



Little Piney Association of Regular Predestinarian Baptists Records (R0283)

Collection Number: R0283

Collection Title: Little Piney Association of Regular Predestinarian Baptists Records

Dates: 1837-1974

Creator: Little Piney Association of Regular Predestinarian Baptists (Mo.)

Abstract: The Little Piney Association of Regular Predestinarian Baptists Records contain minutes of annual meetings of the Little Piney Association, which was composed of churches in Camden, Cole, Crawford, Dent, Gasconade, Maries, Miller, Osage, Phelps, Pulaski, Shannon, and Texas counties in Missouri. At various times, the organization was titled a “United” and “Primitive” Baptist association.

Collection Size: 0.5 cubic foot
(90 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla](http://www.shsmo.org). If you would like more information, please contact us at rolla@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Little Piney Association of Regular Predestinarian Baptists Records* (R0283); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

Donor Information: The records were donated to the University of Missouri by Margaret Elizabeth Bowles Eyberg on November 12, 1986 (Accession No. RA0358). An addition was made on June 15, 1987 by Adrian Lamkin, William E. Partee Center for Baptist Historical Studies (Accession No. RA0381). An addition was made on August 12, 1988 by Elizabeth Barnitz (Accession No. RA0418). An addition was made on February 3, 1994 by Doris Boyd (Accession No. RA0587).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Little Piney Association of Regular Predestinarian Baptists Records can be found in the following collections:

Lamine River Association of Regular Predestinarian Baptists Records (R0284)

Osage River Association of Regular Baptists Records (R0285)

Osage River Association of United Baptists Records (R0286)

Union Association of Regular Predestinarian Baptists Records (R0287)

Dry Fork Regular Baptist Church Records (R0406)

Big Piney Regular Baptist Church Records (R1352)

Mount Zion Regular Baptist Church Records (R1354)

Missouri Church Records (C0558)

Processed by: Processed by John F. Bradbury, January 26, 1987. Revised by John F. Bradbury, April 10, 1989. Revised by John F. Bradbury, June 4, 2001. Revised by Kathleen Seale, October 26, 2022.

Historical Note:

The Little Piney Association was organized in 1834 as a United Baptist group. It was composed of five churches in what were then Crawford and Pulaski counties. The association remained affiliated with the United Baptists until 1838, when members voted to end the relationship and to substitute “Regular” for “United” in their own title. The change signified the concurrence of the Little Piney group with the anti-mission movement then popular in southern Missouri. In contrast with United Baptists, who advanced programs to establish foreign and home missions and Sunday schools, Regular Baptists insisted on the total preeminence of the scriptures in their practice. They rejected missions, Sunday schools, theological colleges, and temperance societies as secular inventions.

The name was modified in 1853 to the Little Piney Association of Regular Predestinarian Baptists. About two hundred members were represented during the antebellum period. Some of the prominent members were Isaac N. Bradford, J. B. Harrison, David Lenox, and Pleasant Wayman. The minutes available for the postwar period indicate a decline in the number of member churches and the number of individuals involved. Sometime after 1894 and before 1900, the association again changed its name, becoming the Little Piney Association of Primitive Baptists. Four churches representing 153 members made up this association in 1900.

At one time or another, the following churches were members of the Little Piney Baptist Association to 1894:

Bethel Baptist Church (Cole County, Mo.)

Big Piney Baptist Church (Pulaski County, Mo.)

Cherry Valley Baptist Church (Crawford County, Mo.)

Dry Fork Baptist Church (Dent County, Mo.)

Little Hope Baptist Church (Osage County, Mo.)

Little Maries Baptist Church (Osage County, Mo.)

Little Piney Baptist Church (Phelps County, Mo.)

Mount Zion Baptist Church (Pulaski County, Mo.)

Pine Baptist Church (Texas County, Mo.)

Prairie Valley Baptist Church (Miller County, Mo.)

Rock Springs Baptist Church (Maries County, Mo.)

Sardis Baptist Church (Gasconade County, Mo.)
Union Baptist Church (Camden County, Mo.)
Union Baptist Church (Maries or Osage counties, Mo.)

The Little Piney Association of Primitive Baptists included the following churches in 1900:

Bethel Church (Phelps or Dent counties, Mo.)
Big Piney (Pulaski County, Mo.)
Dry Fork Church (Dent County, Mo.)
Little Flock Church (Pulaski County, Mo.)
Little Hope Church (Pulaski County, Mo.)
Little Maries Church (Maries County, Mo.)
Mount Zion Church (Shannon County, Mo., in 1900, but Oregon County by 1932)
Not Church (Shannon County, Mo.)
Pine Church (Pulaski or Texas counties, Mo.)
Sardis Church (Gasconade County, Mo.)
Walnut Grove Church (Miller County, Mo.)

In 1901, only Bethel, Big Piney, Dry Fork, Little Flock, and Little Hope churches attended the annual session. For much of the remaining period covered by the minutes, only the Bethel, Big Piney (the two were combined as Big Piney-Bethel Church in 1924), Dry Fork, and Pine churches attended the sessions. Of all the churches, only Dry Fork stayed unchanged in name and identity. J. M. Lenox and W. L. Bradford were the longtime moderator and clerk, respectively, of the Association.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following four series:

Little Piney United Baptists Association Annual Meeting Minutes
Little Piney Association of Regular Predestinarian Baptists Annual Session Minutes
Little Piney Association of Primitive Baptists Annual Session Minutes
Miscellaneous

Scope and Content Note:

Little Piney United Baptists Association Annual Meeting Minutes

This series contains materials related to the annual meetings of the Little Piney United Baptists Association. The annual meetings of the association were hosted by different member churches each year. Copies of the minutes were printed by the association and distributed through the churches. The proceedings include membership information for each constituent church and summaries of business taken up by the association. Typical business matters included the admission, dismissal and exclusion of churches, the exchange of correspondence with neighboring associations, and formulation of "circular letters." Circulars concerned matters of doctrine and ensured uniformity of belief. Correspondence with other associations was printed occasionally, particularly where a divergence in doctrine had developed. The minutes are organized by the year and includes the name and location of the church where the annual meeting was held. Church locations noted below follow the post-1857 designations for Missouri counties. Minutes for pre-1857 annual meetings bear the earlier county designations. Some of the locations are speculative, based on the addresses of church clerks.

Little Piney Association of Regular Predestinarian Baptists Annual Session Minutes

This series consists of materials pertaining to the annual meetings of the Little Piney Association of Regular Predestinarian Baptists. The meeting minutes include information and correspondence with other Baptist associations, dismissal letters, churches that have dissolved, articles of faith, information on events that took place at the meeting, and business of the association. The printed minutes also contain charts of attending churches, number of members, names of representatives, lists of ministers and church clerks, and death notices. The meeting minutes are organized by the year and include the name and location of the church where the annual meeting was held. Church locations noted below follow the post-1857 designations for Missouri counties. Minutes for pre-1857 annual meetings bear the earlier county designations. Some of the locations are speculative, based on the addresses of church clerks.

Little Piney Association of Primitive Baptists Annual Session Minutes

This series contains meeting minutes of the annual sessions of the Little Piney Association of Primitive Baptists. The meeting minutes include information and correspondence with other Baptist associations, dismissal letters, churches that have dissolved, articles of faith, information on events that took place at the meeting, and business of the association. The printed minutes also contain charts of attending churches, number of members, names of representatives, lists of ministers and church clerks, and death notices. Of note is the death notice of long-time minister W. L. Bradford who passed in 1861, which is noted in folder 72. The minutes are organized by the year and includes the name and location of the church where the annual meeting was held. Church locations noted below follow the post-1857 designations for Missouri counties. Minutes for pre-1857 annual meetings bear the earlier county designations. Some of the locations are speculative, based on the addresses of church clerks.

The meeting minutes from 1934 in folder 45 contain a history of the association dating from its organization in 1834.

Miscellaneous

This series consists of the fragmentary minutes of an unidentified Regular Baptist Association, ca. 1855, which may have been the Center Creek or Osage association. There are also the December 1883 issue of Regular Baptist Magazine, the Primitive Baptist Hymnal (St. Louis; 1881), minutes from the Salem and Fishing River associations of Primitive Baptists (1953, 1965), and a history of Rocky Fork Church in Hinton, Missouri (ca. 1971).

Container List:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| f. 1-8 | Little Piney United Baptists Association Annual Meeting Minutes |
| Box 001 | f. 1 Fourth and fifth annual meetings, Little Piney United Baptists Association, 1837-1838 |
| | f. 2 Mount Zion Church, Pulaski County, 1842 |
| | f. 3 Dry Fork Church, Crawford County, 1843 |
| | f. 4 Little Piney Church, Pulaski County, 1845 |
| | f. 5 Big Piney Church, Pulaski County, 1846 |
| | f. 6 Union Church, Camden County, 1847 |
| | f. 7 Little Maries Church, Osage County, 1848 |

- f. 8 Minutes and circular letter [fragments], 1851
- f. 9-19 Little Piney Association of Regular Predestinarian Baptists Annual Session Minutes
 - f. 9 Bethel Church, Cole County, 1853
 - f. 10 Big Piney Church, Pulaski County, 1854
 - f. 11 Dry Fork Church, Crawford County, 1857
 - f. 12 Little Hope Church, Osage County, 1858
 - f. 13 Circular letter, Bethel Church, Cole County, 1859
 - f. 14 Pine Church, Texas County, 1869
 - f. 15 [fragment], 1871
 - f. 16 Rock Spring Church, Maries County, 1877
 - f. 17 Pine Church, Texas County, 1879
 - f. 18 Pine Church, Texas County, 1888
 - f. 19 Little Marie Church, Maries County, 1894
- f. 20-84 Little Piney Association of Primitive Baptists Annual Session Minutes
 - f. 20 Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 1900
 - f. 21 Big Piney Church, Phelps County, 1905
 - f. 22 Big Piney Church, Phelps County, 1908
 - f. 23 Bethel Church, Phelps County, 1909
 - f. 24 Pine Church, Texas County, 1910
 - f. 25 Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 1911
 - f. 26 Dry Fork Church, Phelps County, 1912
 - f. 27 Bethel Church, Phelps County, 1913
 - f. 28 Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 1914
 - f. 29 Big Piney Church, Phelps County, 1915
 - f. 30 Bethel Church, Phelps County, 1916
 - f. 31 Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 1917
 - f. 32 Big Piney Church, Phelps County, 1918
 - f. 33 Bethel Church, Phelps County, 1919
 - f. 34 Big Piney Church, Phelps County, 1921
 - f. 35 Bethel Church, Phelps County, 1922
 - f. 36 Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 1923
 - f. 37 Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 1925
 - f. 38 Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 1926
 - f. 39 Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 1927
 - f. 40 Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 1928
 - f. 41 Pine Church, Texas County, 1929
 - f. 42 Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 1930
 - f. 43 Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 1931
 - f. 44 Mount Zion Church, Oregon County, 1932
 - f. 45 Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 1934
 - f. 46 Mount Zion Church, Oregon County, 1935
 - f. 47 Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 1936
 - f. 48 Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 1937
 - f. 49 Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 1938
 - f. 50 Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 1939
 - f. 51 Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 1940
 - f. 52 Pine Church, Texas County, 1941
 - f. 53 Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 1942
 - f. 54 Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 1943

- Box 002
- f. 55 110th Annual Meeting, Pine Church, Texas County, 1944
 - f. 56 111th Annual Meeting, Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 1945
 - f. 57 112th Annual Meeting, Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 1946
 - f. 58 113th Annual Meeting, Pine Church, Texas County, 1947
 - f. 59 114th Annual Meeting, Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 1948
 - f. 60 115th Annual Meeting, Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 1949
 - f. 61 116th Annual Meeting, Pine Church, Texas County, 1950
 - f. 62 117th Annual Meeting, Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 1951
 - f. 63 118th Annual Meeting, Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 1952
 - f. 64 119th Annual Meeting, Pine Church, Texas County, 1953
 - f. 65 120th Annual Meeting, Dry Fork Church, Cent County, 1954
 - f. 66 121st Annual Meeting, Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 1955
 - f. 67 122nd Annual Meeting, Pine Church, Texas County, 1956
 - f. 68 123rd Annual Meeting, Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 1957
 - f. 69 124th Annual Meeting, Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 1958
 - f. 70 125th Annual Meeting, Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 1959
 - f. 71 126th Annual Meeting, Pine Church, Texas County, 1960
 - f. 72 127th Annual Meeting, Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 1961
 - f. 73 128th Annual Meeting, Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 1962
 - f. 74-84 130th-140th Annual Meeting, Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 1964-1974
 - f. 85-90 Miscellaneous
 - f. 85 Annual meeting minutes, Regular Baptist Association [fragment], circa 1855
 - f. 86 *Regular Baptist Magazine*, v. 8 no. 12, 1883
 - f. 87 *The Primitive Baptist Hymnal*, M. J. Sears and T. B. Ausmus, compilers, 1881
 - f. 88 Salem Association of Primitive Baptist minutes, 1953
 - f. 89 Fishing River Association of Primitive Baptist, 1965
 - f. 90 "History of Rocky Fork Church, 1821-1971," by Mae Wayland, 1971

Index:

Index Term	Folder	Image
Agee, Clayborn C., 1867-1934	20-25, 33, 42	
Baptist associations--Missouri	1-90	
Barnitz, Elizabeth "Betty," 1912-1986	69-84	
Bethel Baptist Church (Cole County, Mo.)	13, 15-16	
Bethel Baptist Church (Phelps, Mo.)	7, 9-12, 20-36	
Big Piney Baptist Church (Phelps County, Mo.)	1, 3-15, 19-36, 45	
Big Piney-Bethel Baptist Church (Edgar Springs, Mo.)	37-84	Yes

Index Term	Folder	Image
Bradford, Isaac N., 1805-1872	3, 7, 13-14	
Bradford, Pearl, 1880-1965	34-74	
Bradford, W. L., 1877-1961	34-71, 88	
Brown, John A., 1894-1976	49-62, 64-84	
Camden County (Mo.)	3, 5-7, 9-10, 88	
Cherry Valley Baptist Church (Crawford County, Mo.)	3-5	
Churches, Baptist	1-90	
Cole County (Mo.)	13, 15-16	
Coppedge, Linsay L., 1805-1891	1-3, 5, 12	
Crawford County (Mo.)	1	
Dent County (Mo.)	1, 3	
Dry Fork Baptist Church (Lake Spring, Mo.)	1, 3-7, 9-12, 14-84	
Fishing River Association of Primitive Baptists	68, 73, 88-89	
Harrison, J. B.	2-7, 9	
Hawkins, John W., 1811-1862	9-13	
Jenkins, Thomas H., 1857-1934	20-26	
Lamine River Association	2, 11, 14-15, 17, 19-22, 25-26, 28	
Lenox, David, 1803-1865	1-13, 45	
Lenox, J. M. [James Morrison], 1852-1933	20-21, 27-44	
Little Flock Baptist Church (Iberia, Mo.)	18, 20-24, 28, 89	
Little Hope Church (Mint Hill, Osage County, Mo.)	3-7, 9-12, 14-15, 18-27	
Little Maries Baptist Church (Maries County, Mo.)	6-7, 9-12, 14-15, 18-20	
Little Piney Association of Primitive Baptists	20-84	
Little Piney Association of Regular Baptists	2-7	
Little Piney Association of Regular Predestinarian Baptists	9-19	
Little Piney Baptist Church (Phelps County, Mo.)	3-7, 9-10, 45	
Little Piney United Baptist Association	1, 8	
Maries County (Mo.)	6-7, 9-12, 14-20, 45	
Miller County (Mo.)	18-24, 28, 89	
Mount Zion Baptist Church (Edgar Prairie, Mo.)	2-7, 9-12, 15-18	
Mount Zion Baptist Church (Oregon County, Mo.)	43-48	
Mount Zion Baptist Church (Shannon County, Mo.)	20, 41-43	
Oregon County (Mo.)	43-48	
Osage Baptist Church	85	
Osage County (Mo.)	6-7	
Osage River Baptist Association	85	
Phelps County (Mo.)	1, 3-15, 19-84	
Pine Baptist Church (Texas County, Mo.)	14-15, 17-18, 22-27, 36-84	

Index Term	Folder	Image
Prairie Valley Baptist Church (Miller County, Mo.)	6-7, 9-13, 15	
Primitive Baptists--Missouri	20-84, 87	
Pulaski County (Mo.)	1-35, 45	
Regular Baptists--Missouri	9-19, 85	
Rock Spring Baptist Church (High Grove, Mo.)	11-12, 14-17, 45	
Rocky Fork Baptist Church (Hinton, Mo.)	76, 88, 90	
Round Pond Church (Dent or Texas County, Mo.)	19	
Rural churches--Missouri	1-90	
Salem Association of Primitive Baptists	10, 35-36, 39-42, 48, 55-56, 58, 61, 67-69, 88	
Sapp, Atley, 1897-1979	69-84, 88-90	
Sardis Baptist Church (Bland, Gasconade County, Mo.)	3-7, 9-12, 14-17, 19-20	
Shannon County (Mo.)	20, 41-43	
Shaw, Della, 1908-996	60-84, 88	
Snelson, Thomas	1, 45	
Texas County (Mo.)	14-15, 17-19, 22-27, 36-84	
Union Baptist Church (Camden County, Mo.)	3, 5-7, 9-10, 88	
Vaughan, William R., 1830-1922	14-16	
Walnut Grove Baptist Church (Iberia, Mo.)	18-20	
Wayland, Mae	90	
Woody, D. S.	9-15	
Wren, Haskell	72-73, 88	
Young, W. F.	21-32, 34, 39	