

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTIETH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Centennial Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

Midway Baptist Church, Montgomery County, Ala.,

October 17th and 18th, 1895.

OFFICERS.

GEORGE WILLIAMS MODERATOR.
F. E. TOMPKINS..... CLERK.
B. T. ELEY..... TREASURER.

The next session of the Association will be held with Mt. Zion Church,
Bullock County, Ala., on Thursday before the third
Sunday in October, 1896.

MONTGOMERY, ALA.:
ALABAMA PRINTING COMPANY.
1895.

MINUTES.

The Centennial Association convened with Midway church, Montgomery County, in 20th annual session, at 11 o'clock a. m., Thursday, Oct. 17th, 1895

The introductory sermon was preached by Eld. W. J. Elliott, text Mark 14:38.

EVENING SESSION—2 O'CLOCK.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator, Geo. Williams.

After singing and prayer by Eld. J. W. Stewart, the letters from the churches were handed in and read by W. W. Patterson and J. A. Jenkins.

The names of the delegates were enrolled as follows:

Greenwood—W. G. Eubanks, W. W. Patterson, C. S. Orum, Walter Davis, Compton Walker and C. B. Moss.

Hardaway—W. J. Hooks, D. M. McNair.

Indian Creek—S. J. Ming, G. A. Norris, J. S. Finlayson and A. A. Cope.

Lofin—E. A. Brooks, L. Boyd and A. P. Norris.

Liberty—W. A. Powell, T. M. Hough and Turner Bates.

Macedonia—L. A. Mallory, P. F. Rotton, W. M. Rotton, A. T. Rotton and W. A. C. May.

Midway—J. P. Downing, J. J. O'Neil, B. M. Gilmer, W. L. O'Neil and E. L. Adams.

Mt. Carmel—J. E. Jenkins, Jas. Jones, L. P. McLaurine and J. A. Jenkins.

Mt. Zion—V. H. Tillery, A. P. Bates and W. R. Cogdell.

Mt. Pleasant—Henry Griggs, J. A. Metcalf and R. Price.

Perote—F. B. Miles and J. T. Davis.

Sardis—J. L. Childs.

Siloam—R. J. Sims, J. F. Justice and T. L. Head, Jr.

Union Springs—Geo. Williams.

On motion of J. P. Downing, the clerk was instructed to cast the ballot for the present officers for re-election, viz: Geo. Williams, Moderator; B. T. Eley, Treasurer, and F. E. Tompkins, Clerk. The vote having been cast, they were declared elected.

The names of correspondents were enrolled as follows:

Montgomery Association—W. J. Elliott, Agent Alabama Baptist.

Orphans' Home—J. W. Stewart, Agent.

The Moderator appointed W. C. Hufham, J. E. Jenkins and the delegates of Midway church a committee on religious exercises.

The Moderator made a verbal report for the Executive Committee, stating that there had been no business before them during the associational year.

The report on Foreign Missions was read and discussed.

The committee on Religious Exercises reported that Elder J. W. Stewart will preach at 7 o'clock tonight.

Hours of meeting and adjourning adopted as follows: Meet at 9 o'clock a. m., adjourn at 11 o'clock for preaching; and meet at 2 p. m., and adjourn at will.

The Moderator announced the special committees:

On Finance—F. B. Miles, J. E. Jenkins and W. R. Cogdell.

On Documents—J. P. Downing, W. J. Hooks and H. Griggs.

On Nominations—W. C. Hufham, V. H. Tillery and L. P. McLaurine.

Auditing Committee—W. W. Patterson, W. A. C. May and J. J. O'Neil.

Adjourned till 7 p. m. Sermon by Elder J. W. Stewart, text, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me."

FRIDAY.

MORNING SESSION—9 O'CLOCK A. M.

The 15th. Ps. was read, sang a hymn and prayer was offered by Elder J. M. Loflin.

The report on Home Missions was read and discussed. The committee on State Missions not being present, the Moderator requested W. W. Patterson to prepare a report on State Missions. Further discussion of Missions deferred until evening session.

Report of committee on State of the Churches and Associational Field was read. 11 o'clock, adjourned for preaching. J. A. Jenkins (licentiate) preached. Text, Job 16:19, "Behold my witness is in heaven and my record is on high."

EVENING SESSION—2 O'CLOCK.

Sang a hymn and prayer by S. J. Wing. A letter from Elder Chas Crawley was received and read.

A collection was taken up for the benefit of Elder Crawley. Five dollars was the amount collected. By request of W. W. Patterson, offered prayer in behalf of Elder Crawley.

The report on State Missions was read and adopted.

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

SUMMARY OF WORK.

Number of men employed, 45 (this includes 11 colporters); days of service, 4,233; miles traveled, 25,083; sermons delivered, 1,792; addresses made, 449; churches constituted, 4; persons baptized, 186; received by letter, 318; restored, 20; Sunday Schools organized, 27; Sunday Schools addressed, 192; prayer meetings held, 418; regular preaching stations without churches, 515; visits to preaching stations, 139; churches visited, 649; total visits made, 5,053; pages of tracts distributed, 23,010; meeting houses finished, 3; money collected for meeting houses, \$2,741.72; money collected for State Missions, \$680.68.

Respectfully,

W. W. PATTERSON, Ch'n

The reports on Foreign and Home Missions were adopted.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

In looking over the report of the Foreign Mission Board of 1895, we find that God's blessings have been upon our labors; and there seems to be a greater interest in missions than ever before. A larger amount has been given for the work, and many baptisms have been reported on foreign fields.

Recent treaties between America and Japan have opened up that country to the missionaries. They are making rapid strides in civilization and are gladly accepting the religion of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In some parts of China the missionaries have been gladly received, while in other parts they have been persecuted and some put to death.

Brazil is clamorous for missionaries, and is gladly receiving the Gospel. A good work also is going on in Mexico.

Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel, is as much a commandment as any of the decalogue. How shall we go? go with your prayers and sympathies, go with your money, and go in person. Now there are many

who are willing to go and spend their lives in foreign lands, then let those who are not willing to make this great personal sacrifice pay liberally to send those who will go.

We see from the annual report of the Foreign Mission Board from May 1st, 1894, to May 1st, 1895, the total net receipts have been \$129,248.72, of which amount Alabama has paid \$7,593.87.

Notwithstanding the stringency of the times which has been unparalleled in the history of our country, the debt has been reduced from \$30,000 to \$20,000 in 12 months. The future is brightening for us. May God bless our efforts and crown our labors with great success.

Respectfully submitted,

T. B. MILES,
Chairman.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

Your committee on Home Missions beg leave to make the following report:

The subject of Missions is no new thing, it originated with the Master, "Go ye into all the world, commencing at Jerusalem," which means that we are to occupy till he comes. At home and abroad in our southern field there has been considerable effort to occupy. Our Home Board has in the field, missionaries, 381; weeks of labor, 16,288; churches and stations, 1,229; sermons and addresses, 34,478; baptisms, 4,470; received by letter, 4,035; total additions, 8,505; Sunday Schools, 429; pupils and teachers, 19,381; religious visits, 52,197; churches constituted, 133; houses of worship built, 67; Bibles and Testaments distributed, 1,150; tracts distributed, 390,750. This work is scattered over our entire Southern States and the Indian Territory, also the work of our board in Cuba.

Your committee reports the urgent need of money and request that our board will furnish means to defray the expenses of the men employed. It is our duty to help.

J. M. LOFLIN, Ch'n.

The report on Education was read and adopted.

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Your committee on Education beg leave to make the following report:

One of the subjects claiming the serious attention of our denomination is that of education. The pew must be educated; this will train our people to think for themselves of the great doctrines confronting them. (The sharpened tool is always most available.) The demands of the times make it imperative that our preachers should be educated. The means of bringing this about, 1st. Our secular schools afford better advantages than the people are availing themselves of. 2nd. Our denominational schools of a higher class are offering facilities unsurpassed by any schools of the land for the training in the higher branches of education of our girls and boys. The Seminary at Louisville, Ky., offers theological opportunities that our churches cannot afford for our preachers to miss. Will we ignore these advantages and remain as we are? God forbid.

Respectfully submitted,

R. J. SIMS, Ch'n.

The report on Religious Literature was read and adopted.

REPORT ON LITERATURE.

DEAR BRETHREN:—It is a sad fact that not one-fifth of the members of our church take denominational papers. We do not, all of us, read the Alabama Baptist, and how do we expect to be informed in the denominational work? If we do not know what we ought to do, we will be sure not to do.

Every member of the church in this Association ought to read the Baptist and other Baptist literature, that they or we might be informed Baptists. Literature is cheaper than ever before.

Respectfully submitted,

J. L. CHILDS, Ch'm.

The report on Deceased, Aged and Infirm Ministers and their Families was read and adopted.

REPORT ON DECEASED, AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS, AND THEIR FAMILIES.

Your committee on Deceased, Aged and Infirm Ministers and their Families, beg leave to make the following report: We are thankful to the great Head of the Church for the preservation of the lives of all of our preachers. We find our aged Bro Crawley in very needy circumstances and urge that a collection be taken in all of our churches for his aid.

Respectfully submitted,

E. A. BROOKS,
Chairman.

Adjourned.

SATURDAY.

MORNING SESSION—9 O'CLCCK.

Religious services conducted by Elder J. M. Lofin.

Minutes of Thursday's and Friday's proceedings read and adopted.

Siloam church requested a letter of dismission from this Association.

The request was granted and the clerk was instructed to write the letter.

The report on Orphans' Home was read and adopted.

ORPHANS' HOME.

Our Orphans' Home is now permanently located at Evergreen, Ala.

The first steps taken towards its establishment were taken by Mrs. Woodson. Five years ago she gave to the Baptist Widows and Orphans' Home. This good sister has turned over to us all her real estate, worth several thousand dollars, to be after her death for this great purpose; except her Florida property, which she has given for immediate use.

The Home was not exactly started, however, till two years ago last March, when, in a small rented house, it was opened on the 10th day of March, with three inmates.

The Home is under the management of Rev. John W. Stewart. The inmates of the Home consist of a matron, a house keeper, a cook, and 45 orphan children. There are 24 girls and 21 boys, of which 11 have been sent out by adoption, and one by apprenticeship. The boys are taught to do farm work, and the girls do various kinds of house work.

The older children attend school at the Academy, and the younger ones are taught in the Home. They attend Sunday School and church, and Sunday afternoon they engage in singing and reciting Scripture. Nine of the children have been baptized. These have organized a "child's prayer-meeting," in which they themselves lead.

In November, 1893, to make room for our large and growing family a permanent house was purchased from Y. M. Rabb, consisting of a large, substantial brick residence of ten rooms, and 80 acres of land, lying on Main street. The property was bought for five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00), in three annual payments, with interest on the deferred payments. The first payment was made when due; the second, amounting to \$1,800 00, was due January 1st, 1895, on which a balance of \$273.00 is still due. The third and last payment, amounting to \$1,930.00, will be due January 1st, 1896.

Money is greatly needed to improve this property, so as to build four more dormitories, a dining-room, a kitchen and a school-room.

The current expenses of the Home are \$200.00 per month. I earnestly ask every Baptist church, every friend of the Home, and every one who wishes these poor children well, to send something to aid in making this last payment. It is the duty of Christians to aid in this noble work.

"The righteous considereth the cause of the poor."—Prov. 29:7.

Respectfully submitted,

H. J. CLARK.

The report on State of Churches and Associational Field was taken up, discussed and adopted.

REPORT ON STATE OF THE CHURCHES AND ASSOCIATIONAL FIELD.

Your Committee on State of the Churches and Associational Field, make the following report: The Spirit of the Lord has been manifested in the churches during the year with much power, in performing his office work of convicting and converting sinners to Christ, and of building up the churches in a holier faith and more godly practice of living. We find that all the churches are supporting their pastors, without aid from the Association or State Board, except Mt. Pleasant church, which asks for aid to the amount of thirty dollars.

Respectfully submitted,

J. P. DOWNING,
Chairman.

The Colporter read his report, which was received.

REPORT OF COLPORTER.

Your Colporter begs leave to make the following report: On account of the financial pressure there has been no business done. Two Bibles have been sold and three given away. Several dozen tracts have been distributed. I have a lot of books on hand. I will move out of the bounds of the Association, and after a settlement with the Board, cannot be continued as colporter.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. LOFLIN.

On motion, the matter of appointing a Colporter was referred to the Executive Committee.

The name of J. E. Wright was enrolled as correspondent from the Montgomery Association.

The report on Sunday Schools was read, discussed and adopted.

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The Sunday School is an auxiliary to the church, which seems to have come to stay. I think no instrumentality of modern times has wielded so widespread and powerful an influence for good upon some people as the Sunday School. All live, progressive Baptist churches, who have seized upon and vigorously used the opportunity, have found it a success. It is a fact that a very large per cent of the members being received into the churches, of the different denominations, come from that number trained and brought up in the Sunday School. Those churches, which have Sunday Schools, will show up a larger membership than those without. We also find that churches which have Sunday Schools contribute more to missions. I have a personal experience of thirty years in Sunday Schools; and I feel to-day the good effect, and thank God that I have been brought up under this influence. I prayerfully insist that every church in this Association which has no Sunday School will begin at once. I know a Baptist church in this

Association that organized a Sunday School this year, and during a protracted meeting, held in July, received into its membership seven Sunday School pupils.

With much love and best wishes, I am yours in Christ,
 W. W. PATTERSON,
 Chairman.

Report on Temperance read, discussed and adopted.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Your committee on Temperance beg leave to make the following report: Your committee is of the opinion that dram drinking is on the decrease. Drunkenness is not near so common as it was a few years ago. We think that public opinion is bringing this about. Let us continue the good work by letting it alone ourselves and by encouraging others to do the same.

Respectfully submitted,
 J. S. FINLAYSON,
 Chairman.

11 o'clock, adjourned for preaching. Benediction by Elder J. M. Loflin. Elder J. M. Loflin preached the doctrinal sermon, text, 1 Cor. 1:28.

EVENING SESSION—2 O'CLOCK.

Sang a hymn, and prayer by W. C. Hufham.
 The committee on Religious Exercises reported that J. A. Jenkins will preach the missionary sermon to-morrow at 11 o'clock a. m.
 Committee on Documents reported and report adopted.

REPORT ON DOCUMENTS.

We find nothing to report except that Mt. Pleasant church has asked for thirty dollars to aid them in the support of their pastor. We your committee recommend that the Executive Committee take notice of and give due consideration to their request, when the church has complied with the following resolution adopted by this Association in 1893, viz:

That churches desiring aid, are requested to make to the State Board, with the endorsement of their pastor, a full and fair statement of their financial condition.

Respectfully submitted,
 J. P. DOWNING, Ch'n.

Committee on Nominations reported and report adopted.

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS.

Your Committee on Nominations beg leave to report the following:
 First—We recommend that the next session of this body be held with Mt. Zion Church, Bullock County, commencing on Thursday before the 3d Sunday in October, 1896.

Second—That Elder A. E. Pinckard preach the introductory sermon.

Third—That Elder B. Broome preach the doctrinal sermon.

Fourth—That Elder J. M. Loflin be the delegate to the Southern Baptist convention and Elder G. W. Harrison, alternate.

Fifth—That the following be delegates to Baptist State Convention, viz: J. O. Hixson, B. Broome, W. C. Hufham, J. A. Jenkins, J. H. Cogdell, A. C. Powell, G. J. Pierce, E. A. Brooks, J. T. Davis, W. R. King, Geo. Williams.

Respectfully submitted,
 W. C. HUFHAM,
 V. H. TILLERY,
 L. P. McLAURINE,
 Committee.

On motion of W. C. Hufham, the Clerk was instructed to cast the ballot for the present Executive Committee for re election, viz:

M. N. Eley, G. W. Dalby, F. O. Bickley, T. M. Gholston, W. A. Powell and J. E. Jenkins.

The ballot having been cast, they were declared re-elected.

On motion, the Treasurer was instructed to pay the Clerk ten dollars for his services.

Correspondents were returned as follows:

Enfaula Association—B. Broome, E. W. Stark and T. B. Miles.
 Montgomery Association—J. P. Downing.
 Troy Association—J. A. Jenkins and J. P. Downing.
 Salem Association—W. W. Patterson, W. L. O'Neil.

On motion, the Western District of this Association requested to meet with Greenwood church, the time to be arranged by that church.

The Moderator announced the following Standing Committees, viz:

On Foreign Missions—T. M. Hough, W. R. Cogdell and F. B. Miles.
 On Home Missions—J. E. Jenkins, W. W. Patterson and W. J. Hooks.
 On State Missions—E. A. Brooks, M. B. Phillips and V. H. Tillery.
 On Education—T. B. Miles, F. O. Bickley and Jas. Bates, Jr.
 On Religious Literature—W. L. O'Neil, G. J. Pierce and J. A. Metcalf.
 Deceased Aged and Infirm Ministers and their Families—J. P. Downing, J. L. Childs and J. F. Martin.
 On Sunday Schools—J. H. Cogdell, L. A. Mallory and A. C. Davis.
 On the State of the Churches and Associational Field—W. C. Hufham, Jas. Jones and A. C. May.
 On Temperance—Wm. O'Neil, A. S. Dix and C. W. Sellers.
 On Orphans' Home—J. D. Brooks, J. S. Finlayson and J. M. Ellis.

On motion of J. A. Jenkins, the following resolution was adopted, viz:

Resolved, That the thanks of this body are tendered to this church, community and the Methodist brethren for their generous hospitality during this session.

The report on Finance was read and referred to the Auditing Committee. Treasurer's report was read and referred to Auditing Committee. Auditing Committee reported and report received

REPORT.

Your Auditing Committee beg leave to report as follows: We have carefully examined the Finance and Treasurer's report and recommend that they be received.

W. W. PATTERSON,
 J. J. O'NEIL,
 W. A. C. MAY,
 Committee.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

To the Centennial Association:

Herewith I submit my eighth annual report of all monies received and distributed by me during the associational year, ending October 16th, 1895, with vouchers attached:

1894.		DR.	
Oct. 17.	To balance on hand last report.....	\$	8 46
22.	vouchers Nos. 1 to 7.....		24 66
	cash State Missions.....		10 57
	Home Missions.....		6 00
	Foreign Missions.....		9 45
	undesignated.....		19 65
	associational.....		2 20
	minutes.....		13 50
	State Missions.....		16 43
Dec. 8.	To cash Mt. Carmel Church, Miss.,.....		3 25
	Greenwood Church, minutes.....		1 15

CR.

Oct. 22. By cash paid F. E. Tompkins, Clerk, vou. 8.....		\$ 10 00
vouchers No. 1 to 7.....		24 66
voucher No. 9.....		57 50
voucher No. 10.....		20 00
express paid on minutes.....		30
1895—Oct 16 By balance.....		2 86
	\$ 115 32	\$ 115 32
1895—Oct. 16. To balance on hand.....	2 86	

Of the above amount all of it is for Sunday Schools.

Respectfully submitted,

B. T. ELEY, Treas.

On motion, the Clerk was instructed to make any necessary amendments to or corrections in Finance report.

On motion of C. B. Moss, it was ordered, that if there be any undesignated funds in the treasury, they be paid to Elder C. Crawley.

On motion, calling and correcting the roll, dispensed with. Minutes of to-day's proceedings read and adopted.

Sang "God be with you till we meet again," during which the parting hand was extended.

Adjourned to meet with Mt. Zion church on Thursday before the 3rd Sunday in Oct., 1896.

F. E. TOMPKINS,

Clerk.

GEO. WILLIAMS,

MODERATOR.

Sunday, 10 o'clock a. m., Sabbath School address by J. H. Dickson. 11 o'clock, Missionary sermon by J. A. Jenkins; text, Mal. 3:8, "Will a man rob God?"

Collection taken for Foreign Missions, \$4.72; collection taken for repairing Midway Church, \$58.76.

Collection for some widows of Greenwood Church, \$13 55.

CLERK.

NUMBER OF ORDAINED MINISTERS.

J. O. Hixson.....	Union Springs.
M. N. Eley.....	" "
G. W. Dalby.....	" "
Chas. Crawley.....	Indian Creek.
H. W. Griggs.....	Linwood.
B. Broome.....	Indian Creek.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE, CENTENNIAL ASSOCIATION, SESSION OF 1895.

CHURCHES.	HOME MISS'S		FOR N MISS'S		STATE MISS'S		Total Contributions	Pastor's Salary.....	Church Repairs.	Current Expenses.....	Value of Church Property					
	Voucher	Cash.....	Voucher	Cash.....	Voucher	Cash.....										
Aberfoil.....							\$ 11 25				\$ 250 00					
Fairview.....							3 67	\$ 100 00		\$ 6 00	50 00					
Greenwood.....						\$ 11 25	3 67	37 87	\$ 1 75		500 00					
Hardaway.....						\$ 2 30	11 50	86 70			500 00					
Indian Creek.....						\$ 2 50	6 60				650 00					
Lodi'n.....							7 00				600 00					
Liberty.....							2 45				500 00					
Macedonia.....							7 02	65 00			500 00					
Midway.....							1 00				1006 00					
Mount Carmel.....	\$ 75						10 25	125 00			500 00					
Mount Pleasant.....							1 50				500 00					
Mount Zion.....							1 50	100 00			400 00					
Perote.....							1 50	19 50			600 00					
Sardis.....							50	19 00			500 00					
Silviam.....							50	12 25			500 00					
Union Springs.....	56 11	20 56					151 20	1000 00		105 20					
Sunday collection.....							4 72								
TOTAL.....	\$62 91	\$14 52	\$21 31	\$18 37	\$35 85	\$41 45	\$10 35	\$17 13	\$14 80	\$20 10	\$12 62	\$ 269 41	\$1035 57	\$ 1 75	\$ 111 20	\$3000 00

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