
WISER NEWSLETTER

Volume 11 Issue 12

December 2006

RESEARCH FINDINGS

Abigail Wisser and Alatheia Wisser Morse, sisters, were daughters of Benjamin Wisser Sr. and were members of the New Woodstock Baptist Church at an early date.

New Woodstock, New York, is located in the township of Cazenovia, and is seven miles south of Village of Cazenovia on New York State Route 13. Abigail joined the New Woodstock, Madison, NY Baptist Church in 1802 and was dismissed in 1821. Alatheia (spelled Eletheah in the original records) Morse, joined the New Woodstock Baptist Church in New Woodstock in 1804 and was dismissed in 1819.

We assume that Abigail and Alatheia were dismissed due to moving to another town (probably Truxton).

A good history of the Baptist Church is taken from the "History of Chenango and Madison Counties" by James H. Smith, published by D. Mason & Co. - Syracuse, NY - 1880

"CHURCHES. --- The First Baptist church in Cazenovia, at New Woodstock. --- The Baptists of this town were not much behind the Presbyterians in cultivating this religious field. Those who settled in the locality of New Woodstock were mostly active young men from Woodstock, Conn., and Brimfield, Mass. Among them were a few who had been members of Baptist churches in the East, and others who inclined to their sentiments. Soon after the arrival of Rev. Joshua Leonard, who was the first minister in the town, they were favored occasionally with preaching by Elder Nathan Baker, of Pompey, who was then a licentiate. In 1800 Elder James Bacon, from Torrington, Mass., came here, and through his efforts a church was organized. In December of this year a meeting was held at the house of Ebenezer Corbin for the purpose of organizing a monthly conference. The five persons who attended it agreed to meet monthly in conference, and also arranged to secure the services of Elder Bacon half of the time. March 18, 1801, they met according to appointment, and, says the record, "having conversed about articles, both as to doctrine and practice, found ourselves so far agreed that we voted to send for a council * * * to come and look into our standing." They then numbered ten, but during the spring six were added by baptism. These sixteen were fellowshipped by a council which convened at the house of Isaac Morse, June 17, 1801.

Their first pastor was Elder James Bacon, who was then far advanced in years, and soon felt constrained to relinquish the pastorate into younger hands by reason of age and infirmities. He died in 1812, aged 84. He was succeeded in the fall of 1804, by Rev. John Peck, who continued his labors with them thirty-one years. He was ordained by this church June 11, 1806. Two years previously (1802) a small log meeting-house has been built, but it soon became too small to accommodate the people. The church therefore united with the Presbyterians in this part of the town, and built a frame house thirty feet square. Each denomination was privileged to occupy it alternately half the time; but as no preacher was obtained by the Presbyterians, it was occupied all the time by the Baptists. By 1815, the church had outgrown this house, and in that year the foundation of a new one was laid. A larger edifice was soon after erected thereon. It was finished in 1816. In 1820 about half the members of this church withdrew to form the church in Cazenovia village.

Elder Peck resigned the pastorate in November, 1834, but continued his labors till the first Sunday in January, 1835...

The Baptist Church of Cazenovia. --- The earliest meetings preliminary to the organization of this church were held at the school-house two miles south of the village in 1803, and were conducted stately by Elder Bacon, then pastor of the church at New Woodstock, to which the constituent members of this church belonged, and by his successors and others till 1813, when, greater accommodations being needed than the school-house afforded, they were transferred to the court house in the village, where they had previously been held occasionally; though the only Baptists living there were two females, both poor, and having intemperate husbands, until shortly before 1813, when Dea. N. S. Johnson, from Troy, took up his residence in the village. The meetings were continued in the Court house till 1817, when that building came into possession of the Methodists. In that year the foundation of a meeting house was laid and the superstructure erected upon it, and the following year was brought into condition for occupancy.

Up to this time, however, no separate organization existed. Sept. 6, 1820, ninety-one persons--thirty-six males and fifty-five females--were dismissed from "The Baptist Church of Christ," at New Woodstock, for the purpose of forming a church in Cazenovia village.

The church was destitute of a pastor about two years, but was supplied with preaching during this time principally by Elder Roswell Beckwith and their old pastor..."

OBITUARIES

Please accept our condolences to those who recently lost family members.

St. George, UT Spectrum, Sunday, 3 Dec 2006; Hurricane, UT - Gretta Rawlings Wiser, age 92, passed away December 1, 2006, in St. George, Utah. She was born October 11, 1914 in Fairview, Idaho to Edis Irwin and Leah Bodily Rawlings. She married William Don Wiser (**his ancestry to Benjamin Wiser Sr., his father, William Harvey Wiser, John Harvey Wiser, John McCormick Wiser, Samuel Wiser, Benjamin Wiser, Sr.**) November 25, 1936 in the Logan Utah LDS Temple. He passed away May 8, 1982 in St. George, Utah. Gretta was raised in Fairview, Idaho attending the Fairview and Preston Idaho schools for all except her senior year when she attended Davis High School in Kaysville, Utah graduating with the class of 1932. Following marriage, she resided in Utah at Salt Lake City, Springville, Provo and Hurricane and in California at San Diego, Vista, San Marcos and Escondido. Her career outside the home began in 1958 when she took a job in the Insurance Department of the LDS Hospital in Salt Lake City, Utah. She continued this vocation at the Mercy Hospital in San Diego, California and the Tri-City Hospital in Oceanside, California until moving to Hurricane, Utah in 1979. Following the passing of her husband and until her failing health of the late 1990's, she remained active and engaged through "Pink Lady" volunteer work at the Dixie Regional Medical Center and patron support at the Hurricane Genealogy Library. She was an active and devoted member of LDS Church



fulfilling many callings during her life. Temple work was a favored activity that she participated in as frequently as possible. Her life was one of service to her families, her church, and many others with whom she came in contact. She was always concerned for the feelings and well being of others and held in high regard by those who came to know her. Her parents, husband, youngest son Van Rawlings Wiser, brothers Edis LaVern and Carl Alden Rawlings, infant sister Marjorie Rawlings and sister Ardeth Rawlings Kierstead preceded her in death. She is survived by sister Dorine Rawlings Betts, sons Irwin Don and William Lee (JoAnn Soria) Wiser, daughter Marcia Wiser (Brent) Boyack, daughter-in-law Sharon Pugmire Wiser, nine grandchildren and twenty-seven great grandchildren. Arrangements by Metcalf Mortuary with interment at the Fairview, Idaho Cemetery. The family would like to express their sincere appreciation to Dr. Kent B. McDonald for his conscientious and dedicated care of our "Mother" during the past several years. And also, to the exceptional staff at Porter's Nursing Home in St. George where she became a member of yet another mortal family. A visitation will be held Monday, December 4, from 6-8 p.m. at the Hurricane Valley Mortuary, 140 N. Main, Hurricane, UT. A graveside service will be held Wednesday, December 6, 2006, at 10 a.m., Fairview City Cemetery, Fairview, Idaho. Arrangements under the direction of Metcalf Mortuary 435-673-4221.

Syracuse, NY, Post Standard, Sunday, 10 Dec 2006; on December 6, 2006, Mildred (Rainbow Crisp) Barnes (**her ancestry to Benjamin Wiser, Sr., her mother, Lela Marie Albro, William Henry Albro, Joseph G.L. Albro, Sabra S. Morse Albro, Althea Wiser Morse, Benjamin Wiser, Sr.**), 91, went to be with the Lord on Wednesday surrounded by her loved ones. Services will be conducted on Monday at 11 a.m. from New Comer Family Funeral Home, North Syracuse. Friends and family will gather at the American Legion Post #787, Rt. 31, Cicero, following the services. A spring interment will be at Hillcrest Cemetery in DeRuyter, NY. Calling hours will be on Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. at the funeral home, 705 North Main St. Messages of sympathy may be left at newcomerfamily.com New Comer Family Funeral Home Syracuse, NY, Post Standard, Friday, 8 Dec 2006; Mildred Barnes Barnes December 6, 2006 Mildred (Rainbow Crisp) Barnes went to be with the Lord on Wednesday surrounded by her loved ones. Mildred was born in Cuyler, NY, raised in DeRuyter for many years before settling in Mattydale, NY. After single handedly raising her 10 children to adulthood, she retired from General Electric and traveled to Europe where she met and later married Robert E. Barnes, her husband of 32 years. She co-owned and operated Slab Sides in Erieville for several years. During her retirement they traveled and enjoyed her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her daughter, Betty J. Hill. Surviving are her husband, Robert of Mattydale; children, Carl (Genevieve) Crisp of Largo, FL, Kenneth (Jeanette) Crisp of Niota, TN, Lee Crisp of Liverpool, Leo (Joan) Crisp of Liverpool, Marilynne (William) Cregg of Decatur, TN, Samuel Crisp of Syracuse, Carole (Howard) Lacrosse of Mattydale, Ronald of Cicero and Dale (Julie) Crisp of Cicero and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Services will be conducted on Monday at 11 a.m. from New Comer Family Funeral Home, North Syracuse. Friends and family will gather at the American Legion Post #787, Rt. 31, Cicero following the services. A spring interment will be at Hillcrest Cemetery in DeRuyter, NY. Calling hours will be on Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. at the funeral home, 705 North Main St. Messages of sympathy may be left at newcomerfamily.com New Comer Family Funeral Home.

POSTSCRIPT

Thanks for any suggestions in regards to our family newsletter. Please contact me at wiserr@dfn.com or at 6 Baton Rouge, Roswell, NM 88201, or at (505) 623-2534.