

MINUTES

OF THE

Twenty-first Anniversary

OF THE

SHELBY MISSIONARY BAPTIST

ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

BETHESDA CHURCH,

SHELBY COUNTY, ALA.,

On the 12th, 14th and 15th of October, 1872.

OFFICERS:

T. P. HOLCOMB,

Moderator.

C. W. O'HARA,

Clerk.



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TABLE OF CHURCHES.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	POST OFFICE.	NAMES OF DELEGATES:
Cahaba Valley Dogwood Grove, Enon, Montevallo, New Antioch, Six Mile Union Bibb, Bethesda, Beaver Creek, Bethel, Columbiana, Evergreen, Hopewell, Liberty, Mt. Calvary, Pleasant Hill, Salem, Union, Shelby,	T. B. Dison, J. M. Langston, T. C. Boykin, D. N. Hodgens, N. H. Williams, R. Wood, W. W. Armstrong, J. H. R. Carden, T. C. Boykin, J. C. Hand, W. W. Armstrong, T. P. Holcomb, Asa Wyatt, J. C. Hand,	Montevallo, Tionus, Montevallo, Tionus, Day's Mills, Wilsonville, Columbiana, Shelby Iron Works Columbiana, Montevallo.	No Representation* T. B. Dison, 1. 3. Wm. Acker, 3. N. Jarvis, Greenville Jones, S. Johnson, 3. J. C. D. Trot, 3* No Representation* E. Walker, 3. S. Booth, 3. J. Champion, 3. P. M. Fancher, R. Owen, J. L. Peters, James Lucas, Thornton Fancher, Wm. Dison, 3. W. W. Armstrong, I. L. J. Carden, J. R. Ray, J. A. Gould, 3. L. Q. Gould, H. B. Horton, J. H. R. Carden, I. C. W. O'Hara, 2. W. C. Powell, D. T. Castleberry, 3. Jonathan Ware, 3. Wm. Davis, 3. J. C. Hand, I. Wm. Watson J. M. Hand, 3. Wesley Armstrong, Thos. A. Elliott, 3. L. Armstrong, T. P. Holcomb, I. W. C. Wilder, W. L. Gardner, Nathaniel Thomas, B. Moore, M. E. B. Jones, No Representation* Jeremiah Miner, L. R. Kendrick, 3. J. J. Miner, 3. B. L. Douglas, Wm. Lucas, 3. J. W. Dodson.
1st District.			
2d District.			
			Add'n Letter Baptism Restoration Exclusion Deceased Total Membership % cts.
			Sub. of Preaching,
			27 1 1 2 183 4 1 3 3 3 3 2 4 4 4 1 2 16 12 14 5 3 3 1 1 1 7 3 1 3 15 4 2 2 127 123 47 46 75 41 49 63 24 20 30 17 17 19 73 30 30 14 29 1 00 1 00 47 2 00 5 00 2 00 3 00 1 80 1 25 1 30 1 30 2 00 2 00 3 00 47 3 60 1 50 2 25 5 802 36 37

†The previous total is given of the Churches not represented.

‡Hopewell Church was constituted February 25th, 1872. with 12 members.

CIRCULAR.

To the Baptists of Alabama:

BRETHREN: There is an imperative necessity that Alabama Baptists have a newspaper *organ*—that they unite upon some *one paper*, as their medium of communication. As things are, a *notice* cannot reach our brethren, in the different parts of the State, unless published in three or four different sheets! and it is impossible for all these to be familiar with the current affairs, and the enterprise of the denomination in the State.

Had we a paper in our own State, specially devoted to these interests, & patronized as to hold its own among so many candidates for favor, *this* would be the ideal of some of our brethren. But anxious inquiry has convinced many of us, that such an undertaking would be destined to utter failure. *We cannot command the means.* Thousands of *bona fide* cash subscribers would be indispensable.

But must we therefore despair of an organ for the State? Can we not, by something like common consent, select one already on a safe basis? And why not select the Index and Baptist—so near to us—in the city of Atlanta? the lineal successor, as much of the old Alabama or Southwestern Baptist, as of the Index?

If the paper cost a little more than some others in proportion to amount of matter, its mechanical execution is superior; it is cheap enough without the device of now and then offering itself for a mere fraction of the regular price, at rates which no paper has any idea of sustaining; its tone, rigorously Scriptural, *commands* the endorsement of our Baptist brotherhood, to an unusual extent.

An Alabama Department, with its own office and editor, at some suitable point, would be gladly given us if the patronage authorized. And that it does not—that we cannot have an eight-page paper, for the present, who, if anybody, is to blame more than the 140,000 Georgia, or the 75,000 Alabama Baptists?

While, therefore, seeking to interfere with the circulation of no other paper, and without any personal interests of any kind to subserve, I appeal to the denomination throughout the State, to extend the circulation of our paper. My connection as Corresponding Editor has but this one object in view. Brethren, heed. There must be unity and concert of action, if we are to reap the benefits of an organ for the Alabama Baptists. Let us rise above the partialities of persons who say, I am of the Religious Herald; and I of the Baptist, and I of the Index and Baptist, and I of the Western Recorder.

I have thus, brethren, frankly put before you a simple matter-of-fact view of a most important concern. If every one who receives this circular will canvass his community, it is all that is desired or needed.

Yours in the service of a common Master,

E. B. TEAGUE,

Corresponding Editor Index & Baptist.

Selma, Ala., November, 1872.

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MINUTES.

SATURDAY, October 12th, 1872.

The Delegates and Messengers composing the TWENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY of the SHELBY ASSOCIATION, convened with the Bethesda Baptist Church, in Shelby County, Alabama.

Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder J. H. R. Carden, under appointment of last session, from the 15th verse of the 3d chapter of the Gospel by St. Mathew.

After an intermission of thirty minutes, the delegates assembled in the Church. The former Moderator, Eld. T. P. Holcomb, was in the chair and the Association was opened by prayer by Brother B. L. Douglas.

Brethren J. L. Peters and D. T. Castleberry were appointed to read. The letters from the Churches were called for, received, read and the names of the delegates enrolled. (See Table of Statistics.)

A door was opened for the reception of newly constituted Churches, when a letter was presented by delegates from Hopewell Church, petitioning admittance into this body. The letter was read and the Church being found orthodox, was received by the Moderator's extending to the delegates the right hand of fellowship.

Proceeded to permanent organization: Elder T. P. Holcomb was elected Moderator and C. W. O'Hara Clerk.

Called for Correspondence: The following were present and were invited to seats; also, were welcomed among us by the Moderator's extending to them the right hand of fellowship:

FROM THE CANAAN ASSOCIATION—Elder James Grimes, with letter and minutes.

FROM THE TUSCALOOSA—Letter and minutes.

FROM THE UNITY—Minutes.

FROM THE COOSA RIVER—Eld. W. W. Kidd and James Thomas.

FROM THE CAHABA VALLEY—Elder J. A. Collins and Jonas Bradshaw, a Deacon, were present, not as messengers, by appointment, but by move and second, were received.

Appointed Committees:

ON DEVOTIONAL EXERCISES—Brethren P. M. Fancher and Thornton Fancher from the 1st District and Brother Nathaniel Thomas and the Deacons of Bethesda Church; from the 2d District, (for arrangement of the same see Appendix E.)

ON DOCUMENTS—J. H. R. Carden, J. L. Peters, W. W. Armstrong and Wesley Armstrong.

ON SABBATH SCHOOLS—W. W. Armstrong, J. C. Hand and Wm. Watson.

ON TEMPERANCE—J. H. R. Carden, W. C. Powell, Wesley Armstrong and J. L. Peters.

ON FINANCE—L. J. Carden, P. M. Fancher and Wm. Watson.

After prayer by Elder W. W. Kidd the Association adjourned until Monday morning, 9 o'clock.

SUNDAY, October 13th.

Under appointment of last session Elder J. C. Hand preached the Missionary Sermon at 11 o'clock, from the 4th verse of the 5th chapter of Paul's Epistle to the Hebrews: "No man taketh this honor unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron;" after which a collection was taken up for the support of Domestic Missions, amounting to \$9 20.

At 2 o'clock Elder J. A. Collins addressed the congregation on the great work of Sabbath Schools, showing the great need of Sabbath Schools; also, showing from the Scriptures the great responsibility resting upon parents and all Christians in instructing the youths of our land in the way of salvation and of raising up children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. May God prosper the work.

MONDAY, October 14th.

Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer was offered by Elder W. W. Armstrong. Called for letters from Churches, which may not have been represented on Saturday, when letters were received and read from Dogwood Grove and New Antioch Churches.

On motion, the reading of the Constitution, Rules of Decorum and Abstract of Principles was omitted, and the calling of the roll postponed until the afternoon session. By request of Brother J. H. R. Carden the Association added Brethren J. C. Hand and J. L. Peters to the Committee on Temperance; also granted him the privilege of asking Elders J. A. Collins and James Grimes to assist said committee.

Again called for Correspondence—none.

Returned Correspondence:

TO THE CAHABA VALLEY ASSOCIATION:—J. H. R. Carden.

TO THE CANAAN—B. L. Douglas, J. H. R. Carden, J. C. Hand and Wm. Watson.

TO THE TUSCALOOSA—Greenville Jones, J. H. Pratt and R. Wood.

TO THE COOSA RIVER—C. W. O'Hara, J. W. Dodson, W. C. Wilder and W. L. Gardner.

TO THE TEN ISLAND—Dropped Correspondence, owing to distance.

TO THE MULBERRY—J. C. Hand, B. L. Douglas and W. V. Arnold.

TO THE ALABAMA STATE CONVENTION—T. C. Boykin.

And furthermore, Resolved, That if at any time any brother from this Association should be present at the sitting of any of our sister Associations or State Convention, that he be authorized to act as Correspondent and that he be recognized as such by this Association.

Appointed Elder J. C. Hand to preach the Introductory Sermon at our next session; Elder T. C. Boykin, Alternate. Elder J. H. R. Carden to preach the Missionary Sermon; Elder T. P. Holcomb Alt.

By request of Dogwood Grove Church the next session of this body will be held with her, four miles North of Montevallo, and, on motion, the time of meeting was changed from Saturday to Friday before the 2d Sabbath in October, 1873.

Moved and carried that the clause of the Constitution prohibiting queries, being presented to this body, and being taken under consideration by the same, be waived by a two-thirds vote, so as to allow the Association to take under consideration a query from Six Mile Church; which vote, when taken, was unanimous. On motion, and by a unanimous vote, the words "of a disciplinary character," were inserted after the word query in the 9th Article of the Constitution.

The Missionary plan of last year was continued, with the same committee (the Churches to fill vacancies) and chairman, and to meet at the same time of the month and place; and the same duties are enjoined upon each member of said committee.

On motion, the Association adjourned for thirty minutes, after which time to meet at the Arbor, for the purpose of endeavoring to organize a S. S. Convention in our bounds.

After the intermission the Association, with the congregation, assembled at the Arbor and proceeded to the organization of a S. S. Convention, as the minutes of the same will show.

The Association then repaired to the Church and proceeded to business. Called the roll and marked absentees. Moved and seconded, that the minutes of the S. S. Convention be printed with our minutes.

Report of the Committee on Documents was received and committee discharged. (See Appendix A.)

Report of the Committee on Temperance. Adopted the report of last year, with amendment. Committee discharged. See Appendix B.

It being reported that Union Bibb Church is retaining a brother in fellowship who is selling ardent spirits as a beverage—a violation of the Scriptures—the Association, therefore, earnestly requests said Church to labor with said brother for satisfaction and to report to the next session of this body.

Prayer was offered by Elder J. C. Hand, and the Association adjourned until Tuesday morning, 9 o'clock.

TUESDAY, October 15th.

The Association met and prayer was offered by Brother B. L. Douglas.

The Report of the Committee on Sabbath Schools was received and committee discharged. (See Appendix C.)

Report of the Committee on Finance was received and committee discharged. (See Appendix D.)

Directed the fund sent up for Sabbath Schools to be paid over to the Treasurer of the S. S. Convention, D. T. Castleberry, and the amount collected on Sabbath for Domestic Missions, be paid over to the Executive Committee of the Shelby Association.

Directed that the Clerk superintend the printing of as many of these minutes as the fund will justify—reserve 75 copies for correspondence; also, reserve 15 copies for the Montevallo Church and 10 copies for each church which may not have sent up funds for minutes. Send those belonging to the 1st District to Brother Thornton Fancher, distributing agent, and those belonging to the 2d District to Brother Nathaniel Thomas, distributing agent, to be distributed by them, according to the funds sent up from each church—transcribe the present minutes in the Association Book, and that he receive \$15 for his services.

The District Meeting for the 1st District will be held with Enon Church on Friday before the 2d Sabbath in September, 1873.

The District Meeting for the 2d District will be held with Liberty Church, on Friday before the 1st Sabbath in August, 1873.

On motion, the query from Six-Mile Church was taken under consideration, viz: "If Scripture teaching does not justify communion affiliation with Pedo Baptists, does it justify pulpit affiliation with them?" And after investigation, it was moved and carried that the Association answer it, and answer it as follows: "Pulpit affiliation is as equally unscriptural as is communion affiliation," which is shown to be believed by us by our Abstract of Principles.

RESOLVED, That the Association return thanks to the brethren and friends of Bethesda Church for their hospitality during the session.

Prayer was offered by Elder J. H. R. Carden. A parting hymn was sung and the delegates gave to each other and the congregation the parting hand, after which the Association adjourned to meet at the time and place designated.

T. P. HOLCOMB, MODERATOR.

C. W. O'HARA, Clerk.

APPENDIX A.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTS:

We, the Committee on Documents, have examined the letters from the churches and feel gratified in saying that a favorable report comes up as regards the increase of membership and the spirit of Christianity. Aside from this, nothing of interest is communicated, except a query presented in the letter from Six-Mile Church, which we consider of sufficient importance to command the attention of the Association, and therefore recommend the body to consider it. We also recommend the Churches to patronize our Southern denominational literature, to-wit: The Baptist, The Index and Baptist, Kind Words, The Child's Delight and The Home and Foreign Journal as paper exponents of Scriptural Doctrine and Baptist Principles.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. R. CARDEN, CHAIRMAN.

APPENDIX B.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE:

Having been appointed to report on Temperance, we, your committee, beg leave to report that the evils of intemperance are fearfully on the increase; and as Christians are commanded to abstain from every appearance of evil, and to come out from the world and be separate, and to touch not, taste not, handle not the unclean thing; we, therefore, recommend that the Association advise the Churches not to hold in fellowship any member who walks disorderly or indulges in the practice of habitually using intoxicating drinks; makes for sale or sells spirituous liquors. And we also recommend the Association to inform the Churches she will not hold in fellowship any Church that retains in fellowship members who are guilty of the above named sins.—Amendment—We recommend the Churches to rigidly enforce the above.

J. H. R. CARDEN, CHAIRMAN.

APPENDIX C.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON S. SCHOOLS:

We, your Committee on Sabbath Schools, beg leave to report:—We deplore the apathy that seems to prevail in our bounds. We esteem the Sabbath School as an efficient means under God, to train our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and we do most affectionately urge the sister churches to organize a Sabbath School in connection with the Church, and endeavor to bring out the heads of families and thereby secure the attendance of the children. And we do further recommend the publications of our Southern Board, but especially recommend the Inspired Word as THE TRUE TEXT BOOK.

WM. WATSON, CHAIRMAN.

APPENDIX D.**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE:**

Amount sent up from Churches for Minutes,.....	\$20 30
“ “ “ “ “ “ Associational purposes,.....	16 00
“ Collected on Sabbath for Domestic Missions,.....	9 20
“ sent up for Sabbath Schools,.....	8 00
Total,.....	\$53 50

Respectfully submitted,

WM. WATSON,	} Committee.
P. M. FANCHER,	
L. J. CARDEN,	

APPENDIX E.**ARRANGEMENT OF DEVOTIONAL EXERCISES:**

Introductory Sermon by Eld. J. H. R. Carden, on Saturday, at 11 o'clock. Preaching at night by Eld. James Grimes. Prayer-meeting at 9 o'clock Sunday morning—Missionary Sermon at 11, by Eld. J. C. Hand—Lecture on the Sabbath School cause, at 2 o'clock, by Eld. J. A. Collins. Preaching Sunday night by Eld. J. A. Collins.—Preaching Monday morning by Eld. James Grimes. Preaching Tuesday morning by Eld. J. C. Hand.

CORRESPONDING LETTER:

To SISTER ASSOCIATIONS:—Receive this, our Letter, with our Minutes and Messengers, as a token of our regard toward you, and the expression of our desire to continue correspondence with you. Viewing ourselves as co-workers together in the great cause of Truth, and as gentle yet firm opposers of error, we wish to keep a close alliance.

Our next session will be held with Dogwood Grove Church, Shelby County, four miles North of Montevallo, commencing on Friday before the 2d Sabbath in October, 1873, at which time meet with us.—May God bless you abundantly. Amen.

T. P. HOLCOMB, MODERATOR,

C. W. O'HARA, Clerk.



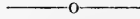
RECEIVED of C. W. O'Hara, Clerk and Treasurer, Twenty-one Dollars, for the printing of these Minutes.

WILLIS ROBERTS.

Minutes of the S. S. Convention

OF THE

SHELBY ASSOCIATION.



MONDAY, October 14th, 1872.

The Delegates to the Shelby Association and Congregation, assembled under the Arbor at Bethesda Baptist Church and proceeded to the organization of a S. S. Convention. Eld. T. P. Holcomb was appointed President pro tem., Bro. J. L. Peters Secretary pro tem.

The following corps of officers was chosen:

A. A. STERRETT, PRESIDENT.

C. W. O'HARA, W. V. ARNOLD, VICE-PRESIDENTS.

D. T. CASTLEBERRY, TREASURER.

WM. WATSON, THORNTON FANCHER, L. J. CARDEN.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

The President is to be ex-officio Chairman of the Board of Directors.

The next session of this Convention will be held at Columbiana, on Saturday before the 4th Sabbath in November, 1872.

Convention adjourned.

T. P. HOLCOMB, PRESIDENT PRO TEM.

J. L. PETERS, Secretary.



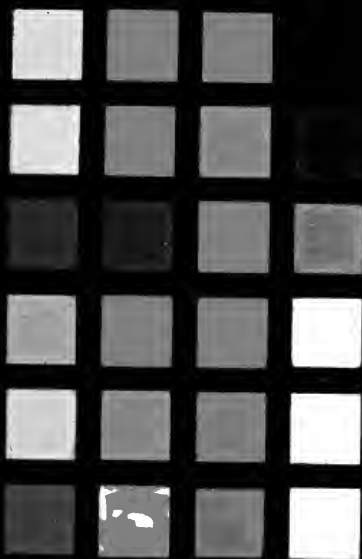


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