

SCHEDULE OF BAPTIST CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

| <u>CHURCH</u> | <u>DATE</u>   | <u>SERVICE PROVIDED</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <u>COUNTY</u>               | <u>STATE</u>   |
|---------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| BETHANY       | 1788-1804     | Served as pastor for 16 years. This church was constituted on 10-25-1788 by Rev. Silas Mercer.                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Wilkes and later Oglethorpe | Georgia        |
| HAW RIVER     | 1790          | Served as an assistant minister to Rev. Elanthan Davis. The Haw River congregation consisted of 320 members in 1790. Isaiah had been pastor at Bethany two years when he took a brief leave to serve this internship with Rev. Davis.                                                                                     | Chatham                     | North Carolina |
| CLOUDS CREEK  | 1788 and 1793 | Was first listed as a charter member on 9-20-1788 and by 9-19-1793 was documented as one of its ordained ministers. The charter membership at Clouds Creek was the first record of Isaiah's association with a church in Georgia. He was a charter member for less than one month here before becoming pastor at Bethany. | Oglethorpe                  | Georgia        |
| BEAVERDAM     | 9-20-1800     | Documented as one of the constituting founders.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Oglethorpe and later, Banks | Georgia        |
| SHOAL CREEK   | 10-25-1801    | Was one of three ministers appointed to preach at the yearly Sarepta Association during their Sunday services.                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Franklin                    | Georgia        |
| BETHLEHEM     | 1-30-1802     | Documented as one of the constituting founders.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Oglethorpe                  | Georgia        |

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|---------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| TRAIL CREEK   | 1804-1816    | Was a constituting founder of Trail Creek and served as its pastor for 12 years. The Sarepta Association appointed that 6-18-1813 be observed as a day of "humility, fasting, and prayer" in response to the hardships experienced as the result of the War of 1812. Isaiah officiated this decision at Trail Creek. Rev. Isham Goss was the associate minister at Trail Creek and successor to Isaiah after he moved to Tennessee. Isaiah and Isham were close friends and met as late as 1800. Isham was born on 11-8-1777 and was of French Heugnot descent. | Clarke        | Georgia      |
| NAILS CREEK   | 10-26-1805   | Preached the introductory sermon at the Sarepta Association from the text of Job 25:4.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Franklin      | Georgia      |
| MARS HILL     | 1805-1807    | Served as supply preacher and was appointed for three yearly terms on 3-16-1805, 3-14-1806, and 3-14-1807.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Clarke        | Georgia      |
| VANS CREEK    | October 1808 | Was one of three ministers appointed to preach at the yearly Sarepta Association during their Sunday services.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Elbert        | Georgia      |
| CABIN CREEK   | October 1810 | Was one of three ministers appointed to preach at the yearly Sarepta Association during their Sunday services.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Jackson       | Georgia      |
| ACADEMY       | October 1814 | Preached the introductory sermon at the Sarepta Association from the text of Daniel 4:3.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Jackson       | Georgia      |
| BETHABARA     | June 1832    | Documented as one of the constituting founders and as a Presbytery member.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Humphreys     | Tennessee    |

**The Family Life and Ministry of Reverend Isaiah Hales**

**Researched and Written by**

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One of the most prominent Baptist ministers in the early history of North Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee was the Reverend Isaiah Hales. He was born 3/13/1763 and died in Humphreys County, Tennessee, 2-17-1846.

Even though Isaiah's parents have not been mentioned, extensive research indicates they were James and Martha Elizabeth Hales. James was born about 1737 in the Isle of Wight County, Virginia, and died in Oglethorpe County, Georgia, 1818. James' second great grandfather was Edward Hales, who immigrated to Virginia in 1665 from Kent, England. Martha Elizabeth was born about 1740 in Virginia and was the daughter of James and Elizabeth Hasty. She died in 1829 in Oglethorpe County, Georgia. Some other children of James and Martha Hales were John, Obediah, Wiley, Moab, Silas, Mary and Joseph. Isaiah was first mentioned in a North Carolina Revolutionary Army account record in 1785. He next appears in Oglethorpe County, Georgia, on the Cloud's Creek Baptist Church rolls as a charter member, dated 9-20-1788. Isaiah's wife was Winnie, daughter of Anthony and Karenappuck Olive, and it is likely that they got married in Wilkes County, Georgia, early in 1789. An Oglethorpe County land transaction, dated 9-1-1795, documents that Isaiah bought 100 acres from Anthony Olive for just 25 pounds and it is suspected that Isaiah and Winnie had been living with her family prior to this purchase. The only known mention of Winnie in Georgia was on the membership list of the

Cloud's Creek Baptist Church, which recorded that she joined by letter on 5-11-1793 and was dismissed by letter on 1-17-1804. Karenappuck Olive was born 3-24-1760 and died 3-20-1847. Anthony died in Oglethorpe County in 1798. Family history preserves an interesting story about Karenappuck. It is stated that on the day of Anthony's funeral, she offended the community by riding on horseback to the occasion. As she was riding home after the ceremony, William Cleft caught up with her and proposed marriage, which she immediately accepted.

Even though a study of several census records indicates Isaiah and Winnie had about 10 children, the only documented child is John. However, it is probable that some of their other sons were Nathan, James, William, Robert and Thomas. When John married Elizabeth Spicer on 3/23/1813 in Madison County, Georgia, Isaiah Hales performed the wedding ceremony. During the War of 1812, John enlisted as a private on 8/10/1813 in Athens, Clarke County, Georgia, and served until 3/19/1814. He was assigned to fight in the war against the Creek Indians that had been declared in 1790. By 1832, John was listed as an elder at the Bethabara Baptist Church, Humphreys County, Tennessee. John died in Graves County, Kentucky, on 11/23/1835.

During the Revolutionary War, Isaiah assisted in capturing four Tories and guarded the town of Smithfield when the British marched through North Carolina. He first enlisted 11-15-1780 as a

private in Johnston County and later served for a second time in 1781. In Isaiah's Revolutionary War pension records he stated that he moved to Oglethorpe County about 1788. Isaiah's first appointment was at the Bethany Baptist Church, located in Oglethorpe County, Georgia, where he served from 1788 to 1804 as its pastor. This church had been initially constituted by Silas Mercer, father of Jesse Mercer. Church records state that Isaiah took a brief sabbatical from Bethany and a temporary assistant pastorate at Cloud's Creek so that Rev. Jesse Mercer could assume the position of primary minister of Bethany for the 1793 winter season. In 1802 he was appointed to write the salutation letter from the Serepta Association to the Hephzibah Association. In 1790, he was an assistant minister to the Reverend Elnathan Davis at the Haw River Baptist Church in Chatham County, North Carolina. No doubt that the Haw River internship under Reverend Davis' supervision was an experience that influenced Isaiah for the rest of his life. Another benefit that working at Haw River provided was that he could maintain contact with his family in Johnston County.

At the Haw River Church, Isaiah's status was documented as a "licentiate". Three years later, he was listed as an ordained minister on 9-19-1793 at the Cloud's Creek Baptist Church. The Cloud's Creek Church observed the 4th of July as a day of celebration for many years after it was founded and the Declaration of Independence was also read on that day. On 9-20-1800, Isaiah

was listed as one of the constituting founders of the Beaverdam Baptist Church, Oglethorpe County. On 10-15-1801 was one of three ministers appointed to preach to the Serepta Association during their Sunday Service. Isaiah was listed on 1-30-1802 as one of the constituting founders of the Bethlehem Baptist Church, located in Oglethorpe County.

On 9-19-1803 Isaiah moved to Clarke County, Georgia, where he pastored the Trail Creek Baptist Church from 1804 to about 1816. In 1805 he was appointed to preach the introductory sermon to the Serepta Baptist Association at the Nails Creek Baptist Church, where he preached from the text of Job 25:4. The Trail Creek Church was first built by the Hales, Pittards, Bakers, and Malones' families of early Clarke County. In 1830 the Trail Creek Church became known as the Athens Baptist Church and later developed into what is now the Athens First Baptist Church. According to Dr. Henry Hull, "Rev. Isaiah Hale was the first pastor of Trail Creek Church. He was a man of spotless character and had in reputation by all the people." His sermons were "absolutely indescribable" due to the "peculiar intoning, a sort of sing-song" way of presenting them. Hull stated Isaiah's sermons "had to be heard to be conceived of, yet it was not unpleasant after becoming accustomed to it". In addition, Hull states that Isaiah would allow his members to correct him during a sermon if he misquoted a scripture and would sometimes ask someone to share his feelings about what was being said in the sermon. During the time Isaiah

was pastor at Trail Creek, he also served as supply preacher at the Mars Hill Baptist Church between 1805-1807. According to a history of the Mars Hill Church, when winter baptisms were sponsored by the church, the deacons "arose early and heated the spring water by rolling heated rocks into the pool until the water was warm". In 1808, Isaiah was one of three ministers appointed to preach on Sunday to the Serepta Baptist Association at their yearly meeting. At the 1810 Serepta Association meeting, Isaiah was again chosen to be one of three ministers to preach at the Sunday service. It was written in the Serepta minutes that after that day of preaching to a "numerous congregation", a belief that "the God of mercy dwells with his people" was felt by those who attended.

In 1814, Isaiah was appointed to preach the introductory sermon for the yearly convention of the Serepta Association. For this service, he preached from the text of Daniel 4:3. On 1-14-1815, Isaiah preached at the Beaverdam Baptist Church from the text of 2 Peter 1:10. Records indicate that Isaiah and his family moved to Hickman County, Tennessee about 1816 and was still living there on 10-8-1832. A disagreement over some theological issues with the Serepta Association may have been the primary reason why Isaiah left Georgia. According to Dr. Riley's history of the Serepta Association, a special meeting was held on 6-13-1816 at the Moriah meeting house in Madison County, Georgia, to "discuss measures for the organization of a missionary movement" within the Serepta churches. Just two months after this session, Isaiah sold his land

on 8-24-1816 and moved to Hickman County, Tennessee. This response, combined with his theological perspective, strongly suggests that Isaiah leaned to the anti-missionary stance then being developed. The missionary movement resulted in a general division within the Baptist church and, according to the Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists, the first official action taken in 1827 by the Kehukee Association, North Carolina, was a resolution which read in part: "It was agreed that we discard all Missionary Societies, Bible Societies, and Theological Seminaries, and the practices heretofore resorted to for their support, in begging money from the public". In June of 1832, was listed as a presbytery member and one of the constituting founders of the Bethabara Primitive Baptist Church, located on Hurricane Creek in Humphreys County. It is believed that Isaiah ministered to many a Primitive Baptist congregation in Tennessee and type of service was determined by the specific needs of each church. The 1837 Humphreys County tax list documented that Isaiah was living in district 9 on 75 acres of his own land. It was here that Isaiah lived until the final days of his life. Research suggests that Isaiah did not own slaves at any time. It is likely that Isaiah and Winnie are buried at the Bryant Cemetery, located near the Bethabara Church in Humphreys County, Tennessee. This cemetery served as the primary burial place for the Hurricane Creek community as well as the Bethabara congregation.

There is much that can be attributed to Winnie Hales and the lives she influenced. However, she was rarely mentioned in the ecclesiastical records and was probably given little recognition for her efforts. The Baptist Associations of her day especially expected the wives of its ministers to be exemplary role models of what they believed to be a Christian woman's place in the church and home. There were no easy standards by which she lived and some of them involved keeping up appearances, managing a household of about ten children, maintaining a strong faith, supporting her husband and performing a variety of other church and community-related tasks. It is likely that Isaiah would not have accomplished as much as he did had it not been for her.

Isaiah was first a simple farmer and a responsible family provider. He followed his own standards and valued a hope for life. He was probably stubborn at times and did not always agree with what was said or how procedures were initiated. Even though Isaiah sincerely loved and was devoted to his congregation, he held some strict expectations of his parishioners and would be confrontive when the need was perceived. Perhaps some felt he was too stern on occasion. He enjoyed circuit preaching and meeting new people. Those closest to Isaiah appear to have been family and fellow ministers. It was important to Isaiah to maintain contact with his North Carolina family, and in Georgia, was very influential in motivating some of his cousins to enter service in the Baptist church and ministry. He preached in many a church and

focused on an equal balance of sin and grace in his sermons. When Isaiah believed something was right he would adhere to that value without departure. He was well established in his beliefs and probably took a yes or no stand about most issues. He was rarely undecided. Isaiah displayed practical problem solving skills and an ability for responsible decision making. Isaiah was an enduring pioneer and an excellent example of overcoming hardships and developing a better life. No doubt that at the close of Isaiah's life he reviewed his past with a fulfilled sense of accomplishment and peace.