

Poplar Grove - 1872

Watauga

THREE FORKS

✓ Three Forks

Date and No. Chapter Members
of Poplar Grove Church

Boone, N. C.
Watauga County
October 14, 1930

In the year 1872 the following members of different churches met and organized the Baptist church at Poplar Grove to wit. Rev. Larkin Hodges and wife, John or Jack Hodges and wife, Capt. Wm. Hodges and wife, Calloway Hodges, and wife, James M. Cook and wife, James Winkler and wife Thomas Winkler and wife, Benj. Moody and wife, Samuel Stout and wife, and John Rollen. These good men and women at the home of Rev. Larkin Hodges on the 4th Sunday in May 1872 after services talked and located the place to build a church and all with on accord decided to build a house on the spot where the Poplar Grove church now stands. In those days money was scarce and it did not take long to decide the kind of a building to erect.

So as lumber was scarce and no saw mills but the old upright saw which was very crude and scarce was the only place to obtain lumber. So the only thing to do was to fell the trees and hew the logs and build a house which they did out of the small poplars that grew in abundance on and near the place where the church now stands. This building was 20ft. wide and 32ft. long and covered with boards that the faithful brethren made. The good women aided and was an asset to this building as they would meet on the days that was set to work on the house and cook and have all kinds of Pies, Cakes and good old chicken pie that was relished by every one.

By the late fall of that year the house was completed with the cracks strapped with beads and the floor and ceiling was sawed at this crude upright saw mill comprised the lumber that was put in the building.

In the winter of 1872 the members decided to hold a protracted meeting which lasted for nearly two weeks with twelve additions. The church grew and prospered untill the number of members grew to over 70 with Rev. Larkin Hodges as the pastor With Rev. Levi Wilson and James Parson's assisted for a period of years, with Capt. Wm. Hodges Clerk.

The church continued to prosper while those Bodly men preached the everlasting gospel. There was never a grievance but what was settled out of the church and the Spirit of Christ could be seen and felt in the good people of these days.

This spirit existed with all the churches until the year of 1889 when some of the members left the church and joined the Advent church which caused so much disturbance that the church began to go to bad to worse until there was not a service held in the church for nearly two years.

This looked like the church was gone untill a few of the faithful met and decided to revive the church again so they did and in 1890 they built another church that was in keeping with the times so a nice frame building was built 22ft. wide and 34ft. long. This being built by three or four members. Then as there was no meetings being held one faithful member J. M. Hodges decided to go the association and ask for a minister to

preach and revive the church again so he did go and the association sent Rev. John F. Eller and through his untiring labors with what few members that was left the church began to grow and it has been prospering ever since. The members decided to erect another building as the one they had was not large enough to hold the people. So they built a church 30 X 54 ft. in the year 1915. The best Country Church in Watauga County. The church is now prosperous and has a membership of 170. During the history of these churches the following men has served as pastors: Rev. Larkin Hodges, Levi Wilson, William Knight, John Hughes, E. M. Gragg, Joanas H. Duncan, Hiram West, I. W. Thomas, Dave Eller, Calvin Farthing, James Davis, J. M. Payne, L. A. Wilson, George Trivett, L. B. Murry and G. W. Sebastin.

Letter of Recommendation

The Mc Gill Avenue Baptist Church
of Concord NC

(Name of town and state)

to the Poplar Grove Baptist Church
Boone NC

(Name of church)

(Name of town and state)

This is to Certify, That Morris & Ruby Whitley are a member
of this church in regular standing, and, in compliance with your
request is given this letter cordially recommending them to your fellowship.

By order of the church June 7 1973

Dee Sherfield

Church Clerk



RETURN ADDRESS

McGILL AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

202 McGill Avenue

CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA 28025

RETURN REQUESTED

POST CARD



Poplar Grove Baptist Church

Rt 3,

Boone NC 28607

ATTENTION: CHURCH CLERK

Carolina

CLIPPING SERVICE
1115 HILLSBORO
RALEIGH, NC 27603
TEL. (919) 833-2079

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT
BOONE, N.C.

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Poplar Grove Baptist
microfilms its records

The North Carolina Baptist Historical Collection, Z. Smith Reynolds Library, Wake Forest University, has recently microfilmed the records of Poplar Grove Baptist Church in Boone for the period 1898-1993.

The church now has a security copy of its records on file in the event something happens to the original records.

John R. Woodard, director of the N.C. Baptist Historical Collection, said that these filmed records would join those from seven other Watauga County Baptist church

records now on microfilm in the collection.

Woodard invites all other North Carolina Baptist churches including missionary, primitive and black Baptist churches to take advantage of this free service and have their records preserved.

Interested churches or individuals should contact Woodard at (919) 759-5089 or write to him at the North Carolina Baptist Historical Collection, Z. Smith Reynolds Library, Wake Forest University, Box 7777, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27109.

Poplar Grove Baptist Church (1872)
Watauga Co., THREE FORKS

Photograph (Color)

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