

Ten Mile

TEN MILE

The Ten Mile Association was organized, October 7, 1831, with the Ten Mile Church, in Gallatin County, of nine churches dismissed from the North Bend and Concord Associations. These nine churches were Ten Mile, Lick Creek, Dry Ridge, Providence, Grassy Creek, New Salem, Poplar Grove, Mt. Zion and New Bethel, aggregating 383 members. The ministers who were in the organization were David Lillard, Christian Tomlin, Joseph Crouch and A. D. Landrum.

David Lillard was chosen Moderator, which position he occupied for thirty years, and he was pastor of the Ten Mile Church for more than forty years. During the early history of this new Association, there was small increase in membership caused by internal contentions. In 1841 the twelve churches reported only 472 members, which showed the little increase of fifty-six members in a decade. But in 1842 a great revival prevailed in the churches, and 752 baptisms were reported to the Association in the fall of that year, which brought the membership up to 1296. During the revival which continued into the next year, the need of more preachers was so greatly felt, that a day was appointed by the Association for "humiliation and prayer to God," that He would send more preachers in the field, now "white unto harvest."

It was not until 1845, that the Ten Mile Association made the first move in favor of missions, when messengers were appointed to the General Association. In the session of 1848 a resolution was adopted, "...to appoint a minister to ride in the bounds of this Association." But there is no record that indicates that this action was ever put into effect. It was a sad situation, when the very popular moderator, Elder David Lillard, was not a promoter of mission work. During his long pastorates in the Association, he refused to receive any compensation for his services. In the session of 1867, an Associational Mission Board was appointed, and a strong appeal was made to the churches for the support of a missionary, but only one church responded with a \$10.00 contribution, and hence no worker was appointed.

The Association favored the mission enterprise of the state, and passed a resolution favoring the benevolent work of the General Association, but for the lack of knowledge of the subject, its intentions were ineffective. There was some friction in 1846 over Masonry, but finally a reconciliatory resolution was passed "...that Masonry shall not be considered a test of fellowship."

In 1850 the Association numbered seventeen churches with 104 members; in 1860, nineteen churches with 1706 members; while in 1880, only fourteen churches with 1785 members. In 1946, there were fourteen churches and 3222 members, and in 1948, the same number of churches reported 4443 members. The Warsaw Church is the largest with 454 members, and Robert Willets, pastor. The Ten Mile Church, constituted in 1804 is the oldest, which has full time preaching with Elder W. M. Smith, pastor.¹⁹