

Collection #
M 0924,
BV 3615

NETTLE CREEK AND SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH RECORDS, 1831–1957 (BULK 1831–1936)

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	2 manuscript boxes, 1 bound volume
COLLECTION DATES:	1831–1957 (bulk 1831–1936)
PROVENANCE:	Ralph and Alma Culy, Hagerstown, IN, August 2001

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2001.1062

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Nettle Creek Regular Baptist Church was established in 1831 at Isaac Routh's on the West River in Dalton Township, Wayne County, Indiana. The minute books also refer to the church as the Nettle Creek Primitive Baptist Church.

The Shiloh Regular Baptist Church was established in 1841 at the house of Richard Hacklem in Hancock County, Indiana. The minutes also refer to the church as the Shiloh Regular Old School Baptist Church.

Associated with the Protestant denomination, Baptist churches originated from 17th century English Puritanism, although Baptists disagreed with Puritans regarding church membership and the separation of church and state. Early on, Baptists argued for the limitation of membership and baptism only for true believers in Christ (thus disallowing the baptism of children), and they believed the church should exist outside of the power of the state.

Developments within the Baptist religion included an initial theological division into two groups: Calvinist (Regular Baptists) or Arminian (General Baptists). From there, Baptists separated in 1826 into Missionary and Primitive (or Anti-missionary) bodies, with Primitive congregations objecting to the establishment of missions for converting "non-believers." Because of their Calvinist beliefs, the Regular (Primitive) Baptists stated that God "had no need of these modern 'means' to reach the lost." Other divisions also occurred as congregations identified themselves as Northern-oriented or Southern-oriented and, finally, centralized denominationalists or theological inclusivists (liberalists).

The members of churches in this collection considered themselves Regular and Primitive Baptists. They adhered to Calvinist doctrine characterized by a belief in predestination, or the idea that God has already predetermined one's fate after death. These congregations opposed any church doctrine not grounded in scripture, worshipped on a monthly basis, and held annual meetings.

Sources:

Information in the collection

Reed, Daniel G., ed. *The Dictionary of Christianity in America*. 1990.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains the record books of both the Nettle Creek Baptist Church and the Shiloh Baptist Church. Although a penciled-in notation in the Nettle Creek Baptist Church record book no. 2 indicates the book belongs to “Little Creek Baptist Church,” this is most likely an error. This book contains the same member names as the previous and subsequent record books in the collection for the Nettle Creek Baptist Church; therefore, the collection guide lists it as the Little [Nettle] Creek record book.

The abstracts and histories folder contains typescripts of entries from the Nettle Creek Church record book, as well as a typed history of the Providence Primitive Baptist Church in Hancock County, Indiana.

The record books for the Nettle Creek and Shiloh churches contain the names of members, meeting minutes, abstracts of principles, rules of decorum, and notes on repairs to the church buildings. The books provide information on members received, deceased, dismissed, and excluded. The Shiloh church receipt book also contains summaries of expenditures and receipts.

Loose items removed from the various books include certifications of membership and letters of dismissal, minutes of the White Water Association of Primitive Baptists, and letters regarding the selling of the old Nettle Creek Church building. Additional letters in these folders provide information on divisions within the Nettle Creek Church, and within the Little Eagle Creek Primitive Baptist Church in Indianapolis , Indiana.

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Shiloh Baptist Church financial record book, 1908–36	BV 3615
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CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 0924).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.