

# MINUTES

OF THE

Eighty-third Annual Session

OF THE

# BETHLEHEM Baptist Association

HELD WITH

Philadelphia Baptist Church

Monroe County, Ala.

September 20 and 21

1899

### **OFFICERS**

Moderator, Rev. B. J. SKINNER, Monroeville, Ala. Clerk, S. H. DAILEY, Kempville, Ala. Treasurer, THOS. S. WIGGINS, Monroeville, Ala.

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AMERICAN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY

### MINUTES.

### FIRST DAY-MORNING SESSION.

THE Eighty-third annual session of the Bethlehem Baptist Association was held with Philadelphia church on the 20th and 21st days of September, A. D. 1899.

After devotional exercises conducted by Rev. A. S. J. Countryman, the Association was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. B. J. Skinner.

The Moderator appointed Brethren T. E. Dennis, C. E. Coley and R. A. McCreary a committee to enroll the names of the Messengers.

Rev. B. H. Crumpton, appointed to preach the introductory sermon, owing to sickness declined in favor of Rev. D. W. Ramsey, who preached from Prov. xi. 30., "He that winneth souls is wise."

### ENROLLMENT OF MESSENGERS.

After the sermon the enrollment committee made the following report:

BELLVILLE CHURCH—B. H. Crumpton, J. W. Gaston, A. T. Holt, D. C. Crum, R. H. Riggs.

BETHANY-W. J. Shirley, W. S. Nash, L. S. Brantley, J. M. Lee, A. J. Lee.

BARBARA LOCKLIN MEMORIAL—H. H. Baggett, N. C. Thames, W. J. Curry.

Enon-Andrew White, C. E. Coley.

EXCEL-J. W. Wright, J. M. Davidson.

HAMILTON HILL—E. B. O'Guynn. L. A. Hixon, J. W. Boley. MONROEVILLE—B. J. Skinner, W. L. Rikard, T. S. Wiggins. C. M. Simmons, Joseph Ryland, T. J. Grantham.

MT. PLEASANT-W. R. Lambert, W. F. Lambert, A. J. Lambert, T. J. Hilburn.

MT. OLIVE-John Morris, Hardy Dees, Wm. Morris.

OAK GROVE-C. M. Carter, W. E. Mason, A. J. Roley, W. T. Blanton, L. Wiggins.

PHILADELPHIA—S. H. Dailey, T. A. Nettles, W. T. Nettles, J. T. Newberry, I. T. Dees, T. E. Dennis.

PLEASANT HILL-J. M. Grimes, A. B. Hale, J. W. Wilkinson, D. C. Stacey.

PLEASANT RIDGE-J. M. Dees, G. J. Buford, L. W. Rikard, J. L. Smith, F. M. Murphy, G. H. Roley.

POPLAR SPRINGS-M. C. Cumbie, W. A. House, J. W. Murphy, A. J. Cumbie.

RAMAH-J. Powell, G. R. Skipper, Henry Crawford.

SALEM-J. M. Roberts, L. A. Hendrix, W. Watson, L. S. Fountain, A. King, Liston Carter.

ZION-H. C. Johnson, C. C. McWilliams, C. R. Hixon, D. M. McNiel, J. C. Falkenberry.

The Moderator appointed L. A. Hixon and J. C. Falkenberry as Tellers to receive and count the ballots for officers of the Association.

A motion prevailed that the Association meet at 9 o'clock A. M., adjourn at 12:30: meet at 2 P. M., adjourn at pleasure.

The Moderator appointed the Deacons of Philadelphia church a committee on preaching.

Prayer by Rev. W. R. Lambert and took a recess until 2 P. M.

### AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association convened promptly at 2 o'clock P. M. Devotional exercises conducted by Rev. D. W. Ramsey.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Bro. C. C. McWilliams from the committee to receive ballots, announced the following result: Moderator, Rev. B. J. Skinner; Clerk, S. H. Dailey: Treasurer, T. S. Wiggins.

The following named brethren were recognized as visitors and invited to seats and participation in the deliberations of the Association, viz: W. B. Crumpton, Secretary State Mission Board: J. W. Stewart, Baptist Orphan Home: D. W. Ramsey, Moderator Pine Barren Association: J. B. Harper, W. P. Andress, G. W. Lyon, J. A. McKinley, W. R. Maxwell, James Parker and William Cater, from Pine Barren Association: Rev. J. M. Fortune, Selma Association: Rev. J. C. Howard, representing "Alabama Baptist:" Rev. S. P. Lindsey, Conecuh Association, representing the Institute Board: Rev. J. H. McAnally, Elim Association.

By request of the Moderator, Rev. B. H. Crumpton read the Constitution.

The Moderator appointed the following named brethren to fill vacancies on the different committees: On State Missions J. L. Smith, L. A. Hixon, W. J. Shirley; on Orphan's Home E. B. O'Guynn; on Sabbath Schools—D. S. Crum, R. H. Riggs; on Literature—J. M. Grimes; on Temperance—C. M. Simmons.

The Moderator appointed T. A. Nettles, W. L. Rikard and C. E. Coley an auditing committee to examine the Treasurer's account.

The chairman of the Executive Committee read his report and after being discussed by Rev. B. H. Crumpton was adopted, as follows:

### REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Your committee beg leave to submit the following report: We have held meetings during the Associational year at the times and places appointed by this body, and in our efforts to carry out the objects and intentions for which our Board was created, have been only partially successful. Owing to our financial condition we have been unable to supply the destitute portion of the Association with preaching. There is a considerable territory within the bounds of this Association without preaching, and your Board is powerless without funds to furnish the same. We would most earnestly impress upon the churches the importance of sustaining this Board to enable it to supply destitute portions of the Association. Respectfully, S. H. Dailey, Ch'n.

The Moderator appointed H. H. Baggett, L. S. Brantley and Rev. G. H. Roley a committee on Nominations.

The Moderator appointed Revs. B. H. Crumpton, A. S. J. Countryman and T. J. Grantham a committee to select Executive and Advisory Boards.

Bro. W. T. Nettles read the report on Education, which was discussed by Rev. W. B. Crumpton and adopted, as follows:

### ROPORT ON EDUCATION.

The progress that is being made on educational lines is quite gratifying to the lovers of science. As education advances, eivilization progresses. Alabama can boast of colleges and schools of high order in all portions of the State. Howard College, Baptist institution, located at East Lake, now clear of decorpole of which every Baptist should feel proud, is a school wherein the highest mental training is attained, and denominational doc trines are clearly set forth. Young men who are called to preach the gospel have advantages in the Howard in the line of ministerial education which is gratifying, and should have our hearty support. And in this connection the Baptist Seminary at Louisville, Ky., is giving opportunity to those called of Goo to preach the Gospel to more efficiently qualify themselves to perform the great work before them by the Master. The Judson Institute for females, under the presidency of Dr. Patrick, is most thoroughly equipped college in the State. His corps of teachers, 20 in number, bring the highest recommendations and give thorough training to pupils. The music school of the Judson is unsurpassed in the South. This school has accommodation for 200 pupils. We should patronize the Howard and the Judson. Respectfully submitted.

On motion, the Moderator appointed Revs. B. H. Crumpton, T. J. Grantham and Bro. J. W. Murphy a committee on Insti-

tute work. The announcement was made that Rev. J. A. Howard would preach at night. Prayer by Rev. J. A. Howard and adjourned until 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

### SECOND DAY-MORNING SESSION.

The Association convened promptly at 9 o'clock. Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. W. B. Crumpton.

Bro. J. L. Smith read the report on State Missions, as follows:

### STATE MISSIONS.

The work done by the State Mission Board is one that commends itself to every member of our Association. The work is confined within the bounds of the State. The special sphere of the Board is to give the gospel to destitute sections of Alabama. While without the necessary data to give statistics, we rejoice to say that the work done by this board in the past year is most gratifying. It is a source of regret, on the other hand, that the amount of contributions to the board is not larger. We are anxious to see the day when the greatest interest will attend upon this special work and when an entire consecration to the service of our Lord and Master will cause every Baptist to contribute, and contribute liberally, to this object. We welcome Brother W. B. Crumpton back to this work and we pray the blessings of Heaven upon his labors. In considering the need within the bounds of our Association, your committee recommend that steps be taken at once to supply the demand.

J. L. SMITH, Chn.

The Clerk read the report on Home Missions, as follows:

### HOME MISSIONS.

The work of Home Missions is carried on by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. located at Atlanta. Ga. In consideration of the present condition of Cuba, your committee would earnestly recommend an early occupation of this important field in the name and for the sake of the blessed Master. As the first Christian workers in such fields have the greatest advantage, our Baptists should lose no time in sending the gospel of Christ to every part of this territory, and pray more earnestly and give more of our means for this cause.

J. C. FALKENBERRY, Chairman.

Rev. B. H. Crumpton read the report on Foreign Missions, as follows:

### REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The man who needs to be convinced of the Scripturalness, practicability, and hence, the moral obligations resting upon all claiming to be Christians to carry or send the gospel to all nations, at this period of human history, either does not wish to know or wilfully yields to the passion of avarice. The God of Missions has greatly blessed our work in foreign fields the past year. There were more baptisms than during any previous year of our Convention history. These number 845 one convert to every \$117.47. This surpasses the proportion of converts to money expended at home. The work is well organized and full of

hope. Nearly, or quite all of the old missionaries are at their posts on the field, and the Board has appointed quite a body of deeply spiritual persons to enter the field, and many are anxious to go who are yet unappointed. Our contributions were somewhat smaller last year than previously, though more results. Amount raised for this department of missions during last Conventional year was \$109.267.43. Of this, Alabama contributed \$5,818.89, and of this amount the ladies gave \$1,213.10. The Foreign Mission Journal, a paper published by the Board, and very cheap, is a wonderful factor in the success of the work; also "Kind Words," a child's paper published by the Sunday School Board, is very instructive in regard to the foreign work. Then remember that our mission work has been the precursor of all heathen civilization though sometimes brought about by civil revolutions, let us strive to "lengthen our cords and straighten our stakes." Our Association needs growth in this direction. Respectfully submitted.

B. H. Crumpton, Chairman.

On motion the discussion of the subject of missions was postponed until 10 o'clock.

The Clerk read the report on Sabbath Schools: discussed by Revs. W. R. Lambert, A. S. J. Countryman, Brethren C. M. Carter and J. W. Murphy and adopted, as follows:

### REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

On inquiry we find that most of the churches in this Association have Sunday schools We find that in Conecuh county there is a move to organize the entire county into a Sunday school district, the different beats having a president, secretary and other officers, whose duty it is to visit the different neighborhoods where there are no schools and organize one. If practicable they organize a denominational school, otherwise a union school. The object is to give every child an opportunity of studying God's Word. We heartly recommend the plan to all churches, believing that great good can be accomplished thereby. The president and vice president of the Bellville beat have organized two schools that are now in good working order. We are glad to report that the Sunday school at Bellville has improved wonderfully since this organization has been at work. Respectfully submitted,

The different mission causes, State, Home and Foreign, were discussed in connection by Revs. J. W. Stewart, W. B. Crumpton, S. P. Lindsey, J. H. McAnally, B. H. Crumpton, D. W. Ramsey and J. A. Howard and the several reports adopted as above. Adjourned until 2 o'clock.

### AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association convened at 2 o'clock. Devotional exercises conducted by Rev. G. H. Roley.

Bro. T. S. Wiggins made report as Treasurer of the Association and also of the District Board. Bro. T. A. Nettles from the auditing committee made report which was adopted.

Bro. A. J. Lee made report on Orphan's Home; discussed by Rev. J. W. Stewart and adopted, as follows:

### OUR ORPHANAGE

Has been in operation a little more than six years. During this time 49 boys and 69 girls have been received into it, and out of it have gone 28 boys and 27 girls, leaving in the institution 21 boys and 42 girls. These children came from 24 counties. The Home is situated in Evergreen very near the Agricultural school where no tuition is charged and where all of our children that are old enough attend. The boys are taught to work on the farm and the girls to do various kinds of housework. Mrs. C. W. Ansley, who has been Matron since the establishment of the Home, retired from the work with the beginning of this year, and Mrs. Jennie M. Hardy, of Greensboro, was elected to the position. The moral as well as the domestic life of the children is being improved. The dress of the children is uniform but not expensive. It takes about ten dollars a day to support the Orphans besides what they receive in goods. They have no income except the offerings of their friends. "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Your committee thanks Bro. J. W. Stewart for the above information.

A. J. Lee, Chn.

Bro. H. C. Johnson made report on Religious Literature; discussed by Revs. J. W. Stewart and D. W. Ramsey and adopted:

### RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

Your committee finds this a hard subject to give a satisfactory report on, though above all other literature we take the Holy Bible for our guide as a denomination: it furnishes all the instruction necessary for our salvation. It teaches us our duty to our God and tells of his goodness to us: it contains precious promises to children who are taught to honor father and mother that their days may be long in the land; the youth learns that by accepting Jesus Christ he has promise of all temporal blessings and eternal life; the aged have promise that God will not forsake them. As a denomination we should so familiarize ouselves with the Bible that we can always be ready to give a reason for the hope that is within us. We insist that every Baptist family within the bounds of this Association take and read the "Alabama Baptist" and "State Mission Journal." Our Sunday school literature is plentiful and cheap; we recommend the Southern Baptist Convention series as suitable for our Sunday schools. We would recommend that all trashy literature calculated to create bad impressions on the minds of the young be dismissed from our homes.

H. C. JOHNSON, Chairman.

The Clerk read the report on Temperance which was adopted:

### REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

While much has been said and done for the cause of temperance, we must continue to work for the suppression of the liquor traffic. We believe the custom of social drinking is growing more and more unpopular as time goes on, and public sentiment is growing stronger against drunkeuness.

J. M. DEES, Chn.

Rev. S. P. Lindsey read the report on Institute work; discussed by Rev. S. P. Lindsey and adopted, as follows:

### REPORT ON INSTITUTE WORK.

The Institute Board was created by our State Convention in 1897, and charged with the arranging of institute work among the white preachers of the state. The State Board of Missions recommended the creation of the Institute Board that it might be relived of the duty of conducting institute work, and with the hope that it might be done more satisfactorily and efficiently by a separate board. Now what is the special work of the Institute Board? It is a denominational effort to reach and help our field ministry in sermonic study and in all else relating to the general performance of their duty. To reach our preachers in the hope of accomplishing this desirable end we are holding institutes where the pastors are willing that they should be held and will make arrangements for entertainment, etc. We do not attempt to force the meetings upon churches and pastors, but leave it to their discretion and choice. We mean to help pastors with all our might, using the men we have in our employment and also our wisest and best pastors as we can. We appeal to all for aid in the way of sympathy and contributions. It is a fact that more than three-fourths of our pastors who are in charge of village and country churches have been denied the benefits of college and seminary training; they are among our best ministers, and we propose to help this class. We have attempted to help our young men who could attend schools, why not aid these men on the field who are in the thick of the fight? Brethren, treat this work according to its importance and real merit. Asking the hearty sympathy and material support of this Association for this work, we are fraternally, B. H. CRUMPTON, Chn.

The Clerk read the report on nominations. Adopted.

### NOMINATIONS AND REQUESTS.

We recommend that this body meet with Monroeville Baptist church on Wednesday after the third Sunday in Sept. 1900, and that Rev. B. J. Skinner preach the introductory sermon; also that Bro. Skinner be elected as Messenger to the Southern Baptist Convention, and Rev. A. S. J. Countryman, W. T. Nettles and T. S. Wiggins as Messengers to the Baptist State Convention.

GEO. H. ROLEY, Chairman.

The Clerk read the report of the committee to select an Executive and Advisory Boards; adopted, as follows:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—S. H. Daily, chairman, T. S. Wiggins, secretary and treasurer; H. C. Johnson, F. M. Murphy, W. S. Nash.

ADVISORY BOARD—Bellville, D. S. Crum; Bethany, A. J. Lee: Brewer Creek, W. T. Jones; Barbara Locklin. J. D. Boykin; Enon, C. E. Coley; Excel, J. M. Davidson; Hamilton Hill, J. A. Wiggins; Monroeville, W. L. Rikard; Mt. Pleasant, W. F. Lambert; Mt. Olive, T. H. Brantley; Oak Grove, C. M. Carter; Philadelphia, W. B. Kemp; Pleasant, Hill, T. J. Newberry; Pleasant Ridge, J. M. Dees: Poplar Springs, M. C. Cumbie; Ramah, J.

Powell; Salem, A. King; Zion, J. C. Falkenberry, and all resident pastors within the bounds of the Association.

B. H. CRUMPTON, Chairman.

Rev. D. W. Ramsey in the chair, Rev. B. J. Skiuner offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

RESOLVED. That a committee of five be appointed to revise the Constitution of this Association and report at the next session.

In obedience to the above resolution, the Moderator appointed Rev. B. J. Skinner., S. H. Dailey, T. S. Wiggins, W. T. Nettles and John F. Deer.

Bro. A. J. Lee offered the following resolution, which was adopted by a unanimous rising vote, and as a token of sincerity of those concerned, a voluntary contribution of \$17.20 was made for the benefit of Bro. W. R. Lambert.

WHEREAS, Bro. W. R. Lambert feels called of God to enter upon the solemn and responsible duties of a minister of the gospel, and as he comes before us regularly endorsed by his own church. Mt. Pleasant, and whereas, we, as Baptists, advocate and realize the vital importance of an educated ministry, believing that no man is able to teach that which he does not himself know, therefore be it

Resolved. That this Association adopt the said young brother as her beneficiary, so that he may be able to attend Howard College the coming session: further that we give our young brother our financial as well as our moral support.

A collection was also taken for the benefit of Mrs. Locke, widow of Rev. W. A. Locke, deceased, amounting to \$10.00.

Rev. W. D. Ramsey offered a verbal resolution expressive of the high appreciation and heartfelt thanks of the Messengers and visitors to the church and people of Kempville for their kindness and hospitality during the session.

On motion, the Clerk was instructed to have minutes printed and reimburse himself from the funds in the hands of the Treas urer for that purpose.

The Association having closed its business, after prayer by Rev. J. W. Stewart, adjourned to meet with Monroeville church, Monroe county, Ala., on Wednesday after the third Sunday in September, 1900.

B. J. SKINNER. MODERATOR.

S. H. DAILY, CLERK.

### CONSTITUTION.

Article 1. This body shall be called THE BETHLEHEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Art. 2. It shall be composed of messengers duly elected by Missionary Baptist Churches of Christ in connection with this Association. Each church shall be entitled to three Messengers and an additional one for every fifty members or fractional part

Art. 3. It shall meet annually according to adjournment; and when essembled thus, shall elect, by private ballot, a Moderator and a Clerk, whose duties shall be such as custom imposes on their respective offices. They shall continue in office until superseded by their duly elected successors.

Art. 4. This body is no "court of appeal," and shall exercise

no ecclesiastical authority over the churches.

Art. 5. The business of this body, when assembled shall be to hear reports from the churches as to their spiritual condition, prosperity, etc., and to consult and advise together for their mutual development and co-operation in all matters pertaining to the evangelization of the world.

Art. 6. This body, when assembled, may receive other Mis-

sionary Baptist churches into this Union.

Art. 7. This body may request or receive correspondence with any other like body; or any representativy body or interest of our denomination.

Art. 8. this body may invite visiting brethren of like bodies, and others representing our denominational interests, to seats with us, and such brethren may speak on any subject coming before the body, but cannot vote or officiate as a member of this body.

Art. 9. It shall be the duty of every Messenger of this Association to remain until final adjournment, unless leave of absence be obtained; and it shall be the duty of the Clerk to call the

roll of Messengers absent without leave.

Art. 10. The Constitution, the Order of Business and the By-Laws shall be printed annually in the minutes of this body.

Art. II. The Clerk shall keep a regular file of the minutes of

this body from year to year.

Art. 12. This Constitution may be altered, amended (except Art. 4), or repealed and a new one adopted at any regular meeting of this body by a two-thirds voice of the body.

### ORDAINED MINISTERS IN BETHLEHEM ASSOCIATION.

| A. J. LAMBERT,      | Mount Pleasant, Alabama. |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| B. H. CRUMPTON      | Bellville, Alabama.      |
| B. J. SKINNER       | Monroeville, Alabama.    |
| R. I. DRAUGHON      | Perdue Hill, Alabama.    |
| T. J.[GRANTHAM      | Ollie, Alabama.          |
| A. S. J. COUNTRYMAN |                          |

### LICENTIATES.

W. R. Lambert ..... Mount Pleasant, Alabama. George H. Roley ..... Monroeville, Alabama.

### ORDER OF BUSINESS.

- I Call the body to order at 11 o'clock, A. M.
- 2 Refer the letters to a committee of two for the enrollment of Messengers.
- 3 Introductory Sermon. 4 Roll call for correction.
- 5 Appointment of a committee of two to receive the ballot for Moderator and Clerk, at the door on reassembling.
- 6 Fixing the time for meeting and adjourning during session.
- 7 Appointment of committee on preaching.
- 8 Adjournment.
- 9 Report of committee on election of Moderator and Clerk.
- 10 Recognition of visiting brethren.
- 11 Reading Constitution.
- 12 Reception of churches.
- 13 Announcement of Standing Committees to report during the session, filling vacancies if any occur, and appointment of other necessary committees.
- 14 Hearing and discussing reports: (1) Treasurer's, and appointment of committee to audit same and report at pleasure: (2) Chairman of District Board: (3) State Missions: (4) Home Missions: (5) Foreign Missions: (6) Education: (7) Orphan's Home: (8) Sunday Schools: (9) Religious Literature: (10) Temperance: (11) Condition of churches: (12) Nominations and Requests.
- 15 Appointment of committees to report at next session.
- 16 New business.
- 17 Resolutions.
- 18 Adjournment.

### STATISTICS OF SUNDAY SCHOOLS FOR 1899.

| CHURCH.                     | SUPERINTENDENT | POST OFFICE.   | Offic'rs<br>Techrs | Pupils.                                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|--|--------------------|--|
| Monroeville<br>Mt. Pleasant | J. R. Sellers  | Diadem. Ala. Hadley. Ala. Excel. Ala. Hixon. Ala. Monroeville Mt. Pleasant Kempville, Ala. | 3 3                | 25<br>45<br>40<br>35<br>52<br>30<br>40 |

# REPORT OF TREASURER BETHLEHEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION FOR THE YEAR 1899.

| 10631    |             | Public Collection. | Zion   | Salem | Ramah | Poplar Springs | Pleasant Ridge . | Pleasant Hill  | Philadelphia | Oak Grove | Mt. Olive | Mt. Pleasant | Monroeville | Hamilton Hill | Exce1 | Enon  | Barbara Locklin. | Bethany | Bellville      | сниксн.                  |          |
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We, the Auditing Committee, have examined the Treasurer's Report and find it correct.

T. A. Nettles, Chairman.

STATISTICS OF BETHLEHEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION FOR THE YEAR 1899.

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