

This is taken from the book, "A History of Jones Creek Baptist Church, Long County, Georgia, 1810-1985", by Elmer Oris Parker. Not having access to the book, I obtained the following from Mercer University and integrated it with other minutes of Jones Creek Church.

CHAPTER I

A BODY OF BELIEVERS

*"A pine log church
And a pine bark steeple
A grog-selling pastor
And a drunken people."*

A stranger passing along the old Darien Road in Liberty County, Georgia in the 1820's came upon the Jones Creek Meetinghouse, stopped, camped for the night, and the next morning before departing wrote this little bit of doggerel and attached it to the plain pine church door, or so goes the story. The stranger's characterization seems unfair, though the records show that the church was beset with all the common frailties and shortcomings suffered by mankind. If he could pass this way again today, there can be no doubt that his comments would read differently, for looking back 175 years it is evident that the consecration of this church and its performance have made it a shining light in the community, ever pointing the way onward and upward to God's Eternal Kingdom that awaits all who choose to follow Him.

Although it has been said that Jones Creek is the ninth oldest Baptist church in the state, there were at least that many formed in Georgia before the United States Government was established in 1789. In any event, it is one of the older churches of this denomination in the region.

It was constituted on April 22, 1810, by the Reverends John Goldwire and Moses Westherry and thirteen members from Beard's Creek Church, then in Liberty, now Tattnall County, who had been dismissed a week earlier for that purpose.

CHURCH COVENANT

April 22nd, 1810.

State of Georgia

Liberty County

We the inhabitants of the vicinity of Jones Creek Holding to particular Election Believes Baptism, the imputed righteousness of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Progressing Sanctification by the Holy Spirit; and the final perseverance of the Saints to Eternal Glory, Do Covenant and agree in a Solemn Gospel engagement to give ourselves up to God and to one another, to walk together in the fear of God and in Christian Love one with another, bearing with one another's weakness and common human imperfections, watching over one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace, to stir up one another to love and good works, to attend regularly on Gospel ordinances, and we do agree to the Baptist Confession of faith and Discipline to any rule or thing of that kind we have hitherto seen.

In witness whereof we have hereunto in a Solemn manner interchangeably set our hands the day and date above written.

LEVI MORGAN
JAMES CLARK
REUBEN STRICKLAND
RICHARD STRICKLAND
JOHN BOHANNON
CHARLES FLOWERS
HENRY LOWRY
JOHN HALL
LIGHT TOWNSEND
JAMES THOMAS

MARTHA FLOWERS
ABIGAIL CLARK
FANNY LOWRY
SUSANNAH STRICKLAND
SALLY MORGAN
SARAH LOWRY
MARY CHAPMAN
LYDIA BOHANNON
LETTY CARTER
SARAH THOMAS
HANNAH HUNT

This is to certify that this church at Jones Creek, called Jones Creek Church, was established on the 22d of April, 1810, by the Rev. Brethren John Goldwire and Moses Westberry.

CHAPTER IV

SHEPHERDS OF THE FLOCK

REV. MOSES WESTBERRY

Moses Westberry, the first pastor of Jones Creek Church, was born near Stateburg in the High Hills of Santee in South Carolina on March 2, 1772. He moved to Edgefield County and settled on Cuffytown Creek and before 1799 to the upper end of Liberty (after 1801, Tattnall) County, Georgia.

Upon a profession of faith, he was baptized in the waters of Beard's Creek by the Rev. David Hennessey in August 1804, and on December 29 of that year, he helped to organize the Beard's Creek Baptist Church, and was ordained a deacon. He married Elizabeth, a daughter of Robert Brown. She was baptized a member of Beard's Creek in March 1809. He was ordained to the ministry on July 19, 1809, by the Reverends Hennessey, John Goldwire, and John Stafford. While traveling through the western part of Liberty County, he felt called to establish a church there; erected a brush arbor on the west side of Jones Creek, and conducted services until the church was formally organized in April 1810. Along with several other members of Beard's Creek, he was dismissed on July 14, 1810, to organize Sarepta Church in Tattnall where he and his wife were members until transferring to Jones Creek. He was called to the pastorate of Jones Creek when it was formed and served until December 23, 1848. He also served churches in Liberty, Tattnall, McIntosh, Wayne and Appling Counties for more than half a century.

Though somewhat intemperate in his habits at times, he was a great churchman and community leader. He was a justice of the peace for Tattnall County, 1803-08, and for Liberty County after 1815.

He was among a small group that met at Little Canoochee Church and organized the Piedmont Association on October 20, 1815, the first Baptist association formed in South Georgia. He was its first moderator and later its clerk, serving several terms in the first capacity between 1815 and 1848, and in the latter several terms between 1818 and 1829.

After about ten years residence in Liberty County, he moved to Appling and was later placed in Wayne when a portion of the former was added to the latter. He died about 1864 at the venerable age of 92 and was buried at Bethlehem Church in Wayne County.

A CHRONOLOGY

1818

The inhabitants of Jones Creek were a people destitute of the preached Gospel, of course extremely uncultivated in mind and body. Therefore, it pleased Almighty God in His merciful providence as claiming a part of its inhabitants as His dear children, to call, qualify and send to us our well-beloved brother and pastor in Christ, Moses Westberry, through whose indefatigable labors under God we were planted a Church. We were constituted April 22nd in the year of our Lord, 1810 by the Reverend Brethren John Goldwire and Moses Westberry. Immediately after this event we unanimously called our well-beloved brother Moses Westberry to take the pastoral care of us, who after some few months deliberation kindly consented and has served us since to the present time, 1818; and will still continue we hope and trust through the blessings of God.

A sketch of the birth and baptism of the Reverend Moses Westberry, Pastor of the Baptist Church at Jones Creek, Liberty County, Georgia: According to the record left by his parents he was born in the State of South Carolina, High Hills of Santee, near a village called Statesburg on the second day in March in the year of our Lord, 1772, and was baptized upon a profession of faith in Christ by the Reverend David Hennessey in the waters of Beards Creek in the month of August 1804 as a member of Beards Creek Church, Georgia, Tattnall County.

June 27, 1818

Brother Westberry again called to the pastoral care of the church, and Brother William Smith called to preach at this church until called to some other church.

July 25, 1818

Conference opened by preaching. Sister Westberry applied for membership by letter and was received.

NOTE: Rachel and Amelia were already members as was the wife of Moses.

This can only be his second wife, Elizabeth Bennett Westberry.

Brother Westberry requested the Church to investigate his conduct respecting a charge laid against him at Sarepta. The Church here received the investigation. The Church of Jones Creek consider the charge laid against Brother Westberry by the Sarepta Church is no charge; that Brother Westberry is right in his manner of leaving them.

Appointed Brethern William Smith, C. Flowers and Westberry as delegates to the next Association. Appointed Brother Westberry to write the letter.

Brother John Hicks applied for membership in this Church by letter, as also Sister Hicks through him, and both of them received.

August 22, 1818

Rev. Westberry presented rules of decorum.

September 26, 1818

Conference opened. Brother Townsend laid in a grievance against Brother Baxter Smith. The Church received a charge against Brother Smith. Brother Deloach to cite Brother Smith to the conference in November next. Brother Townsend moved for Brother Morgan to have pay for the pulpit. Levi Morgan was authorized a payment of \$7 for making the pulpit. Agreed to, and to come prepared next conference. Brother Bohannon taken under the watchcare of the Church.

November 22, 1818

Conference opened by prayer. The case of Brother Smith laid over to next conference. Brother Deloach and Brother Smith value the pulpit at seven dollars.

December 26, 1818

Conference opened by prayer and exhortation. The case of Brother Townsend and Brother Smith laid over til next conference. The case of Brother Malpress taken under consideration. The committee concluded that Mister Malpress be excommunicated and the sermon be preached tomorrow.

February 27, 1819

Conference opened by prayer. The case of Brother Townsend and Brother Smith laid over til next conference. The case of John Hicks taken under consideration. He is excommunicated.

Received a petition from the Satilla Church desiring the ordination of Brother William Smith. The Church agreed to the petition by a unanimous vote. This Church request that Brethern Fleming Bates and Moses Westberry to form a presbytery for the examination and if orthodox the ordination of Brother William Smith.

April 24, 1819

Conference by prayer. The case of Brother Townsend and Brother Smith brought forward and after deliberating the case the Church voted unanimous that Brother Townsend is clear of the charge laid against him by Baxter Smith. Sister Morgan restored to fellowship.

May 22, 1819

Conference opened by prayer and exhortation. Agreed that Brother William Smith have a letter of dismissal. Baxter Smith expelled from this Church, also Brthr Brewer expelled.

Received a deed from Mr. Walthour for one acre of land on which the house stands. Brother Smith to write Sister Dyess a letter of dismissal.

June 26, 1819

Conference opened by prayer and preaching.

July 24, 1819

(No entries appear. Only the date)

November 20, 1819

Conference opened by prayer. It is the opinion of the Church that for male members to absent themselves from Conference except for a good excuse is a departure from the command of God and after this we expect that they will give their due attendance or make their excuses.

The Conference agreed that Sister O'Steen be cited to next Conference.

November 26, 1819

Male members will not absent themselves from conference except by valid excuse as this would be a departure from the command of God.

February 27, 1820

Conference opened by prayer and exhortation. The case of Sister Morgan for a transgression. Sister Morgan makes her acknowledgments and is restored.

March 26, 1820

Conference opened by preaching. Brother Thomas requested to cite Sister O'Steen and he did from last conference. She did not attend.

Brother Morgan stated that he had not received payment for the pulpit.

April 22, 1820

Conference opened by prayer and exhortation. The case of Sister O'Steen taken in consideration. The case of Sister O'Steen settled. Brother Townsend requested to cite Brother William Smith to next Conference.

May 27, 1820

Conference opened by prayer and exhortation. Nothing to do.

June 24, 1820

Conference opened by prayer and exhortation. Received a letter from Wesley Creek requesting of aid for which we appoint the following Brethern; Moses Westberry, Levi Morgan, Light Townsend, Charles Flowers and Richard Strickland.

July 22, 1820

Conference opened by exhortation and prayer. Nothing to do.

August 26, 1820

Conference opened by prayer and exhortation. Appointed delegates to the Association: Brother Westberry, Brother Thomas. Brother Westberry appointed to write the letter.

September 23, 1820

Conference opened by prayer and preaching.

October 21, 1820

Conference opened by singing and prayer. Nothing to do.

Membership at the end of it's first decade, (1820), consisted of the following members.

Source: 150th Anniversary of Jones Creek Baptist Church, April 24, 1960, by Barbara Parker.

Barnes, Susannah	Horne, Mary	Shaw, Jeremiah
Bohannon, John	Horne, Richard	Simmons, Laodicia
Bohannon, Lydia	Howell, Ann	Smith, Baxter
Brewer, Burris	Howell, Soloman	Smith, Willliford
Brewer, Celete	Hunt, Hannah	Smith, Mary
Brewer, Delilah	Johnson, Celia	Smith, William, Jr.
Brewer, James	Keaton, Sarah	Strickland, Richard
Brewer, Robert	Lefiles, Melaney	Strickland, Susannah
Carter, Letty	Leigh, James J.	Tanner, Celey
Chapman, Mary	Leigh, Mary	Thomas, Banner
Chesser, Mary	Lowery, Fannie	Thomas, James
Clark, James	Lowery, Henry	Thomas, Lewis
Davis, Charles	Malphurs, Howell	Thomas, Mary
Davis, Sarah	Malphurs, Sariah	Thomas, Rebecca
Delk, Elizabeth	Mixon, Amelia	Townsend, Light
DeLoach, Hardy	Middleton, Sariah	Towsend, Nancy
Flowers, Charles	Morgan, Levi	Townsend, Philby
Flowers, Martha	Morgan, Sarah	Westberry, Amelia (Dau of Moses)
Green, Daniel	Osteen, Obediah	Westberry, Elizabeth (Wife of Moses)
Hall, John	Osteen, Sarah	Westberry, Josiah (Son of Moses)
Hall, Mary	Parker, Anna S.	Westberry, Rev. Moses
Harrington, Elizabeth	Parker, William H., Sr.	Westberry, Rachel (Dau of Moses)

Hicks, Jeremiah	Parker, John	SLAVES
Hicks, John	Peacock, John	Moses
Hicks, Wealthy	Peacock, Elizabeth	Fanny (Phoebe)
Hiers, Anna	Poppell, Sarah	Rachel

Hardy DeLoach, Richard Horne, Levi Morgan, William H. Parker, and Jeremiah Shaw, were old soldiers in the War of the Revolution and active in gaining our independence.

January 27, 1821

Conference opened by singing and preaching.

April 22, 1821

Conference opened by singing and prayer. Nothing to do.

June 22, 1821

Conference opened by singing and prayer.

August 25, 1821

Conference opened by singing and preaching. Delegates appointed to the Association: Richard Strickland, Light Townsend, Hardy DeLoach. Brother Morgan to write the letter.

September 22, 1821

Conference opened by singing and prayer.

December 22, 1821

Conference opened by prayer. Agreed that the members of this Church who may transgress in future shall make confession at the next conference or be sharply dealt with. Agreed that nothing more be done with Sister Morgan for the last charge laid against her. Agreed that communion be regularly kept up in the church and if one communion season fail the next meeting shall be communion after. Agreed that Brother Westberry be appointed to prepare a new Covenant to be signed by us if approved, the old Covenant being by some means lost or destroyed.

January 26, 1822

Conference opened by prayer. Brother Morgan stated that he had through anger done that he ought not to have done and had brought a disgrace upon the church and cause of God. Brother Bohannon stated that he had got drunk and that Brother Morgan struck or slapped him five or six times and every time calling him a damned raskel. The Church this day lay under a censure Brother Morgan, Brother Bohannon and Sister Morgan.

February 23, 1822

Conference opened by preaching. Brother Townsend stated that he had drunk too much but done no other evil. The Church forgave him. Brother DeLoach stated he was accused of drinking too much but it was not so. Brother Bohannon received into full fellowship.

March 23, 1822

Conference opened by preaching. Brother Westberry presented the Covenant for this Church which was received and assigned. Appointed next meeting to enquire or not to enquire into the 10th Section of the Minutes of the Piedmont Association of 1821. JAMES THOMAS, C.C.

(Art 10th Took under consideration a letter from Jones Creek Church, which letter seems to breathe a charge or an unusual caution against this Association; also requested the said church to make inquiry about this seemingly charge or unusual caution and to report to the next Association.)

April 27, 1822

Conference opened by preaching. Took under consideration the enquiry of Brother Westberry on the 10th Article of the Minutes of 1821. The Church did request and authorize Brother Westberry to write the letter to Piedmont Association of 1821. The Church unanimously agreed they will not enquire of Brother Westberry concerning the above letter for we see no harm in it. Brother Westberry appointed to prepare an answer to next Association in behalf of this Church in answer to their request of 1821. Sister Mary Horn received under the watchcare of this Church and to its privi leges. JAMES THOMAS, C.C.

May 25, 1822

Conference opened by preaching. The Church appointed William Smith, Jr. to prepare the letter in answer to the request of the Piedmont Association instead of Brother Westberry as appointed last conference. Brother Westberry is therefore exempt from that appointment.

July 27, 1822

Conference opened by preaching. Brother Morgan applied for fellowship, it was postponed to next meeting.
JAMES THOMAS

August 24, 1822

Conference opened by preaching. The case of Brother Morgan taken under consideration and he was received into full fellowship.
JAMES THOMAS

September 21, 1822

Conference opened by preaching. Brother Solomon Howell applied to this Church for membership and after considerable discourse and this Church, Appointed Brethren Westberry, Flowers and Strickland as delegates to the next Association.
JAMES THOMAS.

October 26, 1822

Conference opened by prayer and singing. Brother Solomon Howel is authorized to exercise his gifts in this Church and at such places as the Church may appoint him until they prove his gifts and qualifications.
Received by experience Brethern James J. Lee and Lewis Thomas.

October 27th, 1822

Baptised Brethren James J. Lee and Lewis Thomas.

December 21, 1822

Conference opened by preaching. Received by letter Sisters Ann Howel and Sariah Keeten in fellowship. Brother Townsend to provide for next Communion. After that to contribute to the Deacon.
Brother Lite Townsend elected Deacon of this Church. Agreed that next conference there be a contribution for Brother Westberry.
JAMES THOMAS, Clerk

December 22, 1822

Received by experience William Smith, Jr., Ann Hiers and Mary Lee, all of which ordered to be baptized if the Lord will, at our next monthly meeting.

January 25, 1823

Conference convened by preaching. A door for experience opened: Received John Peacock, Charles Davis, Amelia Mixon and baptized William Smith, Jr., John Peacock, Charles Davis, Ann Hiers, Mary Lee and Amelia Mixon.
A contribution taken for the Ministry and obtained the sum of \$12.10 and Brother Baker promised to pay one dollar.
Appointed Brother William Smith, Jr. Clerk of this Church.
Next conference appointed for contribution for Communion.

February 22, 1823

Conference opened by preaching by Brother Westberry, our pastor. The brethern enquired of each other and found no business to do this Conference. Signed in behalf of the Church the date above,
WILLIAM SMITH, Junr. C.C.

March 22, 1823

Conference opened by preaching by Brother Westberry from Proverbs of Solomon the 8th chapter and 4th verse. The brethern consulted and found nothing to do.
WILLIAM SMITH, Jun., C.C.

April 1823

Brother Banner Thomas was baptised by the Reverend Moses Westberry.

April 26, 1823

Conference opened in order. Brother Morgan moved that the Friday before next meeting in course be appointed to meet and make arrangements relative to the repairing and making seats and Brother James Thomas seconded the motion and it is agreed to. Agreed that the Saturday before each Communion be appointed for contribution to produce the elements for the next Communion.

May 24, 1823

Conference opened in order. Brother DeLoach begs the prayers of the Church and Brother Smith also on the part of his companion, also Sister Chapman begs the prayer of this Church on the part of her husband. Brother Howel moved for liberty to go and preach where ever he thought the Lord called him. Laid over till next conference.

Amelia Westberry, our beloved sister, was baptized by her father and our pastor the Reverend Moses Westberry in 1823.

Richard Horn, Rachel Westberry and Laney Lefiles were baptized 24th of May 1823 by the Reverend Moses Westberry.

June 21, 1823

Conference opened in order.

July 26, 1823

Conference set in order after preaching. Brother Morgan moved that the Decorum be read at each conference and strictly observed by this Church. Brother Thomas seconded the motion and it was agreed to.

August 23, 1823

Conference opened in order after preaching. The decorum was read according to the minutes of the last Conference.

Rev. Brother Westberry, Richard Strickland and William Smith, Jr., appointed delegates to the next Association and Brother Westberry be appointed to write a letter to the Association. The Church then votes that the ordinance of washing of feet take place on the Saturday before the next Communion which will be in October next.

This Church received information that Brother Light Townsend has transgressed and appointed Brother James Brewer to cite him to next Conference.

WILLIAM SMITH, Jun., C.C.

September 27, 1823

Conference set in order. Brother Westberry according to appointment at last Conference, produced and read a letter to the Association which is received.

The case of Brother Townsend took under consideration and is settled.

Saturday, October 25, 1823

Conference set in order after preaching in the usual manner. Received a letter from the Church at Wesley Creek requesting us to send them the same Committee that was appointed here-to-fore to aid them in the case of Reubin O'Berry: Charles Flowers, Levi Morgan, Moses Westberry. To meet on Saturday before the 3rd Sabbath in December next.

November 22, 1823

Conference set in order after preaching.

December 27, 1823

A sermon was delivered and after a few minutes intermission, Conference set in order after singing. Brother John Peacock rose and stated that he had transgressed and has been beastly drunk and did not expect the Church to receive him, but he wished them to forgive him for enough to pray for him, and the Church recommended him to go and try to obtain forgiveness of his aged father.

January 21, 1824

Brother Peacock received in full fellowship. Brother Flowers moved and it is seconded that on Saturday before the 4th Sabbath in February be appointed to contribute for the support of the ministry. Appointed a committee of five sisters to investigate the case of Fanny of colour; and report to this Church: Reported that they think best that the case be laid over til she is present. Carried on to March 27th.

WILLIAM SMITH Jun. Church Clk.

February 21, 1824

Conference set in order. Brother James J. Leigh being in a desolate part of world and begs the prayers of this Church for himself and family. Brother Solomon Howell licensed.

Saturday, March 27, 1824

The case of the sister (Fanny of Color) declined and the case came again before the Church and she is this day expelled from the Church.

WILLIAM SMITH, Junr. C.C.

April 24, 1824

Conference opened in order. Received and read a letter from Wesley Creek Church requesting aid in the case of Reubin O'Berry. Appointed Brother Levy Morgan, Smith and Richard Horn to meet at Wesley Creek on the 3rd Saturday in June, next.
WILLIAM SMITH, Junr., C.C.

25th of April 1824

Received by letter, Sarah Poppell and Rebecca Thomas.

May 22, 1824

Conference set after preaching. Brother Moses Westberry appointed to aid the Committee at Wesley Creek. Brother James Brewer arose and stated (sentence not finished).

June 26, 1824

Conference opened after singing and prayer. Took up an accusation against Sister Leety Brewer. William Smith, Jr. appointed to cite her to next Conference. Divers accusation received against Solomon Howell, and Brother Light Townsend made a formal demand of said Solomon Howell's license and Brother Townsend appointed to call for them. It was found that Solomon Howell was received illegal into this Church and it was thought as such that he ought to go out at the same door and being put to vote it was nearly unanimously decided in the affirmative.
WILLIAM SMITH, Jun., Clerk of the Church

July 24, 1824

After a sermon was delivered by Brother Westberry and a short intermission, Conference set after singing. After the decorum was read, took up the case of Sister Brewer. William Smith stated that he had cited her to this conference. The case laid over until next Conference. Took under consideration a case of lying and cheating between Brother Parker and Sister Keeton and proceeded to appoint a Committee, Bro. William Smith, Jr., Brother Light Townsend, Moses Westberry, Bro. Flowers, Jeremiah Shaw, James Brewer and Levy Morgan to meet at Brother James Thomas' on Friday next. Met according to appointment but the Committee together with the (torn), thought it best not to receive the decision on the (torn).

August 21, 1824

Conference set in order after preaching. Proceeded to the appointment of Delegates, Bro. Moses Westberry appointed as a delegate and the brethren viz: Moses Westberry, William Smith, Jun., John Peacock. Bro. Moses Westberry appointed to prepare a letter to the Association. Next Conference to receive contribution for the printing of the minutes. Bro. Westberry according to appointment which was read and received. Sister Brewer came forward and made ample confession and is restored to fellowship. The Committee as they perhaps did not fairly understand the case in its very nature. Sister Keeton being asked whether the charge be true or not and she denies it. The charge of lying and cheating laid in by Bro. William H. Parker against Sister Keeton, agreed that the case be laid over until next Conference.

September 25, 1824

Took under consideration the case between Bro. Parker and Sister Keaton. Appointed a committee of 2 brothers and sisters to (next three words unintelligible) and they strove together without success, and (sentence never completed). It was resolved that this conference adjourn until time in course. Brother Jeremiah Shaw laid in a complaint against Bro. Horn and accuses him of lying. Brother Light Townsend appointed to cite Bro. Horn to next conference. Brother James J. Leigh applied for a letter of dismissal for himself and Mary Leigh his wife, and William Smith, Junr. appointed to write one. Brother Townsend said he had cited Bro. Horn. Brother John Peacock laid in a complaint against William H. Parker accusing him of lying.
WILLIAM SMITH, Jr., C.C.

October 23, 1824

The conference met according to adjournment.
WILLIAM SMITH, Junr. Clk.

November 27, 1824

The Conference met according to adjournment. After singing, exhortation and prayer, Brother Townsend appointed Moderator and the Decorum being read, proceeded to business.

1st. Took up the case between Brother Wm. H. Parker and Sister Keaton and after much debate the question arose whether they should both be expelled or not, and being put to vote it was agreed that they both be expelled.

2nd. Mentioned the case of Brother Shaw and Brother Horn. Brother Horn arose and said it was a mistake in his speaking or in Brother Shaw hearing, but after much debate it appeared that Brother Horn was in the wrong, and the question arose whether Bro. Horn should be expelled or not and being put to a vote it was decided that he should be expelled.

WILLIAM SMITH, Jr. Clk.

February 26th, 1825

A few of the members assembled and after singing and prayer the Conference set in order after the decorum being read.

WILLIAM SMITH, Jr. C.C.

March 26, 1825

A few members present and after singing, prayer and exhortation, Conference set in order.

1st. The decorum being read and made some alternations.

2nd. Appointed Bro. Townsend moderator.

3ed. Brother Moses Westberry arose and made these propositions:

He asked the Conference 'Do you think the Lord ever called me to preach the Gospel?'

And it is answered in the affirmative.

And secondly, 'Do you think I preach the Gospel faithfully?'

And it was answered in the affirmative.

Again he said: 'Have any of you got anything against me or not?'

And it was answered, 'we have nothing.'

Again Brother Moses Westberry asked if he might take the vote of the Church and visibly [ascertain] all that wished him to continue his labours at this place, and they all voted in the affirmative.

4th. Bro. Light Townsend and Charles Flowers appointed to visit James Thomas as he has absented himself from the Conference without (torn).

5th. It is moved and seconded that Brother Williford Smith have a letter of dismissal from this church. Agreed that Wm. Smith, Jr., prepare him one and send it to him.

WILLIAM SMITH, Junr. C.C.

Saturday, the 23rd April 1825

After singing and preaching conference set in order. Appointed Brother Light Townsend moderator.

Bro. Flowers that himself and Bro. Townsend had done as they were appointed and that Bro. James Thomas has given satisfaction, only Bro. Thomas does not wish to have any vote in receiving or expelling members, as he had made a promise against it., and after some friendly debate the question arose, shall Bro Thomas have his wish, and it is agreed to.

Appointed next Conference for receiving contribution for Communion.

WILLIAM SMITH, Junr. C.C.

Saturday the 21st May, 1825

Conference opened by preaching and after a few minutes intermission not in conference. The decorum was read and Bro. Light Townsend appointed Moderator. Received contribution for Communion.

Baxter Smith sent an order to Charles Flowers for One dollar and fifty cents for a bottle of wine which he purchased a long time ago.

And after some debate the brethern could not recollect anything about it but feel willing to pay him and take his receipt for same.

Brother John Peacock stated the he had been drunk and appealed to Brother Townsend to relate. Brother Townsend said he heard very profane language, more than called Mr. Poppell a liar and so forth. Bro. Peacock states he has been sorely oppressed and condemned and we think we ought to forgive him.

Brother Townsend stated that a report follows Bro. Charles Davis of killing a beef not his own and thinks he ought to be sent for to next conference. Brother DeLoach to cite Bro. Davis.

WILLIAM SMITH, Jr., Clerk.

June 25th, 1825

Conference opened after singing and prayer. The case of Charles Davis put off until the next conference.

July 23rd, 1825

Conference opened by singing and prayer by Bro. Westberry. And then proceeded to read the decorum. Bro. Townsend moderator.

2nd. Took under consideration the case of Bro. Davis and it appears that he killed a steer not in his own mark but he said Mr. Royals marked the calf for him four or five years ago and he said he would bring Mr. Roe's hand the certainty of it. He further adds Mr.

Royals said he thought the steer was Bro. Davis, but Mr. Royals said he never thought the steer was his own but he thought it was Mr. Middleton's. And after much debate it is put to vote whether Bro. Davis be expelled or not, it is agreed that he be expelled.

Saturday the 27th August 1825

Conference opened by singing and prayer. Brother Flowers moderator. The decorum being read proceeded to business.

Moved that delegates be appointed to the Association and some one to write the Associational letter. Appointed Brethern John Peacock, Banner Thomas, Moses Westberry, in case of failure Bro. Townsend. Appointed William Smith, Jr. to write the letter to the Association, and the clerk is requested to petition for next Association to be at this place.

Next conference to receive money for the printing of the Minutes. Took under consideration the case of Susan Barnes who has been previously received by part (?) and laid over the case until next Conference.

WILLIAM SMITH, Junr.

Saturday the 24th September, 1825

After singing and prayer conference opened. Brother Westberry moderator. The clerk according to appointment presented the letter to the Association and it was read and received. Received contributions for the printing of the Minutes. Mentioned the case of Susan Barnes and after much friendly conversation she was received.

22nd day of October, 1825

Conference opened after singing and prayer.

1st. Bro. John Peacock arose and stated together [with] Brother Banner Thomas that they had enquired into the standing of John H. Malphurs and the members belonging to the Church at Pidgeon Creek, says that he [lives] an orderly Christian life more so than they did themselves. And upon that saying and also upon his own acknowledgment heretofore made to this church we as in conference, do restore our Brother John H. Malphurs as a member of this church this 22 October 1825.

And it is moved and seconded for Bro. John H. Malphurs to have a Letter of dismissal from this church and being put to vote it is agreed that he have a letter and there is one wrote this day to be sent by the first opportunity.

Brother James Thomas applies for a letter. Laid over till next conference.

WILLIAM SMITH, Junr. Clerk

November the 26th, 1825

Conference opened after preaching, Brother Townsend moderator. And he stated his excuse for not attending previous meetings and Bro. Flowers also. Bro. Lewis Thomas states he is not able to set in conference by indisposition.

Took under consideration the case of Brother James Thomas. Brother John Peacock stated that the brother is about to move. After some deliberation it is agreed that Brother Thomas have a letter. The Clerk is appointed to write the letter.

Brother Robert Brewer applied for a letter for himself and wife. We do agree for Brother Robert Brewer and Sister Brewer to have a letter of dismissal; the clerk is authorized to write the letters and sign them in behalf of the church.

Bro. Levi Morgan applies for a letter of dismissal and after some debate and several remarks the question arose, Shall Bro. Morgan have a letter; it is agreed to and that Bro. Smith write one and give it to him.

Solomon Howell stated that he was destitute of church privileges and wants advise of the church what to do for comfort and satisfaction. The case of S. Howell laid over till next meeting.

WILLIAM SMITH, Jr. C.C.

21st January, 1826

After singing and prayer by Bro. Westberry the Conference was opened. The decorum was read. Brother Banner Thomas was appointed Moderator. An accusation against Sister Leodicia Simmons, Bro. James Brewer to cite her to next conference.

WILLIAM SMITH, Junr. C.C.

25th February, 1826

Conference opened after singing and prayer by Brother Westberry and read the 18th of St. Matthew.

Bro. Flowers elected Moderator.

The case of Leodicia Simmons called. The clerk stated that James Brewer called at her home and said he had cited her to this meeting, and he not being able to come himself, and after the question arose it was unanimously agreed that she should be expelled, the crime is that of fornication or adultery.

Received a letter from Wm. H. Parker expressing a sorrow for whatever transgressions he had committed either in anger or in any wise and a great desire to be in fellowship with the people of God his few remaining days, he being in a very low state of health and concludes by requesting the prayers of the Church. And after some small remarks the Brother was restored again into full fellowship with us.

WILLIAM SMITH, Junr. Clk.

22nd April, 1826

After preaching, the baptism of Susan Barnes took place. After singing, conference was set. Brother Isham Peacock being present was chosen moderator.

Brother Shaw stated he had been drunk but was sorry for it and the church forgave him. Arrangement made for communion. Agreed that the next meeting be communion. Bro. Westberry, Townsend and Mr. Chapman provided for communion. Bro. Jeremiah Shaw applies for a letter which is granted. Bro. Townsend to procure a book for this church, and then adjourned.

February 24, 1827

Voted to have preaching on the second and fourth Sabbaths of each month.

March 22, 1828

Voted to purchase a Testament to be kept in the meetinghouse.

December 27. A committee consisting of Charles Flowers, Banner Thomas, and William Smith, Jr., to visit Rev. Moses Westberry and admonish him as he drinks too much.

September 23, 1829

A day set apart to work on the meetinghouse.

July 24, 1830

The Clerk was instructed to record at each conference the names of male members present. Rev. Westberry was accorded permission to serve Doctor's Creek Church on the second Sabbaths.

July 23, 1831

William Baggs, James Brewer, Simon Harrington, F. J. Chapman and William Smith, Jr., were appointed a committee to determine whether to repair the old meetinghouse or to build a new one, and on August 20 the committee reported it thought it best to build a new one.

April 27, 1832

William Smith Jr., and Simon Harrington were authorized to borrow \$50 to pay the balance due for building the meetinghouse.

May 27, 1832

Brother David Delk threw in a \$5 bill on the Macon Bank which fell immediately. His money was for building the new meetinghouse.

November 24, 1832

Moses Westberry, Jr., was licensed to preach. Resolved to call on the executors of the estate of the late William Osgood for a donation, and they gave \$10 which was used to procure a tablecloth. It was voted to have prayer meeting on the second Sabbath of each month.

February 23, 1833

Rev. Westberry asked that his labors at Doctor's Creek be bestowed elsewhere.

April 27, 1833

Since Rev. Westberry serves the church only on the second and fourth Sundays, it was resolved that he be allowed to serve Wesley Creek and Enon Churches on the other two Sundays.

August 24, 1833

Rev. Westberry Sr., suggested the propriety of changing the association to something like a general or union meeting.

September 20, 1833

William H. Parker Jr., and Richard Horne built a shed at the end of the meetinghouse.

November 10, 1833

The funeral of Laney Lefils, who died before October 26 was held.

January 26, 1834

Ordained Moses Westberry Jr., a minister of the gospel.

August 23, 1834

Simon Harrington moved that the church be incorporated; that Brother Smith prepare the petition to the legislature; and that Moses Westberry, Sr., Charles Flowers, William Smith, Jr., James Brewer, and William Baggs be named as Trustees. The Act when approved named Moses Westberry Sr., Charles Flowers, James Flowers, William H. Parker, and Hendley F. Horn.

January 24, 1835

William H. Parker Jr., was appointed a deacon.

December 24, 1836

Communion to be observed every three months commencing in January 1837.

June 24, 1837

Church agreed to hire someone to "fetch and carry" Brother Westberry from and to the Altamaha River each month; also to take steps to "stop the hogs out from under the meetinghouse."

October 21, 1837

Received \$7 to "stop the hogs," and \$2 of it was to pay for bringing and carrying Rev. Westberry to the river.

December 23, 1837

Governor George R. Gilmer signed Act to incorporate the church.

February 23, 1839

Resolved that when a brother misses two conferences in succession to send for him to attend the next.

March 23, 1839

Church gives the pastor the privilege of extending the right hand of fellowship to new members in behalf of the other members.

April 20, 1839

A committee consisting of AJ. Baggs, John Shaw, and William H. Parker to devise a plan for an addition to the meetinghouse for the comfort of the black people. The committee that was to hire transportation for the pastor was discharged.

May 25, 1839

Plan submitted for accommodating black people was not approved and a new committee was appointed consisting of Simon Harrington, Solomon Parker, and F. J. Chapman.

June 22, 1839

Conference was divided on plan to accommodate black people, so a new committee was appointed Simon Harrington, James Brewer, and H. F. Horne.

July 27, 1839

Approved plan to floor shed at the end of the meetinghouse for the black people.

February 22, 1840

It was decided that all letters given by the church, if not put in another church of the same faith within one year, shall be called back.

September 25, 1840

David Baggs, John Shaw, and James Brewer were appointed a committee to have the steps repaired.

October 23, 1840

Resolved to license T. G. B. Law to preach.

July 23, 1841

Seth Knight and Thomas G. B. Law were visiting preachers.

October 22, 1841

James Middleton and Moses Westberry, Sr., preached.

November 27, 1841

Licensed William H. Parker to preach.

May 27, 1843

The Sunbury Association meeting at Walthourville in November 1842, appointed Brothers Curtis and T.G.B. Law delegates to the Piedmont Association to request a correspondence with them.

June 24, 1843

W.H. Parker, Solomon Parker, and John Chapman were a committee to select a site for a well.

April 27, 1844

F. J. Chapman put banisters to the shed.

October 27, 1844

William H. Parker was ordained a minister of the gospel.

December 21, 1844

Committee was appointed to decide the best way to enclose the church house and cemetery.

July 27, 1846

A charge of slander was brought by Brother G.W. Parker against Brother R.H. Peacock, and Brother John Cribb was appointed to see Brother W.T. Chesser in regard to the slander.

August 22, 1846

The Articles of Faith printed in the *Piedmont Association Minutes of 1844* were adopted by the church.

October 24, 1846

Resolved that the day appointed by Governor George W. Crawford for fasting, humiliation and prayer be observed by the church.

1847

Resolved to change the discipline of the church so that the names of males absent from conference be recorded instead of those present. This was the last time that the names of females were recorded present.

May 22, 1847

A charge was brought against Sister Jane Todd for leaving her husband.

November 27, 1847

James Brewer, John Shaw, and R.H. Peacock were a committee to try and settle a difficulty between Sisters Jemima Sullivan and Sena Parker.

December 25, 1847

Committee reported the difficulty settled.

January 22, 1848

Resolved that Friday before the second Sabbath in February be set apart as a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer.

May 27, 1848

To observe the washing of feet at next communion.

June 15, 1848

A post office was established at Jones Creek and Francis J. Chapman was appointed postmaster.

August 26, 1848

Sister Jane Todd returned her letter as requested.

October 21, 1848

A committee consisting of James Brewer, A.J. Baggs, and John Chapman, was to visit Brother Westberry, Sr., and minister to his needs.

May 26, 1849

W. H. Parker, H. F. Horne and John Chapman were to superintend putting sashes in the windows.

April 27, 1850

Resolved that when a member under the influence of ardent spirits shall act so as to send out an unsavory influence and throw himself before the world as the butt of ridicule, he shall be termed a transgressor and dealt with accordingly.

June 22, 1850

S. Harrington, James Poppell, and John Chapman were "to draft a plan to enclose the church house in from being transgressed on by the goats." Plan was approved and committee was authorized to contract the work.

August 24, 1850

It was decided that delegates to the association be elected by ballot.

January 25, 1851

The Treasurer to pay \$5 for the benefit of Sister Mary Lewis.

March 21, 1851

As Brother William Roberson lives over the Altamaha River, he is required to attend conference only every three months.

June 21, 1851

J. W. Farmer, a Methodist, preached.

July 26, 1851

W.H. Parker was paid \$4 for enclosing the church. The church has been paying for communion wine, but it is now voted to allow the deacons to prepare it.

September 27, 1851

Resolved to buy a book in which to record the names and deaths of members, and all other matters thought to be important. Resolved that letters be granted only by unanimous voice vote.

February 2, 1852

Sheldon M. Chapman was appointed postmaster to succeed his late father.

April 24, 1852

Committee of W.B. Smith, John Chapman, and B.P. Harrington was to determine what repairs to the church were needed and to make report.

July 25, 1852

Committee recommended the old church house be repaired, but the church voted to build a new one. A committee was appointed to take subscriptions for building a new church house.

November 27, 1852

Committee of James Poppell and H.F. Horne was to see William Hughes, Sr., and ascertain whether the church might procure from him one-half acre of land.

February 26, 1853

H. F. Horne's plan for a new meetinghouse was received and he and W. B. Smith were appointed to see the executors of the estate of John Lambert, deceased, of the Midway community, and request financial help in building a new meetinghouse.

March 26, 1853

W. H. Parker, James Poppell, and John Chapman were authorized to have repairs made to the present house; also to have built a small house, ten feet square, down at the water, for baptismal purposes.

May 21, 1853

H.C. Parker was to send to Savannah for an iron-bound bucket for the well and to procure a water trough.

June 25, 1853

William H. Parker built the house at the water for use at baptisms, at a cost of \$22.22.

July 23, 1853

Simon Harrington, A.R. Johnston, William B. Smith, H.F. Horne, H.C. Parker, and B.P. Harrington were appointed a committee for purpose of building a new church.

October 22, 1853

No conference on account of letting out the building of a new church.

February 25, 1854

Resolved to call the black members together on the evening of the second Sabbath each month to inquire into their religious standing and try and edify them.

April 22, 1854

Church thanked William B. Smith for donating one dozen hymn books.

May 27, 1854

A protracted meeting was set to begin on September 21.

December 23, 1854

James R. Miller was called as pastor, but could not accept.

April 21, 1855

S. M. Chapman was appointed to go to Moses Westberry with constitution, and having no constitution, H. F. Horne, W. B. Smith and W.H. Parker were authorized to write one for the church.

June 24, 1855

In response to a request from South Newport Church, C. J. W. Thorpe was ordained to the ministry.

August 25, 1855

Brother Moses Westberry was extended conveniences, but because of his inabilities refused to come. The Negro conference was changed back to the regular one.

February 18, 1856

The Jones Creek Post Office was discontinued.

April 26, 1856

The new church having been completed, the building committee was instructed to contract for having the yard cleaned and to procure a bucket for the well.

July 26, 1856

Resolved that the old church house be sold next Thursday week (August 7) by Brother H.C. Parker.

November 22, 1856

Resolved that John Shaw have two dozen spit boxes made. S. M. Chapman was to keep the church key and be responsible for cleaning church for which he was to be paid quarterly.

January 27, 1857

H. F. Horne was designated agent to borrow money to pay for building the new church house.

February 21, 1857

Returned to old rule of October 25, 1834, that all male members present at conference be entitled to their seats.

October 24, 1857

These applied for their letters to constitute another church (Elim) - E. R. Hodges, E. E. Hodges, John Shaw, J. L. Shaw, Sarah Shaw, N. A. McGowan, Delila Brewer, John H. Howard, S. A. L. Howard, Sarah A. Easterling, N. A. Gordon, D. H. Foster and Sarah E. Foster.

March 27, 1858

Sister Mary Barry applied through G.W. Parker for a letter of dismissal.

July 24 and December 25, 1858

Rev. Lewis Price preached.

January 23, 1859

Resolved that all white male members be required to vote on all questions unless excused.

October 22, 1859

Endorsed the Association's recommendation that each member pay thirty cents quarterly for support of home missions. S. Harrington was appointed treasurer for this purpose.

November 26, 1859

Moved to raise \$100 for support of pastor for the next year. Resolved that Brother W. L. Geiger preach a doctrinal sermon the next day.

July 21, 1860

A committee was appointed to repair the enclosure around the cemetery and mark the graves B. Harrington, R.H. Peacock, David Delk, W.S. Parker, John H. Smith, George E. Brewer, George T. Dunham, D.F. Sullivan, John S. Fletcher, H.C. Parker, James M. Owens and Jesse Gordon.

May 25, 1861

A committee composed of David Delk, H.C. Parker, George E. Brewer, F. J. Chapman, and W. D. Baggs, was to bear a letter to a convention at Salem Church, June 28-30. Brother W. O. Darsey presented the letter and it was received.

July 27, 1861

A committee - John Chapman, David Delk, and H. F. Horne - was to meet with a committee from three other churches to consider the propriety of calling one pastor for all four churches.

August 24, 1861

"Whereas a goodly number of our male members have been called into the service of the Confederate States, resolved that all such members be excused from conference until they return from services."

Committee met at Tom's Creek Church and agreed to call Rev. W. H. Parker.

September 21, 1861

R. James Shaw requested that his name be stricken from the church roll as his views concerning missions differ from those of the church.

October 26, 1861

"So many members are in Confederate States service that the business of dealing is postponed until they return and a majority at least is present."