

as a hired man, with Deacon Burtch for the first three years of his residence in Canada, about the time of the rebellion, that never did he know a more upright and Godly-living man. While fond of listening to or telling a good story, he never would allow any man to tell an obscene story or use an oath without rebuke. No matter how many boarders or hired people he had around him, or how busy the season, he never failed to assemble them all at the morning and evening worship conducted by himself. In all his dealings with his fellow man, he was the soul of honor. Such is the testimony of those who still remember him.

His seat at all meetings of the church was occupied, rain or shine, week-days or Sundays. For forty years the covenant meetings of the church were held monthly, on a week-day, and however rough the weather or busy the season, Deacon Burtch was present, and his prayer exhortation, which was given in a sort of singing intonation peculiar to old men of his day, was indeed music to our ears. For forty-one years he filled the office of deacon well, and was ever a true and faithful friend to his pastor—in fact he was a “pillar of the church.” He was ever anxious to preserve the purity of the church in the doctrines “once delivered to the saints,” and was always found on the side of those who contended for the restriction of the communion to baptized believers; and, when the question was finally settled in 1842, he seconded the resolution moved by deacon Blake: “That the communion be restricted to baptized believers.”

As before stated, he was instinctively a reformer; hence in the matter of Church and State and all its attendant evils, he took strong grounds, believing that no man's conscience should be trammelled by any man-made creed; nor should he be taxed to uphold one church above another, and that too whose manner of worship might be distasteful to him.

The First Baptist Church worshipped in the old log school-house on Deacon Burtch's farm—where it was organized—till 1836, when a nice frame edifice was erected on a lot on Chapel Street, given by Deacon Burtch, and was opened by a week's meetings conducted by the then pastor, Rev. W. H. Landon.

In the year 1855, a handsome brick building was erected where the present one now stands on Beale St. Deacon Burtch was active in labors and money in its erection; and well we re-