

Ripley County: Subscribers to the Building Fund for Bear Creek Baptist Church, 1860s

Molly Hollcraft and Kathleen M. Breen

Six people attended the first organizational meeting of the Bear Creek Baptist Church near Friendship, Ripley County, Indiana, in June 1818 to form and name the church. It was named after its proximity to Bear Creek. The members held meetings in their homes at first. John Watts, the first minister, who served for fifteen years, and his family donated the ground for the church, and in 1820 the first hewn-log church was built. The church was rebuilt in 1856, and then in 1867 the church moved to Friendship, Indiana.¹

The collection to build this church is on a microfilm reel housed at the Indiana Historical Society library. It includes the minutes of the Bear Creek Baptist Church, six pages of history of the church, and a few pages of Sunday School records. The Bear Creek collection is not the only collection on this microfilm reel, and there is no collection guide. The lack of a guide can be difficult to work around, but there is useful information in the collection, nevertheless. Information hidden within the microfilm reel includes a list of people who helped pay for a new meetinghouse when the church moved to Friendship, and a list of church clerks and deacons. Transcribed below is a list of subscribers who helped to pay for the new meetinghouse in Friendship, along with the introduction to the list as it appeared in the minutes circa 1860.

When working with microfilm it is important to understand that there are problems that can occur. Besides having more than one collection on the film that needs to be sorted, the microfilm might be too dark around the edges to read, as was a problem with this film. A librarian can tell you if there is an original copy to look at, or printouts of the film may be lightened with software such as Adobe PhotoShop. In any event, working with this microfilm was beneficial because of the unique and rare information that was found on it.

Notes

1. Bear Creek Baptist Church Minutes and Sunday School Records, 1818–1882, F 0001, microfilm, Indiana Historical Society, 189–93; Business and Professional Women of Osgood, Versailles, Milan and Holton, *History of Ripley County, Indiana* (Batavia, OH: Clermont Pub, 1968), 129; Ed. C. Jerman, *History and Directory of Ripley County* (Versailles, IN: Republican Print, 1888), 72.

Subscribers to New Building for Bear Creek Baptist Church, ca. 1860

The following subscriptions with the amount from each person towards the new Baptist Parish Meetinghouse, lately erected in the Village of Friendship, at Hunts Mills, Ripley County, Indiana.

| Subscribers Name | Amount |
|---|---------------|
| John Henry paid in cash also, building stone, hauling etc | Blank |
| [---] | 100.00 Paid |
| Joseph A[r/s]ford in cash 55, [---] | 55.00 Paid |
| John Runner & Wife “ ” | 100.00 Paid |
| Harvey Jarvis “ ” | 5.00 Paid |
| John [Harmon] “ ” | [2].50 Paid |
| James Mc[Gee] “ ” | 3.00 Paid |
| Col[emon] [Oneal] “ ” | 1.00 Paid |
| Wm Wycoff “ ” | 1.00 Paid |
| [---] N[icholas] “ ” | 1.00 Paid |
| John S[---] [---] in work “ ” | [---] Paid |
| [---] “ “ | [---] Paid |
| Stephen Bassett, paid | 2.00 |

| | |
|--|--------------|
| John Bassett, paid | 5.00 |
| John Welling, paid | 1.00 |
| David [Harrison], paid | 2.60 |
| [G/Sp]ilbert Jarvis, paid | 3.00 |
| [Casper] Smith, paid | 1.00 |
| F. Frasterman, paid | 1.00 |
| E [Thomas] Bassett, paid | 1.00 |
| William L Connell [\$15.00] min Labor [help] | 5 [5]0.00 |
| Washington Stockwell [\$13.00] in Labor etc | 13 50.00 |
| S [amuel] H. Kennett paid | 5.00 |
| Taylor Kennett paid | 2.00 |
| Elliott [Balch/Black] paid | 2.50 |
| Alexander Campbell paid | 1.00 |
| John Jarvis paid | 2.00 |
| James Keargrove paid | [---].50 |
| Ed Clark paid | [---].75 |
| Ivan Clark paid | 2.00 |
| John Arford paid | 6.00 |
| Louis G. Arford, paid | 2.00 |
| Newton Bassett, paid | 2.00 |
| Ant Wayne Johnson paid | 1.00 |
| Robert Palm[on/er] paid | 5.00 |
| John Samuel Henry | 15.00 |
| also [---] work | 35.00 |
| Susan I. Henry paid | 15.00 |
| David Newton [Henry], paid | 10.00 |

| | |
|--|------|
| David St[o]pp paid | 2.50 |
| Susan [Acheson] Fall, paid | 1.00 |
| Hattie V Henry, paid | 1.00 |
| Fanny Campbell paid | 1.00 |
| Mary Agnes Henry paid | 1.00 |
| Eunice Young paid | 5.00 |
| George S[igglett], five dollars paid the sum to the building committee | 5.00 |
| James F. [Akors], paid | 1.00 |
| Louise Longmire paid | 1.00 |
| [Hannah Rice], paid | 1.00 |
| Malinda [Rice], paid | 1.00 |
| Matilda Fit[e], paid | 9.00 |
| John Kane[s] paid | 1.00 |

“See page 188. An error or mistake in Names, by recording it on different pages.”

| | |
|---|--------|
| Joseph Connell & Wife | 125.00 |
| also in Labor etc= | 100.00 |
| John Roberts & Wife [---] | 27.00 |
| Also in [---] etc | 25.00 |
| Joseph Stapp, in cash [---] Also, three dollars in lumber and hauling etc | |
| John F. Kramer, [pd] | 10.00 |
| Henry A. Winter, paid | 10.00 |
| Sh[amas] Rand, paid | 5.00 |
| Wm B. Robinson paid | 5.00 |
| Joseph Crouch, paid | 5.00 |
| James Allen, paid | 5.00 |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Thomas Harper, paid | 5.00 |
| John H. Durbin, pd | 5.00 |
| Wm R. Beal, pd | [2].00 |
| [Henry] F Bucket pd | 10.00 |
| Wm Dagner paid | 10.00 |
| R. L. Nibert, paid | 5.00 |
| Edward P[e]ndigras, paid | 2.00 |
| T. T. Heaton, paid | 2.00 |
| Wm Henderson paid | 2.00 |
| Fre ^d Kalmire paid | [20].00 |
| H. H. Longmire p. | 2.00 |
| J[---] W. [R]. Flannigan p. | 6.00 |
| Agnes B. [Hart] paid | [10.00] |
| Tho[---] I. Johnson, paid | 5.00 |
| Henry [L.] R[es]ing paid | [---] |
| T. J. Lord paid | 3.00 |
| F[rank] L. G[uisler], p | 1.00 |
| F. E. Otto, paid | 5.00 |
| Elisabeth Henson, p | 2.00 |
| John Tephher, paid | 2.00 |
| Henry Schulenburg p | 5.00 |
| William [Rosburn] [also hauling work] | 5.00 10.00 |
| Henry L[eats]on p | 2.00 |
| Fre ^d Ra[ise] pd | 10.00 |
| Eujene Hunger, pd | 2.00 |
| R. Vawter Blair, pd | 10.00 |
| F. [P.] Winter, paid | 3.00 |

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| David Helms, paid | 1.00 |
| Wm [---] Johnson, paid | 5.00 |
| Henry Bullt[op], pd | 9.00 |
| also in work | 15.00 |
| F[rank] Bulltop, pd | 3.00 |
| J. D. Cole, paid | 1.00 |
| J. H. Heffelmire p | 8.00 |
| Levi Ramer[n], paid | 2.00 |
| William Shields, pd | 2.00 |
| J. T. Rickets, pd | 1.00 |
| John Christine paid | 3.00 |
| Henry Linkmire pd | 1.50 |
| Newton Stapp pd | 5.00 |
| Henry Strubbe paid | 5.00 |
| John W. Nibert, paid | 2.00 |
| J[as] W. Pate, son paid | 10.50 |
| August T[aha/oa]mire p | 1.00 |
| Joseph C. Livingston pd | 25.00 |
| [Isacc] T. Hine, paid | 10.00 |
| J[as] W. Hamilton, pd | 5.00 |
| Elijah Stark pd | 5.00 |
| [---] Wilson pd | 5.00 |
| John G. B[erkshire] pd | 2.50 |
| [---] B. Roberts, pd | 5.00 |
| Wm D Wilson, pd | 2.50 |
| John Warman, pd | 3.00 |
| Wm Schulenburg pd | 3.00 |
| Daniel Bar[k]is pd | 10.00 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| John Schulenburg, pd | 3.00 |
| Walter Craig, \$50 in work etc pd | 50.00 25.00 |
| John Opp, paid | 1.00 |
| Robert P. Hart pd | 20.00 |
| Wm Snyder, paid | 1.00 |
| John Philip Ebel, pd | 3.00 |
| Louis Rothen, pd | 2.00 |
| William Lindsey pd | 25.00 |
| Joel Shepard, paid | 3.00 |
| John R. Miller, paid | 5.00 |
| James W. Pate [son], pd | 5.00 |
| Samuel Gilleland pd | 5.00 |
| Anthony Opp, pd | 2.00 |
| Peter S. Pate, paid | 4.00 |
| Joseph Burgess, pd | 1.00 |
| John Pate, paid | 10.00 |
| Fre ^d Opp, pd | 1.00 |
| Herman Fisse pd | 3.00 |
| Jeremiah M. Pate, pd | 1.00 |
| James F. Jarvis pd | 2.00 |
| Elder Pate paid | 1.00 |
| Wm Gilliland, [sen] pd | 5.00 |
| Robert C. Blain pd | 5.00 |
| (Name) Unknow[n] pd | 1.00 |
| M[ar]ity P[---] pd | 3.00 |
| George Elrod paid | 5.00 |

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|--------------------------------|--------|
| Lindsey Ak[ers], pd do in work | 100.00 |
| | 20.00 |
| Josiah R[ichardson], pd | 5.00 |
| Thomas [G./C.] Bassett, paid | 3.00 |
| Samuel [T.] Johnson, paid | 1.00 |
| John W. Johnson, paid | 2.00 |
| Wm & Joseph Jarvis, pd | 25.00 |
| Margaret [H.] Connell, pd | 12.50 |
| Martha Connell, paid | 12.50 |
| Julia Stockwell, paid | 5.00 |
| Indiana Stapp, pd | 5.00 |
| Louis Rost paid | 5.00 |
| Reisen Johnson paid | 5.00 |
| Henry Myer paid | .50 |
| John Paul, paid | 10.00 |
| Henry Dibber, paid | 2.00 |
| John H. Rogers, paid | 1.00 |
| Thornton Rogers, paid | 5.00 |
| Robert Johnson, paid | 3.00 |
| Christopher [K]ieske[n/r], pd | 2.00 |
| John Oglevee, pd | 5.00 |
| also Saw Logs | 20.00 |
| Frank Ross, paid | 3.00 |
| Ezekial Martin pd | 4.00 |
| H. W. Afterhides paid | 1.00 |
| John Bloom paid | 5.00 |
| [O]. P. Cobb, paid | 5.00 |
| (To Steadman's Foundry), pd | 4.40 |

| | |
|---|-------|
| Henry Afterhider, pd | 1.00 |
| Samuel Ellerman, pd | 5.00 |
| F. H. Brocksmith, pd | 1.00 |
| Abraham Ep[a]tines, one set of communion glasses, pd | 20.00 |
| Wm Nieman, paid | .50 |
| William Ellerman pd | .50 |
| A private donation, paid | 20.00 |