

# History of The Denton County Baptist Association

*and the Sixty Churches Organized  
Within its Jurisdiction*

And the Organization of the Shilch Baptist Association at Friendship Church, near Pilot Point, October 18, 1862; and the Founding of the First Baptist Church in Denton County, at Lonesome Dove, Saturday, February 21, 1846.

By

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Stewardship Born of God; Foot-Prints of Time;  
The Deacon, His Qualifications and Duties

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Page 82

W. D. Black

This Book is Willed  
To Bro. Jess Hall  
2804 Highland Terrace  
Austin, Texas.  
See that he gets it.

W D Black  
With Love.

June 4<sup>th</sup> - 1950

Jess! - I Love you for your  
outstanding qualities as a Christian  
gentleman. May God bless you and  
may you live long to Preach the Gospel  
and do good in the world. Use this  
Book in the interest of Truth and  
Condemnation of Sin.  
Your Bro in Christ W D Black

Steed clerk. The moderator and clerk were practically the Association. They had to do all the speaking, praying and preaching. During this session the Association passed a resolution recommending that the church give letters of dismission to their negro members that they might go out and organize churches of their own. Again in 1868 the Shiloh Association met with the Pilot Point church. Conditions at that date were getting some better. The Pilot Point church entertained the Denton County Association in 1896, and the Calvary church, in 1908, 1918 and 1930. The 1908 session had the largest number of distinguished guests that ever attended a meeting of the Association—Drs. B. H. and J. M. Carroll; Dr. J. B. Gambrell, Dr. R. C. Buckner, and Dr. George W. Truett.

The Baptist church house was destroyed by a storm in 1879, but was soon rebuilt with substantial improvements.

An incident occurred in the Pilot Point church during Rev. J. B. Cole's pastorate, which involved a point of doctrine that subjected Pastor Cole to criticism, and gave the incident much publicity and notoriety. Pastor Cole went fishing one day with a business man who was not a Christian, and he availed himself of the opportunity to talk to the lost man about his unsaved condition, and led him to an acceptance of Christ. Jo Ives, the man converted, said to Pastor Cole, "Here is water, what doth hinder me from being baptized?" Obviously Brother Cole thought of the story of Philip and the eunuch, and, taking that incident as an example, he led Mr. Ives out into the water and baptized him. Rev. Cole had been a Baptist but a short time and was not up on their conception of baptism, and how and when it should be administered. The news of the incident soon spread among the members, and then the show began. The following Sunday Mr. Ives presented himself to the church, asking membership, and his application was rejected and he was hurt at the action of the church and turned to another church, which readily accepted his baptism. The criticism of the pastor caused him

to ask a committee of eminent brethren to sit in judgment upon his conduct—Drs. A. J. Holt, J. B. Link and R. C. Buckner. After reviewing the details of the incident they wrote the church advising it to drop the matter, and Pastor Cole to go his way, but not to repeat the act.

There was but one church organized in Denton County previous to the organization of the Pilot Point Baptist church—Lonesome Dove, in the extreme southern part of the county, in 1846, just ten years previous to the organizing of the Pilot Point church. Next in point of time, was Friendship church, in 1857, a few miles southeast of Pilot Point; next the Baptist church at Denton, in 1858.

#### PLEASANT VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

In 1896, Judge F. M. Davidson, a former county judge of Denton County, removed from Denton to a farm, three miles west of Denton, near the Brown schoolhouse. As soon as he became settled in his new country home he began urging the Baptists of the community to organize a Baptist church as a religious center for the community, which resulted in the organization of the Pleasant Valley Baptist Church in 1897.

THE ORGANIZING PRESBYTERY was composed of Dr. W. C. Lattimer, M. F. Wheeler, W. F. Burton and C. Ohlgart.

CHARTER MEMBERS. G. H. Stallings and wife; Judge F. M. Davidson and wife; George Smith and wife, and Philip Parish and wife. There were some strong Baptists living near the newly organized church who declined to transfer their membership from the First Baptist church at Denton to the Pleasant Valley church, and this discouraged the few members composing the little church. It struggled along through the years 1887, 1888 and 1889, when Judge Davidson, the moving spirit in the organization, removed to Oklahoma, whereupon the church disbanded. In 1911 Rev. R. A. Fitzgerald, then County Missionary,