

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

SHELBY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION;

HELD WITH

PROVIDENCE CHURCH,

SHELBY COUNTY, ALA.,

*From the Thirteenth to the Fifteenth of October.*



MONTEVALLO:

HERALD BOOK AND JOB OFFICE.

1855.



# MINUTES:

The fourth anniversary of the Shelby Baptist Association was held with Providence Church, Shelby county, Ala., commencing on Saturday before the second Sabbath in October, 1855.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder T. P. Holcombe, from Mathew, 28 : ix, xx.

After a short recess, the delegates assembled in the Meeting House ; were called to order by the former moderator, Elder T. P. Holcombe, and prayer offered by Elder N. Haggard.

Letters from the churches, were then called for, received, read, and the following brethren found to be deputed to set and act as messengers in the Association, viz: from

BEAVER CREEK, : Sam'l Clabaugh, Sam'l Comer, A. A. Sterritt.  
MT. HOREB, : : : : P. O. Mosely, Isaac Tawbe,\* J. B. McClinton.  
BETHESDA, : : : : J. H. R. Carden, J. D. Teague,† J. W. Teague.\*  
BEAULAH, : : : : Jas. S. Duyck,\* Asa Wyatt, Healey Webster.  
LIBERTY, : : : : T. P. Holcombe,† J. Gilbert,† J. G. Walton.†  
UNION, : : : : Wm. Wyatt, Henry H. Paul, Wm. Lucas.  
SAREPTA, : : : : Jas. C. Hand,† Jordan Jones, James Butler.  
SHOAL CREEK, : : E. King, N. Haggard,† H. Holsomback.  
PROVIDENCE, : : Thos. E. Meroney,† Thos. J. Freeman,† L. A. Honeycutt.  
MT. HOPE, : : : : J. Lowrey, Sr., S. J. Beasley, J. D. Goss,\* W. J. Beasley.  
CAHABA VALLEY, T. L. Miles, Rob't Goode,\* L. T. Mulguire.\*

The Association then proceeded to the election of officers: Elder T. P. Holcombe elected Moderator and A. A. Sterritt Clerk of the association.

Visiting ministering brethren of our order were then invited to set with us, and aid, by their counsel, in our deliberations. The invitation was accepted by N. J. Norris, then present, and afterwards by L. P. Lowrey.

The Constitution, Abstract of Principles, and Rules of Decorum of the association were then read.

Opened the door for the reception of churches into our body, and received Enon, of Bibb county, (dismissed from the Mulberry Association,) with a letter by her delegates, W. V. Arnold,\* Stephen Johnson, Asa Blake,\* Elington Jones; and Freedom, of Shelby county, a newly constituted church, was also received by letter and delegates J. W. Long,\*† Lewis Waldrop, John Elison,\* H. E. Littlefield.

Received correspondence and Minutes from sister associations—from Canaan by Elder A. McDonald and H. Moore, messengers; from Coosa River by brother J. D. Teague, of this (Shelby) association. Messengers Scott, Welch, Rowdon and G. Hill absent. Elder J. A. Collins, however, of the Coosa River Association, was present, and recognised as messenger. From Mulberry by Elder Daniel Ward and C. D. McCrimmon; from Cahaba no messenger, but minutes presented by a brother.

Returned correspondence: To the Canaan association by R. Wood and N. Haggard; to the Coosa River by N. J. Norris, J. D. Teague and E. King; to the Mulberry by N. Haggard, John Lowery and J. C. Hand; to the Cahaba by Jas. R. Webster and N. Haggard.

Appointed the Clerk to write the corresponding letter, and directed it to be printed with the minutes.

Proceeded to appoint the following committees :

To arrange preaching during the association—H. Webster and Jordan Jones, with the Deacon of Providence church.

To arrange business proper to come before the association—J. G. Walton, J. D. Teague, Thos. E. Maroney, with the moderator and clerk.

On Finance—E. King and J. H. R. Carden.

On Documents—Jordan Jones and J. H. R. Carden.

The committee on preaching reported that they had arranged for A. McDonald to occupy the stand at 10 A. M., on Sabbath ; J. C. Hand at 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ , and to preach the missionary sermon under appointment of last session ; and J. A. Collins in the afternoon, and to preach the funeral of brother Kerbo, deceased.

Appointed brethren J. H. R. Carden and J. G. Walton a committee on missions, and directed that they report to the next session of this body.

After singing and prayer by brother Ward, adjourned till 9 o'clock A. M., Monday.

[On Sabbath the services were conducted by the brethren in the order mentioned in the report of the committee. Brother McDonald preached from 3: xiv, xv of the Gospel by St. John—"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the son of man be lifted up ; that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life." Brother Hand preached from 7th to 14th verse inclusive, of 9th chap. of first epistle of Paul to the Corinthians—"Who goeth a warfare at any time at his own charges ? who planteth a vineyard and eateth not of the fruit thereof ? or who feedeth a flock and eateth not of the milk of the flock ? Say I these things as a man ? or saith not the law the same also ? For it is written in the law of Moses, thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen ? Or saith he it altogether for our sakes ? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written : that he that ploweth should plow in hope ; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope. If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things ? If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather ? Nevertheless we have not used this power ; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the Gospel of Christ. Do ye know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple ? and they that wait at the altar are partakers with the altar ? Even so hath the Lord ordained, that they which preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel." Brother Collins' text, xv, xvi vs. of 4th ch. Paul's first letter to Timothy. The congregation was respectably large and attentive to the preaching of the brethren. May much good be the result of the day's services. After brother Hand's discourse, a collection for domestic missions was taken up of \$8 65.]

#### MONDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK.

Association met according to adjournment, and after singing and prayer by brother Gilbert, proceeded to business.

Called the roll and marked those absent.

The committee on arrangement made their report, which was received, adopted, and committee discharged.

On motion it was determined to continue correspondence with the DAPAS State Convention. Appointed brethren E. King, N. Haggard, J. G. Walton, R. Wood, Sam'l Clabaugh and A. A. Sterritt delegates thereto. Brother King requested to write the letter.

Called for the circular letter, which was presented by brother N. J. Norris, who was, at the last session, appointed to write the same, and, being read, was received, adopted, and directed to be printed with the minutes.

Appointed the next association to be held with Bethesda church, Shelby co., seven miles northeast of Columbiana, on Saturday preceding the second Sabbath in October 1856.

The committee on documents made the following report: That they find, from the letter from Mt. Hope church, that James Atkinson, who was a licensed minister of said church, has been excluded, and the church desires that churches be guarded against imposition, and that they recommend the association to notify, through their minutes, the public of these facts, so as to protect the churches from imposition. They also recommend the South Western Baptist, published at Tuskegee, Ala., the Tennessee Baptist, published at Nashville, Tenn., and the Home and Foreign Journal, (the organ of the Southern Baptist Convention,) published at Richmond, Va., which was received, ordered to be published with the minutes, and committee discharged.

Appointed brother N. Haggard to preach the next introductory sermon; brother J. G. Walton alternate; brother J. D. Teague the missionary sermon; brother R. Wood alternate.

Called for the report of the committee on finance, which was presented, showing \$22 10 (including \$4 50 in hands of clerk) sent up by the churches for minutes, and \$21 00 for associational purposes, which was received and committee discharged.

Directed that the money in hands of brethren, collected for missionary purposes, be paid over to the Treasurer of this association, who is directed to pay the same to our domestic missionary, brother J. D. Teague, on account of past labors.

Called for the report of the executive committee appointed at the last session of this association. None made. (Passed over.)

Called for action in relation to domestic missionary operations. Appointed an executive committee of one from each church, to wit: King, Wyatt, Honeycutt, Miles, Johnson, J. Lowery, Sr., Jordan Jones, Littlefield, Clabaugh, Isaac Brasher, Mosely, Carden, & Webster, to collect money and receive pledges for sustaining a missionary in the bounds of this association. Directed that said committee report their action to our next session, and request that said committee hold their first meeting at Mt. Horeb church, Saturday before the second Sabbath in December next.

Called for the report of our domestic missionary, which was presented by brother Teague, to wit: "I commenced my labors on the 7th of April, and have been engaged in the work until this time, with the exception of a few days. It will be remembered that I was appointed to ride eight months, but owing to a delay on account of a misunderstanding as to the time of the committee's meeting, the application to the Board was not made until after its meeting; consequently I did not receive a commission from the Board until recently. I have therefore been operating solely upon the faith of your subscription. I have spent my time principally in the destitute portions of the association. I have preached 96 sermons and traveled 1,114 miles. I have nothing specially cheering to write, save that I have been cordially received by those destitute people; good attention was given to preaching. Last year, when brother Hand and myself first visited them, they seemed to manifest but little concern in the matter; now they are personally concerned, and, while listening

earnestly to the story of the Cross, scarcely without a single exception, the tears ran down their cheeks; and when I left them they expressed their sorrow, and inquired, "Will they send us a preacher next year?" Some two or three have professed faith in Jesus, but not publicly. Respectfully submitted.

JAS. D. TEAGUE."

Missionary report received and ordered to be printed with minutes.

Directed that 500 copies of these minutes be printed; that 100 be reserved for correspondence with sister associations; that the minutes, when printed, be distributed with the churches according to membership; that the clerk superintend the printing and receive ten dollars for his services; and that the excess of money in the hands of the Treasurer be paid over to our domestic missionary.

On motion it is requested of churches composing this association to designate in their letters the number of white male and female and colored membership separately.

After consideration, concluded to dispense hereafter with the publication of a circular letter, and, in place thereof, directed that the Constitution, Abstract of Principles, and Rules of Decorum of this association be printed with the minutes.

Appointed brethren King, Teague and Sterritt a committee on the Bible cause, and request that they report to our next session.

Appointed brother King agent for the second district, to which is added Cahaba Valley, (received at our last session,) Enon and Freedom churches, and brother Sterritt agent for the first district.

On motion the executive committee are instructed, if they think it expedient, to make such arrangement with the Bible Board as may be deemed practicable, for procuring a colportage in our bounds connected with our domestic missionary operations.

Permission being given, brother Collins addressed the association and congregation in a few pertinent and appropriate remarks upon the subject of missions, immediately after which a collection was taken in money and pledges for Indian missions, by brother Collins, of \$25 00.

A subscription was also made, by brethren and friends present, of \$100, to be paid to brother E. King by the first day of April next, to be by him paid over—half for Indian missions and half for domestic missions.

After a short address, singing, and prayer by brother Haggard, the association adjourned, to meet at the time and place before mentioned.

A. A. STERRITT, Clerk.

T. P. HOLCOMBE, Moderator.

## CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The Shelby Baptist Association, to Sister Associations, Sendeth Christian Salutations:—

DEAR BRETHREN:—Again with pleasure we acknowledge the receipt of your recent letter by the hands of your messengers, whose aid in our deliberations we take pleasure in acknowledging. We are made glad by the presence of your messengers, and good news communicated, and invite a continuance of correspondence. Our session at Providence Church, eight miles south of Montevallo, has been pleasant and harmonious; and it is hoped that great good may be the result of our labors. Our next session will be held with Bethesda Church, seven miles northeast of Columbiana, on Saturday before the second Sabbath in October, 1856, where we hope you will again meet us, by your messengers. Brethren, pray for us, and that the work of the Lord may be revived, and that coldness and apathy, upon the subject of Zion's prosperity, may be banished, and that we may be steadfast, immovable, and always abounding in the work of the Lord; and may God receive, bless, and prosper you in his work.

A. A. STERRITT, Clerk.

T. P. HOLCOMBE, Moderator.

## CIRCULAR LETTER.

DEAR BRETHREN:—

Having been appointed by your last association, to prepare a Circular Letter for your present session, I herewith submit the following remarks on the subject of Church Sovereignty, by which I understand that each church has the right to manage her own affairs according to her understanding of the word of God, and as she receives all the power from Christ, and come into possession of it by conforming to his will, she is accountable to him separately, directly and exclusively for all her ecclesiastical proceedings, and any interference on the part of other churches, is an assumption of power not delegated to them by the word of God. A church is a company of scripturally baptised believers, associated together in covenantal engagement with each other, for the noble purpose of obeying the laws of Christ, forming a bond of union peculiar to themselves, distinct and separate from all other associated bodies, no matter how near they may be in feeling and sentiment. In support of the foregoing proposition, I will refer you to a few of the many passages of Scripture which favor the opinion: In the 1st Chapter and 2d verse of Paul's letter to the Corinthians, he addresses a particular church and refers to others, also the same Apostle in addressing the Thesalonians, defines a particular church, chapter 1; verse 1; and if we examine his epistles, we find their scope to exhibit the same result, but by reference to the brief addresses to the seven churches in Asia, I think that all unprejudiced minds must admit the correctness of our position. The Lord Jesus is there represented as walking among the churches, (golden candle-sticks) holding the stars (angels or pastors,) in his hand causing them to rise and set or to remove at pleasure, through whom he addresses the churches. These addresses are various according to the various circumstances of the churches. In Ephesus the church had declined in love; in Smyrna it was suffering persecution; in Pergomas it was lax in discipline by suffering erroneous doctrines among its members; at Thyatira it permitted a false teacher to disseminate corrupt doctrines. The church at Sardis was fast going into apostacy. The church in Philadelphia was zealous and faithful in seven trials, and the church of the Laodiceans was wealthy, lukewarm and graceless. Now, we cannot fail to observe that each of these churches was separately addressed, and commended, warned and threatened as accountable, solely, separately and directly to Christ for its condition and doings. Our church is not praised or censured for the doings of the others, nor the whole collectively for the condition of any one. Our church is censured for not silencing a false teacher, which implies the power to do so, and another is praised for having tried those who claimed to be Apostles and proved them liars, nothing is said of the diocese of Asia, or the church of Asia, but the messages are to the churches *in Asia*. Each one is addressed as completely accountable to Christ for the state of its zeal and love, its doctrine and discipline, as though no other church existed on earth. We think the proof of the soundness of this principle is complete from this proof of the separate independent character of each church it follows: That to become a church member is an act which involves the highest degree of responsibility to God and man, and places every member under the most solemn obligations to study thoroughly the will of Christ, that they may be able to discharge the duties of the church relations in an acceptable manner to God; these duties are numerous. In the first place the kind of material they may add to the visible body is an important matter, for just in proportion to the soundness and fitness of the material will be the durability of the structure. It follows therefore that certain powers are delegated to each church, that that they may be fully prepared to carry out the object of this association: as the power to expel necessarily implies the power to admit members, it follows that this also is vested in the members of a church, who are to decide on the admission of each candidate by the rules of the Gospel, distinct and independent of the judgment of all others, from which we draw the following conclusions: first, that a church is not bound to receive an applicant on account of a letter of recommendation they may present from a sister church; that a letter of recommendation is good evidence for both the experience and character I freely admit, but should not be the only grounds on which a church should extend to them the hand of fellowship. If I am correct in this conclusion, the second must be fully established, that a church has the right to receive a member in extreme cases, who satisfies them of his character and standing, without a letter, this right, however, should be used with due regard to the claims of sister churches. In concluding this article, let us earnestly impress the great necessity of Bible knowledge upon every member of the church, that he may be able to discharge his duty fully in all the church relations, that she may soon become the beauty of the whole earth.

N. J. NORRIS.

## STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES.	CON'TY.	Baptized.	Received by Letter,	Dismissed by Letter,	Restored,	Excluded,	Deceased,	Present Number,	Sent up for Minutes,	Sent up for Associational Purposes.	Sabbath of Meeting	PASTORS.
Beaver Creek, :	Shelby, :	1	11					37	\$2 00	\$3 00	4th	T. P. Holcombe.
Mt. Horeb, :	" :	1	1					15	1 00	2 00	2d	W. H. Carrol.
Bethesda, :	" :		2			1		43	2 50	2 00	3d	James M. Scott.
Beulah, :	" :	8	2	3	1			32	2 00	2 00	3d	T. P. Holcombe.
Liberty, :	" :			4	1	1	2	54	2 00	2 00	1st	T. P. Holcombe.
Union, :	" :	2	11		1		2	56		2 50	4th	James C. Hand.
Sarepta, :	" :		1	1		1	1	20		2 00	3d	James C. Hand.
Shoal Creek, :	" :	5	4	2		3	3	78	2 00	2 00	1st	James C. Hand.
Providence, :	" :	6	1	4	1	1	1	48	1 50	1 50	4th	
Mount Hope, :	" :	3	6	3	1	5		55	1 00	1 00	1st	Daniel Ward.
Cahaba Valley, :	Bibb, :	7	5	5	1	3	6	90	2 00	1 00	1st	Richard Wood.
Enon, :	" :	17	2	5	1	2		73	1 00			
Freedom, :	Shelby, :	1						14	60		2d	J. W. Long.
Totals, :		51	32	41	5	14	16	615	\$17 60	\$21 00		

## TREASURER'S REPORT.

Balance in hand from am't rec'd at last session, : : \$ 4 50	CONTRA:—	
Contributed on Sabbath, etc., : 8 65	Paid J. D. Teague, : : \$61 75	
By T. P. Holcombe, of Liberty, 2 00	Paid " " am't of error, 75	
Jordon Jones, of Sarepta, : 14 50	Paid for Printing minutes, : 17 50	
J. D. Teague, of Bethesda, : 9 50	Paid Clerk, : : : 10 00	
J. H. R. Carden, of Bethesda, 3 75	Total, : : : \$90 00	
E. King, of Shoal Creek, : 9 00		94 50
H. Webster, of Beulah, : 4 00		
By E. King, of finance committee, am't sent up for minutes and associational purposes, : 38 60	Balance in Treasury, : : \$4 50	
Total, : : . \$94 50		

## LIST OF MINISTERS, WITH THEIR POST OFFICES.

T. P. HOLCOMBE, Columbiana.	NOAH HAGGARD, Montevallo.
J. C. HAND, Columbiana.	RICHARD WOOD, Montevallo.
J. C. WALTON, Columbiana.	N. J. NORRIS, Montevallo.
J. G. GILBERT, Columbiana.	JAS. R. WEBSTER, Marion.
J. D. TEAGUE, Wilsonville.	J. D. GOSS, (L.) Chestnut Creek.
THOS. E. MERONEY, Columbiana.	T. J. FREEMAN, (L.) Montevallo.