7 July 1870
Bishop J. C.	Letter 11	Aug 1876	Letter	7 Nov 1871
Bonard A. R.	Roston 23	Sept. 1876	"	"
Bell Thomas	Letter 10	Oct. 1874	Letter	13 January 1883
Bell Jas. W.	" 23	Feb. 1878	Letter	12 Aug 1881
Bell Anderson	Expen 18	Aug 1876	Letter	11 Nov 1882
Bell Henry	" 28	July 1877	Letter	13 January 1883
Bell Pinkney	" 30	" "	"	"
Bullard W. T.	Letter 13	May 1882	Excluded	8 June 1889
Burton Charles	Ex 12	Aug 1878	"	"
Burman John	Ex 13	Aug 1884	Letter	8 Oct 1889
Buster G. X.	" 12	Aug 1886	"	7 Nov 1891
Burton Cook	Letter 14	Aug 1889	Letter	7 June 1890
Coakran H. W.	Reston 11	Sept 1886	Letter	11 Sept 1886
Cook Wm. Jr.	Expen 18	Sept 1844	"	"
Camp C. L.	" 18	Aug 1882	Letter	13 Sept 1890
Cannady C. P.	Letter 13	" 1883	"	"
Crocker W. J.	" 16	" "	Letter	16 January 1889
Cuncan Martin	" 13	Dec 1884	Letter	9 Nov 1889
Duncan J. N.	Letter 13	Sept 1884	"	"
Duncan S. W.	Letter 7	Mch. 1874	"	"
Duncan W. P.	" 10	Jan. "	"	"
Duncan J. J.	Expen 18	Aug 1876	Letter	12 Jan 1884
Derrick M. J.	" 12	" "	Letter	8 Oct. 1881
Dunlop W. K.	Letter 12	" 1874	Excluded	11 Mch. 1882
Dunlop T. J.	Ex 18	" 1882	Letter	12 July 1884
Dunlop J. M.	Roston 12	July 1884	Excl'd	27 Sept 1885
Dunlop J. P.	Ex 13	Aug 1884	Excl'd	10 January 1885
Dunlop B. J.	Ex 30	Jan 1884	Death	7 July 1884
Dunlop M. R.	Letter 13	May 1884	Letter	7 Nov 1881
Dunlop N. G.	" 19	Aug 1876	Letter	12 March 1881
Dunlop J. B.	Ex 7	Oct 1882	"	"
Dunlop N. N.	Ex 13	Aug 1884	Letter	7 Aug 1874

MALES NAMES

- 1 A. S. Norton excluded
- 2 F. D. Strieling dismiss by letter
- 3 L. J. Scogin dismiss by letter
- 4 J. Gray
- 5 H. J. Proctor next year dismiss by letter
- 6 Ch. Copeland
- 7 J. L. Bennett dismiss by letter
- 8 H. J. Sims dis by let rec'd by letter
- 9 James Bunker dismiss by letter
- 10 H. G. Fuller Minister of the Gospel dis by letter
- 11 J. Graham dis by let
- 12 Wm B Armstrong dis by letter
- 13 Amos Saylor's dismissed by letter
- 14 William Roberts included Oct 21st 1852
- 15 Jacob A. Hild Dead
- 16 A. C. Ward Dead
- 17 John Fisher dismiss by letter April 25th 1855
- 18 Henry M. Burkhalter next by letter April 27th 1855
- 19 D. W. Burkhalter dismissed by letter
- 20 G. G. Burkhalter dismissed by letter
- 21 J. J. Lavance died April 23rd 1855
- 22 J. M. Gray
- 23 Thos. Spratlan dismiss by letter October 22nd 1855
- 24 Jas. M. Adcock dismissed by letter
- 25 J. S. Kocin
- 26 P. L. Jarvis
- 27 P. R. Saylor's died July 31st 1855
- 28 J. H. Poley dismissed by letter
- 29 John Fisher dismiss by letter Dec 21st 1855
- 30 Wm. H. Kocin
- 31 J. Cooper dismiss by letter Nov 26th 1855
- 32 H. C. Cross
- 33 H. H. H. W. H. W. H.
- 34 William Jackson
- 35 P. J. Adcock
- 36 William Jones dismissed by letter
- 37 J. W. Hild

The following is a list of members names to the Association in the year 1845

- Males
- John Ware
 - Langley Granbery
 - Wm. Grantley
 - J. Randolph
 - John, J. J. Dismick
 - Wm Jackson
 - Isaac, A. Colored, man
 - John, Cooper, Dead
 - Thos. J. Grantley
 - Wm. M. Ware
 - L. J. Ewebanks
 - Alexander, D. Cromley
 - Joseph, A. Colored man
 - Samuel, S. Johnson

So males

- Elizabeth Ware
- Nancy Jackson
- Sarah, Randolph
- Mary, Grantley
- Martha, Randolph
- Emily, Ware
- November 25th 1843
- Bro. Rushing Moderator invited visiting Brethren to with us 1st of Nov for the reception of members
- 2nd called for references
- 3rd called Acknowledgements or new matter of work
- 4th called for Missions and after a motion and second agreed to raise for the Domestic Missions fund to collect fifty cents by every next conference - also agreed to meet Saturday before the second Sabbath in Dec for the purpose of choosing a Pastoral Supply for the present Association year
- 5th Resolved that Sabbath before next November in each year be set apart for the purpose of choosing a pastor for this church

Wm. H. Ware

- Females
- Scalia, Sawton
 - Nancy, Mahinson
 - Mary, Ware
 - Lucinda, Humphreys
 - Sarah, Jye
 - Margaret, Ware
 - Nancy, Randolph
 - E. Elizabeth, Gay
 - Sarah, M. Ewebanks
 - Sarah, Jye
 - Sarah, Powell
 - Martha, Jarbrough
 - Polktha, M. H.
 - Martha, McLean
 - Sarah, Jye Dismick
 - Nancy, Sorman
 - Sarah, A. Colored woman
 - Ester, A. Colored woman
 - Ann, Johnson
 - Elizabeth, Armstrong
 - Liddy, Gidson
 - Lawezah, A. Colored woman

The names of the members of the Church

1	John Brinson	deat	34	James Wainwright	deat
2	Martha Brinson	deat	35	Cherish Atkinson	deat
3	James Sheperd	deat	36	Phillis	a negro
4	Catharina Sheperd	deat	37	No. O. Pector	deat
5	Delila Peel	deat	38	Mary Pector	deat
6	Sarah Belcher	deat	39	Mills	Peel Exon
7	Strong Brinson	deat	40	Levi	Peel deat
8	James Brinson	deat	41	Theo. D.	Dee deat
9	Martha Brinson	deat	42	Strong B. Wallace	deat
10	Sarah Atkinson	deat	43	George a Negro	
11	Wm. Wallace	deat	44	Silas a Negro	
12	Mary Wallace	deat	45	William B. Wallace	deat
13	Nancy Perkins	deat	46	Esther	Dunford deat
14	H. C. Mauney	Exon	47	Simon	Wallace deat
15	A. P. Belcher	deat	48	Sarah	Belcher deat
16	James M. Sheperd	deat	49	Elvey	Wainwright deat
17	David Burke	deat	50	Hannah	a negro
18	John Brinson	deat	51	Milly	a negro deat
19	Esther Wallace	deat	52	Byron	Brinson deat
20	Mary McKay	deat	53	Mills	Brinson deat
21	Sarah Reynolds	deat	54	Elizabeth	Atkinson deat
22	Matthew Brinson	deat	55	Harriet	Atkinson deat
23	Sarah Scarborough	deat	56	Esther	Dunford deat
24	Abby Dickey	deat	57	Winnifred	Dunford deat
25	John Davis	deat	58	Cyria	a negro deat
26	Mary Davis	deat	59	Meow W.	Atkinson deat
27	Sam.	a negro	60	Mary	Paul deat
28	Prolet Roberts	deat	61	Robert	Peel Exon
29	Mingo	a negro	62	Mahulda	Atkinson
30	Elizabeth Brinson	deat	63	Congo	a negro
31	Adam Brinson	deat	64	Peter	a negro
32	Sarah Wallace	deat	65	Chloe	a negro Exon
33	Lani	Weather	66	William	Brinson
			67	Matthew	Wallace

The names of the members of the Church

68	John	deat	102	Thomas	Reuben
69	James	Peel	103	Sam.	Reynolds
70	John	Brinson	104	John	Brinson
71	Mary	Brinson	105	Rebecca	Brown
72	Samuel	Sunder	106	Peter	a negro
73	Caroline	Peel	107	Samuel	a negro
74	Agnes	a negro	108	Thomas	a negro
75	Elizabeth	Wallace	109	Sally	a negro
76	Esther	Sheperd	110	Abraham	a negro
77	Henry	a negro	111	Emmanuel	a negro
78	David	Atkinson	112	Cynthia	Atkinson
79	Rebecca	Atkinson	113	Simon	Brinson
80	Nancy	Atkinson	114	Sam.	Brinson
81	Mary	Peel	115	Sheperd	Brinson
82	Martha	Dunford	116	Elizabeth	Brinson
83	Rebecca	a negro	117	Samuel	Peel
84	Sam.	Atkinson	118	Philly	Peel
85	Adam	Wallace	119	Will	a negro
86	Robert	a negro	120	Jack	a negro
87	Harriet	Belcher	121	Charlotte	a negro
88	Martha	Dunford	122	Chana	a negro
89	Harriet	Helley	123	Emily	Sheperd
90	Susannah	Burke	124	Gemina	Brinson
91	Peter	a negro	125	Francis	Boston
92	Martha	Brinson	126	Lucien	Boston
93	Louisa	Brinson	127	Freeman	Brinson
94	Sarah	Peel	128	Phelopa	Brinson
95	Daniel	a negro	129	Lucien	Brinson
96	Anna	Readdy	130	Eriline	Boston
97	Elizabeth	Williams	131	William	Brinson
98	William	Clifton	132	Thomas	Brinson
99	Mary	Clifton	133	Sam.	Brinson
100	Sarah	Brinson	134	Charles	Brinson
101	John	Brinson	135	Sam.	Brinson

Copy of the minutes of Crooked Creek
 Primitive Baptist Church, Putnam County Ga.
 Constituted June 27th 1807. by

Francis Flournoy, Presiding.
 Charters members

- | Males. | Females |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Micajah Brooks. | Mary Brooks. |
| 2 Thomas Cates | Patsy Cates |
| 3 Thomas Lov. | Sarah Jackson. |
| 4 Anthony Holloway. | Elizabeth Milkerson. |
| 5 Peter Jackson. | Rhoda Heath. |
| 6 John Keeton. | Ann Holloway. |
| 7 John Pressley. | Polly Jackson. |
| 8 Joseph Dennis. | Elizabeth Pressley. |
| 9 Harmon Milkerson. | Martha Dennis. |
| | Oliver Milkerson. |
| | Susannah Jackson. |

The first conference received Lorel Goldsmith
 by experience, Patsy Hyman, by experience, a woman
 of color called Cate property of the widow
 Richardson by letter.

July 20th 1807, conference received Josiah
 Stoddell, David wife, Elnor Dennis and Wm
 Walker Sr, by letter. Ham Milkerson Moderator
 A. H. Holloway Clerk.

Aug 22-1807.
 Received by letters sisters Susanna Cobb and Nancy Low,
 Appointed Bro Cates to write the association letter.

19 of Sep 1807,
 Chose Bethen Milkerson and Pressley, messengers to
 the association. Agreed to call our Church "Crooked Creek"
 Oct 24 1807.

Received by letter, sisters Holloway, and Mary Hill.
 Nov 22nd 1807, Received by experience Betty Dinning
 Dec 26 1807.

Received by letter, sister Nancy Garrett,
 Jan 23rd 1808.
 Mrs. Dennis.

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Males
member have no account

Pro Hart Thomas

Nathan Mims

Forget Hill out

James Garfield

Issic Bonny

✓ Curnel Dixon out

Malice Matthew

Vinealen Hogg

Walter Hogg

June Flank

Joe Thomas

Henry Regular

Paul Pauldor dead

Larimo Elerson out P. 75

Jackson Bryant

16 Homer Brown

Henry Hogg

16 Moses Mims dead

Church Records: Minutes

- Churches held monthly business meetings
 - Theological discussions
 - Financial management
 - Decisions about facilities
 - Called pastors
 - Discipline among members
- Clerk recorded the minutes
- These are *not* transcripts!
- Can also prove your ancestors were in a particular place
- Useful to know what your ancestors might have been up to
- Names appear especially in relation to discipline

Buckhead Mich 28/79

On motion of Bro' W. Kiepatnik - Bro' and
C. McCaswell was Elected Mod - and
W. H. Sulland Clerk - A motion to accept
Bro' J. J. Davis & W. H. Cates from Barcamp was
Carried - Bro' W. H. Davis was accepted as a
past and portion of the Gen' meeting - and
by motion the Chair was authorized to appoint
the following committees -

1st Committee on religious services consisting of
Bros. W. H. Cates, J. J. Davis, and W. H. Sulland
2d Bro' Corn - Bro' W. Kiepatnik, W. H. Davis
& Bro' C. S. Mowd.

Committee on preaching reported Bro'
M. Cross to preach Sat. 11 Am & Bro' Kiepatnik
in case Bro' Cross was not present.

Conferred by
C. McCaswell Mod
W. H. Sulland Ck

Buckhead Mich 29/79.

Minutes of last read & approved - Bro' M. Cross reported
It was moved that Bro' J. J. Caswell be
added to this body also Bros. M. Caswell
from 4th Dist, C. Caswell Stone Mt, Bro'
W. H. Cates from Edgefield &c in application
from Bro' S. S. S. it was decided to hold the
next Gen' meeting at Rocky Creek -
Bro' M. Caswell Preached at 11 Am & Bro'
W. Kiepatnik in afternoon -

No other bus Conf adjd
C. McCaswell Mod
W. H. Sulland Ck

Buckhead Mich 30/79

After preaching by Bro' M. Caswell Church met
in evg Confd - Minutes of Gen' meeting read
and approved - The Clerk was authorized to buy a
church book out of funds left in from prepa-
ring Church - Resolved that we meet on the 1st
Saturday in May for the purpose of holding
conference & adopting Church & C. S. Mowd

Resolved that each one voting in the affirmative
will stand pledged to attend every Saturday
conference unless providentially hindered -
Bros. W. Kiepatnik, C. S. Mowd & B. Elwhitfield
were appointed to draw a Decorum Submit to
The Church for adoption, on motion the
Mod was added to this Committee - a motion
to commence a regular Communion service from
the 1st Sunday in May was carried

No other business Conf adjourned

C. McCaswell Mod
W. H. Sulland Ck

Buckhead July 5/79

After Prays meeting by the same Church
met in conference when Bro' R. A. Martin
came forward & joined by letter from Mt Zion
Church &c

No other business Conf adjourned
B. Elwhitfield Mod
W. H. Sulland Ck

Ambrose Jones after a statute investigation
into full fellowship

* Jesse Sanders waited on untill the next
Meeting

Deacons to be Chosen

* Jesse Sanders Excommunicated for presenting
Brother Jones a piece of writing and in fact
it was Benj^m Grubbs' affidavit, which appeared
so to be, and afterwards denying he said it was, but
it was what he would swear to, then said to said
Grubbs he would never swear to it, then promised
Brother Jones he would withdraw his affidavit but
did not, and for saying Brother Jones was perjured

Sept. 18th 1790

* Robert Graves, Excommunicated for Intoxication

Jan. 16th 1791.

Isaac Justice and St. Harris
Applied for Letters of Dismission

16th October 1793

Church Meeting held the Saturday before the third
Lord's day, in consequence of the association being the third

Church Meeting opened after sermon, The
Church proceeded to the choice of a clerk for the
purpose of keeping their Book, Ephraim Sanders
was duly appointed,

Delegates appointed to attend the association
at Powell Creek the third Lord's day in Octob. 1793,

Chosen Brothers A. Marshall, James Jimmy, Abel
Smalley & Sanders

The Saturday before the third ~~day~~
Sunday in November, being the day of our Church Meeting
In consequence of bro. A. Marshall's illness nothing done,

Nov. 16th 1793 Ephraim Sanders Clerk

December, Saturday before the third Sunday,
Church Meeting opened after sermon,

Business proceeded to. After a regular course of dis-
cussing Belark Expiled for the heinous sin of Fornic

Brother Lewis Excommunicated for leaving his wife and taking
another woman,

Sister Wallens Excommunicated for disobeying the Church,

Sister Aldridge Received by Confession,

Brother Tankersly cited to appear before the Church by
Brother Sanders,

Brother Stanford and Smalley appointed to cite brother Lewis
to our next Church Meeting,

Brother John Tankersly Excommunicated for not governing
family and not hearing the Church,

Saturday before the third Lord's day in September
Church Meeting opened after sermon & prayer, Present
Brother Waller from Virginia, Breyer from South Carolina
James Jimmy and James Sanders, Waller in the chair,

Edm. Cartledge's Complaint against A. Marshall about
the removal of a Meeting house in the fork of San. and
Little Rivers, the Complaint appeared grounded, and Brother
Marshall held acquitted, Brother Marshall's complaint against
E. Cartledge for slander & falsity, said Cartledge found guilty
and Admonished,

4
April 25th 1818
Aid by letter. Sister Mary Morely.

Received by letter Bro Theophiles Stephens and
Selath his wife.

Friday June 26th 1818
Bro Hickey charged himself of drinking too
much, Referred until tomorrow.

Saturday June 27th 1818.
Took up annual references, of choosing a
a pastor, Bro E. Morely chose of Porter another
year.

July 25th 1818.
Took up care of Bro Hickey. Decided to bear with
him, made choice of Bro E. Morely & A Holloway
as messengers, to the annuals, the clerk to
prepare the letter.

August 22nd 1818
Sister Brooks charged Sister Hickey with intemperance
appropriated \$2.50 for minutes,
Dismissed by letter Sister Mary Dodwell (?)

September 26th 1818
Received by letter Sister Mary Coleman. Bro
Lewis Morely charged himself of the sin of
drunkenness.

October 23rd 1818
Dismissed by letter, Sisters Jane Eakin and
Nancy Ingraham. Male members 18. Female
members 40. Total 58.

Oct 24-1818
Dismissed by letter Bro Thomas Cates and
Martha his wife, Bro William Williams, and
Rebecca his wife.

November 21st 1818
Received a petition from Salem, Morgan county
for ministerial aid, to ordain Bro Benj
Burrey to the ministry.

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Church Records: Minutes

- Names can appear in financials

then proceeded to make collection
for the support of the Communion
table,

Brother Elisha Perryman,	50 cents
Brother Elisha Walker	50 cents
Brother David Stanford	50 cents
Brother Family	25 cents
Brother Abbednigo Wright	50 cents
Brother William Beall	25 cents
Brother Isaac Bailes	50 cents
Brother Jay Crabb	25 cents
Brother John Cottins	50 cents
Brother Starkington	25 cents
Brother William Upton	25 cents
Brother Samuel Crabb	25 cents
Brother J. Marshall	50 cents
Mr Amos	25 cents
Sister Becham	12 1/2 cents
Brother Hunt	50 cents

\$ 4.87 1/2

Completed

11/30/83

Mount Oline Baptist Church

Collection Aug Term Year 1898

Monday Col 3 75

Monday night 1 9

Wednesday 65

Finance Committee

Collection Sept 17 Year 1898

1 Matthew Stoner 1 00

2. Jens Edward 1 5

3. Wm. Lick 1 00

4. Chip Thomas 1 00

5. Chas. Cutman 1 5

6. Will Rouse 1 07

7. Rolling Winberly 1 5

8. John Durham 1 00

9. George Wright 1 00

10. Isid. Sams 1 00

11. Janey Mins 1 50

Joshua Hill 25

Association Minutes

- Groups of churches in a region formed associations to aid missions and education
- Their annual reports are a useful second place to look for ancestors, especially for ministers
- These are minutes of business conducted
- Georgia Baptist Convention *Annals* may also be used in this way
- Printed obituaries of influential members

9. Read and received a Letter from the *Columbus Association*, borne by the following brethren, J. Perryman, S. W. Durham, G. W. Epps and G. Hartsfield, a committee appointed by that body to confer with us on terms of Correspondence and Union. Whereupon, we appointed the following brethren, W. Presley, D. J. Apperson, W. T. Park, J. Powell, J. Hartsfield and Eld. John Reeves, a select committee to confer with them, and report to this body.

10. Adjourned until Monday morning, half past 8 o'clock.

On the Sabbath, the brethren J. Perryman and J. O. Cumbe, preached, in the order of their names, to an attentive audience, we trust with good effect.

MONDAY MORNING.

Met pursuant to adjournment—prayer by Eld. R. H. Daniel.

1. Called for the report of the Committee of Arrangements, which was read and adopted.

2. Appointed brethren Presley, Apperson, J. Hartsfield and Daniel, to draft a *Decorum* for the Body.

3. Called for the report of the Select Committee, which was read and adopted. (See Appendix A.)

4. Called for the report of the committee to draft a *Decorum* for this Body, which was read and adopted. (Appendix B.)

5. Called for the report of Financial Committee, which was read and adopted. (Appendix C.)

6. Adjourned until Tuesday morning, 9 o'clock.

TUESDAY MORNING.

Met pursuant to adjournment—prayer by Eld. R. H. Daniel.

1. Resolved to hold the next annual session of our Body with Mount Gilead Church, Harris county, Georgia, to convene on Saturday before the 3d Sabbath in October, 1848.

2. Appointed brother W. F. Benson to write the next Circular Letter.

3. Appointed Eld. W. Presley to preach the Sermon Introductory to the next session, and Eld. D. J. Apperson his alternate.

4. Brethren, W. Presley, D. J. Apperson, W. T. Park, sen., R. W. Watson, J. Fulford and W. T. Park, jr., volunteer to correspond with the *United Baptist Association*, to convene at Liberty Church, Pike county, Georgia, five miles South of Griffin, Saturday before the 2d Sunday in September, 1848.

5. Authorized the Clerk to have 300 copies of the Minutes of this session printed, and take the surplus of funds for his services.

6. The Association then adjourned to the time and place above mentioned.

W. M. T. PARK, Clerk.

JOHN REEVES, MODERATOR.

We agreed to publish a summary of our doctrinal views in these Minutes, but unfortunately some brother carried off the Minute in which these views were printed, leaving me without a copy; consequently they are omitted, with much regret, by your Clerk.

W. M. T. PARK.

[A.] REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

Your committee appointed to confer with the Delegation from the *Columbus Association*, on terms of correspondence and union, beg leave to report, that after a friendly interview, failed to accomplish the object proposed.

JOHN REEVES, Chairman.

[B.] REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO DRAFT A DECORUM.

Your committee beg leave to report, that after a close examination of the *Decorum* of the United Baptist Association, has adopted that *Decorum*, (except four words in the latter part of the 18th item) in lieu of writing one.

W. M. PRESLEY, Chairman.

[C.] REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE.

Received for Minutes from the Churches, - \$9 25
 " " " " the body and friends, - 3 00
 For Domestic Missions, by public collection on Sabbath, 7 50

Amounting to - - - \$19 75

Resolved, That we recommend all the Churches of the Association to appropriate and send money to our annual sessions, for Domestic Missions—finding some of the Churches in the Association destitute of efficient Ministers.

DAVID J. APPERSON, Chairman.

STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES.	COUNTIES.	DELEGATES' NAMES.	Baptized	Rec'd by Let	Dismissed	Restored	Excomm.	Dead	Total No.	For Minutes.	Meetings.
Union . . .	Marion, Ga.	D. J. Apperson*, J. Fulford†	1	0	0	0	0	1	36	1	50
Cominth . . .	"	W. T. Park, J. Powell . . .	0	0	2	0	3	0	51	2	00
Shiloh . . .	Macon, "	S. Seism, J. Hartsfield . . .	6	2	0	0	0	0	15	1	00
Mt. Gilead . . .	Harris, "	M. Atkins, T. Barron . . .	5	4	3	0	0	0	25	1	00
Providence . . .	Muscogee, "	J. Reeves*, W. Presley*	0	3	0	0	3	0	32	1	50
Antioch . . .	"	W. Beason† . . .	0	3	2	0	5	0	18		50
Republican . . .	"	W. H. Parkman, S. Bartlett	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	1	75
Newprospect . . .	Crawford, "	W. Shephard, (newly con)									5
Macedonia . . .	Tallapoos. Al.	Not Represented	1	0	0	0	0	3	17		00
Rehoboth . . .	Russell, "	" " " " " " " " " " " "	0	0	0	0	0	0	15		00
Shady Grove . . .	Russell, "	" " " " " " " " " " " "	0	0	16	2	7	0	90		00
Ebenezer . . .	Russell, "	" " " " " " " " " " " "	0	0	0	0	0	0	26		00
			13	12	23	2	18	4	327	9	25

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution on the death of Deacon John W. Roberson.

In the plans and scheme of the Omnipotent One, friends and loved ones are constantly called from our midst. It is with sorrowful hearts we learned of the death of our martyred brother, Deacon John W. Roberson. For many years we have met him as a Messenger to our Association and we have learned to look for him as a quiet godly man. Brother Roberson was a friend to all good and pure men and women and a staunch and fearless supporter to every high and noble purpose as well as the uncompromising enemy of all unrighteousness. In his work for the Master, which was his religion and his daily life, he was quiet and humble, a doer of the Father's will, rather than a giver of worthless advice. In the discharge of public duties he was faithful and fearless, giving the best of his life to the enforcement of law and to curbing and punishing evildoers.

Two counties hold it an honor to have been his home and all South Georgia respected him as a good and fearless officer.

His immediate neighbors knew him best and loved and honored him as a God-fearing, consecrated, christian man.

While discharging a duty of his office he was cut off from his life, a martyr to the cause of liberty and justice—the bed-rock of our great republic.

Victorious in life, triumphant in death, his life and light will illuminate the pathway of men down through the years to come and forever be a source of love and power to the hosts of friends he left behind.

Respectfully submitted,

R. D. Howard, Chairman,

T. B. Wiley,

C. J. Bryant,

J. N. Sullivan.

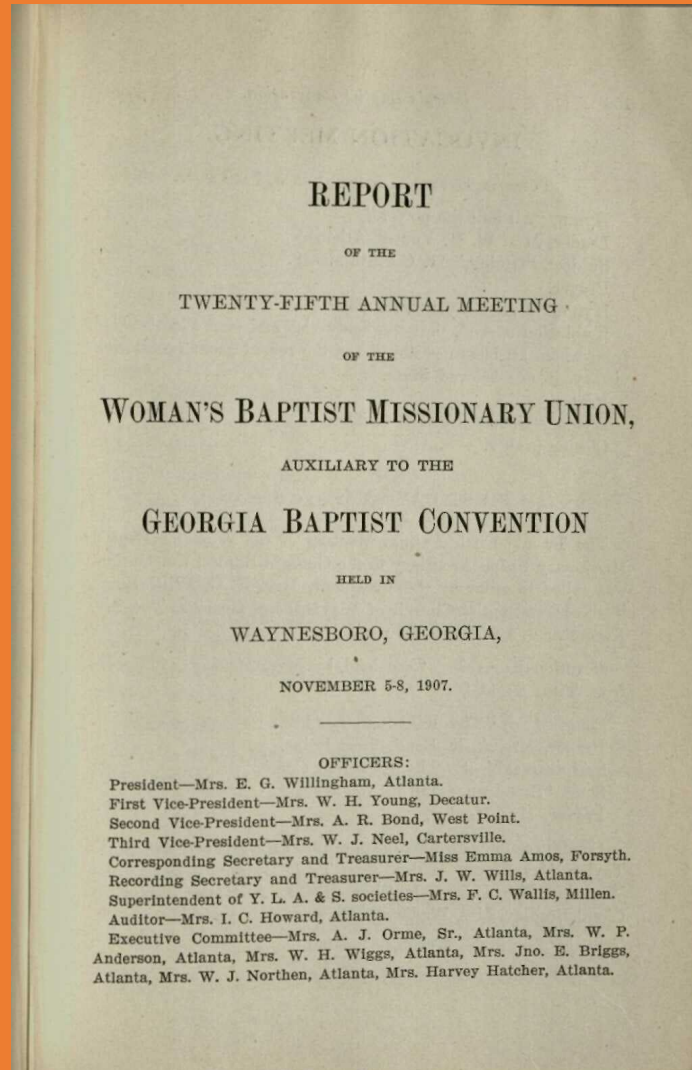
Central Baptist Church

Waycross, Ga., Oct. 6, 1921.

Whereas:

Our Church has recently sustained a great loss in the death of Brother H. P. Brewer, a man greatly loved

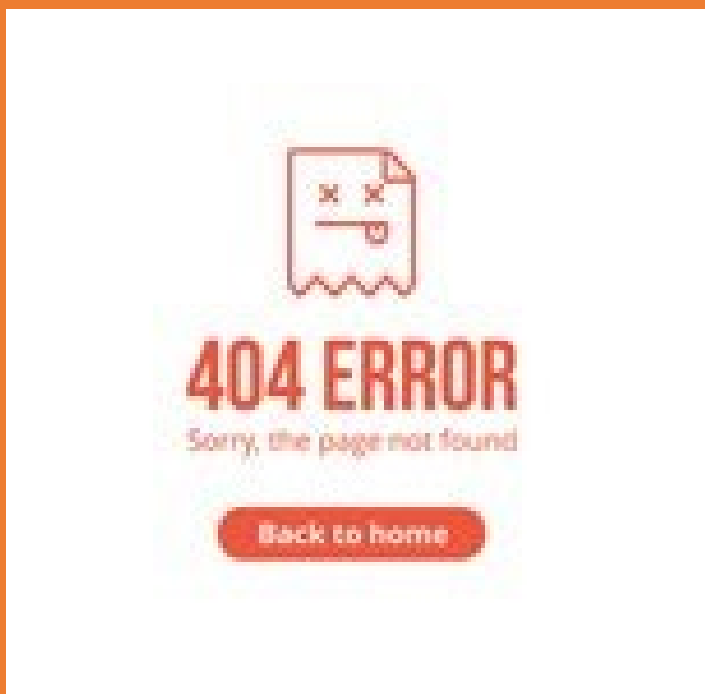
Woman's Missionary Union



- Baptist women supported missions through the Woman's Missionary Union when they were not allowed in denominational leadership
- Annual reports are similar to association records
- Can contain information on female ancestors

What You Probably Won't Find

- Family relationships
- Baptism records



The *Christian Index*

- Newspaper of the Georgia Baptist Convention
- Published 1822-present
- Oldest continuously-published religious newspaper in the United States
- Jesse Mercer moved it to Georgia in 1833
- Published obituaries and marriages; these are indexed
- Other information about ministers; not always indexed

THE COLUMBIAN STAR,

AND

CHRISTIAN INDEX.

W. T. BRANTLY, EDITOR.

VOL. III.

PHILADELPHIA, SATURDAY, JULY 3, 1830.

NO. 1.

SKETCHES.

ANECDOTES OF THE MARTYRS.

Accompanying our present number, which is also the first of a new volume, is an expressive engraving representing a scene of suffering, torture and death, similar to that through which many of the followers of Christ were destined to pass. That the success of the Gospel in the world should have been characterized by such a waste of precious blood, by such an immeasurable aggregate of human immolation, and by such a number of appalling atrocities, is probably the most inexplicable feature in the whole historic volume. It is a subject involved in so many horrors, that few minds are willing to approach it; it shows a test of virtue so formidable to the sickly graces of modern times, that few are disposed to judge themselves by its rigorous probation; and consequently the NOBLE ARMY of the Martyrs, seldom employs the thoughts of those Christians who, instead of being called to breathe the spiry flames and embers of surrounding faggots, are wafted on in their course upon the gales of popular favor. Our engraving which represents the most affecting and triumphant instance of religious heroism in English Martyrology, exhibits RIDLEY and LATIMER—men somewhat divided in life, but sublimely united in death.—RIDLEY was a man of pre-eminent abilities. His tenacious memory, extensive erudition, impressive oratory, and indefatigable zeal in preaching, drew after him not only his own flock, but persons from all quarters desirous of godly exhortation or reproof. To an unusual splendor of talent, he added an ardent devotion. He lived with God in private prayer, and lived for man in acts of goodness and beneficence. He was equally remote from monkish austerity, and vulgar familiarity; and was in all respects a pattern of that truth which he preached.

LATIMER. He was the colleague of Ridley at the stake. In some parts of his previous life he had been somewhat vacillating, and had subscribed certain articles which seemed to favor popery. Subsequently, however, he resigned the station which

he held, and resolved to preserve an unsullied conscience.

“When they came to the stake, Dr. Ridley embraced Latimer fervently, and bid him be of good heart. He then knelt by the stake, and after earnestly praying together, they had a short private conversation. Dr. Smith then preached a short sermon against the martyrs, who would have answered him, but were prevented by Dr. Marshall, the vice-chancellor. Dr. Ridley then took off his gown and tippet, and gave it to his brother-in-law, Mr. Shipside. He gave away also many trifles to his weeping friends, and the populace were anxious to get even a fragment of his garments. Mr. Latimer gave nothing, and from the poverty of his garb, was soon stripped to his shroud, and stood venerable and erect, fearless of death. Dr. Ridley being unclothed to his shirt, the smith placed an iron chain about their waists, and Dr. Ridley bid him fasten it securely; his brother having tied a bag of gunpowder about his neck, gave some also to Mr. Latimer. Dr. Ridley then requested of Lord Williams, of Fame, to advocate with the Queen the cause of some poor men to whom he had, when bishop, granted leases, but which the present bishop refused to confirm. A lighted faggot was now laid at Dr. Ridley's feet, which caused Mr. Latimer to say, “Be of good cheer, Ridley; and play the man. We shall this day, by God's grace, light up such a candle in England, as, I trust, will never be put out.” When Dr. Ridley saw the flame approaching him, he exclaimed, “Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit!” and repeated often, “Lord, receive my spirit!” Mr. Latimer, too, ceased not to say, “O Father of heaven, receive my soul!” Embracing the flame, he bathed his hands in it, and soon died, apparently with little pain; but Dr. Ridley, by the ill adjustment of the faggots, which were green, and placed too high about the furze, was burnt much downwards. At this time, piteously entreating for more fire to come to him, his brother-in-law imprudently heaped the faggots up over him, which caused the fire more fiercely to burn his limbs, whence he literally leaped up and down under the faggots, exclaiming that he could not burn; indeed, his dreadful extremity was but too plain; for after his legs were quite consumed, he showed his body and shirt unsinged by the flame.—Crying to God for mercy, a man with a bill pulled the faggots down, and when the flames arose, he bent himself towards that side; at length the gunpowder was ignited, and then he ceased to move, burning on the other side, and falling down at Mr. Latimer's feet over the chain that had hitherto supported him.—

19
197
216

OBITUARIES

Published by
The Christian Index,

1880-1899

Compiled by
Mary McKeown Overby

for

**The Georgia Baptist
Historical Society Depository**

Macon, Georgia
1982

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Herald.

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DIED,

On the night of Tuesday, August 31st, in this city, aged 21 years and some months, GEORGE WALKER, Merchant, late of Fredericksburg, Va., and son of Mr. ALEXANDER WALKER, of that place. Mr. WALKER's case was peculiarly afflictive. From the bloom of youth, the beauty of manhood, and the expectation of worldly happiness, the reverse has been sad, gloomy and sudden to the silent grave. His disease, we learn, was a *running cancer*, which originated in the knee of the left leg, and thence spreading, pervaded his whole system in a short time. The physicians thought it best to subject the whole limb to amputation, which was accordingly done the day previous to his decease. He survived the operation but a few hours. He could not have lived many days, even had the operation been omitted. He bore his illness with much fortitude, and manifested a deep interest in the prayers of those christian friends who frequently poured out their desires and petitions before God, in his behalf.

On the 2d of August, in Darlington District, S.C. Mr. THOMAS CONN, in the 77th year of his age. He had been a deacon of the Baptist Church, at Mechanicville, for many years—had sustained the office with honor and fidelity, and in general bore the character of an estimable and good man.

On Friday evening, the 13th ult. Mrs. Elizabeth W. Wilson, aged about 25 years, and consort of Capt. James H. Wilson of Middle Salem, Sumpter District, S.C.

Near Charlottesville, Va. recently, Mr. Wm. C. Wren, of Hydrophobia. He was bitten by a dog on the 7th of June last. The wound thus received was in a short time restored—and he never supposed that the dog was mad till a day or two before his death, which was preceded by violent spasms.

In Bladen co. N. C. Mrs. Elizabeth M'Alister, wife of Mr. Charles M'Alister, of Cumberland co.

On Sunday evening, 22d Aug: in New York city, Col. MARSH WILLET, aged 90 years. He commenced his military career in the colonial service of the British Government in the reign of George the Second, was actively engaged on the northern and western frontiers of this State, in the (French) war of 1756, and was killed at the battle of Oswego, when the first Lord Howe was killed. Upon the breaking out of the war of the revolution, he joined the standard, and entered the service of his country, in which he was highly distinguished and useful; he was a volunteer at the battle of Monmouth, on the 28th of June, 1778, when the British forces under Gen. Sir Henry Clinton were defeated; he was also at the battle distinguished in the siege of Fort Stanwix, and also at the battle of Johnstown, Montgomery county, on the 25th of October, 1781, in both of which he commanded. Col. W. continued in the revolutionary army until the close of the war of independence, commanding at that time the fifth regiment; he was remarkable for personal bravery, military enterprise, and energy of purpose. In private life, he was one of the most amiable of men, and after the war held several civil offices, the last of which was the mayorship of this city.—N. Y. paper.

VOL. I

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TERMS

INDEX.

How Do I Know What You Have?

- We rely on *voluntary* donations of records
- We only have records of a few hundred churches
- Several thousand have existed in Georgia
- PDF finding aids online
- libraries.mercer.edu

A:

Abbeville First Baptist Church, Wilcox County

C 1861

- Microfiche: Walter M. Lee, *History of Cedar Creek, ...Abbeville, ...Baptist Churches* (c.1918), 24 pp. [MU]

Abilene Baptist Church, Carroll County

C 1875

- Reel 708: Church Record Book, 1887-1943 [GDAH]

Abilene Baptist Church, Richmond now Columbia County

C 1774 as Red's Creek BC, 1774; EX 1822; C as Abilene BC, 1824

- Reel 106/1,2,4: Church Record Book, 1824-1970; newspaper clippings: "Condensed History" (1960), 2 pp. [GDAH]
- "*The Little Church in the Woods*": *a Historical Summary of the Birth and Growth of Abilene Baptist Church, 1774-1998* (1998); BX6480.A35 A35 1998
- *Strength for Today, Bright Hope for Tomorrow* (1999); BX6480.M267 A25 1999

Adairsville Baptist Church, Bartow Columbia County

C c.1838/1880

- Wilma Jo Gazaway Moore, *One Vine, Two Branches: History of the Adairsville Baptist Church (nee Oothcaloga Baptist Church), 1835-1979* (1979); BX6480.A42 A44

Adel Baptist Church, Berrien now Cook County

C 1891

- Reel 105: Emily Hughes, "History of Adel Baptist Church" (1940), 4 pp.; Church Record Book, 1894-1943 [GDAH]
- Reel 749: Church Record Book, 1894-1912, 1932-1933, 1936-1944, 1912-1915 [GDAH]
- *History of First Baptist Church, Adel, Georgia, 1891-1991* (1991); BX6480.A33 F57 1991

Ailey Baptist Church, Montgomery County

C 1892

Good News

- Ancestry digitization project
- Historic Rural Churches project





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