

Owen County, Bethany Presbyterian Church Records, 1820–1834

Kimberly E. Hunter and Christina R. Bunting

The Bethany Presbyterian Church in Owen County, Indiana, was founded on March 20, 1820. The church was organized by Reverend John M. Dickey and first met in a log church on the Surber farm. After four or five years, the church was rebuilt on Ninian Steele's property, where it remained for more than thirty years. A third church was built in 1872. In 1920 a centennial celebration was held. Church records from 1820 to 1988 are contained in four books, which are on microfilm at the Indiana Historical Society. Also included on microfilm are brochures and flyers that were laid in the record books.¹

The following are transcriptions of the records from the Bethany Church in Owen County, Indiana, from March 1820 to September 1834. The minutes consist of those baptized or dismissed and occasionally include trials conducted by the church for sins such as lying and unchristian-like behavior. The trials have not been transcribed due to their length. Also included are lists of communicants and those baptized found in the beginning of the first book of records, as well as the one death listed at the end of the first book. Dates in the lists appear in the order they were written in the records.

Spelling and punctuation were transcribed as they were written in the records, though some punctuation has been added where there was none to aid the reader. Square brackets indicate when a word or parts of a word are unreadable or unclear. Square brackets are also used to spell out words that were abbreviated in the original record.

Note

1. Bethany Presbyterian Church Records, F0586, William H. Smith Memorial Library, Indiana Historical Society.

Names of Communicants

March 20, 1820	May 5, 1822
Nenian Steele	John Johnston
Jane Steele	December 10, 1822
John Mitchel	Mary Helow[s]
Mary Ann Mitchel	August 3, 1823
John Hutson	Nancy Killough
John Martin	Margaret Killough
William Hutson	Sarah Hutson
Margaret Bull	August 9, 1823
February 15, 1820	Susan Evans
Samuel Alexander	August 11, 1823
Hester Evans	Thomas Hutson
November 11, 1821	Margaret Hutson
John Holme	November 9, 1823
Ann Young	Margaret Bull
Martha Doughty	March 20, 1824
Martha M. Young	Jesse Evans
Becca Mitchel	John Lockridge
December 23, 1821	Margery Lockridge
John M. Young	Samuel Fain
March 23, 1822	February 3, 1823
John Craddock	Elinor Reed*
Sally Craddock	March 3, 1823
George Couchman	William Willowbe*
Polly Couchman	Hannah Willowbe*
	September 12, 1824
	Margarett Fain
	Martha M. Wright

* A note next to these names says “omitted in the proper place above.”

Children Baptised [*sic*]

July 16, 1820	November 2, 1822
[Paru/Jaru] Montgomery Evans	Martha Huston Mitchell
Andrew Harvy Evans	April 26, 1823
November 11, 1821	Harriet Newell Evans
Samuel Steele Hutson	August 9, 1823
February 10, 1822	Lydia Ann Lapsley Reed
Jesse Foulter Couchman	December 14, 1823
May 5, 1822	John Newton Hutson
Polly Craddock	December 28, 1823
Elizabeth Hutson	Mary Ann Hile Couchman
Margaret E. Evans	April 18, 1824
	Joseph Howe Lockridge

May 9, 1824	Robert Cleuda[rn]ham Ro[ss] Willsrobe	John Shields
July 25, 1824	James Reed Westfall	Robert Ross Dobson
	Betsey Fain Hert[e]	Elisabeth Agness Shields
July 23, 1825	Sarah Lewis Reed	James Mc[c]lland Steele
October 23, 1825	John Dickey Couchman	July 1839
	William Newton Steele	Marry Luisey Crodick
January 22, 1826	John Montgomery Evans	May 1840
February 5, 1826	Isaac Reed Hutson	Spear Spence Steele
October 29, 1826	Joseph Willowbe	February 1841
November 3, 1826	John Dickey Westfall	Ezra Wallace Hudson
November 5, 1826	Andrew Harrison Lockridge	Sarah Nancy Steele
	Mary Ann Dittimore	Isabela Steele
August 19, 1826	Nancy Jane Steele	Joseph Henry Evans
	John Dickey Steele	Martha Jane Evans
	James David Fain	John Blew Shields
	Sarah Elender Hutson	William Henry Dobson
March 1837	Hariet Ann Newell	April 25, 1841
	Martha Ann Newell	Sarah Catharin Taylor
	John Walles Richards	Elizabeth [Ann] Evans
July 1837	William N. Fain	Mary [Dar]kes Evans
	Margaret Jane Dobson	Sarah Jane Evans
July 28, 1838	Milis Theodore Cowlover	Rebeca Evans
	Mary J. Hudson	January 9, 1842
	Jane Asher Robertson	William Hovey Steele
	Mary Jane Robertson	George Wallis Couchman
	Susan Charlota Robertson	Sarah Francis Cradick
	Sarah Eloner Robertson	May 15, 1842
June 1, 1839	Jesse A. Steele	Agness Adeline Taylor
	Ransom H. Steele	September 11, 1842
	John R. Steele	Meranda Armstrong Willoughby
	Anderson Winchester Fain	Samuel Cladennen Willoughby Danken
	George Couchman Hudson	December 11, 1842
		Mary Jane Couchman
		December 28, 1842
		Sarah Louisey Hudson
		William Ha[ro]ley Hudson
		Robert Young Fain
		Marra Ann Fair
		March 19, 1843
		John William Rainken
		Martha Emele [Hewell/Newell]
		Sytha Ann Robertson
		June 11, 1843
		Ran[s]om Howley Steele
		Sarah Ellen Dobson

Deaths

December 15, 1822
Mary Kelow

Nenian Steele's Owen County Ind. March 20th 1820[.] Agreeably to previous arrangement proceeded to organize a Presbyterian Church and on enquiry it appeared that the following persons new members in regular standing in the Presbyterian Church viz

Nenian Steele
Jane Steele
John Mitchel
Mary Ann Mitchel
John Hutson
John Martin
William Hutson

Proceeded to the choice of elders & upon counting the votes it appeared that Nenian Steele & John Mitchel now duly elected__Messrs. Steele & Mitchel having been previously ordained elders in other churches were installed ruling elders in this church__Session appointed John Mitchel clerk. After deliberation Session resolved to consider baptised youth who were children of the members of this church not exceeding the age of Fourteen years under the authority & discipline of this Church & further resolved that those who now exceed that age may exercise their own discretion whether they will submit to the authority of the church or not__Agreeably to the above resolution the following persons were considered members of the church by baptism
Viz__

Jesse Steele	Robert Steele
Nancy Steele	William [I.] Hutson
Joseph H. Steele	Thomas C. Hutson
Rebekah Mitchel	Enos. B. Hutson
Robert Mitchel	Joannah Hutson
Betsy M. Mitchel	Mary Jane Hutson
Sally Mitchel	Lucinda Martin
William B. Mitchel	Enos B. Martin
John B. Mitchel	Josiah B. Martin
Mary Ann Mitchel	Rachel Ann Martin
Nenian Steele	

By agreement this church was called Bethany. Resolved that the Louisville Presbytery be requested to take this church under their care__Session received Margaret Bull a member of this church on examination[.]
Adjourned Sine Dec. John M. Dickey

A mistake in the above Mrs. Bull was not received into full communion & is not yet baptized.
April 5th 1823c[.]

Annual report of the church of Bethany from April 1819 to April 1820

7 Total in communion per last report

0 On certificate since added

1 On Examination

0 Died

0 Suspended

0 Dismissed

8 Total in Communion, now

Baptised since last report

0 Adults

0 Infants

0 Total baptised

July 15, 1820[.] Session recieved Samuel Alexander on examination and Hester Evans on certificate into full communion. Samuel [Sewel/Newel] Evans, Betsy, Fain, Evans, members by baptism on certificate. John Mitchel (clerk of session)

July 16, 1820[.] Jane Montgomery Evans, Andrew, Harvy Evans infants baptised __

Annual report of the church of Bethany from April 1820 to April 1821

8 Total in communion per last report

2 On certificate since added

2 On examination

0 died

0 Suspended

0 Dismissed

11 Total in communion now

Baptised since last report

0 Adults

2 Infants

2 Total, Baptised

November 11, 1821[.] Baptised in the Bethany church Samuel Steele Hutson__
Isaac Reed

Bethany church in session Sabbath Nov. 11th 1821[.] The Rev[eren]d Isaac Reed Moderator, Mr. John Holme presented a certificate of membership in good standing of himself & his two sisters Mrs. Ann Young & Mrs. Martha Doughty in the Danville church (K.Y.) & dismission from said church & recommendation to any other church of our connexion __ and desired to be recieved into this church, they was recieved accordingly__ Miss Martha M Young presented a similar letter from the same church & desired to be recieved into this church & was recieved accordingly__ Miss Becca Mitchel was recieved on examination John Mitchel (clerk of session)

Bethany Church in Session Dec. 23rd 1821[.] Mr. John M Young having presented a certificate of his membership in good standing in the church at Nicholasville KY Dated August 11th. 1821 & was recieved into full communion. John Mitchell C[lerk]. [of] S[ession].

Bethany Church in Session Sabbath February 11th 1822[.] Jesse Fouler Couchman was baptized[.]

John Mitchell C. S.

Bethany Church in Session Seabbath March 23rd. 1822[.] Mr. John Craddock presented a certificate of his & his wifes membership in the Presbyterian church & was as follows. Viz. “These are to certify that John Craddock & Sally his wife have been for a number of years last past members of the presbyterian church in Paris congregation in full communion & free from church censure; we also certify that their children are baptised members; we do hereby recommend them to the care of the church of christ wherever God in his providence may cast their lots given under our hands the 29th day of July 1821[.]

John McFarland Minister

Joseph Mitchell clerk”

and they were recieved into full communion. Their children’s names are as follows.

Nancy Craddock

William Craddock

Caroline Craddock

John Craddock

Sally Craddock

Samuel Craddock

Jillian Craddock

baptized members. And likewise Mr. George Couchman & his wife Polly by verbal certificate were received into full communion, & their children as baptised members; viz. Mary, Ann, Hile [Gwin/Gevin]. Benjamin Smith Couchman. Lucinda, Thomas. Couchman. Ninian Steele Couchman. Andrew, James, Couchman. Cammilla, Rebecca, Couchman. Jesse Fouler Couchman.

John Mitchell C. S.

May 5th 1822 the following children were bapti[z]ed viz. Polly Craddock, Elizabeth Hutson Margaret E _____ Evans. & John Johnston was --- into full communion.

John Mitchell C. S.

Annual report of the Bethany Church from April 1821 to April 1822

10 Total in communion since last report

9 On certificate since added

1 On examination

0 Died

0 Suspended

0 Dismissed

20 Total in communion

Baptised

0 Adults

2 Infants

John Mitchell C. of S.

September 5th 1822. At Mr. Ninian Steeles[.] We a majority of the members of the Bethany Church ten days previous notice being publicly given met at the above mentioned place & proceeded to elect trustees to receive a Deed for a certain piece of ground to be given, granted, and or purchased, for the exclusive right, etc. & benefit of the Bethany Church for the purpose of a meeting house & have yard for said Society, & upon voting it appeared, John Craddock, George Couchman, & John Holme, are duly elected.

John M. Young. Clerk

The above certificate was committed to record in the recorders office of Owen County within the time limited by law.

John M. Young.

October 24th. 1822[.] The Bethany Church met according to previous appointment, & after preaching. the votes of the members present were taken for the choice of three additional ruling elders, Person counting them it appeared that Messrs. John Craddock, John Holme, & George Couchman, were Duly Elected; & Saturday the 2nd of November was appointed for their ordination.

Isaac Reed Mod[erator].

John Mitchell C. S.

Saturday Nov. 2nd 1822[.] Immediately after preaching baptism was administered to Martha, Huston, Mitchell, & the necessary questions were put to the three persons lately chosen to the office of ruling elder & answered by them in the affirmative. The necessary question, was then put to the congregation & likewise answered in the affirmative, immediately after which, the brethren John Craddock, John Holme, & George Couchman were set apart by prayer to the office of ruling elder in this church & an exhortation given to them, & also to the congregation__ at the close of which they received the right hand of fellowship from the other members of Session__

Isaac Reed Mod[erato]r.

Monday Dec[embe]r. 15th Mary Kelow was admitted to the church, on examination and by Baptism.

Isaac Reed Modr of Session__

January 6th 1823[.] Session met at the house of Revd. Isaac Reed, constituted by prayer__ Mrs. Elinor Reed presented a certificate of membership in good standing in the church at Nicholasville KY & dismission & recommendation to the Bethany church Owen County Ind[ian]a, & was received into full communion__ Adjourned to meet the first Monday in Febr[uar]y & concluded with prayer[.]

John Mitchel C. S.

February 3rd 1823[.] Session met according to adjournment consulted upon several things commenced a new subscription to obtain a yearly salary for Mr. Reed as a foundation for laying in a call to Presbytery. Agreed also to commence the observance of the monthly concert of prayer on the afternoon of the first monday in each month the meetings to be alternately in

Steele's settlement, & Mr. Reeds neighborhood. Adjourned to the first monday March concluded with prayer[.]

John Mitchel C. S.

March 3rd 1823[.] Session met according to adjournment constituted with prayer. William Willowbe & Hannah his wife were admitted to membership in this church on certificate from the church of Somerset, Ohio. And their children Ann Irwin Willowbe, Elizabeth Thompson Willowbe, Jane Ross Willowbe, Sarah Christy Willowbe, Cinthia [V]ess[ay/ey] Willowbe, Henry Willowbe, Mercy Willowbe, as baptised members. Adjourned to monday the 10th — concluded with prayer.

John Mitchel C. S.

March 10th 1823[.] Session met according to adjournment constituted with prayer and tabled the three following charges against John Martin taken up upon [dual] rumour __

I. Common fame charges__John Martin with neglect of Christian duty in the voluntary unnessary & habitual absence from the weekly publick worship of the church on the Sabbath for a number of months[.] Witnesses: Ninian Steele [and] John Mitchel

[Section II. Omitted]

III. Common fame charges John Martin With Unreasonable & Sinful Anger when at Samuel Fains on a trial before the [m]agistrate between himself & Wm Barker on the first day of March 1823[.] Witnesses: Ninian Steele [and] Samuel Fain

Mr. Ninian Steele was appointed to represent the church in Presbytery to meet at Charlestown on the second thursday of April next, and to be the bearer of a call orderly made out, for the Revd. Isaac Reed in a general meeting of the congregation this 10th day of March 1823[.] Adjourned to the first Saturday of April next[.] Concluded with prayer[.]

John Mitchel C. S.

Annual Report of the Bethany Church from April 1822 to April 1823 __

20 Total in communion by last report

5 On certificate added last year

1 On examination

1 Died

0 Suspended

0 Dismissed

25 Total in communion

1 Adult baptised

4 Infants

5 Total baptised

Saturday April 5th 1823[.] Session met according to adjournment constituted with prayer__Ascertained that their citations of Mr. Martin to attend & answer to the foregoing charges and of the witnesses had been duly served__Mr. Martin did not appear whereupon session issued out a new citation to him & to the witnesses & adjourned to Monday the 5th of May next concluded with prayer[.]

John Mitchel C. S.

April 26th. 1823 Harriel Newell Evans, infant Daughter of Jesse & Hester Evans was baptised .

May 5th 1823. Session met according to adjournment constituted with prayr. Members present Revd Isaac Reed M- Elders__Ninian Steele, John Craddock, George Couchman__Session took up the began process against John Martin; he did not appear__The moderator enquired whether the second citation had been duly served & found that it had. The witnesses were present.

[trial excluded]

The votes of the members of Session were then taken upon each charge separately, & they were unanimous that the testimony supports the charge. The question was then taken whether John Martin shall for these offences, be excluded from church privileges untill he give satisfactory evidence of repentance; and it was decided that he shall be excluded, & that the Moderator shall inform the congregation at some Sabbath meeting, of the issue of this process. Adjourned concluded with prayer.

John Mitchel C. S.

~~Sabbath August 3rd~~

August 3rd. Mrs. Nancy Killough, Margaret Killough, & Sarah Hutson, were examined by the Session, and admitted to full communion[.]

August 9th. Mrs. Susan Evans, was also examined by the Session, and admitted to full communion.

August 11th. Session constituted after sermon, and examined, & admitted into membership in this church, Thomas Hutson, & Margaret his wife__

John Mitchell C. S.

November 9th[.] Mrs. Margaret Bull, having been previously examined & approved, by the Session, was rec[eive]d. into the church by baptism[.]

John Mitchell C. S.

March 27th 1824[.] Session constituted after sermon, members present Isaac Reed Modr., Ninian Steele, John Mitchell, John Holme, John Craddick, George Couchman. & examined & admitted, John Lockridge, examined also & approved Jesse Evans__

Sabbath Morning March 28th[.] Session also examined & admitted Mrs. Margery Lochridge, & examined & approved Samuel Fain, and after sermon Jesse Evans & Samuel Fain were admitted into the church by baptism.

John Mitchell C. S.

Annual report of the Bethany Church from April 1823 to April 1824

27 Total in communion per last report

11 Added last year —

0 on certificate

0 Died

1 Suspended

0 Dismissed
34/35 Total in Communion
3 Adults baptised
4 Infants
7 Total baptized

July 10 & 11th 1824[.] Jesse Steele & Jane Young Steele his wife, Nancy Westfall, Nancy Craddick and Thomas Robinson were examined by the Session for membership and communion and approved. Mrs. Steele was received by baptism[.]

John Mitchell. C. S.

Sept 9th 1824. [Misjourned] on the recong [*sic*] of Session that they received into fellowship on examination July 15th 1820, Samuel Alexander, who nevertheless came not to the communion, & afterwar[ds] signified to the two elders which their composes the session that he has conscientious scruples on his mind and that he did not fully consent to the confession of Faith. These scruples have contained, and though his moral conduct is peacable and orderly, as far as known to Session, yet he has habitually kept from the comunion & is still dissatisfied with part of the confession of faith. And he has now requested to be considered as dismissed from the care and fellowship of the church, which the Session from the consideration of his age and his apparent sincerity & peacable and orderly living, thought it but reasonable to grant. Ordered therefore that Mr. Alexander be, & her hereby is, dismissed from the care and fellowship of the church__

John Mitchell C. S.

Sept 12th 1824. Session received on examination into church membership, Margarett Fain and Martha M. Wright. The latter was baptized on the succeeding day.

John Mitchell C. S.

Report of the Bethany Church to the Presbytery at its Session in Oct. 1824.

34 Total in communion per last report
7 Added since on examination
0 certifica[t]e
0 Died
0 Suspended
1 Dismissed
40 Total in communion
2 Adults baptized (5 with ma[*yar*])
4 Infants (6.—)
6 Total baptized (11. —)

Thus far examined & approved[.]

Isaac Reed Mod__
Samuel [L]. Scott Cl[er]k

March 13th Session met at John [Hatson's/Hutson's] constituted with prayer. Members present, Isaac Reed Modr, Ninian [S]teele, John Mitchell, John Holme, John Craddick. Whereas Session is informed upon credible testimony that Samuel Fain, for some time a discontented member of the church, has gone from us and become united with the Baptist church; therefore resolved that [Mr.] Fain be, and he hereby is, dismissed from the watch & care and fellowship of this church. Session adjourned. Concluded with prayer.

John Mitchell C. S.

May 6th 1825. Session met at Ninian Steele's. Members present Isaac Reed Moderator, Ninian Steele, John Holme, John Mitchell, George Couchman.

Mrs. Nancy Payne appeared before session and informed the session that she had put herself under the care of the Methodist Society and wished to be dismissed from this church. Therefore Resolved that Mrs. Payne be and hereby is dismissed from the watch and care of this church.

John Mitchell C. S.

Session met at Ninian Steele's May 21st 1825. Constituted by prayer. Members present Isaac Reed Moderator. Ninian Steele, John Holme, George Couchman. (John Mitchell was also present in the first part of the Session but withdrew with leave, when the vote respecting John Martin was passed, and the Session proceeded to the charges taken up at this meeting.) By a resolution of Session recorded in their Minutes under page 40 of this book John Martin is suspended from the use of the sacraments of the church until he give satisfactory evidence of repentance. And where as the said John Martin, has not to this day near two full years, showed any signs of repentance, nor of desiring to return to the communion of the church, therefore Resolved that John Martin be and hereby is excommunicate[d] from the church. Resolved that the moderator publish this excommunication to the congregation. Session resolved to table the two following charges against John Hutson taken up upon general rumour.

I. Common fame charges John Hutson with rude and unbecoming behaviour towards the wife of Samuel Payne, at Mr. Payne's house on the first day of April 1825. Mrs. Nancy Payne witness to the charge.

II. Common fame charges John Hutson with rude and unchaste behaviour towards the wife of Josiah Pinkard at several times and in different places. Mrs. Peggy Pinkard witness to this charge.

Mr. Hutson was present and furnished with a copy of these charges with the names of the witnesses—citations were also issued for them to appear at the next meeting of Session for the trial. Citations were also granted for several witnesses on the part of the accused. Session adjourned to June 2nd[.] Concluded with prayer

Isaac Reed Modr

John Craddick having previously declared to session that he wished not to sit in Session respecting these charges in as much as Mrs. Nancy Payne is his daughter, leave of absence was granted him by consult of Session__

Isaac Reed

June 2nd 1825[.] Session met according to adjournment, constituted with prayer. Members present Isaac Reed Moderator, Ninian Steele, George Couchman, John Holme. Proceeded to the trial of the charges taken up at the meetings of Session May 21st against John Hutson.

[trial excluded]

Session adjourned to meet Monday June 13th concluded with prayer__
Isaac Reed Moderator

June 13th 1825. Session met according to adjournment, constituted by prayer__ Members present Isaac Reed Modr, Ninian Steele, John Holme, and George Couchman__ Session proceeded in the trial of charges against John Hutson__ No more witnesses were introduced by the accused. He was now heard in remarks upon the testimony, which was taken at the last meeting of Session. First, he was heard upon the first charge, where he withdrew. and Session deliberated and decided upon that charge in the following resolution, to wit, Resolved that the First charge is not, in the judgment of Session, supported by Testimony of sufficient credibility, and therefore the charge falls__ Mr. Hutson was then called in and informed of this decision, and heard in his defence on the second charge, when he again withdrew & Session made the following Resolution as this decision on the second charge. Resolved that the Second charge is not supported by credible testimony, and therefore the charge falls__ Mr. Hutson was then called in and informed of this decision. He requested a copy of the records of this trial so far as they respect the first charge__ Resolved that his request be granted at his expense. Adjourned. Concluded with prayer__

Isaac Reed. Modr

August 17th 1825. Session met at the house of Rev. Isaac Reed members all present. John Mitchell resigned his office of Clerk and the election of a new one was postponed till a future meeting.

Isaac Reed Modr

Jan. 15, 1826. Session met at the house of Ninian Steele and was constituted by prayer. Members present Rev. Isaac Reed Moderator, Ninian Steele, John Holme, John Mitchel, John Craddick & George Couchman. The votes were taken for Clerk, and Ninian Steele was duly elected. At the same meeting[.]

Report of Bethany Church to Presby. Oct. 1825*

40 Total in communion per last report
0 Since added on examination
0 since added certificate
0 Died
1 excommunicated
2 dismissed
Baptized
 2 Adults
 1 Infants
37 Total in communion

*off to the side it reads “Two of these are removed to a distance[.] two others are said to have lately gone and joined the Cumberland Presbyteriary—33 are the resident counts at this time”

Mrs. Mary Ann Mitchell and Miss Becca Mitchell informed the session, when asked by the Moderator, that they had been received into the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Therefore Resolved, that they are considered as dismissed from us.

Isaac Reed Modr

By vote of the Salem Presbytery at its Session in Oct 1825, held in the Pisgah Church the pastoral relation between the Rev Isaac Reed and the Bethany Church was dissolved. And this dissolution to take place the last day of Dec. 1825. And said congregation was declared vacant from that time. This dissolution has now taken place and Mr. Reed preached his last sermon as Pastor, Christmas Sabbath Dec. 25, 1825. and his Farewell sermon Sabbath 15. of Jan. 1826.

The Session of Bethany church met April 2. 1826 members present Isaac Reed Modr., Ninian Steele, John Craddick, John Mitchell. Mr. Thomas Dittimore & Elizabeth his wife members of the church of Blue River were received into membership by certificate. Mrs. Elinor Reed requested a letter of Dismission & recommendation to the church of Greenfield—Resolved that her request be granted.

Ninian Steele C. S.

Mrs. Peggy Fain requested a letter of dismission and recommendation to any Presbyterian Church where ever god in his providence may cast her lot[.] resolved that her rquest be granted.

Ninian Steele C. S.

Mr. John Mitchell requested a dismission from our church ~~having~~ having joined the cumberland Presbyterian Church therefore resolved that ~~they as~~ he is considered as dismissed from us__

Ninian Steele C. S.

Report of Bethany Church to Presbytery Oct. 1826

37 Total in communion per last report
0 Since added on examination
0 Since added do certificate
3 Died
5 Dismissed
29 Total in communion

The session met on the 8th October & was opened with prayer. Mr. John Holmes was chosen a delegate to attend the meeting of the Wabash Presbytery & Mr. ~~Ninian~~ Steele his alternate.

B. R. Hall Moderator

Ninian Steele C. S.

Examined thus far & approved, excepting so far as relates to the dismissal of certain members who had previously — chosen by their own act from the watch & care of the church. In cases of this nature hereafter the Presbytery decide that the persons thus withdrawing be proceeded against in a formal manner as prescribed in the book of discipline Ch. 4 Secs. 10-11-12th

Saml. T. S[coth]
M. W. P
Geo. Bush
Stated Clerk

Agust 19, 1827[.] Session recevid John M. Fain and Polly Fain on certificate. Proceeded to the Electing of Elders the votes being counted John M. Fain was duly elected.

September 5th, 1828[.] John M. Fain after being duly Elected was ordained by the rev. Isaac Reed ruling Elder in the Bethany Church.

Report of the Bethany Church to Presbytery Oct 10th 1828

30 Total in communion at present

0 since added

3 died

0 Excommunicated

0 Dismissed [*sic*]

Baptized

0 Adults

2 Infants

Thus for Examined and approved by Presbytery Oct. 13. 1828__

James [Thomson] Moderator

April 2d 1831[.] Session met according to for the purpose of choosing one or three Eld appointment at Bethany Schoolhouse and constituted by prayer. Members present Jeremiah Hill. John Cradick, William Wiloughby, Jesse Steele, Jane Steel, Edmond Dabson, Isabelly Dobson, Jesse Evans, and wife. On Motion being made and seconded that three Elders be chosen at this meeting. Mr Jesse Evans, William Willoughby, and Jesse Steele were [unanimously] elected as elders of Bethany Church. Edmond Dobson and Isablella his wife were admitted to membership to this church on certificate from the Church of New Salem, Tennessee. Also James Dobson and Didema Dobson were admitted on certificate from the same church above mentioned.

J. H. Mod.

June 12th 1831[.] Session met and constituted by prayer. Ann Willoughby being present was examined on her vital piety and received as a member of Bethany Church.

J. Hill Mod

approved Isaac Reed Moderator of Pres.

Oct 7 1831

June 13th 1831[.]Mr. John Lockridge, Sir,
You being chas[----] by common fame of the following sins viz,

1. Common fame charges you by being being disguised with ardent spirits at Esq[---] on the day of your spring muster 1831 witnesses Joel Richards, William Craddick, Isaac Westfall, William Payne, John Hollenbeck, Voluntine Lyons.
2. Common fame charges you by being angry at Sunday times in the year 1831 witnesses Daniel Hartsock, Voluntine Lyon.
3. Common fame charges you of being guilty of frequently crucifying Christ in the house of his pretended friend. Witnesses the members of Bethany Church.
4. Common fame charges you with willfully neglecting the publick worship of God on the Sabbath ever since Sunday last with but one exception witnesses the members of Bethany church.
- 5th. Common fame charges you of having grudges against your brethren and neglecting your duty to them as laid down in the 18th chapter of St Mathews Gospel. Witnesses Jerremiah Hill and Jesse Evans.

Therefore you are cited to attend at Bethany meeting house on the first Saturday of July next at 12 O Clock on said day to answer to said charges.

Jerremiah Hill, Moderator of Bethany Church

July 2nd 1831[.] Session met according to adjournment at Bethany meeting house and constituted by prayer. Members present Jerremiah Hill moderator, John Craddick, Jesse Evans, William Willoughby, John M. Fain, Jesse Steele. Upon enquiry by the moderator it was ascertained that the witnesses had been duly cited but as the witnesses were not present, the Judicatory proceeded according to the fifth article ch. [4]th, Pass 431. Confession of Faith__ And adjourned to meet the first Saturday of August at 1200 1831__

August 6th 1831[.] Session [met] according to adjournment at Bethany meeting house constituted by prayer members present Jerremiah Hill, John Craddick, Jesse Evans, William Willoughby, John M. Fain, & Jesse Steele.

[trial excluded]

The votes was then taken on each charge respectively by the members of session. Unanimous on the first charge. The second charge was substantiated. The third charge was substantiated, also the Fourth, and also the Fifth. The question was then taken whether John Lockridge shall for these offences be excluded from church privileges untill he give satisfactory evidence of repentance. And it was decided that he shall be Excluded and that the moderator shall inform the congregation of the issue of this process. Concluded with prayer.

The following is a list of the names of communicants who were recieved into the church since June 12th 1831 and untill 1st October 1832. Samuel Burcham, Susan Burcham, Jame Willowby, Cynthia Willowby, Sarah Willowby, Andrew Evans Jr, Samuel Evans, Elizabeth Evans, Jane Evans, William Hutson, Thomas Hutson, Ann Hutson, Margaret Fain, Phoebe Ann Fain, Sarah J. Fain, George Fain, Paulina Newelle, William Steele, Ninian Steele S[enio]r, Joanna Steele, Ninian Steele J[unio]r, Ninian Couchman, Lucinda Couchman, Sarah Craddick[.]

John M. Young stated Clk.

Mrs. Margery Lockridge ~~by req~~ wife of John Lockridge by request recieved a letter of dismissal from the church in good standing__

Report of the Bethany Church to Presbytery at Bloomington Ind April 5th 1833

45 Total in Communion at present
4 Died
0 Excommunicated
1 Excluded
1 Dismissed
1 Adult Bapised
9 Infants Baptised
30 Total in Communion at last report

Session met on the 16 of June 1833 and constituted by prayer. Members present Jeremiah Hill, John Cradick, Wm. Willoughby, John M. Fain, Jesse Steel, Jesse Evans. At which time Jane McComick and Sarah McComick were received on certificate . And James Jones and Lucinda Woods, Ruth Wilson Jane Newellon examination. Concluded by prayer.

Jeremiah Hile Moderator

August 8th[.] Session met constituted by prayer all the members of Session present. Andrew Taylor and Jane Taylor reseived on examination. Concluded by prayer.

J. Hill Mod.

October Session met on the 10 of the month constitute[d] by prayer. Members present. Jeremiah Hill, John Cradick, Jesse Steel, Wm. Willoughby. At which time John Cradick, Polly Hockett, Adam Moder[sol/cel], Jane Moder[sol/cel], and Joseph H. Steel were reseived on examination. Concluded by prayer.

Jeremiah Hill Mod.

March 16. 1834[.] Session met and constituted the usual way and John Cradick was —elected to attend Presbytery. Concluded by prayer.

Jeremiah Hill Mod.

Report of Bethany church to Presbytery April 1, 1832

52 Total in communion
1 Died
5 Dismissed
4 Adults Baptised
8 Infants Baptised
45 Total in communion last report
13 Recieved on certificate and examination
58 Total
6 Died and dismissed leaving as above
52 In communion

Session of Bethany Church met on June 9th 1834. At Mr. John Cradicks and constituted by Prayer and tabled the followed charges against Jane Taylor take up by Jeremiah Hill

I. Jeremiah Hill charges Jane Taylor with lying At her own house last winter by saying that he kept liquor in his house holding out the idea that he was a hypocrite in pretending to be a friend to temperance yet loved himself. Witnesses Andrew Taylor, Elizabeth Steele

II. Jeremiah Hill charges Jane Taylor with Slandering his character at the house of William Taylor last winter or last Spring by insinuations in saying that they namely Mr. William Taylor and his wife would know me when they had lived by me as long as she had holding out the idea that they would find me to be a dishonest man and not what I profosed to be. Witnesses Mr. William Taylor & Elizabeth Taylor

III. Jeremiah Hill charges Jane Taylor by lying and barbarous cruel and in human Testament toward the child living with her last fall. Witnesses Polly Fain, Sarah Jane Hutson, Margaret Fain, and John M. Fain.

by order of the Session of Bethany Church[.]

Jeremiah Hill Modrator

John Cradick. Clk

July 1834[.] Session met at Bethany church and constituted by Prayer and Recd. members Reason Ritchards[.] Members present Rev. Jeremiah Hill Modr, Elders John Cradick, Jesse Evans, Jesse Steele, John M. Fain, & William Willoghby and Mr. Richards & wife asked leave to be dismissed from the Bethany Church to Join the church in Spencer therefore [they] are dismissed from Bethany church.

Rev. Jeremiah Hill M[o]d[erator]

John Cradick Clk

Bethany Church June 20th 1834[.] Session met according to adjournment. Constituted with prayer. Members present John M. Dickey Moderator, Jesse Evans, John M. Fain, Jesse Steele, & John Cradick. The clerk being absen Mr. Cradick was chosen clerk protem. Session entered upon the consideration of the charges prepared against Jane Taylor by Mr. Hill. Mrs. Taylor chose Mr. Cradick to manage her case.

[trial excluded]

The testimony being closed & the partial fully heard and Session having carefully examined the testimony was of opinion that the first charge was not supported there being but one witness to establish the charge. That the second charge was not supported. That the third charge was supported so far as inhuman, cruel & barbarous Treatment is whipping the child is concerned and in that part respecting lying it appers that there is reason & [equatiation] which approaches so near to lying as to deserve censure. Therefore resolved that she is suspended & she be hereby suspended from all privliges of the church untill she give satisfactory evidence of repentence. Concluded with prayer.

Third Sabbath in July 1834 after [Communion] there was a collection taken up four Dollars Eighty five cents for missionary purposes side --- Rev. William W. Woods to pay over to Presbytery.

Bethany church September 21st 1834[.] Session met by the request of Mrs. Jane Taylor, members present Jesse Evans, Jesse Steele & John Craddick and there being no minister in such they chose one of there own members as Modrator to examine into the case of Mrs. Jane taylor who was suspended in June last and She having a des[ire] to be restored to church privilege

agane and after full examination being had and she declaring she was sorry for her conduct and has showed signs of repentence. Therefore the Session thought it there [*sic*] duty to restore Mrs. Jane Taylor to church privilege and she is therefore restored to full communion in our church a gane.

John Cradick Moderator

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