

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

— OF THE —

TWENTIETH ANNUAL SESSION

— OF THE —

NEW RIVER

Baptist Association;

HELD WITH

Mt. Pleasant Church

FAYETTE COUNTY, ALA.,

October 11th, 13th and 14th, 1890.

J. B. FERGUSON,	-	:	-	-	MODERATOR.
ZACH. SAVAGE,	-	-	-	-	CLERK,
W. B. MELTON,	-	-	-	-	TREASURER.
J. E. COX,	-	-	-	-	CORRESPONDING SEC'Y.



FAYETTE C. H., ALA.,

PRINTED AT THE WEEKLY NEWS OFFICE.

1891.

MINUTES.

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The New River Baptist Association met with Mt. Pleasant Church October 11, 1890, and after the introductory sermon by Elder J. W. Hosmer, from Hebrews xi: 6, followed by Elder G. W. Gravlee, adjourned for dinner; after which the delegates assembled in the house with former Moderator Elder J. B. Ferguson in the chair; Elder J. E. Cox, Clerk.

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Moderator, after which the letters from the different churches were laid on the table and Bros. W. B. Melton and Zach Savage were appointed reading clerks, and the letters were read and the names of delegates enrolled, as shown by statistical table.

The body then elected Elder J. B. Ferguson Moderator, Zach Savage Clerk, Elder J. E. Cox Corresponding Secretary and W. B. Melton Treasurer. Bros. McGaha, Green and Amerson acting as tellers.

Opportunity was then given for churches to join the association, when Winfield Church presented a petitionary letter by her delegates, as shown in statistical table, was received and her delegates seated.

The Moderator then appointed the following committees:

On Devotion—G. H. White, W. I. Yerby, P. M. Newton and Deacons of Mt. Pleasant Church.

On Temperance—Elder J. P. Dickinson, J. W. Graham and J. R. Barnett.

On Education—Elder J. E. Cox, W. B. Melton and N. L. Trull.

On Literature—Elders J. W. Rogers, G. W. Gravlee and W. A. Huckabee.

On Finance—J. H. Newton, W. W. Gravlee and J. E. Mills.

On Sabbath Schools—C. W. Edmonds, J. F. Willis and W. F. Nichols.

On Arrangements—Elder Q. D. Haney, A. M. Guin and Thomas Ray.

On Documents—Elder G. W. Graylee, A. J. Reeves and R. L. South, with W. B. Melton added.

On Nominations—M. C. Bowling, M. C. Owings and W. I. Yerby.

On motion, the Moderator and Clerk were added to the Committee on Education.

On motion, adjourned until 8 o'clock Monday.

Prayer by Elder Q. D. Haney.

SUNDAY'S SERVICES.

Sermon by Elder J. W. Rogers at 9:30 a. m.; at 11 a. m. sermon by Elder Q. D. Haney, and at night by Elder W. J. Blankenship.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13TH.

The body met pursuant to adjournment, and, after devotional exercises conducted by the Moderator, was called to order and declared ready for business, when a letter from Chapel Hill was presented by G. W. Ashcraft, delegate.

Called for report from Committee on Order of Business, when the following report was submitted and adopted:

“Your Committee on Order of Business beg to submit the order of business of last session with this amendment: That correspondence be received the first thing after reading the constitution, articles of faith and rules of decorum.

Respectfully submitted,

Q. D. Haney, Chairman.”

Read Constitution, Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum.

Received correspondents from Yellow Creek Association, to-wit: Elders O. L. Corbit and C. D. Stewart.

Called for reports from District Meetings.

REPORT OF FIRST DISTRICT.

The First District meeting convened with Chapel Hill Church at the appointed time. The next district meeting to

be held with Salem Church, Tuscaloosa County, beginning on Friday before the first Sabbath in September, 1891, Elder J. B. Ferguson to preach the introductory sermon, Elder G. W. Gravelee, alternate. First subject for discussion—"Why will Baptists not commune with other Christians?" Opened by J. D. Thomas and G. W. Baker. Second—"Does the Bible teach the doctrine of the final perseverance of the saints?" Opened by J. S. Cannon and Moses W. Olive.

G. W. Gravelee, Moderator.

J. D. Thomas, Clerk.

Adopted.

SECOND DISTRICT.

The Second District met with El Bethel Church, Fayette County, September 12, 1890. The opening sermon was delivered by Q. D. Haney. Located the next session at Philadelphia Church on Friday before the third Sunday in August, 1891. Introductory sermon to be preached by J. S. Shirley, J. P. Dickinson alternate. First query, on Friday evening—"What is meant in Matthew xii: 20?" Opened by G. I. Sanford and D. W. Dickinson. Second query, for Saturday morning—"What is the difference in the kingdom of God and the Gospel Church?" Opened by W. J. Blankenship and P. M. Newton. Third query, Saturday evening—"On what does the salvation of the sinner hinge?" Opened by A. N. Reeves and J. W. Graham. Located the next session of the Association with Pleasant Hill Church, four miles east of Fayette C. H., at the usual time of meeting.

Elder J. P. Dickinson, Moderator.

W. F. Gilpin, Clerk.

Adopted.

On motion Bro. J. T. Carter was received as correspondent from Tuscaloosa Association.

Called for report of Committee on Education, when the following report was submitted and adopted:

"Your Committee on Education ask to report, that our people are being aroused as they have never been on the subject of education. They have learned that to simply enjoy the luxuries of life and revel in worldly wealth, which is

always at the command of him who devotes to its acquisition his energies and powers, can afford but an empty satisfaction to one who duly reflects on the instability of fortune and the vicissitudes of time. In behalf of education, dear brethren, we would enlist the strongest and best feelings of the parent, the proud ambition of the patriot, the devoted energy of the statesman, the comprehensive benevolence of the philanthropist and most sincere ardor of the brethren of this body in an undertaking which promises to multiply the blessings of the social and domestic circle, widen the sphere of charity, cement the strong foundation of church and civil government and strengthen the bonds of our Christian union. Why can we not establish a denominational school in our midst? There are brethren who will give us the land upon which to build and then furnish a liberal contribution of money. We would recommend the Central Female College at Tuscaloosa and the Judson Institute at Marion for our daughters, and Howard College at Birmingham and the Military High School at Marion for our sons, as institutions of learning worthy of our patronage. While many of our brethren are not able to send their children to these higher schools, yet it is our imperative duty to educate them as best we can, and thus prepare them for the responsibilities of life in this age of progress.

J. E. Cox, Chairman."

On motion a committee of seven were appointed to take into consideration the matter of a denominational school and vested with authority to call meetings and act in behalf of the Association. Committee: R. W. Woods, W. B. Melton, Zach. Savage, M. C. Bowling, W. J. Trull, E. I. Hagler and C. W. Edmonds.

On motion, suspended regular order of business and received correspondents from North River Association, to-wit: H. G. Amerson, Z. J. Amerson and Wm. Killingsworth.

Called for report of Committee on Temperance, when the following report was submitted and adopted:

"Your Committee on Temperance would report that, from the best information we can gather, dram drinking is on the decrease from what it has been for two years past, with the exception of a few dens. We know that some of

our brethren still participate in dram drinking, and would advise our churches to use all their influence to suppress this evil habit.

J. P. Dickinson, Chairman."

On motion, Bro. G. T. Green was seated with the body.

Called for report of Mission Board, when the report of the Board, in connection with the report of Missionary, was submitted.

Adjourned to 1:30 p. m.

Prayer by Elder G. W. Gravlee.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Met at 1:30 o'clock p. m., and after prayer by Elder J. E. Cox the body was called to order.

On motion, Bro. J. M. Davis was seated with the body.

Resumed discussion of reports of Mission Board and Missionary.

Took up collection, receiving \$37.75.

REPORTS.

"Your Mission Board beg leave to make the following report: We employed Elder Q. D. Haney as our missionary, to preach in the bounds of the New River Association, to commence as soon as he could arrange matters after the first of June, 1890, and to preach until the Association met in Mt. Pleasant Church; and we, the Board, agreed to collect what money we could from the different churches of this Association to pay him for his services, and he was authorized to receive all moneys paid him and keep an account of the same.

L. C. Shirley, Chairman."

MISSIONARY'S REPORT.

"To the New River Baptist Association:

Dear Brethren: Under the appointment of your Mission Board I commenced traveling and preaching on the sixth day of June, 1890, and up to this date have been in the work, except about ten days at home with my family. I have traveled 847 miles, preached 88 sermons, baptized 10 candidates, organized one church and one Sabbath school. Family visits, 78; prayers in families, 91. Received from

brethren, \$38 45. Now, my brethren, I have done what I could, and find the field is white. People are begging for the Gospel. I had nine different preaching places in destitute regions where I remained five weeks. Those people need and want Baptist preaching. My heart yearns after them, and I trust this body will make provision for them. I know that there will be some dissatisfaction with the procedure, but, dear brethren, under the circumstances all that could be done was certainly done, and your humble missionary has no compunction of conscience for any effort which he has made to promote the Baptist cause wherever he has labored.

Your humble servant,

Q. D. Haney, Missionary."

The Mission Board reported that in their judgment \$118 would be a reasonable compensation to the missionary for his services as such, and the balance was made up.

On motion, the reports were adopted.

Called for report of Committee on Literature, when the following report was submitted and adopted:

"We would heartily recommend to the churches of this Association the following papers, viz.: 1st. The Alabama Baptist, edited and published by Hare & Pope, at Montgomery, Ala., this paper being the organ of our State Convention, and, as we believe, a true exponent of Baptist doctrines, we believe our people would be greatly benefited by its weekly visits to their homes. 2d. The Home Field, published at Atlanta, Ga., by the Home Board. There is much needed information in this publication not obtainable elsewhere. 3d. The State Mission Quarterly, edited by W. B. Crumpton, at Marion, Ala., and, 4th, The Foreign Mission Journal, published at Richmond, Va., in which is much information concerning our missionaries and their work in foreign fields. To our Sunday schools we would recommend Kind Words publications, believing it to be a good, sound, wholesome literature and second to none now published.

J. W. Rogers, Chairman"

Suspended the regular order of business to re-consider the report of the Committee on Education.

On motion, the committee appointed to look after a denominational school was authorized in case of a vacancy in said committee to fill same.

Elder J. W. Rogers was, on motion, granted leave of absence.

Called for report of Treasurer, when the following report was submitted and adopted :

Received from Finance Committee for Minutes.....	\$32 60
Association fund.....	14 50
Home missions.....	2 25
Foreign missions.....	1 00
State missions.....	1 10
Indigent ministers.....	50
Total.....	\$51 95
Paid for Minutes and B. letters.....	\$28 00
To cash.....	14 00—\$42 00
Balance on hand ..	\$ 9 95

J. W. Graham, Treasurer.

Called for Letter of Correspondence, when the following was read and adopted:

"The New River Baptist Association to Sister Associations with which She Corresponds:

Greeting: We are now in session and harmony has prevailed thus far. Your correspondents were gladly received and we were benefited by their presence. Our next session will be held with Pleasant Hill Church, four and a half miles east of Fayette C. H., on Saturday before the second Sunday in October, 1891, where and when we hope to meet your correspondents, and with whom we trust we shall work and worship in the Master's vineyard. May heaven's blessings be upon you.

J. E. Cox, Cor. Sec.

Returned correspondents: To North River Association—Elder J. W. McGaha, M. W. Olive, J. L. Harlin, T. B. Newton, Elders J. Taylor and J. E. Cox.

To Yellow Creek—Elders J. F. Willis, G. W. Graylee, W. A. Huckabee, J. W. Graham and C. J. Blake.

To Tuscaloosa—Elders J. W. Hosmer, J. R. Barner, J. B. Ferguson and J. P. Freeman.

To State Baptist Convention—Elders G. W. Gravlee, Q. D. Haney and L. C. Shirley.

Called for report of Committee on nominations, when the following was submitted and adopted:

“We, your Committee on Nominations, beg leave to report that Elder J. F. Willis preach the introductory sermon at the next session of the Association; Elder J. S. Shirley alternate. Elder J. W. Rogers to preach at 11 a. m. Sabbath; Elder J. B. Ferguson, alternate. Mission Board—L. C. Shirley, J. M. Spann. W. F. Baker and A. J. Reeves. On Ministerial Education—Elder G. W. Gravlee, W. A. Huckabee and Zack Savage. M. C. Bowling, Chairman.”

Called for report of Committee on Finance, when the following was submitted and adopted:

“We, your Committee on Finance, report that we have received from the churches:

For Minutes.....	\$38 30
For Association purposes.....	16 40
For Foreign Missions.....	2 60
For indigent Ministers.....	2 75
Total	\$60 05

J. H. Newton, Chairman.”

Called for report from Committee on Sabbath Schools, when the following was submitted:

“We, your Committee on Sabbath Schools, ask to make the following report: We notice in the reading of the letters from the churches composing this Association that there are but few Sabbath schools; which shows that the study of the Bible is neglected to some extent. We recommend that each church organize a Sabbath school, and that we study the Scriptures, that we may be able to defend the truth.

Respectfully submitted,
C. W. Edmonds, Chairman.”

On motion, adjourned till 8:30 a. m., Tuesday.
Prayer by Elder J. W. Hosmer.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14TH, 8:00 A. M.

After devotional exercises, conducted by the Moderator, the body was called to order and the report from the Committee on Sabba'h Schools was adopted.

Called for report from Committee on Ministerial Education, when the following report was submitted and adopted:

“Your Committee on Ministerial Education would report that eight dollars has been paid for Bro. H. T. Wright, but has not been used, Bro. Wright failing to attend school. No application has been made to the present Board for assistance, therefore nothing has been done.

Submitted,

Elder J. S. Shirley,
W. B. Melton.”

On motion, the committee were instructed to invest the eight dollars in books for Bro. H. T. Wright.

Called for report from Committee on Documents, when the following report was submitted and adopted:

“Your Committee on Documents ask to make the following report: We have examined the letters from the various churches and find there has been 108 baptized. New Hope, Chapel Hill and Oak Ridge ask for letters of dismission, and we recommend that letters be granted. We also find a failure on the part of most of the churches to send up any report in regard to their work for home and foreign missions. We believe the great hindering cause of home missions is owing to the fact of the churches not knowing where the money will be expended, whether in the destitution or among the churches. We, therefore, recommend that the Association take this matter of missionary work under special consideration and give the churches a definite answer as to the full meaning of missionary work. We further recommend that the Association remain undivided, and that churches wishing to join another Association or form a new one get letters of dismission.

G. W. Gravlee, Chairman.”

On motion, appointed a committee to report as to what is missionary work. Elders J. Taylor, G. W. Gravlee, J. W.

Hosmer and J. E. Cox, and Bros. W. B. Melton, J. L. Harbin and J. R. Gladden, committee.

Had a recess of ten minutes.

Called to order, and the committee appointed on "What is missionary work?" offered the following report, which was adopted:

"Your committee to whom was referred the question 'What constitutes missionary work?' beg leave to report that missionary work is the work of a missionary among pastorless churches and regions where they have no preaching and are without churches.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Taylor, Chairman."

Called for miscellaneous business, when Philadelphia Church asked for a letter of dismission, which was granted.

The following resolutions were adopted:

"Resolved, That the thanks of this body be tendered to Mt. Pleasant Church and community for the princely manner in which we have been entertained during this session.

"Resolved, That the Clerk be instructed to have 800 copies of the minutes printed, and that he be allowed all the Association fund for his services.

"Resolved, That the Balance of money in the hands of the Treasurer from last year's fund be turned over to Rev. Q. D. Haney, our missionary, as part payment for services rendered."

Elected Elder G. W. Gravlee as delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention.

On motion, read and corrected the minutes, erasing the names of delegates absent without leave.

On motion, adopted the following resolution:

"Resolved, That this body now adjourn, to meet with Pleasant Hill Church, four and a half miles east of Fayette C. H., on Saturday before the second Sunday in October, 1891."

Prayer by Elder J. Taylor.

J. B. FERGUSON, Mederator.

ZACH. SAVAGE, Clerk.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

FIRST DISTRICT.

Name and Postoffice.

J. W. Hosmer, Bankston.
 J. S. White, Ridge.
 J. J. Patterson, Ridge.
 J. R. Barnet, Samantha.
 J. W. Rogers, Fayette C. H.
 I. L. Collins, Ridge.
 Frank Wilson, Fayette C. H.
 G. W. Gravlee, Newtonville.
 W. J. Aiken, Legg.

SECOND DISTRICT.

Name and Postoffice.

J. P. Dickenson, Fayette C. H.
 J. S. Shirley, "
 Q. D. Haney, Galloway.
 J. F. Willis, Fayette C. H.
 E. I. Sanford, Ballard.
 W. J. Blankenship, Ballard.
 J. W. McGaha, Winfield.
 J. Taylor, "
 W. G. Baker, Bankston.

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LICENSED MINISTERS.

FIRST DISTRICT.

Name and Postoffice.

M. W. Olive, Bankston.
 L. C. Shirley, Ridge.
 J. M. Davis, Reuben.
 I. B. Davis, "
 A. J. Porter, Pilgrim.
 H. T. Wright, Newtonville.
 G. W. Freeman, Talula.

SECOND DISTRICT.

Name and Postoffice.

W. A. Huckabee, Winfield.
 D. A. J. Canterbury, "
 J. W. Graham, Fayette C. H.
 G. W. McGinnis, Bankston.
 J. S. Townsend, Handy.
 W. P. Jenkins, "
 T. B. Newton, "
 J. L. Harbin, Berry.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	Pastor and Post-office.	Clerk and Post-office.	Names of Delegates.
1st DISTRICT.			
Arbor Springs	J. W. Hosmer, Bankston ..	J. W. Falls, Samanth'a	Elder J R Barnet and J T Ericman.
Bankston	"	J. W. Woods, Bankston	Elder J W Hosmer and J V Montgomery.
Concord	J. M. Chism, Kennedy	W. B. Melton, Davie Creek	Elder J J Patterson, M W Olive, W B Melton.
Chapel Hill	E. J. Collins, Ridge	G. A. Ashcraft, Cave Sp'g	G W Ascraft.
Fayetteville	J. W. Rogers, Fayette C. H. ..	F. A. Nuckols, F'tte C. H.	Elder J W Rogers.
Friendship	I. L. Collins, Ridge	J. P. Watson, Binion Cr'k.	Elder J B Ferguson.
Mer-law Branch	N. J. Dyer, Wayside	N. L. Trull, Anro.	A M Guin.
Mt. Pleasant	G. W. Ferguson, Newtonv'le ..	W. F. Nichols, Legg	G H White, W F Nichols and J R Gladden.
New Hope	J. B. Ferguson, Samanth'a	R. L. South	G W Williamson, W F Taylor and R L South.
Oak Ridge	S. M. Waldrop	C. R. Davis, Pilgrim	A J Porter.
Pilgrim Rest	Frank Wilson, F'tte C. H.	L. S. Yerby, Pilgrim	W I Yerly and Thomas Ray.
Rocky Mount	S. M. Waldrop	"	G W Howton and G W Freeman.
Salem	J. W. Rogers, F'tte C. H.	W. F. Dawson	Elder W J Akins and P I Kimbrell.
Shepherd	H. T. Wright, Newtonv'le	W. J. Jonson, Newtonv'le	G W Gravlee and W W Gravlee.
Slipsey Valley	W. J. Akins, Legg	J. T. Sudduth, Newtonv'le	W J Nelson and Zach Savage.
Shady Grove	J. J. Patterson, Ridge	A. B. Lowrey, Bankston	T B Adams.
2d DISTRICT.			
El Bethel	J. P. Dickinson, F'tte C. H.	C. W. Edmonds, F'tte C. H.	Erd. J P Dickenson, C W Edmonds, W J Hassell
Friendship	W. J. Blankenship, Ballard ..	" Ballard	Elder W J Blankenship and R R White.
Harmony G'ce	J. Hendon, Hales	D. I. Meads, Winfield	W A Huckabee and J P Couch.
Hopevell	A. P. Dobson	I. H. Reed	J E Wills.
Unity	N. J. Dyer, Wayside	J. F. Reeves, Ballard	Elder J S Shirley and A J Reeves.
Mt. Lebanon	J. F. Willis, Fayette C. H.	D. J. Ballinger, F'tte C. H.	Elder J F Willis.
New Hope	Q. D. Haney	A. H. Franks	Elder Q D Haney, W G Westbrooks, G W Ghan
Oak Grove	A. W. Green, Guin	W. A. Weeks, Guin	W B Owings and T A Taylor.
Pleasant Hill	W. G. Baker, Bankston	T. E. Newton, F'tte C. H.	Elder J E Cox and J H Newton.
Pleasant Grove	W. J. Akin, Legg	G. W. McGinnis, Bankston	J H Brasler and G W McGinnis.
Philadelphia	W. G. Baker, Bankston	W. S. Townsend, Handy	J L Harbin, P M Newton and T B Newton.
Siloam	J. E. Barnard, Winfield	R. H. Erwin, Winfield	Elder J Taylor.
Union, F'tte co.	J. S. Shirley, Fayette C. H.	J. S. Hollingsworth, N. Riv	J S Hollingsworth and G L Wade.
Union, Marion	J. W. Hosmer, Bankston	J. A. Shaw	M C Owings.
Winfield	J. W. McGaha, Winfield	M. C. Bowling, Winfield	Elder J W McGaha, M C Bowling and A Shirey.
Mt. Pisgah	W. G. Baker, Bankston	James Trawick, Bankston	F M Lowrey.