



Bethel Baptist Church (Boone County, Mo.) Records (C4491)

Collection Number: C4491

Collection Title: Bethel Baptist Church (Boone County, Mo.) Records

Dates: 1817-1827, 1858-1859, 1898

Creator: Bethel Baptist Church

Abstract: Record book of Bethel Baptist Church from 1817-1827, includes founding articles; membership information; monthly business meeting notes; and records on the establishment of Walnut Grove Academy from 1858-1859. Two letters of dismission provided by members of the church, and three letters to a member of the church or academy, with unknown relevance.

Collection Size: 0.2 cubic feet
(2 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] *Bethel Baptist Church (Boone County, Mo.) Records* (C4491); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The records were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by the Genealogical Society of Central Missouri through Timothy Dollens on June 10, 2011 (Accession No. CA6281).

Alternate Forms Available: The collection has been digitized and is available online in the Genealogy and Family History digital collection:
<https://digital.shsmo.org/digital/collection/genealogy/id/6079/rec/1>.

Processed by: Processed by Jara Anderson on May 25, 2022.

Historical Note:

Bethel Church was founded on June 28, 1817, making it the oldest church organization in Boone County. The church was constituted by William Thorpe and David McClain, and five original members signed the church covenant: Anderson Woods, Betsy Woods, David McQuitty, John Turner, and James Harris. The first building was erected in 1818, approximately twelve miles west of Columbia and eight miles north of Rocheport, in Boone County, Missouri. In 1835, the Baptist denomination was split due to disputes regarding missionaries going to foreign countries. After many members left Bethel Church, the remaining members reorganized the church and named it Walnut Grove Church in 1836. Walnut Grove Academy was founded by the members of Walnut Grove Church in 1858. Its purpose was to serve as an educational facility.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following series:

Records

Scope and Content Note:

The record book contains information related to Bethel Church's founding, membership, and organization from 1817-1827. Entries include the articles of faith and church discipline; minutes from monthly business meetings; names of new and departing members; members appointed to various roles within the church; decisions regarding donations to the association; summaries of communications with sister churches requesting ministerial aid; grievances or reports of misconduct by members, such as intoxication, improper language, or enslaved persons running away. The book also contains the founding articles for the Walnut Grove Academy and minutes from trustees' meetings, dated 1858-1859. The record book has inconsistencies in how names are spelled and sections with illegible writing. Two letters of dismission sent to the church by members are included in the collection, as well as three letters to Margarette Sampson. Sampson was likely related to a member of the Walnut Grove Academy's trustees, but the connection of the letters to the church is unknown.

Container List:

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