



Goshen Primitive Baptist Church (Wilton, Mo.) Minute Book (C4335)

Collection Number: C4335

Collection Title: Goshen Primitive Baptist Church (Wilton, Mo.) Minute Book

Dates: 1832-1888

Creator: Goshen Primitive Baptist Church (Wilton, Mo.)

Abstract: A photocopied minute book of the Goshen Primitive Baptist Church, containing the church constitution, meeting minutes, appointments of officers, and information on church members.

Collection Size: 0.2 cubic feet
(4 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia](https://www.shsmo.org/research-center-columbia). If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: Materials in this collection are in the public domain.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Goshen Primitive Baptist Church (Wilton, Mo.) Minute Book* (C4335); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The minute book was donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Shirley Fulkerson O'Toole on August 13, 1987 (Accession No. CA2674).

Existence and Location of Originals: The location of the original minute book is unknown.

Processed by: Processed by John Konzal, September 26, 2017. Finding aid revised by Autumn Cuddy on December 13, 2023.

Historical Note:

On August 9, 1832, fifteen people active in the Salem Baptist Association met to discuss the building of a new church in Wilton, Missouri. Using the Salem constitution as a model for

governance, the Goshen Church of Christ was founded on September 21, 1832. Elder Berryman Wren, one of the founding members, became the first minister. The other founding members were Issac Wilcoxon, Rebecca Wilcoxon, William Matthews, Helen Matthews, Samuel Wilcoxon, Millie Wilcoxon, Ezekiel Wilcoxon, Perry Spencer, Elisa Spencer, Nancy Bittle, Susan Collier, and Mary Jamieson.

Elder Wren was born in North Carolina, came to Missouri in 1819, and was licensed to preach in 1821. The church grew from 12 members to 82 by the time Elder Wren died in 1867.

The original church building was auctioned off and replaced in 1875 to accommodate the growth of the congregation. Three additions, including a baptistery, have been added, the first in 1953. The church is situated down the hill from the original building.

Additional pastors of note include Elders Gregg Thompson, B.F. Querry, and Loyd Sapp. Thompson had once been excluded from his Ohio church before the Civil War for keeping score at a ballgame, a sinful act. He later fought with Stonewall Jackson's army and became one of the first Primitive Baptist ministers to join the Masonic Order. Elder Thompson came to Goshen in 1881 and served until his death in 1888.

In 1890, the church had almost dissolved when, for reasons still vague, it divided into two separate bodies. For five years, each would lock the door on the other. When the issues were finally settled, one of the interim ministers was Sterling Glascock.

Elder Querry served from 1901 until he died in 1919. He led Goshen to robust growth. In 1919, the church had 220 members. Elder Loyd Sapp followed Querry as pastor in 1920 and remained until his death 45 years later, making him the longest serving pastor. The church continues to operate in Wilton, Missouri, to the present day.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged chronologically.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection contains materials related to the operation of Goshen Primitive Baptist Church in Wilton, Missouri, including rules and guidelines, meeting minutes, appointment records, and membership information, 1832-1888.

Container List:

- f. 1 Rules of Decorum, Proceedings of the Baptist Church of Christ, Church Constitution, Meeting Minutes, 1832-1844
- f. 2 Meeting Minutes, Letters of Dismission, 1844-1860
- f. 3 Appointments of church officers, Meeting Minutes, including charges of improper/immoral conduct, against the joining of a "Secret Human Institution," 1860-1879
- f. 4 Constitution-Statement of Religious Beliefs, Exclusion of Church Member, Raising of Money by Subscription to Pay Off Church Debt, Letters of Dismission, Reception of Members, 1880-1888.

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