

pp.20fReverend John McClain  
*Pastor*  
1857-1861

Reverend John McClain was born in Tennessee in 1826. He was converted and baptized in 1852, and in 1854 was licensed to preach. He came to Texas in 1854 settling near old Perry, four miles north of Moody. He assisted in the organization of the Perry Baptist Church, which was later moved to Moody. When he was ordained by Owl Creek Baptist Church in 1855, the presbytery was composed of Reverends R.E.B. Baylor and W.B. Reaves.

Reverend McClain assisted in the organization of many churches in Central Texas and was pastor of eight different churches in the Leon River Baptist Association over a period of twenty five years.

Reverend McClain was the grandfather of one of our own Deacons, Brother W.J. McClain, whose wife was Miss Susie Gregory, a granddaughter of Reverend and Mrs. P.B. Chandler.&hellip;LEON RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION ORGANIZED

On Friday, September 24, 1858, under a brush arbor, messengers from Gatesville, Coryell, and Owl Creek in Coryell County; Liberty Hill, Bosque County; Florence, in Williamson County; Belton, Salado, Salem, Shiloh, and Nolan's Valley, in Bell County; and Perry in McLennan County, assembled six miles west of Belton on Nolan's Creek, to consider the propriety of organizing a new Association.

Messengers from Gatesville were: Reverend John McClain, pastor, George F. Adams, Sowell Cox, and Alfred Kerby.

Reverend McClain was Chairman of the committee to recommend the Articles of Faith and George F. Adams was elected Corresponding Secretary.