

MINUTES
OF THE
COUNTRY LINE
Primitive Baptist Association,

HELD WITH THE
Church at Lynche's Creek,

CASWELL COUNTY, N. C.,

AUGUST 17TH, 18TH AND 19TH, 1889.

*Printed at Landmark Book and Job Office,
Wilson, N. C., 1889.*

PROCEEDINGS.

1st. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder James A. Burch, from Heb. 13:8.

2nd. The Association convened, and, after prayer by Elder S. Hassell, proceeded to business.

3rd. Elder James A. Burch was chosen Moderator.

4th. Correspondents were invited to take seats with us, whereupon the following were received:

From Kehukee—Elders S. Hassell, W. A. Ross.

From Black Creek—Bro. Jonas Pittman; Elder P. D. Gold and Bro. H. Hatcher, visitors.

From Little River—Elder J. E. Adams; Bro. G. W. Johnston, visitor.

From White Oak—Elders B. H. Wooten and I. Jones.

From Contentnea—Elders John R. Rowe, John W. Gardner.

5th. The Rules of Decorum were read.

6th. The letters from the several churches were read, and their standing minuted in the Statistical Table.

7th. A letter from a new Church, known by the name of Surl, was read, and the church was received into our Association.

8th. Elders D. R. Moore, P. D. Gold and G. C. Farthing, with the Moderator and Clerk, were chosen a Committee of Arrangements, and J. W. Neal and C. J. Terry a Committee of Finance.

9th. Elders W. A. Ross and J. W. Gardner were appointed to preach in the afternoon.

10th. Adjourned till Monday morning, 9 o'clock.

SUNDAY MORNING, 10 O'CLOCK.

11th. The following Elders being chosen preached: Elder John R. Rowe opened the morning service from Rom. 5:1, 9, and James 2:22; Elder S. Hassell closed morning service from Gal. 6:14; Elder I. Jones opened evening service from Psalms 89:15; Elder P. D. Gold closed evening service from Josh. 18:3.

MONDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK.

12th. The Association met according to adjournment and, after prayer by Elder P. D. Gold, proceeded to business.

13th. Committees of Arrangements and Finance reported. Their reports were received and they were discharged.

14th. Messengers appointed last year to visit sister Associations and section meetings, generally attended, and those who did not were excused.

- 15th. Messengers were appointed to visit sister Associations:
 To Mayo—Elders D. R. Moore, James A. Burch, Brethren S. J. Hall, J. R. Hester, J. H. Hall, G. W. Carter.
 To Kehukee—Elder J. S. Dameron, Bro. G. C. Farthing.
 To Little River—Elders James S. Dameron, D. R. Moore and F. L. Oakley.
 To Contentnea—Elder James S. Dameron.
 To Staunton River—Elder James S. Dameron; Brethren R. H. Pruitt, W. G. Dix, J. W. Neal.
 To White Oak—Elder James S. Dameron.
 To Abbott's Creek—Elders F. L. Oakley, James A. Burch; Bro. J. W. Gilliam.
 To Pigg River—Elder J. M. Harris.
 To Black Creek—Elder T. Y. Monk.

16th. Agreed to send files of Minutes to Upatoie, Fisher's River, Smith's River, New River, Mill Branch and Mountain Associations.

17th. Elders T. Y. Monk, Y. I. Chandler, A. Blalock were appointed to attend a section meeting at Lynch's Creek, commencing on Friday before the 4th Sunday in April, 1890; and Elders James S. Dameron, T. Y. Monk and A. N. Hall were appointed to attend another at Mt. Zion, commencing on Friday before the 3d Sunday in April, 1890.

18th. The Circular Letter prepared by Brother S. J. Hall was read and adopted.

19th. Brother James S. Dameron was appointed to write a Circular Letter for next year.

20th. The Presbytery appointed last year to attend to the request of Big Meadow, set Bro. W. C. Jones apart to the work of the ministry.

21st. The Finance Committee reported as follows:

Received from the Churches.....	\$29.60
Already in hands of Clerk.....	29.10
Total.....	<u>\$58.70</u>

EXPENDITURES.

Clerk's Fee	\$10.00
Paid for printing 1,300 copies of these Minutes...	16.00
Paid to traveling Ministers last year.....	10.00
Paid to traveling Ministers this year.....	5.00
	<u>41.00</u>
Balance in hands of Clerk.....	<u>\$17.70</u>

22nd. Agreed to give letters of dismission to the following churches, in full fellowship, viz.: Dutchville, Eno, Durham, Mt. Lebanon and Shiloh.

23rd. Elders John R. Rowe, S. Hassell, B. H. Wooten and W. A. Ross preached after 9 o'clock to-day.

24th. Agreed that our next Association be held with the Church at pleasant Grove, in Caswell County, N. C. about ten miles from Ruffin, N. C., commencing on Saturday before the 3rd Sunday in August, 1890, and that Elder D. R. Moore shall preach the introductory sermon, Eld. J. S. Dameron his alternate.

JAMES A. BURCH, Moderator,

JAS. S. DAMERON, Clerk.

C. A. HOWARD, Ass't Clerk.

Names of Ordained Ministers. and their Postoffices.

A. N. Hall, Woodsdale, Person county, N. C.			
A. Blalock, Mt. Tirzah,	"	"	"
D. R. Moore, Surl,	"	"	"
F. L. Oakley, Anderson's Store, Caswell county, N. C.			
James S. Dameron, Ruffin, Rockingham county,	"	"	"
James A. Burch, Burlington, Alamance	"	"	"
J. M. Harris, Reidsville, Rockingham	"	"	"
Y. I. Chandler, Fitch's Store, Caswell	"	"	"
S. P. Terry, South Lowell, Durham	"	"	"
T. Y. Monk,	"	"	"
J. C. Hudgins, Stem, Granville	"	"	"
W. C. Jones, Cane Creek, Chatham	"	"	"
LICENTIATES.			
W. L. Walker, Ashland, Caswell	"	"	"
B. B. McKinney,	"	"	"
M. H. Suit, Stem,	Granville	"	"

CIRCULAR LETTER.

PROSPECT HILL, N. C., August 8th, 1889.

DEAR BRETHREN: I have been appointed by the Country Line Baptist Association, held with the Church at Eno, Durham county, N. C., August, 1888, to write a Circular Letter to be read at our next meeting, and if approved to be given a place in our Minutes. While meditating on this subject I have been parleying with the flesh, and was tempted to yield to its persuasion. Not knowing what to write, I have asked the Lord to give me a subject, and my mind is directed to the Acts of the Apostles, 22nd chapter and the first verse, which reads as follows: "Men, brethren and fathers, hear ye my defence which I make now unto you." Brethren, I was and am yet a sinner, born in sin, a sinner by nature and by practice. Therefore I am made to go back, as did Paul, and take a retrospective view of my life and the manner in which I was reared, and I conclude that I am unworthy of your fellowship, and not competent to write anything that would edify or comfort any one of God's dear children. Although I have had all the moral and religious training that pious parents, Sunday-school teachers, and creatures could impart, teaching me that my eternal salvation was left entirely optional with me, and that I could accept or refuse just as I pleased—though I never made any profession of their religion, I was fully identified with them in principle. I never realized that I was a sinner, blind, dead and lost, until, as I trust, on Saturday before the third Sunday in^d October, 1878,, while under the preaching of Brother A. N. Hall, from these words, "Thus saith the Lord, Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord"—Jer. 17th chap. and 5th verse. I was then and there made to see and to feel that I was the man. For I had verily believed that by my own free will and efforts, and the prayers of my father, brothers, sisters, creatures and friends, that I could seek and get religion when it suited me, and that God for Christ's sake would save my soul from eternal death, misery and woe, if I would only make the start. Oh, what a sad mistake. I saw that I had been trusting in an arm of flesh, and that I was guilty and condemned. I knew not what to do, neither did Paul; therefore he asked the Lord, "What wilt thou have me to do?" I was in great trouble for twelve months, feeling that the wrath of a sin-avenging God was upon me. I felt that I had not a friend on earth, nor one in Heaven. I would retire to the lonely places and try to pray. I felt that my prayers did not rise higher than my head. I would promise the Lord that I would do better, but grew worse all the time. My troubles

at length grew so great that I at one time drew my knife from my pocket, intending to put an end to my earthly existence, and these words were presented to my mind with power: "Do thyself no harm, we are all here." I cannot here describe my feelings, wondering what this could mean. I remained in this condition for months, feeling at times that I would choke to death. In October, 1879, while in sore affliction of mind, I went to my father's, a distance of eight miles, and when night came on I felt so miserable and wretched, desiring to be alone, I therefore determined to go home, for I did not believe that I would ever see the sun rise again. I had not gone far before I did not believe that I would ever reach home. O! the anguish of my soul! I felt that I was bound to die, and that my soul must go for my sins. It seemed more than I could bear. Though I felt guilty and justly condemned, I was made to feel that if I am damned it is just, if I am saved it is mercy. I was in the gloom of dark despair, all was dark around me, when these words were presented to my mind with great force: "Go thy way in peace; behold, thy sins which are many are all forgiven thee." And again I was wondering what this could mean, when a flame of sacred love, joy, peace and comfort began to kindle in my breast. My heart began to leap for joy, when I turned my face upward, and all nature seemed to be praising God. The stars were leaping for joy, all created things appeared more beautiful than ever before. If I had had ten thousand tongues I could have employed them all in praising God for his goodness and mercy, when this hymn was presented to my mind, with sweet music: "O! for a closer walk with God, A calm and heavenly frame; A light to shine upon the road, That leads me to the Lamb," &c. I do not know whether I sang this hymn with the vocal voice or not. I do know I never heard such music in all my life. I felt that Jesus was revealed to me, the hope of glory, and he was my Saviour and I should never commit any more sin, nor see any more trouble. But O! How soon that wicked spirit came, and made me doubt and think that I was deceived, and think that the joy, peace, love and comfort that I had been enjoying was all imagination. Then I was made to beg the Lord if I was deceived to undeceive me. I desired to go back and resume my burden, that I might watch more carefully and know just how it was taken away, though I have never felt that burden of guilt and condemnation since that time. But I have reasons to believe that he delivered me from those doubts, and has delivered me time and again, and do hope that he will yet deliver. Because he has said in his word, "I will bring the blind by a way they knew not. I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make dark-

ness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them and not forsake them."—Isa. 42nd chapter and 16th verse. Brethren, what a great consolation it is to the poor, dependent children of God to feel that they have been thus led by one that is mighty and able to deliver us from the snares of the wicked one, making darkness light before us, crooked things straight, and a promise that he will not forsake us. Paul says, "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."—11 Corin., 4:6. David says, "The Lord has done great things for us whereof we are glad."—Psalm 126, 3rd verse. We should therefore endeavor to discharge our every duty, and love, serve, honor and obey him who has done so much for us, and continues to guide us by his spirit. And now may the Lord have mercy on us, and may we be kindly affectioned one towards the other, all striving for that which makes for peace, and thereby honor and glorify our Father which is in Heaven.

And now a word to our Ministers. May they watch over each other for good and not for evil, cease to strive about words to no profit; and when they have buried a difficulty let it be numbered with the dead, ever remembering the duties of a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Brethren, pray for me, a poor, sinful worm of the dust, and may the God of Heaven, the Lord of Glory, dwell richly with all the true Israel of God, is my prayer, for Jesus' sake.

S. J. HALL.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

NAMES OF CHURCHES	NAMES OF MESSENGERS.	POSTOFFICES.	Baptized.							Fellowship.	Finance.	
			Rec'd by letter	Restored.	Gain by Error	Loss by Error	Dis. by Letter	Excluded.	Deceased.			
Arbor	*F. L. Oakley, *V. I. Chandler, W. A. Florence.	Anderson's Store, N. C.	1				14	1	8	121	\$3.00	
Big Meadow	*W. C. Jones, T. Heath, W. H. Johnston.	Gravel Spring,	1						23	23	1.00	
Camp Creek	*A. Barlock, J. C. Hudgins, J. Alkin	Mt. Thzab,	3				3	1	1	54	1.50	
Country Lane	By Letter	Fitcher's Store,								14	50	
Deep Creek	J. Brooks.	Tolb,						1		29	50	
Dutchville	J. M. Beck, J. M. H. Sull, W. Sull.	Dutchville,						1		50	1.25	
Dan River	T. F. Ward, R. H. Pruitt, W. G. Dix	Mayfield	1	2	1			1		96	1.25	
Durham	H. Farthing, G. C. Farthing, J. J. Whitfield	Durham,	16					1		93	1.00	
Eno	W. Farthing, John M. Woods, J. H.	Durham,						2		29	1.50	
Elmazer	C. T. Hudgins.	Hyote,						1		72	1.00	
Flat River	*D. R. Moore, R. Davis, J. D. Burch.	Sturl,						10		18	35	
Gilliams	W. L. Brooks, W. T. Bowles, J. W. Gilliam.	Morton's Store,						1	2	63	1.50	
Hamony	G. W. Brooks	Melane,								20	75	
Lynone's Creek	By Letter	Corbett,								11	40	
Lake Fork	W. Lewis, C. J. Terry, C. A. Howard.	Ruffin,						2		62	3.37	
Mt. Zion	Not represented	Feed Bank,								8		
Mt. Lebanon	*I. Y. Monk, J. M. Monk, C. P. Warren	South Lowell,						2	1	55	1.00	
Moore's Creek	*J. S. Damon, J. B. Kennon, J. W. Neal	Parley,						1		24	75	
Prospect Hill	S. J. Hall, D. L. Wells, J. R. Hester.	Prospect Hill,						3	1	39	1.25	
Pleasant Grove	*B. B. McKinney, W. H. Brumock, F. E. L. Apple.	Ashland,	3	1				1	3	49	1.50	
Stoner's Creek	J. H. Clayton, D. Satterfield, J. O. Brant	Roxboro,							1	28	1.23	
Shiloh	W. Jones, G. Bailey, W. Fadd.	Woodstock,								50	1.00	
Sturl	D. R. Clayton, J. M. Cochran, F. B. F. Chandler.	Sturl,							1	14	1.00	
Tar River	*R. L. Newton, W. H. Gordon, J. L. D. Williford.	Berea,								34	75	
T. S. Hycor	*J. A. Branch, N. Branch, S. O. Brant.	Gortonton,							1	59	1.50	
Wolf Island	J. H. Hall, G. W. Carter, R. L. Cornum.	Reidsville,						18		58	1.50	
Totals			87	5	2	1	5	53	6	23	963	\$29 60

Ordained Ministers marked thus * Licentiate † Absentees ‡