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Subject: Shoal Creek Baptist Church

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"The beginnings of the churches in the Oconee County section of what was formerly Pendelton District [SC] were in the main closely connected with Shoal Creek [Baptist] Church, a congregation of Franklin County, Georgia, not far across the Tugaloo from Chauga. The first entry in the earliest extant Shoal Creek Church book is dated January, 1796, and reads: 'The church met according to appointment,' which implies constitution prior to that date, at the latest sometime in 1795" (p. 231).

"In May of 1800, Shoal Creek sent **JOHN CLEVELAND, THOMAS GILBERT, JOHN DOSS, FRANCIS CALLAWAY, JOHN BARTON, CHARLES ENGLAND,** and **JAMES GIBSON** as 'helps for ordination' at the petition of Coneross. The minister ordained was probably **LITTLETON MEEKS**, as he is listed as pastor in the minutes of the Sarepta [Baptist] Association, which Coneross joined in 1800" (p. 232).

"The mother church itself, with its many arms, listed two hundred and nine members in fellowship in September, 1797, most of whom must have been in South Carolina. It was conscientious in its 'deeling' with its members. The church book...is a full and engagingly misspelled record of the sins and struggles of the members. Meetings opened always with prayer and exhortation, and often with singing, after which the congregation 'set in church order.'" (p. 233).

Shoal Creek [Baptist Church] entered the Sarepta [Baptist] Association in 1796...The 1800 membership of 212 was greatly increased by the revival [began in KY] in the next four years. The center of the congregation had so shifted in the meantime as to necessitate the removal of the constitution and church book to South Carolina and the adoption of the name Chauga [Baptist] Church in January, 1811. Chauga is located about halfway between Westminster and Chauga Creek" (p. 235).

The membership list for the time-frame 1796-1804 includes Benjamin Barton, John Barton, and Thomas Barton (footnote p. 235).

These quotes are from Leah Townsend's 1935 book SOUTH CAROLINA BAPTISTS 1670-1805.

Mary in TX