

MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Missionary Harmony Baptist Association

HELD WITH CEDAR GROVE CHURCH,

BIBB COUNTY, ALABAMA,

OCTOBER 13th, 14th and 15th, 1900.

J. N. HAYES, Clerk.
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

C. R. MILLER, Mod.
Blocton, Ala.

The next session will be held with Third Blocton Church, on
Wednesday before the second Sabbath in October, 1901.

MINUTES.

CEDAR GROVE CHURCH, OCTOBER 13, 1900.

1. The Delegates from the various Churches composing the Twenty-fourth Annual Session of the Missionary Harmony Baptist Association, convened with Cedar Grove Church, this day, at 11 o'clock. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder C. R. Miller, from the book of Jude, 1st and 2nd verses: "Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called; mercy unto you, and peace and love be multiplied." After a recess of one hour, during which a most ample repast was served, at half-past 1 o'clock, the delegates assembled in the meeting-house, and the Association was called to order by Elder C. R. Miller.

2. The roll of churches was called and the delegates came forward bearing their petitionary letters and voted for Moderator, which resulted in the choice of Rev. C. R. Miller. By request, Brethren John N. Hayes and M. G. Crawford came forward and read the letters.

3. The Moderator proceeded with the business as follows, and appointed the following committees to serve during the present session, except the committees on Education, Orphan's Home, Temperance, S., H. and F. Missions, and Sabbath Schools, who report next session:

Preaching—A. J. Flemming, with the Deacons of this Church.

Documents—John N. Hayes, L. S. Hosmer, A. Z. Bowen.

Nominations—J. G. Smith, G. A. Blake, L. S. Hosmer.

Education—A. J. Flemming, J. C. Champion, E. A. F. Herring.

Orphan's Home—J. M. Tatum, J. W. Burgin, T. L. S. Carroll.

Sabbath Schools—T. L. S. Carroll, Wm. Lewis, C. R. Parsons.

Temperance—J. W. Smith, C. R. Parsons, B. L. Franklin.

S., H. and Foreign Missions—M. G. Crawford, John N. Hayes, J. R. Gallant.

Finance—E. A. F. Herring, R. Lewis, J. N. Champion.

4. Called for correspondence :

Central Liberty—W. G. Hubbard and Brethren B. Thompson, Sam Hubbard, S. W. Hubbard, W. W. Comgee.

5. The door was opened for new or unassociated churches.

6. The Committee on Preaching reported; Elder C. R. Miller to preach to-night at candle-light at the school-house, from II. Peter, 1: 5, 6, 7—"And besides this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge, and to knowledge temperance, and to temperance patience, and to patience godliness, and to godliness brotherly kindness, charity."

By motion, adjourned to 8 o'clock Monday morning.

SABBATH, OCTOBER 14, 1900.

7. The appointments announced by the Committee on Preaching were attended to as follows: Prayer meeting at 9 o'clock, conducted by J. N. Goodwin. Preaching at 11 o'clock, by Elder C. R. Miller, from Acts 1:8—"But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses unto me, both in Jerusalem and all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." A collection was taken up to the amount of \$3.50 for missions. Eld. T. L. S. Carroll preached at candle-light at school-house.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1900.

8. Pursuant to adjournment, the association met and was opened with prayer by Bro. J. W. Smith.

By motion the letter from Enterprise Church was read.

9. The roll of delegates was called, and absentees marked. Names of ordained ministers in small capitals:

Blocton—G. A. Blake.

Cedar Grove—S. M. Lewis, J. B. Lewis, John N. Hayes, W. M. Lewis, R. Lewis.

Corinth—J. E. Herring.

Enterprise--W. C. Kizziar, Sam Snider.

Hepzibah—C. R. Parsons, L. S. Hosmer.

Liberty--E. A. F. Herring, G. L. Franklin.

Mount Olive---A. Z. Bowen, J. N. Hayes.

Mount Carmel---J. W. Smith, J. N. Goodwin,* J. R. Gallant.

New Hope--J. H. Tatum, J. G. Smith.

Pleasant Grove---J. T. Lawrence.

Parker's Grove---Not represented.

Pleasant Valley---Not represented.

Roup's Valley---Elder T. L. S. CARROLL,* J. W. Burgin.

Spring Hill---A. J. Flemming, J. C. Champion.

Valley Creek---Not represented.

10. List of ordained ministers in the association: J. N. Walker, J. D. Folkes, Woodstock; B. B. McGraw, C. R. Miller, Blocton; R. Hallman, Bedgin; P. L. Herring, Vance's; T. L. S. Carroll, Goethite.

11. The letter from Bro. G. Herbert, Secretary and Treasurer of the B. Y. P. M., was read, and by motion a committee was appointed to organize in this association. Rev. Thomas Stanly was appointed Treasurer. Committee: From Hephzibah, L. S. Hosmer; Liberty, Greene Franklin; Mount Carmel, Thomas Edmonds; New Hope, J. G. Smith; Pleasant Grove, M. G. Crawford; Spring Hill, J. C. Champion; Roup's Valley, J. W. Burgin; Blocton, J. W. Jones.

12. The Committee on Documents reported :

We find some of the Churches have held meetings and others have not; some of them report Sabbath Schools and some have had Sabbath Schools a part of the time. We recommend that all the churches try to keep up Sabbath Schools, and that they use Southern Baptist Literature.

JOHN N. HAYES, Chairman.

13. The Committee on Nominations reported:

We recommend the next session of this association be held with the Third Baptist Church at Blocton, commencing on Wednesday before the second Sabbath in October, 1901; the introductory sermon to be preached by Elder J. D. Folkes; a missionary sermon to be preached at 11 o'clock on Sunday, by Rev. J. N. Goodwin.

J. G. SMITH, Chairman.

14. The Committee on Education reported :

We recommend the Holy Bible, as it is the great teacher and waybill through life; as it is the book that God has given us for the purpose of instruction. We believe in education; we believe in the education of the minds of the members of this association, also of our churches, for the advancement of Christianity. We recommend the Howard College at East Lake, the Judson Female College at Marion, and the Central Female College at Tuscaloosa. We have an able corps of teachers at each one of these institutions. They are united on the great Captain and King, our Lord and Master Jesus Christ. Brethren, this cause is worthy of and demands our deepest prayers and supplications as well as our most earnest and careful consideration as servants of God assembled to do his work. Let us prove our faith by our works, in sending our boys and girls to our denominational schools. It is a conceded fact that education to a minister of the Gospel in this day and time is one of the foundations of success.

J. H. TATUM, Chairman.

15. The Committee on Temperance reported :

Since we last met there has been much excitement among whiskey men, and this excitement has caused some reforms in regard to the handling of the deadly poison. We, as a country people, are rid of the pest of whiskey shops. But what does that amount to when our neighbors and friends, and some of our church members, visit our towns and find the best and most commodious buildings used for bar rooms? We, as a religious body, stamp our disapproval of the monster evil that to-day invades our country and brings more poverty and death than all other evils known to us. It does not only bring these evils, but brings a dark gloom over the future, as no drunkard can enter the kingdom of God. Thus we see that it destroys both soul and body, and entails disease and death on coming generations. Why can't we rid ourselves of this evil to-day in this free country? Our cities are being ruled by the saloons: their keepers and the manufacturers of intoxicating drinks are combining and striving to control our legislatures. The children of Christian people, as well as others, are tempted by the saloons and blind tigers, and by the example of those older than themselves, they are constantly beginning the life which leads to the enormous sin of drunkenness, by drinking wine and beer and smoking the deadly cigarette, which is a twin evil to drinking, and which science has proven to be a deadly poison, the use of which is a most powerful and growing evil and paves the way in a multitude of instances for the drinking of intoxicating drinks.

J. W. SMITH, Chairman.

16. By motion, adjourned one hour for dinner.

17. Pursuant to adjournment, the association met and was opened with prayer by Rev. T. L. S. Carroll.

18. The Committee on Orphan's Home reported :

There are 63 orphan children in the Orphan's Home, supported by the Baptists of Alabama. There is a small contribution to their support, and we recommend

that each church awaken to the interest and contribute more liberally and regularly to their support, especially as they are living on borrowed money and looking to us for assistance.

T. L. S. CARROLL, Chairman.

19. The Committee on Sabbath Schools reported :

We find from reading the letters that the churches in our association are not taking the interest in Sabbath Schools that we think they should. God's word says bring a child up in the way it should go, and when it is old it will not depart from it, and we know of no better way than bringing them up in a Sabbath School. Therefore, we recommend that the brethren of our association take more interest in the Sunday School work and in our churches, and bring up a good report from the churches to our next association.

R. LEWIS, Chairman.

20. The Committee on Missions reported :

The subject of missions is one of great importance. Christ said, go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature; he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, he that believeth not shall be damned. We believe it to be our duty to give of our means to send the gospel to those who have it not. There is a need of mission work in our large cities and in the destitute parts of the country, and we believe it our duty to send it to the heathen nations of the earth. Some of our foreign missionaries are greatly in need of more help in some of the foreign fields, and especially in China. The Southern Baptist Convention recommends the board to enlarge their work. There have been a few missionaries sent out lately. Brethren of the Harmony Association, let every church do all they can during this conventional year to help send out more missionaries, both in the State, Home, and Foreign fields, and let us pray for those who are already in the field, and pray God to call and qualify and send forth young men into the ministry who are willing to go into the missionary work.

M. G. CRAWFORD, Chairman.

21. The Committee on Finance reported :

Collected for minutes, \$11.55; association purposes, \$7.25; foreign missions, \$10.60; home missions, \$3.63; Orphan's Home, \$6.94; by vouchers, \$2.60. collection on Sunday \$3.80.

E. A. F. HERRING, Chairman.

22. By motion the association appointed as delegates to the State Convention: Rev. C. A. Miller and J. N. Hayes.

23. The Union Meeting of the First District was held with Mount Carmel Church, from the 7th to the 9th of September, 1900; the introductory sermon was preached by Rev. G. W. Freeman, from Romans 12:5 "So we being many are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Adjourned one hour for dinner. At 1 o'clock P. M., the district assembled in the meeting house and was called to order by Rev. B. P. McGraw. The moderator appointed a committee on queries. Query for Friday evening: "Why was not Christ as popular with the Jews as with Cæsar?" Opened by Bro. J. W. Jones. Query for Saturday morning: "Is there any reason why an uneducated man should not preach the gospel as well as one that is educated?" Opened by Bro. M. A. Blake. Query for Saturday evening: "In what ways can we show the bright ways that we are his witnesses?" Opened by Bro. J. L. Blake.

24. The next Union Meeting of the First District will be held with the Third Blocton Baptist Church, commencing on Friday before the second Sabbath in September, 1901.

W. H. HAND, Clerk.

REV. B. P. MCGRAW, Mod.

25. No report from the Second District.

Resolved, That this Association return its hearty thanks to the members of Cedar Grove Church and the citizens of this neighborhood and vicinity for their hearty welcome to us and their kind entertainment during our stay with them. May the rich blessings of our God rest upon them, and may the labors of our meeting with them be blessed with an abundant harvest, for Christ sake.—CLERK.

After singing and taking the parting hand, the Association adjourned, to meet with the Third Blocton Church, on Wednesday before the second Sabbath in October, 1901—the introductory sermon to be preached on Wednesday at 11 o'clock, by Rev. J. D. Folkes. Rev. J. N. Goodwin to preach a missionary sermon on Thursday at 11 o'clock.

J. N. HAYES, Clerk.

REV. C. R. MILLER, Moderator.

Tuscaloosa.

Blocton.

CONSTITUTION.

1. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different Churches in our union, who, on presenting their letters, shall be entitled to seats. The members thus chosen and convened shall be known by the name of THE HARMONY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, which shall have the right to enact and carry out Missionary purposes in all their bearings—yet, so as that the churches and individual members are left free; and that giving or withholding shall not be a bar to membership.

2. The Association shall usurp no authority over the churches in our union or infringe any of their internal rights; but shall merely be considered an advisory council in all matters relative to their internal concern; nevertheless, it becomes necessary, in some cases, to have a uniform rule of procedure, namely: If one church commit an offence against another, it shall be the duty of the offended to labor with the offender for satisfaction; if she fail of success, she shall call the aid of two or more churches of our union to assist in laboring for satisfaction; and if final satisfaction, in the opinion of the helps thus called, be not obtained, the aggrieved may bring the case before the Association, which shall be taken up and decided upon according to its merits. If a serious difference should arise in an individual church, which, upon due labor, cannot be reconciled, she shall call the aid of two or more sister churches, to assist in the work, and if a reconciliation be not effected, the helps so called, or the church, may bring the matter before the Association, to be acted on according to its merits; but the Association will take cognizance of no case of the kind unless a due course of procedure shall have been previously pursued, according to the economy of the church discipline, found in the 18th chapter of the gospel of St. Matthew, and other parts of the Scriptures, which define the nature of offenses and the manner of bringing offenders to trial.

3. The churches of our union shall transmit to every annual session of the Association a written communication, giving the names of the delegates, their number in fellowship, baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excommunicated, and deceased, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

4. Every church in our union shall be entitled to representation in the following manner: Each church of fifty members or less, 3 delegates and one additional for each 25 members above 50, or fractional part thereof. Any church failing to represent herself as above prescribed, shall state her reasons at the next session.

5. New churches may be admitted into our union by delegates bearing petitionary letters. If, upon due examination, they be found orderly and orthodox, the Moderator shall manifest their admission by giving the right hand in token of Christian fellowship.

6. The Association, when convened, shall be governed by a regular and proper decorum, which she is authorized to form and amend according to her own views.

7. At every session of the Association, a Moderator shall be appointed by and from the delegates present, whose duty it shall be to see that the rules are strictly observed, and to take the voice of the Association on all subjects legally introduced. A Stated Clerk shall be appointed, who shall continue in office until the Association shall elect his successor, and whose duty it shall be to take proper and correct minutes of the proceedings, and to keep a regular file of the printed minutes of every session of this body, which he is to present to the view of the Association annually.

8. The Association shall have power to exclude from the union any church that may violate the constitution or depart from the orthodox principles of the constitution.

9. The Association shall furnish the minutes of every session to the churches making contributions for that purpose.

10. Every query sent by a particular church must be included in her letter, certifying that she endeavored to reconcile it, but failed. In such a case the Association shall take it under consideration, and the voice of the majority shall be considered an advisory answer, which shall be entered on the minutes.

11. Queries which immediately concern the general union of the churches, sent by a particular church, or introduced by a proper motion, shall be taken up and decided on as soon as practicable.

12. Any church in our union having a preacher whom she deems worthy of ordination, shall call a presbytery of ministers from sister churches to officiate in the work; and all presbyteries, in the ordaining of ministers and deacons, or in the constitution of churches, shall be governed by the Abstract of Faith adopted by the Association.

13. The Association shall have a fund, supplied by the voluntary contributions of the churches, and all monies thus contributed shall be transmitted from the churches by their delegates, and paid over to the committee on finance. This committee shall be appointed annually, whose duty it shall be to receive in charge the Association Fund, and dispose of the same agreeably to order, and make at every session a fair and circumstantial report of their proceedings.

14. The Association shall not adjourn any session until she shall have finished all business on hand, except in extraordinary cases.

15. The minutes of the Association shall be read; and corrected if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk, before the session rises.

16. The Association shall in all cases be governed by a majority of the members, except to change or amend the constitution.

17. Amendments to the constitution may be made at any session when two-thirds of the delegates present are in favor of such amendment.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

ARTICLE I. We believe in only one true and living God, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost.

2. We believe that the Scriptures, comprising the Old and New Testament, are the Word of God, the only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of Election, and that God chose his people in Christ before the foundation of the world.

4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

5. We believe in man's incapacity, by his own free will and ability, to recover himself from the fallen state in which he is by nature.

6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God by the imputed righteousness of Christ only.

7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated, and sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

8. We believe that the Saints shall be preserved in Grace, and never fall finally away.

9. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are Ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only subjects of Baptism, and that by Immersion is the only Apostolic mode.

10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and in the General Judgment, and that the felicity of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

11. We believe that no minister has any right to administer the ordinances of the Church but one who is regularly baptized, called of God, and comes under the imposition of the hands of Presbytery.

12. We believe that none but legally baptized members have a right to commune at the Lord's Table.

RULES OF DECORUM.

ARTICLE I. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

2. The Moderator shall be considered a judge of order, and shall have a discretionary right to call a member to order at any time.

3. A member not satisfied with his decision, may appeal to the Association on the same day, but at no other time.

4. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his feet, address the Moderator, and, on obtaining permission, proceed.

5. The Moderator, when addressed by a member for permission to speak, shall signify the same in naming the person, or otherwise,

6. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject, or use words of personal reflection. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by him who made it.

7. Every case taken up by the Association shall be decided on or withdrawn before another shall be offered.

8. When a motion is taken up, after allowing time for the debates, the Moderator shall take the voice of the Association on the subject, in such mode as he may determine.

9. The Moderator shall announce the decision of the body.

10. Any member wishing to retire shall obtain permission of the Moderator.

11. No member shall speak more than twice on the same proposition, without permission of the Association, nor more than once until every member wishing to speak shall have spoken; nor shall any proposition be made to close the subjects until the debates have been carried through.

12. The appellation of "Brother" shall be used in the Association by members in their address to one another.

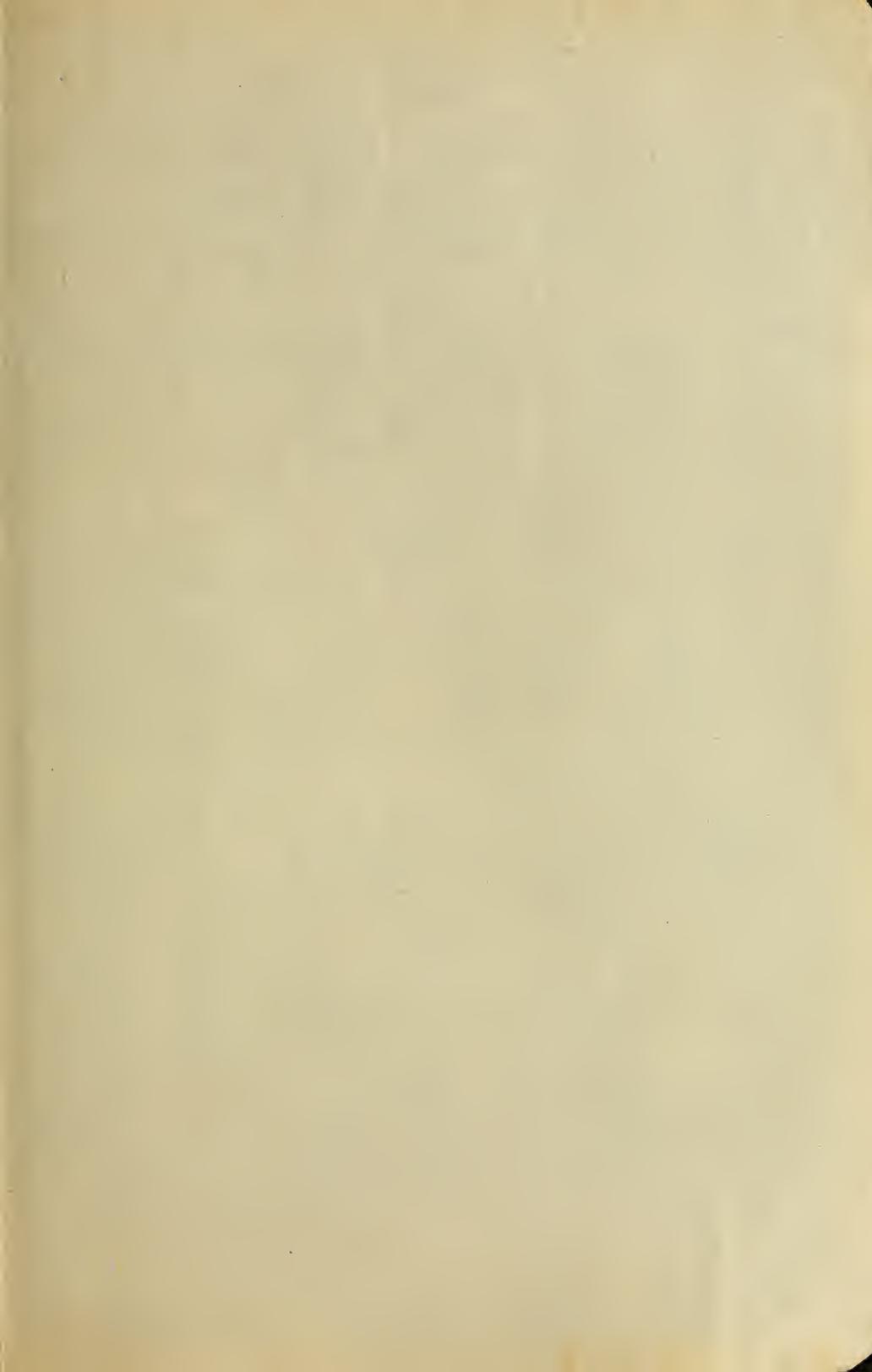
13. The names of members shall be called as often as the Association may direct.

14. No member shall be tolerated in any practice which tends to interrupt public speaking.

15. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, provided he appoint another to his seat during the time, but he shall not vote on any question unless the Association be equally divided.

16. Any member violating these rules shall be reproved by the Moderator, as directed by the Association, but only on the day the breach shall have been made.

Received of J. N. Hayes, Clerk, \$10.00, for 375 of these minutes.—B. & W.



STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCH.	PASTOR.	PASTOR'S P. O.	CLERK.	CLERK'S P. O.	Baptized.	Rec. by Letter	Restored.	Dis. by Letter	Excluded.	Died.	Total.	Sab. Meetings.	Date of Constitution.	Fund for Minutes.	Association Purposes.	For. Missions	State Missions	Home Missions	Orphan's Home.	By Voucher.
3rd Blocton	G. W. Freeman	Blocton.	P. W. McCullough	Blocton	15	14	1	4	3	6	95	4	1855	\$1 00	\$ 50				\$ 80	
Cedar Grove	W. G. Hubbard	Scottsville	E. W. Pearson	Coaling			11			1	14	1	1885	1 50	1 00	\$ 3 60			2 81	\$1 25
Corinth	T. L. S. Carroll	Goethite	J. E. Wright	Goethite	7	1				1	47	3	1883	25	25	2 00			50	
Enterprise	R. Hallman	Redgum	O. C. Kyle	Coaling	1					1	66	4	1847	1 25	50				25	
Hephzibah	I. N. Walker	Woodstock	A. B. Dickey	Woodstock	2	2	11			1	57	3	1890	1 00	50	2 28			\$2 28	
Liberty	C. R. Miller	Blocton	G. L. Franklin	Mildale			2	2	1		31		1848	50	50				1 33	
Mt. Olive	No Letter	Trio	Last Report	Blocton	35	22	2	12		2	253	1	1869	2 50	1 50				75	
New Carnel	G. W. Freeman	Woodstock	T. E. Edmunds	Green Pond	10	3				1	81	3	1886	1 00	75	1 00				
Pleasant Gr.	V. A. Wilson	Bell Sunnpter	G. H. Moyer	Bell Sunnpter	7	7	6		1	1	53	1	1884	75	50	50 65			1 65	
Parker Grove	V. A. Wilson	Bell Sunnpter	J. Sellars	Bell Sunnpter							98	4	1893							
Pl'e'st Valley	No Letter	Bell Sunnpter	Last Report	Goethite	2					1	60	3	1839	75	25	1 25			25	
Roup Valley	V. A. Wilson	Bell Sunnpter	J. M. Burgin	Goethite							26		1887	75	50					
Spring Hill	No Letter	Bell Sunnpter	Last Report	Goethite							54	4	1891							
Valley Creek	Not Reported.	Bell Sunnpter	Last Report	Goethite	62	58	5	46	5	14	992	4	1891	11 50	\$7 25	\$10 65	\$4 83	\$6 69	\$2 60	