



Old Path Association of Baptist Churches Records (R0646)

Collection Number: R0646

Collection Title: Old Path Association of Baptist Churches Records

Dates: 1896-1949

Creator: Old Path Association of Baptist Churches (Missouri)

Abstract: The Old Path Association of Baptist Churches Records contain microfilm copies of annual session minutes of the Old Path Association of Baptist Churches in Benton, Hickory, Polk, and St. Clair counties in Missouri. Included are minutes of the meetings, the articles of faith, rules of decorum, lists of churches, officers, and representatives, statistical information, and correspondence with other associations.

Collection Size: (1 roll of microfilm)

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-Rolla](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at rolla@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Old Path Association of Baptist Churches Records* (R0646); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

Donor Information: This collection was loaned for microfilming to the University of Missouri by the Benton County Museum, Warsaw, Missouri on November 6, 1998 (Accession No. RA0712).

Processed by: Processed by John F. Bradbury, March 1, 1999. Revised by Aaron Schmidt, May 2020.

Historical Note:

Baptist associations are voluntary organizations of churches of the same faith and order. They are formed regionally and sometimes include churches from several contiguous counties. Churches maintain independence but convene annually with representatives from each church in the association. The annual meetings last two or three days, usually in late summer or fall, and are hosted by member churches on a rotating basis. Moderators preside over associational meetings, whose delegates discuss doctrinal matters and the state of churches in the association and prepare correspondence for exchange with other associations. Minutes of the annual sessions are printed for distribution to churches and corresponding associations. The printed booklets include the articles of faith, bylaws, and rules of decorum, proceedings of the annual association, statistical information on constituent churches and Sunday schools, lists of ministers and officers, death notices, statements of contributions and expenses, and the doctrinal letters prepared for exchange.

The Old Path Association of Baptist Churches was composed of churches in Benton, Hickory, and Polk counties in Missouri. The church at Wright's Creek in Saint Clair County was a member through 1918. Twelve to fifteen churches made up the association during the 1890s to 1950, with a combined membership of about 1,500 individuals. The largest churches were those at Bethel, Beshears Valley, Hogles Creek, Linly Creek, Olive Point, and Weaubleau. The smallest church was Hopewell, with only twenty-five members recorded.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged in a single series:

Meeting Minutes

Scope and Content Note:**Meeting Minutes**

This series contains the records of the Old Path Association. The records consist of thirty-seven booklets beginning with minutes of the 1896 session and continuing through that of 1949. There are no minutes for 1935-1943. Included with the records from Old Path are booklets, probably received by exchange, from the Benton County (1904), Mount Zion (1928), and Saint Clair County (1927) associations. The series is arranged by association.

Container List:

- f. 1-4 Meeting Minutes
- Box 001 f. 1 Minutes of the Old Path Association of Baptist Churches, 1896-1949
- f. 2 Minute book of the Benton County Baptist Association, 1904
- f. 3 Minute book of the Mount Zion Association of Primitive Baptists, 1928
- f. 4 Minute book of the St. Clair County Baptist Association, 1927

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