

Information Sheet

R **Spring Creek Baptist Church (Phelps County, Mo.).**
445 **Records, 1880-1991.**
 Six volumes.

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This collection includes minutes of meetings, 1880-1987, and membership records, 1880-1991, of the Spring Creek Baptist Church in northern Phelps County, Missouri. Volume 1 includes records of two earlier organizations: the Corinth Baptist Church, 1880-1891, and the Macedonia Baptist Church, 1881-1883.

Spring Creek in northern Phelps County is a tributary of the Gasconade River. The records of the congregation which ultimately became the Spring Creek Baptist Church begin on 18 December 1880. On that date, twelve individuals met to reorganize an unnamed "former" church. The congregation, guided by R. N. Gough, a missionary of the Dixon Baptist Association, adopted a constitution and the articles of faith of the Missionary or United Baptist creed, and chose the name Corinth Baptist Church.

On 26 February 1881, the congregation appointed a committee to meet with the Macedonia Baptist Church, located near Rolla on a tributary of Spring Creek. The purpose of the meeting was to unite the churches at Macedonia and Corinth, which was accomplished on 11 June 1881. The combined congregation adopted the name Macedonia Baptist Church. Unification evidently was not satisfactory, for a resolution was approved on 4 August 1883 "to reinstate us as we were before the union with Macedonia." The former name of Corinth Baptist Church was again taken up. The reorganized church was no more viable than the previous organization, and by 1889 the congregation was considering dissolution of the church. The last recorded meeting of the Corinth Baptist Church occurred in April 1891.

The Spring Creek Baptist Church seems to have been organized before the Corinth church was entirely defunct. Twenty-two individuals met on 3 January 1891 to organize. Once again, R. N. Gough presided as moderator of the organizational meeting. The congregation voted to join the Dixon Baptist Association, and, later, the Phelps County Baptist Association. The Spring Creek church proved more successful than its predecessors. Although smallpox in the community caused the suspension of services from January 1901 to January 1902, and though delinquent members have been a concern at various times, the church has maintained its organization since 1891. In 1919, members of the Camp Creek community were dismissed to form their own church, and in 1921 the Spring Creek congregation built a permanent church house on land donated by W. D. Ragan and James Skyles. Members continue to meet at the same location along Spring Creek through the present day (1991).

The records of the Spring Creek Baptist Church consist of six record books. Volume 1 contains minutes of business meetings and membership records, while volumes 2-6 include minutes of meetings. The first volume opens with the records of the Corinth and Macedonia churches, 18 December 1881 -- April 1891. Minutes of the Spring Creek Church in volume 1 begin on 3 January 1891 and continue through 29 May 1932. Volumes 2-6 contain minutes of business meetings from 25 March 1956 through 5 August 1987. Business generally consists of the admittance and dismissal of members, appointments of church officials and delegates to annual associational meetings, disciplinary hearings on charges of improper conduct by members, and financial matters. In common with many other rural churches, Spring Creek in recent years has been largely concerned with acquiring pastors and maintaining membership.

Nearly all of the records of membership are included in volume 1. The earliest records date to 1880. The rolls were updated in 1891 and 1902, and the most recent entries were made in March 1991. There are few records of baptism and membership in volumes 5 and 6.

Shelf List

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Volume 1: Record book, 1880-1991 (348 pages).

The volume contains minutes of meetings, 1880-1932, and membership records, 1880-1991.

Volume 2: Minutes of Meetings, 25 March 1956 – 10 September 1965 (36 pages, loose leaf).

Volume 3: "Church Minute Book," 1 January 1972 – 11 April 1976 (50 pages).

Volume 4: "Church Minute Book," 9 May 1976 – 4 January 1981 (34 pages).

Volume 5: "Church Minute Book," 1 November 1981 – 3 July 1985 (52 pages).

Volume 6: "Church Minute Book," 7 August 1985 – 5 August 1987 (54 pages).

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Spring Creek Baptist Church

Loaned for microfilming

Index Cards

Affolter, Ferd.
Baptists—Missouri—Phelps County.
Camp Creek Baptist Church (Phelps County, Mo.).
Carney, Don.
Carney, G. W.
Church records and registers—Missouri—Phelps County.
Churches—Missouri—Phelps County.
Churches, Baptist—Missouri—Phelps County.
Corinth Baptist Church (Phelps County, Mo.).
Dyer, William W.
Earp, John.
Goggin, Charles S.
Gough, R. N., - 1914.
Hicks, J. G.
Love, Clara.
Macedonia Baptist Church (Phelps County, Mo.).
Nixon, Leroy.
Northcutt, G. I.
Patterson, Tom.
Perkins, W. S.
Phelps County (Mo.).
Ragan, W. D.
Rural churches—Missouri—Phelps County.
Scrivner, D. S.
Scrivner, W. D.
Skyles, James.
Skyles, Sarah.
Spring Creek Baptist Church (Phelps County, Mo.).
Stanley, Robert.
Sutton, H. M.
Tower, P. A.