

Information Sheet

R **Central Gravois Baptist Church (Gravois Mills, Mo.).**
419 **Record book, 1881-1903.**
 One volume.

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.

This is a record book of the Central Gravois Baptist Church at Gravois Mills in Morgan County, Missouri. The records include minutes of church business meetings, 1881-1903, membership records, ca. 1881-1902, and miscellaneous church papers, 1895-1902.

The Baptist church at Gravois Mills was organized on 12 June 1881. Twelve charter members, primarily from the Silvey and Webb families, made up the first congregation. Meetings were on "South Brushey," in the area where the town of Gravois Mills was platted in 1884. Isaac Barber was elected pastor, followed by James E. Sims, L. J. Boughman, and Thomas H. Baughman during the period covered by the record book. In September 1881, the congregation adopted the name "United Baptist Church of Christ called Central Gravois." The name was modified in 1887 by the substitution of "Missionary" for "United" in the title. Membership increased greatly during the 1880s and 1890s, but the church became inactive sometime after 1903. The Gravois Baptist Church, organized in 1923, may have been a reorganization of the earlier institution. It was inactive by 1953, when it was reorganized as the Gravois Mills Baptist Church. All of the churches at Gravois Mills were affiliated with the Lamine Baptist Association.

The records of the Central Gravois Baptist church consist of a single record book which contains minutes of monthly business meetings, membership records, and miscellaneous papers. The minutes begin with the organizational meeting on 12 June 1881 and continue through 17 September 1903. Church business generally involved the admittance and dismissal of members, elections of officers, and appointments of delegates to the annual meetings of the Lamine Baptist Association. Occasionally the church took up charges of improper conduct by its members, which sometimes led to the expulsion of the offending individuals. Non-attendance, dancing and swearing were the most common transgressions, but there were also cases of exclusion as the result of joining the Campbellite church and for fornication.

Membership records are included at the end of the volume. The records begin with the founding of the church in 1881 and include revisions in 1895, 1898, and 1901. The congregation numbered about sixty-five individuals by 1898, although not all were active members. Miscellaneous papers, filmed at the end of the volume, also include information on church members. The papers, 1895-1902, consist of letters of admittance and dismissal, and receipts for contributions by the Central Gravois Church to the Lamine Baptist Association and to the Missouri Baptist General Association.

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Shelf List

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Record book, 1881-1903 (186 pages and enclosures).

Minutes of meetings, 12 June 1881 -- 17 September 1903.

Membership records, ca. 1881-1902.

Miscellaneous papers, 1895-1902.

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