The Ex Post Council held at Ariel, State. Group—July 18th, 1860.

The church at Ariel, in Craven county, N. C., convened Saturday before the third Sunday in July, 1860, brother Wm. H. Riddick, of Middle Swamp, was called to the chair, and brother R. W. Simpoo was elected reading clerk.

The business before the conference was the investigation of certain charges of immoral conduct alleged against Rev. T. W. Babb, pastor of Ariel church, by the ministers at their meeting in Edenton, N. C., February 18th, 1860, and published in the Biblical Recorder.

The church at Ariel invited a council to assist her in this matter, and the following brethren were present and participated, viz:—

From Middle Swamp church—Wm. H. Riddick, J. A. Rountree, T. H. Roostren, Joseph Riddick, Dally Walker and Ephriam Morris.


From Reynolds church—E. J. Freeman, M. C. Lawrence, J. A. Edwards (deacon), Gilbert Paisley, John Paisley, James Slaton and Joseph Jones.

From Gatesville church—Marvadaan Lawrence and Timothy Lawrence.

From Beulah church—E. E. Speight.

From Colonia church—Geo. M. Mathews, deacon, and Moses Evans.

From Winton church—Hallie Ward.

From Handy Grove church—Wiley Walker.

This church, with the above named brethren to assist her with the council, then proceeded to investigate the aforesaid charges, and rendered their decision as follows:

Resolved 1. That while the Rev. T. W. Babb acknowledges the use of liquor, we do not believe that he has committed any crime morally or religiously by so doing. Offered by C. H. Speight and adopted.

Resolved 2. That there was no evidence whatever that the Rev. T. W. Babb was drunk, or under the influence of liquor at Warwick church, or elsewhere, and we pronounce it as false in every particular. Offered by C. H. Speight and adopted.

Resolved 3. That there being no evidence before us that the Rev. T. W. Babb has ever refused to pay an honest debt, we do not believe him guilty of the charge of persistently refusing to pay honest debts. Offered by R. W. Simpson and adopted.


Resolved 5. That in regard to the Warwick Sunday school charge, we dismiss this matter for want of any evidence of guilt. Offered by Wm. Canoon and adopted.

Resolved 6. That in regard to the charge of repeated intemperance—Resolved that it be dismissed for want of any evidence to sustain the charge. Offered by Wm. Canoon and adopted.

Resolved 7. That Wm. H. Riddle has been charged with adultery at Nag's Head, and whereas, there is no evidence to sustain such charge, therefore, resolved, that we do not believe Rev. T. W. Babb to be guilty of the charge, and to affirm. Offered by T. H. Roostren and adopted.

Whereas, we, the church at Ariel assembled in conference, assisted by a council of brethren from the six churches of Reynolds, Middle Swamp, Sandy Cross, Beulah, Colonia, Gatesville, Winton and Handy Grove, for the purpose of hearing the evidence upon the charges of immoral conduct alleged against Rev. T. W. Babb, our pastor, and a member of Ariel church, and introduced before the ministerial council recently held in Edenton, have heard a full presentment of the same, and declare said charges wholly unfounded; therefore

Resolved 1. That we denounced said council as entirely unjustified in its deliberations and decisions, and as being conducted by any Christian body in our history.

2. And further resolve, that we esteem Rev. T. W. Babb a worthy minister of the gospel, and a brother in good and regular standing with us.

Resolved 3. That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the Biblical Recorder for publication.

W. H. Riddle, Moderator, C. C.

M. J. Lawrence, C. C.
With the Civil War raging, Elder Howell, aged and desiring retirement, was still pastor. The church members were becoming very lax regarding attendance at conference and a special sermon had been delivered by Pastor Howell urging members to take more interest in the Lord’s business. Thus, a bleak picture existed when T.W. Babb offered his services to the church to aid Elder Howell during 1862-1863. In April, 1864 Brother Babb, a licensed minister serving Middle Swamp Baptist Church, requested membership into Piney Grove Baptist Church.

Mr. Babb, a promising and magnetic young man, was ordained “to the ministry of the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” at Piney Grove Church in March, 1865. His salary was to be $100.00 per year.

Money was scarce and the treasury was empty. Until 1866 the church relied on subscriptions, collections at quarterly conference and promises to meet the church’s responsibility to her pastor. Each year ended with the pastor’s salary not being met. Therefore, this year when the pastor’s salary was decided upon, a committee of four (J.M. Taylor, T.H. Martin, John H. Parker and Elder Babb) was appointed to apportion to each male member a part of the pastor’s salary. This method of collection was still difficult to enforce. At the end of 1867, the church was still in debt to the pastor $34.75 of his $125.00 a year salary. During the next two years, Elder Babb was elected pastor one year at a time, a custom which began with Elder John Howell and had endured through the years.

However, at quarterly conference on October 23, 1869, Elder Edward Howell brought forth the following motion which changed this custom:

"Motion: Resolved that we, this church, call Elder Thomas W. Babb to the pastoral of this church and that he remain in that capacity so long as he and the church are mutually satisfied. Furthermore, that in case of dissatisfaction on the part of either each shall give the other three months notice, previous to his resignation."

The ill fate that befell Elder Babb’s ministry was not recorded in the minutes. Only recorded there on October 8, 1875 was the following action which was taken by conference:

"We believe that Pastor T.W. Babb has been maliciously slandered. Rev. Putman Owens by his actions and treatment of Mr. Babb has given publicity to many of these slanderous reports.

Be it resolved that we 1. believe Mr. Babb to be innocent, 2. request Mr. Owens to no longer persist in a course of destruction to Christian harmony, but to correct publicity unless he knows them to be really true, and 3. If Mr. Owens persists in widening the breach already made, we will publish the innocence."

Committee of resolution

These resolutions were sent with Brother T.E. W. South Quay to see Bro. Babb.

This upheaval was not recorded.

He was a delegate to the C.R. Eure, and T.E. W. committee on Temperance.

By this time, the repercussion of the C.R.Eure Conference twice requested the church to release him during the period of the Civil War to return to the fields. Again in February, 1868, the church appointed a committee on Temperance.

Mr. Jethro D. Goodwin was the chairman of the committee.

Suddenly, the members of the church requested Brother Babb to return, and Babb evidently set the following condition before he accepted at the February 1868 quarterly conference:

"We are moved to advise Brother Babb that we, as members of the Piney Grove Baptist Church, do hereby advise him to return to this church for nearly 55 years, and we do hereby authorize him to be re-appointed in ordination to the pastoral of this church."

This upheaval was not recorded.

He was a delegate to the C.R. Eure, and T.E. W. committee on Temperance.

The treasurer's report for 1876-1877 showed Mr. Babb $117.54 for one year's salary. In his report, Mr. Babb agreed that if the church considered his salary was collectable he would pay his salary in full to January 1, 1882.

Elder Babb remained pastor. Mr. Jethro D. Goodwin, Mr. J. H. Parker and Mr. J. W. Frank were granted trips to Charleston, South Carolina. Mr. Babb left the church in January, 1890 unaccounted for. By this time, the church had held a special council meeting. Lack of evidence, the vote of the council, and the lack of evidence from several different churches, made it appear that Mr. Babb left the church due to lack of evidence. He was dismissed from the Baptist Church in January, 1890.

BY: Edith H. Freeman Seiling
made, we will publicly denounce his cause and publish resolutions vindicating our pastor’s innocence."


These resolutions were adopted by conference and the same committee, with Brother T.E. Waff Chairman, was appointed to attend conference at South Quay to see Brother Owens.

This upheaval was not the end of Elder Babb’s ministry at Piney Grove. He was a delegate to the association at Ahoskie on May 22, 1877, when he, G.R. Eure, and T.E. Waff were appointed to be messengers and a standing committee on Temperance.

By this time, the mission field was calling Brother Babb. Piney Grove Conference twice relieved him of his duties. In July, 1878 they voted to release him during the month of August to labor in adjacent missionary fields. Again in February and March, 1880 he was relieved of his appointments in order to canvas the union meetings in behalf of Eureka Church.

Mr. Jethro D. Goodman had passed on to his heavenly rewards. Suddenly, the members began to ask questions about the church property and land. A church had been located here five years before Jethro had become a member. Even though it had been an established Baptist church for nearly 55 years, no deeds had ever passed hands. Conference in May, 1881 appointed Elder Babb to obtain a deed for the land. Elder Babb evidently set the wheels of action in motion, but it was two years later before it became an accomplished fact.

The treasurer’s report of February, 1882 stated that the church owed Mr. Babb $117.54 for services rendered between 1879-1882. Mr. Babb agreed that if the church would raise $30.50 at once and collect as much as was collectable he would give the church a receipt made paid in full up to January 1, 1882.

Elder Babb remained pastor until January, 1884 when he, his wife and Frank were granted letters of dismission. His resignation as pastor was recorded in the following action.

The treasurer’s report of February, 1882 stated that the church owned Mr. Babb $117.54 for services rendered between 1879-1882. Mr. Babb agreed that if the church would raise $30.50 at once and collect as much as was collectable he would give the church a receipt made paid in full up to January 1, 1882.

Elder Babb remained pastor until January, 1884 when he, his wife and Frank were granted letters of dismission. His resignation as pastor was accepted at the February conference.

He later returned to the area as pastor at Ariel Baptist Church serving from January, 1890 until July, 1890. At the May conference of the Chowan Baptist Association, he was charged with immoral conduct. In July, Ariel held a special conference to investigate charges alleged against him. Due to lack of evidence, the decision of the council, composed of 30 members from several different churches, was in Mr. Babb’s favor. Nevertheless, Mr. Babb left the church and the area, perhaps because he had been dismissed from the Chowan Association in May.