

## Information Sheet

**R Pleasant Grove United Baptist Church (Iron County, Mo.).**  
**400 Records, 1856-1972.**  
**Three volumes.**

### **MICROFILM**

This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri](http://The State Historical Society of Missouri). If you would like more information, please contact us at [shsresearch@umsystem.edu](mailto:shsresearch@umsystem.edu).

These are record books of the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church near Viburnum in Iron County, Missouri. The records include minutes of meetings and membership rolls beginning with the organization of the church on 12 April 1856 and continuing through its dissolution on 15 October 1972.

The Pleasant Grove Church was formed in 1856 by fourteen individuals living in what was then Washington County. The area became part of Iron County in 1857. The Faulkner, Finison, and Mason families were prominent among the charter members of the church. Nelson Adams was elected pastor and Joshua Mason church clerk, positions which they held for many years. Pleasant Grove Church was affiliated with the Bethel Baptist Association until 1859, when it was dismissed to become a charter member of the Central Missouri Association of United Baptists. The young church managed to survive the Civil War, although no services were held from September through December 1864, the period of Sterling Price's Missouri raid. The minutes note the suspension of services "due to the troubles of the War." In the postwar period, the church was active in organizing Baptist churches in Crawford, Dent, Iron, and Washington counties. The church reached its greatest membership in the 1920s, but there was a gradual decline thereafter. By the time of the last meeting of the church on 15 October 1972, only six members remained.

The records of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church consist of three record books containing the minutes of monthly church business meetings and membership records. The records are complete with the exception of an unexplained gap from May 1930 to September 1931. The minutes include routine business matters such as the admission and transfer of members, appointments of church officials and of delegates to associational meetings, and the administration of church property. The records also include notations regarding disruptions of "the peace of the church" and doctrinal disputes, some of which led to the expulsion of members. Although most of the incidents occurred in the early period of the church, there was an instance in 1972 in which six members were excluded for heresy. The expulsions took place only two weeks before the church was discontinued due to a lack of members.

r476                      31 May 1990                      Lorene Eaton                      Loaned for microfilming

### Shelf List

These are record books of the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church near Viburnum in Iron County, Missouri. The records include minutes of meetings and membership records beginning with the organization of the church on 12 April 1856 and continuing through its dissolution on 15 October 1972.

Volume 1: Record book, 12 April 1856 -- 18 December 1878 (152 pages).

Volume 2: Record book, 18 January 1879 -- 10 May 1930 (300 pages).

Volume 3: Record book, September 1931 -- 15 October 1972 (296 pages).

r476                      31 May 1990                      Lorene Eaton                      Loaned for microfilming

**Index Cards**

Adams, David.  
Adams, Nelson.  
Asher, Elizabeth.  
Baptists, United.  
Churches, Baptist—Missouri—Iron County.  
Churches—Missouri—Crawford County.  
Churches—Missouri—Iron County.  
Churches—Missouri—Washington County.  
Crawford County (Mo.).  
Dent County (Mo.).  
Duncan, John.  
Faulkner, John.  
Faulkner, Martha.  
Finison, Malinda.  
Finison, Rebecca.  
Finison, Robert C.  
Finison, Samuel.  
Fillam, Nancy.  
Harris, John.  
Harris, Mary.  
Henslie, Jesse F.  
Iron County (Mo.).  
Mason, David C.  
Mason, Elizabeth.  
Mason, Foster J.  
Mason, Joshua.  
Mason, Marina Ann.  
Mason, Sally C.  
McCracken, Peter.  
Pleasant Grove United Baptist Church.  
Polk, William.  
Pullum, Kinchem.  
Rural churches—Missouri—Iron County.  
Stark, Sarah.  
Thomas, Sally.  
Turner, Rebecca.  
Viburnum (Mo.).  
Washington County (Mo.).  
Yoeder, George.