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. 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. 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. 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.

**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
Elizabeh Simmons

Jesse Mellet, David Taylor, John Evans; Deacons John Hays, Arthur Mellett, John F. Johnson; Charles Mellett, 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. Mellett 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 dismissal.

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 dismission; 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. Ebinezer 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 Hamleton received by Lebanon [Baptist] Church, “she being excluded from our fellowship.” George Koons, Henry Millikan, and William Longfellow appointed to investigate and report at next meeting.

**SEPTEMBER 1845**
Investigation concluded; Martha Hamleton joined Lebanon church. Henry Millikan and Elizabeth Millikan requested dismission; 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 dismission.

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 lease 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. Alexand[e]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.