MINUTES

OF THE

Twenty-Sixth Annual Session

OF THE

Judson Baptist Association,

HELD WITH THE

CHURCH AT PLEASANT GROVE,

Henry County, Alabama,

On the 29th & 30th of Sept., and 1st of October, 1876.

OFFICERS:

ELDER L. R. SIMS, ELDER D. ROGERS, -BRO. JOHN T. DAVIS,

Moderator. Clerk. Treasurer.



MEMPHIS TENN.
SOUTHERN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY PRINT, 361 MAIN ST.

Southern Baptist Publication Society, Memphis, Tenn.

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Twenty-Sixth Annual Session

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CHURCH AT PLEASANT GROVE,

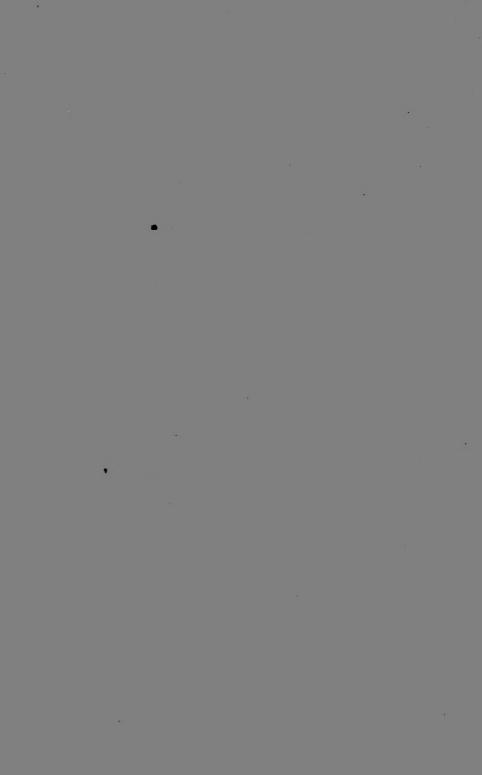
Henry County, Alabama,

On the 29th & 30th of Sept., and 1st & 2d of October,1876

OFFICERS:

ELDER L. R. SIMS, - - MODERATOR.
ELDER D. ROGERS, - - - CLERK.
BRO. JOHN T. DAVIS, - - TREASURER.

MEMPHIS TENN.
Southern Baptist Publication Society Print, 361 Main St
1876



MINUTES.

The Judson Association convened in its 26th annual session with Pleasant Grove Church Sept. 29th 1876.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Brother W. A. Cumbie upon Mat. 15:3,

"Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition."
Prayer by Elder D. Cumbie.

At 2 o'clock the body was called to order by the former Moderator. Prayer by Elder D. Whidden.

At this hour Brother D. Cumbie from the Newton Association, preached at the stand upon Jno. 13:34.

Letters from the churches were called for and read by brethren J. T. Davis, F. M. Bunker, and John W. Simmons, and delegates names enrolled as follows:

Adaniram-J. S. Barnett, and J. Melvin.

Abbeville—A. L. Martin, and A. B. Fowler.

Beulah-G. W. Harris, and D. E. Burdeshaw.

Bluff Springs-Not represented.

Bethlehem—Thomas L. Granberry, David Lock, and J. B. White.

Bethel-D. Rogers, J. M. Snead, and L. Wise.

Christian Grove-Reuben Davis, and William Glass.

Columbia-John T. Davis, and F. M. Bunker.

· Camp Springs—B. J. Waller, and Augustus Anderson.

Ebenezer—W. S. Weaks, and Daniel Killingsworth.

Fellowship-H. Wiggans, and A. Harp.

Gordon-Not represented.

Harmony-J. Brown, and J. Ducker.

Hebron—E. M. Knowles, M. C. Steverson, and A. J. Armstrong.

Judson-Geo. L. Fleming, and W. M. Hilton.

Liberty—Not represented.

Mt. Pleasant, Dale-Aris Armstrong.

Mt. Pleasant, Barbour-B. Manly, and Joseph Espy.

New Hope—A. Starling.

Oaky Grove-D. Whidden, and Wilson W. Kirkland.

Pleasant Plains-W. H. Granberry.

Pleasant Hill—Not represented.

Pilgrim's Rest-D. Williams, and T. S. Stapleton.

Pleasant Grove-William J. Davison, and J. E. Ward.

Sardis—John H. Davis, and G. A. Lewis.

Smyrna—J. F. Dawsey, and B. A. Forrister.

Shorterville-L. R. Sims, W. F. Mills, and August McAlister.

Tolbert-M. P. Shelley, and James Hodges.

Walnut Grove-A. J. Barber.

The body was then organized by electing her officers. Eld. L. R. Sims was re-elected Moderator, and D. Rogers, Clerk.

- 1. Called for Correspondence, and received: From the Bethel Association—Eld. J. S. Parker, and Dr. C. B. Homes. From the Newton Association—Elders P. M. Callaway, S. Hargrove, and D. Cumbie, and Brother John W. Simmons. From the Enfaula Association—Elder Joel Sims.
- 2. Called for *Petitionary Letters*, and received *Mt. Ariel*, the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship to her delegate, viz.: Seth Brigham.
 - 3. The following Committees were appointed:

On Preaching—W. H. Granberry, D. Williams, J. H. Davis, W. G. Davison, and J. E. Ward.

On Finance—F. M. Bunker, T. S. Stapleton, and John Melvin.

On Deceased Ministers and Deacons—J. T. Davis, A. B. Fowler, and B. A. Forrister.

On Nominations—A. J. Armstrong, W. F. Mills, and A. Starling.

On Documents-Moses Brackin, D. Whidden, and Geo. L. Fleming.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

On Missions-J. L. Wilson, Wiley Williams, and L. G. Clark.

On Sabbath Schools-A. L. Martin, J. W. Malone, and R. W. Irwin.

Brother Bunker was added to the Committee on Missions

in place of Brother Z. Knowles, deceased.

4. On motion of Brother Martin, the colored brethren present from the East Alabama Association were permited seats in the house where they could hear. The following were present and took seats, viz.: Jack Fortson, Tom Rollins, and Toney Lee.

5. RETURNED CORRESPONDENTS.

To the West Florida Association—D. Williams, and T. S. Stapleton.

To the Newton-A. L. Martin, W. A. Cumbie, and M.

Brackin.

To the Eufaula-J. Tyler, and A. B. Fowler.

To the Bethel, Georgia—L. R. Sims, D. Whidden, and W. A. Cumbie.

6. Adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Prayer by Brother A. L. Martin.

NIGHT SERVICES.

SEVEN O'CLOCK. Brother J. W. Malone preached upon Mat. 16:18.

9 o'clock saturday morning.

Brother Sims in the chair. Prayer by Brother D. Cumbie.

- 1. Read and corrected Minutes of yesterday.
- 2. Renewed the call for Correspondence, and received Brother Joseph Linn from the West Florida Association.
 - 3. Renewed the call for Petitionary Letters.
- 4. Called for the Report on Missions, which was read by Brother F. M. Bunker, and on motion was adopted, and is as follows:

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

Your Committee on Missions are at a loss to make a report on this subject—as we as an Association are doing little or nothing for Missionary purposes. May God open the hearts of all our people and give to them a ready and a willing mind to work in the cause of the Lord, for open and willing hearts will make the purses of brethren open wide—for willing hearts will devise liberal things for the Lord, and having once devised, will perform.

We would suggest, that we open correspondence with some Foreign Mission Board, and forward to them the funds now on hand for that purpose. And suggest, that the churches send up contributions for this purpose from year to year.

But while we would have all remember Foreign Missions, we would urgently recommend them to put in operation a plan of Associational Missions within our own bounds and sustain it liberally. And we would particularly urge the prosecution of the work among the colored people within our bounds. Respectfully submitted,

A. L. MARTIN, F. M. BUNKER.

5. Moved by Brother J. T. Davis, that a committee be appointed to open correspondence with some Foreign Mission Board, by which we may forward funds for Foreign Missions. The motion was adopted and the Moderator appointed the following

FOREIGN MISSION COMMITTEE—J. T. Davis, A. McAlister, and J. L. Wilson.

- 6. Deferred action on the suggestion in the report on Missions referring to the colored Mission until after the reading of the Executive Committee's report.
- 7. Brother A. B. Fowler read the report on deceased Ministers and Deacons, which was adopted, and is as follows:

REPORT ON DECEASED MINISTERS AND DEACONS.

It becomes our painful duty to record the death of our brother Z. Knowles since our last meeting in an associational capacity, who was an ordained Minister of the gospel. This brother has labored with us for years in the vineyard of our Master.

It has pleased the great head of the church to call him home. This brethren, is to remind us to be also ready. In view of the demise of one of the watchmen on the towers of Zion, we would suggest that we pray the Lord of the harvest to raise and send laborers into his vineyard.

We would also record the death of brother Thomas Matthis, who had used the office of Deacon well and had purchased to himself a good degree of faith.

While we mourn the loss of these brethren, we would bow in submission to the will of Him who doeth all things well.

Respectfully submitted, . A. B. FOWLER, Chm'n.

8. The report of the Executive Committee was called for and read by Bro. Davis, and pending its adoption, all the brethren who had preached for the colored people gave to the Association the amounts due them for that service. The report was adopted, and is as follows:

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Your Committee ask to make the following report as regards the colored Mission work within our bounds. From statements made to us by the several brethren who volunteered to labor with the colored people, we recommend that the several brethren be paid as follows:

A. L. Martin, \$12.00; L. R. Sims, \$5.00; M. Brackin, \$6.00; E. M.

Knowles, \$4.00; D. Whidden, \$4.00; W. A. Cumbie, \$2.00.

We furthermore recommend that the colored mission work be discontinued so far as the Association is concerned. Also that forty per cent of the several amounts pledged for the colored mission work at the last meeting of this body be collected.

If the assessment and collection of forty per cent should realize more money than may be necessary to defray the expenses of the colored mission work, then the excess shall be paid into the general treasury of the Association. Respectfully submitted,

JNO. T. DAVIS,
T. T. SMITH,
A. J. ARMSTRONG,
A. B. FOWLER,
B. A. FORRESTER.

9. The report on Nominations was read and adopted, and is as follows:

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS.

We, your Committee on Nominations ask to make the following report: E. M. Knowls to preach the Introductory Sermon at your next session. D. Whidden, Alternate. And A. L. Martin to write the circular letter. All of which is respectfully submitted,

A. J. ARMSTRONG, W. F. MILLS. A. STARLING.

- 10. It was announced that Bro. J. S. Parker from Georgia would preach at the stand at this hour.
- 11. Bro. Davis read the Treasurer's report, which was adopted, and is as follows:

TREASURER'S REPORT.

1875.	J	no. T.	Dav	is, Treasurer, in account with Judson Baptist	Association	
Oct. 4.	To ar	nount r	ecei	ived of Finance Committee, J. L. Williams, ex-Treasurer	. \$ 246 00 9 85	\$ 255 85
				CREDIT.		
,, 4. 1876. Sept. 30.	;; ;; ;;	nount p))))))	L R. Sims E. M. Knowles Clerk for services P. Belcher's Subs. to Baptist for Minutes Exchange on Check Clerk for Express charges On hand this day	25 00 20 00 2 70 41 00 25	\$ 255 85
1876. Sept. 30 Res		balanc	e on	hand	\$ 78 90 AVIS, Treas	surer.

- 12. On motion of Brother E. M. Knowles, adjourned to 2 o'clock.
 - 2 o'clock. L. R. Sims in the chair.
- 13. The report on Sabbath-schools was called for and read by Brother Cumbie, and adopted as follows:

REPORT ON SABBATH SCAOOLS.

The Committee on Sabbath-schools report that the letters from the churches, composing this body, show that some of the churches have flourishing Sabbath-schools.

While we are sorry to see so little interest manifested on the part of others upon a subject which your committee deem so highly important, we believe the Sabbath-school is a medium through which a knowledge of the Scriptures may be imparted to the rising generation. Therefore, we your committee, would recommend to the churches that compose the Judson Association, that for the future they be more diligent in establishing Sabbath-schools in her bounds. All of which is

Submitted,

W. A. CUMBIE, M. V. CAPPS, W. A. McCLENDON.

14. The following circular letter was read by Bro. S. J. Knowles, and adopted.

Circular Letter—By S. J. Knowles.

GROW IN GRACE.

Growth is a law in nature, we perceive it in the animal, moral, and spiritual kingdoms. By this principle the twig becomes a tree, the child a man. On the same principle bad men grow worse, their sinful practices are gradually changed into habits. "Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived." By this rule good men grow better. The path of the just is as a shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. Christians are exhorted to grow in grace and in moral excellency and beauty. As in the vegetable so in the spiritual kingdom; there is first the blade then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. We have in the kingdom of grace, as in the kingdom of nature, little children, young men, and fathers, and these expressions are descriptive of Christians in different stages of their increase and maturity.

In the young convert, the work of sanctification is only commenced. His principles, desires and aim's are holy. He is sincere in the work of his Lord, but he is far from being perfect, yet his faith groweth exceedingly, he abounds in hope by the power of the Holy Ghost. As he rises in piety, he sinks in humility. By degrees he acquires a more perfect control of his appetites and passions; yet he is not satisfied with his present religious attainments.

My brethren, it is not the growing, but the lukewarm Christian who says: "I am rich and increased in good, and have need of nothing. It

was not the contrite Publican, but the self-righteous Pharisee, who said: "God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are." No Christian can boast of his religious attainments—He who has reached the mountain's top in righteousness, has certainly missed the way to heaven. St. Paul, who was not only a growing, but a well-grown Christian, boasts not of his attainments. "Not (said he) as though I had already attained, either were already perfect"

My dear brethren. Let every Christian learn that if he is satisfied with his attainments, that, whatever else he may be, he is not a growing Christian. He must earnestly desire an increase of holiness. He perceives its beauties, its excellence, and its importance. He also feels that he can neither be happy nor useful without it. He says with Paul, "I press towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." That mark is perfection; and pressing was the earnest struggle of the Apostle to reach it.

My dear brethren, if we desire a growth in grace, our desire will most assuredly be granted. Our heavenly Father may deny his children many temporal blessings, but he has promised to withhold no good thing from them that walk uprightly. Brethren, if we seek it as silver and as hiden treasure, then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.

Let us pray with David—Lord lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us. My dear brethren, the growing Christian evinces a deep concern for the salvation of others. He is like the Man of Tarsus, who said: "My hearts desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved." Brethren, the good Lord has made ample provisions for our spiritual growth and sustainance.

15. Brother M. Brackin read the following report on Documents, which was adopted.

REPORT ON DOCUMENTS.

The Committee on Documents make the following report on examination of the documents coming up through the delegates from the churches:

While we are pleased to see the State of Zion is prosperous since the last Association, we believe that God has been with his servants, and has blest their labors. We find that the letter from Shorterville church contained a petition, asking your body to hold its next session with that church. Your committee recommend that your body meet with that church Oct. 1877.

Dear brethren, we believe that every brother composing this Association should take some religious organ.

MOSES BRACKIN, D. WHIDDEN, G. L. FLEMING. Committee.

16. It was moved and concurred in that the next session of

the Association meet with the church at Shorterville, on Friday before the first Sunday in October 1877.

- 17. It was announced that Brother Joel Sims, from the Eufaula Association, will preach at the stand at this hour.
- 18. The suggestion in the report on Missions was taken up. Brother A. L. Martin moved that the colored Mission and the destitution among the white population in our bounds be supplied with preaching, and pledges be taken for that purpose. The work among the colored people was a subject upon which the speakers entertained different opinions. Bro. Martin was of the opinion that the time has come when this work should be vigorously prosecuted, and that some plan be devised for them to have the gospel preached by white men in our midst; that if we neglect them, they will be cultivated by teachers objectionable to us; that they are an element in society, and if we neglect them, we will suffer for that neglect. Brother Davis was of opinion that a Missionary sent out by this body would meet with opposition from the leaders among the colored people; and that the work would not succeed. He endorsed the plan which Brother Callaway, from the Newton Association, stated he was practicing, which is to let the colored people know that he will preach for them and advise and counsel them when informed that it is their desire for him to do so.
- . 19. The following substitute for Brother Martin's motion was adopted:

That we publish in our minutes and inform the colored people that our ministers will preach for them, give them counsel and instruction, when it is their wish for us to do so.

20. The following preamble and resolution was adopted: Whereas, The people residing within the limits of this Association are to a very great extent destitute of religious literature, to-wit: Bibles, Testaments, Books, &c., and believing that a vast amount of good might be accomplished, by having an agent to canvass the territory embraced within the bounds of the Association, and offer for sale at publisher's prices, Bibles and other Baptist literature; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Judson Association loan without interest, and turn over all the funds in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, to an agent or Colporteur, who shall be selected by a committee to be appointed by the Moderator; and it shall be the duty of said agent and Colporteur to invest said money in Bibies and such Baptist religious literature, as he may deem

best for the good of the cause; and canvass the territory before named for the sale of same. The said money thus turned over and loaned without interest, shall remain the property of the Association, and revert back to the treasury whenever the Association shall see fit to discontinue the enterprise.

21. On motion, pledges were called for and the following Pledges for Missions in our bounds taken:

J. B. Mills\$	1 (00	Mt. Pleasant, B	5	00
D. Rogers	1 (00	Oaky Grove	2	00
B. Manley	1 (00	Pilgrim's Rest	5	00
J. W. Malone	1 (00	Judson	5	00
J. M. Ducker	Ę	50	A. L. Martin	5	00
Seth Brigham	1 (00	Columbia	10	00
W. F. Mills	5 (00	Fellowship	2	50
A. Harp	1 5	50	Harmony	1	00
L. R. Sims	5 (00	Hebron	5	00
A. Anderson	2 0	00	New Hope	3	00
Aris Armstrong	1 5	50	Pleasant Grove	2	00
F. M. Bunker	1 0	00	Shorterville	10	00
Mrs. S. C. Bunker	1 (00	Christian Grove	1	00
F. M Kirkland	2 (90	Mt. Ariel	1	00
M. W. Helton	2 (00	Jno. T. Davis	5	00
A. Armstrong	1 (00	A. B. Fowler	2	50
A. T. Lewis	1 (00	E M. Knowles	1	00
Augustus Anderson	1 (90	A. J. Armstrong	1	00
J. S. Barnett	5	50	A. S. Granger	1	60
D. Whidden	1 (00	W. G. Davison	1	00
D. Williams, paid	1 (00	M. C. Steverson		50
Joseph Espy	1 (90	R. A. Davis	1	00
Wm. McGee	5	50	Wm Glass		50
T. S. Stapleton	1 0	00	Daniel Killensworth		50
Sherod Belcher, paid	1 (00	W. H Granberry	1	(X)
Ebenezar Ch	1 (00			

PLEDGES REDEEMED.

A. Harp\$1 00	M. V. Capps\$1	00
R. M. Espy 40	J. T. Davis 2	
B A. Forrister 2 00	C. E. Davis	40
F. L. Hodges 1 20	J. T. Davis, Jr	20
J. L. Wilson 2 00	D. Rogers	40
S. A. Wilson 40	Lizzie Rogers	40
Lu Wilson 20	A. McCallister 2	00
Eliza Bunker 20	Sister L. McCallister	40
Mrs. S. C Buaker 40	Augustus Teague	20
A B. Fowler 1 9:	W. F Mills 2	00
Miss Jennie Fowler 20	W. A. McLendon	49
T. Fowler 20	David Lock	40
W. W Nobles 2 00	A. L. Martin 2	60
J. W Malone 2 0	Daniel Williams, (cash) 1	00

A J. Armstrong 40	Fellowship 2 00
E. M. Knowles 1 00	Mt. Pleasant, Dale 2 00
Pleasant Grove 2 00	New Hope 1 00
Shorterville 4 00	
	\$38 40
J. M. Sneed\$1 00	Mrs Manly\$1 00
Mrs. J. T. Davis 1 00	Mrs. Mary J Davis 1 00
Mrs. W. C. Bethune 1 00	George P. Pitman 5 00
Mrs. Collins 1 00	W. W. Nobles 2 00
	\$122 00

- 22 Moved by Brother Fowler that the collection of Sabbath be divided between the Home and Foreign Missions and Ministers' fund.
 - 23 Read and adopted the

FINANCE REPORT.

We, your Committee, would beg leave to make the following report, to-wit:

Тов	moun	t receiv	ed for	minutes\$46 45	
4.4	44	6.6		Associational purposes 21 30	
66	44	+4	.•	Foreign Missions 7 25	,
4.4	46	-4	**	Aged and infirm ministers 20 20	
6.6	44	44	from	n pledges redeemed	
				\$132.20	

Respectfully submitted,

F. M. BUNKER, T. S. STAPLETON. JOHN MELVIN.

- 24 On motion, a collection was taken up among the delegates for our aged brethren, Elder D. Cumbie and Elder Joel Sims. Each received \$4 60.
 - 25 The following resolutions adopted:

We thank the members of Pleasant Grove, and the vicinity, for their hospitality during the session of this body.

Resolved, That the Treasurer be instructed to pay the Clerk \$25 00 for his services.

- 26 Agreed to have the Articles of Faith published in these minutes.
- 27 Moved and carried that the churches get minutes in proportion to the money they send for that purpose.
 - 28 The Committee on Preaching made the following

ANOUNCEMENTS.

- E. M. Knowles to preach to-night; P. M. Callaway to preach at 11 o'clock, Sabbath; L. R. Sims to preach at 2 o'clock, Sabbath.
 - 29 On motion, adjourned to 9 o'clock, Sabbath morning. Prayer by Brother P. M. Callaway.

SABBATH MORNING, 9 o'clock.

- L. R. Sims in the chair. Prayer by Brother Davis.
- 1. The Committee appointed to engage the services of a colporteur, made a verbal report that they had selected Brother L. R. Sims. Report adopted.
- 2. Moved and adopted that the mission work be turned over to the Executive Committee.
- 3. On motion of Brother Knowles the 27th day of December next was set apart as a day of fasting and prayer for the out-pouring of God's spirit.

Pending the adoption of the above, the Moderator remarked that he was in favor of Christians fasting, but not publicly. When in trouble they should fast and pray in secret.

The business being finished, it was moved that we repair to the stand, and adjourn after the 11 o'clock services.

SABBATH, 11 O'CLOCK.

A large and orderly congregation assembled at the stand and listened to an interesting sermon delivered by Brother P. M. Callaway upon 2 Kings 5:7. The sermon was earnest, and the services solemn and impressive. At the close of the services, the parting hand was taken, and prayer offered by Brother Joel Sims.

Sabbath collection at the stand, \$10 95.

Adjourned to meet with the Shorterville Church, Friday before the first Sabbath in October, 1877.

DAVID ROGERS, Clerk. L. R. SIMS, Moderator.

David Rogers, Baker's Hill.

A. L. Martin, Abbeville.

D. Whidden,

S. J. Knowles,

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

L. R. Sims, Shorterville.
E. M. Knowles, Columbia.
Wm. A. Cumbie, Ozark.
R. C. Kirkland, Columbia.
B. Herendon, Shorterville.
R. A. Crawford, Gordon.
J. Tyler, Kings.
T. S. Scott, Columbia.
J. W. Malone, Hilliardville.

rendon, Shorterville.

Crawford, Gordon.

er, Kings.

Scott, Columbia.

T. N. Knowles, "
M. Brackin, Head Land.
J. C. Skipper, Dothan.
Wm. Brunar, Columbia.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

churches.	Baptized	Rec'd by Letter	Restored	Dis by Letter	Excluded	Dead	Total	For Minutes		For Associational	Domestic Mis'ns	Foreign Missions	Infirm Ministers' Fund	DAY	'8 OF ME	BTING.
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