

CHURCH HISTORIES

FELLOWSHIP PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH HISTORY

KNOWN AS GUM LOG

1851-1889



COMPILED BY
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LCDA&H, INC.
18

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MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI

Fellowship Primitive Baptist Church
Known As Gum Log
1851-1889

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Fellowship Primitive baptist Church
(Known As Gum Log Church)

Background

When a split came in the Fellowship Baptist Church (Centerhill Area) in September 1849, the two groups agreed to allow those who desired to withdraw from Fellowship Baptist Church in peace. Those withdrawing were: Lucy Brown, Mariah Brown, John, Brown, Randolph Brown, Goldy Keeton, Lucinda Richardson, Eliza Brown, Matthew Trussell, Jane Brown, Austin Keeton and John Talbert.

It was at this point - sometime in 1850 - that Fellowship Primitive Baptist Church was formed by former members of the Fellowship Baptist Church. In the early days the new church was referred to simply as Fellowship Church. The first minutes recorded are on Saturday before the 4th Lord's Day of February 1851. These minutes follow the listing of the Confession of Faith and Rules of Decorum. It is entirely possible that the members of the church met and held services some months before the church was actually constituted. There is no record of this constitution nor any list of constituting members. Austin Keeton was the leader in the new church.

Saturday before the 4th Lord's Day - February 1851

J. (John) Brown, Church Clerk; Austin Keeton, Moderator. There was no business and apparently only a sermon.

March 1851 No business - same Moderator and Clerk.

April 1851 Same as above.

May 1851; June 1851 Same as above.

August 1851

The church received Bro. Allen Moore by letter and ordained Primitive Baptist minister. The church chose Austin Keeton, Allen Moore and John Brown as delegates to the Association (not named) Meeting.

September 1851 No business, sermon only.

October 1851 Brother Allen Moore served as moderator.

November 1851 No business.

December 1851 Preaching only.

January 1852 No entry.

February 1852 Brother Allen Moore, Moderator.

March-May 1852 Divine Services only.

June 1852
 Brethren Allen Moore, Austin Keeton and John Talbert as delegates to the District Meeting.

August 1852 Only Association business.

September 1852
 The No. 7 Article of Decorum was altered to read that a majority shall rule in all cases except in receiving members - then a unanimous vote shall be required.

October 1852 No business.

November-December 1852, Januray 1853 No entry.

February 1853
 Brother Allen Moore, moderator; only divine services.

March - April 1853 Services only.

May - June 1853
 Services only, selection of delegates in June.

July 1853 Services by Brother Allen Moore.

August 1853 Services by Brother Austin Keeton.

September 1853
 The church received Brother Hiliard Carpenter by letter.

October 1853 Services only.

March 1854
 The church received Brother James Daverson by letter.

April - June 1854 No business.

Septemer 1854 Only Association business.

December 1854 Brother Austin Keeton chosen as pastor.

May 1855

Brother (John) Talbert expressed a hurt with sister church Mount Olivet (Kemper County). Brethren Hiliard Carpenter and Austin Keeton appointed to labor with Mount Olivet Church.

June 1855

Mount Olivet rescinded the Act that caused the hurt to the Church's satisfaction. Sister Pace was granted a letter of dismission.

July 1855 Divine services only.

August 1855

The district meeting to be held in the Salem Church in Sumter County, AL.

September 1855 Only services.

February 1856 No business.

March 1856 Only services.

April 1856 No business.

May - June 1856 Only services.

July 1856 Only District Meeting business.

September 1856 Only Association business.

March 1857 Brother Austin Keeton re-elected pastor.

May 1857 No business.

June 1857

Brother Duncan and Sister Mary Joiner made satisfactory acknowledgment and were restored to fellowship.

July 1857

A letter from the Union Church was read and answered. Contents not recorded.

August 1857 Associtaion business.

September 1857

Brother and Sister Keeton were granted letters of dismissal. (ED. Note: This probably was Austin Keetong and his wife.)

October 1857 Brother Gilbert Joiner chosen as pastor.

December 1857 No business.

ED. Note: Even when there are no minutes recorded it doesn't mean there was no church. It is very possible that minutes of the meeting were not recorded.

January - February 1858 No business.

March - July 1858 Only divine services.

August 1858

Brethren H. Carpenter, L. M. Duke and John Brown as Association delegates, with John Talbert as alternate.

September - October 1858 Only services.

November 1858

Brother N. G. Joiner re-elected pastor. Allen Jones served as Moderator.

January - Febraury 1859 No business.

March 1859

The church restored Brother Thomas M. and Sister Martha Holland.

ED. Note: The above proves that all minutes were not recorded as there is no entry of charges against the Hollands.

April - May 1859 No business.

June 1859

The church voted to hold communion and footwashing twice each year in April and September.

July 1859 Only divine services.

August 1859

The church received Brother Benjamin and Sister Sarah Ann Perry by recantation. Association delegates selected were brethren Thomas Duke, H. Carpenter, John Brown and Thomas ? Holland as alternate.

September 1859 No business.

November 1859

Brother N. G. Joiner re-elected as pastor. John Brown remained as Church Clerk.

January -April 1860 No business. Only Services.

May 1860

The church received Brother Moses and Sister Sarah Warren.

June - August 1860 No business. Only services.

September 1860 Divine services only.

October 1860

Brother T. M. and Sister Sarha Ann Holland were granted letters of dismissal.

November 1860 Brother N. G. Joiner re-elected pastor.

December 1860 Servives only.

February - July 1861 Divine services only.

August - November 1861 Divine services.

December 1861

The church received Washington Castelberry by letter. Elder N. G. Joiner re-elected pastor. John Brown remained clerk.

January, March - May 1862 Only services.

The minutes only reflect routine matters. John Brown was Church Clerk and N. G. Joiner was the Pastor. The writer at this point will cover the history other than routine matters asit occurs in the minutes.

November 1862 Brother N. G. Joiner re-elected pastor.

February 1863 Tom Duke served as Church Clerk pro-tem.

June 1863 The church received Luke R. Lee by experience.

October 1863

The church granted a letter of dismissal to Brother Washington Castleberry.

July 1864

Received Sister Martha Pace by experience and Sister Eliza A. Keeton by letter.

ED. Note: As in other church minutes there is no mention of the Civil War.

June 1865 Restored Andolph? Brown to fellowship.

July 1865

Received Brother Arthur Brown by experience and the church liberated Brother John Brown, long time Church Clerk, to exercise his gift.

September 1865

Restored Sister Winny Denton and received Sister Sarah Salina Duke by experience.

March 1866

The church voted to discontinue the services of Pastor N.G. Joiner. N. Pace served as Moderator.

May 1866

Brother N.J. Joiner made a satisfactory report and was received again as the Church Pastor.

June 1866

The church voted to call for help in the ordaining of Brother John Brown as a minister.

July 1866

Received Brother Moses Chandler by letter. Brother Brown ordained by Brethren J. C. Creceilus (Antioch Primitive Baptist Church, Scott County, MS), W. J. Magee and N. G. Joiner.

August 1866

Received Brother John L. Meeks and Sarah Meeks by letter. Appointed Brother T. M. Duke as Church Clerk.

September 1866

Brother Thomas Milton Duke was elected as a Church Deacon.

November 1866

Brother John Brown served as Moderator. Brother T.M. Duke ordained as a deacon by Elder N.G. Joiner and Brother John Brown.

December 1866

Elder John Brown served as moderator. T. M. Duke, as Church Clerk.

September 1867

The Church took up the case of Brother Luke R. Lee, where there were scandalous reports about him relative to theft and he failing to give satisfaction to the church. The church also entered a charge of him for making false statements to the brethren. He was excluded until such time as he could make satisfaction to the church.

December 1867 Brother T. M. Duke served as moderator.

January 1868

The church liberated Brother T. M. Duke to exercise his gift within the bounds of the Zion Rest Association or wherever God may cast his lot.

ED. NOTE:The above indicates that the church was a member of the Zion Rest Association. T. M. Duke served both as Moderator and Church Clerk.

April 1868 Elder John Brown, moderator.

July 1868

The church had visitors: Brother E. and Sister Jones, Brother William and Sister Hassel from Mt. Olive Church; Brethren Freeman and Mott from Friendship Church; and Brother G. S. Pace from Mt. Zion Church.

Brother T. M. Duke was ordained as a minister by W. J. McGee and John Brown.

The church voted to send a committee of three to meet with the Mt. Olive Church to help settle a difficulty. The committee

members were: Elder John Brown, T. M. Duke and Allen Jones; alternate, Moses Chandler.

September 1868

Brother T. M. Duke was granted a letter of dismissal. J. L. Meeks commenced serving as Church Clerk. Elder John Brown remained Pastor and Moderator.

September 1869

Received Bro. William and Lucy Meeks by experience; also Sister E. J. Edgar.

July 1870

Received Brother G. S. Pace by letter from the Mt. Zion Church, Lauderdale County, MS. Brother William and Lucy Meeks were granted letter of dismissal.

September 1870

Elder John Brown, moderator for the next term. October 1870 Sister Jane Miles excluded for uniting herself with a missionary church (Regular Baptist).

February 1871 Received Brother William and Lucy Meeks by letter.

December 1871

Brother Arthur Talbert was charged with using too much spirits liquors and disorderly walk.

February 1872

Brother Athur Talbert was excluded from the church fellowship.

July 1872

Received Sister Lucinda Williams and O. F. Darrow by letters.

September 1872

Received Brother Jessee Womack by experience and Sister Phenlee Pace and Brother John Talbert by letters. A charge of dealing wrongfully with her husband was preferred against Sister Talbert. Brother John Talbert and William Meeks to notify her of the charge.

April 1873

Received Brother Calib and Elizabeth Hill by letter.

May 1873

Received Sister Tamen Mannes by letter and Sister Margaret A. Gunn by experience.

July 1873

The church chose Elder John Brown, B.D. Meador and G.S. Pace as Association delegates; alternate, William Meeks.

August 1873

Received Brother C. R. Warren and his wife Judith E. Warren by letter.

December 1873

Sister Lucretia Jones granted a letter of dismissal since there was a charge pending against her.

January 1874

J. L. Meeks was relieved of the Church Clerk's duties, which were assumed by Brother C. R. Warren.

February 1874

Brother J. L. and Sister Sarah Meeks were granted letters of dismissal.

June 1874

Received Brother R. N. Gunn by experience. The church liberated Brother William Meeks to exercise his gift in any way he sees proper.

August 1874

Brother Randle and Sister Jane Brown granted letters of dismissal.

The church appointed a committee to see the members who had joined the Grangers and voted to send a query to the Association to see if the church should hold such members in fellowship. Brother R.N. Gunn liberated to exercise his gift in his church or sister church of the same faith as he saw fit.

The church preferred a charge against Sister Martha Pace and Sister Eliza A. Keeton for violating Primitive Order by joining themselves to the secret order of HUSBANDY.

February 1875

The church withdrew her fellowship from Sister Martha Pace and Sister Eliza A. Keeton.

April 1875 Brother R. N. Gunn was ordained as a minister.

October 1875

Brother Lee came forward desiring to talk to the church and was restored back to the fellowship of the church.

August 1876

The church accepted Brother Henry Tolbert, Sister Susan McDonald and Sister Hester Revels who were examined and received as candidates for baptism into the Fellowship Church. The church chose delegates to the Association meeting. Brother John Tolbert was granted a letter of dismissal. The next Association meeting to be held in the Bethel Church in Clarke County, MS.

November 1876

Sister Elizer Henderson requested membership with the church and Sister Edgar was granted a letter of dismissal.

March 1877

NOTE: The minutes are very dim and difficult to read.

One Sister Mary Ann Amanda Tolbert came forward and related her feelings to the church and was received into fellowship.

The church withdrew the liberty that was granted to W. Meeks to exercise his gift.

April 1877 J. Brown, Moderator; C. R. Warren, Church Clerk.

July 1877

Henry and M. A. Tolbert (his wife) were granted letters of dismissal.

October 1877

The church preferred a charge against Brother W. T. and Sister Lucy Meeks for leaving the church and joining themselves to one not of our faith. The church withdrew their fellowship.

April 1878

Sister S. H. McDonald was granted a letter of dismissal.

January 1879

Brother G. S. Pace serving as Church Clerk; John Brown, Pastor.

ED. NOTE: Only regular services for a number of months.

October 1879 The church received A. J. Wies by experience.

June 1880

Received Elizabeth Brantley by experience. Regular church services.

August 1880

Received Lockard and Elizer Elizabeth Ratlif by experience. Elected delegates to the Association meeting - Elder John Brown, Elder R. N. Gunn, G. S. Pace; alternate, A. J. Wies.

April 1881

Sister Elizabeth Brantley was granted a letter of dismissal. **ED. NOTE: During this period there were a number of months where no conference was held.**

April 1882

A charge was preferred against Brother R. N. Gunn for intemperance and other unchristian conduct and that his ministerial credentials be demanded of him.

July 1882

Elder John Brown, A. J. Wies and Caleb Hill chosen as Association delegates; G. S. Pace, alternate.

June 1883

Brother A. J. Wies departed this life on June 21, 1883. Sister Marier Browen departed this life on June 9, 1883.

November 1883

Brother Author Talbert came forward and made a confession and was restored to fellowship, after which he was granted a letter of dismissal.

May 1884 Brother John H. Browen was received by letter.

June 1884

Sister Gunn was charged with non-attendance over the past several years. Elder John Brown appointed to cite her to the next conference.

July 1884

Sister Gunn was expelled from the church after she declined to report to the church. Apparently Brother R. N. Gunn made a satisfactory report to the church as he was selected as one of the

Association delegates at this conference (alternate).

April 1885

The church entered a charge against Brother R. N. Gunn for contempt of the church. Brother G. S. Paceto notify Brother Gunn of the charge.

May 1885

Brother R. N. Gunn was expelled from the fellowship of the church.

August 1885

Received Sister Mary L. Townsend by letter and Brother Obediah Ratlif.

November 1885

Brother J. W. Tolbert came forward and was received by experience and baptism.

May 1886

The church received Mary Jane Mealle by experience. Elder John Brown, Pastor; G. S. Pace, Church Clerk.

June 1866 Brother O. A. Ratcliff, Church Clerk.

July 1886

Association delegates Elders John Brown, Joseph Talbert and O. A. Ratcliff; Caleb Hill, alternate.

March 1888

The church received Brother Mathew Sprangler and wife by letter.

April 1888 Received Brother J. B. Miller by letter.

September 1888

Received by experience Sisters Mathey H. Brown and Harlisse Hill.

June 1889

The church voted to hold meetings at Brother Hill's for the purpose of receiving members of the faith and order of the church. Those to hold services were Elder J. B. Miller, Brother Caleb Hill, Joe Tolbert, John Brown and Brother Roberson (J. W. Roberson).

July 1889

Mary Ann Frances Dubores and Nancy Amiline Oreal were received by experience at the meeting at Brother Hill's.

September 1889

Received by experience Sister Ella Hill, Brother and Sister Knight (J. G. Knight).

October 1889

Received by experience Sisters Lea Roberson and Ela Miller.

November 1889

Brother Sam Aprangley and Brother Mathew Sprangley and wife received letters of dismissal.

December 1889

Dismissed by letter: Elder J. B. Miller and Sister Ella Miller.

October 1890

The following were dismissed by letter: Malissa Hill, Mattie H. Brown, J. H. Brown, Cabil Hill, Ella Hill, Elizabeth Hill, Mary A. Debose and Nancy E. Creal.

END OF MINUTES**NAMES OF MEMBERS - NOT DATED**

Austin Keeton - dismissed by letter
Sarah Keeton - dismissed by letter
Lucy Wilson
Mariah Brown - dead John Tolbert
Randolph Brown - excluded, then restored
Jane Brown - dead
Lucinda Richardson - dead
Mathew Trussell - dead Elizabeth Trussell - dead
John Brown Eliza Brown
Sarah Pace - dismissed by letter Tabitha Cocksey? - dismissed by letter
Elias Hays - dismissed by letter
Sarah Hays - dead
Allen Moore - dead
James Daverson - dead Hiliard Carpenter - dead
Berton Mdor (Mador) - dead Sarah Medor (Mador)
Alen Jones - dismissed by letter
Martha Jones - dead Wfreshey? Jones
Thomas Duke - dismissed by letter

Crecy Jones - excluded
Moses Warren - dead
Sidney Warren - dead
Anny Feilder - dismissed by letter
Luke R. Lee - excluded

SECOND MEMBER LIST - NOT DATED

Austin Keeton - dismissed by letter
Sarah Keeton - dismissed by letter
Mariah Brown - dismissed by letter
John Talbert - dismissed, then received by letter
Randolph Brown - excluded, then restored
Jane Brown
Lucinda Richardson - dead
Mathew Trussell - dead
Elizabeth Trussell - dead
John Brown - Preacher Eliza Brown
Sarah Pace - dismissed by letter
Tebitha Cooksey - dismissed by letter
Elias Hays - dismissed by letter
Sarah Hays - dead
Allen Moore, minister - dead
James Daverson - dead
Hiliard Carpenter - dead
Burton Meador, deacon - dead Sarah Meador
Allen Jones - dismissed by letter
Martha Jones - dead
Eupherias Jones - dismissed by letter
Thomas M. Duke, deacon - dismissed by letter
Crecy Jones - excluded
Moses Warren - dead
Sidney Warren - dead
Anny Feilder - dismissed by letter
Thomas Holland - dismissed by letter
Sarah Holland - dismissed by letter
Benjamin Perry - dismissed by letter Sarah Ann Perry
Jane Miles - excluded
Eliza A. Keeton - excluded
Luke R. Lee - excluded; restored; dismissed
Arthur Brown - dead
Wilie Denton - restored
Sarah S. Duke - received by experience 11/1865 - dead
Moses Chandler - received by letter 7/1866
John L. Meeks - received by letter 8/1866; dismissed
Sarah Meeks - received by letter 8/1866; dismissed

Aster Talbert - received by experience 9/187? - excluded
William T. Meeks - received by letter 1871; dismissed
Lucy Meeks - received by letter 1871; dismissed
Sidney J. Edgar - dismissed by letter
G. S. Pace, deacon
Ophelia F. Dennow - received by letter
Lucinda Williams - received by letter
Jessee Wammack - received by letter
Phenlie Pace - received by letter
Caleb Hill, deacon - received by letter
Elizabeth Hill - received by letter
James Morris? - received by letter
Margaret A. Gunn - received by letter
C. R. Lee - received by letter
Juditte E. Warren - received by letter
R. N. Gunn - received by experience
Henry Tolbert - received by letter
Auston? McDonald - received by experience
Heston Revel - received by experience 1881
M. A. Tolbert - dismissed by letter
Eliza Henderson - received by letter
Amanda Lockard - received by experience
Eliza Elizabeth Radclif - received by experience
Arthur Tolbert - restored; dismissed by letter
J. H. Browen - received by letter
M. Top Gunn - excluded