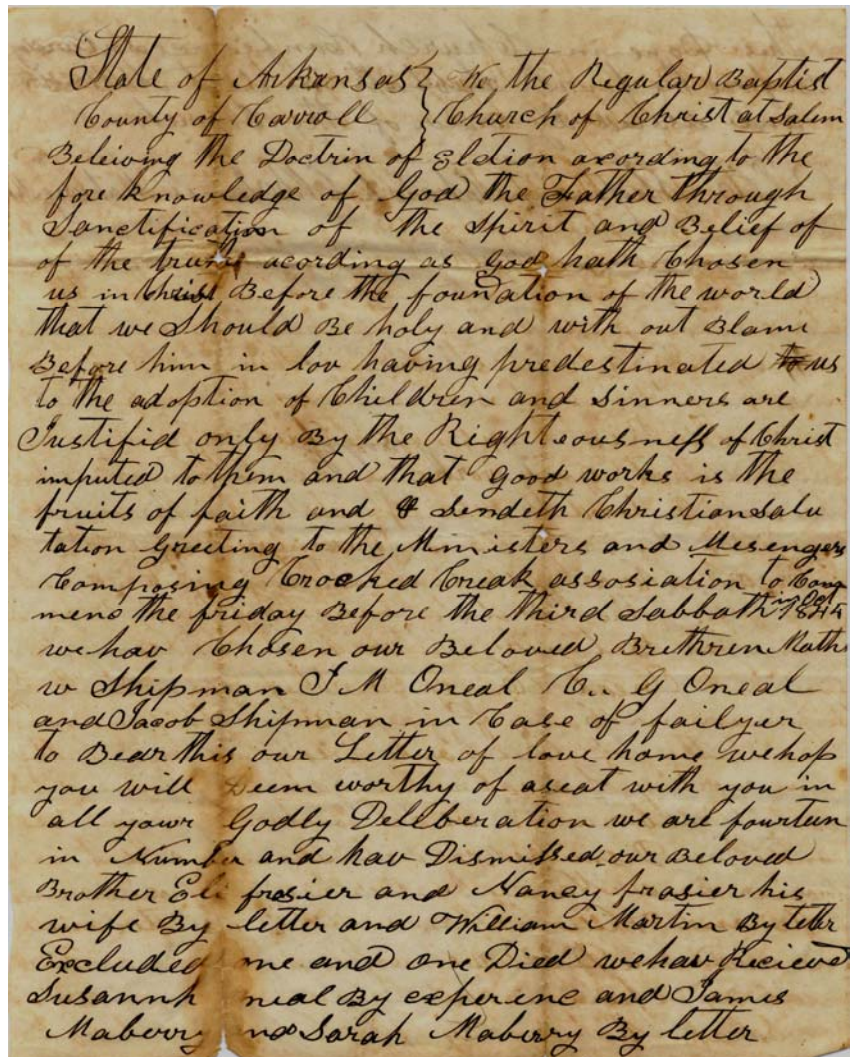


Inventory to the John Klepper Primitive Baptist Collection

AR. 207



State of Arkansas } to the Regular Baptist
County of Carroll } Church of Christ at Salem
Believing the Doctrine of Election according to the
fore knowledge of God the Father through
Sanctification of the Spirit and Belief of
of the truth according as God hath chosen
us in Christ before the foundation of the world
that we should be holy and without blame
before him in love having predestinated ~~us~~
to the adoption of Children and sinners are
Justified only by the Righteousness of Christ
imputed to them and that good works is the
fruits of faith and sendeth Christians salu
tation greeting to the Ministers and Messengers
comprising Crooked Creek Association to Com
menc the Friday before the third Sabbath 1844
we have chosen our beloved brethren Nath
w Shipman J. M. O Neal C. G. O Neal
and Jacob Shipman in case of failyur
to bear this our Letter of love home we hop
you will seem worthy of a seat with you in
all your Godly Deliberation we are fourteen
in Number and have Dismissed our beloved
Brother Eli Frazier and Nancy Frazier his
wife By letter and William Martin By letter
Excluded one and one Died we have receive
Susannah Neal by experine and James
Mabery no Sarah Mabery By letter

Letter written to the Crooked Creek Association from
the Regular Baptist Church of Salem in October, 1844.

Prepared by: Summer Wilson
Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives
January 2005

I. Biographical Sketch

John Klepper, nineteenth-century Primitive Baptist pastor and associational leader, was from Watkins, Arkansas. Little is known about the life of John Klepper aside from his pastoral and denominational work. Klepper was a delegate at Crooked Creek Primitive Baptist Church in Arkansas and was very active in the Buffalo Association of Primitive Baptists. He kept good records and minutes of proceedings and events that took place in the association. In 1897, he was appointed treasurer for the Buffalo Association of Primitive Baptists. Klepper had at least one son, F.W. Klepper.

II. Collection Description

The John Klepper Primitive Baptist Collection includes one linear foot of material contained in one document box. It is arranged alphabetically by folder title. There are nineteen folders included in the collection. This collection was donated to the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1968 by Mrs. J.R. Huddlestun. Mrs. Huddlestun gained possession of the collection by F.W. Klepper, her father, who was the son of John Klepper.

The collection is made up of mostly hand-written from material from Primitive Baptists. About half of the collection is made up of hand-written church letters of membership issued to individuals who were received into the fellowship of the Crooked Creek Church, Organ Flat Church, and Bellfonte Church, all in Arkansas. There are also hand-written church communications as well as church records for Crooked Creek Primitive Baptist Church, Crooked Creek Primitive Baptist Church, and Rockymount Church of Christ.

Additionally, the collection includes hand-written Baptist associational minutes as well as printed Primitive Baptist associational minutes. A hand-written associational to associational letter is included as well. The collection also includes hand-written deeds to land. In addition, there is also a booklet on Missionary and Landmark Baptists in Arkansas. This collection focuses on the Baptist history of Arkansas in the second half of the nineteenth century.

III. Folder Descriptions

Box One

1-1 Associational Minutes – Buffalo Association of Primitive Baptists, 1844

This folder contains hand-written minutes from the Buffalo Association of United Baptists meeting. In 1844, the association met on the Friday before the fourth Sabbath in October and continued the next day at 10 o'clock.

1-2 Associational Minutes – Primitive Baptists, Washington Association (Arkansas), 1896; Buffalo Association (Arkansas), 1880, 1890

This folder contains printed minutes of the forty-ninth annual session of the Washington Association of Primitive Baptists, held with New Hope Church in Madison County, Arkansas, on October 2-4, 1886. The folder also contains minutes of the Buffalo Association of the Primitive Baptists held with Macedonia Church in Boone County, Arkansas, on the Saturday before the second Sabbath in October, 1880, and on September 26-28, 1890.

1-3 Associational Minutes – Couknoon Association (Arkansas), 1846

This folder contains Couknoon Associational minutes from 1846.

1-4 Associational-to-Associational Letters, 1845-1859

This folder contains hand-written letters from association to association. In 1845, there were two letters sent to the Buffalo Association from the Salem Association and Point Remove Association seeking to enter into fellowship with the Buffalo Association. The Salem Association sent three more letters to Buffalo Association in 1846, 1858, and 1859, reporting the events of that year, asking for prayer, and in 1858, expressing their appreciation of being invited to send representatives to Buffalo's next meeting. In 1859, they invited the Buffalo Association to send representatives to Salem's next meeting. In 1859, there were also letters sent to the Buffalo Association from the Washington Association and Center Creek Association asking to enter into fellowship with Buffalo Association and for prayer.

1-5 Booklet on Missionary and Landmark Baptists in Arkansas

This folder contains a booklet that tells a little of the history of the Missionary and Landmark Baptists in Arkansas, as well as information on the differences and similarities between the association and the convention and the progress these two Baptist bodies have made.

1-6 Church Letters, 1828-1834

This folder contains hand-written letters for the transfer of membership from one church to a church in Arkansas. There are two letters in the year 1828, both of them dismissing people from membership from churches in Tennessee. There are two letters from 1829, both from Tennessee as well. One letter is dated 1830, from Tennessee. In 1831, there were three letters, one from Tennessee and two from Illinois. There were three letters received in 1832, two letters from Illinois and one from Tennessee. In 1833, there is only one letter from Alabama. There are five letters in the year 1834, three from Tennessee, one from Missouri, and one from Alabama.

1-7 Church Letters, 1835-1839

This folder contains hand-written letters for the transfer of membership from one church to a church in Arkansas. There are a few exceptions, however, in 1836, 1838, and 1839, there are letters dismissing membership from Arkansas churches to others. Two of the letters are from the year 1835, and are from the state of Illinois. There are six letters in the year 1836, two of them are from Tennessee, one is from Missouri, two are from Illinois, and one is from Arkansas, dismissing membership to another church. In 1837, there were two letters received, one from Alabama and one from Tennessee. There are two letters in the year 1838, one from Illinois and one from the state of Arkansas to another church. In 1839, there are nine letters, one of them has no available state, and four of them are from Tennessee, one from Illinois, one from Missouri, and two from Arkansas dismissing membership to another church.

1-8 Church Letters, 1840-1849

This folder contains hand written letters for the transfer of membership from one church to another. In 1840, there are five letters, one of the letters is from Tennessee and the other four are transfer of membership letters from an Arkansas church. There is one letter from Arkansas to another church in 1841. In 1842, there are three letters from Tennessee, one from Missouri, and one from Arkansas to another church. In the year 1843, there is only one letter from Tennessee. In 1844, there is only one letter as well from Missouri. There are three letters for 1845, one from Missouri and two from Arkansas, one of these is from the Washington Association, transferring membership to another church. Two letters are from 1846, both of them are from Arkansas to other churches. In 1847, there is only one letter from Tennessee. In 1849, there is only one letter as well, from a church in Arkansas to another church.

1-9 Church Letters, 1851-1922

This folder contains hand-written letters for the transfer of membership from one church to another. In 1851, two were written from Tennessee. In 1856, there was one letter sent from Missouri. In 1858, there was one letter from Arkansas to another church. In 1865, there was one letter from the state of Tennessee. In 1866, there was another letter from Missouri. In 1867, there were three, one each from Alabama, Tennessee, and Arkansas to other churches. In 1868 and 1870, there is one letter for each year, both from Tennessee. There is one letter from 1872 from the state of Alabama. Two letters from 1877 and one letter from 1880 from Arkansas to other churches are also included. There is a letter from 1881 from the state of Tennessee. In 1885, there is a letter from Arkansas to another church. In 1888, there is a letter but with no apparent states on it. 1891 and 1897 both had only one letter and they were both from Arkansas to other churches. In 1903, there is

a letter from Tennessee. In the years of 1906, 1909, 1913, and 1922 there was only one letter per year and all of them were from Arkansas to other churches.

1-10 Church Letters to the Associations of Salem (1846) and Crooked Creek (1845)

This folder contains two hand-written letters to the Salem Association and Crooked Creek Association. Both of these letters are from Salem Baptist Church reporting the events taking place in their church.

1-11 Church Letters to the Buffalo Association, 1845-1846

In this folder, there are hand-written letters from churches to the Buffalo Association. These letters report the events with which the churches have dealt throughout the past year, many of which express gratitude for being invited to have representatives at the associational meeting. In 1845, there are five letters from Mount Gilled Church, First Baptist Church of Mount Pleasant, Wareagle Baptist Church of Christ, Sardis Baptist Church of Christ, and the United Baptist Church of Jesus Christ at Zion Hill. In 1846, there were four letters sent to the Buffalo Association: Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Wareagle Baptist Church, Mount Gilled Church, and the fourth letter lists no church name.

1-12 Church Letters to the Buffalo Association, 1858

This folder contains ten hand-written letters from churches to the Buffalo Association reporting events (both good and bad) that have taken place in their church, requesting prayer, and expressing the church's support of the association. These letters are from the churches of: Regular Baptist Church of Christ on Crooked Creek, Regular Baptist Church of Christ at Asage, United Baptist Church of Christ at Salem, United Baptist Church of Christ at Hopewell, Zion Hill Church, Liberty Baptist Church of Christ, Mount Gilled Church, Kerr Hope Church, and Enou Church.

1-13 Church Letters to the Buffalo Association, 1859

This folder contains seven hand-written letters to the Buffalo Association from various churches reporting recent events in their churches (both good and bad), asking for prayer, and expressing their support of the association. These letters are from the Churches of: United Baptist Church of Christ on Crooked Creek, United Baptist Church of Christ at Hopewell, Mount Gilled Church, United Baptist Church at Asage, United Baptist Church at Zion Hill, Regular Baptist Church of Christ at Enou, and Liberty Baptist Church of Christ.

1-14 Church Letters to the Buffalo Association, 1865-1897

This folder contains three hand-written letters from churches to the Buffalo Association reporting the events that have taken place in the church. In 1865, a letter was sent from New Hope Church. Two letters were sent in 1897 from Mount Gilled Church and from the Primitive Baptist Church at Crooked Creek.

1-15 Church Letters to Cooked Creek Baptist Church of Christ, 1842-1858

This folder contains six hand-written letters to Cooked Creek Church from their sister churches. In the year 1842, there are two letters. One is from Mount Pleasant Church inviting them to come to their next meeting for communion. The other is to thank them for some assistance. From whom the letter is written is not apparent. There are three letters dated 1843. One letter is from Mount Pleasant Church asking them to send some of their deacons for assistance. Another is from Big Creek Church inviting them to attend one of their meetings. The other is from Zion Hill United Baptist Church inviting Crooked Creek Church to attend one of their meetings and send deacons to help them and pray for them. The other letter, from 1858, is from Liberty Baptist Church asking for ministerial help.

1-16 Church Records – Crooked Creek Baptist Church, 1834-1838

This folder contains a hand-written bound book of church records for the Crooked Creek Church. The records start with the organization of the church in 1834, and continue through meetings held in 1838. These records include minutes on naming the church and the rules for the church establishment.

1-17 Church Records – Crooked Creek Baptist Church, 1839-1878

This folder contains hand-written materials from Crooked Creek Baptist Church. There is a time line of events from 1834 to 1894 included in the records. An undated list of names of deacons and elders is also included in the folder. In these records, there is one entry for 1839, three entries for 1840, one entry in 1841, three entries in 1842, one entry for 1878, and one entry for 1895.

1-18 Church Records – Rockymount Church of Christ, 1844-1846

This folder contains hand-written church records for Rockymount Church of Christ on a single page for seven different meetings from 1844 to 1846.

1-19 Deeds, 1881

This folder contains a hand-written deed to land being sold by Mr. George W. Cole and Ms. Tabitha A. Cole to William P. Potts for two hundred and fifty dollars.

1-20 Deeds, 1891

The deed in this folder is hand-written as well. It documents Mr. J.F. Edmonson and Ms. G.W. Edmonson selling forty acres of land to Mr. M.A. Boyd and Ms. M.H. Boyd.

1-21 Miscellaneous Associational Letters, 1842, 1858

This folder contains fragments of hand-written associational letters. There are two fragments dated 1842, with no associational name. And one fragment from 1858, to the association affiliated with the Gilled Church.

1-22 Miscellaneous Documents and Fragments

This folder contains a book of telephone numbers. It has hand-written names and numbers in it as well as several times and dates. There is a time line of churches which includes constitution dates for several churches. There are also hand-written fragments of land deeds. The rest of the contents in the folder include hand written-fragments of church letters and associational letters and church records.