

Information Sheet

R **Little Piney Association of Regular Predestinarian Baptists (Mo.).**
283 **Minutes of annual sessions, 1837-1974.**
 Sixty-two folders.

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These are minutes of annual meetings of the Little Piney Association, which was composed of churches in Camden, Cole, Crawford, Dent, Gasconade, Maries, Miller, Osage, Phelps, Pulaski, Shannon, and Texas counties in Missouri. At various times, the organization had also been titled a "United" and "Primitive" Baptist association.

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

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

The annual meetings of the association were hosted by different member churches each year. Copies of the minutes were printed by the association and distributed through the churches. The proceedings include membership information for each constituent church and summaries of business taken up by the association. Typical business matters included the admission, dismissal and exclusion of churches, the exchange of correspondence with neighboring associations, and formulation of "circular letters."

Circulars concerned matters of doctrine and ensured uniformity of belief. Correspondence with other associations was printed occasionally, particularly where a divergence in doctrine had developed. In some cases, such as that of the Bethel United Baptist Association in 1843, communications were broken off and a detailed explanation of the case was inserted in the annual minutes. There were similar disagreements with the Osage River Association in 1848, and the Salem Association in 1854. The incidents demonstrate the distinctions between "United" and "Regular" Baptists.

A small group of miscellaneous items is filed following the Little Piney minutes. Included are the fragmentary minutes of an unidentified Regular Baptist Association, ca. 1855, which may have been the Center Creek or Osage association. There are also the December 1883 issue of *Regular Baptist Magazine*, the *Primitive Baptist Hymnal* (St. Louis; 1881), minutes from the Salem and Fishing River associations of Primitive Baptists (1953, 1965), and a history of Rocky Fork Church in Hinton, Missouri (ca. 1971).

Church locations noted below follow the post-1857 designations for Missouri counties. Minutes for pre-1857 annual meetings bear the earlier county designations. Some of the locations are speculative, based on the addresses of church clerks.

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

Bethel Baptist Church (Cole County, Mo.).
Big Piney Baptist Church (Pulaski County, Mo.).
Cherry Valley Baptist Church (Crawford County, Mo.).
Dry Fork Baptist Church (Dent County, Mo.).
Little Hope Baptist Church (Osage County, Mo.).
Little Maries Baptist Church (Osage County, Mo.).
Little Piney Baptist Church (Phelps County, Mo.).
Mount Zion Baptist Church (Pulaski County, Mo.).
Pine Baptist Church (Texas County, Mo.).
Prairie Valley Baptist Church (Miller County, Mo.).
Rock Springs Baptist Church (Maries County, Mo.).
Sardis Baptist Church (Gasconade County, Mo.).
Union Baptist Church (Camden County, Mo.).
Union Baptist Church (Maries or Osage counties, Mo.).

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

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

In 1901, only Bethel, Big Piney, Dry Fork, Little Flock, and Little Hope churches attended the annual session. For much of the remaining period covered by the minutes, only the Bethel, Big Piney (the two were combined as Big Piney-Bethel Church in 1924), Dry Fork, and Pine churches attended the sessions. Of all the churches, only Dry Fork stayed unchanged in name and identity. J. M. Lenox and W. L. Bradford were the longtime moderator and clerk, respectively, of the Association. For other historical details, see the minutes for 1934 in Folder 17d.

<i>r358</i>	<i>12 November 1986</i>	<i>Margaret Elizabeth Bowles Eyberg</i>	<i>Gift</i>
<i>r381</i>	<i>15 June 1987</i>	<i>Adrian Lamkin, Director, William E. Partee Center for Baptist Historical Studies</i>	<i>Gift</i>
<i>r418</i>	<i>12 August 1988</i>	<i>Elizabeth Barnitz</i>	<i>Gift</i>
<i>r587</i>	<i>3 February 1994</i>	<i>Doris Boyd</i>	<i>Gift</i>

Shelf List

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Folders 1-8: Minutes of annual sessions of the Little Piney United Baptist Association, and Little Piney Regular Baptist Association, 1837-1851.

- Folder 01: Minutes of annual meetings of the Little Piney United Baptist Association. Two annual sessions recorded in a single pamphlet, 1837-1838 (photocopies).
- Folder 02: Minutes, Mount Zion Church, Pulaski County, 17-19 September 1842.
- Folder 03: Minutes, Dry Fork Church, Crawford County, 16-18 September 1843.
- Folder 04: Minutes, Little Piney Church, Pulaski County, 20-22 September 1845 (2 copies).
- Folder 05: Minutes, Big Piney Church, Pulaski County, 13-15 January 1846 (2 copies).
- Folder 06: Minutes, Union Church, Camden County, 12 June 1847, *et seq.* (2 copies).
- Folder 07: Minutes, Little Maries Church, Osage County, 12 August 1848, *et seq.* (2 copies).
- Folder 08: Minutes and circular letter [fragment], 1851.

Folders 9-16: Minutes of annual sessions of the Little Piney Association of Regular Predestinarian Baptists, 1853-1894.

- Folder 09: Minutes, Bethel Church, Cole County, 21-23 May 1853.
- Folder 10: Minutes, Big Piney Church, Pulaski County, 20-22 May 1854 (1 copy, plus fragment).
- Folder 11: Minutes, Dry Fork Church, Crawford County, 22-24 August 1857 (2 copies).
- Folder 12: Minutes, Little Hope Church, Osage County, 28-30 August 1858 (2 copies).
- Folder 13: Circular letter, Bethel Church, Cole County, 27-29 August 1859.
- Folder 14: Minutes, Pine Church, Texas County, August 1869.
- Folder 15: Minutes [fragment], 1871.
- Folder 15a: Minutes, Rock Spring Church, Maries County, 25-27 August 1877.
- Folder 15b: Minutes, Pine Church, Texas County, 27-29 September 1879.
- Folder 16: Minutes, Pine Church, Texas County, 11-13 August 1888.
- Folder 16a: Minutes, Little Maries Church, Maries County, August 1894.

Folders 16b-56: Minutes of annual sessions of the Little Piney Association of Primitive Baptists, 1900-1974.

- Folder 16b: Minutes, Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 25-27 August 1900.
- Folder 16c: Minutes, Big Piney Church, [Phelps County], 27-29 August 1905.
- Folder 16d: Minutes, Big Piney Church, Phelps County, 22-24 August 1908.
- Folder 16e: Minutes, Bethel Church, Phelps County, 28-30 August 1909.
- Folder 16f: Minutes, Pine Church, Texas County, 27-29 August 1910.
- Folder 16g: Minutes, Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 26-28 August 1911.
- Folder 16h: Minutes, Dry Fork Church, Phelps County, 24-26 August 1912.
- Folder 16i: Minutes, Bethel Church, Phelps County, 23-25 August 1913.
- Folder 16j: Minutes, Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 22-24 August 1914.
- Folder 16k: Minutes, Big Piney Church, Phelps County, 21-23 August 1915.
- Folder 16l: Minutes, Bethel Church, Phelps County, 26-28 August 1916.
- Folder 16m: Minutes, Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 25-27 August 1917.
- Folder 16n: Minutes, Big Piney Church, Phelps County, 24-26 August 1918.
- Folder 16o: Minutes, Bethel Church, Phelps County, 24-26 August 1919.
- Folder 16p: Minutes, Big Piney Church, Phelps County, 27-29 August 1921.
- Folder 16q: Minutes, Bethel Church, Phelps County, 26-28 August 1922.
- Folder 16r: Minutes, Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 25-27 August 1923.
- Folder 16s: Minutes, Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 22-24 August 1925.
- Folder 16t: Minutes, Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 28-30 August 1926.
- Folder 16u: Minutes, Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 27-29 August 1927.
- Folder 16v: Minutes, Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 25-27 August 1928.

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- Folder 17: Minutes, Pine Church, Texas County, 24-26 August 1929 (2 copies).
- Folder 17a: Minutes, Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 23-25 August 1930.
- Folder 17b: Minutes, Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 22-24 August 1931.
- Folder 17c: Minutes, Mount Zion Church, Oregon County, 27-29 August 1932.
- Folder 17d: Minutes, Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 25-27 August 1934.
- Folder 18: Minutes, Mount Zion Church, Oregon County, 24-26 August 1935 (2 copies).
- Folder 19: Minutes, Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 22-24 August 1936.
- Folder 20: Minutes, Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 28-30 August 1937.
- Folder 21: Minutes, Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 27-29 August 1938.
- Folder 22: Minutes, Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 26-28 August 1939.
- Folder 23: Minutes, Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 24-26 August 1940.
- Folder 24: Minutes, Pine Church, Texas County, 23-25 August 1941.
- Folder 25: Minutes, Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 22-24 August 1942.
- Folder 26: Minutes, Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 28-29 August 1943.
- Folder 27: Minutes, Pine Church, Texas County, 26-27 August 1944.
- Folder 28: Minutes, Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 25-26 August 1945.
- Folder 29: Minutes, Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 24-25 August 1946.
- Folder 30: Minutes, Pine Church, Texas County, 23-24 August 1947.
- Folder 31: Minutes, Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 27-29 August 1948.
- Folder 32: Minutes, Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 26-28 August 1949.
- Folder 33: Minutes, Pine Church, Texas County, 26-27 August 1950.
- Folder 34: Minutes, Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 24-26 August 1951.
- Folder 35: Minutes, Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 22-24 August 1952.
- Folder 36: Minutes, Pine Church, Texas County, 22-23 August 1953.
- Folder 37: Minutes, Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 28-30 August 1954.
- Folder 38: Minutes, Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 26-28 August 1955.
- Folder 39: Minutes, Pine Church, Texas County, 25-26 August 1956.
- Folder 40: Minutes, Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 23-25 August 1957.
- Folder 41: Minutes, Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 22-24 August 1958.
- Folder 42: Minutes, Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 22-23 August 1959.
- Folder 43: Minutes, Pine Church, Texas County, 27-28 August 1960.
- Folder 44: Minutes, Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 25-27 August 1961.
- Folder 45: Minutes, Dry Fork Church, Dent County, 24-26 August 1962.
- Folder 46: Minutes, Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 21-23 August 1964.
- Folder 47: Minutes, Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 20-22 August 1965.
- Folder 48: Minutes, Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 26-28 August 1966.
- Folder 49: Minutes, Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 25-27 August 1967.
- Folder 50: Minutes, Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 23-25 August 1968.
- Folder 51: Minutes, Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 22-24 August 1969.
- Folder 52: Minutes, Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 21-23 August 1970.
- Folder 53: Minutes, Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 20-22 August 1971.
- Folder 54: Minutes, Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 25-27 August 1972.
- Folder 55: Minutes, Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 24-26 August 1973.
- Folder 56: Minutes, Big Piney-Bethel Church, Phelps County, 23-25 August 1974.

Folders 57-62: Miscellaneous material, ca. 1855-1971.

- Folder 57: Fragment of minutes of annual meeting of an unidentified Regular Baptist Association, ca. 1855. Possibly Osage or Center Creek Association.
- Folder 58: *Regular Baptist Magazine*, v. 8, no. 12 (December 1883).
- Folder 59: *The Primitive Baptist Hymnal*, M. J. Sears and T. B. Ausmus, compilers. (St. Louis: John T. Smith & Co., 1881).
- Folder 60: Minutes, Salem Association of Primitive Baptists, Ashland, Mo., 4-6 September 1953.
- Folder 61: Minutes, Fishing River Association of Primitive Baptists, Kansas City, Mo., 24-26 September 1965.

Folder 62: History of Rocky Fork Church (Hinton, Mo.), 1821-1971. By Mae Wayland,
clerk.

<i>r350</i>	<i>12 November 1986</i>	<i>Margaret Elizabeth Bowles Eyberg</i>	<i>Gift</i>
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