

Have records 1824-1896 1897-195? destroyed in fire

HISTORY OF SALEM CHURCH

~~Different people 45-1900~~

In conference October 16, 1824 at Sparks Meeting House appointed James Baines moderator and Bro. Larkin Poe clerk. Then agreed unanimously to take into consideration the expediency of constituting a church of the following members present whose names are as follows: Bro. Larkin Poe, Sister Rachel Poe, Bro. John Cates, Sister Sealy Cates, Bro. Parks King, Sister Sarah Prior, Sarah Rice and Lovie Richards. Appointed Bro. Parks King to answer as a mouth for the members present to the Presbytery composed of the beloved brethen Nathan Roberts and James Baines who after taking into consideration the expediency of constituting of the aforesaid brethen and sisters into a church of Christ did constitute them as a Baptist Church holding the faith and the abstract of principles and as to the rules of their practice the decorum made and adopted by the Baptist association in the year of our Lord 1824 who also with approbation of the aforesaid contituted members nominated the church Salem.

The church held their services once a month on Saturday which was always followed by conference at which time the door to the church was opened to receive new members, almost without exception new members were added every time.

The first deacons were chosen and ordained in July 1825, they being: Brethren James Fortson, Beverly Willingham and Larkin Poe.

In November 1825 they resolved that a committee be appointed to select a site for the purpose of building a meeting house for the Church of Salem and report their proceedings the next conference. Brethren Abner Files, Manly Files, Beverly Willingham, Elihu Melton, Larkin Poe, Tillman Howell and David Lovette was the committee appointed.

January 1826 the committees report was read and received which was the site selected as near Bylers Road on Isaac Cannon's land. The meeting house to be 22 x 26 feet. The logs to face 10 inches in the middle, 6 inches thick. The body to be 10 feet from the floor to the side plate. One Girder extending from one side plate to the other. The roof to be raftered and covered with boards 3 feet long to show 1 foot when on the plank of the floor jointed and layed down loose 1 side and 2 end doors. One window facing the front door. The doors and window to be faced and cased and shutters made in a workman like manner and hung with iron hinges. The gable ends to be boarded up with 1/2 inch plank or good oak boards.

Manuscript 1824-1826 1827-1828 destroyed in fire

HISTORY OF SALEM CHURCH

~~1824-1826 1827-1828~~

In conference October 1st 1824 at Sparks Meeting House appointed James Raines moderator and Bro. Larkin Poe clerk. They agreed unanimously to take into consideration the expediency of establishing a church of the following members: James Raines, Larkin Poe, and others. The following members were appointed: James Raines, Larkin Poe, and others. The following members were appointed: James Raines, Larkin Poe, and others.

The church held their services once a month on Saturdays until it was dissolved by conference at which time the bodies of the church were ordered to receive new members. Since without further delay members were added every time.

The first deacons were chosen and ordained on July 1825, they being Stephen James, James Johnson, Beverly Williamson and Larkin Poe.

In November 1825 they resolved that a committee be appointed to select a site for the purpose of building a meeting house for the church of Salem and report their proceedings the next conference. Brothers Amos Pitts, Beverly Williamson, Elisha Miller, Larkin Poe, William Howell and David Lovette was the committee appointed.

January 1826 the committee report was read and received which was the site selected as New River Road on Isaac Cannon's land. The meeting house to be 22 x 28 feet. The logs to face 10 inches in the middle 6 inches thick. The body to be 10 feet from the floor to the side plate. One girder extending from one side plate to the other. The roof to be gabled and covered with boards 2 feet long to each side when on the plank of the floor joined and laid down loose. The window facing was made by a workman in a manner and hung with iron hinges. The gable ends to be covered with 1 1/2 inch plank or good oak boards.

February 1826 resolved Elder James Baines and brethren Beverly Willingham and Abner Files be a committee to receive a title from Joshua Halbert and Isaac Cannon for a parcel of ground for the purpose of building a meeting house on and also for a burying ground in the following manner: That is to say from them and their heirs so long as occupied as a place of public worship or burying ground.

Built by lowest bidder
2. ~~November 1826~~ *Feb. 1827* it was reported by the committee that the work on the new meeting house was completed and ~~a motion was made that this church be incorporated according to law.~~ *according to contract*

1. In January 1827 on motion it was resolved that the next conference be held at the new meeting house. It was also resolved that members and neighborhood in general meet at the new meeting house on Monday before the next conference to make seats and seal the house. Bro. David Standley furnished the nails. Also resolved that there be a table made 3 1/2 feet x 3 feet, the leaf to be tongued and grooved, a drawer to be made 4 1/2 inches deep, 18 inches wide and extend across the table.

In July 1827 motion in order that an addition be made to the north side of the meeting house. *For Colored members*

September 15, 1832 Bro. Elijah Barbee was ordained to the ministry. Elder Robert Guthrie preached the ordination message. They had revival from that Sunday through Friday, 67 members were added. The comment was made by Beverly Willingham, church clerk that this was a time of rejoicing to many precious souls the last days conference closed with solemn praise and prayer to Almighty God when many came forward and requested in an interest in the prayers of our much beloved and faithful brother Robert Guthrie saying "pray for me when you are gone from this place for I am a poor lost sinner". The congregation was numerous and very attentive to good order, old difficulties far removed. The parties embraced each other like brethren indeed. Of a truth the Lord was amongst the people. A time long to be remembered by hundreds.

October 20, 1832 28 more members were added all by experience of grace.

July 20 1833, a request by several people including George Richards, Lucinda Richards, Martin Richards, Nancy Richards, Elizabeth Richards, James Patterson, Elijah Patterson, Simeon Crump, Sara Crump and Lovey Richards petitioned for letters of dismission to constitute a church at the house of James Richards. This arm of the church was to be located on the east side of North River.

February 15, 1834 the church had a disagreement over how to govern themselves. A motion was made and carried that the church lay all written creeds, abstracts of principles and rules of decorum aside

and take the old and new testament as their only counsel. The motion carried by a large majority but was objected to with much distress and confusion by the minority. The minority viewed themselves as being deprived of their constitutional rights and liberties. A few of the brethren of the minority got together in the evening to consider what was best to be done and came to this conclusion: that they would meet together on Saturday before the second Lord's day in March and unite themselves together again on the constitution and abstract of principles the church was constituted on. Also that they would have the meeting and their intentions published on tomorrow which was done and was attended with much confusion on the part of the majority. The minority's grievance was Armenian doctrine preached by the preachers and received by the majority of the church. The minority met on March 8, 1834. Opportunity was offered to those who wished to unite together on the abstract of principles they were constituted on could now have their names enrolled at which time 34 members united. The following Saturday the majority met and voted to incorporate themselves as a church as the law allowed so the church could hold real estate. They elected Abner Files, Joshua Halbert, and Green M. Richards as trustees. They also resolved and put on record that the name and government of this church which was based on the scriptures of the old and new testaments as their only rule of faith be recorded in the clerk's office of the county court of Tuscaloosa County. Brethren David Andrews and Elijah Barbee were co-pastors of the church at the time of the split, they being on the side of the majority. The majority from the split later being referred to as the Andrews Party. It is interesting to note that in 1841 (7 years later) Elijah Barbee sent a letter to Salem Church to effect a reconciliation, being unable to do so he requested that the church grant him a letter of dismission to join another denomination. The church granted his request.

Our Church today ~~considers~~ considers the minority not the majority

Three years later they tried to reconcile their differences (Dec. 1837) but could not. At various times members who split from the church came back and made restitution and was accepted back into fellowship with the church. As far as I know I have found no evidence where they ever came back together.

In Jan. 1838 they started talking of building a new meeting house, but in May it was indefinitely postponed because of the scarcity of money. Again in 1851 they tried to build a new meeting house. The building committee selected a site a short distance west of New Lexington on the lands of Mr. John Sparks. The meeting house to be built provided it could be done for \$700 and that the church pledge themselves for the balance that is yet unsubscribed. This was postponed indefinitely also.

*1842 - tried to buy ^{Boys} in New Lexington - Streets
academy - would sell for \$125.00
Didn't buy for some reason*

In November 1853 a committee was again appointed to select a site for the building of a new meeting house. Two sites were chosen one being on the northwest corner of the field east of the grave yard the property of the heirs of Samuel Woodward deceased and the Boons. The other a lot in New Lexington known as the academy lot. The question was then put to the church to make the location and the academy lot was selected.

The first service was held at the new meeting house in New Lexington September 9, 1854. On September 19th the association met at Salem. The church continued a meeting until the 24th of September during which time they received 45 members into the church.

NOTES OF INTEREST: ~~1830 - Daniel Boone - Indian Property~~
July 1861 received letter from the congress of the Confederate States of America requesting prayer for evoking the blessing of Almighty God on our favorite army now in the battlefield in defense of our homes, our firesides and our sacred institutions.

March 1863 in accordance to the proclamation of the president (Jefferson Davis) a day of fasting and prayer was observed.

February 13, 1869 ordered by the church that the preamble and resolutions passed by New Lexington Masonic Lodge as regards the life and death of Dr. William Baker be spread on the minutes of the church. Resolved also that the church request the Fayette Watchman to publish these resolutions and that the Tuscaloosa Observer be requested to copy the same. *Buried in old Cemetery*

As most of you know our building today was erected in 1953. Most of you here this morning financed and helped in the building. There is no need to go into the history from that point because we who are here helped make and write that history.

Church discipline - "Chunched" people - had "Trials" with help from other Churches - dis Fellowshiped - bad language, drinking dancing, not keeping a clean house - "Foden" incident

Too cold to go to Church

Today we celebrate the Past, tomorrow we prepare for the Future.

In November 1855 a committee was again appointed to select a site for the building of a new meeting house. Two sites were chosen and one in the northwest corner of the field east of the grave yard. The other was the site of the present meeting house. The committee reported in favor of the latter site and the building was commenced in the spring of 1856.

The first service was held in the new meeting house on the 11th of August, 1856. The service was held in the afternoon and the pastor, Mr. J. W. [Name], officiated. The service was well attended and the people received an interesting discourse.

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In 1857 a committee was appointed to the purchase of a lot of land for the purpose of building a new meeting house. The committee reported in favor of the purchase of a lot of land on the corner of [Name] and [Name] streets.

The committee also reported that the purchase of the lot was approved by the church and the building was commenced in the spring of 1858. The building was completed in the fall of 1858 and the new meeting house was dedicated on the 1st of October, 1858.

The new meeting house was well attended and the people received an interesting discourse. The building was well constructed and the interior was well finished. The new meeting house has since been a place of great usefulness to the church.

There were many people - that is, people from other churches - that were present at the first service. The service was well attended and the people received an interesting discourse. The building was well constructed and the interior was well finished.

day (the [Name] the fact [Name] we [Name] [Name] [Name]

→ Hand to Condense 175 yrs. into a few minutes.

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~~Different people now - 45 - 1900~~

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Jan. 2022

Sheet Boone stated that Boone Cemetery
was originally Salem Cemetery. (D)

* Original deed states Cemetery is a
part of Church on land given by

Issac Cannon. If Church ~~is~~ moved or
shut down. Cemetery would be known as Boone Cemetery

2nd Cemetery is 100 yards - East of Church.

3rd - - Behind Church.

~ Salem Baptist Church ~

- * Church Started October 16, 1824
- * Services held once @ month on Saturday followed by conference
- * July 1825 - 1st Deacons Chosen.
- * January 1826 Site selected near Byler Road on Isaac Cannon Land. (22x26 For Church. 2 miles South of New Lexington.)
- * Feb. 1827 - New Meeting House completed: (Logs & Oak boards)
- * July 1827 - Addition made to North Side For Colored Brethren.
- * Sept 15, 1832 (Rev. Eliph Barbee) Ordained to ministry.
Renewal - 67 members Added.
- * Oct. 20, 1832 - 28 members added all by Experience of Grace.
- * Feb. 15, 1834 Disagreement over "Armenian" Doctrine. (majority of church left)
- * Jan 1838 - Discussed Building a New Meeting House
- * November 1853 Committee - appointed to select Site For New Building House. Academy Lot in New Lexington Selected.
- * 1st Service in New (Salem) in New Lexington was held September 9, 1854
Sept. 19, 1854 "Association met at Salem
- * July 1861 - letter rec'd from the "Congress of the Confederate States of America - Requesting Prayer
- * New (2nd Building) was erected in 1953
~~2nd~~ 3rd

Handwritten text at the top right of the page, possibly a name or date.

Main body of the page containing faint, illegible handwritten text across multiple lines.

{ History of Fayette County Baptist Association. }

on Salem!!

* Oldest Church in FBA. (1824)

* 1st Belonged to Buttahachie Association
later the North River Association.

(Charter Member)

North River Assn. organized
in 1835

* Old Church Records have been destroyed.

* In 1886 - Salem United with New
River Assn.

* 1892 - became dissatisfied - United with
Sussey Association.

* 1923 She again joined the Fayette
Baptist Assn.

* Since 1923 - 2 Annual Sessions - held.

① 1894

@ Salem.

② 1929

③ 20

List of Pastors

* Elijah Barber

