

Shelby County, Church Records of the Mount Gilead Baptist Church, 1840–1866

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On July 18, 1840, a group of congregants of the Concord Baptist Church decided to leave their present church and form a new fellowship. The new church was to be called Mount Gilead Baptist Church. This decision was based on the statement that they were “dissatisfied with the faith and practices of the majority of that church [Concord] in consequence of there [*sic*] encouraging the Mission System holding unruly members,” and that that they “felt a desire to enter into Constitution . . . held by the primitive Baptist Church.”¹ So saying, the new church, located in Shelby County, Indiana, began keeping a record of its business. The Indiana Historical Society’s William Henry Smith Memorial Library holds the minute book for the Mount Gilead Baptist Church. The front matter of the minute book consists of the 1840 Charter, church membership lists, and the church’s Confession of Faith and Rules of Adherence. The rest of the book is filled with the minutes of the monthly council meetings. In between its usual business, are recorded the calling of church officers and the welcoming of new members.²

On October 27, 1866, it was decided in council to dissolve the church. No explanation is given about this decision, and it was not even hinted at until the October meeting. Nonetheless, it was officially voted upon and passed during the following meeting, presumably in November. Thereafter the minute book was turned over to the care of Brother John M. Smith.³

Below are two lists compiled from the Minute Book of the Mount Gilead Baptist Church. The first list presents the names of the people who left Concord Baptist Church to form Mount Gilead in 1840. Directly following is another list of names of people who left during the life of the church. Some partings were a result of death while others are listed as “dismissed by letter,” probably to move to another Primitive Baptist church. One is listed as Excluded, and several do not state how they left the congregation.⁴ The names have been arranged in alphabetical order by last name. Page numbers listed in the Notes refer to pagination in the council minutes, not in the front matter.

Notes

1. Mount Gilead Baptist Church Minute Book, 1840–1866, SC 2603, Indiana Historical Society.
2. *Ibid.*, Church business, 49; Calling of church officers, 1–3, 49; New members: 6.
3. *Ibid.*, 105, 106. The entry in which dissolution is voted on does not record the date, although this meeting may have taken place on the fourth Saturday of the following month, as did every other council meeting.
4. For an understanding of Baptist churches and their nineteenth-century history in Indiana, see Tim Mohon’s “Hoosier Baptist” articles in the Genealogy Across Indiana Department of Online Connections, particularly “Hoosier Baptist Records, 1809–2006: A Roster of Indiana Associations with an Inventory of Their Published Proceedings by Repository and a List of Associational Minutes Printed in the Annual Proceedings of the Indiana Baptist Convention,” at <https://indianahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/Hoosier-Baptist-Records-Roster-1.pdf>.

Members of the Mount Gilead Baptist Church, Shelby County, 1840–1866

Hosier, Lucinda	Kimbrell, B. A.
Hosier, Robertson	Kimbrell, Katharine
Jones, Abraham	Kimbrell, Peterson
Jones, Mary	Kimbrell, Rebecca
Kemper, Henry	Manning, Rachel
Kemper, Himrod	Parr, John
Kemper, Joel	Parr, Matthias
Kemper, Polly Ann	Parr, Nancy
Kemper, Rebecca	Parr, Sarah
Kemper, Tilman	

<u>Members' Names</u>	<u>How Disposed Of</u>
Hosier, Lucinda	Dismissed by letter
Hosier, Robertson	Dismissed by letter
Huston, Plepy	
Huston, William H.	
Johnson, Maxwell R.	Dismist [sic] by letter
Jones, Abraham	Deceased 1850
Jones, Ezekiel	Dismissed by letter
Jones, Malinda	Excluded
Jones, Mary	Dismissed by letter
Jones, Rebecca	Deceased 1848

Kemper, Elizabeth	Dismiss by letter
Kemper, Henry	Diceast [Deceased] 1840
Kemper, Hetta	Deceased 1851
Kemper, Himrod	Dismissed by letter
Kemper, Jackson A.	
Kemper, Joel H.	Dismissed by letter
Kemper, Polly Ann	Dismiss by letter
Kemper, Rebecca	Dismissed by letter
Kemper, Rebecca Jain	Dismiss by letter
Kemper, Tilman	Dismiss by letter
Kimbrell, Benjamin A.	Dismissed by letter
Kimbrell, Katharine	Dismissed by letter
Kimbrell, Peterson	Dismissed by letter
Kimbrell, Rebecca	Dismissed by letter
Manning, Rachel	Dismissed by letter
McNult, John	
Moris, David	Dismiss by letter
Parr, D. H.	Dismissed by letter
Parr, Elizabeth	Deceased
Parr, John	Deceased 1850
Parr, Lucy	Dismissed by letter
Parr, Lucy	Dismiss by letter
Parr, Matthias	Dismissed by letter

Parr, Moses	
Parr, Nancy	
Parr, Peterson	Dismissed by letter
Parr, Rachel	
Parr, Rebecah	Deceased 1847
Parr, Sarah	Dismissed by letter
Smith, Benjamin T.	Dismist by letter
Smith, Polly Ann	Dismist by letter
Snider, James	Dismist by letter
Vandyke, Margaret	Deceased 1851
Vandyke, Theodore	Dismissed by letter
Vantruce, Emmanuel	Dismissed by letter
Vantruce, Mary	Dismissed by letter
Wilson, Ann	Deceased 1856
Wilson, Edward	Deceased