Information Sheet

R Mount Zion Baptist Church (Washington County, Mo.).
195 Records, 1829-1853.
One volume, with typescript.

MICROFILM

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These are records of the Mount Zion Baptist Church, established in 1829 northwest of Potosi, Missouri. The church was re-named Fourche-à-Renault Baptist Church in 1834. Its records include membership rolls and minutes of monthly church business meetings.

The Regular or United Baptist congregation on Fourche-à-Renault Creek counted about thirty members after its first year of existence. The number included a few slaves. A hewn-log church was erected in the 1830s and a camp ground was established adjacent to the church building. Annual summer camp meetings were held on the site for many years.

The records of the church consist of minutes of business transacted on the fourth Saturday of each month, preceded by the church Decorum and membership roster. Minutes begin on 10 January 1829 and continue through 23 July 1853. Regular business included admission and dismissal of members, and appointments of church officials and committees. Charges against members, which had to be resolved before the congregation, are frequently entered into the minutes. The cases usually involved non-attendance at church services and improper conduct, and often ended in the expulsion of the offending member. There were also hearings on cases concerning attendance at another church, slander of another church member, and co-habitation before marriage. An ordained minister was stripped of his credentials to preach in 1833 for illegal proceedings as moderator. The charges included “self-aggrandizement” without regard for the cause of religion.

Pagination, spelling, and dating of the entries in the record book are not consistent. Only the first forty of approximately one hundred and fifty pages in the volume are numbered. The minutes are in chronological order. An unexplained gap in the minutes from September 1842 through January 1844 may be the result of a missing page or pages. Dates are generally noted in terms of the Saturday before the fourth Sunday in each month, the day specified for handling church business. A reference calendar is included to determine specific dates. The calendar and typescript of the minutes have been filmed in front of the original volume.

r231 17 July 1984 Howard C. Higginbotham Loaned for microfilming

Shelf List

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<td>The Decorum (A slightly different version of the Rule of Decorum is entered at the end of the volume.).</td>
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Proceedings of the Mount Zion Church, 10 January 1829–23 July 1853.

The pages in the record book are numbered only through page 40. With the exception of a few random entries on the last pages of the volume, the minutes are in chronological order. There is an unexplained gap in the records from September 1842 through February 1844. There may be a missing page, or pages, at this point.

The Constitution of the Fourche-à-Renault Church, revised in 1838, and the Rule of Decorum are entered on the final pages of the volume.

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