

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

Bethlehem Baptist Association,

HELD WITH THE

BEULAH BAPTIST CHURCH,

CONECUH COUNTY, ALA.

Commencing September 24th, 1870.



Atlanta, Georgia:

J. J. TOON, Printer,  
Franklin Steam Printing House.

1870.



# MINUTES.

---

BEULAH CHURCH,  
CONECUH COUNTY, ALA., Sept. 24th, 1870.

The Bethlehem Baptist Association met pursuant to adjournment. The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder W. C. Morrow, from Matthew xii: 31 and 32.

After a recess of an hour the Delegates assembled in the Church and the Association was called to order by Elder A. Jay, *Moderator*. Prayer by Elder J. T. S. Park; and the Association was declared by the Moderator ready for the transaction of business.

Elder W. G. Curry, J. E. McIver and J. W. Locke were appointed to read the letters.

Letters read, contents noted and names of Messengers enrolled. (See Tabular statement.)

Proceeded to the election of the officers of the Association, which resulted in the re-election of A. Jay, *Moderator*, John DeLoach, *Clerk*, and A. J. Robinson, *Treasurer*.

The Moderator appointed the Committee on Preaching, to-wit: Elder W. C. Morrow, T. R. Pope, A. J. Robinson, John W. Leslie and the deacons of Beulah Church.

Petitionary letters for membership called for, and letters from Mitchell's Creek and Pleasant Hill Churches were presented, and on motion, were received into membership of this body, and the right hand of fellowship extended to their Messengers. Also, a letter from Blue Spring Church, which, on motion, was referred to a Committee of three to report on Monday, to-wit: John W. Locke, Elder G. W. Kierce and D. Hestle.

Letters and Messengers from corresponding bodies were called for.

From the Alabama Association no letter or Minute, but received her Messengers, Elder K. Hawthorne, P. H. Lundy, J. T. S. Parks and J. E. Bell, and invited them to seats with us.

From Zion Association no letter or Minute, but received her Messenger, Elder L. M. Thomasson and invited him to seats with us.

From Pine Barren Association letter and Messengers, to-wit: Elders C. W. Hare and H. H. Sturgis, and invited them to seats with us.

The Committee on Preaching reported the order of preaching on the Sabbath at 11 o'clock a. m., Elder P. H. Lundy, followed by Elder J. D. Beck, and take up a collection for Missionary purposes; and the afternoon services to be conducted by Elder S. R. Freeman followed by Elder C. W. Hare.

STANDING COMMITTEES appointed as follows:

*On State of Religion*.—Elder W. G. Curry, J. E. McIver, W. W. Graves, E. Cline and James Straughn.

*On Domestic Missions.*—A. J. Robinson, G. W. Kierce, Y. M. Rabb, J. D. Beck, Dixon Hestle.

*On Queries and Requests.*—Elder P. S. Milner, W. C. Morrow, J. P. Collier, J. M. Travis, Thos. Ballard, T. R. Pope.

*On Sabbath Schools.*—Y. M. Rabb, J. W. Leslie, C. Blackstine, S. C. Johnson, G. W. Miller.

*On Correspondence.*—Y. M. Rabb, C. W. Smith, M. J. Weston, W. W. Graves, Ingram Spence.

*On Finance.*—Elder T. Kendall, A. M. Lambert, J. J. Jackson.

Adjourned till Monday morning nine o'clock A. M.

On Sabbath the Ministers preached in the order of their appointment to a large and attentive audience. After preaching in the forenoon a collection was taken up for Missionary purposes, amounting to \$41.

#### MONDAY MORNING, September 26, 1870.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder W. G. Curry.

The Minutes of Saturday read, corrected and adopted.

On motion Elder S. R. Freeman was received as a Messenger from the Cahaba Association and invited to a seat with us.

Voted, that Messengers of Churches failing to answer to their names on the call of the roll be stricken from the Minutes.

Brother J. W. Locke, chairman of the Special Committee, to whom the letter of the Blue Spring Church was referred, made a report, which was received and Committee discharged.

Brother Y. M. Rabb offered the following:

*Resolved*, That Article three of the Constitution of the Bethlehem Association be so amended as to read as follows:

ARTICLE 3. The Churches in our Union shall transmit to every Annual session of the Association, a letter specifying the names of their Messengers, their number in fellowship, baptized, received by letter, dismissed, excommunicated, restored, deceased since last session, by whom supplied, amount paid Pastor, name of Clerk, Post-office, Sabbath meetings, name of Superintendent of Sabbath Schools, kind of Schools, Biblical or Union, number of teachers, number of pupils, number and kind of volumes in library, number and kind of publications, number of accessions to the Church from Sabbath Schools, during the year, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

Elder A. Jay, Chairman of the Finance and Executive Committees, made his report, which, on motion was received and adopted.

Elder G. W. Kierce, our Domestic Missionary, made his report, which was received and adopted.

Brother J. W. Locke offered the following preamble and resolutions, which was adopted:

WHEREAS, We have great reason to rejoice at the interest manifested in Sabbath Schools by many of the Churches in the bounds of this Association, and regret that many are still cold and indifferent on the subject.

1. *Resolved*, That, for the advancement of the cause, a Committee of three be appointed, by the Moderator, to divide the Association into three Sabbath School districts.

2. *Resolved*, That a suitable time and place be appointed for holding Sabbath School Conventions for the next Associational year.

And, on motion, Elder W. C. Morrow, F. M. Walker and W. G. Curry, were appointed a Committee to divide the Association into three Sunday School districts.

Brother A. J. Robinson, Chairman of the Committee on Domestic Missions, made his report, and during the pendency of the report, adjourned to Tuesday morning, nine o'clock. Prayer by Elder P. S. Milner.

---

TUESDAY MORNING, Sept. 27th, 1870.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder G. W. Kierce.

Minutes of Monday read, corrected and adopted.

Took up the Report of the Committee on Domestic Missions.

Brother Y. M. Rabb offered a substitute for the Report on Domestic Missions.

On motion of Elder A. Jay, the report, substitute and amendment was referred to a Special Committee to report on the same, viz: Elder A. Jay, Y. M. Rabb, F. M. Walker, A. J. Robinson.

Elder W. G. Curry, Chairman of the Committee on State of Religion, made his report, which was received and adopted. See appendix A.

Elder P. S. Milner, Chairman of the Committee on Queries and Requests, made his report, which was received and adopted. See appendix B.

On motion, the next Session of this body will be held with the Monroeville Church, Monroe county, Alabama, and Elder W. G. Curry selected to preach the Introductory Sermon, and Elder Jno. D. Beck, alternate.

Elder W. G. Curry offered the following preamble and resolutions, which was received and adopted:

WHEREAS, There are many Baptists within the bounds of this Association who are holding their letters, and thereby releasing themselves from all Church obligations and responsibilities, therefore,

*Resolved*, That we recommend to the Churches composing this Association, the propriety of limiting their letters of dismission to six months, and

*Resolved, furthermore*, That a Committee of three be appointed to furnish a form of a Church letter, to be printed in the Minutes of the present Session of this body.

The Moderator appointed as the Committee, suggested in the above resolution, Elder W. G. Curry, Jno. D. Beck, and J. W. Locke.

Elder A. Jay, Chairman of the Special Committee on Domestic Missions, made his report, which was received and adopted. See appendix C.

Appointed Correspondents, as follows:

*To the Alabama Association.*—W. W. Graves, Elder A. Jay, J. W. Locke, W. C. Morrow, J. M. Fortune, A. J. Robinson, S. C. Johnson, H. B. Long, F. M. Walker, P. S. Milner.

*To the Zion Association.*—A. J. Robinson, J. P. Collier, J. E. McIver, B. P. Loveless, W. W. Graves, G. W. Miller, Jesse Thomas, A. Jay.

*To the Pine Barren Association.*—Elder W. G. Curry, J. W. Leslie and Jno. DeLoach.

*To the State Convention.*—Elder A. Jay, W. C. Morrow, A. J. Robinson.

Brother A. J. Robinson offered the following resolution, which, on motion, was adopted :

*Resolved*, That we earnestly recommend to the Churches of the different districts, composing this Association, the necessity of reviving district, or ministers' and deacons' meetings; and would suggest that this be conducted upon something like the following plan—viz : At the first and each subsequent meeting, let a committee be appointed to select suitable subjects for Sermon Lectures and Essays, and appoint brethren to deliver them at the next meeting.

Elder W. C. Morrow, Chairman of the Committee to district the Association into three Sabbath School districts, made the following report, which was adopted :

Your Committee on districting the Association, in view of holding Sabbath School Conventions, respectfully report that they adopt the plan of the Association, and that the Convention be held with the Bellville Church, the first fifth Sabbath in 1871—viz : Friday the 29th of January, and that each meeting appoint a succeeding one.

W. C. MORROW, *Chairman.*

Brother Y. M. Rabb, Chairman on Sabbath Schools, made report, which was received and adopted. See appendix F.

Elder W. G. Curry, Chairman of the Committee to report form of letter of dismission, made report, which was adopted. See appendix G.

Elder T. Kendall, Chairman of the Committee on Finance, made report, which was received and adopted. See Appendix D.

Elder W. C. Morrow offered the following preamble and resolution, which was adopted :

WHEREAS, It is the intention of several brethren, members of Churches in this Association, to educate brother J. E. Melver at Howard College.

*Resolved, therefore*, That this Association adopt brother J. E. Melver as a beneficiary of this Association.

On motion of Elder W. G. Curry, a committee of three was appointed, to be styled the Educational Committee, to raise funds to educate young ministers—Elder W. G. Curry, W. C. Morrow and Jno. W. Locke, were appointed.

Treasurer's Report received and adopted. See appendix E.

On motion, it is ordered that the Clerk be allowed \$25 for his services, in superintending the printing and distributing of these Minutes, and that the ballance of the Minute Fund be expended for Minutes.

On motion, the Educational Committee, with the Moderator, Elder A. Jay, added, have discretionary power to disburse the funds in the hands of the Committee, for educational purposes.

On motion, the proposition of the Pine Barren Association to this body, relative to erecting a High School, was referred to the Educational Committee to confer with the Committee of said Association.

No other business being before the body, on motion, adjourned. A

hymn was sung, prayer by Elder K. Hawthorne, and the parting hand given, and the Association, after a harmonious session, adjourned to meet with the Monroeville Church, Monroe county, on Saturday before the fourth Sabbath of September, 1871.

A. JAY, *Moderator.*

JNO. DELOACH, *Clerk.*

# APPENDIX.

---

## A.—ON THE STATE OF RELIGION.

Your Committee beg leave to report that we have carefully examined the letters from the various Churches composing this body, and find that there have been added to the Church, by baptism, 277; showing an increase of 239 to our membership. We find, furthermore, that there is a decided increase in the interest manifested in Sabbath Schools, and upon the whole, we think we have reason to thank God for His goodness and the continued prosperity of Zion. While we mourn over the languid state of some of the Churches, we feel confident the majority of the Churches are in prosperous and hopeful condition.

Respectfully submitted.

W. G. CURRY, *Chairman.*

---

## B.—REPORT ON QUERIES AND REQUESTS.

Your Committee on Queries and Requests, beg leave to report that they find a request from the Brushy Creek to publish the Articles of Faith of this Association in the Minutes of this Session. We recommend that this request be granted, and that the Order of Business be left out in the Minutes.

P. S. MILNER, *Chairman.*

---

## C.—SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DOMESTIC MISSIONS.

Your Committee have taken into consideration all the facts which they could gather relating to the subject of missions. They are convinced that a wide field spreads out before us, well-deserving our best energies to cultivate. While this Association has been instrumental, in God's hands, of bringing much of the hitherto destitute territory which first called forth the zeal and energies of the fathers—most of whom now sleeps—into a state of fruitfulness and prosperity, and which have become, not only self-sustaining, but co-workers in aiding and advancing the great missionary cause; yet, there is still no lack of destitution, and our best energies should be directed to it. But from the crippled condition of our resources, and the want of system by which all can be sharers in the support of a Missionary, and in view of the difficulties which have surrounded the Association in supporting a Missionary since the war, and which must continue, at least, for the present year, we think it best to inaugurate a system, if we can, which will remove such embarrassments, and difficulties by raising funds beforehand. To do which we will have to, apparently, withdraw operations for the present year; only, how-



ever, to better enable us to operate in the future. We, therefore, recommend the adoption of the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That this Association obtain as many pledges as it can at this session, to be brought up to the next, and that every Delegate who may be elected to the Association at its next Session, require the Churches to put at least two dollars in his pocket for the benefit of the Association, and that every minister and member bestir themselves and are authorized to solicit funds for the use of the Association, in sending the Gospel to the poor, and to further any laudable enterprise which may command their approval; and all the amounts thus collected to be brought up at the next Session.

*Resolved, further*, That every minister be requested to do all in his power to supply the destitution as far as he can, and we would urge the Churches to make the necessary sacrifice to enable each pastor to contribute some of his time to this work.

A. JAY, *Chairman*.

#### D.—FINANCIAL REPORT.

Your Committee beg leave to report the following amounts for the objects designated :

Churches.	Minutes.	Churches.	Minutes.
Claiborne.....	\$4 00	Mt. Carmel.....	\$2 00
Salem.....	5 00	Cedar Creek.....	1 50
Zion.....	3 50	Elam.....	2 00
Monroeville.....	5 00	Evergreen.....	3 50
Philadelphia.....	1 50	New Prospect.....	2 00
Pleasant Ridge.....	2 00	Brooklyn.....	1 50
Cedar Grove.....	1 00	Melton.....	2 00
Scotland.....	2 50	Bethel.....	1 50
Sardis.....	1 50	Pleasant Hill.....	1 00
Bellville.....	4 19	Sepulga.....	2 00
Arkadelphia.....	2 25	Old Town.....	3 50
Catawba Springs.....	1 50	Coon Hill.....	2 00
Pilgrims Rest.....	1 00	Antioch.....	2 00
Pensacola.....	50	Beulah.....	3 00
Breckenridge.....	1 50	Brushy Creek.....	2 00
Union.....	1 30	Mitchell Creek.....	1 00
New Hope.....	2 00	Pleasant Hill.....	1 50
Minute Fund.....			\$74 05
For Domestic Missions, A. J. Lambert.....			29 10
New Prospect, \$13 00; Brooklyn, \$6 25.....			19 25
Sabbath collection, \$43 00; Pensacola, 60 cents.....			43 60
			<hr/>
			\$166 00

Respectfully submitted,

T. KENDALL, *Chairman*.

## E.—TREASURER'S REPORT.

A. J. ROBINSON, *Treasurer, in account with the Bethlehem Association.*

DR.

To amount from Finance Committee.....	\$166 20
Collected in Association.....	47 75
	\$213 95

CR.

By amount paid Clerk....	\$ 74 05
By amount paid A. Jay .....	117 60
By amount paid G. W. Kierce.....	22 30—\$213 95
Respectfully submitted,	
A. J. ROBINSON, <i>Treasurer.</i>	

## F.—REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your Committee beg leave to report that from the reading of the different letters, that a much larger number of Sabbath Schools are reported than any previous meeting, and feel encouraged to believe that most of the Churches are becoming alive to the importance of the subject. We regret however, that there are still some Churches within our bounds who do not enjoy the privilege of being able to report in their Church letters an organized Sabbath School. Experience has confirmed the Sabbath School as a valuable auxiliary to the Church in advancing the Redeemer's Kingdom. It is the nursery from which we receive our members and our Pastors in the future, and we might say with an eminent divine "the workshop of the Church for active Christians; for it is there the material is prepared for the Churches." Time and space would fail us to enlarge upon this subject. We will therefore urge the importance of the great work to the consideration of every Minister and member of this body, and to the Delegates from the Churches, who still have no organized Sabbath Schools, and to the Pastors who supply them, we beg leave to call upon you not to permit your letter to be read in another Association without reporting therein an organized Sabbath School.

Y. M. RABB, *Chairman.*

## G.—CHURCH LETTER.

The Baptist Church of Christ at \_\_\_\_\_ hereby certify that \_\_\_\_\_ is one of her members and is cordially recommended as such to any Church with which he may seek membership by presenting this certificate within six months. The Church receiving \_\_\_\_\_ on the faith of this credential will please inform \_\_\_\_\_ of the fact that it may be so recorded.

By order of the Conference

, 18 .

*Clerk.*

## RETURN LETTER.

To the Church of Christ at

Brethren : The Certificate granted by you to \_\_\_\_\_ on  
the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 18 \_\_\_\_\_, has been presented by him to  
us, upon which he has been received to membership with us. You will  
therefore so record it.

By order of the Church at \_\_\_\_\_ this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 18 \_\_\_\_\_.

*Clerk.*

## ARTICLES OF FAITH.

ARTICLE 1. We believe in only one true and living God ; the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

ARTICLE 2. We believe the Old and New Testaments to be the revealed mind and will of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.

ARTICLE 3. We believe in the doctrine of Election, that God chose His people in Christ before the world began.

ARTICLE 4. We believe in the doctrine of Original Sin.

ARTICLE 5. We believe in man's incapacity, by his own free will, and ability, to recover himself from the fallen state in which he is by nature.

ARTICLE 6. We believe that sinners are justified, in the sight of God, by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE 7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, justified and glorified.

ARTICLE 8. We believe that baptism and the Lord's supper, are Gospel ordinances ; that Immersion is the only mode of baptism ; that believers are the only subjects.

ARTICLE 9. We believe that only regularly baptized members in good standing, have a right to the Lord's table.

ARTICLE 10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and a general judgment, and that the joys of the righteous, and punishment of the wicked, shall be everlasting.

## NAMES OF MINISTERS AND THEIR POST-OFFICE.

Names of Ministers.	Post-Office.	Names of Ministers.	Post-Office.
J. L. Bryers .....	Bluff Springs, Fla.	A. J. Lambert ...	Mt. Pleasant, Ala.
E. Cline .....	Monroeville, Ala.	John M. Williams.	Monroeville, "
J. Smith .....	Bellville, "	W. C. Morrow ...	Evergreen, "
M. Wood .....	Claiborne, "	Andrew Jay .....	Jayville "
W. G. Curry .....	Monroeville, "	Z. Williams .....	Brooklyn "
G. W. Kierce .....	Milton, Fla.	P. S. Milner .....	Georgiana, "
J. D. Beck .....	Pensacola, "	T. Bennett. ....	Garland, "
G. W. Miller .....	Melton "	Joseph Nelson ...	Baldwin Co., "
S. C. Johnson .....	Melton "	C. L. Thornton ...	Brooklyn, "

# TABULAR STATEMENT.

CHURCHES.	POST-OFFICES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	MESSENGERS.	Baptized.	Received by Letter.	Restored.	Excluded.	Dismissed.	Died.	Wives.	Colored.	Total.	Sabbath of Meeting.
Stockton				No letter or Messenger										
Montgomery Hill		A. J. Lambert	H. C. Stables	Letter but no Messenger	6		2	4	1	44	44		44	3
Little River		A. J. Lambert	B. A. Lambert	A. M. Lambert, R. J. Lambert						1	32	16	48	1
Clabourne		A. G. Curry	J. Avery	James Newberry, W. J. Weston	5		1	2	7	2	182	21	160	4
Salem		J. McWilliams	V. D. McWilliams	T. R. Pope, W. Leslie, J. DeLouch	16	5	1	2	4	104	59	163	7	1
Zion		W. G. Curry	J. DeLoach	T. S. Wiggins	16	1		18		4	85	70	155	4
Philadelphie		P. J. Creas	T. S. Wiggins	Not represented										
Scotland Hill		W. G. Curry	W. H. Fountain	W. G. Curry	8		1	1	1	49	8		58	3
Clanselville		J. McWilliams	R. C. McDonald	C. W. Smith	11		2	3		28	35		63	2
Scotland		E. Chene	M. McLeod	John Ross						13	14		27	1
Pleasant Ridge		J. L. Eryers	F. W. Mobly	James Boon	11	2				40	40		80	1
Cedar Grove		A. J. Lambert		Not represented										
Sardis		Williams' Station		E. Cline, T. Ballard, J. S. Stranghu	7	3				32			32	7
Mars Hill		Williams' Station		E. Cline, T. Ballard, J. S. Stranghu	1	5				8			13	1
Pine Barren		Burnt Corn	I. M. Lee	J. Norrell, J. Hines			1	4	5	1	19		21	3
Bethany		Burnt Corn	J. Straughn	J. J. Jackson										
Bellville		W. G. Curry	J. Norrell	J. P. Loveless										
Bellville		Z. Williams	J. J. Jackson	E. P. Loveless										
Arkadelphia		P. S. Miner	E. P. Loveless											
Catawba Springs		J. D. Beck	J. M. Kelly	J. M. Walker	6		1			35	35		4	
Rogrim's Rest		J. M. Wood	Z. T. Kirkland	Not represented										
Kenascola		J. Williams	Z. T. Kirkland	M. D. Kirkland, J. W. Kirkland, Elder I. Kendall	1		2	1	3	1	21		21	3
Breckenridge		Z. Williams	L. B. Parker	S. M. C. H. Parker, C. Luckstein	14		1		3		54		54	4
Olive Branch		Lewis' Station		Not represented										
Cedar Creek		Brewton	Y. M. Rabb	W. C. Morrow, J. W. Locke, Y. M. Rabb			2		20	1	48		48	3
Elam		A. Jay	J. R. Cooke	L. R. Cooke	5		1		2	41	42		83	2
Point Pleasant		E. Cline	J. P. Watt	W. W. Graves	12		6		3	2	78	8	86	2
Evergreen		E. Cline	L. Gardner	L. Gardner	8		4		3	23	23		46	1
New Hope		E. F. Lockhart	G. T. F. Durke	T. F. Burke, G. E. Misc	9		3		11	65	65		130	3
Union		G. W. Kierce	J. R. Lee	G. W. Kierce, J. R. Lee, G. W. Miller	17	4	2	1	2	75	75		150	13
New Prospect		A. Jay	J. E. Melver	A. J. Robinson, I. P. Collier, J. E. Melver	3		7		2	52	52		104	1
Brushy Creek		P. S. Miner	A. Thames	P. S. Miner	8		7		12	49	57		106	4
Melton		J. T. McDonald	M. A. Lere	W. F. Smith						38	38		76	2
Brooklyn		J. L. Bryers	J. A. Murphy	M. V. Hare	10		1		1	66	66		132	4
Georgia		A. Jay	J. A. Murphy	Ingram Spence, J. A. Thomas, Jr	4		2	1	1	2	66	12	78	4
Speniga		S. C. Johnson	J. A. McDavid	Not represented										
Pleasant Hill		J. Lockhart	J. G. Howell	S. C. Johnson, P. Dimon	2		3		1	7	34		34	3
Old Town		J. T. McDonald	W. W. Faircloth	J. Chancellor, J. Bennett	1		1		7	19	19		38	1
Shady Grove		J. T. McDonald	L. W. Mannay	D. E. Williams	1		1		3	11	17		28	4
Coon Hill		J. E. Bell	J. T. McDonald	L. W. Mannay, G. Bethea	1		1		2	1	29		30	1
Antioch		J. E. Bell	G. C. Herrington	A. Jay, J. M. Travis, J. P. Robson	1		1		3	1	39		39	2
Damascus		J. E. Bell	G. C. Herrington	John Lee, C. Coleman	2						15		15	7
Beulah		J. E. Bell	G. C. Herrington											

Third District