

*Preston Eldridge*

—MINUTES OF THE—  
**Twentieth Annual Session**

—OF THE—  
**INDIAN BOTTOM ASSOCIATION**  
of Regular Baptist Churches of Jesus Christ.



MATT. 16:18—"And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter; and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

—Held With the—  
**Sandlick Church, Letcher County, Kentucky**  
September 3-4-5, 1915.

## PROCEEDINGS

### of the Twentieth Annual Session of the Indian Bottom Association.

The Indian Bottom Association of old Regular Baptist Churches of Jesus Christ convened with the Sandlick Church Letcher County September 3rd, 4th, and 5th, 1915.

After singing by the congregation and prayer by Eld. Willie Francis, the Introductory Sermon was preached by Eld. D. M. Maggard from 2nd. Cor., 4:5, "We preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord etc.

1. The delegates then assembled at a very suitable place prepared in the orchard by Bro. W.G. Caudill for that purpose. After singing by the congregation and prayer by Eld. Lue Riddle, the Moderator called for the letters from the churches that compose the Indian Bottom Association which was read and received and delegates seated as shown in the table of statistics.

2. The Association then completed its organization by selecting Eld. D. M. Maggard, Moderator and Eld. Ira Combs Assistant Moderator, and Eld. W. R. Boggs, Clerk and Willie Francis Asst. Clerk.

3. Called for newly constituted churches of the same faith and order and received none.

4. Called for corresponding letters from sister Associations and the time of holding our association being changed, could not receive letters. Received by transient from the New Salem Association, Eld. Dave Adams and Namon Kizer. And from the Union Association Eld. J. B. Stallard, who received the right hand of fellowship and took seats with us.

5. Called for transient ministers and received Bros. Noah Jent, and Alex Huff.

6. The Moderator was authorized to make all temporary appointments.

7. Appointed a committee on arrangements consisting of one member from each church represented together with the moderators and clerks; correspondents and transients invited.

8. Appointed a committee to arrange the ministry for Saturday which reported as follows: Elds. G. B. Ison, George Hagans, G. C. Riddle, W. G. Combs, Charlie Blair.

9. Appointed a clerk and asst. clerk to write the corresponding letters to our sister associations, New Salem and Union.

Adjourned until tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock.

## SECOND DAY SATURDAY.

Met pursuant to adjournment and opened with song by the congregation and prayer by Eld. G. C. Riddle.

1. Called the roll and marked the absentees.
2. Committee on Arrangements reported. Report received and committee discharged.
3. Called for transients and received Eld. Willard S. Akers from the New Salem Association, who received the right-hand of fellowship and took seat with us.

4. On motion and second the ministers appointed on the stand were excused to go to the stand.

5. Appointed a committee on finance consisting of Brethren Jasper Mullins and Emmett Stidham, who received the contributions from the several churches as shown in the table of statistics amounting to \$37.64 which was turned over to W. R. Boggs treasurer.

6. Same committee appointed yesterday reported the following arrangement of the ministry for Sunday: W. R. Boggs, Willard S. Akers, Willie Francis, Ira Combs, D. M. Maggard.

7. Received the following report from Eld. W. R. Boggs, Treasurer of the Indian Bottom Association, viz:

Amount in hand of treasurer	\$73.31	
Amount paid for printing minutes		\$22.00
Postage to the several churches on minutes		5.80
Amount allowed clerk		5.00
		<hr/>
		\$ 32.80

Amount in hands of Treasurer year 1914	\$40.51
Amt. received from churches year 1915	37.64

Amount in hands of Treasurer year 1915 \$88 15

8. On motion and second it is hereby ordered by this association that W. R. Boggs, Treasurer pay the train fare of the delegates that attend the New Salem and Union associations and take their receipts for same to be filed in his next report.

9. On motion and second Eld. W. R. Boggs was selected treasurer and to superintend the printing of the minutes and that he be allowed \$5.00 for his services. He will have 2000 copies printed, reserve 200 copies for sister associations and distribute the rest among the several churches, each church to receive as many minutes as there are members in same.

10. Called on Brethren, appointed to write corresponding letters to sister associations, letters read and received and ap-

pointed Elds. Lue Riddle, G. C. Riddle, W. G. Combs, and Willie Francis; and Brethren Henry Maggard, W. G. Caudill, N. G. Sturgill, Jasper Mullins, S. R. Blair, Reece Young and Sam Mullins and Lewis Day to attend the New Salem Association when convened with the Bethel Church, Floyd County, Ky., to commence on Friday before the Fourth Saturday and Sunday in September 1915 letter in the hands of Eld. Willie Francis. Appointed Elds. F. F. Sumner, Noah Adams, George Hagans, Ira Combs, G. B. Ison, D. M. Maggard, W. G. Combs and Willie Francis and Brethren E. H. Stidham, W. E. Brown to attend the Union Association when convened with the Bold Camp church, Wise County Virginia to commence of Friday before the third Saturday in September 1915.

11. Called on brethren appointed to attend sister associations and union meetings and failures excused.

12. Appointed Union Meetings and Brethren to attend as follows: 1st. Old Carr's Fork church, 4th. Sat. and Sunday in June 1916, appointed Elds. D. M. Maggard, W. R. Boggs, Lue Riddle, Charlie Blair, G. B. Ison and G. C. Riddle to attend, 2nd. Big Leatherwood, 2nd, Sat. and Sunday in May 1916, appointed Elds. G. C. Riddle, Willie Francis, W. G. Combs and G. B. Ison to attend same. 3rd. Hurrican Gap, 3rd, Sat. and Sunday in July 1916 appointed Elds. G. C. Riddle, Chas. Blair, and G. B. Ison to attend same. 4th. Clover Fork Church, 1st, Sat. and Sunday in May 1916, appointed Elds. W. R. Boggs, Charlie Blair, G. C. Riddle, D. M. Maggard to attend same. 5th. Sandlick Church, 3rd, Saturday and Sunday in July 1916, appointed Elds. W. G. Combs, Willie Francis, D. M. Maggard, Ira Combs and W. R. Boggs to attend same.

#### RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolved, that the clerk supply all omissions that may have been made by oversight.

2. That the Articles of faith, rules of decorum, form of letter to the association be printed in our minutes

3. That the churches insert names of deceased members in their letters.

4. That our next association be held with the Cedar Grove Church at Banks, Ky., to begin on Friday before the First Saturday and Sunday in September 1916 and that Eld. Willie Francis preach the introductory sermon and Eld. W. G. Combs be his alternate.

5. That we extend our sincere thanks to the brethren and sisters of this community for their extreme kindness and affection in caring for us and the people during this association,

Adjourned to time and place of our next association. Eld. Willard S. Akers led in the closing prayer.

#### SUNDAY

The Brethren appointed to the stand preached in the order of their appointment as follows: 1, prayer by Eld. W. R. Boggs, 2, Eld. Willard S. Akers from Heb. 6:18-19-20, "That by two immutable things," 3, Willie Francis from Tim. 4:1 "I charge thee before God, etc." 4, Ira Combs "As the Father hath sent me, so send I you." 5, D. M. Maggard who closed the services.

Of a truth, we feel to say that the brethren came richly laden with heavenly "manna;" our souls were fed on the sweets from on high; during the entire meeting the most perfect love and union prevailed, and we were made to feel as one of old, that verily it was good for us to be here. And we shall longingly look forward to the time when we hope that the Supreme Moderator of Heaven may permit us to meet in another association; but, if this pleasure be denied us, may it be ours to enter the eternal happy union at the right hand of Him who ruleth all things well, "where congregations ne'er break up and Sabbaths never end."

WILLIE FRANCIS, Asst. Clk. W. R. BOGGS, Clk.

#### DECEASED MEMBERS

We give here a list of the deceased members as given by the churches. Some of the churches failed to give the names of their deceased members.

Carr's Fork Church—A. J. Kelly; Ben Everage; W. H. Amburgey; Mary Polly.

Big Leatherwood Church—Malinda Carter; Sallie Griffiths.

Indian Bottom Church—Jasper Mullins, Jr.

Big Cowan Church—Eld. R. H. Fields.

Clover Fork Church—Eld. James McKnight; Carter Eldridge Bertha Bailly.

#### Constitution, Rules of Decorum and Articles of Faith.

Constitution Adopted 1907

Having, by unanimous voice, changed our organization from an Annual Union Meeting to an Association, we therefore propose to keep the order and rules of an Association according to the following form of government:

1. The Association shall be called Indian Bottom Association.
2. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our Union and duly sent to represent them in the Association, who shall be members whom they judge best qualified for that

purpose, and producing letters from their churches certifying to their appointment, shall be entitled to a seat.

3. In the letters from the different churches shall be expressed their number in full fellowship; those baptized; received by letter, recantation, application; dismissed, excluded and deceased since last Association.

4. The members thus chosen and convened shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor shall they have any clerical power over the churches, nor shall they infringe on the rights of any of the churches in the Union.

5. The Association when convened, shall be governed by a regular and proper decorum.

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

7. New churches may be admitted into this Union, who 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.

8. Every church in the Union shall be entitled to representation in the Association.

9. Every query presented by a church to the Association, being first debated in their own church, shall come under the consideration of the Association.

10. Every motion made and seconded shall be considered by the Association except it be withdrawn by the party who made it.

11. We think it absolutely necessary that we have an Association fund for defraying the expenses of same; for the raising of which we think it the duty of each church in the Union to contribute such sums voluntarily as they think proper and send it by their delegates to the Association, and the amount so received shall be deposited with the treasurer who shall be responsible to the Association and pay the same out as the Association may direct.

12. There shall be an Association book kept in which the proceedings of every Association shall be regularly recorded by the secretary.

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.

14. Amendments to this plan of government may be made at any time by a majority of the Union, when it may so desire.

15. The Association shall endeavor to furnish the churches with Minutes of the Association. The best method of effecting same shall be determined by the Association.

16. All matters coming before this Association shall be decided by will of the majority of the members present, except in receiving and dismissing churches and associations which shall be by a unanimous voice.

17. The Association shall have power to provide for the general union of the churches and to preserve and inviolable chain of communion among the same, giving the churches all the necessary advice in matters of church difficulty, inquire into the cause why any church shall have failed to represent itself at any time in the Association; appropriate the money received to any purpose it may think proper; appoint any member or members, by their consent, to transact any business it may think necessary; withdraw from any church in the Union which may violate any of the rules of the Association or deviate from the orthodox principles of religion; admit any orderly minister of our faith and order to a

seat in the Association: and adjourn to any future time or place it may deem necessary.

#### RULES OF DECORUM

- 1 The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.
- 2 A Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.
- 3 Only one member shall speak at a time and shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator when he is about to speak.
- 4 The person thus speaking shall not be interrupted in his speech by anyone except the Moderator until he is done speaking.
- 5 He shall strictly adhere to his subject, and in no wise reflect on the preceding speaker but shall define his ideas on the proposition for debate so far as he can.
- 6 No person shall abruptly absent himself from the Association without leave of same.
- 7 No person shall rise and speak more than three times on any one subject without permission of the Association.
- 8 No member of the Association shall have liberty to laugh during the sitting of same, nor to whisper in time of a public speech.
- 9 No member shall address another in any other name or term than that of brother.
- 10 The Moderator shall not interrupt or prohibit a member from speaking until he gives his views on the subject, unless he shall have violated the Rules of Decorum.
- 11 The names of the several members of the Association shall be controlled by the Clerk and called over as the Association may require.
- 12 The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speech as another member, provided the chair be filled, but he shall have no vote unless the Association be equally divided, in that event he shall give the casting vote.
- 13 Any member who shall willingly and knowingly violate any of these rules shall be reprimanded by the Association as it may think proper.

#### ARTICLES OF FAITH

- 1 We believe in the one true and living God; and notwithstanding there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, yet there is but one in substance, equal in power and glory, not to be divided, and impossible to change in principle or practice.
- 2 We believe that the Old and New Testament Scriptures are the true written words of God, and were given by inspiration of God, and there is a sufficiency in them contained for our instruction, and they are the only rule of faith and practice.
- 3 We believe in the doctrine of Original Sin, and that men sinned since the fall by Nature the Children of Wrath.
- 4 We believe in the impotency or inability of men to recover themselves out of the state they are in; therefore, a savior is absolutely needed.
- 5 We believe in that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.
- 6 We believe in the perseverance of the Saints; that through Grace they are born again and adopted into the family of heaven; that they become equal with Jesus Christ in glory and that he will raise them up at the last day.
- 7 We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are Gospel Ord-

nances, and that true believers are proper subjects, and we admit none others.

8 We believe that the true mode of baptism is by immersion—to baptize a person by their own consent back-foremost in water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

9 We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a General Judgment where all will be judged according to their deeds done in the body.

10 We believe that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting and the joys of the righteous will be eternal after death.

11 We believe that washing one another's feet is a commandment of Christ, left on record with his disciples and ought to be practiced by his followers.

12 We believe that no one has a right to administer the Gospel Ordinances but such as are legally called and qualified thereunto.

13 We believe it to be the duty of all church members to attend their church meetings, and that it is the duty of the church to deal with them for neglecting the same.

14 We believe it is the duty of all church members to contribute for the support of the church by defraying all reasonable expenses of the same, never neglecting the poor according to their several abilities.

15 We believe that any doctrine that goes to encourage or indulge the people in their sins, or cause them to settle down on anything short of saving faith in Christ for salvation, is erroneous, and all such doctrine will be rejected by us.

16 None of the above named articles shall be so construed as to hold with Particular Election and Reprobation so as to make God partial, directly or indirectly, so as to injure the children of men.

17 No one of the above articles shall be altered without legal notice and free consent.

#### LETTER FORM

Date..... We, the Regular Baptist Church of Jesus Christ, now in session at..... church..... county, Ky., send greetings, our Christian love and salutations, to the ministers and messengers that may compose the Indian Bottom Association when convened with the..... church..... county, Ky., to commence on Friday before..... Saturday in..... 191..... and the two following days: Dear Brethren, we are glad that we can correspond with you, and we have chosen these our beloved brethren to bear this, our letter to you to-wit:— Dear brethren, we ask that you receive our letter and these our brethren to sit with you in your advisory council and in all your Godly deliberations, and may your work be such as the Lord will own at his second coming. We are (comment on the prosperity of the church) Since our last Association we have received by experience and baptism....., restored....., dismissed by letter....., excluded....., died..... total number at present....., contribution to minute fund sent \$..... Done and signed by order of the church. Eld..... Moderator,..... church clerk

#### OBITUARY OF ELDER JAMES McKNIGHT.

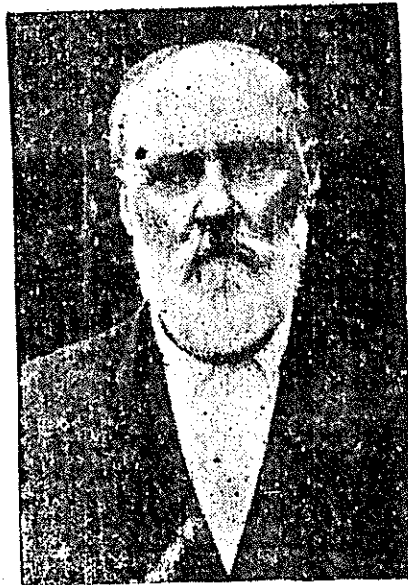
Elder James McKnight was born October 31, 1827; died March 12, 1915, aged 87 years 4 months and 13 days. He became a member of the Old Regular Baptist Church about 1860, and for the last 27 years of his life was an ordained elder in said church. He was a faithful elder, always advocating the same



faith and doctrines, and died in the full triumph of the Christian faith. To know him was to love him, for he always met you with a smile and was a sweet exhortation preacher. He is badly missed by all his many friends, and especially by his brethren and sisters in the church.

He was pastor of the Clover Fork Church of Regular Baptists at the time of his death, but it pleased his Heavenly Father to call him home to that heavenly resting place that he hath prepared for all them that love and serve our God. May the churches where Brother McKnight labored so long ever remember his advice and live a Christian life in this world so that when their members are called upon to change worlds the angels of God will be ready to convey their souls to that happy home where our dear, worthy old Brother McKnight has gone.

Your brother, ELD. CHARLES BLAIR.



#### OBITUARY OF ELD. R. H. FIELDS

Eld. R. H. Fields was born March 11, 1838; died March 10, 1915, aged seventy-seven years (less one day.) He married Rachel Caudill when a young man, and to this union the following children were born: Ira Fields, M. C. Fields, Isaac W. Fields

John M. Fields, Felix G. Fields, Sr., Charlotte Fields, Ozina Fields and Sarah Fields now the wife of William Day, all of whom are still living, and Elizabeth Fields who died many years ago. After the death of his first wife he married Mrs. Manerva Stamper, widow of the late L. N. Stamper. No children were born to the latter union.

Brother Fields was fortunate in the selection of his companions, both of them being women of excellent character and greatly admired and highly respected by a host of friends and acquaintances.

He became a member of the Old Regular Baptist Church in 1883, and was baptized by the undersigned Eld. D. M. Maggard into the fellowship of said church. Three years later (1886) he was ordained an elder of said church and was an able and consistent advocate of the doctrine of said church to the date of his death, never changing from the faith and doctrines advocated by this church. He died in the full triumph of the faith for which he had so long continued (salvation by grace through faith in Christ Jesus, by being born again.) His life was filled with the fruits of Christianity, a most precious heritage left in the minds of his family and many friends left here below.

When we go to the place of his last abode Brother Fields will not be there; when we meet at the church house the seat he so often filled will be vacant, but in our hearts and minds he still lives and will continue to live while we remain here on earth. How dearly beloved are brother preachers to us who have been their companions in travel, and how much we miss one who stood so firm in the faith and doctrines.

Brother Fields was assistant pastor of the Big Cowan Baptist Church at the time of his death, and had stood as moderator of the Indian Bottom Association of Old Regular Baptist Churches. I visited Brother Fields during his last sickness. He was patient and seemed willing that the Lord's will be done with him. His mind was upon the affairs of the church until the very last, and his family and many friends have every reason to believe that our loss, which is great, was his eternal gain.

May it please the God of all grace to help us to live a life in this world in humble submission to the will of God, and may it be the pleasure of us all when we have reached the end of our earthly existence to be allowed to meet with our dear brother Fields in the land of paradise, and there to join with him in praises to our Heavenly Master forever and ever, where parting and pain will be no more.

Your brother.

D. M. MAGGARD.

## P. O. Addresses of Preachers and Clerks

## Elders:

## Addresses:

W G Combs	Sassafras, Ky.
Charles Blair	Benham,
D M Maggard	Partridge
Silas Boggs	Elic,
W R Boggs	Eolia,
Ira McKnight	Leonard,
J H Metcalf	Nolansburg,
Ira Combs	Jeff,
N T Maggard	Hindman,
Noah Adams, (of color)	Cody,
G C Riddle	Cornettsville,
L C Riddle	Cornettsville,
G B Ison	Josie,
Willie Francis	Hindman,
Enoch Blair	McWorter,
Buddy Caudill	Banks,

## Churches, Clerks and P. O. Addresses

Carrs Fork, S R Blair, Pinetop, Kentucky.  
 Poor Fork, W M Creech, Pinetop,  
 Big Cowad, H F Fields, Dongola,  
 Clear Creek, E W Richie, Elic,  
 Oven Fork, W C Mullins, Eolia,  
 Mallett Fork, N G Sturgill, Nealy,  
 Big Leatherwood, H G Pratt, Cornettsville.  
 Indian Bottom, J D Dixon, Indian Bottom.  
 Clover Fork, H H Dixon, Leonard,  
 Ky. Church, (Mo.), W P Stamper, Goodloe, Mo.  
 Little Zion, J E Cornett, Hazard, Kentucky.  
 New Home, N T Maggard, Hindman,  
 Little Home, James Hagans, Cody,  
 Hurricane Gap, H C Frazier, Gordon,  
 Sandlick, J H Collins, Whitesburg,  
 Little Dove, R B Young, Elic,  
 Doty Creek, James C Back, Jeremiah.  
 Cedar Grove, J P Caudill, Banks,  
 Providence, J D Creech, Larue,

TABLE OF STATISTICS 1915

CHURCHES	DELEGATES	Restored	Received by Exp. & Bap.	Rec by Letter	Dismiss'd by let Received by Application	Excluded	Deceased	Total at Present	Sat. of Meet'g	Contributions
Carrs Fork	White Francis Sam Mullins, S. R. Blair		12	2	2	2	4	197	4	5 00
Poor Fork	W. M. Scott, A. Scott							12	3	1 45
Big Cowan	D. M. Marward, H. F. Fields, W. H. Day, Bill Brown	1	5	1	3	3	3	138	4	9 00
Clear Creek	J. F. Combs, E. B. and E. W. Riche		1	4	1	2	3	180	3	7 75
Oven Fork	W. R. Borge, J. Jas. Blair, J. no. Jenkins, P. B. Wells, E. H. Sturgen and others		1				1	120	2	1 50
Blair Fork	M. M. McIntosh, N. G. Sturgen and others		2	2			2	27	1	1 25
Big Leatherwood	L. C. Riddle, A. M. Stamper, A. F. Logan	2	2				2	80	2	1 24
Indian Bottom	Sam Cornett, F. F. Sumner, Marion Caudill and others						1	75	1	1 30
Clover Fork	H. H. Dixon		4				3	43	1	1 35
Kentucky (Mo.)	Not represent d									
Little Zion	J. E. Cornett, Ira Combs Sam Cornett & others		21	5			4	45	1	1 80
New Home	Henry Marward, Louis Day	1						60	2	5 15
Little Home (col.)	George and Joe Harans, Noah Adams		4					33		1 20
Hurricane Gap	P. H. Whitaker, Ira Holcomb		1				1	13	3	1 45
Sand Lick	David & W. G. Caudill, Jas. H. Collins and others	1	1	4	2	3	1	35	3	2 35
Little Dove	W. G. Combs, J. J. Mullins, K. B. Young & others		7	1			1	53	2	2 35
Doty Creek	Wilburn Hampton, Jas. C. Back, D. D. Caudill							21	1	1 54
Cedar Grove	G. B. Ison, G. C. Riddle		2					22	4	1 00
Providence	Elder Charles Blair, Alternate									
Totals		6	56	18	2	10	831	1082		\$37 84