

Henry County, Minutes of the Lick Creek Baptist Church, 1835–1848

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In late 1834 or early 1835 Henry County pioneers, led by Aaron Ballard, Aaron Evans, David Frazer, and others, founded the Lick Creek Baptist Church in Prairie Township, just north of New Castle, Indiana.¹ Like any Baptist church of the time it was to be autonomous, making its own rules and decisions, although it communicated with a local Baptist association.² From May 1835 to October 1848, the church maintained records of its monthly business meetings in the form of minutes. (No record exists for the period from November 1848 until October 1862, when the congregation met one last time in order to dissolve the church.) These documents are now held by the Henry County Historical Society in New Castle. The minutes reveal names of members and pastors, dates of and methods by which the members were received into or left the church, and information regarding the establishment and organization of the church.

A brief history of the church appears in the fall/winter 2008 issue of *The Hoosier Genealogist: Connections*.³ The church's minutes have been summarized and appear below. Months in which minutes were not recorded are indicated, and other editorial additions or corrections are indicated in brackets. The notation "routine meeting" means that the minutes indicate the group met for business, but no business was actually recorded. Names are spelled as they appear in the minutes, and the spelling of the names varies within the minutes.

Notes

1. The Minutes of the Lick Creek Baptist Church, Henry County Historical Society, New Castle, Indiana, 5, 7; Henry County, Indiana, Deed Records, Book 1, 94–95.
2. John F. Cady, *The Origin and Development of the Missionary Baptist Church in Indiana* (Berne, IN: Berne Witness, 1942), 27; Timothy Mahon, "The Joys and Frustrations of Researching Indiana Baptist Records," *The Hoosier Genealogist* 42, no. 3 (Fall 2002): 138; Minutes, 10, 20, 23, 27, 31, 34, 36, 40.

3. James B. Cash, “History in Church Minutes: The Rise and Fall of the Lick Creek Baptist Church, Henry County, 1835–1848,” *The Hoosier Genealogist: Connections* (fall/winter 2008): 88–95.

Minutes of the Lick Creek Baptist Church, 1835–1848

MAY 1835

Met after service at Nettle Creek church. Aaron **Ballard**, Aaron **Evans**, Nancy **Stewart**, and Nancy **Manning** were charter members. William **Crawford**, Rhoda **Crawford**, Lucinda **Crawford**, and Martha **Hamelton** received by letter; Nancy **Ballard** and Nancy **Simmons** received by experience.

JULY 1835

Met at Lick Creek. Maryann and David **Harter** and Nancy **Stewart** received by experience.

NOVEMBER 1835

Lucinda **Lighthizer** received by letter. Met at brother **Crawford**'s.

MARCH 1836

“Brethren **Ballard** and **Harter**” appointed to view site for church.

APRIL 1836

Charles **Gough**, Abigail **Gough**, and Andrew **Stewart** received by experience. Brethren agreed to a site on Lick Branch Creek, a tributary of the Blue River.

MAY 1836

David and Sarah **Frazer** received by letter.

JUNE 1836

Received Samuel **Evans**, Aaron **Evans**, Able **Chany**, and Edith **Chany** by letter. Henry **Millikan** and Elizabeth **Millikan** also received. **Ballard** to receive title bond for land for meeting house. David **Frazer** for clerk.

JULY 1836

Brother **Longfellow** received into church.

AUGUST 1836

Mary **Longfellow** received by experience; George **Koonce** and his wife Mary **Koonce** received by letter.

SEPTEMBER 1836

Elizabeth **Simmons** received by letter. Agreed to apply for a constitution and agreed to the abstract of principles held by the Nettle Creek church. Appointed “Brethren **Ballard Frazer & Goff**” to request a dismissal from Nettle Creek. Appointed Brethren **Longfellow** to Lebanon church, “**Millikan** and **Koonce**” to Nettle Creek church, “**Frazer** to Simons Creek,” and John **Evans** to Milton, to invite these other churches to meet with the Lick Creek group to review “the propriety or impropriety” of Lick Creek’s forming its own church.

OCTOBER 1836

Church covenant signed.

Brothers Names

Aaron **Ballard**
David **Harter**
Andrew **Stewart**
Charles **Gough**
David **Frazer**
Aaron **Evans**
Samuel **Evans**
Henry **Millikin**
Able **Chany**
William **Longfellow**
George **Koonce**

Sisters Names

Nancy **Ballard**
Maryan **Harter**
Nancy **Stewart**
Martha **Hambleton**
Nancy **Maning**
Lucinda **Lighthizer**
Abigail **Gough**
Sarah **Frazer**
Elizabeth **Milikin**
Edith **Chany**
Mary **Longfellow**
Mary **Koonce**
Elizabeth **Simmons**

Jesse **Mellet**, David **Taylor**, John **Evans**; Deacons John **Hays**, Arthur **Mellet**, John F. **Johnson**; Charles **Mellet**, Larken **Cleland**, John G. **Miller**, Stephen **Taylor**, Ralph **Shaw**, Samuel **Freeman**, and Right **Spradlin** signed for the Presbytery.

DECEMBER 1836

Joseph **Nixon**, Lorancy **Luce**, Johnathan **Longfellow** received by letter. Named Aaron **Ballard**, clerk; for deacon, “Deacon **Frazur**.” Brother **Ballard** appointed to write the abstract of principles. John **Evans** chosen to serve as pastor for one year.

JANUARY 1837

Mary **Foreman** received by letter. Sister **Lighthozer** wished to be baptized again. John **Evans** agreed to serve as pastor. Brother **Nixon** given license “to exercise his gifts where god in his providence may cast his lot.”

FEBRUARY 1837

John **Evans** chosen moderator for the day and Jonathan **Longfellow** clerk of the day.

MARCH 1837

John **Evans** chosen moderator of the day. The church “say the book be left where they do business only when occasion requires the clerk to have liberty to take it home with him.”

APRIL 1837

Brother **Nixon** chosen as moderator for the day. Next meeting to be at home of D. **Frazer**. Meeting determined the Decorum be revised; committee appointed Samuel **Evans**, D. **Frazer** and A. **Ballard**.

MAY 1837

Brother **Nixon** chosen moderator for the day.

JUNE 1837

Brother **Nixon** chosen moderator for the day. Church questioned “whether or not we shall attach ourselves to an association body” and agreed to remain as is for one year.

JULY 1837

J. **Mellet** chosen moderator for the day. “Brother **Mellet**” chosen to administer communion if John **Evans** fails to attend.

SEPTEMBER 1837

“Brother **Nixon**” chosen moderator for the day. Next meeting to be at Charles **Gough**’s.

OCTOBER 1837

John **Evans** chosen moderator for the day. James **Barnard**, wife Anna **Barnard**, and daughter Jemima **Barnard** joined by letter.

NOVEMBER 1837

John **Evans** chosen moderator for the day. Sarah **Mccombs** joined by letter. Church to “make charge of a minister to serve us” at next meeting. John **Evans** given liberty to enquire of David **Frazer** “whether he had circulated certain reports about him reproaching him with rotten armenian stuff, &c. with out having taken the gospel steps which was made appear.”

DECEMBER 1837

John **Evans** chosen moderator of the day. Church to take up rules of Decorum for possible revision. John **Evans** to serve as pastor and Aaron **Ballard** as clerk for one year. Church decided David **Frazer** acted contrary to gospel order and refused to make satisfaction; dropped from fellowship.

JANUARY 1838

John **Evans** chosen moderator of the day.

FEBRUARY 1838

Church met at Brother **Gough**’s. John **Evans** chosen moderator for the day. Church took up case of Sarah **Frazer** and Martha **Hambleton**, who had declared unfellowship with the church and its travel last meeting; both wished to discontinue as members. James **Barnard** chosen as deacon. Church took up case of Joseph **Nixon**, who had charged John **Evans** with making statements in preaching contrary to doctrine and who had expressed unfellowship. Nixon, “not having taken the steps which the church consider the gospel rule requires & refuses to make satisfaction to the church,” excluded from fellowship. Andrew **Stewart** and Nancy **Stewart**’s unfellowship referred to next meeting.

MARCH 1838

John **Evans** chosen moderator for the day. George **Millikin** received by letter. Case of Andrew **Stewart** and Nancy **Stewart** deferred to next meeting; George **Koonce**, James **Barnard**, and William **Longfellow** appointed to labor with them and report back next meeting. Church agreed to elect trustees and hold election next meeting and add one rule to Decorum next month. William **Crawford** and Rhoda **Crawford** received by letter.

APRIL 1838

John **Evans** appointed moderator for the day. Committee appointed to labor with Andrew **Stewart** and Nancy **Stewart** reported them still in unfellowship with the church; as a result, “the church exclude them.” Jonathan **Longfellow**, having moved away from the area, requested and was granted a letter of dismission.

MAY 1838

John **Evans** chosen as moderator for the day. James **Barnard**, Samuel **Evans**, and Aaron **Ballard** elected trustees for church property. Article 13 of Decorum revised: “where it says if any report, they say If any report reproaching the cause &c.”

[No record of meeting June 1838 to March 1839.]

APRIL 1839

John **Evans** appointed moderator for the day. Alexander **Millikan** chosen trustee.

MAY 1839

John **Evans** appointed moderator for the day.

JUNE 1839

John **Evans** appointed moderator for the day; on motion made moderator for the year.

JULY 1839

Messengers appointed to bear a letter to the church’s next association. Alexander **Millikan**, James **Barnard**, and Aaron **Ballard** (also clerk) appointed to write the letter and present it at next meeting. Church agreed to send the following query: “does this association consider it good order for A church to take up the complaints of excluded persons against the church that excluded them to deal with [this]? We wish your council in this matter.”

AUGUST 1839

Maryann **Idings** received by experience. Letter for association read and received by the church.

SEPTEMBER 1839

Susanna **Evans**, Elizaann **Longfellow**, and Nancy **Longfellow** received by experience and baptism.

OCTOBER 1839

Routine meeting

NOVEMBER 1839

William **Crawford** and Rhoda **Crawford** requested “a letter of Dismission”; letter granted.

DECEMBER 1839

James **Barnard** appointed moderator for the day. John **Evans** called to serve as pastor for one year. Aaron **Ballard** appointed clerk for one year.

JANUARY 1840

James **Barnard** appointed moderator for the day. Letter to be sent to John **Evans** on calling to be pastor. Aaron **Ballard** and Henry **Millikan** chosen to present letter to Evans.

FEBRUARY 1840

Meeting held at George **Koonce**’s. Ira **Granger** received by letter.

MARCH 1840

Church met in fellowship, then adjourned until following morning. When reconvened, Susan **Perkins** received by letter.

APRIL 1840

Routine meeting

MAY 1840

Alexander **Millikan** appointed moderator for the day. Samuel **Evans** requested letter of dismissal; letter granted.

JUNE 1840

Routine meeting

JULY 1840

Routine meeting

AUGUST 1840

Clerk appointed to write a letter to the association. Alexander **Millikan**, James **Barnard**, and Aaron **Ballard** appointed to deliver letter.

SEPTEMBER 1840

Elijah **Dikes** received by experience and baptism.

OCTOBER 1840

“Brother **Granger**” chosen moderator for the day. Aaron **Evans** chosen clerk pro tem.

NOVEMBER 1840

Routine meeting

DECEMBER 1840

John **Evans** called to serve as pastor for one year. Aaron **Ballard** appointed clerk for one year.

JANUARY 1841

“There was not enough members to organize.”

FEBRUARY 1841

Aaron **Evans** chosen clerk for the day.

MARCH 1841

“We did not organize being only four in no. that met.”

APRIL 1841

David **Koonse** received by experience. “Our sacrament” postponed until next meeting.

MAY 1841

James **Barnard** chosen moderator for the day.

JUNE 1841

Routine meeting

JULY 1841

Routine meeting

AUGUST 1841

Johnathan **Longfellow** received by letter. Ebenezer **Longfellow** received by experience. Clerk appointed to write and letter to the association, and messengers appointed to deliver letter.

SEPTEMBER 1841

Letter to association accepted. Lorancy **Luce** and Gemina E. **Longfellow** appointed to visit Abigail **Gaugh** “to council with her and know the reason of her absenting herself so long from church.”

OCTOBER 1841

Those appointed to visit Abigail **Gough** made report; in attendance, she “professes an unfellowship . . . in consequence of her former acts.” Church decided to wait on her exclusion until next meeting “to see if she cannot be reconciled.”

NOVEMBER 1841

Abigail **Gough** appeared and expressed unfellowship. Church agreed to exclude her. Nancy **Longfellow** reported as acting contrary to discipline. Elizabeth **Millikan** and Nancy **Ballard** appointed to visit her and report at next meeting.

DECEMBER 1841

James **Barnard** appointed moderator for the day. Nancy **Longfellow** refused to give satisfaction; dropped from fellowship. John **Evans** called as pastor and Aaron **Ballard** as clerk for one year.

JANUARY 1842

James **Barnard** appointed moderator for the day.

MARCH 1842

John F. **Johnson** chosen moderator and A. **Evans** clerk for the day.

APRIL 1842

Routine meeting

MAY 1842

Routine meeting

JUNE 1842

Routine meeting

JULY 1842

Lawrence **Gaugh** and Rhoda **Pearce** received by experience.

AUGUST 1842

A. **Millikan** appointed moderator for the day. A. **Ballard** appointed to write letter to association.

SEPTEMBER 1842

Letter to association read and accepted. James **Barnard**, Alexander **Millikan**, and Aaron **Ballard** appointed to carry it to association.

OCTOBER 1842

I. **Granger** chosen moderator and Aaron **Evans** clerk pro tem.

NOVEMBER 1842

Preamble to Decorum presented to church and adopted.

DECEMBER 1842

A. **Millikan** chosen moderator for the day. John **Evans** called to serve as pastor. Aaron **Ballard** chosen clerk for one year.

JANUARY 1843

Aaron **Evans** appointed clerk for the day.

FEBRUARY 1843

J. **Barnard** chosen moderator for the day.

MARCH 1843

Alexander **Millikin** appointed moderator for the day.

APRIL 1843

Routine meeting

MAY 1843

Routine meeting

JUNE 1843

Routine meeting

JULY 1843

A. **Ballard** appointed to write a letter to the association and present it at next meeting.

AUGUST 1843

Letter to association read and approved. Alexander **Millikan**, J. **Barnard**, and A. **Ballard** appointed to deliver letter.

SEPTEMBER 1843

Routine meeting

OCTOBER 1843

Church took up request of Greensborough Church for council to meet them at home of J. **Barnard** “to examine their covenant & abstract principals of faith.” J. **Barnard**, W. **Longfellow**, A. **Evans**, E. **Dikes**, and A. **Ballard** appointed representatives.

[No record of meeting November 1843 to November 1844.]

DECEMBER 1844

C. **Mellet** chosen moderator for the day.

JANUARY 1845

C. **Mellet** chosen moderator for the day.

[No record of meeting in February 1845.]

MARCH 1845

J. R. **Longfellow** to serve as moderator for the day.

APRIL 1845

Susania **Perkins** requested letter of dismissal; letter granted.

MAY 1845

Routine meeting

JUNE 1845

Susana **Perkins** “returned her letter back again.”

[No record of meeting in July 1845.]

AUGUST 1845

Elijah **Dykes** requested letter of dismissal; letter granted. David **Koons**, David **Harter**, and A. **Ballard** appointed messengers to the association. Church resolved to inquire directly whether Martha **Hambleton** received by Lebanon [Baptist] Church, “she being excluded from our fellowship.” George **Koons**, Henry **Millikin**, and William **Longfellow** appointed to investigate and report at next meeting.

SEPTEMBER 1845

Investigation concluded; Martha **Hamelton** joined Lebanon church. Henry **Millikan** and Elizabeth **Millikan** requested dismissal; granted.

OCTOBER 1845

Routine meeting

NOVEMBER 1845

William B. **Millikan** received by letter. John **Evans** called as pastor for one year, and Aaron **Ballard** appointed clerk.

[No record of meeting in December 1845.]

JANUARY 1846

Routine meeting

FEBRUARY 1846

Routine meeting

[No record of meeting in March 1846.]

APRIL 1846

Routine meeting

MAY 1846

Agreed to elect at next meeting three trustees to hold deeds of conveyance for the church.

JUNE 1846

Aaron **Ballard**, Aaro [*sic*] **Evans**, and Johnathan R. **Longfellow** elected trustees.

JULY 1846

Church stated it does not represent the West River Association, “either by letter or messenger for the present year.” William **Millikan** requested and granted dismissal.

AUGUST 1846

Routine meeting

[No record of meeting in September 1846.]

OCTOBER 1846

Routine meeting

[No record of meeting in November 1846.]

DECEMBER 1846

A. **Ballard** appointed moderator for the day. John **Evans** called as pastor for one year; Aaron **Ballard** clerk for one year. Aaron **Evans** to let John **Evans** to know he has been called.

[No record of meeting in January or February 1847.]

MARCH 1847

Determined “meeting house stands partly on a different tract of land from that which it was intended.” Trustees ordered to “take a leace of a suitable portion of land for a number of years so as to secure to the church their meetinghouse.”

APRIL 1847

Aaron **Ballard** appointed “to superintend the building of the graveyard fence, which is to be done by subscription.”

[No record of meeting in May 1847.]

JUNE 1847

A. **Ballard** appointed moderator for the day. William A. **Thompson** called to serve as pastor for one year. Clerk appointed to write to him, and J. R. **Longfellow**, D. **Harter**, and A. **Ballard** appointed to deliver letter.

[No record of meeting July 1847 to April 1848.]

MAY 1848

Building of graveyard fence held up until collections made. Alexande[r] **Millikan** questioned which association the church should represent. Agreed to send letter to Whitewater Association; A. **Ballard** appointed to write letter for inspection next meeting. Ira **Granger** dropped from fellowship for becoming a member of another denomination. J. R. **Longfellow**, Aaron **Evans**, and A. **Ballard** appointed to bear letter to association.

[No record of meeting in June or July 1848.]

AUGUST 1848

Letter to association presented and accepted.

[No record of meeting in September 1848.]

OCTOBER 1848

Aaron **Evans** chosen moderator for the day. Susana **Perkins**, Aalexander [*sic*] **Millikan**, and his wife Elizabeth **Millikan** dropped from fellowship for becoming members of another church.

[No record of meeting November 1848 to September 1862.]

OCTOBER 1862

Aaron **Evans** chosen moderator for the day and A. **Ballard** clerk for the day. Church dissolved on motion and letter granted for each member.

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