

MINUTES.

OF THE

TWENTY-NINTH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

SHELBY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

Bethesda Church, Shelby County, Alabama,

SEPTEMBER 11TH AND 15TH, 1880.

OFFICERS:

ELDER T. P. HOLCOMBE, MODERATOR.

ELDER C. W. O'HARA, SECRETARY.

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1880.

MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Shelby Missionary Baptist Association.

On Saturday, September 11th, 1880, the SHELBY MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION met with Bethesda Church.

Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder E. B. Teague.

After an intermission of one hour the delegates assembled, and were called to order by the former Moderator, Elder T. P. Holcombe.

Prayer was offered by Elder Geo. T. Lee.

Brethren Geo. T. Lee and J. D. Martin were appointed to read.

Letters from the Churches were received, read and the names of the delegates enrolled.

On motion, Petitionary Letters were called for, when Brethren M. E. B. Jones, W. F. Bridges and James A. Gould presented a letter from Friendship Church; and Bro. G. W. Sorrell presented a letter from Mars Hill Church. The Churches being found orthodox were received; the Moderator extending to the delegates the right hand of fellowship.

On motion, the Bethesda Baptist Church was dropped from the list for 12 months, owing to the Church being in disorder.

Brethren Geo. T. Lee and J. D. Martin were appointed tellers, who, after receiving the vote, reported Elder T. P. Holcombe re-elected Moderator, and C. W. O'Hara Secretary.

APPOINTED COMMITTEES.

On Arrangement of Business.—Geo. T. Lee, J. D. Martin and E. B. Teague.

On Devotion.—M. E. B. Jones, R. W. Nolen and G. W. Parker.

On Documents.—E. B. Teague, J. H. R. Carden and J. W. Wood.

On Sunday Schools.—J. D. Martin, C. W. O'Hara and J. W. Dodson.

On Finance.—J. D. Martin and Nathaniel Thomas.

On Temperance.—J. C. McElroy, J. H. R. Carden and Geo. T. Lee.

On Missions.—Geo. T. Lee, E. B. Teague and J. H. R. Carden.

The Committee on Devotion reported that Bro. Nathaniel Thomas would conduct the prayer-meeting at 9 o'clock on Sunday; Elder Geo. T. Lee preach the Missionary Sermon at 11 o'clock under appointment of the last session, and Elder E. B. Teague at 3 o'clock.

Prayer was offered by E. B. Teague, after which the Association adjourned until 9 o'clock Monday morning.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH.

The services were conducted in the order prescribed by the Committee on Devotion. These services were attended by large and attentive congregations. After the preaching of the Missionary Sermon a collection was taken up for Missions, the amount of which will be found in the report of the Committee on Finance.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH.

Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by J. D. Martin.

Called the roll and dropped absentees.

The report of the Committee on Order of Business was read and adopted.

Called for Correspondence. None present.

APPOINTED CORRESPONDING MESSENGERS.

To the Mulberry Association.—Elders I. U. Wilks, Geo. T. Lee and Brother M. E. B. Jones.

To the Canaan Association.—Geo. T. Lee, H. W. Bowers and J. D. Martin.

To the Coosa River Association.—E. B. Teague and J. H. R. Carden.

To the State Convention.—Elders E. B. Teague, I. U. Wilks, Geo. T. Lee, C. W. O'Hara, and Brethren J. C. McElroy, R. W. Cobb, H. C. Reynolds and H. W. Bowers.

The Constitution, Abstract of Principles and Rules of Decorum were read.

On motion, appointed a committee to revise the Constitution, viz: E. B. Teague, J. H. R. Carden and C. W. O'Hara.

The report of the Committee on Documents was read, and after some discussion by E. B. Teague, J. H. R. Carden, J. W. Wood, J. C. McElroy and Geo. T. Lee, and the vote being taken the report was rejected.

The report of the Committee on Sunday Schools was read, and after some discussion by E. B. Teague and C. W. O'Hara, was adopted. [See Appendix A.]

The report of the Committee on Temperance was read, and after some discussion by J. C. McElroy and J. H. R. Carden, was adopted. [See Appendix B.]

On motion, it was made the duty of the Clerk to draw up a petition, as recommended by the Committee on Temperance, in the name of the Association, petitioning the next Legislature of the State of Alabama to incorporate the Churches in our bounds to the distance of five miles, prohibiting the sale of spiritous liquors in said bounds, and forward the same to the Legislature by our Representative, Henry Wilson.

The report of the Committee on Missions was read, and by special request of the Association, Bro. E. B. Teague spoke on the subject of Missions at large, after which the report was adopted. [See Appendix C.]

On motion, ordered that the amount collected on Sabbath be sent to the Foreign Mission Board.

Appointed the next session of this Association to be held with Helena Church, commencing on Saturday before the 2nd Sabbath in September, 1881.

On motion, appointed I. U. Wilks to preach the Introductory Sermon at our next session, C. W. O'Hara alternate; E. B. Teague the Missionary Sermon, T. B. Dison alternate.

Inasmuch as the Association considered the Bethesda Baptist Church in disorder, Bro. C. W. O'Hara asked for the advice of the Association as to whether his being a member of said Church would render him incompetent to perform his ministerial duties or not. In answer, on motion, the Association advised that in her opinion neither Bro. C. W. O'Hara nor W. W. Armstrong is disqualified to perform their ministerial duties.

The report of the Committee on Finance was read and adopt-

ed. [See Appendix D.]

On motion, ordered that the Clerk have 330 copies of these Minutes printed; reserve 30 copies for correspondence; transcribe the present Minutes in the Association Book, and that he receive \$8.75 for his services.

Resolved, That we tender thanks to the members of Bethesda Church and entire vicinity for their kind care and liberality in sustaining this body during its session.

After singing a hymn, while the delegates extended to each other and the congregation the parting hand, and prayer by E. B. Teague, the Association adjourned *sine die*.

T. P. HOLCOMBE, MODERATOR.

C. W. O'HARA, CLERK.



[APPENDIX A.]

Report of Committee on Sunday Schools.

“Search the Scriptures;” “Diligently teach your children;” are injunctions of Divine origin. Are they to be confined to families exclusively? By no means. If it was so, are they obeyed? By no means. But as it is not true that they are confined exclusively to families; how; and by what means are they to be complied with? By the Church. Admitting this to be true, what should we expect to hear from the Churches at our annual meetings? That there is a flourishing School in every Church. We are gratified to hear that a few Churches have flourishing schools, but regret to have to report that there is a number that have reported none. What are the causes? Is there a want of interest in this great work? Let us hear the words of inspiration, “Awake thou that sleepest.” Is it because there is a want of material in the Churches of which to make teachers and officers? If any man lack wisdom let him ask of God, who giveth to all men liberally, &c. Are there no children in the Church surroundings? None are so old but that there is a necessity of their learning more of God’s word.

We would recommend that Christians betake themselves to a double interest in this work, and that they view it in the light of God’s truth.

We would also recommend “Kind Words” to the patronage of the Churches, with the international lessons as therein expounded as a safe and reliable literature for our Sunday Schools.

Respectfully submitted,

J. D. MARTIN, CHAIRMAN.

[APPENDIX B.]

Report of Committee on Temperance.

We, your Committee, beg leave to report as follows :

We would recommend that all Church members totally abstain from the use of SPIRITOUS LIQUORS as a beverage. And that in all honorable ways they discountenance the same in their respective vicinities.

We would further request this Association to petition the next Legislature of this State to incorporate each Church for five miles around the same forbidding the sale of Spiritous Liquors in said bounds.

Respectfully submitted,

J. C. McELROY, CHAIRMAN.

[APPENDIX C.]

Report of Committee on Missions.

The Committee on Missions briefly and respectfully report :

That the two grand objects of Church organization, as prescribed in the New Testament, appear to be: 1st. The edification of the Church. 2d. The propagation of the faith; and that the edification of the body itself is subsidiary to the extension of the Gospel to regions beyond. In illustration it will suffice to refer to the Church at Antioch, which, when built up to strength, sent out Paul and Barnabas into Asia Minor as Missionaries, who under God established and confirmed many Churches as the nuclei of still other labors.

Churches may operate in this way on a larger or smaller area, according to means and opportunity.

Our Pastors could take up collections for the purpose of extending the good news, say once a quarter. Our people only need opportunity to give of their substance.

The Home Board, Foreign Board, or State Board will direct means to their end, according to the wishes of donors; or destitution may be supplied, in suitable cases, by the Church itself.

If the Churches would unite to support their Pastors, these Pastors could supply the regions about them, or near their homes. If the Deacons would just give the people, whether in the Churches or out of them, the opportunity to contribute money, corn, fodder, peas, beef, wood, labor, &c., &c., according to their convenience, there would be little difficulty about many Pastors giving themselves wholly to prayer and the ministry of the Word. Pastoral work, in addition to preaching, would then be done, and out-of-the-way places receive the Gospel. Try it, brethren. A business man of our acquaintance just stood up in the congregation and said: "All of you please tell me what you will do for our Pastor next year." And in five minutes they called out forty-five dollars, more than he wanted.

The work of Missions is going on gloriously. Some eighteen thousand souls were baptized within the last year among the Tologoas, and, perhaps, as many more since. India and China and Japan have the Word of God in their own tongues, and number their converts, collectively, by the hundred thousand. What hath God wrought! When some of us were boys there was not a Missionary in the East. Let us fling in our drops into the great stream. To men they may be undistinguishable; God will watch their combination into a mighty force, and see to it that the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth as the waters cover the seas.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. T. LEE, CHAIRMAN.

[APPENDIX D.]

Report of Committee on Finance.

We your Committee on Finance beg leave to submit the following report :

Amount sent up for Minutes.....	\$14 75
Amount sent up for Associational purposes.....	8 75
Collected on Sunday for Missions.....	18 05
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	\$41 55

Respectfully,

JAMES D. MARTIN,
NATHANIEL THOMAS. } COMMITTEE.



STATISTICAL TABLE OF CHURCHES.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Post Office.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	Sabbath of Preaching.	Baptized.	Received by Letter.	Restored.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded.	Deceased.	Total.	Minute Fund.
1st DISTRICT.												
Cahaba Valley...	I U Wilks.....	Six Mile.....	Letter and funds forwarded to Clerk.....	4	3	36	\$1 50
Dogwood Grove..	I Walker.....	Montevallo	James McGaughey, J M Jinks.....	2	...	...	...	2	1	124	2 75
Montevallo.....	E B Teague.....	Montevallo	R W Nolen, J C McElroy.....	1	...	2	...	2	...	1 40	3 00	
Mars Hill.....	R B Hall.....	Helena.....	G W Sorrell.....	3	4	11	...	4	...	18	50	
New Antioch.....	I Walker.....	Montevallo	Letter and funds but no delegates.....	4	2	2	...	3	...	80	1 25	
Union.....	Geo T Lee.....	Helena	George T Lee 1.....	2	...	2	...	5	...	52	2 00	
2ND DISTRICT.												
Beaver Creek.....	.....	.....	Not represented, previous total is given	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22	.....
Columbiana.....	E B Teague.....	Columbiana	E B Teague 1, G W Parker	2	1	1	17	50
Friendship	C W O'Hara.....	Columbiana	M E B Jones, Jas A Gould, W F Bridges	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	31	1 50
Hopewell	C W O'Hara.....	Shelby 1 Works.	Wesley Armstrong.....	2	1	1	.....	25	1	20	1 00
Mt Calvary.....	C W O'Hara.....	Columbiana	Nat'l Thomas, Jno Moore, C L Mooney	3	.....	6	.....	1	1	57	2 50
Liberty	T P Holcombe...	Columbiana	T P Holcombe 1, J H R Carden 1, Moses
Rocky Ridge.....	J W Wood.....	Columbiana	Chesser, J W Dodson, J A Adams, L R	1	1	1	3	2	1	139	5 00	
		Columbiana	Kendrick, J D Martin.....	4	.....	1	.....	1	.....	20	2 00
			J W Wood 1, H A Davis, J R Davis,
				12	30	3	45	4	2 656	\$23 50		

NOTE.—Ordained Ministers marked 1.

Mars Hill Church was constituted on the 17th day of November, 1878, with 7 members.

Friendship Church was constituted on the 1st day of August, 1880, with 31 members.

Bethesda Church being in disorder, was dropped for 12 months.



