

The Stanly Baptist.

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EARLY BAPTISTS IN STANLY

(Continued from last month.)

Some members did not believe in this missionary movement and in some churches they were in the majority, so in 1832, Bear Creek, Freedom, Meadow Creek, Cold Water, and Piny Wood withdrew and formed the Anti-Missionary Association which they called Bear Creek Primitive Baptist Association. An exact copy of the proceedings of the organization is as follows: "On Saturday before the first Lord's day in October, A. D. 1832, in consequence of the United Baptist being broken by the introduction of the modern schemes and inventions of the Modern Missionaries, we, a committee of the original Predestinarian Baptist, convened with the church of Bear Creek, (Montgomery county, now Stanly county, N. C.) in October, which meeting was opened by singing and prayer, after which we proceeded to form a union by letters from different churches then represented, expressive of our principles in the doctrine of the gospel as follows:

Bear Creek—Elder Ezekial Morton, M. Howard, and J. Lambert.

Cold Water—N. Corzine, A. B. Corzine, and A. N. Corzine.

Freedom—Elder J. Jones and Wm. Coley.

Meadow Creek—Elder Geo. Little, N. Green, and R. Huneycutt.

Piny Wood—C. Hodge, Henry Conner, and Jesse Hodge.

Then they proceeded thus:

1. Proceeded to appoint Elder George Little chief speaker or moderator and George Hodge clerk.

2. On motion it was agreed that the first meeting of the association be at this church (Bear Creek) on Saturday before the first Lord's day in November next (1832). Elder George Little to preach the introductory sermon.

The Missionary Churches.

In the year 1800 a preaching point was established in the northern part of Montgomery (now Stanly) county, known as the Kendall meeting house. For thirty years it was an arm of Old Rocky River church in Anson county. On January 31, 1830, after a sermon by Noah Richardson, Job Calloway got up and made a motion that Kendall Meeting house be made a church. The motion carried. Saturday before the fifth Lord's day in May, 1830, was set apart as constitution day. Accordingly on that day Elders Ralph Freeman, (colored), Thoma Allen, and Jesse Sowell were called upon to act as a presbytery.

Jesse Sowell was elected Chm., Job Calloway clerk and proceeded to organize a church. There were twenty-three male and forty-four female members. Many of these were from Davidson county.

This church seemed to have been very energetic, for almost immediately it established an arm just West of the Yadkin River, now the eastern part of Stanly, and on the 17th of April, 1836, Benjamin Lanier, Peter Owens and John Culpepper were called upon to set apart the meeting place as a church to be called Ebenezer. The following members constituted the church: Mark Jones, Michael Fesperman, William Solomon, Laban Carter, Alexander Kirk, John Smith, Wiley Safley, William Palmer, Elizabeth Ingram, (Colored), Lucy Safley, Susana Carter, Lavina Smith, Cynthia Ingram, Louise Kirk, Nancy Talbert, and Francis Kendall. They adopted the covenant of the Welch Neck Association.

That these members did not always have the best of feeling toward one another is shown by the following record: After a lengthy discussion about expelling a member for a trifling offense the motion was put before the church and one of the members voted against it. Then and there the leader of the affirmative declared unfellowship with his opponent and the "congregation was dismissed but not in order." On several occasions members got up in conference and declared that they would not fellowship with certain brethren and sisters.

Ebenezer, following the footsteps of her mother church, sent out a band in 1866, of twenty-three members to organize a new church of the same faith and order. They called this Prospect. They adopted the same rules of decorum and articles of faith as Ebenezer had done.

In turn, Prospect established a preaching point at Poplin's Grove and in 1875, with the aid of some members from Silver Springs, it was constituted a church by Elders W. G. Morton and L. A. Whitlock. Rev. W. G. Morton was the first pastor. It was one of the eight churches to form the Stanly Association. (Some say this church sprung from Anderson's Grove which was established by Ebenezer.)

This church planted an arm in the extreme western part of the county and in April, 1884, it was organized into a church which they called Locust. The presbytery was composed of Elders W. G. Morton, Washington Russell and S. M. McLester. There were twenty-three charter members. W. G. Morton

was their first pastor and served for several years.

Again Poplin's Grove planted an arm at Union Grove and in 1885 it was organized into a church with the aid of Silver Springs. W. G. Morton was the first pastor.

Ebenezer had established an arm just west of the Yadkin Narrows and in 1884 it was constituted a church by the name of Yadkin Mineral Springs by a presbytery composed of Elder Bostic. It had sixteen charter members. In 1886 its name was changed to Palmerville.

Again Ebenezer had planted an arm about four miles down the river and in 1854 it was constituted a church called Liberty Hill, with ten charter members. Rev. D. H. Carter was the first pastor and Washington Russell was the second. In 1884 the church was moved about a mile and its name was changed to Anderson's Grove. Since that time the church has grown rapidly.

Returning to the mother church again, Kendall church established a preaching point at Friendship and in 1850, after a series of meetings by Revs. Solomon Snider and B. H. Carter, it was organized into a church. It was not long lived for a large part of its members left in 1851 to organize a new church several miles south by the name of Pleasant Grove. B. H. Carter was the first pastor and Wm. McLester and Jesse Morton were the first deacons. Pleasant Grove started with seven members but has grown to 105 (now 157.)

Pretty soon Pleasant Grove planted an arm at Big Lick, which was kept up during the war and was organized into a church in September, 1865, which they called Mt. Olive, but a little later it was changed to Big Lick. Rev. C. C. Foreman was pastor from 1865-1880; G. O. Wilhoit from 1880-1885, and P. G. Hartsell, R. H. James, and others followed. Rev. A. C. Davis was pastor from 1895-1908. The church has grown from seven to one hundred and forty, (now 225.)

Big Lick established an arm at Philadelphia, and after being an arm for several years it was constituted a church on Oct. 4, 1891, by a presbytery composed of Elders D. S. Morton, P. G. Hartsell, and E. D. Teeter. There were eight charter members. Rev. D. S. Morton was the first pastor.

A preaching point had been established in the western part of the county near a mineral spring and in 1870 a church was established there by members from Big Lick and probably (?) from Olive Branch in Union

county. Rev. E. P. Harrington was the first pastor.

This church established an arm at Barbee's Grove and on September, 24, 1881, it was organized into a church by a presbytery composed of W. G. Morton, E. P. Harrington, G. A. Huneycutt, and G. L. Eudy. J. M. Barbee and Robert Hinson were ordained deacons. Rev. W. G. Morton was the first pastor, followed by E. P. Harrington, G. A. Huneycutt and others. There were thirteen male and eight female members. The church now has 54.

Barbee's Grove planted an arm at Log Cabin school house and in 1889 it was constituted into a church and called Cottonville, by a presbytery composed of Elders D. S. Morton, G. A. Huneycutt, and F. G. Turner. Rev. G. A. Huneycutt was the first pastor followed by D. S. Morton, R. D. Thompson, U. F. Hathcock, E. M. Brooks and C. J. Black. There were seventeen charter members.

This church is just across the river from Old Rocky River church. Thus the influence from Rocky River church had made the circuit of the county.

The mother church of Barbee's Grove, Mineral Springs, disbanded in 1900 and almost immediately Barbee's Grove established an arm there and in 1902, after a series of meetings conducted by Rev. G. L. Eudy, old Mineral Springs was reorganized by members from Barbee's Grove and Big Lick that had left when it dissolved. Rev. G. L. Eudy has been pastor since it was reorganized.

Soon after Kendall church had been organized she planted an arm in the southern part of the county near Rocky River Springs and about the year 1850 it was constituted into a church which they called Silver Springs. Rev. B. H. Carter was the first pastor. It is not known how many members it had at first but it is now one of the strongest churches in the county, having over three hundred members. Rev. C. C. Foreman was their pastor for many years.

Old Rocky River church not being satisfied with what she had done for Stanly established an arm at Norwood and in 1879 it was constituted into a church by Elders Harmon, A. E. Bennett, and G. O. Wilhoit. Some of the members came from Bethel church in Montgomery county.

Prospect established an arm at Canton and in 1870, with some members from Pleasant Grove, it was constituted a church. It was established mainly through the efforts of Revs. B. H. Carter and Wm. Russell. Rev. B. H. Carter was

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