

**ACCOUNT OF A. HARDIN  
CHARTER MEMBER OF ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH  
ESTABLISHED 1814**

To the brethren that do now or may hereafter compose the Baptist Church of Christ at Antioch, York County S.C. Greetings,

Whereas I am now the only member living that was in the first organization of the church here, and knowing that I too must go the way of all the earth and leave no one to tell of that day and time, I have thought it proper to note a few particulars of the rise and first progress of this church, which I could do much easier if you but understood the state of society at that time. Say, a people that have never heard a Baptist minister preach, had never seen anyone baptized by immersion, with whom it was a show to see the Baptist dipping. Who thought and said that they had no need of a change of heart, that they had been made Christian in childhood by baptism, that their parents had them baptized, had raised them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and that it would be sinful in them to renounce what their parents had done for them. That their preachers and their parents are better learned than these cobblers are. That the preacher had to contend with tradition, superstition, and every opposition that could be raised. As the revival at Buffalo in 1812 had drawn the people from Kings Creek and some of them had joined the church at Buffalo, some of them invited William Martin, a young minister, or rather a new beginner, to preach at a meeting house of another faith and order. He consented, made the appointment, and attended, but found the door closed, and no one to open. He then preached to a considerable congregation in the woods, which seemed to have a good effect. He was strongly solicited to make another appointment. He did so at Michael Whisnant's one month hence. He attended and preached another effective sermon, from the words of our Saviour to Nicodemus. He was again solicited and informed that a stand would be erected on the old Cherokee road where Antioch meeting house now is. He, William Martin, made an appointment at the stand where there could be no closing of doors. The neighborhood met and erected a stand of rough logs, floored, split logs, met there and made seats by falling logs: and laying others cross ways. Thus began Antioch's buildings. They then builded a common log house for the meeting house and petitioned Buffalo for the privilege of becoming an arm of Buffalo church, and asked the eldership to attend with them. It being granted, this arm met in a church capacity on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 1813" and in conference chose William Martin moderator and George Wilkie clerk, and opened the door for the reception of members. They met monthly and had the favor of Buffalo eldership and of protracted meetings for a week at the time around in this section of country. Say today at one house, tonight at another, tomorrow another. Sometimes in the woods at a little stand at the Wolf pit, which was kept up for months at that place.

In 1814, May 4<sup>th</sup>, the arm thought proper to select three deacons, viz. Sherod James, Matthew Wilson, and Abraham Hardin. On July 18<sup>th</sup> they were ordained as deacons.

In the course of that season they petitioned Buffalo Church to dismiss all the newly received members and about thirty of the former members of Buffalo church, making in all about 62 to form a Church at Antioch. As also for the eldership of Sandy Run and Buffalo to aid in constituting a church at Antioch. And on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November, 1814, they met at Antioch, formed a presbytery, D. Dobbins moderator. And on examination they found them of sufficient strength and ready. Offered as such, said presbytery proceeded to constitute it a church to be styled and known as the Baptist Church of Christ at Antioch. The new church called William Martin as

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their pastoral supply. He served the new church one year, and the newly constituted church two years, dismissed 1817. George Wilkie chosen as supply, served in all 20 years up to 1837, dismissed in 1838. J. M. Thomas was supply in 1838, baptized 34 (among whom was Thomas Dixon). T. K. Pursley became pastor in 1839. John Mullinax ordained 1838. Ranson P. Logan ordained 1841. February 1845 Thomas Dixon ordained. Go back to 1843 Wade Hill chosen supply.

In 1828 the church established an arm at Beason's Creek (where El Bethel Methodist Church now stands). It soon returned to Antioch. In 1830 four deacons chosen, Jos. Whisnant, Thomas Carroll, Elijah Wilson, Isaac Mullinax. As for supply from time to time about thirteen years. Say up to 1856-1857 B. Bonner supplied three or four years. In 1861 Joseph Suttles chosen as supply but died. The pastoral supply has been changeable and is now within your recollection so I leave it with you and go back to hunt up the deacons - and we find three of them in the first organization, say Sherod James, Matthew Wilson, and A. Hardin. The next not recorded as such. No date but from other circumstances we see that Thomas Martin and Edward Bird were chosen deacons at an early period about the second year of the church for they were both added to the church committee and served as deacons almost from the beginning.

Another similar case of Thomas Lowry and Davis House (Hughes ?) chosen. Thomas Lowry refused to serve (from Shelby, N. C.). 1843 A. G. Guiton a deacon of El Bethel received here and Wm. H. Glen. 1844 Hugh Borders ordained deacon. 1847 Aaron Whisnant and James Dunn ordained deacons. 1855 D\_(?)\_ Thompson and John Mullinax ordained deacons. 18\_?\_ Henderson Whisnant and G. R. Whisnant ordained deacons. 1813 George Wilkie for the arm.

1814 Edward Bird Clerk and Treasurer 29 years.

1843 A. G. Guiton Clerk 5 years.

1849 G. K. Whisnant Clerk 23 years •

In April 1842 twenty one members dismissed to form church at Bethlehem.

In June 1853 twenty seven members dismissed to form church of Enon.

Dear brethren I leave this synopsis of the Baptist Church of Christ with you as a matter of reference. There may be some mistakes or omissions.

Farewell,  
A. Hardin

We are happy A. Hardin wrote this brief history before he was called home. Without this we would know very little about the organization and progress (of Antioch) in its early years;. Hardin was deacon and S.S. superintendent 60 years, he was; magistrate 42 years, a surveyor, he served as state legislature man 8 years. He died at the age of 92. Shortly before his death he wrote this brief history.

Vera Hardin