



MINUTES
OF THE
EIGHTH SESSION
OF THE
ALACHUA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,
HELD AT
NEW HOPE CHURCH,
MARION COUNTY, EAST FLORIDA,
On the 21st & 23rd of October,
1854.

OCALA, FLORIDA:

PRINTED BY WM. H. ROYAL,
At the Office of "The Southern Sun."
1854.

MINUTES.

The Associational services were introduced by brother **Shepherd Finckh**, who addressed the audience from 2nd Corinthians, 4th chap. and 17th verse; "For our light afflictions which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

And after refreshments the delegates convened in the house, and the Association was called to order, by Elder **William Royall**.

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

The Association was organized by electing Elder **Daniel Edwards**, Moderator, and **J. M. Hayman**, Clerk. Called for petitionary letters; whereupon Volusia Church, of Orange County, Midway Church, of Columbia county, Ameth Church of Columbia county, The Church at Tampa, of Hillsborough county, and the Church Pease Creek, and Tenotasassa, of Hillsborough county, presented their letters for admittance, and being found orthodox, they were received and the right hand of fellowship given to their delegates, by the Moderator.

The Moderator appointed a Committee on preaching—brethren **A. Gibson**, **W. B. Smith**, and **J. Curry**. Appointed a committee on finance brethren **S. T. Stanaland**, **R. P. Lewis**, and **J. H. Cosby**.

Called for correspondence, whereupon brother **W. H. Scruggs**, from the Florida Association, as one of their Messengers to this body, presented himself, unto whom the right hand of fellowship was extended by the Moderator.

The Moderator then appointed a committee on correspondence, brethren **J. H. Breaker**, **W. Royall** and **M. N. Strickland**.

Invited visiting brethren to seats with us. The Moderator appointed a committee to examine the Circular and other letters, brethren **S. French**, **W. D. Branch** and **A. Gibson**.

Called for and read the circular, which was referred to committee on letters.

On motion adjourned till Monday morning half past 9 o'clock. Prayed by brother **Breaker**.

SUNDAY.—The stand was occupied in the forenoon by Elder **C. B. Jones** who delivered quite an interesting discourse on the subject of Missions. After which a public collection was taken for the support of missions within the bounds of this association. And in the afternoon Elder **J. H. Breaker** interested the large and intelligent audience with an impressive discourse, and we hope will good effect.

MONDAY MORNING.—Met pursuant to adjournment—prayer by brother **Scruggs**—read and approved the minutes of Saturday. Then called the roll. Inasmuch as it was neglected on Saturday, went into the election of a Treasurer, which resulted in the choice of brother **A. Geiger**.

Appointed Elder **S. French** to write our next Circular; Elder **M. N. Strickland**, his alternate.

Elder **D. Edwards** was appointed to preach the next Introductory Sermon, and Elder **C. B. Jones**, alternate. Elder **Wm. Johnson** to preach our next Missionary Sermon, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon on Sabbath. Elder **J. H. Breaker**, his alternate.

Received from J. W. Jeffers two dollars for Missions, in this Association.
On motion, the Moderator appointed an Executive Committee, consisting of brethren C. B. Jones, G. U. Ellis, W. D. Branch; and it being suggested, the Moderator was added, and to exclude the Treasurer, A. Geiger.

Called for Report of Committee on Letters—when the Circular was submitted, read, and adopted.

Called for Report of Committee on Constitution and By-Laws—which was read, and referred to a Committee for amendments, consisting of brothers Jones, Edgall and French.

The Committee on Letters recommended the consideration of the Queries sent up from Salem Church, viz: 1st. "Can we, as Baptists, consistently receive persons into our Churches without baptizing them, who have been immersed in Pedo-Baptist Churches?" 2nd. "Can we, consistently as Baptists, invite to the Lord's Table, at communion services, members of Pedo-Baptist Churches, who have been immersed?"

To the first query this Association answers: We cannot recommend to receive into our Churches, members of Pedo-Baptist Churches, who have been immersed, without baptizing them. And to the second query, this Association answers NO!

Called for Report of Committee on Correspondence, which was read and adopted.

On motion the following named brethren were appointed as delegates to meet and co-operate with the brethren of the Florida Association, in forming a State Convention, viz: Elders Wm Royall, D. Edwards, J. H. Breaker, Wm. Connell, J. M. Hayman, with brother Simeon Sheffield.

Called for Report of Committee on Constitution and By-Laws, who reported the same amended, which was adopted. See Appendix A & B.

Read and adopted order of business to be a standing rule to be observed by this Association! See Appendix B.

On motion, be it unanimously Resolved, That the Churches of this Association, and the members generally, be requested to discountenance every thing which may cause the enemies of God to speak reproachfully.

Called for Report of Committee of Finance. See Appendix C.

The Association then made choice of Elder C. B. Jones, as corresponding Secretary.

On motion, ordered one thousand copies of these Minutes printed.

Appointed a Union Meeting to be held with the New River Church, of Columbia county, to commence on Friday before the fifth Sabbath in December next. Also, one to be held with the Eden Church of Hernando at the same time.

Called for Report of Executive Committee, which was read and received, and all that requires to be noticed at present, is the appointment of the Missions within the bounds of this Association, which are as follows, namely: Elders S. T. Stanaland, to labor in the northern and eastern portion, J. M. Hayman, in the south, and W. Connell, in Levy county.

Inasmuch as brother J. A. Lewis has done very efficient service amongst his churches and brethren at home, unanimously resolved that he be tendered thirty-five dollars by the Executive Committee.

On motion agreed to pay the Clerk twenty dollars for his services as Clerk during this session.

On motion the Moderator returned thanks to the brethren and friends in this vicinity for their hospitality to us during this session.

On motion adjourned to meet with Pleasant Grove Church, of Alachua county, near Little Orange Lake, on Saturday before the fourth Sabbath in October, A. D. 1855. Prayer by Elder Jones.

DANIEL EDWARDE, Moderator.

J. M. HAYMAN, Clerk.

Circular Letter.

DEAR BROTHERS.—The subject upon which we purpose addressing you at this time, is one of a nature eminently practical.

The proper religious training of youth should always claim the earnest attention of the Churches of Christ. And God has, in his infinite wisdom, seen fit to set apart one day in seven, for the celebration of his worship, and the improvement of the mind and heart in those doctrines taught in divine Revelation, and those graces therein set forth, as objects, the attainment of which is worthy of diligent study and earnest pursuit. In the arrangements of Providence and Grace, as in nature, nothing is accomplished without great labor. For while it is true, on the one hand, that grace and virtue may in a short period of time, adorn a character, hitherto untutored and unchristianized—as happens in the case of many pious heathen—it is on the other hand equally true, that stability in virtue, maturity in christian judgment, ripeness in christian grace, and preparation for extensive usefulness, are the results only of long and familiar acquaintance with, and early enlightenment in christian doctrine. Paul had the greater confidence in Timothy, when he called to remembrance the thorough religious training he had received, and the examples of faith in his mother and grandmother, which he had doubtless witnessed from the period of early childhood. Brilliant instances of piety and devotion to the cause of Christ, may be found, unconnected with a long course of previous religious instruction. These, however, are but apparently exceptions to the general rule. Such persons will perhaps be proved, when brought to the test, to be lacking symmetry, and devoid of some of the sublimest traits of christian character. In a word, in order to a consistent, well balanced, proportionately exercised and harmoniously developed faith, there must be a thorough, early training and instruction in divine truth. Let none flatter himself that he can, without imperiling the religious hopes and standing of his offspring, neglect to impart religious teaching to their youthful minds, on the Sabbath, and all other suitable occasions. Now the point at which we aim is to impress upon you the importance of the Sabbath School. And brethren of the Alachua Association, let us briefly bring to your attention the peculiar propriety of our cherishing this divine instrumentality.

First—The sparseness of our population renders it impossible for us to enjoy, except in a very limited degree, the labors of a regular ministry. Thirty Churches, feeble and languishing at best, scattered over a scope of country, such as in older States is often occupied by hundreds, afford not that field for ministerial labor, which offers inducement for a sufficient number of able ministers of the New Testament, as such, to locate in charge of them. Hence we are dependent upon such occasional ministrations as God in his abundant mercy sees fit to furnish us with. This state of things though lamentable, and forbidding the indulgence of the hope of great and immediate success, may still be relieved, if our membership could properly appreciate their individual responsibilities to God and their families. Although the preaching of the word is the great means of reforming the world, yet it is our happy privilege to inform you, that in its absence, there are others which to some extent may be substituted for it. God expects every man to do his duty in the warfare with Satan. And if every one among us was suitably impressed upon this point, measures would be taken for removing, as far as possible, the evils resulting from our destitution: and among the most prominent of these is the instrumentality of the Sabbath School.

Second: On account of the above, and the fact that our country is a new and inviting one, there is, even on the part of stable christians, a constant

promises to depart from the living God. By what worldly-mindedness and forgetfulness of God is not our conduct in too many instances characterized? And let us remember that this infection. It spreads like bar own fires in spring-time, from tract to tract, until our children have caught the spirit and smothered the infection in the poisoned breeze. Now it is well for us to consider whether there be an antidote, and how, and when this antidote may best effectually be applied. And what more rational conclusion can we arrive at than that the will influence must be opposed by good? That the Bible must be set up against the teachings of manhood? Or, what more rational than that the contest with darkness should begin so soon as it casts its death-shades across the naturally depraved and wicked heart? The period of Youth, be assured, is the one, the best one, almost the only one, in which this contest can be begun with a prospect of its successful termination in the triumph and dominion of Light. Let but this season be neglected, and the cares of this world and the absorbing pursuit of usummon, like rank weeds around the threshold will stiffen and choke up the poisoned mind, and except by the special interposition of divine grace, forever bar the entrance of the life-giving word.

Thirdly. Nor would the advantages resulting be confined to the youth of the congregations. It would engender in the minds of the brethren and sisters, habits of religious study and awaken a spirit of inquiry, of which strangers to this institution have no conception. The reflex influence upon the instructors and all adults interested in this matter is incalculable. It arouses a deeper interest in divine truth; it fixes scripture doctrine; it swakens sympathies for the poor world, hitherto dormant, and, in the absence of other regular occasions of meeting, furnishes one which we contemplate with pleasure during the preceding week.

But, as in the short space allotted to us, it is impossible to do more than hint at some of the prominent advantages of this institution, we leave the matter for your consideration, with one suggestion, viz: in reference to the manner in which the Sabbath school should be conducted.

The books necessary are few. The Bible alone may be used to great advantage, and, if judiciously taught, may form, without the aid of other religious works, the basis of all instruction. But such is the cheapness and ease of procuring Sabbath School Libraries that no school need be long without a plentiful supply of works adapted to all capacities.

Let but one energetic, devoted man of God in each Church, come out and take a decided stand upon this subject, and move forward, impelled by love to the cause of Christ, and desire to train up these young ones to take the place of those who are fast falling at our side—our fathers and brothers and the work is done. Discouragements must be expected; the crown of even the Brethren who rest upon us; but knowing, as we do, that the Church cannot without a struggle, allow these little ones to fall the ranks of infidelity, but needs them all to take our places when we are gone; let discouragements come, let browns be laid upon us; in this will we be confident, that because the work is of the Lord, greater is he that is with us, than they who are against and we need apprehend no failure. Let us go forth Brethren in this noble cause, strong in the Lord and in the power of his might.

But, as in the short space allotted to us, it is impossible to do more than hint at some of the prominent advantages of this institution, we leave the matter for your consideration, with one suggestion, viz: in reference to the manner in which the Sabbath school should be conducted.

ad to abirong of institution
APPENDIX (A) of all of llas ll 1VZ
undernd ad to institution ad to abirong of institution ad to abirong of institution
Constitution of the Alachua Baptist Association.

Article I. This Body shall be denominated the Alachua Baptist Association.

Article II. It shall be composed of such Churches as hold the doctrines of Human Depravity; The Atonement of Christ; Election to Eternal Life; Regeneration and Perseverance of the Saints; Baptism by Immersion of the person in water, administered to none but professed believers, and the Lord's Supper intended for those only who have been regularly admitted into the Visible Church.

III. We take the only Living and true God, in three Persons, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, to be our God.

IV. We take the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, to be the only rule of Faith and Practice, both in the concerns of Religion, and the general affairs of life, and particularly for transacting the affairs of our Churches.

V. We take the Church of Christ to be a congregation of faithful persons, who live in fellowship, and have given themselves to the Lord and to one-another, in cordial agreement to observe Holy discipline, in conformity with the requirements of the Scriptures.

VI. We take Jesus Christ to be the Great Head of the Church, and the only one given; that the government under him is with the Body, and is the privilege of each individual Member; that spiritual discipline with an eye single to the glory of God, must greatly conduce to the final prosperity and union of the Churches.

VII. In view of the increase of Fraternal love, knowledge, usefulness, and efficiency which must accrue from an association of churches, in cordial union upon the principles of the Gospel, we have sought to be thus united, that by individual and collective action, we may best subserve the great objects of the Redeemer's Kingdom. And the concurrence of two-thirds will dissolve the association.

VIII. This Association shall have power to withdraw its connection from any church which shall act contrary to the teachings of the Holy Scriptures.

IX. New Churches wishing to be admitted into this Body, shall petition by Letters and Messengers, and upon examination, if found orthodox and orderly, shall be admitted, by receiving the right hand of fellowship of the Moderator.

X. No church shall have a right to more than two Delegates unless she shall exceed one hundred in membership, and then she shall be entitled to one additional delegate for every fifty, after the first hundred.

XI. Every query sent to the Association by any church in its union, shall be read and put to vote by the Moderator, whether it shall be debated, and if there shall be a majority in favor it shall be taken up and debated, but if not it shall be withdrawn; Provided, always, that those be first considered which affect the union of the churches.

XII. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the observation of the Association, unless withdrawn by the mover.

XIII. Every member who speaks shall rise from his seat, and address the Moderator, and shall not be interrupted while he is speaking unless he depart from the subject.

XIV. No person shall speak more than three times upon one subject without permission of the body. The constitution of this body be may altered or amended by the concurrence of two-thirds of its members.

XV. No member shall absent himself from the Association without leave of the Moderator.

XVI. It shall be the first business of this Association to provide for the general union of Churches; second to provide for the destitution of the churches and districts, by Missionary aid; third, to keep up a correspondence with other Associations of like faith and order, that a chain of communications may be preserved among the churches; Fourthly to give the churches the best advice they can in matters of difficulty, and if communication should be broken between any of the sister churches to enquire into the cause, and use the best means to remove the difficulty. But if the breach cannot be healed, to withdraw from such church or churches, as walk disorderly, until they may be reclaimed; and fifthly, to regulate all matters pertaining to its business, provide for printing its Minutes, and appoint the time and place of its next meeting.

APPENDIX (B)

By-Laws.

1. The Officers of this body shall be a Moderator, Clerk, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.

2. The Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, and Corresponding Secretary, shall be chosen by ballot, at each session of the Association, and shall remain in office until their successors are elected.

3. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside over the meetings of the Association, and the duty of the Clerk to keep record of the proceedings, and prepare a minute for the press.

4. It shall be the duty of the Corresponding Secretary, to conduct the correspondence of the Association, and make a report of the same at each regular meeting of the body. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep all the funds of the Association, subject to the order of the Executive Committee.

5. There shall be an Executive Committee appointed at each meeting of this Association, of five brethren, whose duty it shall be to supervise and conduct all matter pertaining to this Association during the year.

6. Churches wishing to dissolve connection with this body, must submit their reasons during its session.

7. It shall be required of the Executive Committee to hold a meeting for business at each session of the Association, before its adjournment.

APPENDIX (C)

The Committee on Finance Rec'd of Association fund	\$176.68
For Minutes	16.70
Collection of Sabbath	44.76
Yst on the Treasury Account	160.20
Treasurer paid out	45.98
Balance in Treasury	299.24
All of which is respectfully submitted.	

R. P. LEWIS, Chairman

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Order of Business.

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Association called to order by Moderator.
3. Letters from the Churches called for, read, and names of delegates enrolled.
4. Election of Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary.
5. Petitionary Letters called for.
6. Letters of Correspondence called for.
7. Appointment of Committees.
8. Invitation to visiting brethren to seats.
9. Circular Letter called for.
10. Reports of Standing and other Committees.
11. Queries called up and considered.
12. Missionary business.
13. New business.
14. Miscellaneous business.
15. Corresponding Letter called for.
16. Adjourn.

W. H. ROYAL, Secy

STATISTICAL TABLE.

Churches	Counties	Delegates Names	Pastors	Address	Members	Colored	Blind	Deceased	Expelled	Dismissed	Restored	Read by Letter	Wanted	Total number of members	Time of meeting
1 Aiala	Hillborough	J. M. HAYMAN	J. M. HAYMAN	Tampa	100	88	109	17	2	3	1	1	1	100	4th Sat.
2 Astloch	Columbia	J. K. Smith, S. Sheffield	K. Carstam	Philippa	3		10	1						3	1st
3 Bethel	Duval	S. Farnon, R. G. Jambon	N. Parker	Jacksonville	23		21	17	15					215	1st
4 Bethesda	Hernando	By Letter		do											
5 Bethesda	Hernando	A. Tinsell, J. Gurry	A. Tinsell	Port Paine	3		13							13	1st
6 Bethesda	Duval	Not Represented		do											
7 Bethesda	Columbia	Not Represented		do											
8 Deep Creek	St. Johns	J. A. Lewis	R. G. H. W. Jones	Do Solo	15		17	10						27	2nd
9 Eden	Hernando	W. H. Metz, Jas. Hayman	W. H. Metz	Do Solo	3		15	19						24	2nd
10 Fellowship	Martin	W. Conner, A. Gieger	W. Conner	Port Clark	3		18	20						28	2nd
11 Fort Clark	Alachua	G. U. Ellis, M. Ramsey	G. U. Ellis	do	3		12	19						22	2nd
12 Indian Spring	Martin	N. P. Hornum, S. T. Grayson	S. T. Grayson	Indian Spring	6		12	19						25	2nd
13 Lake Bryant	Martin	W. D. Seaman, H. Stensland	W. D. Seaman	do	6		12	19						25	2nd
14 Money Grove	Sumner	J. S. Jenkins, J. K. Hartsburn	J. S. Jenkins	do	6		12	19						25	2nd
15 Missionary	Alachua	J. H. Cook, L. Hines	L. Hines	do	6		12	19						25	2nd
16 Midway	Columbia	W. B. Hays, T. Hines	W. B. Hays	do	6		12	19						25	2nd
17 New River	Columbia	Not Represented		do	6		12	19						25	2nd
18 New River	Alachua	Not Represented		do	6		12	19						25	2nd
19 K. Providence	Martin	D. Eovaine, W. D. Branch	D. Eovaine	Princeton	6		14	15						21	2nd
20 New Hope	Martin	A. Gibson, W. B. Smith	A. Gibson	Princeton	12		12	11						23	3rd
21 Ocala	Martin	C. R. Jones, W. Bonnell	C. R. Jones	Princeton	12		12	11						23	2nd
22 Providence	Columbia	E. Oudea	E. Oudea	Edithville	1		1	1						1	2nd
23 Pond	Putnam	K. Tucker	K. Tucker	Palatka	12		12	10						22	4th
24 Pleasant Grove	Alachua	W. Johnson, W. B. Perry	W. Johnson	do	12		12	10						22	2nd
25 Pleasant Grove	Hillborough	H. S. Stewart	H. S. Stewart	Tampa	2		2	2						4	3rd
26 Prospect	Alachua	Not Represented		do	2		2	2						4	3rd
27 Sharon	St. Johns	Not Represented		do	2		2	2						4	3rd
28 South Front	Columbia	Not Represented		do	2		2	2						4	3rd
29 South	Hillborough	H. Falgout, M. Whitton	H. Falgout	Tampa	3		3	3						6	3rd
30 Tan pa	Hillborough	J. H. Baraker, M. Cunningham	J. H. Baraker	do	3		3	3						6	3rd
31 Ten of Nassau	Hillborough	N. Stephens	N. Stephens	do	3		3	3						6	3rd
32 Volusia	Orange	J. R. Dowling, M. Harger	J. R. Dowling	do	3		3	3						6	3rd
33 Westcott	Alachua	H. Hayward	H. Hayward	Princeton	7		7	7						14	1st

Norm.—Ordained Minister names in small capitals—Licentiate in italics.
 PRINTERS RECEIPT.—Received of J. M. HAYMAN, twenty-five dollars for the printing of these Minutes,
 Wm. H. ROYAL, Ed. So. Sun—Ocala.