

R Big Piney Regular Baptist Church Record book, 1834-1891  
1352 1 Volume

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#### INTRODUCTION

This Big Piney Regular Baptist Church minute record book contains membership rolls, articles of faith, rules of decorum, and minutes of meetings 10 May 1834-6 April 1861. The bulk of the record book is from May 1834 to April 1861 with one additional entry 31 Oct 1891.

#### DONOR INFORMATION

This church record book was donated to The State Historical Society of Missouri by Eugenia A. Stevenson, granddaughter of Walter Bradford—a Minister in the Primitive Baptist Church on 2 June 2016 (Accession No. RA1625).

#### INSTITUTIONAL SKETCH

On 14 May 1834, the Big Piney Baptist Church of Jesus Christ recorded their Rules of Decorum, Articles of Faith and Covenants. The church went through several name changes between 1834 and 1861 including Baptist Church, United Baptist, Regular Baptist, and Regular Predestinarian. The Big Piney Regular Baptist church had a working relationship with neighboring churches including Dry Fork, Little Maries Regular, Little Piney, Mount Zion at Spring Creek, and Prairie Valley.

#### SCOPE AND CONTENT

The bulk of the record book is from May 1834 to April 1861 with one additional entry 31 Oct 1891. The mid-summer meeting attended to Communion, foot-washing, election of representatives to the Association, and approval for printing the minutes from the previous year. Membership was clustered in southern Phelps and Pulaski counties at Spring Creek and Texas County in Big Piney River country. Active members included families of Bradford, Coppedge, Helms, King, Lenox, Snelson and Wayman.

At each meeting, one member was chosen as Moderator and one member chosen as clerk: David Lenox (1797-1863), Thomas Snelson (1813-1867), and William S. Helms (1842-1888) were recurring moderators and Pleasant Wayman, (1802-1862) recorded the minutes from 1834 until September 1854, when he asked for a letter of separation due to the mixing of politics with religion within the church. His position was filled by L.L. [Lindsay Long] Coppedge (1805-1891). In Oct 1857, the church invited Wayman back, he accepted but did not return to clerking duties.

Highlights included that no meeting was held during September and October 1852, due to small pox, and an issue against celebrating with those who "...make barbecues [sic] on July 4th, or frolics, or dances...shall be guilty of offense sufficient to break fellowship [sic]" and any violation of the rules of decorum was to commit "righteous self-murder." The death of 'Sister' Polly King, 6 May 1848, and 'Sister' Margaret King, 25 Oct 1852 are the only deaths noted.

*See also: Little Piney Regular Baptist Association R1353*

*See also: Mount Zion Regular Baptist Church R1354*

#### VOLUME

v. 1	Big Piney Regular Baptist Church Record Book 1834-1891
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#### INDEX TERMS

Subject
Big Piney Regular Baptist Church
Bradford, Isaac Neely (1805-1872)
Church Records and Registers
Churches—Missouri—Phelps County
Churches—Missouri—Pulaski County
Churches—Missouri—Texas County
Coppedge, L. L. [Lindsey Long] (1805-1891)
Dry Fork Church
Helms, William S. (1842-1888)
King, Margaret [d.1852 Oct 25]
King, Polly [d.1848 May 6]
King, Solomon (1801-1870)
Lenox, David (1797-1863)
Little Maries Regular Church
Little Piney Church
Mount Zion Church at Spring Creek
Religion-Baptist
Phelps County (Mo.)
Prairie Valley Church
Pulaski County, (Mo.)
Snelson, Thomas (1813-1867)
Texas County (Mo.)
Wayman, Pleasant (1802-1862 )