**History of the Laclede Baptist Association**

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**1855--2020**

The first pages in this history are copied from the book, *A History of the Laclede County Association of Baptist Churches. 1855-1955*.

We have contacted members of the Churches and asked them to bring the history up to date. That will follow after the pictures and history of each church. Most of the history that is copied from various books and pamphlets end in the 1990’s.

A lot of the history in this book is scanned from books and pamphlets furnished by various people.

**Foreword**

The Laclede County Baptist Association, meeting at the Camp Grounds on September 20, 1955, moved for the appointment of a committee to plan a Program for the annual session of 1956. They were instructed to arrange the program to arrange the observance of the centennial of the Zion Baptist Association, which later "changed its name to Laclede County Baptist Association: Also included in the duties of the committee was the preparation of a historical sketch of the association. The following pages are the effort to comply with these instructions.

This is no attempt to write a full and complete history of the association. The absence of complete records of the first forty years prevents this. What is written will be accurate be accurate as to names, dates, places and persons. Any omissions of things which should have been entered is not intentional the part of the committee. As stated above we do not have all the records.

We wish herewith to acknowledge, and express appreciation for the sources of the information used in this sketch:

"A History of Missouri Baptists" 1881 - R. S. Duncan; "History of Missouri Baptists 1933 – R.S. Douglass; "History of Seven Counties" 1889 - Goodspeed; The First Hundred Years 1947 - Miss Frances Gleason, a history of Lebanon, Missouri; "A History of Camden County Baptist Association" – 1952 - OA Haines; "History of Texas County Baptist Association;"-1955-C. A' Elmore; Annual Minutes of Laclede County Baptist Association, 1895-t955; Minutes of the Providence Baptist Association, 1895-1955; "Sketch" of the First Baptist Church of Lebanon, Dr. Effie Solomon,' 1944; and Mrs. Wilda Rogers, Sketch History of the Zion Baptist Church, which observed its centennial in 1954.

The files of the Missouri Baptist Historical Society, Liberty, Missouri; the record book, of the following churches:, Antioch, Competition, Eureka, Mt. Salem, Oak Grove, Lynchburg, and record books of two churches that have ceased to exist; Pleasant Ridge and Candock (1915). Thanks are due to Miss Margaret Black and Mrs. Darwin Johnson for typing some parts of the manuscript.

We are indebted to Rev. CT Graham and Rev. J.O. Brown for the use of history books, and many of the pastors, and church clerks who have given their full cooperation in preparing the data for this history. We have interviewed many descendants of pastors, leaders and families of Baptist churches of Laclede County in the years gone by. To all we say, "Thanks" and if the reading of this little sketch inspires a prayer of gratefulness for the labors hardship and smuggles of our forefathers in their labors for the cause of Christ in those long ago days we will be well repaid for our little effort in bringing it to you. By Rev. R.D. Patterson

**Baptist Beginnings in Laclede County**

Except for the written histories of Missouri and Laclede County pioneer days, we have very little information concerning the Baptist churches of those early times. There is evidence sufficient to show that Baptists were the first religious group to establish local churches in both the state of Missouri and Laclede County. It is not our purpose here to describe the religious, social and economic conditions existing in these-localities before Missouri became a state, or Laclede County was organized. Others have written about them, and we can accept the fact that the early settlers underwent many hardships and difficulties in those days. Before and after the Civil War, Baptist churches were few and far apart, few in number and small in membership.

What religious services they had were held in private homes, and many churches were organized in these homes. Ministered to by "itinerant" preachers who kept no regular schedule of visits, the churches grew slowly. These ministers were called "Traveling preachers." That was what they did. They left home and family and went into the wilderness and preached the "'word" to "whomsoever" they could find. Their labors well rewarded. Souls were saved, churches were organized and eventually district and county associations formed. These were the "beginnings," and were fore-runners of more churches and larger memberships appearing in the history of the associations.

Laclede County was organized, and the county seat established at Lebanon, Missouri, in 1844.At that time there were already three or four Baptist churches in Laclede County. Before entering upon the history of the Zion (later to become Laclede County Baptist Association, we will give a brief account of these early churches. The following are brief accounts of churches established in Laclede County prior to the Civil War years of 1860-65.

The first Baptist church of which we hare record, was organized about one mile northwest of where Lebanon (old town) is now located, It was organized in 1844. Included in the list of charter members are Mrs. Miles Vernon, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Thrailkill, John Atchley, Mrs. Jack Elder and a Mrs. Wyatt. Descendants of these first families are known today in the membership of many Baptist churches in the county. We have been unable to learn the name of this first Baptist church, and for identification we will call it "the Goodwin Hollow, Church of 1844," as it was relocated on the Atchley farm on Goodwin Hollow Creek in 185O, about five miles northwest of Lebanon. Unfortunately we do not know, the names of the ministers who served as pastors of this chur6h. It is probable that the "Goodwin Hollow Church of 1844" was a constituent of the Zion Association in the year 1855. It ceased to meet some time during the war, but in 1866 a new church (Corinth), was organized about two miles west of the original location, on the Vernon farm. This Corinth church remained alive until 1906. Several ministers known to us of today were pastors of this church.

The second Baptist church, of which we have record, was the Gasconade Baptist Church located in Smith Township organized in 1847. Rev. John Aaron was one of the first pastors of this church. Eli Rippy, M. D. Woody, and N. Thomas were some of its first members. This church was a constituent of the Gasconade Baptist Association in 1847. Leaving that association in 1854 it became one of the churches forming the Zion Association.2

1 - Goodspeed, History of Seven Counties, p. 87

2 - Elmore, History of Texas County Bapta8t Association, 1955.

The third church was the Osage, organized about the same year (1847) as the Gasconade church. Its pastors were Rev. John Randolph, John Aaron and Rev. H. H. Atchley among others. We have been able to learn the names of only five who were members of this church: Wm. Atwood, John Jackson, Wm Tyre, A. Everett, and J. Vestal. This church was located near Dry Knob, Missouri, on the Osage fork of the Gasconade River. Osage joined the Gasconade Association in 1849. Dismissed in 1858, joining Zion Association that year. The Osage church ceased during the war, but its remaining members united with other and newer churches after the war.3

(To complete the list of churches located in Laclede County prior to the Civil War, and affiliated with the Gasconade Association (later the Texas County Association), we will name two other churches listed in the early annual minutes of that association).

New Hope Church was listed in the Gasconade Association for one year, 1849. Only one appears as messenger, James Robertson. Just where this church was located and what became of it, we have been unable to learn. It must have been a good strong church for that day as it reported a membership of 49. It is the opinion of this writer that this church was located in some adjacent county, later joining another association. (Before 1849 there was no county by the name of Laclede).4

Freedom Church was organized in 1858 near Nebo, Missouri, and joined the Gasconade Association that year and ceased to exist about the year 1870. Later a church was organized with several of the same membership, taking the name of Pine Creek. (See sketch of this church elsewhere).5

The fourth church organized in Laclede County was the Zion Baptist Church located 12 miles north of Lebanon, in 1854. Observed its centennial in 1954. (see sketch of this church elsewhere.)

The fifth Baptist Church of Laclede County, of which we have record, was organized in Lebanon, Missouri, about 1853 or 54. It worshiped once a month in the "Union Brick Church" in "old town" This church survived the Civil War, though it held no meetings during that time. Elders G. B. Mitchel, John Randolph. and perhaps H. Elliott were associated with this church in its early vears.6

Dr. George Mitchell (If related to Elder G. B. Mitchell, we have been unable to learn.) was pastor of the Lebanon Church from 1860, and revived the work after the war. Dr. Mitchell (he was also a physician) was pastor in 1865.7

The Lebanon Baptist Church existed from its beginning in 1854 to about 1876 or'79. In 1870, Eider Gideon Seymour was pastor, and L.G. Leman clerk, and was so reported in the subsequent meetings of the Zion Association. The Zion Association met with this church in its annual meeting in 1871.8 (See later account of Baptist work in Lebanon during the seventies.)

**Summary**

According ro the records available, there had been six or seven Baptist churches in Laclede County prior to the outbreak of the Civil War. All of them disappeared during the war, save the Zion, Freedom, and Lebanon Baptist churches. Three of these churches became first members of the Zion Association in 1855. Goodwin Hollow, Gasconade, and Zion. Two joined later, Osage and Lebanon. New Hope church was lost to us in some way we have been unable to learn, while Freedom Church continued as a member of the Gasconade Association until 1870. In the following pages we will give our attention to the history of the Zion Association of United Baptist Churches, which in 1895 changed its name to “The Laclede County Baptist Association."

3-Ibid.

4-Ibid.

5-Ibid.

6-McKesson, First Hundred Years.

7-Duncan's History of Missouri Baptists, p. 604.

8-Annual Minutes of Zion Association.

**The Zion Association of United Baptist Churches from 1855 to 1895**

Due to the fact that during the first forty years since its organization, 58 churches in seven counties have belonged to the Zion Association at one time or another, it will be impossible to follow the changes made in that time. The largest number of churches belonging at one time was 27. As churches increased other associations were organized, following county lines, and so that near the close of the forty year period, only those churches not located in Laclede County had joined associations in their own counties. Old Path Association (Hickory County) was organized in 1867; Ozark (Wright County) 1870; Smith Valley (Pulaski County) 1870; Polk County 1889; Dallas County 1889: and Camden County 1890. Each-of these associations took one or more churches from Zion Association. So it would be most confusing to try and record the events and changes made in this period.

It seems prudent, however, to give the names of the churches and ministers that have at one time or another belonged to Zion Association prior to 1895. It is necessary to separate the churches located in Laclede County for the purposes readily seen. It is impossible to give the year in which the churches were admitted and when they were dismissed, or ceased to exist, because complete records o[ those forty years are not available or can't be found. And, the data and items we shall record here are as they were discovered from the sources available. We shall not name the county in which each church was located. That too, would be impossible.

**Churches Belonging to the Zion Baptist Association from 1855 to 1895**

This list of the churches may not be fully correct, they were located in several counties, and although they were not listed all in one year, these churches do appear in the annual minutes over the period-of years. In the absence of complete records there may be others that should be listed.

The following churches were from counties other than Laclede County: Prairie Hollow, Dry Glaize, Deer Creek, Mt. View, Good Hope, Bollinger's Creek, Union, Friendship, Bethany, Linn Creek, Elm Grove, High Point, Pleasant Grove, Buffalo Prairie, Pleasant Valley, Mill Creek, Beulah, Richland, Liberty, Pleasant Hill, Mt. Pisgah, Mt. Pleasant, Little Niangua, New- Hope (Hickory County), New Hope (Camden County), New Liberty, Pisgah, Mt. Olive, Prospect, New Zion, Mt. Zion, Mt. Carmel, Macedonia, Hopewell and Hickory Barens. Total from counties other than Laclede, 35.

The following churches located in Laclede County affiliated with the Zion Association in the years between 1855 and 1895: "The Goodwin Hollow Church of 1844," Gasconade, Osage, Zion, Lebanon (1854-1870), North Prairie, Oak Grove, Fountain Grove, Bear Creek, Bethlehem, Pin Oak, Prairie Creek, Pleasant Ridge, Mt. Salem, Eureka, Antioch, Christiansburg, Friendship, New Hope, Mountain \_Creek, Corinth, Hopedale (Orla) and First Baptist Church of Lebanon, (1891). Total, 23.

Total number churches belonging to Zion from 1855-1895-58.

The following churches located in Laclede County disbanded or ceased to exist before 1895: "Goodwin Hollow of 1844," North Prairie, Lebanon (1870), Fountain Grove, Bear Creek, Bethlehem, Pin Oak, Prairie Creek, Pleasant Ridge, Christiansburg, Gasconade and Osage. Total 12.

Note: In the chapter of the second period from 1895-1955, the other 11 churches of Laclede Country, remaining with Zion Association, will be listed and accounted for.

The list of ministers who at one time or another affiliated with Zion Association from 1855 to 1895 follows. (This may not be complete, and if others should be included we have overlooked them, or the records not being available, are not known at this time.) For convenience we give the names in alphabetical order and not according to the years of their appearing. It is to be remembered that these served in 58 churches in seven counties, over a period of forty years and a four-year war. They are as follows:

John Aaron, C.L. Alexander, H.H. Atchley, D.L. Allen and M.L. Atchley, D.F. Adams, M. Burke, Milton Burke, Wm. C. Brown, John J. Burke, Wm. R. Brown, W. W. Bryant, T.H. Bollinger, R.N. Buck, J.M. Brown, J.W. Butcher, W.P. Bishop, J.B. Bailey and J.C. Burke; W.M. Carter, Job Chalfant, J.E. Clinkenbeard, R.B. Cornett, W.L. Calvin, and A. Chasteen; Wheeler Davis, A.B. Darrow, Harrison Elliott and S.B. Elliott; J.A. Frank, J.J. Floras, A.J. Fuson, J. Greene, J.M. Hibbs, Wm. Hamilton, J.C. Hicks and C. Hosfelt; A.H. Hawkins, J.C. Hutsel, Felix Jeffries and M.M. King, J.M. Loonev, G.M. Lewis and W.C. Lindsey; G.B. Mitchell, George Mitchell, Pleasant Manes, C.H. Manes, Z.B. McCubbim, J.W. Miller, G.W. Mizer, W.H. Mitchell, J.A. Murrell, J.B. Miller, R.V. Mooney and John Murrell; S.C. Noble, John Phillips, W.C. Peterson, J.W. Pfeifer, J.C. Randolph, L.J. Robbins, G.M. Ormsbee, J.M. Partlow, R. Rogers; .F. Starnes, J.H. Smith, Gideon Seymour, W. Scrivener, W.T. Spencer, T. Shockley, G.L. Shockley and James Seabough, Martin Thrailkill, J,L. Taylor, A.R. Triplett and I. Vernon; J.M. White, E.W. Webb, Wm. C. Wheeler, John Williams, J.M. West, J.L. Weaver, H.G. Youngblood, and T.J. Zumwalt. Total, 90.

Zion Association was organized in 1855. Month and day are not known. From the records available we believe the following churches composed the association ar the time of its organization: "The Goodwin-Hollow Church of 1844," Gasconade, and Zion churches in Laclede County, and Prairie Hollow and Dry Glaize churches in Camden County. The meetings were with the Prairie Hollow Church. Elder Harrison Elliott was the first moderator, and Milton Burke the first clerk. Elder Elliott preached the introductory sermon.

No printed minute or record of any kind available, it is not known how many ordained-ministers were in attendance. No names of messengers can be listed.

The next meeting of which we have record is that of 1860, when 12 churches reported, with 212 members in the churches. The war years are blank. The next meeting of which we have record is that of 1865. We have such few details of the meetings, and space here will not allow going into lengthy reports of the annual meetings. We suggest this method of procedure: That we here present the Constitution adopted, with some amendments during the years, and present the Articles of Faith, then give a record of the annual meetings d6rnm to and including 1894.

The following is a copy of the constitution appearing in the minute of Zion Association in 1894. This is perhaps the exact copy of the constitution adopted at the organization in 1855. There may be some variances, as the changes and rechanges made through the years were no doubt concerning the mission-anti-mission controversy which appeared to plague the association from 1867 to about the year 1876. After these difficulties were settled, Zion Association joins the mission program, and except for a few instances, affiliated with the Missouri Baptist General Association, and the program of that body. While this constitution proves Inadequate in the later years, it does express the purposes and aims of the churches in those early days.

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**Constitution**

Section 1. This association shall be called "The Zion Association of United Baptist Churches."

Section 2. This association shall be composed of delegates or messengers from each church, not to exceed four (4), and of ordained ministers living in the bounds of this association, who shall be entitled to voice in council.

Section 3. The effect of this association shall be to exercise an advisory influence with the churches in order to maintain Christian union, and a firm adherence to the doctrines of Christ.

Section 4. The officers of this association shall be composed of: Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall be chosen annually by plurality of the members present.

Section 5. There shall be an annual meeting of this association commencing on Wednesday before the second Sunday in September, at two o’clock p.m.

Section 6. It shall be the duty of the churches composing this association to correspond with this body by letters and delegates each year, stating in their letter the exact changes and statistics of each church.

Section 7. Churches wishing to unite with this association must Le represented by letter and delegates, and also present their Articles of Faith, when this association will hear them.

Section 8. This association will hold no fellowship with any minister or ministers, church or churches, association or associations, that practice, receive or sanction alien immersion or open communion.

Section 9. This Constitution may be altered or amended at any regular meeting of the association by a vote of two-thirds of its members, provided, that one year's written notice of such proposed alteration or amendment be given.

J. H. Gray, Committee: M. Thrailkill, G.C.C. Smith

(The custom of verifying the constitution often is noted in the signatures of a committee.)

The Articles of Faith here entered is about the same as adopted and prescribed by all missionary Baptist bodies everywhere. These have been fundamental with Baptists from time immemorial. For these principles Baptists have been distinctive among religious bodies. The ministers of the churches of the early day in our state have contended for the observance of New Testament teachings in every phase of church and associational life and activities. Many were unlettered and uneducated, but they knew their Bible. And, they taught the people the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth of the Gospel of Christ, in the winning of souls and the ordinances of the church. They believed in the supernatural birth of Jesus, the doctrine of the new birth, the basic truth of sin, regeneration, the atonement and judgments. They believed in the New Testament church as a body of baptized believers, united together in covenant to carry out the commission of Jesus Christ; that the church of Christ is an independent body, allowing no lordship of any other church or ministers, sovereign in its local government. That cooperation with other churches in the furtherance of the gospel can only be done through voluntary cooperation, delegating no powers of authority to legislate for the churches.

**Articles of Faith**

First, we believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God and the only inflexible rule of faith and practice.

Second, we believe in only one living and true God and that there are three that bear record in heaven-the Father, the Word, and the Holv Ghost, and these three are one.

Third, we believe in the fall of Adam and by his transgression all his posterity fell and became sinners.

Fourth, we believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly by grace, through the mediatorial office of the Son of God.

Fifth, we believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him as a justification, includes-the pardon of sin and the promise of eternal life on the principles of righteousness.

Sixth, we believe that the saints will persevere in grace and not one of them will be lost.

Seventh, we believe that there will be a resurrection of the dead and a general and universal judgment, and that happiness of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

Eighth, we believe the visible church is a congregation of baptized believers who have given themselves up to the Lord and one another, having agreed to keep a Godly discipline according to the rules of the gospel.

Ninth, we believe that Jesus Christ is the Great Head of the church and the government thereof is with the body.

Tenth, we believe that water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the church and are to-be continued till Christ's second coming.

Eleventh, we believe that true believers are the only fit subjects of baptism, and that immersion is the only mode, and that a regularly authorized Baptist minister is the only proper administrator.

Twelfth, we believe that the first day of the week ought to be observed and set apart for the worship of God, and that no work or worldly business ought to be done or transacted thereon, works of Piety and necessity alone excepted.

It is well to note that while better educated scribes might perhaps state the doctrines of Baptists in better language and construction, none can better state the fundamental, nor couch them in stronger language.

As "The Rules of Order" have been amended and changed several times during the years past, we do not enter them here. It is a well-known fact that the associations of former years were more strict in observing their rules of order. Examination of them reveal they were in keeping with rules governing any public assembly.

As before suggested we now enter the record of the annual meetings of Zion Association. Notice the absence of meetings for the years 1855-1859, and for the year 1861-1864; we have been unable to find record of them. It is quite certain that during the war years there had been years when no meetings were held.

**Historical Table of Annual Meetings**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Place** | **Moderator** | **Clerk** | **Introductory Sermon** |
| 1855 | Prairie Hollow | H. Elliott | Milton Burke | H. Elliott |
| 1860 | prairie Hollow | H. Elliott | Mitton Burke | (None given) |
| 1865 | Prairie Hollow | H. Elliott | Milton Burke | (None given) |
| 1866 | Good Hope | H. Elliott | Wm. Dennie | George Mitchell |
| 1867 | Fountain Grove | W. M. Carter | Felix Jeffries | H. Elliott |
| 1868 | Oak Grove | W. M. Carter | Felix Jeffries | W. M. Carter |
| 1869 | Linn Grove | W. M. Carter | Felix Jeffries | George Mitchell |
| 1870 | Elm Grove | W. M. Carter | (Not given) | (None given) |
| 1871 | Lebanon | W. M. Carter | M Burke | M. Burke |
| 1872 | Zion | G. P. Johnson | Milton Burke | W. M Carter |
| 1873 | Mt. View | Milton Burke | Felix Jeffries | W. W. Bryant |
| 1874 | Bethlehem | John J. Burke | J. H. Gray | S H Lane |
| 1875 | Good Hope | John J. Burke | J. H. Gray | John Phillips |
| 1876 | Union | C. H. Lowry | J. H. Gray | J. G. Lemen |
| 1877 | Corinth | C. U. Lowry | J. H. Gray | C. H. Lowry |
| 1878 | Pleasant Hill | C. H. Lowry | J. H. Gray | W. C. Peterson |
| 1879 | Antioch | S. H. Lane | J. H. Gray | J. H Smith |
| 1880 | High Point | J. H. Smith | J. H. Gray | S. H. Lane |
| 1881 | Mt. Salem | Job Chalfant | J. H. Gray | C H. Lowry |
| 1882 | Zion | T. J. Zumwalt | J. H. Gray | Job Chalfant |
| 1883 | Eureka | T. J. Zumwalt | J. H. Gray | T J. Zumwalt |
| 1884 | Friendship | T. J. Zumwalt | J. H. Gray | W C Peterson |
| 1885 | Pleasant iflf | J. H. Smith | J. H. Gray | T. J. Zumwalt |
| 1886 | Mt. Olive | J. H. Smith | J. H. Gray | J. H. Smith |
| 1887 | Pleasant Grove | J. H. Smith | J. H. Gray | T. J. Zumwalt |
| 1888 | Oak Grove | J. H. Smith | J. H. Gray | C H Lowrv |
| 1889 | Elm Grove | T. J. Zumwalt | J. H. Gray | Effit |
| 1890 | Good Hope | C. H. Lowry | J.C. Bollinger | T. J. Zumwalt |
| 1891 | Antioch | J.L. Taylor | J.C. Bollinger | Hiii |
| 1892 | Union | T. J. Zumwalt | J. J. Burke |  |
| 1893 | Beutah | T. J. Zumwalt | J. J. Burke | R. N. Buck |
| 1894 | Lebanon | T. J. Zumwalt | J- J. Burke | T. J. Zumwalt |

Items of interest to Laclede county Baptists concerning the history of Zion Association in its first forty years before the change of its name.

1. The area covered by Zion Association was very large-seven counties at one time or another. ln the early days of her history, the churches being few and far apart, the membership of the churches also small, and communications slow, made progress of the association very slow.

2. The strife over missions in the "sixties and seventies" hindered the work of evangelizing this territory. That the association survived is fortunate. And, when these were settled, and the churches multiplied, so that the territory became smaller, then peace and harmony prevailed.

3. The apparent strifes were but the demonstrations of the churches and leaders in seeking and adopting better methods in evangelism and enlistment. Their difficulties but laid the way to larger programs, and greater fields of service.

**The Baptist Herald**

The following items concern the activities in the period of 1875 to 1879. A newspaper, The "Baptist Herald," was established in 1825. The editor was Elder J.G. Lemen, in partnership with Dr. D. B. Ray of LaGrange, Missouri, where Dr. Ray owned and operated a paper called, "The Baptist Battle Flag." The two papers merged and moved to St Louis, Missouri, in 1879, where it continued under the title, “The American Baptist Flag.”9 For many years this paper had a wide circulation in these parts, wielding a great influence and enjoyed the support of many.

**Southwest Baptist Convention**

ln 1876 a new state convention was sponsored by Zion Association and the “Baptist Herald.” This was of short duration. Organized in November, 1876, and held two or three annual meetings. Elder Jos. Walker, Rolla, Missouri, was president; Eider Jacob Good, Marshfield, Missouri, vice -president; Elder J, G. Lemen, clerk; and J. H. Gray, treasurer. The last two were of Lebanon, Missouri.10

9-Annual Minutes of Zion Association 1876.

10-Duncans, History of Missouri Baptists, p. 739

**Southwest Baptist College**

Southwest Baptist College was started at Lebanon, Missouri on 4th Street and Madison, November 7, 1878, was moved to Bolivar, Missouri, two years later, where it has remained, and prospered.11

Perhaps the loss of the weekly paper and the going of the college had a discouraging effect upon the few Baptists living in Lebanon, and the church ceased worship "at that time. There never were more than twenty members since the war.

One other item of importance needs to be mentioned. In 1887, three churches -New Hope, Friendship, and Pine Creek, joined with a like number of churches in Wright County and organized the Providence Baptist Association. Continuing but eight years, it disbanded and the churches rejoined the associations in their respective counties. In 1889 Providence, through Deacon J.A. Edwards of the New Hope Church, appealed to the State Mission Board on behalf of the Baptist conditions in Lebanon. In 1891 a church was organized in Lebanon, which became permanent.12 (See a sketch of this church elsewhere.)

These last remarks about Zion Association: While the territory was large at times, and the general ideas and ambitions of the association to reach the lost in the area was evident, not much was done as far as the associational program was concerned, There were many missionary minded pastors in those days. Many souls were won by them, many churches organized, and to them goes much of the credit for what was done. The association did elect ministers to go afield, and several did go and with good results, yet the program was sporadic. Failure of financial support or the lack oi interest among the churches caused the associational missionaries to remain on the field but a "few months at most, and little was said or reported concerning their work at the annual meetings.

W. M. Carter and H. H. Atchley were elected in 1868 to "travel and preach" The minutes of the following year show no results of the work done.

As an example of the attitude of the association the following is noted in the minutes of 1872: "A motion to appoint a committee to supervise mission work in the bounds of the association, after much discussion was lost." Another resolution offered at the same meeting reads: "Resolved that the churches of this association be urged to maintain Sunday schools in the churches, was opposed by several and voted down."

The association changed its position on missions in a few years. The following is taken from the minutes of the annual meeting of 1874: "By a good majority the following resolution was read and adopted: Whereas, some of the churches. of this association are dissatisfied on missionary operations; Resolved, therefore, that this association make no test of fellowship with any church or individual, either in giving or not giving, to the missionary cause." Apparently there were some who had been trying to dis-fellowship those who did give to missions.

Elder W. W. Bryant was elected missionary in 1873; Elder C. H. Lowry in 1876; and S. H. Lane in 1879. The results of their labors were never placed in the minutes for those years. No doubt they accomplished much good.

It is taken for granted that there were others who "traveled and preached" and did much in Kingdom building. The absence of reports of their labors reveal the unfortunate fact that the association had no regular program, nor was it long ranged sufficient to carry over from one associational year to the next. The succeeding years history will should how the churches and leaders of the association remedied this great fault. It must be stated, however, that representatives from the various Baptist missionary conventions and institutions were cordially received when they visited the annual meetings of the association.

So ends our little sketch of the "First Forty Years." Foundations were laid in these years for greater things to come, to which we give out attention in the next chapter.

11-McKesson, First Hundred Years,

12-Annual Minutes of Providence Association' 1889.

**Sixty Years of Progress-1895-1955**

1895-The Zion Association of United Baptists met with the First Baptist Church of Lebanon, Missouri, Wednesday, September 4, and adjourned Friday, September 6, 1895.

Churches represented by pastors and messengers were: Antioch, Corinth, Eureka, Good Hope, Lebanon, First, Mt. Salem, mount View, Mountain Creek, Oak Grove, Orla, Philadelphia, Providence and Zion, churches located in Laclede County; Beulah and Union churches located in Camden County, and Richland in Pulaski County. To this list was added New Hope coming from the Providence Association which had disbanded at their last meeting in August of the same year. Total churches 17.

This meeting is marked by changing the name from "Zion" to "Laclede County Association of United Baptist Churches." (So states the annual minutes.)

The officers elected to serve the association were: T.J. Zumwalt, moderator, and E.A. Mizer, clerk and treasurer. Introductory sermon was delivered by Rev. T.J. Zumwalt from Ephesians 3:21.

Ministers serving the churches of the association that year were: J. M. White, G.W. Mizer, R.N. Buck, M.L. Atchley, J.E. Clinkenbeard, T.H. Bollinger, G.M. Lewis, T.J. Zumwalt, E.A. Vickers, J.W. Miller, J.B. Bailey, J.J. Burk, W. Davis, Adam Darrow, and J.A. Murrell; M. Thrailkill, S.B. Elliott, T. Shockley, A.R. Triplett. and J.W. Butcher. The last six named were noted as "inactive" at that time. Three ministers are listed as "Licentiates": John Murrell, J.C. Burk, and A. Chastain.

The circular letter to the churches of the association for that year was included in the printed minutes and signed by both the moderator and clerk.

It is interesting to note that the association continued to be governed and directed by the same constitution, and rules of order which the old Zion Association had adopted many years before. The articles of faith continued to be printed in the annual minutes of the association.

The order of business provided for reports on district, state, home, and foreign missions, Sunday schools, books and periodicals, ministerial education, temperance, obituaries and resolutions. To these were added the items pertaining to the current session, such as: devotional exercises, credentials, circular letter, finance, correspondence, and appointment of the various committees.

Statistics of the 1895 Minutes: Churches, 17; churches with full-time preaching, none; with half-time preaching, 1-Lebanon; with quarter-time preaching, 16. Membership in the churches reporting 970; baptisms 106; contributions (presumably to clerk and printing of minutes) $19.80.

Note: The minutes for that year did not give contributions for missions, nor enrolment in Sunday schools. There is an item in the report on District Missions of $125.00 paid to Missionary J.W. Laster but no report of his work.

State Missions was represented by Rev. J. C. Armstrong, state secretary.

1896-Convened with Philadelphia Church. moderator, J. J. Burk; clerk and treasurer, J. C. Bollinger. Sermon by J. NI. White.

The order of business was about like the previous year. There is absent from the minutes the list of churches and statistics of membership and baptisms. Of special note is a resolution by the body, condemning the president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary for certain statements he had made heretical to Baptist beliefs and practices.

1897-Association met with Good Hope Church, Stoutland, Missouri; moderator, T.J. Zumwalt; clerk, J.C. Bollinger. Prominent among the visitors this year was Elder D.B. Ray, editor of the "National Baptist Flag" of St. Louis, Missouri. Rev. R.B. Carnett was listed as visitor, who also preaching the annual sermon. Twenty-one churches report 1,037 members; 41 baptisms.

1898-Meeting at Mt. View Church; Elder R.B. Carnett, moderator, and I.N. Beckner, clerk. Sermon by Elder W.T. Spencer. Elder H.M. Sutton appears in the list of visitors, and Elder McPherson had served as missionary. Reporting 25 baptisms.

For the first time a report on woman's work appears in the minutes. More about this report by H.W. Davis (Aunt Mary) in chapter on Woman's Missionary Union.

The 1898 minutes carry for the first time contributions to missions: District Missions $31.85; State Missions $4.90; Home Missions $5.80 and Foreign Missions $4.82. Baptisms 130.

1899-This meeting was held with the New, Hope Church, September 6-8. The moderator was R.B. Carnet; I.N. Beckner, clerk. Rev. S.H Hardy preached the annual sermon, Twenty churches were represented with total membership of 1,364; baptisms 32; total gifts to all missions $92.86; Sunday schools 8. Elder A.H. Hawkins was named in the list of pastors.

1900-The association met with the First Baptist Church, Richland, Missouri. R.B. Carnett, moderator; I.N. Beckner, clerk. Rev. J.A. Newport preached the annual sermon. Elder J.F. Moore served 58 days as missionary, reporting 14 baptisms.

Twenty-one churches reported: 1,152 members; $143.38 for missions.

Churches represented at the 1900 annual meeting: Antioch, Beulah (Camden County), Conway, Corinth, Eureka, Friendship, Good Hope, Lebanon, First, Oak Grove, Mountain Creek, Mount Salem, Mount View, New Hope, Orla, Philadelphia' Pine Creek, Providence, Richland (Pulaski Conway, Salem, Zion, and Morgan.

Pastors: A.T. Spencer, J.F. Moore, R.N. Buck, J.A. Bryan, T.W. Brown, J.W. Butcher, G. Mizer, R.B. Carnett, C.H. Lowry, A.H. Hankins, A.B. Darrow, J.A. Newport, S.C. Noble, and S.H. Hardy.

A memorial to Deacon J.A. Edwards, charter member of New Hope Church, who died March 22 of that year. Elder A.J. Fuson of Pine Creek had passed away the year before.

1901-Annual meeting was held with the Antioch Church. Rev. R. B Carnett, and I. N, Beckner were elected moderator and clerk; Rev. Carnett delivered the annual sermon. Richland church was dismissed to join Pulaski County.

1902-Meeting was with the Pine Creek Church. Officers of the previous year were re-elected. R. T.J. Zumualt delivered the annual sermon.

1903-Meeting with the Conway Church. Moderator, R.B Carnett; clerk, I.N. Beckner. The annual sermon was delivered by Rev. A.B. Darrow. Nineteen churches represented with membership of 1,173; Contributions to State, Home and Foreign Missions $40.95. Executive Board reported $91.76 collected for district missions. The board that year was W.W. Thomas as president, and A. Wallace, Secretary. An offering of $45.00 was made for the First Baptist Church of Joplin, Missouri. Deacon L.L. Beckner was listed among those who had died that year.

1904-Association met with the Zion Church. R.B. Carnett, moderator, and I.N. Beckner, clerk. Annual sermon by Rev. R.B. Carnett. Eighteen churches reporting with 1,116 members; contributions to state, home and foreign missions. $56.67; 45 baptisms.

A Sunday school convention was organized with constitution and by-laws. W. F. Parker was the first president.

The association look notice of the death of Elder S.C. Noble, who had passed away that year.

1911-On September 19-21 the association met with the Conway Church. Officers were re-elected. Eighteen churches, 1,114 members; 32 baptisms. Rev. D.F Adams preached the sermon.

1912-Meeting was held with the Antioch Church with fourteen of fifteen churches represented. These reported 1,166 members with 108 baptisms; $128.45 given to state, home, and foreign missions. "There were four fifth-Sunday meetings held and five Pastors did some district mission work with good reports. Officers re-elected, annual sermon by Rev. J.S. Jesse. Elders George B. English and W.T. Spencer were listed in the report on obituaries.

1913-The association met with the Morgan Church with the re-election of R.B. Carnett, moderator, and W.S. Bradshaw,-clerk. Only 13 churches represented; 1,140 members with 76 baptisms. Elder J. Mt. England as missionary reported: days of labor 50, with 68 conversions. Rev. Band delivered the annual sermon. Deacon B.F. Edwards of the New Hope Church was numbered among the list of obituaries.

1914-Met with the Lynchburg Church, re-elected officers. Sixteen churches report 1,290 members, and 44 baptisms. Rev. R.B. Carnett preached the annual sermon. By vote of the association, BYPU work was added to the report on Sunday schools. Report of Missionary J.A. Jordan was given at length and in- detail. He had labored 304 days, traveled 1,617 miles by wagon and 156 by rail preached 147 sermons, 75 addresses, 19 conversions, and 19 baptisms. Organized seven Sunday schools which he thought would not be "freeze-out," gave away 27 Bibles and sold 35 Bibles, gave away 47 Testaments, distributed 9,712 pages of tracts held four revivals. D.D. McDonald was elected president of the Laclede County BYPU Laving the honor of being the first such 6ffi6er elected by the association. F.E. Coffman was elected president of the Sunday School Convention. Also at this meeting the Home for Aged Baptists was one of the institutions reported on for the first time in the association.

1915-Sixty-first year but fifty-ninth session, met with Stoutland Baptist Church. Rev. J. M. Bandy preached the annual sermon. R.B. Carnett, moderator, and W. S. Bradshaw, clerk. Seventeen churches reporting, 1,484 members, 164 baptisms, $80.07 gifts to state, home and foreign missions. - Cooperating churches this year were: Antioch, Auglaize, Conway, Competition, Drew, Harmony, Lynchburg, Lebanon, Morgan, Mount Salem, New Hope, Orla, Pine Creek, Stoutland, Salem, Union, and Zion. Pastors of these churches: R.B. Canett, James A. Winfrey, H.B. Tillery, D. F. Adams, J.S. Jesse, J.E. Clinkenbeard, J.W. Miller, N.L. Bradford, J.M. Bandy, W.N. Cain, and Peter Wood.

1916-Annual session met with the Zion Church September 19-21. R.B. Carnett, moderator, and D.M. Cook, clerk. Rev. J.S. Jesse preached the annual sermon. Eighteen churches, 1,598 members, 181 baptisms, and gifts to missions $67.90. Pleasant Grove Church was admitted at this meeting; the messengers being G.H. Miller, C.W. Noble, Walter Thrailkill and T.W. Lively. Pastor J.M. Bandy. The report on obituaries listed the name of Deacon W.W. Thomas of Antioch Church.

The Gavel: A gavel made from wood taken from the meeting house of Bethel Church in Cape County, the first non-Catholic church west of the Mississippi River, organized in 1806, was presented to the association by Lawrence Coffman and was presented for the association by Moderator Carnett with the observation that he hoped it-would be "serving the association when Jesus comes again. Elder J.E. Seal, missionary, reported 225 sermons; professions 9 baptisms 84; days of labor 223.

1925-The association was seventy years old when it met with the Conway Church September 22-24. Elder J.B. Simms, moderator, and I.E. Lockwood, clerk. Brother Lockwood began a long period of service as clerk of the association (twelve years).

For the first time in the history of the association, statistics included BYPU and Woman's Missionary Union work. Sixteen churches reported 1,473 members, with 85 baptisms. James Rider had served as missionary the past year. His report includes days of service, 295; one church organized; one Sunday school; assisted in organizing three WMU's; five BYPU's; 426 sermons preached 34 conversions; 17 baptisms. James Rider delivered the annual sermon.

Churches reporting this year were: Antioch, Conway, Competition, Eldridge, Lebanon, Morgan, Lynchburg, Mountain Creek, Mount Salem, New Hope, Ola, Oak Grove, Pleasant Grove, Pine Creek, Stoutland and Zion.

Pastors serving that year included: W.H. Zumwalt, J.B. Youngblood, C.B. Day, Fern Butcher, J.B. Simms, J. W. Jeffries, John McGuire, Perryman, C.W.H. Davidson, Chas. Manes, J. L. Hicks, and E. A. Brown.

The 1925 minutes carry statistics of WMU for first time. Six societies - Conway, Competition, Lebanon, New Hope, Orla, and Conway. One hundred forty-four women were enrolled, but as yet there was no associational organization of WUU.

1926-Session was held with the Antioch Church. Officers: R.B. Carnett, moderator I.E. Lockwood, clerk; G.H. Miller, treasurer. R.B. Carnett preached the annual sermon.

There were seventeen churches with a membership of 1,592, and 57 baptisms. It is interesting to note that this year the churches reported $1,755.69 given to missions and benevolences, a measurable increase over previous years. Missionary James Rider makes report of 293 days of service, preached 284 sermons, organized two Sunday schools, and two BYPU's.

The "Unified Budget" was endorsed in the reports. The annual minutes show, a great improvement over the previous year's minutes. The death of Elder C. H. Lowry was reported in the obituaries for this year.

1927-the annual meeting was held with the Eldridge Church. Officers for the preceding year were re-elected. Rev. R.B. Carnett preached the annual sermon. Same churches reporting as last year. Membership 1,716, baptisms 173. The report on obituaries carried the names of Elder C.B. Day and Elder J.M. Wheeler. The District Board elected this year was: A.L. French, L. Gus Smith, H.W, Davis, G.H. Miller, and P.M. Montgomery.

1928-Place of meeting was the Stoutland Church; officers re-elected. Rev. J. Leonard preached the annual sermon. Eighteen churches, 1,719 members, 98 baptisms. For the first time the minutes carry an apportionment for the churches to the Cooperative Program. This is the first time the Cooperative Program appears in the annual minutes.

1929-Meeting with the Zion Church. Officers re-elected. Annual sermon by Rev. R.B. Carnett. Eighteen churches, 1,750 members, eight baptisms. The association mourns the accidental death of Rev. Frank Carnett and wife, which occurred near Siloam Springs, Arkansas, January 6, 1929.

J. A. Winfrey, who served is missionary that year, reported days of labor 98; sermons preached 130; conversions 33; baptisms 29; additions to the churches 43; one Sunday school organized; assisted in ordination of two deacons.

1930-The seventy-fourth session and the seventy-fifth year of the association, met with the Pine Creek Church. Officers were re-elected. Annual sermon was preached by R.B. Carnett. Twenty churches this year with 1,887 members, 145 baptisms, gifts to missions $1,285.00.

1936-The association met this year with the New Hope Church. Annual sermon by Rev. Dale Hufft. William Huffman was elected moderator and I.E. Lockwood and G.H. Miller, clerk and treasurer. Nineteen churches reported 2,272 members and 115 baptisms. In the report on obituaries appear the names of Rev. J.W. Miller and Deacons Levi Edwards, A.L. Matthews and W.O. Claiborn.

1937-Meeting was held with the First Baptist Church of Lebanon. Moderator that year, R.D. Patterson, I.E. Lockwood and G.H. Miller, clerk and treasurer. Annual sermon by R.D. Patterson. He had good report. Eighteen churches, 2,103 members with 92 baptisms. A memorial was presented in the deaths of Rev. A.B. Darrow, Rev. G.W.H. Davidson, and Mrs. I.E. Lockwood, wife of our clerk.

I938-Falcon church entertained the association. Officers were re-elected. Eighteen, churches, reported 2,176 members with 163 baptisms. Annual sermon by Rev. Merle Mitchell.

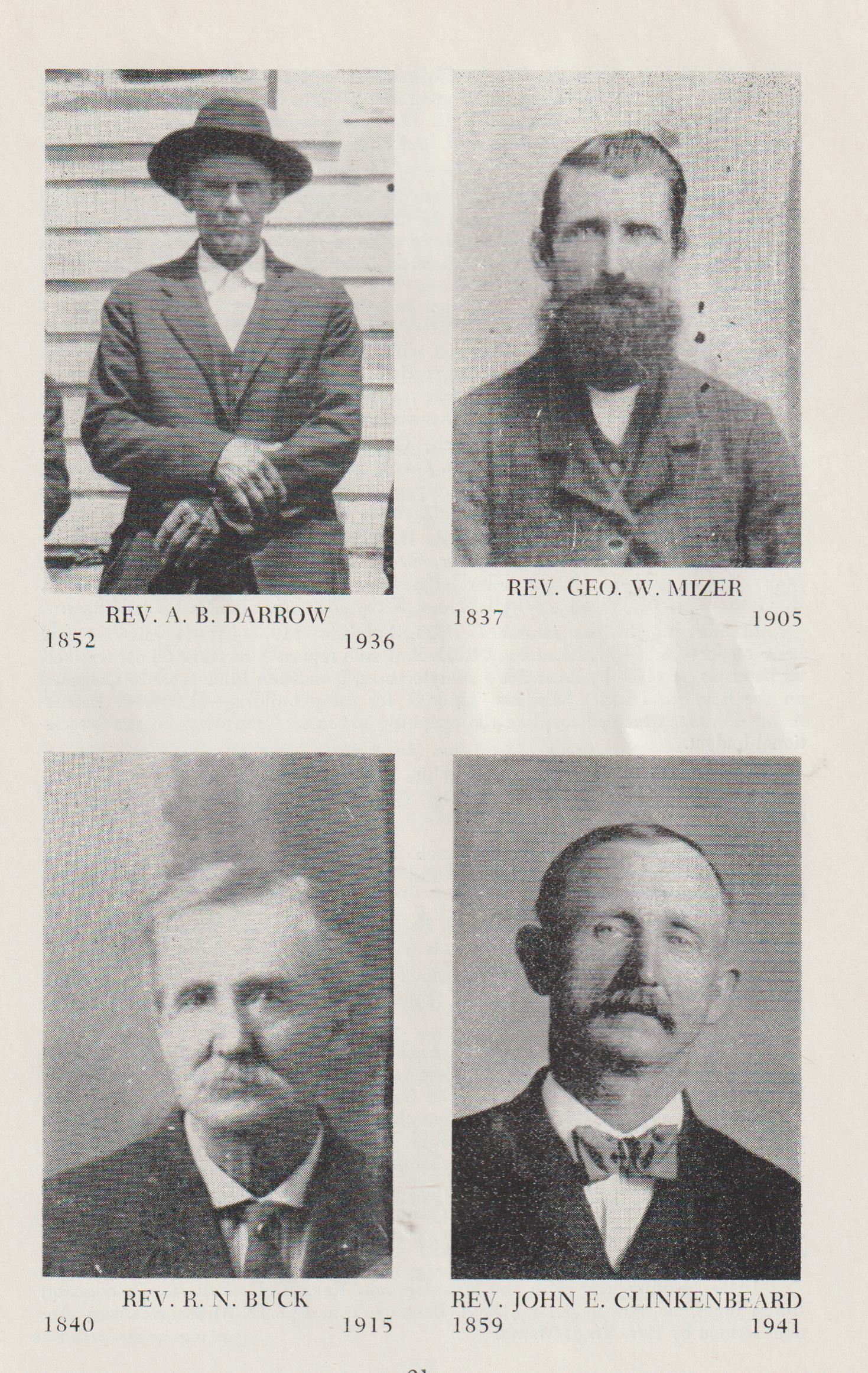
1939-Meeting with the Prosperine church. Officers re-elected. The churches reported 2,577 members and 358 baptisms. Reports were made by those attending the Baptist World Alliance meeting that year in Atlanta, Georgia. Rev. V.L. Stanley delivered the annual sermon.

1940-Met with the Orla Church. Officers: R.D. Patterson, moderator, Sydney Barr, clerk, and G.H. Miller, treasurer. Churches: Antioch, Conway, Competition, Eureka, Falcon, Lebanon First, Lynchburg, Morgan, Mt. Creek, Mt. Salem, New Hope, Orla, Oak Grove, Pine Creek, Pleasant Grove, Prosperine, Stoutland and Zion. Annual sermon by Rev. Ralph Manes. Ordained ministers belonging to the association: R.B. Carnett, H.S. Thomas, R.D. Patterson, W.F. Zumwalt J.E. Clinkenbeard, Gus Fisher, V.L. Stanley, J.A. Winfrey, Alpha DeBerry, M.F, Butcher, C.S. Smart, Ralph Manes, John Odum, A.D. Richardson, Dale Hufft, B.F. Roques, and Earl Pounds, with E.L. Fisher and Ira Everett, licensed. Membership reported 2,581, b 160, and $2,719.16 given to missions. Missionary R.D. Patterson reported 5 revivals with 57 baptisms and 7 study courses.

1941-With the Conway Church. Officers re-elected. Nineteen churches report 2,852 members and 122 baptisms. For some reason the missionary's report left out of the minutes. He was R.D. Patterson, serving half time. The association approved recommendation to cooperate with State Mission Board to employ the missionary for his full time. Gifts to missions by the churches $3,282.52. The annual sermon by Rev. Virgil Manes. Report on Obituaries carried the names of Deacon Walter Thrailkill, Rev. J.E. Clinkenbeard, Deacon L.E. Lockwood, Rev. A.D. Richardson and Rev. R.B. Camett. Suitable memorials were placed in the minutes. Rev. R.B. Carnett had been moderator of the association 32 years, while I.E. Lockwood had served as clerk for 12 years.

1942-The meeting at Mt. Salem Church this year was marked bv the action of the association to purchase land on which to establish a summer camp. (See sketch in another place.) The annual sermon by Rev. W.H. Zumwalt. Officers this year were re-elected. Seventeen of the 19 churches reported a membership of 2,915 and 60 baptisms.-Gifts to missions and benevolence, $4,583.15. Missionary R.D. Patterson reported: 285 days, 138 visits to churches, 168 sermons, 5 stewardship revivals, 4 revivals, 5 every-member canvasses, attended 30 county meetings, 12 state and divisional meetings, baptized 8, and traveled 9,994 miles.

Report on Obituaries included the name of Dr. O.C. Benage of the Conway Church.



**Associational Directory**

Officers of the Association for 1956

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Moderator | R. D. Patterson |
| Assistant Moderator | Kenneth A. Sorden |
| Clerk | Sydney A, Barr |
| Treasurer | Russell O'Dell |
| Training Union Director | Ira Fruits |
| Woman’s Missionary Union President | Mrs. Otis Wood |
| Sunday School Superintendent | Roy Ragsdale |
| Brotherhood President | John T' Russell |
| Chairman of Evangelism | Bradley Allison |
| Director of Church Music | Kenneth P. Bandy |
| Associational Missionary (recently employed) | Gene Lewis |

The other members of the mission board are one member from each church and all Pastors of the association.

The Camp Trustees were G.H. Miller, Milford Brackett, L.M. Scott, Charles Simpson, L.M. Calkin, E.R. Webb, Stanley Brooks, Ferrell Burns, and Clarence Pryor.

The following churches belonged to Laclede County Association in 1895 and have since left the association or ceased to exist. Here is what became of them.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Beulah | United with Camden Association 1902 |
| Mt. View | United with Camden Association 1903 |
| Union | United with Camden Association 1903 |
| Elm Grove | United with Camden Association 1896 |
| Richland | United with Pulaski Association in 1901 |
| Corinth | Ceased to exist after 1905 |
| Philadelphia | Ceased to exist after 1902 |
| Providence | Ceased to exist after 1911 |

The following churches united with Laclede county Association since 1895. We give the year they were admitted, and the year they ceased to exist:

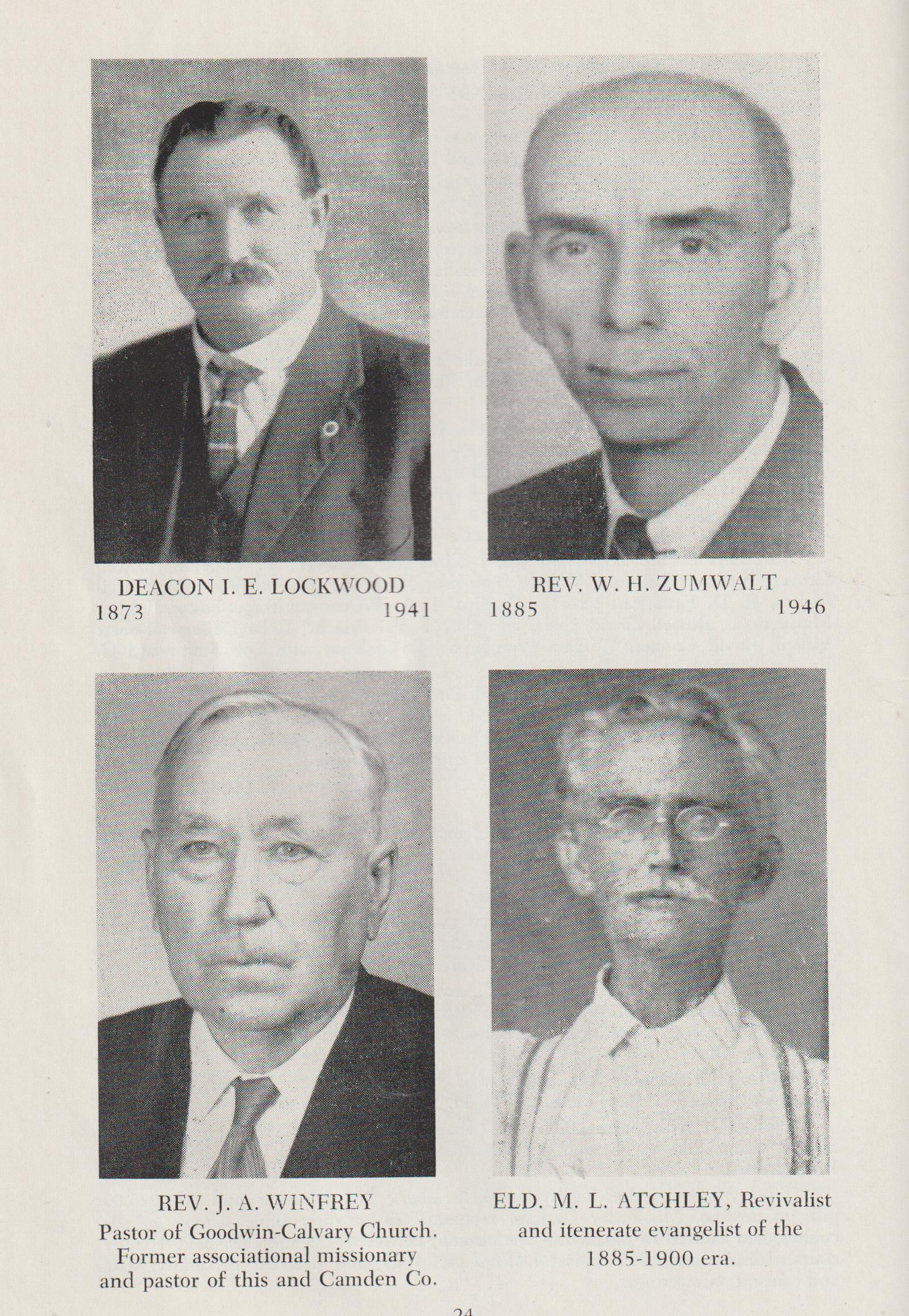
Friendship, 1896 - Ceased to exist after 1907. This church was organized in 1883, joined "Zion'' that year; joined “Providence" in 1887; returned to "Laclede Association" '1896; ceased to exist after 1907.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Salem, 1897 | Ceased to exist after 1942 |
| Prairie Creek, 1897 | Ceased after 1898 |
| Mt. Zion, 1899 | Ceased after 1935 |
| Delto, 1906 | Ceased after 1907 |
| Drew, 1908 | Ceased after 1922 |
| Eldridge, 1908 | Ceased after 1934 |
| Auglaize, 1915 | Ceased after 1917 |
| River View, 1929 | United with Camden County 1934 |
| Prosperine, 1934 | Ceased after 1948 |
| Candock, 1911 | Ceased after 1914 |

**Summary**

In the hundred years of the existence of the Laclecle County Baptist Association, many changes have taken place. We have seen how our forefathers struggled to evangelize our land. That from a small beginning the churches increased in number, and gradually enlarged their program in missionary effort. It is interesting to note that many churches were organized, and that many have ceased to exist. There are several causes for disbanding many of the churches. They were started in places that soon became inaccessible. Roads and removal of the people to other localities, and the small membership of the churches made it difficult to maintain churches in their original locations.

We have record of about fifty missionary Baptist churches organized in Laclede County in the last hundred years. Only 22 are alive today. The possibility of these 22 churches surviving is much greater than it was for those churches which disbanded. A larger program of cooperation, being better organized, and a closer fellowship with great opportunities, and good leadership, will make the history of the next hundred years a glory unto the Lord and honor and praise to His name.



**Constitution**

(Adopted in 1945)

Article l-Name

This Association shall be called the Laclede County Association of Baptist Churches.

Article II-Object

The object of this Association shall be to exercise an advisory influence with the churches in order to foster and maintain Christian fellowship and firm adherence to the doctrine of Christ and the preaching of the Word. To foster Christian education, to devise ways and means for the propagation of the Gospel in our midst and in foreign fields and to promote the spiritual growth and development of the churches.

Article III- Membership

Section 1. This Association shall be composed of messengers from regularly constituted Missionary Baptist churches uniting together in this fellowship and cooperating with the work and affiliated with the Missouri Baptist General Association.

Section 2. Churches wishing to unite with this Association must be represented by letter and messengers and must present Articles of Faith, when the Association will hear them.

Section 3. Each church belonging to this Association shall have the right to represent itself at each session by four (4) messengers until it has fifty (50) members, and one additional messenger for every fifty (50) members over the first fifty (50) members, or fraction thereof, provided that no church shall be entitled to more than twelve (12) messengers. Each pastor of the Association shall be entitled to the same privileges as any other messenger.

Article IV-Officers

The officers of this Association shall be Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Assistant Clerk, and Treasurer, who shall be elected by the messengers present and shall hold office throughout the Associational year and until the close of the next annual meeting. Clerk to hold office until minutes of meeting are printed and distributed.

Article V-Meetings

Section I. This Association shall hold annual meetings, the places and dates of which shall be determined from time to time by the Association itself.

Section 2. In event of the failure of the Association to meet as before announced, or if any other cause or occurrence renders a call meeting necessary, the Moderator shall have the power to call the Association into session after consulting a quorum of the Executive Board.

Article VI - Amendments

Section l. This Constitution, and or, the Rules of the Order may be revised or amended at any regular meeting of the Association by a vote of two-thirds of the messengers present voting.

Section 2. The Articles of Faith may be revised or amended at any regular session of the Association by a vote of two-thirds of the messengers present and voting, provided that one year's written notice of such revision or amendment shall have been given.

Article VII-Executive Board

Section l. The Association shall elect at each regular session an Executive Board. This Board shall consist of the Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, the Superintendent of Sunday school work, the Director of Training Union work, the Director of Brotherhood work, the President of the Associational Woman's Missionary Union, with pastors of the Association, one member from each of the churches, Chairman of Evangelism, and Director of Church Music.

Section 2. The officers of the Executive Board shall be President, Vice President and Secretary.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of the Executive Board to direct the work of the Association. It shall determine the rimes of its own meeting and arrange its own program. It shall fill all vacancies occurring within its own body, and shall have charge of the employment and compensation of Associational missionaries and other employees, and shall have charge of Associational work under the direction of the Association. It shall make careful and complete reports of its work of the Association for the preceding year.

Article VIII-Trustees

The Association shall elect a Board of Trustees consisting of nine members. Three to serve one year, three to serve two years, and three to serve three years, then after the initial election of each new trustee shall be elected to serve for three years. The Moderator of the Association shall be ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees and shall have the power to call meetings of the Board of Trustees whenever the legal business of the Association necessitates such meeting. The Trustees shall have the power and authority to transact legal business or assume legal obligations for or on behalf of the Association in all matters as they are specifically directed by the Association in regular session or by the Executive Board acting for the Association. (This Article B changed by Association in session 1951.)

**The Associational Missionary Program - Then and Now**

As mentioned in another place, the associations of fifty years ago had no extended program beyond what they were able to support, both in means and missionaries. Often the interest in the annual meetings justified the taking of pledges to support a missionary for the months to come. And, in most instances these efforts produced good results; however, the time of the missionary's labor was often cut short for lack of funds, or other reasons, and the work ceased. His purpose on the field was to conduct revivals and organize churches. The churches were few in the area of the association, and there were wide sections with no churches. The churches in general were few in membership. Very few had more than once a month preaching, and only a few had Sunday schools.

With no more support than these few churches could give to a program of evangelization, it can be readily seen that progress was slow. There being no cooperation between the churches in promoting Sundry schools, Woman’s Missionary Societies, Training union or Brotherhood work, the missionary had no other duties than revival meetings. There were times when after the missionary had held meetings in all the churches within a few months, there was nothing more for him to do, and as it is a peculiarity of Baptists, after the missionary has visited the church once in revival, there was no incentive to invite him back for further work with the church. Those were the conditions existing in our associations up until about twenty-five years ago, and in some instances ever a few years ago.

After churches became more numerous, and the county pretty well dotted with Baptist churches, Sunday schools, Woman's Missionary societies, and Training Unions in many of the churches, the associational program has undergone quite a change. At first the associational missionary divided his time between revivals and promoting the programs of the auxiliary departments of the churches. This has brought about the associational-organizations, such as, the Associational Sunday school, Associational Woman's Missionary union, Associational Training Union, and the Associational Baptist Brotherhood.

The growth and development of these departments has greatly enlarged the responsibilities of the churches in the work of their district association. And, instead of the annual meeting of former days when fellowship, preaching and a three days "Order of Business" procedure, we have seen the annual meetings concern itself with a permanent program, giving attention to world-wide evangelism, through state, home and foreign missions in the more practical way than taking collections at the annual meetings for the various causes. These are now promoted through the Cooperative Program, and by each local church giving monthly, and remitting to the office of the State General Association. Stewardship and enlistment have become the work of the district association through cooperation in the county organizations by the churches. The development of such programs made it necessary to employ a district missionary for quite a larger part of his time than can be given to evangelism, yet the winning of the lost is the supreme work of our churches.

In the following pages we will give brief sketches of the development of the departments of our association.

It is well in passing to mention the work of Missionary C. T. Graham, who for more than five years was our promotion worker. He found us in 1949 with only 4 full-time churches, 6 half and 9 quarter-time churches. In 1955 we have 13 full-time, and 8 half-time churches, 2 new churches, and 3 missions. These are just illustrations of what the-larger program of the association produces when there is a permanent program of training and enlistment.

**The Laclede County Baptist Association**

**Department of Sunday Schools**

As general thing, Baptists have fostered and promoted Sunday schools among their churches. In former days they were known as "Sabbath Schools." There were times, however, when this ministry was frowned upon by some churches and leaders, but in modern times the teaching of the Bible has been important in the work of the local church.

Because of conditions mentioned in other places, the work of teaching the Word in the local churches had very little encouragement from the association. No regular program has adopted to further this work among the churches of the association. However as early as 1895 organizations where set up in the county known as "Sunday School Conventions" with officers elected at the annual meeting of the association. About all that was reported at subsequent meetings was, that there had been one or more meetings held during the past year. No statistics given, no new schools organized, and very little said or done about teacher training, enlargement, departmental work, or growing and maintaining better Sunday schools. These contentions failed to produce the best results because they were a work separate and apart from the regular program of the association.

In 1926 the first step was taken to make the Sunday school work a part of the association's program that is subject to the "Order of Business" of the association, requiring reports and statistics of the Sunday schools of the local churches. Dr. E. A. Solomon was elected the first associational superintendent of Sunday schools. Since then there has been a steady increase and growth in Sunday school work of the Baptist churches of the association. Dr. Solomon served as' superintendent until I 935.

These have followed him: Francis Martin, 1936; Merle Mitchell, 1937; Dale Hufft, 1938; Clyde Offutt, 1939-1945; Clifford Gouge, 1946; Paul Harter, 1947; Adrian Hillhouse, 1948; Carl Carlisle, 1919-1952, and Edward Massey, 1953-1955. Roy Ragsdale is superintendent of Sunday schools for 1956.

**Laclede County Baptist Training Union**

The training of young Christians in our churches was the first aim in such work among Baptists. This was first known as "Baptist Young People's Union." Enlisting juniors, intermediates and young people in a weekly program of topical subjects pertaining to Christian living. And the forming of the habit of daily Bible reading was the primary aim.

The BYPU was first mentioned in the work of the association in the reports o[ the Sunday schools from year to year. Only a few churches maintained such activity, and the demand upon the associational program was not great enough to attract an associational organization until in the annual meeting of the associari6n in 1914. D. D. McDonald was elected associational BYPU president. The annual minutes that year did not carry the statistics for BYPU, and no record of the number of churches having BYPU’s appeared in annual minutes until 1925. Before that year nothing appears in the minutes to indicate that anyone was ever elected to succeed D. D. McDonald as county president of BYPU.

In the Sunday school report tor 1922, it is reported that four churches did have BYPU's, and 1924 five churches had BYPU's. Nine churches had BYPU's in 1925. These reports stimulated an interest in Training Union work, growing in number from year to year. No effort to organize an associational BYPU was made until the year of 1930, when E. L. Fisher was elected president, and the other necessary county officers were elected to assist him in setting up a permanent associational program of training in the county.

Adult unions and story hour, or beginners, were added and the name changed to "Baptist Training Union." The associational organization has been an active part of associational work since 1930. At first the meetings were held quarterly, and continue that way now, except that groups of churches meet more often for program planning and general panel discussions.

Reference to the summary of the annual meeting of the association for 1955 will show the present standing of training union work in the association.

Training Union directors since 1930 have been: E. L. Fisher, Logan Berry, Miss Lola Wilson, Russell O'Dell, Sherman Palmer, Leonard O'Dell, Neil Terwilliger, and Miss Esther Barker.

Under the direction of Miss Barker, the Laclede County Baptist Training Union has seen, if greatest progress. She has been director since 1947. The Programs have included quarterly meetings, group meetings, mass meetings, county wide study courses, “M” Night each year, and the cooperation with the State Training Union Department in every phase of Training Union work. It is with regret that the association accepted her resignation. Mr. Ira Fruits of Phillipsburg Church has been elected to serve as associational director.

**Training Union Directory For 1956**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Director | Ira Fruits |
| Associate Director | Miss Esther Barker |
| Secretary | Mrs. Harold Humphrey |
| Group Leader Number 1 | Jim Davis |
| Croup Leader Number 2 | Mrs. Ferrell Burns |
| Pastor Advisor | Rev. Kenneth Bandy |
| Pianist | Mrs. Willis Ezard |
| Chorister |  |
| Adult Leader |  |
| Young People's Leader |  |
| Intermediate Leader | Mrs. Rollins DeGraffenreid |
| Junior Leader | Mrs. Edward Massey |
| Primary Leader |  |
| Beginner Leader | Mrs. Milford Brackett |
| Nursery Leader | Mrs. Cleta Alexander |

**Laclede County Baptist Woman's Missionary Union**

"Before 1821, when Missouri was admitted into the union, the woman's work of the Baptist churches was called Female Mite Societies. Their first gifts were to help pay the travel expenses of itinerant Baptist preachers who laced the hardship of the wilderness to carry the gospel to our pioneer ancestors. The first missionary society organized, and still in existence in Missouri, was at Liberty, Missouri, in 1869, with Mrs. O. P. Moss as president. In 1876 the state Women’s Missionary Union was organized, and has been continuous ever since. This state organization our women became auxiliary to the Missouri Baptist General Association in 1921, meeting at Poplar Bluff, Missouri. The president that year was Mrs. W. F. Armstrong.

(From the Hand Book of the Missouri Baptist Women's Missionary Union.

The women of our Baptist churches have been active in every age of the history of Baptists. In our early history of Laclede County, they were sometimes called "Ladies Aid Societies" and their contribution as largely to the financial program o[ the local churches, and in aiding the poor and needy through gilts of food and clothing to orphanages, and in raising funds for local church needs. In whatever way they have given of time and money, and for whatever cause, they have been a great factor in the progress of our churches and association. Their work has not always had proper recognition in the program of the association. Perhaps like the other departments and auxiliaries of our churches and association. They were not organized sufficiently to advance their work among the churches, and consequently the association did not make place in the regular order of business for their reports. Nevertheless, they were very active in all the years they have not been reported in the annual meetings of the association.

"Aunt" Mary Davis Gourley, asked for and received permission to make a report on "Women's Work" in the annual meeting of the association in 1898. She reported four mission societies. These had forty-eight members. They had given to "District, State, Home and Foreign Missions $12.42; $15.00 to the Lebanon Church building, and sent 225 pounds of food and clothing to the Baptist Orphan's Home, Pattonville, Missouri, and had been in correspondence with the women of the churches throughout the year. The association passed resolutions commending the women on their fine work.

Reading the account of this report in the annual minutes for that year, one would expect to hear much and more of the same each annual meeting after that. But, no such reports are found or mention of any kind made in the years after 1898, until the year of 1926 when an associational WMU was organized with Mrs. C. B. Day, president, and Mrs. Janes Gray, secretary. Reports that year reveal there were six churches in which there were Missionary Societies, one Girl's Auxiliary and one Sunbeam Band. Through the years since 1926 more societies and auxiliaries have been reported, with more detailed reports of work done.

The Woman's Missionary Union has through a special week of prayer for each phase of missions, state, home, and foreign, and through the offerings in these weeks of prayer, contributed greatly to the funds of these missions.

In the year of 1954 there was given by our women in the association to State Missions $804.77, to Home Missions $661.77, and to Foreign Missions $3,334.00 or a total of $4,801.51, and then gave $26.50 extra to the Overseas Student Fund.

We can no way near relate here all the activities of the WMU; space will not permit it. We do give the list of WMU presidents who have served since 1926: Mrs. C. B. Day, Mrs. J. D. Chappelle, Mrs. W. Thrailkill, Mrs. Dale Hufft, Mrs. C. B. Thomas, Mrs. Goldie Roberts, Mrs. Gertie Riley, Mrs. Clifford Gouge, Mrs. Carol Cornelius, Mrs. Floyd Miller, Mrs. William Huffman, Mrs. A. J. Schneider, and Mrs. Otis Wood, the present president. For an itemized report of the Associational WMU, please refer to the summary report of the annual meeting of the association for 1955.

**Laclede County Woman's Missionary Summer Camps**

(Note: The following account of the work of our county WMU in their summer camps will not include the whole story. The large amount of details would fill a small book. Then again reports of the annual camps have not been kept and recorded in the annual minutes of the association. We will give a few details on the start of the camp, and enter what reports we have of some of the years. The writer suggests that the county WMU organization should keep these records in their regular minute books, and make report of each camp a "must" in making report to the annual meetings of the association.)

Prior to the first camp on our own grounds in 1943, our women held seven summer camps as association-wide activities The first two were at Hartley's Cabins, the next two years at Aurora Camp, one year at Parks Lodge, one year with only girls at Baptist Hill and in 1942 at the Dallas County Camp.

The first time we have any account of such meetings is one year (no one remembers the year, perhaps it was near 1930) when Susan Laureda Adams, Mrs. Mrs. Bill Carden, took several junior and intermediate girls from the First Baptist Church of Lebanon on a few days camping on the Adams' farm near Falcon. The next camp of which we have record is either 1931 or 1935, perhaps both, when Mrs. William Huffman and Miss Adams with some assistance from Mrs. C. B. Thomas, again took young people from the First Baptist Church of Lebanon camping at Hartley's Cabins on the Gasconade River.

In 1936 the count WMU, through their Young People's leader, Mrs. C. B. Thomas, conducted the first county-wide camp, this time also at Hartley's Cabins. In all, Mrs. Thomas has directed five annual camps, (1936-37-38-39-40), two at the Hartley's Cabins, two at Aurora Camp, and one at Parks Lodge. Here are total statistics of those camps: Boys, 150; girls, 200; adult helpers, 88; total enrolled 438. In the five years that Mrs. Thomas directed she reports that in four of them there were 42 professions and 251 mission study awards. The only other detailed reports on camps are for the year 1943, 1944, 1948, and 1949.

The first camp was held on our own camp grounds in 1943. Mrs. George Craig was the director with 39 boys, 59 girls, and 16 adult helpers - total 114. There were 18 professions of faith and 97 mission study awards.

In July, 1944, the second camp at home was conducted by Mrs. George Milanovich. There were 38 boys and 75 girls, with 17 adult helpers - a total of 130, with 26 professions and 111 mission study awards.

Mrs. Floyd Miller directed three or perhaps four camps. We have reports for the years of 1948 and 1949. ln these two-years there were 101 boys, 144 girls with 34 adults (one year) - total of 279. She reported for those two years 28 professions and the mission study awards is not known.

Here is the list of the directors who have served since 1936. We do not know exactly what years they were directors, and also we may not have all of their names: Mrs. Huffman, Mrs. Carden, Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Willis Ezard, Mrs. Ralph Pearcy, Mrs. George Lamb, Mrs. Alma O'Quinn, Miss Esther Barker, Mrs. Paul Wright and Rev. Kenneth Bandy.

The County WMU Young People's Leader for 1956 is Mrs. Gene Lewis, who will have charge for this year.

Now a few lines about how we secured and developed the camp grounds located on the Gasconade River three miles south of Stoutland, Missouri. Seeing the importance of the summer camp activities the women asked the association in the annual meeting at Mount Salem Church September, 1942, to secure for them a suitable, convenient place to conduct such camps for the young people of the county. The association endorsed the plan, and elected three laymen to proceed with the undertaking. Accordingly the committee bought for the association a tract of sixty-nine acres from Mr. and Mrs. Harry Monday located three miles south of Stoutland, Missouri, on Gasconade River, and began buildings suitable for use as summer camps.

The chapel was built in 1944, the dining hall in 1948, a deep well in 1949. Cabins have been built by Stoutland, First and Second Churches of Lebanon, Eureka, Conway, and Antioch churches, and Morgan church is in the process of building. A swimming pool is authorized by the association which we hope to have completed within a few months. All of the buildings and cabins are substantial, a good supply of water and large playgrounds, and when fully developed and improved, will make it one of the best camps in the state.

The first trustees of the camp were L.M. Calkin, G. H. Miller and Stanley Brooks, who have all been retained from year to year. The number on the board has been increased to nine in recent years. Those who have served with the first three named above, have been, A. L. French, Twyrman Edwards, R. D. Patterson, L. M. Scott, Russell O'Dell, Clarence Pryor, Floyd Miller, Ermel Webb, E. R. Peters, Charles Simpson, Ferrell Burns, Waldo Renner, and Milford Brackett. The terms of office are rotated, one, two, and three years, composed of nine members. Present Trustees of the camp: E. R. Webb, Charles Simpson, G. H. Miller, L. M. Scott, Ferrell Burns, L. M. Calkin, Stanley Brooks, Clarence Pryor, and Milford Brackett.

**Baptist Brotherhood**

For several years prior to 1939, Brotherhood work in the local churches was being carried on. The Southern Baptist Convention and the Missouri Baptist General Association had been promoting Brotherhood work in the state and convention programs. In the annual meeting of Laclede County Association of 1939, an associational organization was proposed. Ralph Manes was the first president, then follows C. S. Smart, C. H. Terwilliger, T. S. Hammons, Floyd Miller and Bob Bruce.

Quarterly meetings were held each year. Stewardship and enlistment had been promoted, and much interest taken by the men of the churches in a closer fellowship and cooperation with pastor and other leaders of the local churches, State Brotherhood meetings are well attended.

A "Log-Fire Revival" was held at the camp grounds in July of 1953, when more than six hundred men and boys attended. A barbecue supper was enjoyed. Dr. T. P. Haskins, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, was the principal speaker. There were several who made professions of faith and surrendered to special service.

One new responsibility of the Baptist Brotherhood is the taking over from the Woman's Missionary Union the sponsorship of Royal Ambassador work. To the Brotherhood work in the churches goes much of the credit for the increase in the finances of our churches. The president of the associational Brotherhood for 1916 is John T. Russell of Lebanon, Missouri.

**Evangelism**

Missions and evangelism are synonymous terms with Baptists, and have been dominant in all the objectives of our expansion. The ever present urge to win the lost to Christ, has inspired churches and ministers in every generation since the days of the apostles. It has been the cause of every sacrifice and hardship endured by those who have been the pioneers of Christianity in every age. The desire to worship God according to the dictates of one’s conscience, and to teach their children to do so, was the aim and purpose of those who organized Bethel Baptist Church in

All of the information on the previous pages was copied out of the history of the Laclede Baptist Churches titled 100 Years of Advance 1855-1955

The following is a history of the Laclede Baptist Association from 1898 to 2005 written by Bernice Hamilton.

1898: For the first time a report on woman's work appears in the minutes. Also, for the first time the minutes carry the amount of contributions to missions of $47 .37.

1899 reported 8 Sunday Schools from 20 churches.

1903 reported that a Sunday School Convention was organized with constitution and by-laws.

At the Annual Meeting of 1906 it was noted that the original name of the association, "Zion Association of United Baptist Churches" later Laclede County Association, seems to have dropped the "United" from its title and has been known now for ten years under the title of "Laclede County Association of Baptist Churches," and has so been regarded since.

In 1910 the Missouri Baptist Children's Home was reported to the association for the first time.

The 1914 Associational Meeting heard the report of Missionary J. A. Jordan given at length and in detail. He had labored 304 days, traveled 1,617 miles by wagon and 156 by rail, preached 147 sermons, 75 addresses, 19 conversions, and 19 baptisms. He organized seven Sunday Schools which he thought would not be "freeze outs," gave away 27 Bibles and sold 35 Bibles, gave away 47 testaments, distributed 9,712 pages of tracts, and held four revivals. Also, at this meeting the Home for Aged Baptists was one of the institutions reported on for the first time to the association. The first officer of BYPU was elected.

G. H. Miller was elected treasurer and served association in that capacity until 1954. 38 years- at the 1917 associational annual meeting.

In the 1919 associational annual meeting the association declared herself in favor of alignment with the Missouri Baptist Convention. For the first time in the history of the association statistics included BYPU and Woman's Missionary Union work at the 1925 Annual meeting. The "Unified Budget” was endorsed at the 1926 Annual meeting of the association. For the first time at the annual associational meeting of 1928 the minutes carry an apportionment for the churches to the Cooperative Program. 1939 - The Annual Associational meeting was held at the Prosperine Church. The churches reported 2,577 members and a record number of baptisms of 358. Reports were made by those attending the Baptist World Alliance meeting that year in Atlanta, Georgia. The Association approved a recommendation to cooperate with the State Mission Board to employ the missionary (DOM) for his full time at the 9141 Annual meeting. The 1942 Annual meeting was marked by the action to purchase land on which to establish a summer camp. (More later). The Zion church was the place of the Annual meeting and Rev. C. T. Graham was employed as missionary (DOM) in 1949 Missionary C. T. Graham reported in the 1951 Annual Meeting on the School of Missions that was held that year. The l00th year of the existence of the Laclede Association was held at the camp grounds in 1955. The highlight of the reports was the $35,899.00 given to missions. This was the largest amount given to missions up to this time. A program of celebration was enjoyed.

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of Laclede Baptist Association we met at the Second Baptist Church in Lebanon, MO. Sept. 13, 2005 where banners, table decorations, and other mementos commerating the 150th year celebration were displayed. Because the New History Books (1956-2004) of the association were presented at this meeting Angela Stiffler presented a certificate to the Association from the Missouri Baptist Historical Society and the William E. Partee Center for Baptist Historical Studies of William Jewell College which commends the Association for 150 years of Christian ministry and faithful service. After the presentation, Berniece Hamilton spoke a little about the new History book which gives the last 50 years from 1956-2004 and gave the first copy of the History to Bro. Guy VonLuven who had worked with the History Committee. Also, at the end of the afternoon session of the association a copy of the History was given to Mr. and Mrs. (Judy) Robert Taylor, the son of Dr. Bob Taylor because the Association dedicated the History Book of the Association from 1956-2004 in honor of Dr. Robert Taylor who was pastor of First Baptist Church, Lebanon from 1971-1983 and was also an inspirational leader to the Association in many capacities.

Under miscellaneous business the Constitution Committee brought revisions, which the Committee is suggesting and requested that they be approved. One of the revisions was the changing of Woman's Missionary Union Director to Women's Ministry Director.

At this meeting a motion was made seconded and carried that the churches of Laclede Baptist Association partner with specific churches in Mississippi and Louisiana for 18 months to help them after Hurricane Katrina. One of the resolutions from the resolution Committee stated: Whereas Perry and Mary Wolfe have faithfully served our Laclede Baptist Association as DOM and Secretary; be it resolved that we express to them our appreciation for their service to our Association.

**2006 Annual Meeting**

Executive Board Meeting of Nov 8, 2005 Brother Perry explained that as of September 1, 2006 the mileage allowance with the IRS had gone up to 48.5 cents. (A long way from horse and buggy in those early days.)

Executive Board Meeting of Feb. 14, 2006 Bill Dudley, Association Evangelism Director shared about the Associational Evangelism Conference and how great it had been. He stated that the most expensive part of this conference is the motel rooms for the nine evangelists. This year someone had given the money for that and the publicity. They have agreed to do the same for next year if we approve having the conference again. Bill made the motion that we approve this report and that we have another Association Evangelism Conference Feb. 3-6, 2007.

In the DOM report at the Annual meeting Sept. 12, 2006 Brother Perry reported on the mission trip to the Community Baptist Church of Saskatchewan, Canada. They did some remodeling and some evangelism with two receiving Christ as their Savior and Lord.

One of the resolutions was whereas; the Laclede Association of Southern Baptist Churches recognizes our continued opposition to embryonic stem cell research, legalized cloning and the destruction of human embryos.

Sept.11, 2007 - At the Annual meeting Bro. Perry reported on the Mission Trip to Hugo, Colorado. There were 16 people from the Association who went. They did prayer walking, had a block party, they were an encouragement to the pastor Bro. O. J. Bewley, painted the interior of the church, did some plumbing, repaired the front door, put on a new roof, & cleaned the church. Several church services were held and one person accepted the Lord as Savior of their life.

Perry & Mary attended the Southern Baptist Convention in San Antonio, TX where they celebrated the 300th anniversary of Associational Ministry in America. June 2007 Terry Moots was elected to serve on the Committee on Committees at the convention. In the Continuing Education Report it was reported that 3 students who had attended the SBU extension classes in Lebanon had graduated from SBU May 19, 2007.

Look up the admittance of Faith Baptist Church to the Association.

(Look at the Nov. executive Bd. Meeting)

**Churches in the Association**

Antioch Baptist Church

Brownfield Baptist Church

Calvary Baptist Church

Candock Baptist Church

Competition Baptist Church (Disbanded 2020)

Conway First Baptist Church (Webster Assoc)

Crossing Over Southern Baptist Church

Elm Grove Baptist Church

Eureka Baptist Church

Faith Baptist Church 'The Faith House' (merged with Calvary)

First Baptist Church Lebanon

Goodwin Calvary Baptist Church

Heritage Baptist Church

High Point Baptist Church

Hillcrest Baptist Church

Laclede Cowboy Church

Lebanon Filipino Fellowship

Lynchburg Baptist Church

Millcreek Baptist Church (Disbanded 2017)

Morgan Baptist Church

New Hope Baptist Church

Oak Grove Baptist Church

Orla Baptist Church

Phillipsburg Baptist Church

Pine Creek Baptist Church

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church

Second Baptist Church Lebanon

Stoutland Baptist Church

Union Southern Baptist Church

Wood Street Baptist Church