



Proceedings
of the
Forty-Eighth Annual Session
of the
Sardis Association of
Old Regular Baptist
The Church of Jesus Christ

in session assembled with

SARDIS CHURCH

Mingo County, W. Va.

September 13, 14, 15, 1940

PROCEEDINGS

of the

FORTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE SARDIS ASSOCIATION OF OLD REGULAR BAPTIST THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

In Session Assembled With Sardis Church,
September 13, 14 and 15, 1940

At the place where arrangements were made for the preaching, the services were introduced by Elder Jonah Bevins, followed by the introductory sermon delivered by Elder Ester Hopkins. Text: St. John, 20th Chapter, 21st Verse.

Then the delegates assembled at the church house and after a short talk and song and prayer by Elder Jerry Hall, the Association proceeded as follows:

1. Called for the letters from the several churches and received the letters and seated the delegates.
2. The Association then organized by electing Elder Hi Maynard as Moderator, Elder Ester Hopkins as Assistant Moderator, Elder Jonah Bevins as Clerk, and Brother R. L. Murphy as Assistant Clerk.
3. At the request of the Moderator, the Rules of Decorum were read by the Clerk.
4. Called for newly organized churches and received none.
5. Called for letters from Sister Associations and received as follows: New Salem by the hands of Elders Hays Maynard, Jerry Hall, F. A. Hopkins, C. F. Conn, Brothers Brack Hall and Ermine Hall. Letter in the hands of Elder F. A. Hopkins.

Kyova, for the following reason, was rejected: That Kyova Association advised their churches not to retain nor receive members who were members of Organized Labor also advised this Association in the meantime to consider their action.

Philadelphia by the hands of Elders F. Adkins, Elis Cotton, Brothers Wallace Adkins and W. L. Burnett. Letter in the hands of Elder Finis Adkins.

Union Delegates received: Elder H. C. Maynard and Brother Rush Reed. No letter.

Mud River by the hands of Elders Peter Oest and John Miller. Letter in the hands of Elder John Miller.

6. Called for transient ministers and members of our faith and order; the following received: Elders Gilbert Miller, Asa Evans, Wetsel Ball, Brother Billie Moore, Elders Willis Blackburn, B. F. Maynard.

7. Ordered that the Moderator make all temporary appointments.

8. Committee appointed to take care of the visiting brethren as follows: Elders Dick Evans, Wallace Maynard and Asa Evans.

9. Committee appointed to see that the stand be supplied with ministers and that peace is preserved around the stand: Elders Dick Evans, Wallace Maynard and Asa Evans.

10. Committee to arrange the ministry for Saturday, consisting of one member from each church with the entire delegation of the Sardis Church.

Ministers as follows: First, Elder Gilbert Miller; Second, Elder Peter Oest. Third, Elder Hays Maynard; Fourth, Elder Jerry Hall. Friday evening, Elders H. C. Maynard and Finis Adkins.

11. Appointed clerks to write letters to corresponding Associations.

12. Committee on arrangements consisting of one delegate from each church with the Moderators and Clerks with the corresponding Associations invited.

13. On motion by Elder Jonah Bevins, the Association adjourned until 9:00 a. m. Saturday.

SATURDAY MORNING

Met pursuant to adjournment and after song and prayer service introduced by Elder C. F. Conn of New Salem Association.

1. Called the roll and marked the absentees.
2. Read the Bill of Arrangements and discharged the Committee on same.
3. Appointed a Committee on Finance consisting of Elders Ester Hopkins, E. S. Coleman and Louis Smith, who reported the contributions from each church as shown in the statistical table.

4. Called on the Treasurer to report, who reported as follows:

Total on hand for the year ending September	
14, 1940	\$148.49
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Paid out for printing of minutes	\$ 60.00
Secretary's fee	15.00
Expenses of delegates to Sister Associations	12.00
Typist's fee	0.00
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Total Paid Out	\$ 87.00
Balance in Bank on hand	62.49
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Received from churches this year	\$144.02
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Total on hand for next year	\$206.51

5. Ordered that Elder Willis Blackburn be retained as Treasurer and that he receive Ten Dollars (\$10.00) for his services.
6. Ordered that the Clerk superintend the printing of the minutes and that we have Two Thousand (2000) copies printed and that he be allowed Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00) for his services for preparing the manuscript and recording the same.
7. Brethren called in union meetings and Associations last year made their reports. Their reports received; failures excused. They were admonished to be more faithful this coming year.
8. Appointed same Committee to arrange for preaching Sunday who reported as follows: First, Elder John Miller; Second, Elder Frank Hopkins; Third, Elder Finis Adkins; Fourth, Elder Hi Maynard. Tonight, Saturday, at the auditorium, First, Elder Earnie Runyon; Second, Elder C. F. Conn.
9. Letters to Sister Associations read and appointed delegates as follows:

New Salem to be held with the Caney Creek Church to begin on Friday before the fourth Saturday in September, 1940. Elders Hi Maynard, Ester Hopkins, Brothers Caudill Williamson, Harve Young, T. D. Lowe, Elder Harrison Bevins and Brother R. L. Murphy. Letter in the hands of Elder Hi Maynard.

Philadelphia to be held with the Friendship Church to begin on Friday before the third Saturday in September, 1940. Elders Hi Maynard, Louis Smith, W. A. Hurley, Ernie Runyon, Brother R. L. Murphy. Letter in the hands of Elder Hi Maynard.

Mud River to be held with the Little Laurel Church to begin on Friday before the fourth Sunday in August, 1941. Elders Hi Maynard, W. A. Hurley, Ester Hopkins, B. F. Maynard, Brother R. L. Murphy. Letter in the hands of Elder Hi Maynard.

Union to be held with the Poplar Creek Church to begin on Friday before the third Saturday in September, 1940. Elders B. F. Maynard, E. S. Coleman, Ester Hopkins, Brothers George Hinkle, Louis Marcum, Elder Arville Runyon. Letter in the hands of Elder Ester Hopkins.

**Upon Request the Following Churches Have Union Meetings
May, 1941**

SALEM: First Saturday and Sunday. Elders Hi Maynard, W. C. Hay and Wallace Maynard.

TURKEY CREEK: Second Saturday and Sunday. Elders J. H. Brown, Jonah Bevins, W. C. Hay, with the Moderator and all others invited.

June, 1941

BUCK CREEK: Third Saturday and Sunday. Elders Ester Hopkins, C. L. Swanson, W. C. Hay, Willie White, with the Moderator attending.

LEANAH: Second Saturday and Sunday. Elders Harrison Bevins, Ester Hopkins, Willis Blackburn, with the Moderator attending.

SIDNEY: The fourth Saturday and Sunday. Elders Harrison Bevins, Hays Maynard, Jonah Bevins and Ester Hopkins.

ENON: First Saturday and Sunday. Elders Asa Evans, Wallace Maynard, Willie White, with the Moderator attending.

APPLE ORCHARD: First Saturday and Sunday. Elders Harrison Bevins, E. S. Coleman, Hi Maynard.

July, 1941

DIX FORK: First Saturday and Sunday. Elders H. C. Maynard, W. C. Hay, Willie White and Hi Maynard.

LITTLE VINE: Second Saturday and Sunday. Elders J. G.

Thornsbury, Asa Evans, H. C. Maynard, E. S. Coleman, with the Moderator attending.

MT. PLEASANT: Second Saturday and Sunday. Elders Hi Maynard, Ester Hopkins, Asa Evans, Willis Blackburn, with the Moderator attending.

MARY ELIZABETH: Third Saturday and Sunday. Elders Basil Robinett, Wallace Maynard, Willis Blackburn, Jonah Bevins, with the Moderator attending.

BIG BRANCH: Third Saturday and Sunday. Elders Harrison Bevins, W. C. Hay, H. C. Maynard, with the Moderator attending.

LITTLE ROSIE: Fourth Saturday and Sunday. Elders Wallace Maynard, Emmett Case, E. S. Coleman, Grover Cary, with the Moderator attending.

NARROWS BRANCH: Beginning on Friday before the fourth Saturday and Sunday. Elders J. G. Thornsbury, Willie White, W. C. Hay, with the Moderator attending.

TABITHA: First Saturday and Sunday. Elders Orvil Runyon, W. C. Hay, Willie White and Asa Evans.

August, 1941

LITTLE DOVE: First Saturday and Sunday. Elders Willie White, Jonah Bevins, Wallace Maynard, Grover Cary, J. R. Evans and all others invited.

REBECCA: Second Saturday and Sunday. Elders Harrison Bevins, Ester Hopkins and Jonah Bevins.

BENT BRANCH: Third Saturday and Sunday. Elders Willis Blackburn, Jonah Bevins, Hays Maynard, with the Moderator attending.

ELK FORK: Third Saturday and Sunday. Elders Harrison Bevins, W. C. Hay, with the Moderator attending.

BEECH GROVE: Third Saturday and Sunday. Elders E. S. Coleman, J. G. Thornsbury, H. C. Maynard, with the Moderator attending.

SARDIS: Fourth Saturday and Sunday. Elders Hi Maynard, Wallace Maynard, with the Moderator attending.

BETHANY: Fourth Saturday and Sunday. Elders Mat Mounts, Grover Cary, J. G. Thornsbury, E. S. Coleman, H. C. Maynard, with the Moderator attending.

PILGRIM HOME: Fourth Saturday and Sunday. Elders Harrison Bevins, Ester Hopkins, J. R. Evans.

10. Ordered that we print obituaries presented to the Brother Clerk at the close of the Association.

11. Ordered that the Treasurer pay the expense of one car for the visiting Sister Associations, paying for the gas and oil.

12. Ordered that we advise ministers of our Association not to marry people into adultery where either man or woman has a living wife or husband.

13. Shall we receive into our fellowship men having more than one wife or women having more than one husband?

Answer:

We advise the churches not to receive into their fellowship any such except those who have put away the companions for the cause of fornication and such cases to have the Gospel or church evidence of same.

14. We, the Sardis Association, do hereby advise the churches of our union to use discretion in setting apart men for the ministry, as we believe that if a man is called to the ministry by the spirit of God, the same spirit will fully manifest its work to the church to which this man belongs and will prompt such church to liberate the man; again we do advise the churches not to ordain any man to the ministry when such party makes demand for such action, and further advise the churches that they be sure that a man has the gift of preaching or exhortation before they lay hands on same. And, after he has been liberated and set forth by the church to preach the gospel and fails to exercise his gift, we advise the church to which he belongs to deal with him and, if necessary, demand his credentials.

15. Called on Committee to report with reference to Friendship Association. Report received; Committee discharged.

16. Received the following Query from the Dix Fork Church:

Shall the Elders of the Sardis Association preach with the Elders of the United Baptist, with whom we have no correspondence?

Answer:

We advise the Dix Fork Church that you hold your own key to act as you think proper, so long as you are in order.

17. Ordered that our next Association to be held with Apple Orchard Church to begin on Friday before the second Saturday in September, 1941.

18. By vote it is ordered that Elder Hi Maynard preach the introductory sermon and that Elder Jonah Bevins be his alternate.

19. Ordered that we tender our thanks to the Sardis Church and to the community at large.

20. Ordered that the minutes be read and signed by the Moderator and Clerk. The Association then adjourned to the time and place mentioned above.

Elder Hi Maynard, *Moderator.*

Elder Ester Hopkins, *Asst. Moderator.*

Elder Jonah Bevins, *Clerk.*

Bro. R. L. Murphy, *Asst. Clerk.*

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

September 15, 1940

Service was introduced by Elder John Miller, the Moderator of Mud River Association.

The song "Amazing Grace" was sung by the congregation, followed by prayer by Elder Jonah Bevins.

Second on the stand was Elder F. A. Hopkins of the New Salem Association, whose text was the Eighth Chapter of Romans 11th verse—"But if the spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His spirit that dwelleth in you".

Third on the stand was Elder Phinis Adkins, Moderator of the Philadelphia Association. His subject was the Twentieth Chapter of Revelations, 6th verse—"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first Resurrection on such the second death hath no power".

Fourth on the stand was Elder Hi Maynard, our own beloved Moderator, who came forward quoting a passage of Scripture—"For me to live is Christ. To die is gain."

Bringing to a close another session of the Sardis Association. The preaching was wonderful and in harmony with the Bible; preached under the demonstration of the spirit.

Now, dear Brethren, farewell, may the God of Heaven bless us all and that we may live for and with one another, having at all times each other's welfare at heart. I believe we are living in perilous times. It is needful that we let our light shine more and more, ever looking unto Jesus, who is the Captain of our salvation.

R. L. Murphy, *Assistant Clerk.*

MEMORIALS

Memorial to be held with the Rebecca Church on the second Saturday and Sunday in June, 1941.

Memorial of Heenon Maynard and others to be held with the Apple Orchard Church first Saturday and Sunday in August, 1941. Elders called, Bud Coleman, Willis Blackburn and Jonah Bevins.

Memorial of Elbert Bevins and others to be held with the Bent Branch Church on the third Saturday and Sunday in August, 1941.

Memorial to be held at the Fraley Cemetery for J. W. Smith and others on the third Saturday and Sunday in August, 1941.

Memorial of the deceased members of the Pilgrim Home Church beginning on Friday before the fourth Saturday in October, 1941, this being regular church time. All ministers invited.

Memorial to be held for the deceased of the Salem Church first Saturday and Sunday in October, 1941. Ministers called, Elders Hi Maynard, Hays Maynard, and Willis Blackburn.

Memorial of the deceased brethren and sisters of Dix Fork Church to be held on regular church time, August the first Saturday and Sunday, 1941.

Memorial of Elder J. S. Munsey and others will be held with the Narrows Branch Church on the fourth Saturday and Sunday in May, 1941. All the preaching brethren invited and Elder G. Bennett Adams is especially requested to be present.

Memorial of Brother Lee Robison and Wife to be held with the Lenah Church on the second Saturday and Sunday in July, 1941.

Memorial of Brother Tom McCoy to be held at Buck Branch on Wolf Creek first Sunday in September, 1941. Elders called, Emmett Case, Bud Coleman, Wallace Maynard, Ester Hopkins.

Memorial at the Hannah Cemetery on the third Sunday in August, 1941, and at the Sturgell Cemetery on the fourth Sunday in September, 1941. Elders Willie White, Arvil Runyon requested to attend.

Memorial of Brother Harrison McCoy on the third Sunday of August, 1941. Ministers called, J. E. Taylor, J. M. Justice, J. R. Coleman and Ester Hopkins.

Memorial of Sister Cynthia Bowling to be held on first Saturday and Sunday, September, 1941, on right fork of Brushy Creek. Elders called, Wallace Maynard, Grover Cary, Orville Runyon, Bud Coleman and J. R. Evans.

Memorial to be held at Buck Creek Church third Sunday in August, 1941. Elders E. S. Coleman, J. G. Thornsbury, H. C. Maynard.

Memorial of Brother Nathan Jude to be held the fourth Sunday in September, 1941.

Memorial of Sister Jessie Farley and others to be held near Enon Church first Sunday in May, 1941. Elders Jonah Bevins, W. C. Hay, Hi Maynard, Ester Hopkins are requested to attend.

Memorial on Laurel Fork of Pigeon Creek, near Tom's Branch, on Sunday closest to July 15, 1941. Elders called, Wallace Maynard, Grover Cary. All others invited.

OBITUARIES

It is with a sad heart that I try to write the obituary of Brother Booker Keesee, jr.

He was the son of Booker Keesee, sr., and Mary Keesee, born August 9, 1864, deceased December 13, 1939 aged 75 years, 4 months and 4 days. He was married to Caroline Maynard and to this union were born six children: Ida, Margie, Jane Lizzie, Elvert, George and John. His first wife preceded him in death on May 25, 1905. He and his family then journeyed West and he married Sarah Jane Scalf.

He joined the Old Regular Baptist Church about the year 1916, and was baptized by Elder Lilburn Farmer. He then took fellowship with the Rainey Valley Church of Washington.

He leaves a wife, five children, 25 grandchildren, 16 great-grand children; one brother, and a host of friends to mourn his loss.

We would like to say to his children and all his relatives, that your father and your mother are enjoying a better world to-day. And we Pray that you will prepare to meet them after this life is over.

Written by request by the following residing in the State of Washington: Artis Maynard, Jane Smith, Caudill Williamson, nephews and neices of Brother Keesee.

Mrs. Sarah Morris Pinson

Sarah Morris Pinson was born March 6, 1866 and died March 20, 1940, aged 74 years and 14 days, the daughter of James and Jane Blackburn Morris. She was married to Floyd Pinson June 10, 1886, who preceded her in death November 28, 1938. He was the son of John and Piny Pinson.

To this union were born six children: John L. Pinson of Meta, Kentucky; Thomas Pinson, Huddy, Kentucky; Lilburn Pinson, deceased; Mrs. Trimble Stanley, Road Fork, Kentucky; Mrs. Will Smith, Canada, Kentucky; Mrs. R. A. Braid, Pikeville, Kentucky.

Besides her children and grandchildren, she leaves to mourn her loss, three sisters: Mrs. Preston Mullins, Canada, Kentucky; Mrs. Bud Gannon, Canada, Kentucky; Mrs. Jim Smith, Canada, Kentucky. She has 32 grandchildren and 13 great grand children, making a family of 51.

Sister Pinson joined the Regular Baptist Church about forty-eight years ago. She was baptized by Elder Joe Smith.

The children lose a loving and pious mother, the church a faithful sister. She was best known to her friends and neighbors as "Aunt Sarah".

Angeline Davis

It is with a feeling of real sadness I will try in my weakness to write an obituary of my dear mother, as it has pleased God to call her from her children and home.

She was the daughter of John C. and Elizabeth Maynard, born December 2, 1864, deceased August 17, 1940, aged 75 years, 7 months and 19 days. She was married to J. N. Davis September 29, 1881 and to this union were born 11 children, four boys and seven girls; father and one daughter preceding her in death.

She joined the Regular Baptist Church and with an experience of grace was baptized by Elder Jonah Bevins July 15, 1940 and took fellowship with the Pilgrim Home Church.

I want to say to the rest of the children: If you ever expect to see mother again, live the life she told us all to live.

A precious one from us is gone,
A voice we loved is still,
A place is vacant in our home,
Which never can be filled.

Our home is sad and lonesome,
Grief and sadness fill our hearts,
I pray that we may meet in Heaven,
Where we'll never have to part.

Written by her daughter,

Wildie Young.

Robert Junior Cains

By request I will attempt to write an obituary of Brother Robert Junior Cains, best known to us as Bob Cains. He was born April 30, 1868 and was the son of Richard and Minta Cains, and was married to Emma Elswick, to which union were born two children; one child preceding him in death. He was later

married to Jane Young and to this union were born four children. He leaves his widow and children, 14 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, and a host of friends and relatives to mourn his loss. He joined the Regular Baptist Church September 24, 1933, and was baptized by Elder A. J. Case and James Jude, having his membership with the Pilgrim Home Church. Brother Cains was afflicted for several years, so he could not attend church regularly, but bore his affliction patiently.

I would like to say to Sister Cains and to his children and his friends, that Brother Bob will live again. He has crossed the river of death, and when Jesus comes to call his children from this world of trouble, I feel that Brother Bob will be with him. And, if you hope to meet him in peace, you will have to prepare in this life, for the Scriptures tell us in Amos, 4th Chapter and 12th Verse, to prepare to meet thy God, for you know as the tree fall so shall it be. So children now be looking up. We know there is a key and when Death is conquered, graves give up.

Our Father we shall see.

Written by
Troy T. Francis.

Thomas J. Francis and Mary E. Francis

It is with much sadness and tear-dimmed eyes, that I will try by the help of God to write a sketch of the life of my father and mother, Thomas J. Francis and Mary E. Francis.

Thomas Jefferson Francis was the son of Elijah and Charity Francis, born August 3, 1861, deceased October 3, 1939, aged 78 years, two months. Mary Elizabeth Francisco was the daughter of Rachel Francisco, born March 16, 1866, deceased February 20, 1940, aged 73 years, 11 months, 4 days. They were united in matrimony March 30, 1883 and to this union were born eight children, four boys and four girls. One girl, Easter Emiline, died in infancy; 7 are still living: Dixie Walters, Asbuary Francis, Sophia Robinette, Troy T. Francis, J. M. Francis, Delmon Francis, and Bessie E. Allen. Father and mother, best known as "Uncle Tom" and "Aunt Mary" by all who knew them, spent practically all of their lives on Brushy Creek, at Varney, Kentucky. Father was a blacksmith by trade, which made him well-known.

They joined the Old Regular Baptist Church and had their membership with the Pilgrim Home Church. Mother was baptized August 4th Sunday, 1919; father September 22, 1922.

They filled their seats in the old church as long as their health permitted and always met the young and old with a friendly hand-shake. They were both afflicted for a long time before the Death Angel visited them; and when the time came that they had to be waited upon we were never left without company, and I sure want to congratulate all the young boys and girls of our community for their loving kindness shown us, as well as all of the brethren and sisters in the Lord.

Daddy and mother, knowing that they were soon going to leave this world of trouble, made known their request to us children as to how and where they wanted to be laid to rest, and when and who they wanted in their funerals. We tried to fill their requests the best we possibly could.

There being seven of us children still living in this cold world of trouble, three of us that have heard of that city called Heaven have started to make it our home where daddy and mother are waiting for us and asked us to meet them there. I would like to say to my brothers Asbury, Jake and Delmon and to my sister, Bessie, that if you ever hope to see our loving daddy and mother after this life is over, you will have to repent of your sins this side of the grave, for as Death finds us so shall the judgment.

As this obituar is getting lengthy I will not write much more, although I could say so many good things about the life of such Christians as I feel daddy and mother were. Furthermore, I want to say in the words of Jesus: "Weep not for me, but for yourselves and your children."

Two loved ones from our home are gone,
Two loving voices still,
They only left us here to mourn,
In Heaven their seats they fill.

As we all gathered around their bed,
Kind, loving words were spoken,
Ask God to bless us on our way,
That our circle, too, may not be broken."

Written by their son,
Troy T. Francis.

Kansas Canterbury

It is with much sadness I will try to write a short obituary of one of our loving sisters, Kansas Canterbury. She was born in 1879 and died September 27, 1939 being about 60 years of age.

She was married to Brother John Canterbury and to this union were born eleven children; six preceded her in death and five are left to mourn her loss. Sister Kansas joined the Regular Baptist Church several years ago. She was a faithful member to attend her meetings as long as she was able. When she was not able to go she wanted the Brothers and Sisters to come in and sing and pray with her.

Her seat is vacant in the old homeplace and can never be filled. We feel our loss is Heaven's gain. At the Resurrection of the dead, we will meet Sister Kansas again.

Children if you want to meet mother again, forsake this world, take up the Cross and follow Jesus.

Written by,
Elder Willie White.

Gordon Maynard

Gordon Maynard, son of James and Polly Maynard, was born May 24, 1857, deceased October 18, 1939, aged 82 years, 4 months and 14 days, was married to Mary Elizabeth Smith, September 22, 1881. To this union were born 4 children, 2 boys and 2 girls. One boy and one girl preceded him in death, leaving one son, John D. Maynard and one daughter, Dulah Maynard, five brothers, Mose, Tom, Harmon, Ben and Jim Maynard together with a host of friends and relatives to mourn his loss.

He joined the Regular Baptist Church the first Sunday in October, 1921, and lived a faithful Christian life until death.

His wife Mary Elizabeth Smith, the daughter of David and Melvina Smith, was born November 25, 1863, deceased December 14, 1936, aged 73 years and 19 days. She was a devoted wife and mother to her husband and her children, and we say to their children: You have lost a pious father and mother; and to their friends and neighbors: You have lost noble citizens.

Floyd Runyon

Floyd Runyon, son of Calvery and Mandy Runyon, was born June 19, 1885, deceased November 3, 1939, aged 54 years, 5 months and 15 days. He leaves the following brothers and sisters: George Runyon of Turkey Creek, Kentucky; Wayne Runyon of Fishtrap,

Kentucky; Oma Sword, Thomas, Kentucky; Rebecca Taylor, Mossy Bottom, Kentucky; one brother, Willie Runyon, preceded him in death.

Brother Floyd was baptized together with his wife Ella Runyon by Elders Jonah Bevins and Ester Hopkins on the first Saturday in August 1931, to which profession he lived faithfully until death.

He was married first to Vicy Canada who preceded him in death about 11 years ago, and lastly was married to Ella Curry Runyon who still survives together with her children and all the relatives, brethren and sisters and a host of friends to mourn his loss.

Yours in the hope of eternal life,
Kenna Varney.

James Aldridge

It is with much sadness I will try to write a short obituary of my dear Brother, James Aldridge, who has deceased this life and is gone on. He deceased this life on September 18, 1939.

He joined the church and was baptized by the hand of Elder Frank Canterbury, taking his fellowship with the Bethany Church. He was a kind, loving and faithful Brother. He took sick on Friday and died on Monday morning about six o'clock. He was a faithful member to attend church. When he took sick his wife said he began to call for Brother Willie White. At that time I was in Kentucky, but returning home Sunday night about eight o'clock, I got the news that he wanted me. I left my home and went to see him. He wanted me to sing and pray with him. I sang a Song of Zion, then, kneeling down by the side of his bed to pray, he told me his way was clear for the Lord to call him, that he had a better home awaiting for him. I feel that by his life and the testimony he left that he is at rest.

Just a few words for his dear children: Papa is gone; he can't come back to you, but children you can go to him by the grace of God, where parting will never come, if you will forsake this world, take up the Cross and follow Jesus.

Written by a Brother in hope of eternal life,
Elder Willie White.

Melvin B. Roman

Brother Melvin B. Roman was born on October 5, 1865; deceased this life on July 7, 1940, aged 75 years.

He was twice married; his first wife Louisa Slater. To this union were born six children: Mrs. Dixie Reed, Sarah Runyon, Ida Bevins, John Roman, Lula Walker and Allie Windle; all survive him.

His second wife was Mrs. Carrie May, who with five children survives him, two having preceded him in death. Those living are Leonard Roman, Mrs. Jane Booten, Mrs. Alice Stepp, Hope Lowe and Kermit Roman.

Brother Melvin professed a hope in Christ and was baptized by Elder G. W. Maynard about 41 years ago, first had his fellowship in the Old Sardis Church but after the Mary Elizabeth Church was organized he took his membership to that church where he remained a faithful member until his death.

In the passing of this Brother, his community lost a good citizen and neighbor. His family lost a faithful father, and the church lost a pillar who was always true to his convictions.

Brother Roman was always frank and plain in his decisions and always spoke from the shoulder.

We join with his family and many friends to mourn his passing but we believe that brother Roman's spirit is safely housed in that celestial home where Jesus is, and at that day of all days his body will be raised from death and pain.

To his children, companions and many friends, I can only say: Believe in Jesus Christ to the saving of your souls and follow Him in His commandments.

His funeral is set on Sunday, July 7, 1940, at the home cemetery and he, before his death requested the writer, Elders Jonah Bevins, Harrison Bevins, Willis Blackburn and Bill Jude to attend same.

Written by a Brother in Hope,
Elder Hi Maynard.

Ollie Jane Farley

Ollie Jane Thomas and Jack Farley were united in marriage at Bluefield, Virginia on February 18, 1921. She was 38 years, 2 months and 9 days of age at her decease. She had been sick 2 years and 8 months. To this family were born three children: Frances, Betty and one boy; the boy preceded her to her grave.

She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Thomas. She is survived by the following brothers and sisters: Mrs. George Holiway of Switchback, Mrs. Robert Hudson, Independence, Virginia; Mrs. Hubert Graham, McCarr, Kentucky; Mrs. Kenneth Bales, Switchback West Virginia; Mrs. John McKenzie, Patterson, Virginia; Mrs. Wayne Spaulding, Kermit, West Virginia; Robert Thomas, Red Jacket, West Virginia; Walter Thomas, Thacker Mines, West Virginia and Frank Thomas, Honolulu, Hawaii.

Comfort White

This wonderful pioneer Brother was born April 6, 1866 and deceased this life on September 27, 1939, aged 73 years, 5 months and 21 days.

He professed a hope in Christ about 40 years ago and was baptized into the fellowship of the Old Regular Baptist Church, having his membership in the Elk Fork Church, where he remained a devoted member until his death.

Brother White was twice married. His first wife was Minnie Farley and she preceded him in death several years ago. To this union were born three children: Brookie, Ed and Resa, two of whom survive him, Brookie having passed on before him; a son Elbert who preceded him in death.

His second wife was Mrs. Angeline Runyon who survives him. To this union there were born eight children: Allie, Sarah, Effie, Hazel, W. B., Wallace, Rush and Fred, all of whom survive to mourn his loss.

Brother White endured his affliction as a true soldier of the Cross, having great patience, fortitude and faith. He told the writer he was prepared to go. He loved his brethren and he was always prompt to attend church and when his church-time came around you would always find him filling his seat. He was always frank in his convictions and his life was a wonderful monument of that true Christian spirit—hospitality and kindness around his home always; willing and ready to care for his brethren.

We all join with the lonely wife and his children in mourning his passing, also his 19 grandchildren and host of friends.

Brother White's body was laid to rest in the cemetery near his home for many years, the Elk Fork Church, where it will rest until Jesus comes again and at the sound of the trumpet of God, the voice of the Archangel and the shout of the saints, he will rise again to meet his Saviour. We believe his body will be

changed from mortal to immortal and will forever be able to praise his Redeemer.

O, children! Look to Jesus who can bless you to meet your father and follow in father's footsteps.

Our beautiful loving father has now passed on,
We cry, weep and mourn because he is gone,
No more can we see him on earth below,
But only with Jesus, if there we shall go.

He changed pasture in death, his spirit flown,
His spirit now happily with Jesus, His own.
Come children, embrace that kind loving Lord
And meet dear daddy by trusting God's word.

Written by a humble Brother in hope,
Elder Hi Maynard.

Nerve Jane McCoy

It becomes my sad duty to write an obituary of a faithful mother in Israel, Nerve Jane McCoy.

She was the daughter of Roscoe and Anna Fitch. She was born February 4, 1899, and was married to Ed McCoy July 30, 1918 and to this union were born 12 children, five of whom preceded her in death. She was baptized July 18, 1937 at the hand of the writer, taking her membership with the Buck Creek Church of Regular Baptist, where she was a faithful member until death June 6, 1940.

The church has lost a faithful member, the husband a dear companion, the children a loving mother. We all miss her.

That meek and humble wife was a bright and shining light to you, Ed, and the children. Sister McCoy would bring her children and come to church as long as she was able, and when she was unable to come to church she called for the brethren and sisters to come and sing and pray with her. She would rejoice in God, her Savior, though weak in body, but strong in spirit.

Ed, may God bless you to fill that vacant seat in the Buck Creek Church and hold up a standard of faith to those seven children whom she has left to your trust, then when life and its disappointments are over, we can greet them in the eternal plain of Heaven, where the family circle cannot be broken again by death.

Written by a Brother in Hope,
Shodle Pauley.

Henry Harve Stratton

This noble citizen and Brother was born August 4, 1859. He was noted as an honest and hard worker.

On March 27, 1884, he was married to Polly Bevins, to which union were born four children: Dixie, Delmon, Marvin and Trulie.

For many years before uniting with the church, this Brother was very active in attending church and would rejoice to see the peace and progress of the church.

He finally professed a hope in Jesus Christ and was baptized into the fellowship of the Bent Branch Church by Elder Jonah Bevins on the third Sunday in July, 1938 and lived a true christian life until his death which occurred on February 25, 1940 at his home on Bent Branch; aged 80 years, 6 months and 21 days.

In his passing the community lost a good citizen worthy of honor. The church lost an active member and pillar. His bereaved wife has lost a faithful husband and his children surely have lost a noble father.

We join with the family, relatives and friends to mourn the loss of this, our aged Brother, as we all miss his presence with us in the church; but we believe that Brother Stratton's spirit is now resting with his Master.

And, dear children, and Sister Polly: Brother Stratton will live again when Jesus comes; yes he will live immortal, live eternally.

By the grace of God we will meet him with God's redeemed.

Written by a Brother in Hope,

Hi Maynard.

Lyda Wolford Scott

Sister Scott was born May 24, 1880, and was united in marriage to John H. Scott December 27, 1895. To this union two sons were born: Dewey and Carl Scott, who survive her with their father to mourn the loss of a good Christian mother whose passing occurred on March 7, 1940.

Sister Scott was a faithful Sister, having professed a hope in Christ about 25 years ago and was baptized into the fellowship of the Salem Church, but later moved her membership to Narrows Branch Church as a charter member where she filled her seat; an active member until prevented by illness. And finally God called this noble Sister and mother from our midst. We humbly bow to His will.

Though our loss is great, yet we believe it was a happy

exchange with Sister Scott. The church has lost a faithful and loving Sister.

John, you realize what a great loss you have suffered—a loving wife gone.

Boys, mother is gone but you can, by God's sweet grace, meet mother where Jesus is.

Mother will rise again! yes, she will live forever in that Eternal City. Her body will be shining with the effulgent glory of God—victory through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

By your humble Brother,

Hi Maynard.

Mrs. Ella Bevins

Obituary of my beloved wife, Mrs. Ella Bevins: The daughter of J. B. and Nancy Jane Harris, born November 22, 1883. She entered into the marriage covenant with the writer, Jonah Bevins, August 22, 1901. To this union were born fourteen children, six of whom died in infancy and eight are living: Clyde, Okey, Marvin, Quinton; four girls: Mrs. Oscar Pauley, Mrs. Carson Fairchild, Mrs. Robert Kelsay, all of Williamson, West Virginia, and Magdaline Bevins, at home, Goody, Kentucky.

On March the third Sunday 1911, she, with her husband, professed a hope in Christ and was baptized into the fellowship of the Mt. Pleasant Church of Jesus Christ by Elder J. W. Fields and lived a pious, faithful and true Christian life until the sad message of death came and took her away at 5:40 a. m., October 5, 1940. The passing of my loving companion has left my life so lonely. Surely to me she was what God purposed for a man—a helpmeet, a faithful and kind mother to her children. Her death was not only a shock to the husband and children, but to the host of relatives and friends in Pike County, Kentucky and elsewhere, as she was widely known, and to know Ella was to love her.

It is with many solemn thoughts and tears I try to write and speak of the virtues of such a noble wife and character; a mother so true to her Master, to her husband, to her sons and daughters, to her friends far and near.

But she has fallen asleep, to rest from her labors, but we believe she will live again at the Resurrection and will forever live to sing redeeming love.

O! I am so sad and lonely, but ere long I can meet my loving and faithful companion in that Eternal rest!

In the passing of this sainted christian mother, the Salem Church has lost one of its most faithful members (coming by letter from the Mt. Pleasant Church to the Salem Church of the Regular Baptist in 1923), she was faithful to death.

O! I know her life to be virtuous, faithful; and a loyal wife! Unsurpassed by any for truthfulness, honesty and genuine christian spirit, full of love!

To the children: You had to say farewell to one of the best mothers who ever lived, and her sweet prayer for you on Friday evening before she died, I trust will be treasured by all of you.

And to the many who joined to mourn her loss, I want to thank and express my gratitude, and especially to the Brethren and Sisters that came to mourn with us, I want to say to you in the words of Jesus: "Weep not for me, but for yourselves and your children."

Written by a heart-broken husband and servant of the church,
Elder Jonah Bevins.

CONSTITUTION

From a long series of experiences, we, the churches of Jesus Christ being regularly baptized upon our profession of faith in Jesus Christ are convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches in order to perpetuate a union and communion among us and preserve, maintain and keep the rules and orders of an Association according to the following form of government:

Article 1. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches and duly sent to represent them in this Association who shall be members whom they shall think best qualified for the purpose, and, producing letters from their respective churches certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to seats.

Article 2. In the letters from the different churches, shall be expressed their number in full fellowship, their baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excommunicated and dead since the last Association.

Article 3. The members thus chosen and convened shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor shall they infringe upon the internal rights of any church in the union.

Article 4. The Association, when convened, shall be governed and ruled by a regular and proper decorum.

Article 5. The Association shall have a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

Article 6. New churches may be admitted into our union that shall petition by letter and delegates, and if found upon examination to be orthodox and orderly shall be received by the Association and manifested by the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

Article 7. Every church in the Union shall be entitled to a representation in the Association.

Article 8. Every query presented by any church to the Association, being first debated by their own church, shall be taken up by the Association.

Article 9. Every motion made and seconded shall be taken up by the Association, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

Article 10. The Association shall endeavor to furnish the churches with the minutes of the Association.

Article 11. The churches shall send money by the delegates of each church for printing the minutes of the Association.

Article 12. There shall be a record book kept wherein the proceedings of every Association shall be regularly recorded by the Secretary appointed for that purpose.

Article 13. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if need be, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association rises.

Article 14. Amendments to this plan or form of government may be made at any time, by a majority of the Union, when they deem necessary.

Article 15. All matters coming before the Association shall be decided by the will of the majority.

Article 16. The Association shall have power: 1. To provide for the general union of the churches. 2. To preserve inviolably a chain of communication among the churches. 3. To give the churches all necessary advice in matters of difficulty. 4. To inquire into the cause when the churches fail at any time to represent themselves in the Association. 5. To appoint any member by and with their consent to transact any business which they think necessary. 6. The Association shall have power, to withdraw from any church in this union which shall violate the rules of the Association or deviate from the orthodox principles of religion. 7. To admit any orderly minister of our order to a seat with us in the Association. 8. The Association shall have power to adjourn themselves to any future time or place they may think most convenient to the churches of the union. That no minister shall be ordained unless forwarded by the church, and it shall require two or more ordained ministers to compose a presbytery for that purpose.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

We, the churches of Jesus Christ, called Regular Baptist, are constituted on the following faith, viz:

Article 1. We believe in only one true and living God, the Creator of heaven and earth and all things that are therein contained.

Article 2. We believe in Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, who is head and king of His church.

Article 3. We believe in the Holy Ghost, the sealer and applier of the redemption purchased by Christ.

Article 4. We believe in the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and these three are one.

Article 5. We believe in the Old and New Testament Scriptures to be the infallible word of God and take it for our only rule of faith and practice and nothing is to be taken from or added to it.

Article 6. We believe in the free atonement of Jesus Christ; that He tasted death for every man, and that salvation is to all men and women on the terms of the gospel.

Article 7. We believe that repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and regeneration are necessary previous to baptism, and that immersion is the only right way of administering the ordinance.

Article 8. We believe that Christ has but one true gospel church, and that it will finally persevere through grace to glory.

Article 9. We believe in the communion of the Lord's Supper; that is, taking of the bread and wine by the church of Jesus Christ in commemoration of the death and suffering of the Son of God until His second coming.

Article 10. We believe that feet washing is an example of Jesus Christ, and ought to be observed and kept up by His Church until His second coming.

Article 11. We believe that Jesus Christ is the first resurrection from the dead, and that He lives forever.

Article 12. We believe in the resurrection of the just and unjust.

Article 13. We believe the happiness of the saints and the punishment of the wicked are eternal.

RULES OF DECORUM

Article 1. The Association to be opened and closed by prayer.

Article 2. A Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

Article 3. Only one member shall speak at a time and he shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator when he is about to make a speech.

Article 4. The person thus speaking shall not be interrupted in his speech, except by the Moderator, until he is done speaking and shall strictly adhere to the subject, and, in no wise reflect upon the person who spoke before, nor make remarks on mishaps, failures or imperfections, but shall verily state the cause and matter as nearly as he can, so as to convey his light and idea.

Article 5. No person shall rise and speak more than three times on one subject without consent of the Association.

Article 6. No person shall abruptly break off or absent himself from the Association without liberty obtained therefrom.

Article 7. No member of the Association shall have the liberty of laughing during the sittings nor whispering in time of public speech.

Article 8. No member of this Association shall address another by any other term or appellation other than that of Brother.

Article 9. The Moderator shall not interrupt a member nor prohibit him from speaking until he gives his light upon the subject, except when he breaks the rules of decorum.

Article 10. The names of the several members of the Association shall be enrolled by the Clerk and called over so often as the Moderator requires.

Article 11. The Moderator shall have the same privilege of speech as another member; provided the chair be filled, but shall have no vote unless the Association be equally divided.

Article 12. Any member who shall, wilfully and knowingly, break any of the rules shall be reproved by the Association as it may think proper.

Article 13. The delegation to be seated in this Association shall be limited to three members from each church.

Article 14. No person shall speak more than five (5) minutes at the same time without liberty obtained from the Association.

ORDAINED MINISTERS

L. G. Lowe	Turkey Creek, Ky.
Jonah Bevins	Goody, Ky.
Ester Hopkins	Goody, Ky.
Harrison Bevins	Goody, Ky.
C. L. Swanson	Boomer, N. C.
W. C. Hay	R. F. D. No. 1, Williamson, W. Va.
Ernest Runyon	Turkey Creek, Ky.
Shadle Pauley	Beauty, Ky.
Louis Smith	Hardy, Ky.
Orvil Runyon	Nolan, W. Va.
J. E. Taylor	Heenon, Ky.
J. H. Brown	Canada, Ky.
J. G. Thornsby	Canada, Ky.
E. S. Coleman	Hardy, Ky.
Hose Bowling	Meta, Ky.
Willis Blackburn	Goody, Ky.
James Jude	Varney, Ky.
Basil Robinett	Varney, Ky.
Willie White	Lenore, W. Va.
Hi Maynard	R. F. D. No. 1, Williamson, W. Va.
W. A. Hurley	Verdunville, W. Va.
Abe Sheppard	R. F. D. No. 1, Williamson, W. Va.
M. J. Mounts	R. F. D. No. 1, Williamson, W. Va.
Grover Carey	R. F. D. No. 1, Williamson, W. Va.
Asa Evans	Delbarton, W. Va.
Wallace Maynard	R. F. D. No. 1, Williamson, W. Va.
J. R. Evans	R. F. D. No. 1, Williamson, W. Va.
George Gillman	R. F. D. No. 1, Williamson, W. Va.
Jonah Smith	Turkey Creek, Ky.
E. F. Fields	Moree, Ky.
Dike Blackburn	Moree, Ky.
W. T. Rife	Switzer, W. Va.
James Queen	Harts, W. Va.
Bill Jude	Laura, Ky.
J. M. Jude	McClure, Ky.

B. F. Maynard R. F. D. No. 1, Williamson, W. Va.
P. H. S. Curry Delbarton, W. Va.
J. H. Hensley Chauncey, W. Va.
Emmett Case Varney, Ky.
George Hinkle (Licensed Minister) Hardy, Ky.

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF CLERKS

Church

Mt. Pleasant	Harold Edmonds	Canada, Ky.
Apple Orchard	E. V. Maynard	Heenon, Ky.
Enon	Logan Spencer	McCarr, Ky.
Rebecca	W. C. Hay, R. F. D. No. 1,	Williamson, W. Va.
Bent Branch	Victoria Blackburn	Meta, Ky.
Sardis	Tommy Adair	Delbarton, W. Va.
Big Branch	J. L. Nickhols	Thomas, Ky.
Mary Elizabeth	S. B. Fraley	Heisey, Ky.
Bethany	Willard Blair	Lenore, W. Va.
Elk Fork	L. V. S. Curry, R.F.D. No. 1,	Williamson, W. Va.
Pilgrim Home	Troy Francis	Williamson, W. Va.
Salem	A. M. Varney	Road Fork, Ky.
Sidney	Virgil Maynard	Threeforks, Ky.
Dix Fork	J. G. Thornsby	Canada, Ky.
Narrows Branch	Mack Smith	Hardy, Ky.
Leanah	Johnnie Pauley	Threeforks, Ky.
Buck Creek	Harmon Smith	Beauty, Ky.
Tabitha	Comfort Gillman	Barnabus, W. Va.
Little Dove	James Dempsey, R.F.D. No. 1,	Williamson, W. Va.
Little Rosie	Orvil Runyon	Nolan, W. Va.
Beech Grove	Orvill Sturgill	Lenore, W. Va.
Turkey Creek	Ken Varney	Turkey Creek, Ky.
Little Vine	Sam Newsome	Lenore, W. Va.