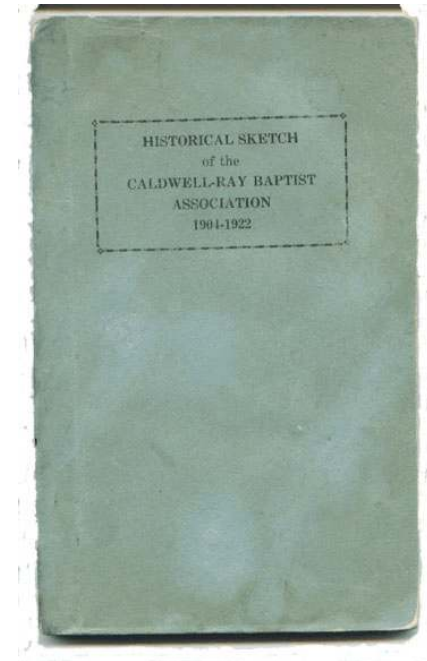
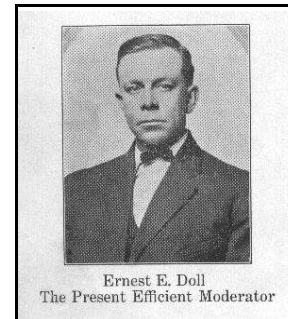


HISTORICAL SKETCH
of the
CALDWELL-RAY BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION

—By—

C. A. Puckett



From 1844 to 1934 the Caldwell-Ray Association
was a part of the North Liberty territory.

Published By
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Hamilton, Mo.

To
Rev C. F. D. Arnold
My Former Pastor, Friend and Co-Laborer,
I Gratefully Dedicate This Historical Sketch of our Association.

HISTORY

MODERATORS CALD WELL-RAY ASSOCIATION

F. M. Kern
The First Moderator of the
Association

Rev. C. C. Hatcher
Moderator, 1905, 1906, 1908,
1909, 1910

Rev. T. W. Chambliss
Moderator during the year of 1907
Now of Ashville, North Carolina

Rev. F. L. Alexander
Moderator, 1911 to 1914
Present Pastor at Richmond, Mo.

Rev. W. B. McGraw
Moderator During Years 1915—16

Rev. J. H. McQuerry
Moderator, 1917, 1918

Ernest E. Doll
The Present Efficient Moderator
Served the Office since 1919

Clerks of the Association

M.H. Winger, 1904 to 1907

F.M. Kern, 1908 and 1909

D.T. Martin, 1911 to 1914

D. M. Trout, 1915

O.W. Stanbrough, 1916

Earl O'Dell, 1917

C.F. D. Arnold, 1918

Kormora Cheshier, 1919

Mrs. K. Thornhill, 1920

Earl O'Dell, 1921

**The First Directory
Officers of the Association**

F. M. Kern, Polo Moderator
Thomas Stephens, Cowgill Assistant Moderator
M. H. Winger, Polo Clerk
N. C. Clarkson, Hamilton.. Treasurer

Mission Board

Thomas Stephens, Cowgill. Chairman
M. H. Winger, Polo Secretary
G. C. Whistler and William Pearce Hamilton
J. H. Cheshier and Evan Stephens Cowgill
Chris Snyder and George Frazier Hopewell
C. J. Winger and A. J. Smoot Polo
B. C. Wilkerson and H. H. Rone Morris Hill

Sunday School Committee

T. W. Chambliss, Braymer.. President
Charles Ogden, Hamilton...Secretary
M. J. Winger, Polo Treasurer

THIS PAGE IS DEDICATED TO
THE MEMORY
OF
THE DEPARTED MEMBERS
OF
CALDWELL-RAY BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION

“They rest from their labors and their works do follow them.”

“Thy life not ended, but begun.”

“Beloved, thy day is come, not gone, Thy sun is risen, not set,”

HISTORY

PREFACE

Many changes are taking place in our Association. Church records are lost or destroyed year after year, and in the passing away of those who have given the Association direction, has made it very desirable that a history be written. This Historical Sketch is not offered as being complete but as a step toward a larger history for some time in the future. The history of the churches should be preserved and the Association meetings of years gone by should also be recorded for future reference and information. The sources of information have been a file of the Annual Minutes of the Association, gathered and preserved by W. M. Pickell, of Hamilton; consultation with Church Clerks and early pastors who are still living.

It has not been possible to get a complete list of Pastors, Deacons and Sunday School Superintendents who have served in the Association. The Biographical Sketches which should appear in a complete history cannot be given in this Sketch as it would be impossible to mention all who have labored faithfully and well during the years.

May the efforts put forth by the writer in giving you this Historical Sketch bring a blessing in some small degree to you and Caldwell-Ray Association.

G. A. Puckett.

HISTORY

EARLY HISTORY

Early Survey of the Work.

The Baptists were among those who came from Europe to the western world and helped to build the counties which now comprise our Association. As early as 1823 the Primitive Baptists organized an association at Fishing River church, Clay County, which was called Fishing River Association. All through these years it has existed and done a work along side the other Associations. For more than three-fourths of a century there have been two divisions of Baptists—Regular or Primitive Baptists and United or Missionary Baptists. The Missionary Baptists organized North Liberty Association, the second Association in Northwest Missouri, April 26th, 1844. Five churches, with a membership of 234, made up the Association. The early churches of this organization had many difficulties and hard struggles to overcome. Each church had to supply the needs of a large territory while many of the fields were destitute of church services and the Gospel message.

Rev. Finis Clark, a Baptist, was the first preacher in the county during the early twenties. He held the first services at private homes in the settlement along Rush Creek of Clay county, near Liberty. In 1849, William Jewell College was located at Liberty, in the territory of North Liberty Association, and in the Minutes of that year a resolution was adopted that the Association would heartily cooperate with this institution. About 1850, the body appointed a Mission Board to look after the destitute fields and to employ missionaries for district work. This was an advanced step as there was much need for leadership among the churches during all the years. From 1904 to 1906 the churches of Caldwell and Ray counties were given letters of dismission to form the Caldwell-Ray Association.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE NORTH LIBERTY ASSOCIATION.

From Minutes of 1902.

On Friday, April 26th, 1844, a convention of Baptists assembled at New Hope church, Clay county, Mo., for the purpose of organizing a Baptist Association. Five churches, to wit: Liberty, Little Flock (now Lebanon), New Hope, Pleasant Ridge and Richmond, were the constituent members. A committee consisting of A. P. Williams, W. D. Hubbell, Robert James, Franklin Graves and Jabez Shotwell, drafted a Constitution and By-Laws for the organization which were reported and adopted on the following day, and the body was named "North Liberty Association of United Baptists." Thus was born this splendid organization on Saturday, April 27th, 1844.

With the exception of 1864, the Association has held annual sessions, and it has largely cooperated with all departments of mission work. In 1894, the body held its semi-centennial session at Richmond and so far as is known Bid. Franklin Graves, of Kearney, was the only one living who had assisted in the organization fifty years before. He held the office of Assistant Moderator at the time of his death in 1898. The first officers were A. P. Williams, Moderator; Jabez Shotwell, Clerk; Elijah Stout, Treasurer. The first annual meeting was held with Little Rock Flock (Lebanon) church in 1845.

The Association began with five churches and 234 members.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION.

The churches of our territory have been interested in Christian Education and have done many things toward the advancement of our schools. Since 1849 we have had within our boundaries the great and beloved William Jewell College which has meant so much toward the future of our young men. The following is taken from the Associational Minutes of 1849—"Resolved, That we feel highly gratified that the Baptist College of Missouri, has been located at Liberty, Mo., and that we will heartily cooperate with the originators by our councils and means." This resolve has not been forgotten by our churches as the years rolled by.

The ministerial students have found work in our Association during their college course and many of them have preached their first sermon in our churches. One church claims the distinction of having 69 students as pastors and helpers during her history. The Liberty Ladies' College which was located at Liberty, was organized in 1890 by S. F. Menefee. It stood as an interdenominational school but was owned and controlled by Baptist men with the exception of a few years. The college building burned February 23, 1913. There is a vast difference in the present time and the beginning of our activities. In the early day there was lack of opportunity and financial means to secure an education. It is not the same now, for any young man desiring an education in preparing for his life work may secure it with reasonable effort and determination.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

The Sunday School organization was known in North Liberty territory before the Association was organized in 1844. The organization of the New Hope church, where the Association was born, was a result of the Sunday school work. The only living charter member of the Smith's Fork church, Mrs. Palina Hughes, (widow of Rev. James B. Hughes)' gives the following information: "There was a Sunday school, regularly held during the summer months, four or five or perhaps six years, before the erection of the church building. It was organized about 1855 or 1856."

From the Minutes of 1856—"Resolved, That we (committee), suggest to the churches composing this Association the propriety of establishing and maintaining a Sunday school in the bounds of each church." The committee in the report of 1860 recommended to the body that Sunday schools be established and that the missionaries make it a part of their labor to help in the organizations. Almost every church in the Association has had the Sunday school organization from the beginning. Many of the churches were not able to have preaching services but once a month but the school has met in its weekly sessions and has taught the Gospel message. They have become instruments of strong Christian influence and have done a great service in developing and cultivating active and efficient workers in our churches.

The records of our schools, like the old church records, have not been preserved as they should have been and it will be difficult to give the names of all Superintendents as was first planned.

The first Sunday school organized in the State was conducted by Mrs. William Murphy, wife of the Baptist preacher, during the year 1807, in St. Francois county.

B. Y. P. U. SOCIETIES.

The young people of our Association began to organize societies about 1890. The work of the young people has been a constructive work and has meant much to many of our churches. The two following mottoes have been adopted by the Unions: "All Baptist Young People Utilized" and "We Study That We May Serve." The B. Y. P. U. Aim is "Training in Church Membership."

THE PRAYER MEETING.

The Prayer Meeting, like the Sunday school, has always held an important place in Baptist affairs. Although the reports on this phase of our work are very meager we know of the many blessings which have come from this mid-week service. Week after week men and women of God have met at their places of worship and have delighted in the prayer meeting, the reading of His Word, singing His praises and honoring his name. Great good has come to our churches from these services and it is with regret that we must report too few of these services being held in our territory in this year of 1922.

ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS.

The Association appointed a Mission Board about 1850 to look after the destitute fields within the bounds of the North Liberty territory and to employ men as District Missionaries to work in these fields. This was an action greatly needed as the field was large and the harvest truly great. It was almost impossible for one man to meet the needs of the territory which for some years was comprised of five counties and the churches largely scattered. For several years the Board employed from one to four men for part of their time to look after this work. The pastors were also used in many instances for the missionary work and were paid for the days labored.

From year to year the Board has made reports to The Association and recommendations for future work. Great and lasting good has come from this source and the work done by the field workers will live in the history of our Association. For a number of years men have been employed to spend the whole of their time as Associational Missionaries, the churches contributing to their support, while the resident pastors have helped by holding meetings with the churches. Rev. A. F. Foster was the last Missionary of Caldwell-Ray Association. He did good work in our territory. At the present there is need for such a worker as many of the churches should have his help.

WOMAN'S WORK.

One of the strongest auxiliaries in the development and progress of our churches has been the organization and labors of the Woman's Societies of our Association. The first report to be given of this work was that of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Second Baptist Church of Liberty, August 21, 1877, when our churches were in North Liberty. The Missionary and Aid Societies have done a great work and have gathered in vast sums of money for Missions, building enterprises, paying off church debts and making needed improvements. The missionary work of these organizations has been a wonderful help to the churches in development of the missionary spirit. By talking missions and reading literature and letters from missionaries, they have gained and spread much valuable information of various fields and their needs among the members of the churches.

RELIGIOUS DESTITUTION

The religious destitution within the bounds of the North Liberty Association was very great. The people were not rich and during the early years of the work many hard struggles were overcome and many problems were solved. There were very few meeting houses over the territory and for a number of years none of the churches had full time preaching; only one or two could afford half time services. From the Associational reports and committees on "religious destitution" the following statements are taken which will show the conditions prevailing: "Within the bounds of our Association there are many

places that need to be supplied with a preached gospel. Among the most important we would name that region of country, between Platte City and Liberty, extending to the Missouri River, the country lying between Smithville and Plattsburg, and the eastern part of Clinton county." We mention especially, Cameron, where there are a few Baptists; also Weston church where interest might be advanced, and some destitution on Smith Fork. "While the most of those reporting, report coldness and lukewarmness." "Your committee is profoundly impressed with the alarming destitution within the bounds of the Association. There are almost whole counties destitute of the preached Word." These statements from the reports only give an idea of the many needs. The churches would give good and encouraging reports one year and the next year probably would report the opposite but from year to year great good was done and many of the destitute fields reclaimed.

The early pastors worked under many difficulties and endured the hardships of long rides and poor salaries. One year the Mission Board was not able to pay but \$20.00 per month for a Missionary and could not find a man to take the work. Another year the body lamented the fact that the churches of the entire state had contributed but \$1,500 to Foreign Missions. One pastor accepted a church at \$50.00 a year for the fourth time and did good work.

The personal sacrifice of our early pastors is written on every page of Baptist history. Very few of these noble men were able to give their full time to the ministry, while others left the work of farms, made long drives and preached several sermons between Saturday night and Monday morning, in order that the people might hear the Gospel message. The hardships which these men endured were not felt without reward. At Covenant meetings and Sabbath services there were many souls led to the Cross, wanderers reclaimed, churches organized and the Christian people were strengthened to fight ever onward.

FIFTY YEARS IN NORTH

LIBERTY ASSOCIATION.

(By D. G. Saunders.)

Then and Now :—How the times and methods have changed in a half a century. The writer attended for the first time the sessions of North Liberty Association at the old Lebanon church six miles south of where Stewartsville is now located. It was in 1854, my father was a messenger then and entertained many of the members and visitors in his country home. It was a great meeting to me. Dr. E. S. Dulin, the great preacher and educator, preached the introductory sermon from Acts 28:32. I do not believe that I have ever seen a sermon stir the people like that one. Then we had preaching twice each day and at night, now we have very little preaching. Then we met on Friday and held services over Sunday, Sunday being the great day of the feast; now we meet on Wednesday and hurry the business through in two days.

I have had the honor of presiding over the body longer than anyone else in consecutive years. J. B. Shotwell, presided one year longer than I, but only one man is living who has presided over the Association—Dr. T. P. Stafford—and besides our present efficient secretary only one is living who kept the records, that is Rev. Asa N. Bird.

In this limited space I can tell but little of what I have known of the work. I have seen it grow from a small body to a large organization of Baptists. I have witnessed many of its struggles and triumphs. During these fifty years, like the mother hive, it has swarmed several times, and other Associations have been formed from churches largely of this body. Especially is this true of Caldwell-Ray and St. Joseph Associations, but the greatest blow we ever had was at Kearney in the session of 1906, when the Liberty church left us and went to Blue River Association. It was like the mother forsaking her children and leaving them helpless. The Association has never recovered from that blow.

We have had many able and efficient men as our Missionaries, the

majority of them have finished their work on earth and rest from their labors here but their works follow them. We certainly appreciate the earnest efforts now being put forth to push this great work to a complete success by our present able Missionary, Rev. G. A. Puckett. May God abundantly bless his labors.

ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION

According to Complete File of Minutes

Owned by W. M. Pickell

From Minutes of 1904

1. Pursuant to a call issued to the Baptist Churches of Caldwell and Ray counties, messengers from Hamilton, Polo, Cowgill, Hopewell and Morris Hill churches were called to order at 2:00 o'clock p. m. in the meeting house of the First Baptist church of Hamilton by Rev. A. L. Gartin, temporary chairman with Rev. T. W. Chambliss acting as temporary secretary.

2. Devotional exercises were led by Rev. A. L. Gartin.

3. The call which had been sent to the churches was read, which appears below:

Dear Brethren and Sisters:

At the recent meeting of the North Liberty Association, four churches, namely, Hamilton, Hopewell, Cowgill and Polo, asked for and were granted letters of dismissal from the Association. The purpose of these churches in thus withdrawing from the Association was that a new organization embracing the churches of Caldwell and Ray counties might be effected. The delegates present at the Association effected a temporary organization with Rev. T. W. Chambliss of Braymer, as Secretary.

In accordance with the instructions of the temporary organization a

meeting of messengers from churches will be held in Hamilton, Missouri, with the First Baptist Church of that City, Saturday and Sunday, October 29 and 30. At this meeting the entire question of the organization will be discussed and if it is the desire of the churches represented, the Association will be organized. We believe that the present Association (North Liberty) is too large for effective work, and that the Baptist cause can be better advanced in Caldwell and Ray counties if we should have our own Association and look more after the needs of the field at our doors. The past year the churches of these two counties contributed for District Missions the sum of \$328.52. This amount expended wisely in the counties named would have enabled some of the weaker churches to have had more preaching, and in addition some evangelistic work could have been done. Further, with an organization of the churches of these counties there would come, a more lively interest in the work and consequently a larger contribution.

You are invited to send your pastor and three messengers to the meeting at Hamilton and, if you think it wise, enter into the organization. A copy of this letter is sent to each Church Clerk and Pastor in Ray and Caldwell counties.

Yours Fraternaly,

A. L. Gartin, Chairman.

T. W. Chambliss, Sec'y.

Braymer, Mo., Sept. 26, 1904.

On the date set for the meeting of the messengers at Hamilton, Missouri, the following names were enrolled:

Cowgill—Rev. T. W. Chambliss, J. R. Cheshier, Thos. Stephens.

Hamilton—Rev. A. L. Gartin, William Pierce, G. C. Whistler, N. C. Clarkson, Mrs. L. D. Brown.

Hopewell—John Fields, G. P. Frazier.

Morris Hill—J. Holman, J. H. Prior. Polo—C. J. Winger, F. M. Kern, M. H. Winger.

After the enrollment of the messengers the Secretary read a number

of letters from the churches which were not represented by delegates. These letters are well worth recording as they express the sentiment of the churches to be effected by the organization of an Association.

Camden, Mo., Oct. 9, 1904.

T. W. Chambliss, Braymer, Mo.

Dear Brother:

Your letter to the Baptist church is at hand and I read it to the church yesterday and we all talked the matter over and then took a vote on the division and our church stands unanimously for Ray and Caldwell to have their Association together. We will not have any delegates at your meeting the 29th and 30th but write you so you know how we stand, hoping that whatever may be done may be for the advancement of the cause of Christ.

I remain your brother,
John Bailey.

Orrick, Mo., Oct. 24, 1904. By order of the church at our last meeting I am requested to inform you that we favor your move of forming a new Association, believing it to be to the best interest to the churches interested.

Yours,
M. McKissack, Clerk.
Elmira, Mo., Oct. 28, 1904.

Bro. T. W. Chambliss, Hamilton, Mo.

Dear Brother:

In compliance to the request in your circular letter relative to dividing the North Liberty Baptist Association, Lisbonville church appointed her pastor and three delegates to attend your meeting at Hamilton the 29th and 30th inst. Circumstances are such that our delegates cannot attend your meeting but Lisbonville church is in favor

of the proposed change, providing that practically all the churches in Ray and Caldwell counties are in favor of the division. We feel that it would be unwise to divide the Association unless nearly all the churches in both counties are in favor of doing so. Our representatives were instructed to vote for the change according to the change set forth in this letter, otherwise against it. Regretting our inability to attend your meeting, and wishing you a pleasant and successful meeting, we remain yours,

E. C. Stonum, Clerk.

The following letter received by the Chairman of the Committee from Rev. C. F. D. Arnold, for the past twenty years the Clerk of North Liberty Association, was read.

Elmira, Mo., Oct. 3, 1904.

Dear Brother Chambliss:

I am here in a meeting at Lisbonville. I went to Orrick Saturday and they voted to send a delegation to Hamilton the fifth Sunday and also voted to go into the organization, provided all or nearly all of the churches in the two counties go in. I will bring the matter before Lisbonville at the business meeting and urge them to do as Orrick has done. If all the churches in both counties go in, we would have a pretty good Association. I'm heartily in favor of it and hope it can be accomplished. That will leave North Liberty about a fair size.

Yours truly,
C.F. D. Arnold.

After the reading of the above letters a motion was made and seconded that the messengers present proceed to organize a new Association.

On motion the Moderator appointed M. H. Winger, G. C. Whistler and T. W. Chambliss as a committee to draft a Constitution and By-Laws. The report recommended the following officers for the first year's work. For President, T. W. Chambliss, of Braymer; for Secretary, Charles Ogden, of Hamilton; for Treasurer, C. J. Winger, of Polo.

The first invitation to the new Association was given by the Cowgill

church. On motion the invitation was accepted and the meeting was adjourned to meet at Cowgill in 1905.

1905 First Annual Session

The First Annual Session of the Caldwell-Ray Baptist Association was called to order at 10:00 a. m. in the meeting house of the Cowgill Baptist Church by F. M. Kern, Moderator. After the devotional service, led by Rev. C. F. D. Arnold, the Introductory sermon was preached by Rev. C. C. Hatcher from Jonah 2:7. At the afternoon session Rev. T. W. Chambliss, in behalf of the Cowgill church, presented the Moderator with a gavel made from wood taken from Old Cottage Grove church house.

Messengers were enrolled from the following churches: Cowgill, Hamilton, Hopewell, Morris Hill and Polo. A large number of visitors were present at this first meeting of the new organization representing the many interests of the Baptist denomination.

Letters of dismission from the North Liberty Association were presented by the following churches: Rock Falls, Lisbonville, Union, Pisgah, Morris Hill, Mirable, Missouri Valley, Lexington Junction, Camden, Enterprise, Kidder, Lawson and Orrick. These churches were accepted into the new organization. The acceptance added a large number to the membership and also financial strength to the Association.

At the morning session, on the second day, Breckenridge and Hickory Grove churches made application for admission and were accepted. A resolution was passed by the Body to congratulate the State of Missouri on having a man as its Governor who regarded his oath of office, did his duty without fear or favor, stood for civic righteousness, honesty in government administration and the enforcement of laws. A copy of the resolution was sent to the Governor, Jas. W. Folk, and also to the Kansas City Star and the Word and Way.

Dr. D. J. Evans delivered a great sermon from Acts 16:9, "The Missionary Appeal." The Association adjourned its first annual meeting at Cowgill, to meet the following year with the Lawson Baptist Church.

The Association was organized with five churches and a combined

membership of 511 and closed its first meeting with 19 churches and 1562 members. This was a good showing in the first year's work. Such interest showed the need for such an organization in the two counties.

1906 Second Annual Session

This session met with the Baptist church at Orrick with the Moderator, Rev. L. W. Chambliss in the chair. After the devotional services by Rev. P. A. Eubank, the Moderator paid tribute to Bro. N. C. Clarkson, the Treasurer, and one of the earnest and active members of the Association, who had entered into rest during the, past year. At his request prayer was offered by Rev. N. R. Pittman. A motion was made and carried during the first session that Hallard, Fleming and Mt. Pleasant Churches be received and that their delegates be welcomed. During the year there was not enough finance to employ a missionary for full time so the Board decided to hire pastors to do missionary work at the rate of two dollars per day. This plan was very successful in several of the churches.

The following members were reported who had died during the year: John Bogert, Clarissa Bogart, Jane West, Mrs. L. A. Winger, Jennie Reynolds, D. Y. Richmond, Mrs. James Easley, Jerry White, John Lee, Martha Deer, Mrs. Mary Hoyer, Martha Pollard, N. C. Clarkson, and Mrs. Mary Edminister. These fourteen deaths were reported only by name, the churches of which they were members were not given.

One interesting thing recorded in the minutes of this year is to be found in the report of State Missions. The report was made by J. W. Raines, J. A. Kincaid, Edwin Clevenger as the committee. The year was the centennial of the beginning of the Baptist work in Missouri. Just one hundred years ago, Bethel Baptist Church, the first No-Roman Catholic house of worship west of the Mississippi river, was built in Cape Girardeau County. Then there were less than twenty-five Baptists in the territory of Missouri, with only one church. In the year that this report was made, 1906, there were 2,120 churches and nearly 200,000 members, both white and colored.

The committee reported wonderful growth in the denomination but

still there were many sections of the state where there was great religious destitution. In this year the State Board had 155 men in the field doing wonderful work.

The woman's work received an encouraging report, five societies were organized during the year. The following was given on page 27 in memory of the late N. C. Clarkson.

IN MEMORIAM.
Deacon N. C. Clarkson
Hamilton, Mo.

Born at Knightstown, Indiana, October 28, 1849.

Passed to the beyond from Hamilton, Missouri, July 26, 1906.

Important factor in the organization of Caldwell-Ray Association.

Treasurer of said Association at time of his decease. Deacon of the First Baptist Church of Hamilton, Missouri, for twenty-seven years.

1907—Third Annual Session

The meeting of 1907 met with the Hamilton Baptist church and with the Moderator, C. C. Hatcher, in the chair. Rev. G. O. VanNoy led the devotional and Rev. P. A. Eubank preached the Introductory sermon. At this session the churches of Braymer and Richmond were received into the Association from North Liberty Association.

The committee on condition of churches reported an Associational membership of 1,854. The twenty-three churches represented reported 18 Sunday Schools with 988 scholars and 84 teachers. Some decline in the work was reported and people urged to look to the welfare of their Sunday Schools. The following names of 15 members were reported who had died during the year:

Orrick: Nancy Bellis, A. T. Elrod, Clarence Dunlin, Sarah Edwards.

Hallard: Mollie McGough.

Camden: Lenora Barker.

Cowgill: Tillie Cooper.

Lawson: Allen Peterman.

Nettleton: Leonard Shields.

Polo: Margaret Hayter.

Rock Falls: Rebecca J. Clark, Mary Ramland, Halee Clark.

Union: Lula McKinney.

In the report of Resolutions the committee asked that the churches give more time to preaching and teaching of Baptist doctrines, lest in the age of progress they forget and drift away from the foundation principles on which our fathers builded.

The session closed to meet with the Polo church the coming year.

1908—Fourth Annual Session

The 1908 meeting was held with the Polo Baptist church. From the very first session the meeting was a success. Rev. T. B. Clark preached the Introductory sermon with Rev. A. R. Foster and R. K. Maiden assisting in the services. Good reports were given of the work although there was room for improvement in many departments. The committee on Religious Literature urged the members of the churches to improve the work by means of the printed page. There were three sources recommended: The Bible, good books, denominational papers, and missionary magazines.

Fifteen deaths were reported during the year. The Mission Board did good work over the territory during the year and at this meeting \$225 was pledged for the next years work.

In the Sunday School there was a net gain of 433 pupils and 24 teachers. The churches also reported a gain of 133 in their membership. The session adjourned to meet the following year with the Hickory Grove church, near Richmond.

1909—Fifth Annual Session

The meeting was called to order by C. C. Hatcher, Moderator and the

sermon was preached by Rev. J. C. Armstrong.

The report on Woman's Work showed a decrease in the work and a lack of societies in the churches. Only two societies reported which showed lack of interest with some. A committee was appointed and an effort made to make this work more effective during the next year.

The Report on Obituaries gave eighteen members that had passed into the Beyond during the year. These were from Rock Falls, Orrick, Hamilton, Cowgill, Fleming, Richmond and Nettleton churches. In the report on Educational Missions it was stated that in the Baptist schools of the state there were enough ministerial students to give the Baptists of the state a large majority over any other denomination in the same territory. William Jewell alone reported 221 ministerial students, the writer of this sketch being one of the number.

Three of the churches reported licensed ministers, Braymer, Henry Moorman; Hopewell, G. A. Puckett; Morris Hill, Joseph Holman. Fifteen ordained ministers and pastors were also reported. The Minutes close with the Articles of Faith on page 26 and a brief history of the Association on the last two pages. The body assembled under the Associational tent in the city park and each of its sessions was marked with interest. Many visitors were present and a good representation of the churches.

At this meeting the Missouri Home for Aged Baptists was placed on the regular schedule of annual Committees. The report of the Home was made by Mrs. Milford Riggs. A good showing was made in the report of the Sunday Schools as fifteen of the seventeen schools reported twelve months work and a good average attendance. The report on Woman's Work is given a full page in the discussion of the importance of this work. One new society was reported, that of the Hickory Grove church.

The Body adjourned this ninth session to meet the following year with the Richmond church, Ray county.

1910—Sixth Annual Session

The sixth annual meeting met with the Richmond church on September 7 and 8, 1910. C. C. Hatcher was Moderator and was present at the opening session. The Missionary of the Association, Rev.

Sam Eaton led the devotional after which the Moderator preached the sermon. C. C. Hatcher was again elected Moderator by unanimous vote. I. M. Turnage was made Asst. Moderator; D. M. Trout, Clerk; J. R. Cheshier, Treasurer.

After another year had passed in the work the Committee on Obituaries reported eighteen more members having passed from the ranks into Eternity. This time there were twelve churches visited by the Angel of Death.

1911—Seventh Annual Session

The Caldwell-Ray Association was called to order in its seventh annual session by Moderator C. C. Hatcher in the Braymer Baptist church. In the absence of Rev. J. S. Cossairt, and C. F. D. Arnold his alternate, F. L. Alexander was elected to Preach the Introductory sermon. The best reports on all phases of the work seem to appear in the minutes of this year. There had been steady growth during the year that had passed. The churches had made a gain of over three hundred members and had lost many in different ways, leaving a net gain of 64. Nineteen deaths were reported to the Association from ten of the churches, the ages ranging from 22 to 84 years. There were reported to this meeting, fifteen Sunday Schools, four Missionary Societies, five Aid Societies, and eight Unions of young people.

1912—Eighth Annual Session

The meeting was held with the Rock Falls church, near Orrick, Mo. The Moderator, F. L. Alexander, not being present, Rev. D. M. Trout called the session to order. IRev. J. W. Drinkard, pastor of the Braymer church, preached the Introductory sermon. An unusual service took place at this annual meeting when the pastor of the church, D. M. Trout, administered the ordinance of baptism to twenty-two candidates in a pond near the church. This was a beautiful and impressive service and will long be remembered by many who were there.

A large number of delegates and visitors attended the session and made reports of their different lines of work. Rev. Solomon L. Ginsburg delivered an address on missions which was very interesting.

A full page of the Minutes is given to the Report on Obituaries by the Committee, J. C. Turnage and Miss Emma Simm. The committee recommended that a picture of Deacon James T. Yates, of the Richmond church, be inserted in the Minutes. This picture appears on page 8 of the 1912 Minutes. The year of 1912 brought an increase in the number of deaths, the total number given in the report was 24.

The Junior Union work in the Association was reported in this issue of the Minutes. The report giving Unions at Braymer, Cowgill, Hamilton, Polo and Richmond. Rayville sent in a report of Jehu Herod as having been licensed to preach.

1913—Ninth Annual Session

The 1913 session met with the Kidder church with Moderator F. L. Alexander in the chair. The opening sermon was preached by Rev. W. A. Wilson of the Western Baptist Publishing Co., of Kansas City. The body assembled under the Associational tent in the city park and each of its sessions was marked with interest. Many visitors were present and a good representation of the churches.

At this meeting the Missouri Home for Aged Baptists was placed on the regular schedule of annual Committees. The report of the Home was made by Mrs. Milford Riggs. A good showing was made in the report of the Sunday Schools as fifteen of the seventeen schools reported twelve months work and a good average attendance. The report on Woman's Work is given a full page in the discussion of the importance of this work. One new society was reported, that of the Hickory Grove church.

The Body adjourned this ninth session to meet the following year with the Richmond church, Ray county.

1914—Tenth Annual Session

Having met with the Richmond church in the tenth annual session the Body proceeded with the usual program. The opening sermon was preached by Rev. J. B. Crouch. There was a good representation of the churches and a large number of visitors. Good reports were made by the

committees and the work over the territory seemed to be on the upward trend. The report of the Training School showed that to carry out such program as would be necessary for annual meetings on assembly grounds would require more than the one Association. It was recommended to the Association that a number of Associations be asked to cooperate in the establishment and maintenance of a central assembly ground. This idea was never carried out to the perfecting of such plan and the Training School did not continue long.

1915—Eleventh Annual Session

The eleventh session of the Association met with the Orrick church. The sermon was preached by W. B. McGraw and devotional exercises by Rev. G. Creekmore. W. B. McGraw was elected Moderator; D. M. Trout, Clerk; and Jarvis McAfee, Treasurer. Eleven deaths were reported during the year. Three licensed ministers were reported, Louis Alder, Jehu Herod and B. H. Overman.

1916—Twelfth Annual Session

This session met August 23 and 24, 1916 with the Cowgill church. L. T. Wallace preached the opening sermon and O. W. Stanbrough preached the doctrinal sermon. Twenty-one members of the Association were called Home during the year. These were reported from eleven churches. The usual business of the Association was taken care of and much interest in the different departments of the work was manifest. Two of the visitors to this meeting were Dr. Green of William Jewell, and Dr. W. S. Abernathy of the First Church, Kansas City.

A full page of the Minutes is given to the Report on Obituaries by the Committee, J. C. Turnage and Miss Emma Simm. The committee recommended that a picture of Deacon James T. Yates, of the Richmond church, be inserted in the Minutes. This picture appears on page 8 of the 1912 Minutes. The year of 1912 brought an increase in the number of deaths, the total number given in the report was 24. The Junior Union work in the Association was reported in this issue of the Minutes. The report giving Unions at Braymer, Cowgill, Hamilton,

Polo and Richmond. Rayville sent in a report of Jehu Herod as having been licensed to preach.

1917—Thirteenth Annual Session

This meeting was held with the Union Baptist church. The session was called to order by the Assistant Moderator J. H. McQuery, who also preached the opening sermon. After the reading of the letters, the annual election of officers was called for. Another year passed and nineteen members were called out of the territory to their final reward, these were from eleven of the churches.

The churches reported a membership of 2,498. The number of baptisms during the year was 226. Sixteen of the churches reported a Sunday School enrollment of 1,630 with an average attendance of 1,038. It was found that 51 per cent of the church members were active contributors. The report showed that progress was being made and that the Association had cause to be encouraged.

1918—Fourteenth Annual Session

This session convened with the Hamilton church with Asst. Moderator, W. D. Lyerle, in the chair; he also preached the introductory sermon. Seventeen deaths were reported to the Association. Nineteen churches reported a membership of 2,498. There were 42 baptisms during the year.

Five licensed ministers were reported: Ed Douglass, Camden; Jehu Herod, Rayville; J. A. Holman, Braymer; P. C. Page, Richmond; and R. Whipple of Richmond. The usual number of reports were made and all departments seemed to give encouragement to the Association. The session adjourned to meet the following year with the Hickory Grove church.

1919—Fifteenth Annual Session

Moderator E. E. Doll called the session to order. The Associational Missionary, A. R. Foster, led in the opening prayer. Devotional was led by C. F. D. Arnold. Rev. C. C. Hargrave preached the Introductory sermon. Three pages of the Minutes were given to the report on Foreign Missions. The 75 Million Campaign was discussed and the

question asked as to what the success of the campaign would mean for Baptists.

Another years report showed that twenty-four had been called to the Life Beyond.

1920—Sixteenth Annual Session

This meeting was held with the Lexington Junction church with Moderator E. E. Doll in the chair. Greenwood church asked for admission to the Association and was accepted. Twenty-one of the Associational members left the field of earthly labors during the year. James McAfee, for several years the efficient clerk of the Association, offered his resignation and same was accepted. Charles Sackman of Cowgill was elected to fill the vacancy.

Only fifteen of the churches reported to the Association. These had a membership of 2119. Fourteen of the churches had pastors; thirteen had Sunday schools; five had Unions; and six had Missionary Societies. The Associational Missionary, Rev. A. R. Foster, made a good report of his work.

The Enterprise church was found to be in bad condition, with but few members left. H. C. Elema, pastor of Lexington Junction, visited the members and the most of them had, or would, join with the Junction church. Association adjourned to meet with the Rock Falls church the following year.

1921—Seventeenth Annual Session

The seventeenth annual session met with the Rock Falls church with Moderator, E. E. Doll, in the chair. The Moderator also led the devotional service. The Introductory sermon was preached by Rev. J. H. McQuery. The largest number of deaths was reported to the Association at this session, twenty-nine members having been called Home, these from thirteen of the churches. Seventeen of the churches reported to the Association, with a membership of 2,726, a gain of 464 during the year.

Three more licensed preachers were reported: Morris Hesenslow, Henrietta; R. W. Marley, Henrietta; Peter Page, Richmond. The usual reports were made by the committees and good interest was manifest

in the many departments of the work. The Association adjourned to meet the following year with the Cowgill Baptist church.

History of Caldwell-Ray Associational B. Y. P. U.

At the first annual session of the Caldwell-Ray Association in September 1905, but three Baptist Young Peoples Unions were reported as existing in the entire Association. They were at Cowgill, Hamilton, and Polo. At the second annual meeting, Hamilton, Lexington Junction and Polo reported Unions. At the third session Hamilton, Hopewell and Polo reported Unions. The fourth session showed an increase of a hundred per cent in the number, as Braymer, Cowgill and Richmond reported Unions. The number dropped back to four by the time of the fifth session and to three the sixth.

The need of more organized work was keenly felt and the question of an Associational Union had often been discussed, whose officers would have oversight over the entire work. This idea was not only to organize more Unions but help the already organized to do more effective. Not until the sixth annual session of the Association were steps taken to organize the Associational Union. This meeting was with the Richmond church.

A committee consisting of Miss Komora Cheshier, Rev. T. F. Harvey, and Rev. Sam Eaton was appointed by the Moderator to report on B. Y. P. U. work. In their report they recommended the organization which should hold a mid-winter rally each year.

Miss Cheshier and C. C. Hatcher were appointed to draft a Constitution By-laws and to report to the Mission Board in its first meeting of the year, held in October. At this meeting the organization was perfected and the following officers were elected: Miss Komora Cheshier of Cowgill, President; Dave Trout of Elmira, Vice-Pres.; Miss Irene Naylor of Hamilton, Secretary; and Will Yates of Richmond, Treasurer.

The first mid-winter rally was held with the Cowgill Union in December of 1910. Braymer, Cowgill, Hamilton and Richmond were represented. The first mid-summer rally was held with the Richmond Union in July of 1911. An increase in attendance was shown at this

meeting when Braymer, Polo, Breckenridge, Cowgill, Dockery, Hamilton, Richmond and Hickory Grove reported at the rally.

At the third session, which met at Hamilton, there were nine Unions reported, Morris Hill having been organized. All were represented except Braymer and made a good showing.

At the fourth session, held with the Polo Union, there were eleven Unions reported. The work has moved on since the fourth session. The number of Unions, has varied, running as high as fifteen, and last year, 1921, reporting but six. Good work has been done by the young people which has meant much for the future leadership of our churches.

CHURCHES OF OUR ASSOCIATION

Note—It was the intention of the writer, at the beginning of this work, to give a short sketch of each church in the Association. After much investigation, it was found that a large number of the church records have been destroyed, and that it is impossible to make accurate statements or to give names of pastors and officers who have served through the years.

About two-thirds of the pages of this book were printed last year and the writer planned to have it ready for distribution at the annual meeting but many things hindered so the work was postponed. All of the churches thin their clerks or some member, have had opportunity to send in the picture of the building and a sketch of the church history. Only a few took advantage of this. It has not been possible to secure pictures of all pastors or officers but a number arc presented throughout the book.

After consulting the Moderator it was decided best to give the following items of the Churches rather than make it so incomplete because of lost records.

Braymer was organized in 1882. Has entertained the Association one year, 1911. Membership 100.

Breckenridge church was organized, July 25, 1868 with six constituent members. Present membership is 46.

Missouri Valley was organized in 1877. Reported a membership of 36 in 1920.

Nettleton church was organized in 1881.

Polo church was organized in Nov. 1887. Rev. Staniford was the first pastor. The second pastor, C. F. D. Arnold, served for nine years. The present building was erected in 1895. Present membership is 140. Association met with Polo in 1908.

Pisgah was organized in 1849.

Richmond church was organized in 1842. Rev. F. L. Alexander has been pastor for a number of years. With his leadership in full time services the membership has grown to 448, the largest membership of any church in the Association. Annual meetings were held with this church in 1910 and 1914.

Rock Falls church was organized July 16, 1877 with twelve members. Date of building, dedication or cost of building can not be found. This church has next to the largest membership, a total of 314. Annual meetings were entertained in 1912 and 1921.

Union church was organized in 1852 with a membership of 236 and the leadership of good pastors the organization has constructed one of the best buildings to be found in the rural sections of the state.

Vibbard was organized in 1917 but no report has been given since 1919.