

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

CEDAR BLUFF BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

CEDAR BLUFF CHURCH,

SEPTEMBER 22, 23 AND 24, 1892.



REV. J. N. WEBB MODERATOR.

JOHN S. WATT..... CLERK.



Times-News Job Print,
Gadsden, Ala.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Read Letters from the Churches.
2. Reception of New Churches.
3. Election of Officers.
4. Invite Visiting Ministers of our Faith and Order.
5. Call for Correspondence.
6. Appointment of the following Committees, to-wit:
 1. On Divine Service.
 2. On Finance.
 3. On Missions.
 4. On Sabbath Schools.
 5. On State of Religion.
 6. On Religious Literature.
 7. On Deceased Ministers.
 8. On Delegates to Convention.
 9. On Preaching Appointments for next Session.
7. Reports of Committees.
8. General Business.
9. Appoint Correspondence.
10. Appoint time and place of next meeting.
11. Adjournment.

MINUTES.

HICKORY GROVE, September 22, 1892.

The Cedar Bluff Baptist Association met with Hickory Grove church on Thursday morning, September 22d, 1892, at 11:30 o'clock. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder J. H. Glazner from John 3d and 2d verse, the principle and alternate by previous appointment being absent.

The afternoon services were introduced by Moderator reading the 84th Psalm, with prayer by Bro. King. A call for churches was made, when the following delegates were enrolled:

BETHLEHEM—Leander Copeland, J. C. Bartlett, W. R. Copeland.

CEDAR BLUFF—John Lawrence, J. S. Watt, H. H. Harton, W. W. Grogan.

DAMARIS—A. B. Griffiths, H. S. Davis.

HICKORY GROVE—J. A. Chandler, Jasper Barclay, John Brannon.

GRAVEL SPRINGS—John M. Daniel, John Webb.

MELROSE—Not represented.

MILL CREEK—T. B. Miller, E. V. Poorey, Geo. M. Ball, R. E. Dyke.

MT. BETHEL—Elder H. T. Leath, J. M. Clark, T. W. Rinehart, A. Webb, D. A. Pledger, C. R. Tallent, John Tallent, L. N. Coburn, L. Rinehart.

MISSIONARY STATION—J. L. Witt, A. Chandler.

PILGRIMS' REST—Elder John Suggs, L. F. Daniel, Ed Reed.

PLEASANT VALLEY—G. W. Parker, T. J. Bond, T. J. Langford.

ROCK HILL—W. J. Richardson, J. A. Barclay.

SHADY GROVE—Elder H. W. Roberts, W. E. Sewell, John W. Sheperd, W. M. Hicks, E. B. DeJoernett,

UNITY—Paul Kimzey, L. M. Wade, A. P. Russom.

UNION—Not represented.

YELLOW CREEK—S. J. Williams.

The election of officers resulted in Elder J. N. Webb being chosen Moderator and J. S. Watt, Clerk, for the ensuing year.

A call for new churches was made. None applied.

An invitation was extended to ministers in good standing of like faith and order.

A call for correspondents was made. Ten Island and Tallashatchee—Rev. J. W. King, R. T. Ewing. Etowah Association—Elder J. H. Glazner. Cave Springs—J. N. Rush, T. J. Andrews, T. K. Weathers.

Bro. Waller was recognised in his official capacity and also as representing the Alabama Baptist and Foreign Mission Journal.

The following committees were next appointed :

DIVINE SERVICE—L. W. Raynes, A. D. Mormon, T. B. Miller, W. W. Grogan, J. W. Shepherd.

DELEGATES TO STATE CONVENTION—John M. Daniel, Lawrence Wade, Leander Copeland, J. L. Witt.

EDUCATION—E. J. Langford, L. W. Raynes, W. R. Copeland.

DECEASED MINISTERS—Paul Kimzey, A. Webb, L. N. Coburn.

PREACHING NEXT ASSOCIATION—H. S. Davis, J. A. Tallent, R. E. Dyke.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS—Elder H. T. Leath, G. M. Ball, John Webb.

STATE OF RELIGION—John Suggs, T. W. Rinehart, W. M. Hicks.

MISSIONS—Elder H. W. Roberts, Saml Williams, Caleb Tallent.

FINANCE—D. A. Pledger, H. H. Harton, A. B. Griffiths, J. M. Clark.

Ordered that this body meet at 8:30, adjourn at 11 o'clock. Meet at 1:30, adjourn at 4:30 p. m.

Convention then adjourned with prayer by Brother Andrews.

FRIDAY MORNING, September 23.

The Association met according to previous appointment. The services were introduced by Moderator reading from 63d chapter of Isaiah, followed with prayer by Bro. Poorey.

The minutes of yesterday's conference were read and approved.

The following committees were next appointed :

ON RELIGIOUS LITERATURE—Elder John Suggs, G. A. Bond, A. B. Griffiths.

ON TEMPERANCE—Paul Kimzey, W. J. Richardson, H. S. Davis.

Reports of committees being called for, the committee on State of Religion made their report. The report was discussed by Bros. Glazner, Webb, Lawler, and was adopted as read. (See Exhibit A.)

Committee on Preaching Appointment made their report, which was adopted as read. (See Exhibit B.)

Committee on Deceased Ministers made their report, and after a few minutes in prayer the report was adopted. (See Exhibit C.)

Delegates to State Convention made their report, which was adopted without change. (See Exhibit D.)

Committee on Missions made their report, when the regular order of business was suspended and Bro. Waller addressed the Association on the subject of Missions, making it doubly impressive by displaying our mission fields upon large maps, showing the various fields, and also the strength of various denominations and belief of the world. His lecture was universally enjoyed and will result in great good to this body. Pending further discussion the hour of noon arrived and the body adjourned for dinner.

FRIDAY, 2 P. M.

The Association convened for business and the report on Missions was adopted as read. (See Exhibit E.)

Ordered that Bethlehem be the place and Thursday before the 4th Sunday in September the time for holding the next session of the Association.

The regular order of business was suspended and Bro. Andrews preached at this hour.

The Executive Committee next made a report to the Association of its labors during Associational year.

Ordered that Bro. H. T. Leath be paid the sum of \$50 for his services as Missionary in this Association.

The report on Sunday Schools was submitted and read and after discussion was adopted as read. (See Exhibit F.)

The body then adjourned until 8:30 to-morrow morning.

SATURDAY MORNING, September 24.

The Association met for business at 8:30 o'clock. The services were introduced by Moderator reading the 19th Psalm, followed with prayer by Bro. Tallent.

Minutes of yesterday's conference were read and approved.

The Committee on Finance made its report, which was adopted as read. (See Exhibit G.)

The regular order of business was next suspended and Bro. King, from Ten Island and Tallashatchee Association was recognised from said body as part of a committee to consider the propriety of combining with Cedar Bluff Association several churches belonging to Ten Island and Tallashatchee Association and form a new organization to be known as the "Cherokee County Baptist Association." The subject was discussed by Bros. Raynes, Lawrence, Glazner, Webb, Watt, and when the vote was taken the propriety of a consolidation was deemed unwise, and the following committee was appointed to notify Ten Island and Tallashatchee Association of the action of this body: Elder V. A. Bell, J. W. Shepherd, H. S. Davis.

Pending the discussion of the subject of Education the hour of preaching arrived and the body adjourned for services. Bro. Waller preached from 2d Kings, 7th chapter, 5th and 9th verses. Amount of public collection \$13.73.

2 O'CLOCK P. M.

The body convened for business. The subject of Education was taken up and discussed by Bro. Waller, and the report was adopted as read. (See Exhibit H.)

The committee on Religious Literature made its report. The report was adopted as read. (See Exhibit I.)

The committee on Temperance made their report. The subject was discussed by Bros. Roberts, Lawrence, Webb, and the report was adopted as read. (See Exhibit J.)

Public collection ordered turned over to State Board, amounting to \$20.93.

Resolution, that this Association tender their thanks to Hickory Grove church and to the citizens of this community for their kindness to us during our stay in their midst.

Convention adjourned sine die.

J. S. WATT, Clerk.

J. N. WEBB, Moderator.

STATE OF RELIGION.—A.

If we are to judge from the letters sent up by the churches composing our Association, and from the personal knowledge we have of the churches, there is not as

much interest manifested in religion as there should be. We note that the ingatherings of our churches during the associational year have been very meagre and have not attained to that degree of growth we would like to see. We note also that many of our churches are in a cold and luke warm state; that divine services are not as well attended as they should be. Prayer meetings are being too much neglected. We are glad to report a healthy growth of our Sunday school cause. Your committee would recommend more vigilance on the part of the ministry, that they do more pastoral work and that the laity take more interest in the prayer and praise services. Respectfully submitted, J. SUGGS, Chairman.

PREACHING NEXT ASSOCIATION.—B.

Your committee recommend the following: Introductory sermon, Elder H. T. Leath; alternate, V. A. Bell. Missionary sermon, Elder M. A. Cornelius; alternate, H. W. Roberts. Respectfully submitted, H. S. DAVIS, Chairman.

DECEASED MINISTERS.—C.

Your committee to whom was referred the subject of Deceased Ministers, beg leave to submit the following:

We find that the great God in His power and wisdom has visited many of our homes, taking away some of our loved ones, but in His infinite wisdom and mercy has not broken the band of under shepherds of our Association this year, sparing them yet longer to go out and hunt up the lost sheep, feed them and lead them to the fold of the Lord Jesus Christ; sparing them yet to work together in the vineyard of the Lord. Therefore we ask this body to bow for a few moments in humble devotion to the Great Giver and preserver of life. Respectfully submitted, PAUL KIMZEY, Chairman.

DELEGATES TO STATE CONVENTION.—D.

Your committee recommend the following as delegates to Baptist State Convention: Elders H. T. Leath, H. W. Roberts, J. N. Webb, J. S. Watt, Leander Copeland. Respectfully submitted, J. M. DANIEL, Chairman.

REPORT ON MISSIONS.—E.

We, your committee, to whom was referred the subject of Missions, submit the following report:

As christians there is nothing so near and dear to us as the cause of missions. It is the cause of God, and His cause is our cause. There is nothing that so much need our prayers and support as our missionaries, under the auspices of the Home, Foreign and State Boards. These agencies can only prosecute and push forward this great work of God as we aid them. Our blessed Lord said to His people: "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." We cannot neglect this without incurring the displeasure of God.

We are gratified to report the success that has attended our missionaries sent out by the various boards during the past year. In foreign fields there has been employed 91 missionaries and sixty native helpers, who have baptized 434, have expended \$202,671. In the home fields there have been 365 missionaries, who have baptized 5,274, have expended \$132,747. In Alabama, under the supervision of the State Board, there has been 54 missionaries, who have baptized 545, expended \$8,255. Brethren, we suggest that during the centennial year we double our energies and come to the aid of our board by an increased contribution and a thorough ventilation of the subject of missions before the people. Respectfully submitted,

H. W. ROBERTS, Chairman.

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.—F.

We, your committee, think the Sabbath school interest is gaining ground among our people. There is not as much excitement and talk about Sabbath schools as in the past, but this we think is due to the fact that opposition to the work has ceased among the brethren, and the churches have gone to work on that line in a way that makes us more hopeful than in former years. We think that all of our churches have Sabbath schools, if not all the time a part of the time; and we are glad to see our churches making an effort to have Sabbath schools, even a part of the time, rather than make no effort because they cannot have one lasting the year round. Our Sabbath schools are as a rule organized and officered by the church. We think our Sabbath School Convention held with Damaris church in July last was a success, although

not more than half of our churches were represented. We hope the brethren in the future will take more interest in this enterprise. We would recommend Kind Words Literature. Respectfully submitted,

H. T. LEATH, Chairman.

FINANCE.—G.

J. S. Watt, in account with Cedar Bluff Association.

Received Home Missions.....	\$ 21.67
“ Foreign Missions.....	29.52
“ State Missions.....	111.36
Ministerial Education.....	10.00
Minutes.....	16.47
Total	<u>\$189.02</u>

DISBURSEMENTS.

Minutes.....	\$ 16.47
Ministerial Education.....	10.00
Vouchers as cash Home Missions....	13.07
Check to Crumpton Home Mission....	8.60
Vouchers as cash Foreign Missions...	13.07
Check to Crumpton Foreign Missions.	16.45
Voucher State Mission.....	11.36
Cash paid H. T. Leath, missionary....	50.00
Cash paid J. H. Glazner, missionary..	50.00
Total	<u>\$189.02</u>
Subscribed for Centennial Missions.....	\$ 47.35
“ “ Ministerial Education.....	46.00

EDUCATION.—H.

We, your committee on Education, submit the following report :

We are glad to report that there is progress along the line of education, but there is a great lack of interest in this all important question. While some of our brethren seem to have been awakened to a sense of their obligation to their children, there is much to be done before we reach the full measure of our privileges and duty to them. We feel that it is our duty as the church of Christ, to insist upon young men who feel it their duty to preach the unsearchable riches of the Gospel Christ, securing the

best education they can get to better enable them to discharge their duty to God and their fellowman. We believe that it is our duty to give to our daughters the best education we can, for much depends upon how we educate them in giving the Gospel to the world.

For our boys we recommend the Howard College at East Lake, Ala., and the Judson for our girls, at Marion, Ala. We have many other good schools, which we commend to the consideration of our brethren. Respectfully submitted,
L. W. RAYNES, Chairman.

RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.—I.

We, your committee, submit the following :

The subject is one of great importance to us as Baptist. The country is being flooded with literature that is spurious and detrimental to the cause of Christ. Our children will read and it is important that we should furnish them with such literature as will store their minds with useful knowledge. We recommend first that the Bible be read, which is the book of all books, and such papers as the Alabama Baptist, Christian Index, Ford's Christian Repository and the Baptist and Reflector. We would urge the importance of our people reading the Alabama Baptist, and for our Sunday schools the literature of Kind Words Publishing Company.

J. SUGGS, Chairman.

TEMPERANCE.—J.

We, your committee, to whom was referred the subject of Temperance, submit the following as our report :

In considering this subject we want first to notice its destructive effects upon the children of men. Let us visit the dark prison cells of our country and converse with the desponding inmates who are awaiting a trial before the courts of men for some crime which they have committed, for some rash blow which they have given their fellowman, or the execution of some heated passion or premeditated thought, and a large per cent. will attribute their crimes to the effect of rum, for strong drink is raging. We need not ask the gallows doomed man about the origin of their crimes, for many of them have already confessed that whisky and bad company have brought them there. Whisky and bad company are very intimate friends.

Let us visit the asylums of our land and gaze into the

glaring eyes of the raving maniac who is destitute of reason or understanding ; let us visit the poor houses, the hospitals and other charitable institutions and with a laden heart gaze upon the objects of pity that are wearing their lives away upon the mercies of the world.

Go with me to many of the homes of our great America and behold the bowed down mother, with her head prematurely growing gray, with the deep furrows upon her brow as the effects of the plowshare of sorrow tearing through her heart. Oh! see those little ones in their rags and tatters as they shy away, growing into manhood and womanhood uncultivated. There are some great talents hidden in obscurity, in shame and in poverty in the drunkard's hovel. O, see the father, a ghastly object. The voice of the people have often been heard crying for justice, but, "judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off," for the priest and the people have erred through strong drink ; they are swallowed up of ruin, they are out of the way through strong drink, they err in vision, they shamble in judgment. Oh! look at all these abominable evils and think that a great per cent. of all these evils had their origin in the dregs of the wine cup. Let us think of Alexander, before whose military skill and power the armies of the earth trembled and fell, who was overpowered by the wine cup.

"For they fall at my touch as though struck by blight,
Where I was king for I ruled in might.
From the heads of kings I have torn the crown,
From the heights of fame I have hurled men down.
I have tempted the youth with a sip, a taste,
That made his future a barren waste."

Cast your thoughts upon the magnificent cities which dot our American soil here and there. But ah, a bitter with the sweet ; something to destroy the beauty of our America, the pride of our heart : a grog shop with its hiding curtains, with demcons half hid behind them, peeping out upon the passersby, ready to place the poison in his brother's bosom, instead of the grand churches of Christ, with their spires reaching heavenward, with the sound of the Gospel of peace echoing from hill top to hill top and sinking deep into the souls of men.

The great, wise Solomon asks the question of those, who have woe and misery, and sorrow and strife and foolish talkings, and wounds without cause, and glaring eyes. O, what brings these needless woes upon man ? It is the

tarrying long at the wine. Let us gaze with awe upon the dark regions of Africa, China and the isles of the sea; but look and listen to the dark cloud roaring and hovering over our great America—the cloud of intemperence.

There is great progress being made to prevent the sale of ardent spirits. Let us wake up, we workers of Zion. We would urge upon this band of brethren in the name of our Master to make this cause, the cause of temperence, one of our special targets. That if the day may not come in the near future when these older brethren may rejoice to see the temperance banner waving over this continent, that we younger brethren may be the happy beneficiaries of this great freedom.

The wine cup says :

Far greater than a king am I,
Or any armies beneath the sky.

A terrible Goliah is he with all manner of sin as his shield, but we would say in the name of God to arise and slay the monster. Respectfully submitted,

PAUL KIMZEY, Chairman.

DECLARATION OF FAITH AND PRACTICE.

ARTICLE I We believe that there are three that bear record in Heaven : The Father, Word and Holy Ghost ; and that these three are one, the only living and true God, the Creator and Preserver of all men of the universe.

II. We believe the word was made flesh in the person of the man Christ Jesus, who is God over all, and blessed ever more.

III. That all Scriptures as contained in the Holy Bible is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for correction, for reproof, instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

IV. That the law and testimony as set forth in the Scriptures is the only rule of faith and practice to Christians in their spiritual concerns, and in their conduct as individuals and as members of the churches.

V. That Adam, the natural head and representative of all mankind, fell from his state of original purity, and that by his disobedience all his posterity are made sinners.

VI. That by the obedience of Christ alone sinners are restored to the favor of God, and through His unmerited mercy receive regeneration, pardon, justification, sanctification and glorification.

VII. That those blessings are communicated by that Holy Ghost sent down from Heaven, so that those who are saved are saved by grace, through faith, and that not of themselves ; not of work, lest any man should boast ; not by words of righteousness which they have done, but by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost.

VIII. That God works all things after the counsel of His own will ; foreknown unto Him are all His works from the beginning, and that of course, all that the Father hath given to Christ shall come to Him, and that He will raise them up at the last day, so that His sheep will hear His voice shall never perish, become dead to the world and to sin, be made alive to God and when He who is their life shall come, appear with Him in glory.

IX. We believe that believers should obey the commandments of Christ, and maintain good work for necessary uses.

X. That sinners of the vilest character may obtain salvation through Christ without money and without price.

XI. That there will be a resurrection of the dead and a general judgment, according to the decision of which, the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment, and the righteous to life eternal.

XII. That God has instituted a church on earth, existing in distinct bodies, the only scriptural members of which are the faithful in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, who are immersed in water in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, and who have given themselves to the Lord and to one another in the church relation by the will of God their voluntary consent.

XIII. That each church of Jesus Christ is independent of all authority but that of her head, and that she has under Him the exclusive power of managing all her concerns of judging of the qualifications of her own members for the offices they are to fill, and of choosing her own officers in conformity with the direction of the Word of God.

XIV. That the officers of the churches are pastors and deacons only.

XV. That scriptural baptism is an ordinance of the Gospel and consists in immersing the body of a disciple of the Lord Jesus in water upon a profession of his faith in Christ.

XVI. That the Lord's supper is a standing ordinance in the Church of Christ, consisting in a believing participation of bread and wine, to be observed in commemoration of the suffering and death of Christ, and to show forth His death until He comes the second time.

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF CEDAR BLUFF ASSOCIATION, 1892.

CHURCHES.	CHURCHES.						Minutes.
	Home	Missions	Foreign	Missions	State	Missions	
					Minist'r'l	Educat'n	
Bethlehem.....							\$ 1 00
Cedar Bluff.....	\$ 9 83		\$ 9 83	\$ 9 83	11 67		3 05
Damaris.....					8 30		1 05
Hickory Grove.....					5 00		1 50
Gravel Springs.....					35		70
Melrose.....	4 00		5 00	5 58	29 00		1 05
Mill Creek.....					1 25		2 07
Mt. Bethel.....					2 00		85
Missionary Station.....			2 55				50
Pilgrim's Rest.....							85
Pleasant Valley.....							80
Rock Hill.....	5 00						
Shady Grove.....	2 84		7 94	6 20			1 00
Union.....							
Unity.....			4 20	6 25			1 00
Yellow Creek.....				5 00			1 05
Total.....	\$21 77		\$29 52	\$90 43	\$10 00		\$16 47
Public Collection.....				20 93			
Total.....	\$21 77		\$29 52	\$111 36	\$10 00		\$16 47

Elder J. N. Webb, Moderator,
Broomtown, Ala.

J. S. Watt, Clerk,
Cedar Bluff, Ala.

The session of 1893 will be held with
Bethlehem church, on Tuesday
before the fourth Sabbath in Sep-
tember, 1893.

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