

Information Sheet

R **Dry Fork Regular Baptist Church (Lake Spring, Mo.).**
406 **Records, 1834-1903.**
 One volume and one folder, with typescripts.

MICROFILM

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

These are a record book and papers of the Dry Fork Regular Baptist Church in the Lake Spring community of Dent County, Missouri. The volume includes the rules of decorum, articles of faith, membership records, and minutes of church business meetings, 1834-1879. The papers include letters of dismissal and church correspondence.

The Dry Fork Baptist Church was organized about 1833 by individuals living along Dry Fork Creek near the settlement at Lake Spring. The area was then part of Crawford County but is now on the western edge of Dent County along its border with Phelps County. The Dry Fork Church was an affiliate of the Little Piney Baptist Association, and, like the association, adopted an "anti-mission" clause in its constitution stating the opposition of the church to foreign missions, Sunday schools and theological institutions. The Dry Fork Church modified its name in June 1836 to reflect its form of belief with the incorporation of "Regular" as part of its title. During the 1850s and 1860s, the church was designated a "Regular Predestinarian" congregation. The final item in the collection, dated 1903, bears the heading "Dry Fork Church of Primitive Baptists."

The Dry Fork Church served a rural congregation whose active members probably numbered thirty to forty members at its peak. Many of the officers of the church were prominent individuals of the Lake Spring community whose descendants still reside in the area. The moderators and pastors from 1834 through the 1870s were Thomas B. Snelson, David Lenox, John Brown, and Christopher Howell. The clerks were John B. Harrison, James Brown, George W. Moore, Isaac Adams, Richard Jones, Wilson Lenox, and James H. Wilson.

The records of the Dry Fork Church consist of one record book and a few miscellaneous papers. They were recovered by the donor from a building at Lake Spring which was razed in the summer of 1990. The record book contains the rules of decorum and articles of faith, an incomplete membership roster, and the minutes of monthly church business meetings from June 1834 through May 1879. Business matters routinely included the admission and dismissal of members, election of officers, and appointments of delegates to associational meetings. Occasionally, the church investigated charges brought against members for improper conduct, among which were swearing, dancing, using alcoholic beverages, and killing a deer on the Sabbath. Members were sometimes excommunicated or "excluded" from the church as a result of charges, but a public apology often was accepted by the congregation. The church also handled cases which involved disruption of "fellowship," some of which indicate the extent of the church's influence in the community. The minutes include investigation of a member and slave who spoke ill of a master who had sold her, the settlement of a dispute regarding the guardianship of a minor, and a decision concerning a personal debt owed by one church member to another. The minutes of business meetings appear to be complete from June 1834 through August 1857. Except for three meetings in the summer of 1860, there are no minutes from August 1857 through June 1867. Thereafter, the minutes are sporadic through May 1879.

Miscellaneous papers have been filmed separately following the record book. They consist of letters of dismissal for various members, a statement concerning a site for construction of a meeting house, and a statement regarding the rules of decorum of the church.

Transcripts of the record book and miscellaneous papers have been prepared. They have been filmed proceeding the originals.

Shelf List

This collection consists of a record book and papers of the Dry Fork Regular Baptist Church in the Lake Spring community of Dent County, Missouri. The volume includes the rules of decorum, articles of faith, membership records, and minutes of church business meetings, 1834-1879. The papers include letters of dismissal and church correspondence.

Volume 1: Record book, 21 June 1834 – May 1879 (152 pages).

Rules of decorum
Articles of faith
Membership records, ca. 1845-1842
Minutes of meetings, 21 June 1834 – May 1879.

A typescript has been filmed in front of the original.

Folder 1: Miscellaneous papers, 18 August 1843 – 26 July 1903 (10 items).

Typescripts have been filmed in front of the originals.

r483 *22 July 1990* *Janet Bowles* *Loaned for microfilming*

Index Cards

Adams, Isaac K.
Agee, Tillman.
Agers, David.
Ashley Fork (Texas County, Mo.).
Avery, Henry.
Ayers, James.
Bailey, Cealy.
Baptists, Primitive—Missouri.
Baptists, Regular—Missouri.
Bennett, Mary.
Benten, Naomi.
Benten, "Sister"
Bolin, Mary Ann.
Brown, Betsy.
Brown, Elizabeth.
Brown, Feroba.
Brown, George C.
Brown, I. N.
Brown, Isaac.
Brown, James.
Brown, John.
Brown, Lucy.
Brown, Moses.
Brown, N. B.
Brown, Phroby.
Brown, Rebecca.
Brown, Thomas.
Bryant, Mahala.
Bryant, Mary Jane.
Burton, Samuel H.

Burton, Sarah.
Byrd, Jesse.
Case, Martha.
Case, S. L.
Chapman, William.
Cherry Valley Baptist Church (Crawford County, Mo.).
Church records and registers—Missouri—Dent County.
Church records and registers—Missouri—Phelps County.
Churches—Missouri—Dent County.
Churches—Missouri—Phelps County.
Churches, Baptist—Missouri—Dent County.
Churches, Baptist—Missouri—Phelps County.
Cinkler, Elizabeth.
Coffman, Harriet.
Coleman, John R.
Cook, Rhoda.
Courtice, Egeney[?].
Crouch, Anderson.
Crouch, Nancy.
Deer, Amos.
Dent County (Mo.).
Dillworth, Absolem.
Dry Fork Primitive Baptist Church (Lake Spring, Mo.).
Dry Fork Regular Baptist Church (Lake Spring, Mo.).
Dry Fork Regular Predestinarian Baptist Church (Lake Spring, Mo.).
Frame, Louisa.
Frame, Perliney.
Freeman, Aaron.
Freeman, Moses.
Freeman, Rachel.
Goad, Aaron.
Gouldman, Susan.
Harms, Nancy.
Harrison, Cynthia.
Harrison, John B. (2 cards)
Helm, William S.
Hillen, Sarah.
Holbert, James.
Houghman, Sarah.
Howell, C.
Hyer, John.
Inman, John.
Inman, Mary.
Jacobs, Jesse.
James, Kizaiah.
Jenkins, Franklin.
Jerril, Valuntine.
Jones, Dorothea A.
Jones, Nancy.
Jones, Richard.
Keith, James.
King, Elizabeth.
Kinworthy, Joshua.
Lake Spring (Mo.).
Lamb, Catherine.
Lamb, John.
Lane's Prairie (Mo.).

Lenox, David.
Lenox, Elizabeth.
Lenox, Hamilton.
Lenox, Maria.
Lenox, P. M.
Lenox, Susan B.
Lenox, Wilson.
Mace, John.
Mace, Malinda.
McCloud, Andrew.
McCloud, James.
McCloud, Jesse.
McCloud, Julian.
McCloud, Juliann.
McCloud, Margaret.
McCloud, Matilda.
McCloud, Milly.
McCloud, Peggy.
Mercer, Mary M.
Mercer, Nancy.
Mercer, Poly.
Mercer, Thomas.
Mercer, Tuesday.
Moore, Alfred.
Moore, Don.
Moore, George.
Moore, L. L.
Moore, Samuel.
Moore, Susan.
Morgan, Ellen.
Morrow, James.
Morrow, John.
Morrow, Joseph.
Morrow, Mary.
Morrow, Nancy.
Murcer [See Mercer].
Newporte, R. M.
Parsley, Daniel.
Pease, Mahala.
Phelps County (Mo.).
Plank, Hiram.
Price, Catharine.
Rakes, Luizea.
Ramsey, Delekate.
Ray, Perlina.
Reddick, Julian.
Reddock, Julian.
Redick, Julia.
Riddick, Sarah.
Riley, James.
Rock Spring Predestinarian Baptist Church (Crawford County, Mo.).
Rural churches—Missouri—Dent County.
Rural churches—Missouri—Phelps County.
Sally, Ally.
Sally, George.
Sinclair, Elizabeth.
Sinklar, Elizabeth.

Smith, John.
Smith, Mahalia.
Snead, Elizabeth.
Snelson, Levi L.
Snelson, Marshel.
Snelson, Mary.
Snelson, Polly.
Snelson, Thomas.
Stuart, Margaret.
Stuart, Susan.
Sturgeon, Sabara.
Taylor, S. A.
Union Independent Academy (Lake Spring, Mo.).
Walker, Edward.
Walker, Sarah Jane.
Watkins, Levius.
Watkins, Lovicy Ann.
Watkins, Lovisa.
Will, P.
Wilson, Eli B.
Wilson, Emily B.
Wilson, James H.
Wilson, Lucindy.
Wilson, N. J.
Wilson, Nancy.
Winfrey, Thomas.
Wood, Charles.
Wood, Elizabeth.
Wright, Bernethy.
Wright, Isaac.
Wright, James.