

*C. C. Buchner*

# MINUTES

OF THE

Thirty-sixth Annual Session

OF THE

## Warrior River Baptist Association

HELD WITH

### FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH,

FRIENDSHIP, ALA.

OCTOBER 19, 20 AND 21, 1894.

#### OFFICERS.

- ELD. A. DORMAN, MODERATOR, - - - - - McCarty, Ala.
- REV. J. B. TIDWELL, CLERK, - - - - - East Lake, Ala.
- I. T. STEPHENS, TREASURER, - - - - - Blountsville, Ala.

The next Session will be held with Mt. Tabor Baptist Church, beginning on Thursday before the Third Sunday in October, 1895.



## ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Read letters.
2. Elect officers.
3. Call for correspondence.
4. Call for petitionary letters.
5. Appoint committees.
  - (1) On devotion.
  - (2) On deceased ministers.
  - (3) On Sabbath schools.
  - (4) On nominations.
  - (5) On missions.
  - (6) On temperance.
  - (7) On education.
  - (8) On ministerial education.
  - (9) On finance.
6. Appoint correspondents to sister associations.
7. Appoint messengers to State and Southern Baptist Conventions.
8. Call for report of executive committee.
9. Call for report of missionary.
10. Call for report of committees.
11. Call for report of treasurer.
12. Provide for printing minutes.
13. Elect executive committee.
14. Miscellaneous business.
15. Adjourn.

Names and postoffices of all the ministers reported, both ordained and licensed.

ORDAINED.

|                               |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| J. R. BURSON.....             | Oneonta, Ala.        |
| J. A. MAY, pastor.....        | Walnut Grove, Ala.   |
| A. DORMAN.....                | McCarty, Ala.        |
| W. A. ALEXANDRIA, pastor..... | Nix, Ala.            |
| S. J. COX, pastor.....        | Gum Spring, Ala.     |
| W. H. ABSHER, pastor.....     | Carl, Ala.           |
| J. W. CRUMBLEY, pastor.....   | Oneonta, Ala.        |
| JESSE BROWN, pastor.....      | High Mound, Ala.     |
| A. E. C. SIMS.....            | Snead, Ala.          |
| H. G. B. BYNUM.....           | Snead, Ala.          |
| E. M. BOWERMAN, pastor.....   | Joy, Ala.            |
| JOHN BULLARD.....             | Joy, Ala.            |
| J. C. WHATLEY.....            | Holly Pond, Ala.     |
| H. W. HEAD, pastor.....       | Blountsville, Ala.   |
| W. M. COLE.....               | Blountsville, Ala.   |
| S. O. HOWARD.....             | Blountsville, Ala.   |
| C. C. HUGHES, pastor.....     | Blountsville, Ala.   |
| FRANCIS TIDWELL, pastor.....  | Blountsville, Ala.   |
| J. C. BUCKNER.....            | Champion, Ala.       |
| T. A. HANCOCK.....            | Little Warrior, Ala. |
| J. P. SMITH, pastor.....      | Liberty, Ala.        |
| E. P. PATTERSON.....          | Oneonta, Ala.        |

LICENTIATES.

|                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| J. A. MILL.....     | Clearance, Ala.  |
| T. J. SHAMBLEY..... | Gum Spring, Ala. |
| W. T. STARNES.....  | Bangor, Ala.     |
| J. M. STEWART.....  | Gum Spring, Ala. |
| W. H. HENSON.....   | Cleveland, Ala.  |
| J. M. DANIELL.....  | Holly Pond, Ala. |
| W. J. NASH.....     | .....            |
| JOE WARDSWORTH..... | Champion, Ala.   |
| J. B. TIDWELL.....  | East Lake, Ala.  |

Where pastor is inserted, following name, only shows that the preacher is engaged in pastoral work in the Association.

# MINUTES.

## FIRST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

FRIDAY, October 19.

The Warrior River Baptist Association convened in its Thirty-sixth Annual Session with Friendship Baptist Church, Friendship, Ala., on Friday, October 19, 1894.

The introductory sermon was preached by Elder Francis Tidwell. Text: "What have I now done, is there not a cause?" I Sam. xvii: 29.

### AFTERNOON SESSION.

The congregation, after singing a song of praise, were led in prayer by Elder W. M. Cole. The body was then called to order by the Moderator, A. Dorman. Brethren W. M. Cole, H. W. Head and John L. Ray were appointed as Reading Clerks, who read the letters from the various churches.

The following churches, together with their messengers, were enrolled:

Antioch—J. D. Hendrix.

Austin Creek—D. M. Fowler, A. R. Head, J. T. Walker and E. K. Head.

Bethel—Elder Jesse Brown, R. M. Holmes, J. N. Holmes, J. D. Stephens and W. F. Harris.

Big Warrior—Not represented.

Blountsville—John L. Ray, I. T. Stephens and C. Turner.

Brooksville—D. P. Coley and G. E. Pettit.

Friendship—A. T. Smith, J. H. Neely, V. B. Hunt, C. M. Dyre and W. A. Carroll.

Guin's Cove—J. F. Musgrove and James Rutherford.

Harmony—W. L. Ellison, Elder J. A. May, J. R. Nix, A. F. Whitley and J. H. Nix.

- Holly Pond—F. P. Morris, F. M. Chance and J. C. Whatley.  
 Liberty—E. Cornelius, G. H. Mitchell, G. B. Carnes and W. B. Tidwell.  
 Liberty Hill—J. W. Bryant, E. M. Cox, T. R. Williams and D. H. Campbell.  
 Macedonia—Samuel Nixson, Martin Ellison and Y. B. Rhodes.  
 Mulberry—R. J. Davis and Elder W. H. Absher.  
 Mount Carmel—R. W. Buckner and W. J. Blalock.  
 Mount Pisgah—W. J. Harris and J. T. Blalock.  
 Mount Tabor—Joshua Ratliff and T. J. Shambley.  
 Mount Pleasant—Elder J. R. Burson and W. D. Redmon.  
 New Prospect—Joe Johnson, L. T. Fowler and J. B. Fowler.  
 Oak Grove—Wiley Laningham and J. B. Jett.  
 Pine Grove—A. M. Crumbly and A. J. Griffin.  
 Pine Bluff—Elder T. A. Hancock and Moses Walker.  
 Sardis—T. J. Braziel and C. B. Davis.  
 New Harmony, No. 1—A. J. Sims and J. I. Green.  
 New Harmony, No. 2—J. M. Pass, A. A. Hunt and W. B. Roberts.  
 Chepultepec—L. T. Fendley.

An invitation was extended to visiting ministers and brethren. The following accepted the invitation and were admitted to seats in the body and granted the courtesies of the floor, viz: Rev. A. W. McGaha, D. D., President of Howard College, and Rev. A. E. Burns, evangelist and representative of the State Board of Missions.

The election of officers was then ordered, which resulted in the choice of Elder A. Dorman, Moderator; J. B. Tidwell, Clerk, and I. T. Stephens, Treasurer.

Called for petitionary churches and received none.

The following brethren were appointed as a committee on devotion, to wit: A. F. Whitley, D. P. Coley and the delegates of Friendship Church.

Appointed correspondents to sister associations as follows:

Etowah—Elder S. O. Howard, Jesse Brown and W. L. Ellison. (Meets at Antioch church, near Steele station, Friday, before the second Sunday in October, 1895.)

The Committee on Devotion announced that Elder S. O. Howard would preach at night, and Rev. A. E. Burns Saturday at 11 o'clock a. m.

By vote the body postponed the appointment of a delegate to the State Convention until the next meeting.

On motion of Brother W. M. Cole the association voted to elect a delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention, and to pay all necessary expenses for attendance.

The election of the delegate was ordered by ballot and resulted in the choice of Elder Francis Tidwell.

By mutual consent Rev. A. W. McGaha agreed to preach at night instead of Elder S. O. Howard.

Brother A. E. Burns led in prayer, after which the body adjourned until 9 o'clock a. m. Saturday.

At night Dr. McGaha preached from the text: "Now, if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me." Rom. vii: 20.

## SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

SATURDAY, October 20, 9 a. m.

The association met pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer by Elder S. O. Howard.

Renewed the call for visiting brethren and ministers, and received Elder J. D. Pettit from Etowah Association.

Appointed committees as follows:

On Deceased Ministers—W. H. Absher, S. M. Nixson and R. M. Holmes.

On Nominations—J. D. Hendrix, W. L. Ellison and I. T. Stephens.

On Finance—W. L. Ellison, F. P. Morris and J. B. Fowler.

State of Religion—S. O. Howard, Y. B. Rhodes and G. H. Mitchell.

Prayer Meetings—E. K. Head, A. J. Griffin and J. M. Pass. All to report at the present meeting.

Appointed committees to report at the next meeting of the association as follows:

On Sabbath Schools—J. A. May, C. Turner and J. D. Hendrix.

On Missions—W. M. Cole, Francis Tidwell and W. L. Ellison.

On Temperance—H. W. Head, Jesse Brown and J. R. Burson.

On Education—John L. Ray, Joshua Ratliff and J. B. Tidwell.

Called for and read the report of Committee on Education. A. W. McGaha, D. D., discussed the report and made a strong,

sensible and feeling speech in behalf of ministerial education, at the close of which he asked for a subscription from the churches as a support for Brother J. B. Tidwell, who is in Howard College studying for the ministry.

The following pledges were made to be paid in farm produce:

|                   |         |                        |         |
|-------------------|---------|------------------------|---------|
| Antioch.....      | \$ 5 00 | R. M. Holmes.....      | \$ 1 00 |
| Austin Creek..... | 3 00    | Blountsville.....      | 10 00   |
| Brooksville.....  | 2 50    | Mount Tabor.....       | 2 00    |
| Harmony.....      | 5 00    | Mount Pleasant.....    | 2 50    |
| Friendship.....   | 2 50    | Mount Pisgah.....      | 2 50    |
| Liberty.....      | 10 00   | Pine Grove.....        | 2 50    |
| Liberty Hill..... | 2 50    | Mulberry.....          | 2 50    |
| Holly Pond.....   | 1 00    | Guin's Cove.....       | 2 00    |
| Macedonia.....    | 2 50    | New Harmony No. 2..... | 3 00    |
| Mount Carmel..... | 2 50    | Elder H. W. Head.....  | 5 00    |

Total amount of pledges.. \$69 50

The educational report was then adopted as follows:

We your Committee on Education respectfully submit the following:

From all the indications that have come under our observation in the past year, the interest in education has advanced at least twenty-five per cent., which is evident by the flourishing schools throughout our association, including one of the finest colleges in the State at Blountsville, backed by the grand and noble Howard, at East Lake, and the Judson, at Marion. The above named institutions we recommend to you, as colleges worthy of your patronage. Brethren, let us pray that our people may awake to a deeper eagerness for a thorough education, and let us strive to make our institutions of learning second to none, that the world may note with pride our intellectual power and development.

C. TURNER,  
Chairman.

Adjourned for preaching.

Rev. A. E. Burns preached a warm sermon. Text: "I am the truth." John xiv: 6.



## AFTERNOON SESSION.

Prayer by Elder H. W. Head.

The body ordered the Treasurer to pay to Brother J. B. Tidwell, as a supplement to the funds already subscribed, \$5.05, collected last session to pay the expenses of Elder F. Tidwell to the State Convention.

Read, and after heated discussion by Rev. A. E. Burns and others, adopted the report on missions, as follows :

We your Committee on Missions would submit the following:

In support of our belief in missionary work, we will quote the following Scriptures, viz:

"I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth." Isaiah, xlix: 6. "And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." Luke, xxiv: 47. "And ye shall be witnesses unto me, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria and to the uttermost parts of the earth." Acts, i: 8. "Ask of me and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession." Psalms, ii: 18.

Now we shall deal entirely with the practicability of the subject. The cause of missions is the cause of God. In view of this fact, we should consider what relation we sustain to it. We believe that every Baptist should contribute to the support of missions; but, instead, we find that not more than one-tenth give anything. Now we believe that the failure is largely because the pastors fail to bring the subject before their people. The pastor must himself be thoroughly missionary before he can influence his churches for missions. They are God's appointed leaders. If they are indifferent or afraid, comparatively little will be done. If strong and earnest, much will be accomplished. To influence his churches for missions, the pastor needs three things, to-wit: (1) Convictions. (2) Courage to speak them. (3) Consecration to lovingly, earnestly, patiently press them, until he brings things to pass. A missionary works for the coming of Christ's kingdom. God loved this work and gave His Son for it. Let us pray God to give us more of this good work.

J. A. MAY, Chairman.

Read, and after discussion by Elder H. W. Head, adopted the report on temperance as follows :

Your Committee on Temperance would submit the following : We believe the evils of intemperance are plainly before the eyes of all intelligent people, and we think the time very near when the evil will be

driven from our land. Total abstinence is, we think, the only safe rule of practice, and we feel sure the only one sustained by God's word. Intemperance is a great evil which our churches must battle against. But we believe it is giving way before the light of the truth, and that the time has come when every Baptist should make a bold stand on the side of temperance and should unanimously rise against the invader that is burying hundreds of our race annually, and filling our land with widows and orphans. We think our churches ought to urge the people, earnestly, to abstain from intemperance. May the Lord help every follower of the blessed Christ to try to persuade men to live soberly. Let us pray the Lord in faith for the power of His Holy Spirit to aid us in leading men to higher planes of duty.

Respectfully submitted,

F. TIDWELL, Chairman.

Read and adopted report of Committee on Deceased Ministers, as follows :

We, your Committee on Deceased Ministers, beg leave to submit the following: We are glad to report to you that the Lord has blessed us in so much as He has preserved the lives of all our ministers one more year. Gracious is our Lord. Yea, our God is merciful.

Respectfully,

W. H. ABSHER, Chairman.

Read and adopted the report of the Committee on Nominations as follows :

We, your Committee on Nominations, respectfully recommend Mt. Tabor as the place for our next meeting, and Friday before the third Sunday in October, 1895, as the time for our meeting. We also recommend Elder S. O. Howard to preach the next introductory sermon and Elder Francis Tidwell to preach the next missionary sermon. We also recommend the following brethren for your Executive Committee, viz : A. E. Whitley, Joshua Ratliff, J. W. Pate, P. B. Mitchell, Y. B. Rhodes and I. T. Stephens (the Treasurer).

Respectfully,

JOHN D. HENDRIX, Chairman.

Called for and adopted report of Committee on State of Religion, as follows :

Your Committee on the State of Religion would report the following :

We learn from the letters of the churches that there has been a considerable ingathering to at least two-thirds of the churches in the association. It appears that nearly all the churches have been spiritually strengthened. We should therefore be very thankful and have sufficient

courage in this great work, and obey and serve God until this world becomes the kingdom of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ.

Respectfully submitted,

S. O. HOWARD, Chairman.

Read and adopted report of Committee on Prayer Meetings, as follows :

We your Committee on Prayer Meetings beg leave to submit the following :

From the reading of the letters, we find only eight prayer meetings reported. We urge our brethren to wake up on this line of church work. We believe that great good may be accomplished in prayer meetings. May the Lord wake us up on this subject.

Respectfully,

E. K. HEAD, Chairman.

Read and adopted report of Executive Committee, as follows :

We your Executive Committee respectfully submit the following :

We met at Antioch Church, May 19, 1894, but for want of money we have had no work done. After discussing the mission cause, we decided to and did ask the churches each to do something for missions, and send it to the Association, the amount to be appropriated as each church desired.

Respectfully,

A. F. WHITLEY, Chairman.

Dispensed with the regular order of business, and a motion prevailed to reconsider the clause of the report of the Committee on Nominations, which fixed the time of our next meeting on Friday, and that the word Friday be changed to Thursday.

By order of the body, the Moderator appointed a committee to redistrict the Association, making four districts instead of two. Also to appoint a time and place for a district meeting in each district during the year.

Resolution read and adopted, as follows :

*Resolved*, That any member of this Association leaving its session without permission from the Moderator, his name shall be stricken from the roll, and not appear in the Minutes of said meeting. (Referring to all future meetings.)

S. O. HOWARD.

Resumed the regular order of business.

Read and adopted report on finance, as follows :

Your Committee on Finance would report the following: We have received \$53.75 for the following purposes and divided as below :

| Churches From          | Minutes | Home Missions | Foreign Missions | Money paid to others than the committee and no part of the \$53 75 |
|------------------------|---------|---------------|------------------|--|
| Antioch.....           | \$1 25  | \$1 00        | \$1 00           | ....   |
| Austin Creek.....      | 75      | ....          | 25               | ....   |
| Bethel.....            | 1 00    | ....          | ....             | ....   |
| Blountsville.....      | 1 25    | 5 00          | 5 00             | To treas. \$11 25  |
| Brooksville.....       | 1 45    | ....          | ....             | P'd to Glen 6 00   |
| Friendship.....        | 1 35    | ....          | ....             | ....   |
| Guins Cove.....        | 75      | ....          | ....             | ....   |
| Harmony.....           | 1 80    | 1 60          | 1 60             | ....   |
| Holly Pond.....        | 1 50    | 1 00          | 1 10             | ....   |
| Liberty.....           | 1 75    | ....          | ....             | ....   |
| Liberty Hill.....      | 1 50    | ....          | 1 40             | ....   |
| Macedonia.....         | 1 00    | ....          | ....             | ....   |
| Monnt Carmel.....      | 1 00    | ....          | ....             | ....   |
| Monnt Pleasant.....    | 80      | ....          | ....             | ....   |
| Mount Pisgah.....      | 1 25    | ....          | ....             | ....   |
| Mount Tabor.....       | 2 00    | 1 70          | 2 00             | ....   |
| Mulberry.....          | 1 00    | 1 05          | ....             | ....   |
| New Prospect.....      | 1 00    | ....          | ....             | ....   |
| Oak Grove.....         | 1 00    | ....          | ....             | ....   |
| Pine Grove.....        | 1 50    | ....          | ....             | ....   |
| Pine Bluff.....        | 1 00    | ....          | ....             | ....   |
| Sardis.....            | 50      | ....          | ....             | ....   |
| Chepultepec.....       | 55      | ....          | ....             | ....   |
| New Harmony No. 1..... | 60      | ....          | ....             | ....   |
| New Harmony No. 2..... | 1 50    | ....          | ....             | ....   |
|                        | <hr/>   | <hr/>         | <hr/>            | <hr/>  |
|                        | \$29 05 | \$11 50       | \$13 20          | \$17 25  |

The above has been paid to the Treasurer, and his receipt taken for the same.

Respectfully submitted,

W. L. ELLISON, Chairman.

The Committee on Devotion announced that Brother J. B. Tidwell would preach at night, and Elder A. E. Burns at 11 a. m. Sunday.

Read and adopted the report of Treasurer as follows :

I. T. Stephens, in account with the Warrior River Baptist Association.

October 15, 1893.

To amount received from Finance Committee for purposes as follows :

|                           |         |
|---------------------------|---------|
| For minutes.....          | \$29 20 |
| For State missions.....   | 20 24   |
| For Foreign missions..... | 9 75    |

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Collected at the Association for missious.....                   | 5 65    |
| Collected at the Association for State missions.....             | 5 35    |
| To pay the expenses of Elder F. Tidwell to the State Convention. | 5 05    |
|  | <hr/>   |
| Total.....   | \$75 24 |

## DISBURSEMENTS.

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Minute fund to the clerk.....   | \$29 20 |
| Paid for mission work done in 1892 as follows :                                       |         |
| To A. Dorman.....   | 16 95   |
| To J. C. Buckner.....   | 4 50    |
| To W. C. Chambers.....  | 3 00    |
| To Bro. F. Tidwell amount collected to pay his ex-<br>penses to State Convention..... | 5 05    |
| To Foreign Mission Board.....   | 16 54   |
|   | <hr/>   |
| Total.....  | \$75 24 |

I. T. STEPHENS, Treasurer.

The Committee, appointed to write a condensed obituary of Elder James M. Fields, deceased, read the obituary, which was accepted, and the Clerk was instructed to omit the constitution and declaration of faith, and have the obituary printed in the Minutes.

Elder J. D. Pettit was endorsed as our colporteur to work in our Association one-half his time.

Prayer by Bro. S. O. Howard.

Adjourned until Sunday, 8:30 a. m.

At night Bro. J. B. Tidwell preached from text: "What Hath God Wrought?" Num. xxiii: 23.

## THIRD DAYS PROCEEDINGS.

SUNDAY, October 21, 8:30 a. m.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer by Elder W. H. Absher.

Suspended the regular order of business and reconsidered the reception of the obituary of Bro. James Fields, and by order of the body Elder H. W. Head, C. Turner and I. T. Stephens were appointed as a committee to append the same by adding the circumstances of his last hours on earth.

On motion the Association asks each church in the Asso-

ciation to collect \$2 each and remit to I. T. Stephens (Blountsville, Ala., for the expenses of Bro. Francis Tidwell to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Motion adopted as follows :

That the Clerk be allowed \$10.00 for his services in superintending the printing and distribution of the Minutes, and that he be instructed to prorate the Minutes to the churches according to their several contributions, and to have as many Minutes printed (inserting the obituary of Elder James M. Fields) as the funds will allow.

J. B. TIDWELL, Clerk.

JOHN L. RAY.

Report of Committee to Redistrict the Association read and adopted, as follows :

We your Committee to redistrict the Association, after having carefully considered all points in connection with the same, beg leave to report as follows:

First District—Friendship, Macedonia, Bethel, Mount Pleasant, Harmony, New Prospect and Sardis.

Union meeting at Harmony on fifth Sunday in March.

Second District—Brooksville, Liberty Hill, Holly Pond, Blountsville and Mulberry.

Union meeting at Blountsville on first Sunday in April.

Third District—Oak Grove, Mount Tabor, Guin's Cove, Austin Creek, New Harmony No. 1, Big Warrior and New Harmony No. 2.

Union meeting at Austin Creek on fifth Sunday in June.

Fourth District—Mount Pisgah, Mount Carmel, Liberty, Pine Grove, Pine Bluff and Chepultepec.

Union meeting first Sunday in July at Liberty.

W. M. COLE, Chairman.

The Committee appointed to append the obituary of Brother James Fields, read its appendage. The original obituary, with the appendage, was adopted for publication. (Published at close of Minutes.)

Called for, and after argumentative discussion by H. W. Head and John L. Ray, adopted the report of Sabbath School Committee, as follows :

Your Committee on Sabbath Schools would ask to say that we find no marked improvement in this work since our last meeting. About three-fourths of our churches have no schools. We think the failures are due largely to the following reasons: (1) Our churches are not comfortable enough for winter. (2) The churches are not well organized. (3) Our pastors are not pressing this work as they should. (4)

Our people have not considered this as being strictly a work of the church. Now, we believe that if all the pastors, who are the overseers as well as the servants of the churches, would organize their churches and reduce their work to system, they could overcome this indifference and bring all the churches into line, and each church would have a good Sabbath School.

Respectfully submitted,

H. W. HEAD, Chairman.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS.

*Resolved*, That we, the messengers and members of the Warrior River Association, return our sincere thanks to the members of Friendship Church, and to the good people of the surrounding community, for their kind hospitality so heartily extended to this Association during our stay here. We pray that God's choicest blessings and richest benedictions may ever rest upon Friendship Church and the good people of this vicinity.

JOHN L. RAY.

The minutes were read, corrected and adopted.

According to agreement, Evangelist A. E. Burns preached a soul-stirring missionary sermon. Text: "When thou shalt hear a sound of a gong in the tops of the mulberry trees, then thou shalt go out to battle: for God is gone forth before thee, to smite the hosts of the Philistines." I Chron. xiv : 15. After which a collection was taken for missions which amounted to \$11.19.

The Association then adjourned to meet again at Mount Tabor Baptist Church, Gum Springs Post Office, on Thursday before the third Sunday in October, 1895.

ALLEN DORMAN,  
Moderator.

J. B. TIDWELL,  
Clerk.

The union meetings appointed were as follows :

First District—At Harmony Church, post office, Walnut Grove, Friday before the fifth Sunday in March, 1895.

Second District—At Blountsville Church, post office, Blountsville, Friday before the first Sunday in April, 1895.

Third District—At Austin Creek Church, post office, Joy, Friday before the fifth Sunday in June, 1895.

Fourth District—At Liberty Church, post office, Oneonta, Friday before the first Sunday in July, 1895.

OBITUARY OF  
ELDER JAMES M. FIELDS.

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Elder James M. Fields, youngest of a family of fifteen, was born in 1818 in McMinn county, Tennessee, and died December 26, 1892. He was orphaned at the early age of nine years, his mother having married the second time to an eminent Baptist preacher by the name of William Jones, and was brought up to hard work on the farm, supporting his step-father and his mother, who were too poor to afford the boy the advantages of even a meagre education. At the age of fifteen years he professed religion and joined the United Baptist Church at Concord, and was baptized by Elder Michael Sellers. About three years after joining the church he was married to Jamira Minton in Bray county, East Tennessee, who still survives him, and to whose union were born eight children, four of whom are still living, all of them having reached the age of maturity.

In the years of 1836-37 the famous split in Baptist ranks occurred, and as a result Elder Fields, who was then only nineteen years old, went to the Methodists, his wife joining them with him, where he remained two or three years; the Methodists, in the meantime, having licensed him to preach. His wife, however, remained with them eight or nine years. He left the Methodists and joined the Missionary Baptists at Yellow Creek Church, Cherokee county, Alabama, he having moved to that place from East Tennessee. Two months after uniting with the church at Yellow Creek he was liberated to talk in the church, which liberty he made the most of as long as he lived in the church or out of it. About two years later (in 1845) he was ordained to the full work of the ministry by the church at Mill Creek, Cherokee county, Alabama. The ordaining council consisted of Elders William Minett, Grogan and Dean Golightly, and others whose names are now forgotten. Soon after his ordination he was employed as missionary to the Cherokee Association, which position he held for two years, traveling from house to house exhorting, preaching and praying with and for the people at their homes. He then moved to Murphree's Valley, in Blount county, and settled with his family. He attached himself to the Muscle Shoals Association, working again as associational missionary,



two years after which he devoted himself to the pastorate, attending four churches for about forty years. And just here it would be exceedingly interesting to state the number baptized by him into our various churches, but the necessary data are not at hand. The writer, however, has frequently heard him tell that he had baptized over a thousand Methodists, including a number of Methodist preachers, our beloved Bro. J. T. Bayn being one of them.

While at work as missionary to the Cherokee Association he was attended by the late lamented Elder J. J. D. Renfroe.

Elder Fields was one of the pioneer preachers of this country, and did more to establish the Baptist cause in this country than any other man who has ever lived among us.

He was a man of extraordinary boldness. He exposed error wherever he found it, regardless of fear or favor ; and, although in his old age, his general health was so impaired as to disable him for active work, yet his interest in the Master's cause never grew less, and the holy fire, that had made him a tower of strength in his young manhood, burned brightly on the altar of his heart till the hour of his death. His last words were a most powerful example of the triumph of the Christian faith. He died exclaiming that he had fought a good fight, that he had kept the faith, and was going to receive his crown.

*Resolved*, That we, as an Association, express our most tender sympathies and love to the widow and family.

P. G. ALLDRIDGE,  
W. L. ELLISON,  
JOSHUA RATLIFF,  
I. T. STEPHENS,  
C. TURNER,  
H. W. HEAD,

Committeemen.

STATISTICS OF THE WARRIOR RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

| Churches               | Pastors                  | Clerks                | Clerks P. O.        | Membership last reported | Increased by |        |            | Decreased by |        |           | Present Membership | Preaching Sunday |       |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------|------------|--------------|--------|-----------|--------------------|------------------|-------|
|                        |                          |                       |                     |                          | Baptism      | Letter | Experience | Restoration  | Letter | Exclusion |                    |                  | Death |
| Antioch.....           | Francois Tidwell.....    | John D. Hendrix.....  | Liberty.....        | 91                       | 3            | 2      | ..         | ..           | 7      | 1         | 1                  | 87               | 3     |
| Austin Creek.....      | J. P. Smith.....         | A. R. Head.....       | Joy.....            | 89                       | 14           | 4      | ..         | 3            | 8      | ..        | 1                  | 101              | 1     |
| Bethel.....            | Jesse Brown.....         | R. L. Beshears.....   | Snead.....          | 53                       | 7            | 8      | ..         | 2            | 8      | 1         | ..                 | 61               | 1     |
| Big Warrior.....       | .....                    | .....                 | Tidmore.....        | 13                       | ..           | ..     | ..         | ..           | ..     | ..        | ..                 | 13               | 3     |
| Blountsville.....      | H. W. Head.....          | C. Turner.....        | Blountsville.....   | 55                       | 14           | 19     | ..         | 1            | 2      | 1         | 1                  | 85               | 2     |
| Brooksville.....       | F. Tidwell.....          | P. G. Alldredge.....  | Brooksville.....    | 34                       | 17           | 2      | ..         | ..           | ..     | 2         | ..                 | 51               | 4     |
| Friendship.....        | J. S. Horton.....        | W. A. Carroll.....    | Friendship.....     | 98                       | 3            | 23     | ..         | ..           | 3      | 5         | 1                  | 115              | 2     |
| Harmony.....           | J. A. May.....           | W. L. Ellison.....    | Walnut Grove.....   | 115                      | 8            | 1      | ..         | ..           | 10     | 1         | ..                 | 113              | 1     |
| Holly Pond.....        | J. P. Smith.....         | John F. Matson.....   | Holly Pond.....     | 65                       | 8            | 22     | ..         | 5            | 4      | ..        | ..                 | 96               | 3     |
| Liberty Hill.....      | J. A. May.....           | E. O. Dean.....       | Oncenta.....        | 127                      | 11           | 8      | ..         | 3            | 9      | 2         | ..                 | 137              | 2     |
| Macedonia.....         | F. Tidwell (called)..... | E. M. Cox.....        | Royal.....          | 127                      | ..           | 1      | ..         | ..           | 3      | 10        | ..                 | 115              | 2     |
| Mt. Carmel.....        | W. M. Scarbrough.....    | John L. Cox.....      | McClarty.....       | 87                       | ..           | 1      | ..         | ..           | 16     | 4         | ..                 | 68               | 2     |
| Mt. Pisgah.....        | W. A. Alexandria.....    | J. H. Wardsworth..... | Champion.....       | 71                       | 4            | 2      | ..         | 1            | 6      | 1         | ..                 | 68               | 1     |
| Mt. Pleasant.....      | W. A. Alexandria.....    | John Nix.....         | Nix.....            | 54                       | 2            | 12     | ..         | 1            | 3      | ..        | 3                  | 63               | 3     |
| Mt. Tabor.....         | J. W. Crumbley.....      | John W. Green.....    | Clearance.....      | 42                       | 4            | 9      | ..         | ..           | 2      | 1         | ..                 | 52               | 1     |
| Mulberry.....          | E. M. Bowerman.....      | J. W. Ratliff.....    | Gum Springs.....    | 91                       | 7            | 7      | ..         | ..           | 3      | ..        | ..                 | 102              | 4     |
| New Prospect.....      | W. H. Absher.....        | E. P. Dodd.....       | Carl.....           | 34                       | 2            | 3      | ..         | ..           | ..     | 3         | ..                 | 36               | 1     |
| Oak Grove.....         | F. Tidwell (called)..... | J. B. Fowler.....     | Brooksville.....    | 43                       | 2            | 5      | ..         | ..           | ..     | 1         | ..                 | 49               | 2     |
| Pine Grove.....        | A. A. Parmell.....       | J. H. Parmell.....    | Blount Springs..... | 64                       | 2            | ..     | ..         | ..           | 1      | 6         | 2                  | 57               | ..    |
| Pine Bluff.....        | J. W. Crumbley.....      | A. D. Griffin.....    | Oncenta.....        | 64                       | 3            | 5      | ..         | ..           | 3      | 4         | ..                 | 65               | 4     |
| Sardin.....            | J. W. Crumbley.....      | J. L. Rutherford..... | Little Warrior..... | 47                       | 5            | 3      | ..         | 3            | 7      | 3         | ..                 | 48               | ..    |
| Guin's Cove.....       | J. J. Clayton.....       | J. B. Davis.....      | Fenton.....         | 35                       | 2            | 2      | ..         | ..           | 9      | ..        | 1                  | 29               | 4     |
| Chepultepec.....       | S. J. Cox.....           | C. F. Musgtrove.....  | Bangor.....         | 11                       | 12           | 10     | ..         | ..           | ..     | 1         | ..                 | 32               | ..    |
| New Harmony No. 1..... | J. A. May.....           | F. M. Aligood.....    | Chepultepec.....    | 25                       | 4            | 1      | ..         | ..           | 2      | ..        | ..                 | 28               | 4     |
| New Harmony No. 2..... | C. C. Hughes.....        | J. I. Green.....      | Joy.....            | 15                       | 4            | 10     | ..         | ..           | ..     | ..        | ..                 | 29               | ..    |
|                        | Francis Tidwell.....     | G. P. Kelly.....      | Cleveland.....      | 21                       | 31           | 10     | ..         | 7            | 4      | 1         | 1                  | 63               | ..    |
|                        |                          |                       |                     | 1571                     | 169          | 168    | 124        | 100          | 49     | 11        | 1763               |                  |       |