

MINUTES

OF THE

ROCKY BAYOU

MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

1894

Next session will be held with Saint's Rest Church
seven miles west of Melbourne, Saturday
before the second Sunday
in October

1895

Mission work among the people, from house to house, and man to man, is the great need of these times and in all places. This is the work of

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THE YOUNG PEOPLE. Young people should be thoroughly taught as to Baptist belief and ways of transacting affairs. Dr. Hiscox's book is a splendid manual to place in the hands of young Baptists.

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AMERICAN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY.

MINUTES.

The Rocky Bayou Missionary Baptist Association convened in its Fifty-third Annual Session with Pilgrim's Rest Church, Independence county, Ark., Saturday morning, October 13, 1894.

At 11 a. m. the Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder H. F. Vermillion from the 22nd verse of the 22nd Psalm.

After recess and refreshments the Association was called to order by Elder W. M. Duren, the Moderator of last session. After singing and prayer, led by Elder G. L. Foard, the names of the churches were called and read by Bros. R. L. Landers and D. J. Smith.

Concord, Fairview, Jamestown, Melbourne, Pleasant Valley and Saints' Rest asked for the next session of the Association.

On motion, the Association proceeded to the election of Moderator and Clerk, which resulted in the choice of Elder W. M. Duren as Moderator and W. K. Estes as Clerk.

1. Called for petitionary letters from churches desiring admission into this Association. None presented.

2. Called for Corresponding Messengers from Sister Associations; whereupon J. J. Hancock and E. A. Richardson from Blue Mountain, J. E. Moore and Elder Geo. B. Borah from Spring River and Elder T. B. Pruitt and J. E. Bland from Little Red River accepted the invitation and were given the hand of fellowship by the Moderator and welcomed among us.

3. Called for visiting ministers. Accepted by Elder James Parcelley from Independence Association, who was given the hand of fellowship by the Moderator.

4. The Moderator announced the following committees:

Arrangement of Business—Elder H. F. Vermillion, L. Jennings
J. W. Sims.

Preaching—Pastor and Messengers of Pilgrim's Rest Church.

Baptist Literature—R. L. Landers, G. L. Foard and H. F. Vermillion.

Associational Missions—J. W. Sims, W. H. Vest and L. Jennings.

Foreign Missions—W. C. Brown, G. B. Borah and J. D. Payne.

Sabbath Schools—R. L. Landers, T. B. Pruitt and W. M. Marlin.

Finance—Abner McElmurry and H. Stroud.

Temperance—G. B. Borah, T. B. Padgett and G. L. Foard.

Destitution—W. H. Vest, J. M. Barnes and J. N. Haley.

Prayer Meetings—J. W. Miller, John Bell and W. H. Meers.

State Missions—J. W. Miller, J. H. Vest and A. L. Felts.

Ministerial Education—D. J. Smith, A. T. Felts and T. A. Danner.

Schools and Colleges—T. B. Padgett, T. B. Pruitt and B. A. Spradlin.

On motion of Bro. Landers the Moderator appointed a Committee on Obituaries, as follows: J. W. Miller, G. L. Foard, R. L. Landers and L. Jennings.

After prayer, led by Elder J. W. Miller, the Association adjourned till Monday morning, 8 o'clock, October 15.

PREACHING.

Saturday night by Elder T. B. Pruitt from Acts 16:30.

Sunday at 11 a. m. by Elder G. B. Borah on The Security of the Child of God.

Sunday at 3 p. m. by Elder J. W. Miller from John 3:7.

Sunday night by Elder J. W. Goodwin from Psalms 72:17.

These sermons were highly commended by the hearers.

On Sunday morning at 10 o'clock a. m. a very interesting lecture was made by Elder W. C. Brown on the subject of Sabbath Schools.

Monday morning, October 15, 1894, the Association convened, pursuant to adjournment, Moderator and Clerk present.

After singing, prayer by Elder W. C. Brown.

Minutes of Saturday read, corrected and approved.

Called for report of Committee on Arrangement of Business. Report read and adopted.

The roll was called and Messengers present as follows:

Antioch—G. L. Foard, W. M. Marlin, M. C. Muncey and John Haywood.

Bellvue—J. W. Spann and A. J. Smith.

City Rock—W. H. Vest, J. M. Wyatt and S. A. Lamb.

Concord—H. L. Thomas, W. H. Meers, J. C. Pratt and H. Stroud.

Fairview—W. M. Duren and A. L. Felts.

Jamestown—W. C. Brown, J. W. Sims and John Bell.

Melbourne—R. L. Landers, J. D. Payne and W. K. Estes.

Mt. Nebo No. 1—No messengers.

Mt. Nebo No. 2—T. H. Ray and G. B. Reves.

Mt. Pleasant—A. T. Felts, Henry Taylor and W. M. Cook.

Newhope—W. H. Hankins.

Philadelphia—B. A. Spradlin.

Pilgrim's Rest—Wm. Bracy, J. H. Fox, T. A. Danner and N. C. Danner.

Pleasant Hill—Said to be dissolved.

Pleasant Valley—G. W. White and B. F. Smith.

Rocky Bayou—J. N. Haley, Newton Majors, F. O. Pitman and Samuel Majors.

Saints' Rest—J. H. Vest and C. C. Hagar.

Table Rock—No Messengers.

Unity—Marion Carder.

Walnut Valley—No Messengers.

Zion Hill—J. W. Miller, L. Jennings, G. H. Hightower and Abner McElmurry.

Renewed invitation to churches desiring admission. None.

Renewed invitation to Corresponding Messengers. Accepted by Elders J. W. Goodwin of Independence Association.

Renewed invitation to visiting ministers. None.

Called for report of Committee on Baptist Literature, which was read and adopted, as follows:

We, your Committee on Baptist Literature, beg leave to submit the following report:

We, as a people, profess to take the Bible as our guide, and being the Word of God, it is the best Baptist Book in the world. Therefore, first of all, we commend the Bible to each of our members and insist that each read it daily, both carefully and prayerfully. In addition to the Bible, we recommend the "Arkansas Baptist," "American Baptist Flag," "Ford's Christian Repository" and the "Arkanamo Herald." We would also recommend to our preachers and laymen that they supply themselves with good Baptist books that they may be informed more fully upon our distinctive views of doctrine.

Respectfully submitted.

G. L. FOARD,
R. L. LANDERS,
H. F. VERMILLION,
Committee.

Called for report on Associational Missions, which was read and adopted, as follows:

WHEREAS, There are destitute points within our bounds, would recommend that they be supplied; and, whereas, there are many laborers in our bounds whose time is not employed, would recommend that they occupy those points, and that this Association compensate them for their time. We also recommend that at the next conference each church appoint a committee to solicit means from each member.

J. W. SIMS,
W. H. VEST,
L. JENNINGS,
Committee.

Called for report on Foreign Missions, which was read and adopted. The report, which was very lengthy, fully and clearly proves the doctrine of Foreign Missions to be a Bible doctrine, and closes as follows:

That each pastor in this Association preach at least one sermon during the ensuing year on Foreign Missions and take up a collection for same, and that each church elect an agent to collect and forward funds to the Foreign Mission Board.

W. C. BROWN,
G. B. BORAH,
J. D. PAYNE,
Committee.

During the discussion of the report a collection was taken for Foreign Missions, amounting to \$8.05.

Called for report on State Missions, which was read and adopted, as follows:

Your Committee on State Missions would recommend that this Association co-operate with the State Mission Board, and that each member of the churches pay at least ten cents for State Missions, and that the pastors appoint agents in their respective churches whose duty it shall be to collect the same and forward to the proper officer of the State Board.

J. W. MILLER, Chairman.
J. H. VEST,
A. L. FELTS.

On motion, the Association adjourned till early lamp lighting this evening, in order to attend the funeral, at Bethesda campground, of Sister Keating. A large assembly of people attended the funeral services. Elder James Purcelley preached in the Bethesda meeting house from Rev. 14:13.

At 6:30 the Association convened. Singing and prayer, led by W. M. Marlin.

Called for report on Sabbath Schools, which was read and adopted, as follows:

There is much devolving upon parents in the religious training of their children. The Sunday School is one of the greatest help in this training. It teaches the young minds to think early of Christ. Therefore, we insist that our churches which have no Sunday School organize one at an early date. This is necessary in order that our children be indoctrinated in the great truths of the Bible. We insist that Baptist Literature be used that they may not be taught in the different "isms" of the world. We recommend the use of the literature published by our board at Nashville, Tenn., ordered through our State Board at Jonesboro, Ark.

R. L. LANDERS,
T. B. PRUITT,
W. M. MARLIN.

A collection, amounting to \$1.80, was taken for the State Sunday School Board.

The Finance Committee reported \$18 for minute fund.

Saints' Rest Church, six miles west of Melbourne, Izard county,

Arkansas, was selected as the church with which the next session is to be held, commencing Saturday before the second Sunday in October, 1895.

Elected Elder G. L. Foard to preach the introductory sermon at the next session, with Elder W. M. Duren alternate.

Called for report on Temperance, which was read and adopted, as follows:

We regard intemperance in any form one of the greatest evils of our country. It is injurious to health, society and the church. It destroys morals, dethrones reason and destroys the finer principles in man, which should be used for the glorification of God. We insist that churches throughout our Association discipline any member who aids or fosters this monster evil.

G. L. FOARD,
T. B. PADGETT,
G. B. BORAH.

Called for report on Destitution, which was read and adopted, as follows:

The destitution in our bounds is from Cushman to White River; from Jamestown to Calico Rock, also east of Franklin, and the following points: (1) Pineville, (2) Wideman, (3) Mt. Olive, (4) Twin Creek, (5) Smith School House, near John Sharp's, (6) Shady Grove, four miles north of the Spann school house, (7) Mt. Carmel. (8) Sidney, (9) Sylamore and (10) Flint Ridge.

W. H. VEST,
J. N. HALEY,
J. M. BARNES,
Committee.

Called for report on Prayer Meetings, which was read and adopted, as follows:

Inasmuch as God has promised us such great and inestimable blessings in answer to prayer, and as prayer meetings are the best index to the prosperity of our churches, we advise the churches composing this Association to appoint and attend weekly prayer meetings and humbly trust in God for His promised blessings.

J. W. MILLER, Chairman.

Called for report on Obituaries, which was read and adopted, as follows:

We would recommend that the obituaries of Sister Martha Hightower and Elder James E. Duren be furnished the Clerk of this Association that they may be published in the proceedings of this session.

J. W. MILLER,
G. L. FOARD,
R. L. LANDERS,
L. JENNINGS.

Called for report on Schools and Colleges which was read and adopted, as follows:

We believe from the commission of our Lord to the Church, "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations," that He intended that His people should be an educational people; we believe also that it is the duty of parents to educate their children, and of the churches to educate their ministers. We therefore recommend that this Association continue its endorsement of Mountain Home College, Ouachita College and Central Female College, and that we give them aid by our contributions and patronage.

B. A. SPRADLIN,
T. B. PRUITT.

Called for report of Missionary Board, which was read and adopted. It appears from the report of the Board that they employed Elder W. H. Vest as missionary at \$1.00 per day, and that he had labored 40 days; sermons, 48; penitents instructed, 105; conversions, 14; baptisms, 2; churches constituted, 1; received by letter, 5; approved for baptism, 17; miles traveled, 300; collected on the field, \$8.10.

The report of D. J. Smith, Treasurer of the Board, is as follows:

To balance on hand from last year.....	\$35 35	
Amount received by public collection.....	5 90	
Amount received from Bellvue Church.....	5 00	
Amount received from Pleasant Valley Church	2 25	
Amount received from Saints' Rest Church.....	1 50	
Amount received from Melbourne Church	2 25	
Amount received from Jamestown Church	1 00	
Amount received from Rocky Bayou Church	5 00	
Amount received from Pilgrim's Rest Church.....	2 80	
Amount received from Unity Church.....	2 00	
Amount received from Concord Church.....	1 15	
By amount paid Bro. Milam.....		\$41 15
Balance in hands of said treasurer.....		23 05
		<hr/>
		\$64 20 \$64 20

Balance in hands of treasurer, \$23.05

Called for report on Ministerial Education, which was read and adopted, as follows:

Knowing that the education of men for the ministry is one of vital importance, and one which is calculated to promote the best interest of our denomination, we therefore recommend that the young men within the bounds of our Association who show the moral training and spiritual qualification, which is so essential in this glorious work, be urged to procure a good education and that they be liberally aided by our people in the way of money, when necessary in procuring that education.

D. J. SMITH,
A. T. FELTS,
T. A. DANNER,
Committee.

The Moderator appointed as Missionary Board Brothers R. L. Landers, T. K. Goodman, J. W. C. Gardner, G. S. Rector and Elder H. F. Vermillion.

Also the Moderator appointed as Board of Ministerial Education Bros. R. L. Landers, S. R. Hinkle and J. W. C. Gardner.

On motion, Bro. B. A. Spradlin was appointed as Financial Agent for Foreign Missions.

The following notice to change Constitution was read and ordered spread on minutes of this session, to wit:

We hereby give notice that at the next meeting of this Association we will offer the following amendment to the Constitution: That Section 2 be so

amended as to read as follows: "The members composing the annual meetings of the Association shall consist of Messengers sent by the Churches and the members of the different boards appointed by the Association and the ministers in good standing in their churches in said Association."

R. L. LANDERS,
H. F. VERMILLION,
J. W. MILLER.

Arranged correspondence to sister Associations, as follows:

Little Red River—W. C. Brown and J. W. Sims.

Blue Mountain—W. H. Vest and W. C. Brown.

Independence—H. F. Vermillion, G. L. Foard, T. A. Danner, W. C. Brown and J. D. Payne.

White River Valley—H. L. Thomas and A. T. Felts.

Spring River—J. W. Miller, G. L. Foard, L. Jennings, H. F. Vermillion and J. C. Pratt.

Big Creek—B. F. Smith, M. C. Muncy, W. M. Duren, A. L. Felts and Henry Taylor.

White River—W. M. Duren, G. W. White, N. C. Danner, B. A. Spradlin, H. F. Vermillion, H. L. Thomas, W. H. Vest, W. H. Meers and J. W. Miller.

Elder H. F. Vermillion was appointed as a Messenger to the Arkansas Baptist convention, and recommended and endorsed for a member of the State Mission Board and instructed to ask the State Board for as much as One Hundred Dollars.

Bro. R. L. Landers was elected as a Messenger to the Southern Baptist Convention.

The following resolutions offered by Bro. R. L. Landers were adopted:

Resolved, That we as an Association tender our hearty thanks to the members of Pilgrim's Rest Church and citizens of the vicinity for the hospitality extended to us during our stay with them.

Resolved, That the Clerk superintend the printing and distribution of the Minutes of this session, and that he have Five Dollars for his services.

After prayer the Messengers, while singing, took the parting hand and the Association adjourned at 11:30 p. m., to meet with Saints' Rest church, in IZARD county, on Saturday before the second Lord's day in October, 1895.





OFFICERS.

Elder W. M. Duren, Moderator, Violet Hill, Ark.
W. K. Estes, Clerk, Melbourne, Ark.
B. A. Spradlin, Financial Agent, LaCrosse, Ark.

MISSIONARY BOARD.

R. L. Landers, Melbourne, Ark.	J. W. C. Gardner, Melbourne, Ark.
G. S. Rector, " "	Eld. H. F. Vermillion, " "
T. K. Goodman, Calico Rock, Ark.	

BOARD OF MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

R. L. Landers, S. R. Hinkle and J. W. C. Gardner, Melbourne, Ark.

MINISTERS.

John W. Miller, Zion.	H. L. Thomas, Barren Fork.
G. L. Foard, Zion.	S. A. Marchant, Calico Rock.
M. W. Frizzell, Zion.	J. W. Twilley, Lunenburg.
A. E. Nixon, Victor.	A. J. Whaley, McPherson.
D. M. Tucker, Victor.	W. M. Duren, Violet Hill.
Wm. Hutcheson, Jumbo.	W. H. Wren, Cushman.
J. J. Vest, Jumbo.	J. M. Harvey, Jamestown.
J. H. Vest, Jumbo.	W. C. Brown, Jamestown.
H. F. Vermillion, Melbourne.	W. H. Vest, Culp.



STATISTICAL.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	POSTOFFICE.	Received by Baptism.	Received by Letter.	Recommendation.	Restored.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded.	Died.	Total.	Minute Fund.	Pastor's Salary.	Value of Church Property.	Sunday-School.	Days of Meeting.	No. of Minutes.
Antioch.....	G. L. Foard.....	Green Hill....	Zion.....	6	1	2	2	2	2	2	136	\$ 1.00	\$ 24	\$ 400	1	1	32
Bellvue.....	W. M. Duren.....	D. J. Smith.....	Melbourn.....	8	2	3	1	1	1	1	69	1.50	50	50	3	3	42
City Rock.....	W. H. Vest.....	M. B. Marchant.....	Culp.....	1	5	2	3	2	3	2	24	.50	7	.....	1	1	14
Concord.....	W. M. Duren.....	James H. Bone.....	Barren Fork.....	5	3	2	3	3	3	3	93	1.50	.....	300	1	4	5
Fairview.....	W. M. Duren.....	R. P. Blevins.....	Violet Hill.....	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	60	1.25	40	500	1	4	35
Jamestown.....	J. W. Goodwin.....	J. M. Barnes.....	Jamstown.....	7	4	5	2	2	2	2	131	1.50	100	1000	1	4	46
Melbourne.....	J. L. Brown.....	W. K. Estes.....	Melbourne.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	45	1.50	150	500	1	1	30
Mt. Nebo No. 1.....	M. W. Frizzell.....	W. N. Hailey.....	Violet Hill.....	3	2	1	11	1	1	1	28	.35	.....	250	2	2	10
Mt. Nebo No. 2.....	W. H. Wren.....	W. L. Bramblett.....	Barren Fork.....	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	38	.50	.....	.....	3	3	15
Mt. Pleasant.....	J. P. Lovelace.....	A. T. Felts.....	Sage.....	4	4	1	2	2	2	2	57	.75	25	300	2	2	21
New Hope.....	J. J. Vest.....	T. H. Pate.....	Calico Rock.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13	.50	.....	50	2	2	10
Philadelphia.....	W. M. Duren.....	B. A. Spradlin.....	LaCrosse.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	29	1.00	50	.....	2	2	18
Pilgrim's Rest.....	James Purcelley.....	John H. Sanders.....	Victor.....	31	2	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	98	1.40	38	400	1	1	40
Pleasant Valley.....	S. A. Marchant.....	J. H. Whiteaker.....	Pineville.....	3	.....	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	67	1.00	40	.....	4	4	30
Rocky Bayou.....	H. F. Vermillion.....	J. N. Haley.....	Lunenburg.....	7	4	3	1	1	1	1	71	1.25	50	100	2	2	34
Saint's Rest.....	S. A. Marchant.....	E. Vines.....	Jumbo.....	9	4	2	4	3	3	3	82	1.00	40	250	1	1	30
Unity.....	S. A. Marchant.....	T. F. Thompson.....	Newburg.....	1	2	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	38	.50	17	200	3	3	15
Zion Hill.....	G. L. Foard.....	J. G. Jennings.....	Zion.....	5	6	2	2	3	2	2	102	1.00	40	300	3	3	32
				33	39	5	9	49	14	16	1181	\$18.00	\$671	\$5050	3	3	499

Add number of members reported last year by Pleasant Hill, Table Rock and Walnut Valley, 137—Total, 1318

OBITUARIES.

MARTHA HIGHTOWER.

It is said in every human life, if rightly told, a useful lesson may be conveyed to those that survive. In the long, humble, christian life of Martha Hightower ("Aunt Patsie," as she was familiarly known,) there is everything to love and admire; nothing wanting to make a character deserving commendation. She lived over three score years in this county and left no cloud to obscure or blot to dim the luster of her fair name. A short sketch of her life will furnish some unwritten history and be interesting to many friends.

Martha Downing was born in Warren county, Kentucky, November 13th, 1808. Of her parentage and girlhood days but little is known. Her education was quite limited, but she had a strong mind and good judgment. On April 12th, 1830, near Bowling Green, in her native county, she married William Hightower. Soon after they determined to move west. On her 22nd birthday, November 13, 1830, in company with Joshua Hightower and family (her husband's brother) and the family of the late Judge James Wrenn, she left her native soil never more to return, for the far distant and wild Territory of Arkansas. After a tedious journey of 41 days they arrived on Rocky Bayou, Izard county, on the 24th day of December. Here they met relatives and friends who importuned them not to go further west. After a few months prospecting William Hightower and wife located on what is now known as the Tom Carney place, on Rocky Bayou, above Lunenburg, where life's battles commenced in earnest with them. The country was as nature left it, and few were the conveniences so necessary for man's comfort. Possessed with but little of this world's goods, with a rapidly increasing family, and where everything to eat and wear had to be made at home, developed a self-reliance, economy and industry not known in the latter days. She faced those difficulties with determination and christian grace, and life went on cheerfully with her.

In 1842 they sold their place on Rocky Bayou to the late Andrew Walker and settled on Canye, near where Zion is now, and commenced opening a farm. The progress was slow, and but little was done, when on April 1st, 1846, her husband died, leaving her a poor widow with eleven children—eight boys and three girls, the youngest one month old. To some the prospect was gloomy. After the poignant grief of this sad bereavement passed away, with renewed faith that the "virtuous were never forsaken or their seed begging bread," that God's extended hand was always opened to all that loved and served Him and tried to help themselves. With the industry and economy she had learned in

earlier days, and with the aid her children could give, she raised her large family to full maturity and useful man and womanhood.

Just as the much-needed and coveted rest from toil was in sight, the war, with all its horrors, burst upon the country. By and with her consent the eight boys, true to their southern blood, joined the Confederate army. This sacrifice was great, but patriotism and her country's altar needed it. Three never returned, falling martyrs to a just but lost cause. These were the first of her children to die. Two of them had young families, and these she moved into her own cabin and aided in clothing, feeding and nursing them as if her own.

She was a true christian, proving her faith by her daily walk and works, doubtless the oldest Baptist in the country, and had been a constant working member of that church over sixty-five years.

She joined the church when a girl, before her marriage, and brought her church letter to Izard county. There was no Baptist church near, and desiring church association and communion, her and her husband placed their letters temporarily with a newly organized Cumberland Presbyterian church at Jehoiada Jeffery's, above Mt. Olive, on White river—this being the nearest organized church to them—in 1831.

In the summer of 1834 the settlement built a small log cabin on Rocky Bayou, below where Lunenburg now is, and that fall a few Baptist met at the cabin and by the aid of a few ministers who came for the occasion, organized the Rocky Bayou Baptist church with eight members, William Hightower and wife being two of the eight. This was the first Baptist church ever organized in this county and perhaps in the northern part of the state. From this little band of christians who met in that humble cabin in the woods on the bank of Rocky Bayou, the Baptist Association had its origin. With what success the efforts of these humble eight christians were crowned the church statistics may show. In the early winter of 1844 Rev. Henry McElmurry, a noted Baptist minister from Missouri, settled on Piney Fork. Being an energetic church worker he saw the necessity of a church nearer, there being none. Through his efforts a few Baptist met at his new home on the first day of September, 1844, selected Rev. David Orr Moderator, William B. Kerr Clerk, and organized the Baptist church at Antioch, with 14 members. After invoking Divine blessings on the newly organized church a petition was drawn up, asking the Rocky Bayou Association, which was to meet with the Rocky Bayou church on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1844, for the reception of Antioch church in the union and fellowship of the Association. The vote for admission was unanimous, and as soon as Antioch church was securely in the fold of the Association William Hightower and wife ("Aunt Patsie") placed their membership with this church in which they remained nearly 50 years. She was present at its organization, and when it was admitted into the Association. While health and strength lasted she attended services there and communed with many of the noted Baptist divines of Arkansas. She was a silent but working member. Her children were devoted to her, sought her counsel and obeyed every wish or desire, if possible. They are all honest, sober, industrious citizens, content to be tillers of the soil.

Her burdens through a long life were heavy; the trials, hardships and privations were borne with cheerfulness. Wherever distress or sorrow, from sickness or other cause, needed a comforter, if in her reach, she was one of the first to respond. Her cheerful countenance and soothing hand has dispelled the gloom

and brightened the countenance of many a sufferer. Her widows mite was cheerfully and freely given to every object of charity in her reach.

For years life's decaying energies were slowly sinking; age destroyed her activity, yet her mind retained its vigor until near the end. By an accidental fall, which caused her great pain she was almost entirely confined to her couch for over a year, but never complained during this long confinement. Her devoted children supplied every want, smoothed every wrinkle and made life as comfortable as they could. For weeks life flickered as an exhausted lamp, the spirit seemed unwilling to leave its tenement of clay. Sleepless eyes were around her couch, hourly expecting the final summons, when on the morning of July 30th, 1894, when she was surrounded by her children, a voice from the Spirit Land whispered:

"Child of the dust, come home;
The golden chain is broken!
Rise, O soul, and stretch thy wing,
Thy better portion trace;
Rise from transitory things
To Heaven, thy native place!"

And the voice said write: "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, from henceforth; yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them."

"Aunt Patsie" was no more. By her request she was buried in the cemetery at Antioch, where she had worshiped so many years. Six living children—four boys and two girls—are left; all worthy members of the Baptist church. Had 78 grand children, 57 now living; 81 great-grand-children, 58 living. Many of these are members of the Baptist church. Verily her good works and walk follow her.

JAMES E. DUREN.

James E. Duren was born in Dyer county, Tennessee. His father and mother died when he was small and he was raised by his grandmother.

He professed faith in Christ when young and joined the Missionary Baptist Church in the Forked Deer Association. He was licensed to preach and preached his first sermon in Gibson county, Tenn., in the house of Mordecai Halliburton, and came to Izard county, Ark., in 1842 with N. Baker and settled at the pond known as the Kettle Pond in 1844. He was married July, 1848, to Lucinda McElmurry. He was in the organization of Antioch Church, and was ordained by said church to the Gospel Ministry in April, 1852, the presbytery being Elders Henry McElmurry and John H. Baker. Through his labors the Zion Hill Church was organized, of which he lived a consistent member until his death, which occurred May 15, 1894, after an illness of several days with heart disease, being 73 years, 3 months and 3 days old, having spent 52 years of his life in the ministry. He died as he had often counseled others to live—that they might not at death have to repent of their misspent life. He seemed to bear his afflictions without murmur or complaint and was ready to meet that Jesus whom he had preached so long.

His wife and three children had passed over the River of Death before him, and with joy and gladness have put on the crown of righteousness. He has two sons, Elder W. M. Duren and Dr. H. C. Duren, and one daughter, the wife of A. N. McNairn, to mourn their loss, which is his eternal gain.

The church has sustained a great loss, Bro. Duren being an old pioneer in this country and always a leader in every good work when a call was made either for missions or charity. Bro. Duren was Moderator of Rocky Bayou Baptist Association several times during his life.

Elder W. M. Duren is a flag-bearer of the blessed Jesus which his father so faithfully held up.

We feel that we have sustained a great loss, indeed, but we pray God to reconcile both church and relatives to His will, knowing it is his eternal gain.

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