

MINUTES

OF THE
BAPTIST MISCELLANEOUS SOCIETY

Twenty-Second Annual Session

J. C. Beckwith
OF THE

Warrior River Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

White Plain Baptist Church,

BROUNT CO., ALA.

October 8th, 9th and 11th, 1880.

OFFICERS.

Eld. JAMES FIELDS, Moderator, Brooksville, Blount, Co., Ala.
W. Y. ADAMS, Clerk, Gum Spring, " " "
J. D. HENDRICKS, Treasurer, Wooten, " " "

SELMA:

ALABAMA BAPTIST PRINT,
1880.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2011 with funding from
LYRASIS Members and Sloan Foundation

MINUTES.

WHITE PLAINS BAPTIST CHURCH, }
Blount County, Ala., Oct. 8th, 1880. }

The Warrior River Baptist Association met with the church above named at 11 o'clock a. m.

The introductory sermon was preached by Eld. H. W. Watson, from John 6:63. After recess, met in the house. Called Eld. V. H. Dean to the chair. Read letters from churches, and enrolled names of messengers. Petitionary letters from Pine Bluff, Pleasant Grove and Bethel churches were received, and messengers invited to seats.

The body was permanently organized by electing Eld. James Fields Moderator, W. Y. Adams, Clerk, and John D. Hendricks, Treasurer.

Welcomed Elders J. H. Hendon and M. M. Wood, correspondents from Canaan Association, Bro J. C. Orr from Muscle and Elds. C. A. Burns, A. Adams, D. L. James and Wm. Whaley from Sulphur Springs. Called and corrected roll.

Appointed committees as follows: On Devotion—J. D. Hendricks, E. K. Head, W. H. Lyons and deacons of White Plain Church; on Missions—H. W. Watson, A. Dorman and W. M. Cole; on Temperance—H. C. Reed, W. J. Dunn and P. J. Ellis; on Sabbath Schools; V. H. Dean, W. L. Casey and William Teague; on State of Religion—P. M. Musgrove, A. Dorman and A. R. Tennyson; on Finance—W. M. Cole and H. W. Head; on Documents—A. Dorman, David Hyatt and F. K. McDonald; on Deceased Ministers and Deacons—W. Y. Adams, W. M. Chamble and W. H. Lyons; on Education—P. M. Musgrove, H. W. Watson and V. H. Dean.

Union meeting of 1st District, was appointed to meet with Mt Tabor church, Friday before 5th Sabbath in July, 1881, and of the 2nd, with Liberty church Friday before 5th Sabbath in July, 1881, Eld. A. Dorman to preach the introductory sermon and Eld. W. Teague alternate.

Appointed correspondents as follows: to Sulphur Springs, at Arkadelphia—P. J. Ellis, W. Teague and John D. Hendricks; Mt. Carmel—W. L. Casey, W. H. Lyons and James Long; Canaan, near Jonesborough, Friday before 1st Sabbath in Sept., 1881—W. Y. Adams, P. J. Ellis, P. M. Musgrove and W. M. Chamblee; Muscle

Shoals, 4 miles east of Hartsell, Friday before the 1st Sabbath in October, 1881—P. M. Musgrove, H. W. Watson, H. C. Reed and R. M. Holmes; Cherokee, near Gaylesville, Mill Creek Church—James Fields, W. L. Casey, A. Dorman, W. L. Ellison and, A. F. Whitley; Baptist State Convention—H. W. Watson, P. M. Musgrove, W. Y. Adams and J. D. Hendricks.

The Claims of the State Mission Board were represented by Bro. J. H. Hendon, of Birmingham. On motion, claims of said Board, were made special order for Saturday, 1 o'clock p. m. The following was adopted:

Resolved, That this body most heartily endorses the action of the Baptist State Convention, concerning the desecration of the Sabbath, at its late session at Greenville, Butler county, Alabama.

On motion adjourned to meet Saturday, 9 o'clock a. m. Prayer by Rev. M. M. Wood.

Saturday morning met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by the Moderator. Read and adopted report on Temperance. (See Appendix A.) Request of American Baptist Publication Society in regard to the "Society Leaflet," granted. Recess for preaching. Preaching by Bro. J. H. Hendon, from John 15:4-5. Resumed business 1 o'clock p. m. Claims of "State Mission Board" presented and objects set forth by Bros. Hendon, Wood, Musgrove, Dean, Watson, Reed and others. Adopted report on Missions (B). Received and adopted report on Finance, (C.) Reports on State of Religion (D) and on deceased Ministers and Deacons (E), read and adopted. Adjourned to meet Monday morning 9 o'clock.

SUNDAY MORNING 9 O'CLOCK.

Sabbath School lecture, by Bros. H. W. Watson and M. M. Wood. Preaching 11 o'clock by P. M. Musgrove, from Mathew 28:19-20. Preaching 3 o'clock p. m. by J. H. Hendon, from Exodus 22:29. The meeting was well attended and good impressions seemed to be the result of the several efforts.

Monday morning, met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by H. W. Watson. Read and adopted circular.

Adopted reports on Sabbath Schools (F), on Documents (G), and on Education (H). Speeches were made upon the several reports. Speakers limited to 5 minutes. Report of Committee on aged and infirm ministers received and adopted.

We your committee appointed at the last session of your body to

look after the wants of aged and infirm ministers in your bounds report, That owing to the death of our beloved Bro. H. H. Mitchell, Chairman of Committee, but little has been done. We received at the close of our last session of this body nine dollars (\$9.00) which we divided between J. M. Thomas and O. Lawrance.

Respectfully Submitted,

W. L. ELLISON, Chm'n.

The amount of cash contributed and pledges made for the various objects during the session can be seen by referring to report on Finance.

John D. Hendricks Chairman of Executive Committee, reported, That nothing had been done in mission work during the past associational year under the committee's directions. Elected James Fields to preach Introductory Sermon; H. W. Watson, Missionary Sermon, and V. H. Dean to write circular letter. Appointed next session of Association to meet with Pine Bluff Church, 14 miles south of Blountsville, Friday, before 2nd Sunday in Oct., 1881. Appointed John D. Hendricks, W. L. Ellison and W. H. Lyons a committee to look after necessities of aged and infirm ministers in our bounds, ordered that the "constitution" and "rules of order" be spread upon the minutes.

Executive Committee—John D. Hendricks, A. J. Phillips, E. K. Head, W. H. Musgrove, T. K. McDonald and W. M. Cole. The committee is directed to confer and cooperate with the State Mission Board, in missionary work. W. L. Ellison, T. K. McDonald and D. Hyatt were appointed a committee to give an answer, at next session of this body, to query sent by Mt. Babor church viz: Is it scriptural for us to receive without rebaptism, members from Baptist churches that will not receive our members without rebaptism? Clerk was directed to have five hundred copies (500) of these minutes printed.

Resolved, That we would recommend "The Alabama Baptist", "The Baptist" and "Kind Words" to our brethren.

Resolved, That we return our thanks to God for his mercies to us during the past year, and that he has put it into the hearts of our brethren and friends of White Plains church and vicinity, to so hospitably entertain us during the present session.

Adjourned to meet at time and place above named.

W. Y. ADAMS, Clerk.

E. D. JAMES FIELDS, Moderator

APPENDICES.

TEMPERANCE (A.)—Your committee on temperance beg leave to report, That we find the cause of temperance gaining ground in many of our churches. Many of our brethren are so enthusiastic on the subject, that they desire the immediate enforcement of the local option law. They would keep the ball in motion until there be not a grogshop, or dram drinker in the bounds of our association. Let us see to it that our legislative bodies are composed of men that are great advocates of temperance.

Respectfully submitted,

H. C. Reed, Chm'n.

MISSIONS (B.)—Your committee on missions would report, that the letters from the churches do not report any amount contributed to aid in the spread of the gospel at home or abroad. The command of Christ is as binding *now* as *when* he uttered it; yet this body fails to respond. Your committee earnestly calls for your prayers and contributions in this behalf. Our Baptist State Convention at its last session adopted and urged a plan for state mission work, and calls for a certain amount from each association in the State having representation in that body. We heartily concur in the action of *that* body, and urge the churches composing *this* body to raise the small amount asked of them by the Convention. We name Blountsville and Bangor, as points that need bids to enable the friends at said points to have regular preaching. They are both centers of influence. We should hold them under our control. Another point is Cullman. The few Baptist, at this point are struggling to gain a foot hold, and call for our aid.

Respectfully submitted,

H. W. WATSON, Chm'n.

John D. Hendricks in account as Treasurer :

To cash received for minutes	\$28 05
To " " " Bro. Smith, theologian at Howard College from Canaan Association	9 25
To cash received for aid to Cullman	1 85
To " " " O. Lawrence	6 50
Cr.	
By cash paid to W. Y. Adams, Clerk	\$28 05
By " " " J. H. Hendon, for Bro. Smith	9 25
By " " " P. M. Mnsgrrove for Cullman aid	1 85
Amount of pledges for Missionary support	\$106 25
For Bro. Smith's support	5 00
For aid to Cullman church house	8 00
Total amount cash and pledges (\$45.65) (\$119.25)	\$164 90

(Pledges for the several objects, can be paid to John D. Hendricks, who is both Chairman of the Executive Committee and Treasurer of the Association, and he will forward to proper places. CLERK.)

FINANCE REPORT (C.)

	MISSION PLEDGES.	MINUTE FUNDS.		MISSION P. EDGES.	MINUTE FUNDS.
1ST. DISTRICT.			Clear Spring		
Mt. Labor	\$10 00	\$ 1 50	Blue Spring		\$ 1 00
White Plains . . .	6 25	1 50	Harmony	\$ 5 00	1 85
Cullman	10 00	50	Bristoes Creek		
Roswell Creek . . .	10 00	1 90	Friendship		
Blountsville			Liberty	5 00	2 00
Austin Creek	5 00	1 20	Mt. Pleasant	5 00	1 00
Gum Spring			Walnut Grove	5 00	1 60
Flint Creek	5 00	1 50	Mt. Carmel	5 00	80
Antioch	10 00	2 00	Mt. Vernon	5 00	2 00
2ND. DISTRICT.			Pine Bluff	5 00	1 45
Rock Spring	5 00	1 20	Pleasant Grove		1 50
Macedonia	5 00	1 50	Bethel	5 00	90
Mt. High		1 15			
Carried forward	\$66 25	\$13 95	Brought forward	\$ 40 00	14 10
				66 25	13 95
			Total	\$ 106 25	28 05
				W. M. COLE, Chm'n.	

STATE OF RELIGION (D.)—Your committee on state of religion beg leave to report, that from letters of the churches, it appears that the cause of our Savior is more prosperous than, the year preceding. Several churches have enjoyed revivals. Three new churches have been added to our body. Let us strive to do more for our Master the incoming year.

Respectfully submitted,

P. M. MUSGROVE, Chm'n.

DECEASED MINISTERS AND DEACONS (E.)—Your committee offer the following report: Eld. J. M. Thomas, after a long and arduous ser vice in the cause of the blessed Redeemer, fell asleep in the arms of Jesus Sept. 23d, 1879. For several years before his death, he had labored in this and some of the adjacent associations. He confined his labors chiefly among the young, with whom he was very popular. They always hailed old "Uncle Thomas" with joy.

Eld. E. P. Mitchell died at his home Oct., 1879. He had been about 6½ years in the ministry, but most of the time had been laboring under the fell disease of which he died. He was a zealous minister, laboring to adapt the gospel to the capacity of the weak.

Deacon H. H. Mitchell departed for the realms of the blest, 1880. He was a faithful deacon, using the office well.

Deacon F. M. Hutley died Feb., 1880. He, too, used the office well, purchasing thereby a good degree of boldness in the gospel.

Deacon N. T. Morgan died Aug. 4th, 1880. He had long been a

member of this body, ever filling his place in the house of God, and ready for every good work and word. We mourn over the loss of these brethren and would extend our sympathy and prayers in the behalf of their friends.

Brethren, let us who are left be more earnest, that we, too, may be ready when the Master calleth.

We offer the following:

Resolved, That we will retain the memory of the virtues of our brethren, whose loss we deplore, and bury their faults.

Resolved, That a copy of this report be presented to the friends of our departed brethren, as a testimony of our esteem.

W. Y. ADAMS,	} Com.
W. H. LYONS,	
W. M. CHAMBLEE,	

SABBATH SCHOOLS (F.)—Your committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to report, that from the reading of the letters from the churches, it seems that little is being done in this department of Christian labor, yet we acknowledge our duty to give to the young instruction in the principles of our religion; and where can we more effectually do this great work than in Sabbath Schools?

Who can more legibly impress on the mind of the child the necessity and duty of repentance, faith and Christian growth, next to the conscientious parent, than the faithful, earnest Sabbath School teacher? Brethren, let it be our motto and aim to have a Sabbath School in every church, where not only the young but the middle aged and the old shall meet every Sabbath day and study God's eternal word, as revealed in the Scriptures, that we may be more efficient in winning souls to Christ. In these schools, impressions are made that will spring into eternal life; and this of itself, when we see our children growing up into faithful and earnest Christians, will be a reward sufficient to repay us for all the sacrifices that we may make to gain this great end. We recommend that ministers of this association lecture in behalf of Sabbath schools in their respective churches, and that they labor to establish schools in the same.

Respectfully submitted,

V. H. DEAN, Chm'n,

DOCUMENTS (G.)—Your committee on documents would report, that Pine Bluff church asks for the next session of this body. We find also a query from Mt. Tabor church, viz: "Is it scriptural for us to receive, without rebaptism, members from baptist churches that will not receive our members without rebaptism."

Respectfully submitted,

A. DORMAN, Chm'n.

EDUCATION (H.)—Your committee on education beg leave to report, that we cannot too strongly urge upon our people the cause of education. The Baptists in every period of their existence, since the days of John the Baptist, have been firm advocates and staunch supporters of education. Political and religious liberty, have been their motto; and

these cannot be maintained unless the masses are kept educated. This great truth urges them to take the front rank in the cause of education. and most especially, do we urge the necessity of ministerial education. The churches are called upon now more than ever, to look about among themselves for young men, who have gifts suitable for the ministry, and see to it, that they are educated and prepared for the most noble calling known to the world. In this way, and this alone, can we, as Christians, raise the standard of our Master to occupy the position to which it is justly entitled. May the good Lord hasten the time when our ministers and people shall place the proper estimate upon the importance of education, and especially ministerial education.

Respectfully submitted,

P. M. MUSGROVE, Chmn'n.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

NAMES.	POST OFFICE.	CGUNTY.
James Fields,	Brooksville,	Blount County.
J. M. Steward,	Summit,	"
W. C. Reed,	"	"
P. R. Tennyson,	"	"
V. H. Dean,	Walnut Grove,	Etowah County.
G. B. Wade,	" "	"
P. M. Musgrove,	Cullman,	Cullman County.
J. Y. Bain,	Guntersville,	Marshall "
A. Dorman,	Balm,	Blount "
Wm. Teague,	Summit,	" "
J. T. Evans,	Sidney,	Marshall County.
H. M. Watson,	"	"

LICENTIATES.

W. M. Cole,	Little Warrior,	Blount County.
J. C. Buckner,	Murphree's Valley,	"
John Cox,	Blount Springs,	"
W. Y. Adams,	Gum Spring,	"
W. H. Musgrove,	"	"
Em. Bowerman,	"	"

(Clerks of Churches in letters to the Association, will please give names of ministers and licentiates
CLERK.)

CONSTITUTION.

Delegates from seventeen churches met at Mt. Tabor church for the purpose of organizing a new Association, and agree to keep the rules and order according to the following plan:

1. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in the union, and shall be known by the name of THE WARRIOR RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

2. Each church shall send a letter to the Association by their delegates, giving the number baptized, received and dismissed by letter, excluded, restored and died during the Associational year, total number in fellowship, time of monthly meeting and contributions for minutes and other purposes.

3. This Association shall be considered merely an advisory council, claiming no authority over the rights and privileges of individual churches. It is agreed, however, that the Association shall have the right to withdraw fellowship from any church that departs from the faith and order of the Gospel.

4. Each church shall be entitled to send three delegates to the Association, and one additional delegate for every twenty-five (25) after the first fifty (50); and should any church fail to represent herself, she shall state the reason in her letter to the next meeting of the Association.

5. Any Baptist church may be admitted into this Association by sending a petitionary letter and delegates. If, upon examination, she is found orthodox and orderly, the Moderator shall give her delegates the right hand of fellowship.

6. This Association shall elect annually a Moderator and Clerk from her delegates. The Moderator shall preside over her deliberations, preserve order and see that the rules of decorum are faithfully observed by the members, decide all questions of order without debate, subject to an appeal to the Association, and give the casting vote when the Association is equally divided. The Clerk shall take correct minutes of the proceedings of the Association, superintend their publication, and distribute them among the churches.

7. This Association shall answer or dispose of all queries sent to the Association by the churches, or proposed by any member of the Association, provided such queries shall be expressed in their letters or presented to the Association in writing.

8. This Association may adopt some plan for raising funds by voluntary contributions, to defray the expenses of the Association, for supplying the destitute churches and settlements in her bounds with the preaching of the Gospel, and for any other purpose which she may deem proper, leaving every church member free to contribute as he shall purpose in his heart. All funds thus raised shall be placed in the hands of a Treasurer, who shall be accountable to the Association, and shall pay it out as the Association may direct.

9. This Association adopts the rules of decorum and declaration of faith published in the minutes of the Muscle Shoals Association in 1853.

10. All questions shall be decided by a majority vote, except the case mentioned in another section of this constitution.

11. This Association shall elect annually one of her ministers to preach an introductory sermon, and one to preach on missions, and one of her members to write a circular letter for the next session of the Association.

12. The minutes shall be read, approved, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk, before the Association adjourns.

13. This constitution may be altered or amended by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present, provided the alteration or amendment has been proposed at a previous annual meeting of the Association.

The minute book is found to be correct by the Annual Conference

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.
2. But one person shall speak at a time, and he shall arise and address the Moderator and they shall not proceed until his name is called by the officer. If more than one member shall rise to speak at the same time, the Moderator shall determine who shall speak first.
3. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject under discussion or use words of personal reflection.
4. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association. A mover may not modify or withdraw his own motion, after discussion, if any member object, without a formal vote; nor may a mover accept an amendment to his proposition, after discussion, without its being passed by vote, if any member object. A mover shall reduce his proposition to writing at the request of the Moderator or any member.
5. When a motion has been regularly announced by the Moderator, no other motion shall be received, except to amend, to substitute, or lay upon the table definitely or indefinitely. But a motion for adjournment shall always be in order, except when a member is speaking or the house voting.
6. When a question has been taken up, after allowing time for the debate, the Moderator shall put the question to the vote of the Association, first in the affirmative and then in the negative. Those voting in the affirmative shall say *aye*; those in the negative, *nay*. If the decision be doubtful, the members voting in the affirmative shall first rise and stand to be counted, then those in the negative. The decision thus made shall be immediately announced by the Moderator.
7. No member shall absent himself without permission from the Moderator.
8. No member shall speak more than twice upon the same subject without the consent of the Moderator, unless it be to correct, when misunderstood.
9. The Moderator shall be allowed to speak as other members, provided he appoint some member to fill the chair while speaking.
10. These rules may be amended at any meeting of the Association, by vote of two-thirds of the members present.

