

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Central Liberty Baptist Association,

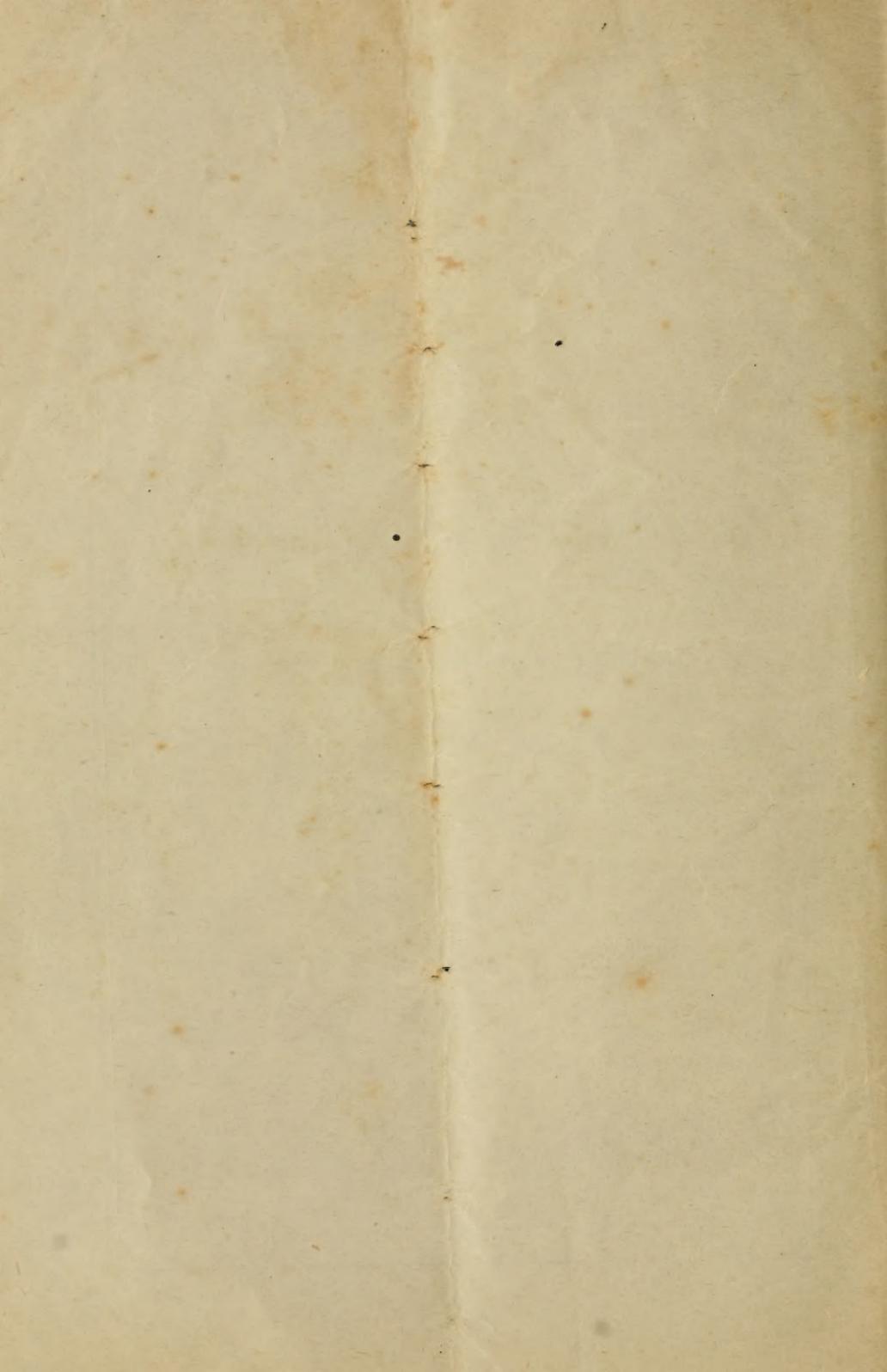
HELD WITH SHADY GROVE CHURCH,

TUSCALOOSA COUNTY, ALABAMA,

SEPTEMBER 28, 29, and 30. 1899.

R. E. HOWARD, Clerk,
Duncanville, Ala.

REV. F. M. HOBSON, Mod.,
Hagler, Ala.



MINUTES.

The ministers and delegates composing the Central Liberty Baptist Association met in its 15th session on Thursday before the 1st Sabbath in October, 1899, with Shady Grove Church. The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. T. B. Sumner, from the 26th chapter and 39th verse of the Gospel recorded by St. Matthew: "And he went a little further and fell on his face and prayed, saying, 'O, my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.'" Adjourned one hour for dinner, which was prepared at the church. The time for adjournment having arrived, assembled in the house. The former Moderator, Rev. F. M. Hobson, took his seat and offered prayer. Called the body to order, and declared it partially organized and ready for business.

Called for the letters from the various churches, which were presented and read by Brethren J. H. Deweese and J. M. Greathouse, and the names of Delegates enrolled as follows:

Haysop—*Rev. W. G. Hubbard, *Martin Thompson, *B. J. Murphy, Barney Thompson, W. W. Kornegay

Liberty—Rev. F. M. Hobson, J. H. Deweese, *J. B. Robinson.

Mount Pleasant—*L. A. Hester, W. P. Phifer, J. M. Geddy, W. M. Tingle, J. M. McCray (alt.)

Union—Rev. J. R. Wiggins, J. M. Greathouse, *Daniel Wiggins, Sr., W. T. Hallman, J. R. Doss (alt.)

Shady Grove—R. Mathews, J. A. Shuttleworth, R. E. Howard, J. D. Mathews (alt.).

Mulberry—*A. J. Mayfield, *Rev. A. D. Fikes, W. H. Hallman, *J. M. Snipes.

South Sandy—Rev. T. B. Sumner, J. T. Pool, S. P. Sumner, *W. C. Pool.

Pleasant Hill—H. H. Johnston, J. A. Johnston, *D. J. Johnston.

Spring Hill—William Averett, J. M. Fondren, *Quincy Arnold (alt.)

Pine Flat—W. C. Morrison, N. M. Morrison.

Bros. Morrison, having no credentials from Pine Flat church, on motion were received as delegates by a unanimous vote of the body.

On motion, the following brethren were added to the delegations of the following churches, Haysop—J. W. Hubbard and Robert Murphy. Pine Flat—John Morrison.

Went into the election of a moderator and clerk, which was done by ballot, and resulted in the choice of Rev. F. M. Hobson, the former moderator, and R. E. Howard, former clerk.

Read Abstract of Principles and Rules of Decorum.

The Moderator appointed the following committees:—

Arrangement of Business—Rev. T. B. Sumner, Rev. J. R. Wiggins, and J. H. Deweese.

Finance—Brethren W. P. Phifer, S. P. Sumner and J. R. Doss

Devotion—W. H. Hallman, Howell Johnson, W. M. Tingle, with the Deacons of this church.

Called for Report on Devotion:— Prayer meeting to-morrow morning at 8:30, conducted by Bro. J. M. Doss. The Association to resume business at 9:30; preaching at 11 A. M., by Rev. J. R. Wiggins.

Adjourned until to-morrow morning.

FRIDAY MORNING—SECOND DAY'S SESSION.

Prayer-meeting, conducted by Bro. J. R. Doss. A short recess was taken. Reassembled in the house. The Moderator called the body to order, bowed in prayer, led by Bro. W. H. Hallman, the Moderator in the chair. Called for the report of the arrangement of business, and Bro. J. H. Deweese presented and read the report, which was adopted. (See Appendix A.)

Door open for the reception of newly constituted churches.

Received and returned correspondence. On motion corresponded with Tuscaloosa, Harmony, Mulberry and Cahaba associations—Rev. F. M. Hobson to correspond with the Tuscaloosa association; Rev. J. R. Wiggins and Rev. W. G. Hubbard with the Harmony; Bro. James Geddy with the Mulberry; Rev. T. B. Sumner and John McCray with the Cahaba.

Roll called and absentees marked thus, *.

Called for the report on Sabbath Schools, and Bro. A. J. Mayfield being absent, the following committee was appointed, to report this afternoon on Sabbath Schools: Brethren H. P. Phifer & J. H. Deweese.

Called for report on Temperance. On motion passed.

Called for report on Missions, and Bro. J. W. Caddell being absent, the following brethren were appointed to make a report on Missions: Rev. T. B. Sumner, W. H. Hallman, and Rev. J. R. Wiggins.

Called for report on Education, and Bro. J. H. Deweese offered the following:

We deem it unnecessary to write a lengthy report on a literary education, for the reason that there seems to be little or no attention given it; but a religious education and training is what the Baptists should be interested in. There is no better means on earth to attain to that point than to patronize our denominational schools. We believe there is no work in the denomination that has a greater tendency to the unification of our forces than this. We all know where these schools are located and the names by which they are called. In each of these institutions we have a corps of firm, strong, and loyal Baptist teachers, versed in all the branches of classical lore; men and women whose hearts and lives are full of Christian graces, so that while the mind is being trained the heart is being trained also. Every other denomination sustains and patronizes their own schools, and

the Baptists should not be behind in this respect. Brethren, see to it that your children go to a Baptist school. Respectfully submitted, J. H. DEWEESE.

On motion the report was received, and discussion opened by Bro. J. M. Greathouse, followed by Bros. J. H. Deweese, T. B. Sumner, W. P. Phifer and J. A. Shuttleworth. On motion the discussion was suspended for preaching by Rev. J. R. Wiggins, who preached from the 19th chapter and 17th verse of Proverbs—"He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth to the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again," Adjourned one hour for dinner.

At the expiration of the hour, reassembled in the house, the Moderator in the chair, and resumed the discussion on Education.

On motion Rev. James Loveless was received as corresponding messenger from the Tuscaloosa association, who made a speech upon the subject of Education. On motion the discussion closed and the report was adopted.

Again called for the report on Sabbath Schools, and Bros. J. H. Deweese and W. P. Phifer offered the following report :

We, your Committee on Sabbath Schools, beg leave to report, that under the circumstances, so short a time allowed us, we are compelled to make our report very short and possibly uninteresting. Why has the Sabbath School, from a very small beginning, developed into such a wonderful system and power for good, and to-day is keeping pace with civilization and the spread of the Gospel? Note the fact that Sabbath Schools are in operation in every civilized nation of the world. Recognized not only as a great auxiliary of the church, but as the great instrument in the hands of God of sowing in the minds of unconverted men and women the seeds of divine truth which, under the blessings of God, germinate and bring forth fruit to the honor and glory of His name.

Respectfully submitted, W. P. PHIFER,
J. H. DEWEESE.

On motion the report was received and adopted.

Again called for the report on Temperance, and Bro. J. M. Greathouse, who was previously appointed to make this report, and through failure to meet the appointment, he requested the body to excuse him. On motion his request was granted, and Bro. S. P. Sumner was appointed to report on Temperance to-morrow morning.

The next session of this body will convene with Pleasant Hill Ch., 8 or 10 miles east of Moundville, on Thursday before the 1st Sabbath in October, 1900; Rev. W. G. Hubbard to preach the introductory sermon; Rev. F. M. Hobson, alternate. The next annual district meeting will be held with Mulberry church, on Friday before the 2nd Sabbath in September, 1900; Rev. T. B. Sumner to preach the introductory sermon; W. G. Hubbard, alternate. Subject for discussion :

Are we contending for the faith as once delivered to the Saints? If not, why not? Discussion to be opened by Rev. J. R. Wiggins.

Called for the report on Devotion. The committee reported that the association meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock, and resume business, and that Rev. F. M. Hobson preach at 11 o'clock.

On motion adjourned for time appointed.

THIRD DAY'S SESSION.

Assembled at 9 o'clock, the Moderator in the chair. Called the body to order, offered prayer, and resumed business.

Called for report on Missions, and the chairman, W. H. Hallman, offered the following report :

We, your committee on Missions, beg leave to report that we are sorry to see our association is doing nothing in the great work of Missions, while our sister associations seem to be at work in the mission cause. We see in the statistical table of the Cahaba association that last year they raised for State Missions \$331.49; Foreign Missions, \$225.10; Church Building, \$145.08; Ministerial education, 108 98; Home Missions, \$136.23; Orphan's Home, \$295.12; besides other monies raised—and here we are trailing in the dust. Brethren, let us arouse from our state of lethargy or lay down our missionary name. Oh, that we may prove our faith by our works? Our time is so limited that we are not able to do this report justice. Respectfully submitted. W. H. HALLMAN, Ch'mn.

On motion the report was received and discussion opened by Rev. T. B. Sumner, followed by Brethren J. M. Greathouse, J. A. Shuttlesworth, and Rev. J. R. Wiggins. Discussion closed, report adopted.

Motioned to take up a collection at the close of the 11 o'clock service to-day, to be applied to missions.

Called for report on Temperance, and Bro. S. P. Sumner offered the following report :

Dear Brethren, we shall only write a very short report on Temperance. Paul says be temperate in all things. It is wrong to use anything to an excess. If we use tobacco, coffee, or any other narcotic, when we know it is injurious to us, we are in a sense guilty of suicide. If we use or tolerate the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, we are guilty of tolerating one of the greatest curses of our day. God help us to be temperate in our talk, our actions; and especially in our way of taking refreshments, or stimulants.

Respectfully submitted,

S. P. SUMNER.

On motion, report received, and the hour having arrived for preaching, the discussion of the above report was suspended, a short recess was taken. Reassembled in the house, and Rev. F. M. Hobson preached a sermon upon the subject of missions, and at the close of this service a missionary collection was taken up, which amounted to \$6.08.

The Moderator in the chair, and the discussion of temperance was

taken up; opening speech by Bro. J. H. Deweese, followed by Bros. T. B. Sumner, J. A. Shuttlesworth, J. M. Greathouse and Rev. F. M. Hobson. On motion discussion closed and report adopted.

Called for report on Finance, which was as follows :

We, your Committee on Finance, beg leave to make the following report: Received from the churches for minutes, \$15.15; from the Mulberry church for Orphans' Home, \$2.00; Mount Pleasant Sunday School for Orphans' Home, \$17.50—Total for Orphans' Home, \$19.15.

Respectfully submitted, W. P. PHIFER, Chairman.

On motion the report was received and committee discharged.

On motion Bro. J. H. Deweese was appointed to write a circular letter to be printed in the minutes of next session.

On motion agreed not to have the minutes read, but instructed the clerk to revise and have 300 copies printed and retain \$7.50 for his services, and pay the surplus, if any, to Rev. F. M. Hobson; also, a surplus of \$3.98 already on hand was given to Rev. F. M. Hobson, by motion and unanimous vote of the body.

Called for general or miscellaneous business, whereupon Bro. W. P. Phifer made a suggestion, which was unanimously consented to, that each individual church take up collections in their Sabbath Schools, and apply the same to the benefit and use of the Orphans' Home.

On motion Bros. T. B. Sumner, W. H. Hallman, J. A. Shuttlesworth, J. M. Greathouse, and Rev. F. M. Hobson were appointed a committee to visit Pine Flat Church, and investigate the condition and standig of the same, and report at the meeting of next sessiun.

On motion the association recommended that its churches prefer charges against members who entertain the Mormons, and deal with them accordingly.

Resolved, That this association tender its heartfelt thanks to the brethren and sisters of Shady Grove neighborhood for their hospitality tendered to us during our stay among them.

The work of the association being accomplished, on motion adjourned, to meet at the time and place before mentioned.

Bowed in prayer, led by Rev. J. R. Wiggins, and after remarks by Rev. F. M. Hobson, having reference to the "Great Beyond, where adjournments are never known and partings never come," sung a nymn and extended the parting hand with eyes bathed in tears.

R. E. HOWARD,
Clerk.

REV. F. M. HOBSON,
Moderator.

APPENDIX A.—PROGRAMME.

THURSDAY.

1. Reading letters and enrollment of delegates.
2. Llection of officers.
3. Appointing committees.

FRIDAY.

1. Reception of new churches.
2. Receive and Return correspondence.
3. Roll call.
4. Report on Sabbath Schools—A. J. Mayfield.
5. Report on Temperance—J. M. Greathouse.
6. Report on Missions—J. W. Caddell.
7. Report on Education—J. H. Deweese.
8. Time and place for next session.
9. Who to preach the introductory sermon, and alternate.

SATURDAY.

1. Advise the churches during the associational year a day suitable for each individual church to be spent in fasting, prayer, and humiliation to God.
2. Advise the churches to take up collections on Sabbaths of their monthly meetings for the benefit of their pastors.
3. Advise the churches to have a collection taken up quarterly, to be applied to missions.
4. Urge our pastors to preach a missionary sermon twich a year.
5. Appoint some suitable brother to write a circular letter to be printed with the minutes of next session, to be written on discipline or some scriptuaal doctrine.
6. Admonish and advise tne churches and pastors to exercise more zeal in bringing about a riged Baptist Bible discipline.

J. H. DEWEESE,	}	Committee.
J. R. WIGGINS,		
T. B. SUMNER.		

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCH.	PASTOR	PASTOR'S P. O.	CLERK.	CLERK'S P. O.	Baptized.	Rec'd by letter.	Restored.	Dis. by letter.	Excluded.	Died.	Previous No.	Present No.	Money sent.
Haysop	W. G. Hubbard	Scottsville	R. J. Murphy	Scottsville	6	2		3		3	158	160	\$3 00
Liberty	T. B. Sumner	Griffin	J. S. Hobson	Hagler	2	2		1		1	69	72	1 50
Union	F. M. Hobson	Hagler	John Tommy	Data				1		1	95	93	1 50
Mulberry	J. W. Loveless	Griffin	W. H. Hallman	Pondville	1			1		2	97	95	1 50
Spring Hill	T. B. Sumner	Griffin	Q. Arnold	Five Mile				4		1	99	97	1 65
Mt. Pleasant	J. R. Wiggins	Data	W. T. Hester	Moundville	6	12		1		2	44	60	1 50
South Sandy	T. B. Sumner	Griffin	S. P. Sumner	Griffin		5				1	77	80	1 50
Pleasant Hill	T. B. Sumner	Griffin	C. W. Johnston	Moundville	4	2		1		1	81	85	1 50
Pine Flat													
Shady Grove	F. M. Hobson	Hagler	R. L. Howard	Duncanville	2						22	22	1 50