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PAINT CREEK PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH RECORDS

VOLUME I - November 12, 1830 - June 1, 1872

VOLUME II - June 23, 1872 - October 11, 1913

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JACKSON TOWNSHIP, CARROLL COUNTY, INDIANA

FOREWARD

The Paint Creek Primitive Baptist Church was located in the NE corner of the SW 1/4 of Section 14, Range 1 W, Twp. 25, Jackson Twp., Carroll Co., IN, near the intersection of what is now County Roads 150E and 450N, approximately four miles east of Camden.

The church was founded by a group of Carroll Co. pioneers, many of whose families had belonged to the Miami Baptist Association (Old School), predominantly from Miami and Montgomery Counties, Ohio.

The church was disbanded in 1962 and was torn down shortly thereafter, but the old cemetery adjoining it and a new section across County Road 150E still exist and are in good repair.

Through the years the membership of the church consisted of people from the eastern part of Carroll Co., but visiting preachers came from all over central Indiana. Preachers from other states presided occasionally.

It is unclear from the church minutes just which associations the church belonged to at different times. In 1891 the Regular Predestinarian Baptist Association called Paint Creek consisted of Paint Creek, Salem, and Walnut Grove Churches. Later Paint Creek Church joined the Mississinewa Association.

The Baptist Church developed doctrinal disagreements in the 1820's and many churches split into two groups, Old School and New School. The Old School Baptists always maintained that they were the original Baptists since they had not departed from the original articles of faith. The Paint Creek Church was designated as "Regular Baptist Church of Christ" on February 18, 1832, and generally retained that usage through December 1, 1849. January 5, 1850, the term, "regular predestinarian" becomes the common term through October 1, 1898. "Regular primitive" takes over November 5, 1898, until the word, "regular", is dropped on June 1, 1901, and the church was known as "Paint Creek Primitive Baptist Church" thereafter. The church was frequently referred to as "Hardshell" by others but never was used officially.

The first minister ordained at Paint Creek Church, on June 6, 1840, was John Shanks. He and his wife, Elizabeth Gerard Shanks, were among the founders of the church. His sister, Elizabeth, was married to Primitive Baptist Elder Abraham Buckles of Delaware County, IN. Elizabeth Gerard Shanks was the granddaughter of Elder John Gerrard of Berkeley County, VA., a famous pre-Revolutionary Baptist preacher and Revolutionary patriot. John Shanks may have had a preacher in his background, too, as the Middle Run Baptist Church (Predestinarian), Sugar Creek Twp., Greene County, OH, minutes of November 24, 1832, refer to a sermon by Elder Shanks. The Buckles and Thompson families are prominently mentioned in the Middle Run minutes and appear again at Paint Creek.

PERSONAL NOTE: These records were sent to me by Elder Gordon L. Watson of Huntington, IN., one of the last pastors of Paint Creek Church. Elder Watson was one of the preachers at the funeral of my great-grandfather, William Harvey Wallace, who had belonged to the church for over 70 years and served as clerk of the church for 54 years. His wife, Adelia Shanks, was the daughter of Moses Shanks and granddaughter of Elder John Shanks.

The reader should take into consideration the primitive travel conditions that prevailed when these Primitive Baptists traveled on weekends to churches up to 70 or 80 miles away. This was accomplished in addition to clearing their land, establishing crops and building homes. The contributions of these people to the religious, social, and cultural life of the Indiana frontier has been sorely overlooked.

INDEX NOTES

* = Buried at Paint Creek Cemetery

% = Name out of order

Though the church records seldom list a woman as someone's wife, they are occasionally possible to piece together through dismissal dates, cemetery records, or personal knowledge. In such cases I have included the husband's name. I have indexed all women under the name in which they first appear in the minutes, with references under their married name.

In the index of churches I have searched many sources to try to pin down their locations. If the church record itself identifies the location, it is without parentheses in the index. Parentheses indicate that the location has been found in another source. A question mark indicates that a probable location has been established.

In both cases, if there is any question if a name applies to two different people or churches, I have listed them separately.

It should be noted that from the end of 1939 until mid-1945, there are pages out of order and some pages missing. However, I have indexed them by page number, regardless of date.

It is my hope to follow this work with a complete listing of the Paint Creek Cemetery Records. The D.A.R. compilation of the 1930's was incomplete and contains errors.

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