STE CAN TIRRARY

J. C. Langley,

Attorney at Law

LEESBURG, PLA

D. C. HULL. Master in Chancery,

Notary Public State at Large, Conveyances and Abstractor.

SUMTERVILLE, FLA.

Merchants' National Bank,

OCALA, FLA.

Capital \$100,000.00.

DEPOSITORY OF THE STATE OF FLOR-IDA, AND GOUOTIES OF MARION, SUMTER AND CITRUS, AND CITY OF OCALA.

depoints of Berchants and Individuals Solicited

OFFICERS

R. B. McConnel, J. A. Rowell, W. A. Redding, President, Vice-Pres, Cashie

# MINUTES

OF THE

Fifty-First Annual Session

DE THE

# ALACHUA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

HELD WITH THE

# SARDIS CHURCH,

Sumter County, Fla.,

October 13 and 14, 1897:

### OFFICERS

Next session to be held with the church at Brooksville, Fla., commencing on Friday before the fourth Sunday in October, 1807.

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OCALA, FLA.: THE BAPTIST WITNESS.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS.

- 1. Introductory Sermon.
- 2. Read Letters and Enroll Messengers.
- 3. Election of Officers.
- 4. Call for Petitionary Letters.
- 5. Invite Visiting Brethren to Seats.
- 6. Call for Correspondence.
- 7. Appointment of Committees.
- 8. Report of Executive Committee.
- 9. Treasurer's Report.
- 10. Election of Executive Committee.
- 11. Reports of Committees.
- 12. Fix Time and Place of Next Meeting.
- Election of Delegates to State and Southern Baptist Conventions.
- 14. Miscellaneous Business.
- 15. Read and Correct Minutes.
- 16. Adjournment.

#### ORDAINED MINISTERS.

G. T. Brantley	
	Brooksville, Fla.
	DeLand, Fla.
J. B. Harralson	Lecanto, Fla.
	Gainesville, Fla.
W. J. Hughes	Webster, Fla.
	Center Hill, Fla.
J. C. Langley	Leesburg, Fla.
	Oxford, Fla.
	Ocala, Fla.
John R. Proctor	Summerfield, Fla.
	Orange Home, Fla.
	Leesburg, Fla.

# MINUTES.

SARDIS CHURCH, October 13, 1897.

The fifty-first session of the Alachua Baptist Association assembled as above at 11 o'clock A. M., and was called to order by the former Moderator, Bro. D. C. Hull. The Introductory Sermon was delivered by Rev. J. B. Harralson, from John xvii. 17. 'Subject, "Truth." Adjourned with prayer by W. J. Hughes.

## WEDNESDAY-AFTERNOON SESSION.

Reassembled at 2 P. M. Prayer by Bro. J. C. Langley. The church letters were read by Bros. T. W. Spicer and J. C. Langley, and the following names enrolled as messengers: Antioch, I. G. W. Kraker, J. O. Smith, J. S. Beville; Brooksville, by letter; Bushnell, W. J. Hughes; Cove Bend, H. W. Zellner; Eden, J. R. Snow, J. M. Hedick, Mrs. M. I. Mays, Miss Maud Snow; Lady Lake, F. S. Whiting, W. P. Ebbs, H. J. Kemp; Lake Weir, J. C. Porter; Lecanto, J. B. Harralson, C. G. Harralson; Leesburg, J. C. Langley, T. W. Spicer, W. R. Mathews, Mrs. W. R. Mathews, Mrs. A. Stivender; Oxford, O. S. Bogue, T. H. Hammond, W. R. Oberry; Sardis, Wm. Lucius, W. S. Grimes, R. E. Perry, M. M. Proctor, C. B. Perry, A. J. Perry; Sumterville, D. C. Hull, A. H. Helvenston, J. H. Lane, J. D. Ramsay; Webster, J. A. Spivey; Whitney, E. H. Rennolds, Sr., R. D. Mathews, Miss Laura Mathews; Wildwood, R. H. Smith, O. E. Webb, D. Cuington, Wm. Paul, Mrs. D. Cuington, Mrs. Wm. Paul.

Permanent organization was effected by the re-election of D. C. Hull, Moderator, E. H. Rennolds, Sr., Clerk, and W. R. Mathews, Treasurer.

Upon inviting visiting brethren to seats, Bro. J. Link, of

New Hope Church, accepted. Rev. B. I. Hull was received as a corresponding messenger from Marion Association.

Rev. J. C. Porter, editor of the Florida Baptist Witness, addressed the Association in the interest of the State Board of Missions, John B. Stetson University and the Baptist Witness. The Moderator announced the following committees:

Divine Service—W. R. Oberry, O. S. Bogue, A. J. Perry. Missions—E. H. Rennolds, Sr., J. D. Ramsay, J. R. Snow. Education—J. C. Langley, J. Q. Smith, I. G. W. Kraker. Temperance—T. H. Hammond, M. M. Proctor, W. R. Oberry.

Woman's Work—W. J. Hughes, Mrs. A. Stivender, Miss Maud Snow.

Periodicals—H. W. Zellner, R. D. Mathews, C. G. Harralson.

Sunday Schools—A. H. Helvenston, Miss Laura Mathews, J. S. Beville.

Letters and Queries-W. S. Grimes, W. P. Ebbs, R. H. Smith.

Finance—O. S. Bogue, J. M. Hedick, J. Q. Smith.
Obituaries—T. W. Spicer, Mrs. A. Stivender, R. D.
Mathews, F. S. Whiting.

Nominations—J. M. Hedick, R. E. Perry, W. S. Grimes. Baptist Ministers' Assurance Association—J. R. Proctor, T. W. Spicer, I. G. W. Kraker.

The Committee on Divine Service reported Rev. T. W. Spicer to preach at the church to-night, Rev. J. C. Langley at Oxford, and Rev. W. J. Hughes the Missionary Sermon at II A. M. to-morrow. Adjourned till 9 A. M. Thursday, with prayer by I. G. W. Kraker.

#### THURSDAY-MORNING SESSION.

The Association convened at 9 o'clock. Prayer by J. D. Ramsay. Yesterday's minutes were read, corrected and approved. J. M. Hedick read the report of the Committee on Nominations, recommending Rev. J. C. Langley to preach

the Introductory Sermon at the next session, with Rev. T. W. Spicer as alternate. The report was adopted.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

We are glad to report some improvement in Sunday schools within the limits of the Association. As to the importance of this branch of Christian work, it can not be gainsaid. It is only second to the preaching of the word itself with advanced and intermediate classes, and with primary classes we believe it to be of more importance. This is proven by the past, that when well regulated Sunday schools exist, much the larger portion of conversions in the churches are among the children who have been handled by consecrated and efficient workers as teachers. The most important feature in connection with this branch of work is how to promote the attendance, and we are convinced that the means of accomplishing this desirable end is for the parents to always be as regular in their attendance as the children themselves. We desire to impress upon the minds of all laborers in the Lord's vineyard the importance of Sunday school work. There is nothing to take its place, and when this is neglected the most important field has been abandoned to the devil and his emissaries. Therefore, we urge upon all engaged in the work to renew their energies, and to those churches that have no schools we insist upon the importance of this branch of work.

Respectfully submitted,
A. H. HELVENSTON,
LAURA MATHEWS,
J. S. BEVILL,

Committee.

The report was discussed by A. H. Helvenston, W. J. Hughes and T. W. Spicer and adopted.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON OBITUARIES,

Your-committee have to report eleven deaths, so far as we could learn, within the bounds of our Association, as follows: Bro. J. Mehaffy, of Antioch Church; Bro. A. Y. Chapman, of Brooksville Church; Bro. G. M. D. Simmons, of Bushnell Church; Bros. W. H. Jones and J. I. Sharp, of Hebron Church; Sister B. F. Wilson and Elder W. A. Peck, of Lady Lake Church; Elder N. A. Bailey, of Leesburg Church; Sister N. F. Butler, of Whitney Church; Bro. A. D. Cain, of Wildwood Church. We would suggest that a page of the minutes be devoted to the memory of

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our brother, N. A. Bailey, who was such a power in our denomination.

THOS. W. SPICER, R. D. MATHEWS, F. S. WHITING,

Committee.

Remarks were made by T. W. Spicer and E. H. Rennolds, Sr., and the report was then adopted.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LETTERS AND QUERIES.

We are sorry to note that so few of our churches have reported revivals this year, and are letting the Master's cause suffer without an effort on their part. We are sorry to find that no prayer meetings are reported by any of the church letters. We would recommend that each and every church have a prayer meeting, and report the same to each session of the Association. We find that nearly all the churches send letters of information with their statistics.

Respectfully submitted,

W. S. GRIMES, R. H. SMITH, W. P. EBBS, Committee.

The report was discussed by W. S. Grimes, A. H. Helvenston and J. R. Snow, and adopted.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PERIODICALS.

We are sorry to see so many of our Baptist people fall far short of their duty in patronizing and reading Baptist literature. We find in the homes of nearly all Baptists such books, papers and novels as will degrade the minds of Christians and will be instrumental in damning the souls of their children. We would earnestly urge upon our ministers to show their brethren and sisters the evils of such literature, and entreat them to take and read such periodicals as our Baptist weeklies and mission journals, and the numerous kinds of good Baptist books, and, further, that it is the duty of every Baptist family in Florida to take and read the Baptist Witness, and that every Sunday school use the helps published by the Southern Baptist Convention.

H. W. ZELLNER, C. G. HARRALSON, Committee.

Remarks were made by H. W. Zellner, J. D. Ramsay, T.

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W. Spicer, W. J. Hughes, E. H. Rennolds, Sr., and the report was adopted.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON WOMAN'S WORK.

As she was last at the cross and first at the sepulchre, she must also be busy heralding the glad tidings of the New Testament. In every important movement of all ages she has ever acted a conspicuous part, and to her honor be it said that in this most important of all movements she has done her part. Working heart to heart with our good brethren in carrying out the injunction, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," we find ourselves surprised with the encouraging results. Look at the small beginning in 1800. Look then at our societies and bands to-day, and, most important of all, look at what has been accomplished in the way of soul-saving. Truly, we feel that He is with us always. Here we must add a word of encouragement to the members of bands. In our own observation we find them more interested, zealous and responsive than we do the members of our older societies. Surely the children are the hope of the world, and we should be inspired to more active work and more earnest consecration by their example. Christ is coming, and let Him find us discharging the duties of faithful servants.

After much advancement there is still important work to do, and the best way to accomplish the greatest good is by systematic organization and systematic giving. Do we give our tithes to the Lord? If not, we are unjust, and by our actions we lose both in this world and the world to come, because our Good Shepherd said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Bro. Porter suggests that we give

something for missions each Sabbath.

Could we do more in some way to banish this benumbing belief which is so strongly supported by the older population, that the Lord will take care of the heathen, we would have smoother sailing, but again our hope reverts to the children. In 1894 our own State had 55 societies and 33 bands. In 1897 we have 109 societies and 31 bands. Let the good work thus improve, aided by our prayers, zeal, consecration and purses. The Alachua Association has thirteen societies and seven bands.

W. J. HUGHES, MRS. A. STIVENDER, MISS MAUD SNOW, Committee. After remarks by W. J. Hughes, E. H. Rennolds, Sr., H. W. Zellner, J. R. Snow and J. M. Hediek, it was adopted.

Rev. W. J. Hughes then preached the Missionary Sermon from Eph. v. 20: "Giving thanks always for all things unto God." Subject, "Gratitude to God for Every Good Thing." Prayer by T. W. Spicer. The collection for missions amounted to \$9. Adjourned, with benediction by W. R. Oberry, till 2 P. M.

#### THURSDAY-AFTERNOON SESSION.

Reassembled at 2 P. M. Prayer by Bro. Robert Lovell, of Apopka. The report on missions was then discussed by Bros. E. H. Rennolds, Sr., R. Lovell, T. H. Hammond, W. J. Hughes and T. W. Spicer and adopted.

The following subscription was taken up for the theologues at the John B. Stetson University: Sumterville Church, \$10; W. J. Hughes, \$2.50; Cove Bend Church, \$15; Eden Church, \$5; W. R. Mathews, \$2.50; Sardis Church, \$5.50; total, \$40.50.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

ALLASORER'S REPORT.
W. R. Mathews in Account With the Alachua Association. Dr.
To amount received from Finance Committee\$33 68 To amount received from mission collections
Total
By amount paid E. H. Rennolds, Sr., Clerk \$15 00 By amount paid W. N. Chaudoin
Balance \$3 50  Respectfully submitted,  W. R. MATHEWS, Treasurer

The report was adopted.

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

Received for minutes				
For State missions'				
For home missions				
For foreign missions			2 80	
For education			80	
			-	
Total			\$27 07	
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#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE.

First, we would say, be temperate yourselves, or, rather, abstain entirely from drinking alcoholic liquors as a beverage. Don't get drunk, as is the manner of some, when you go to Ocala! Don't get a jug of whisky Christmas times and have eggnogg. Don't drink before and with sinners. Don't make and sell it. Abstain entirely, for if you are a moderate drinker, you may become a drunkard. There is no good reason for drinking. The drunkard or free drinker freezes sooner than one who does not drink. He cannot endure the heat, but has sunstroke. He cannot perform much manual labor. You would not entrust him with a spirited horse. You would not entrust him to run a train of cars carrying human beings. You would not entrust him to manage a lawsuit. The free drinker is gradually committing suicide. He does not live out the full length of his days. He does not resist disease. He is swept away by a pestilence. We should not thus destroy this body in which dwells the soul. The drunkard entails disease and suffering upon his offspring. Oh! how fearful to contemplate. We are taxed to build jails, to prosecute criminals. A great majority of crime and degradation is due to intemperance. Intemperance is a great enemy to Christianity. It is one of the greatest obstacles with which christianity. It is one of the greatest obstacles with which we have to contend. The spirit of Christ and the spirit of the still can not very well dwell in the same body at the same time. We, as Christians, should put ourselves square against tippling and the use of alcoholic liquors as a beverage. Any way to close or prevent a saloon. We would recommend you to scatter temperance literature, and thus educate the people on this question. In trying to save others you may save yourself.

Respectfully submitted, T. H. HAMMOND, W. R. OBERRY,

Committee.

Remarks were made by W. J. Hughes, T. H. Hammond and E. H. Rennolds, Sr., and, after being amended, the report was adopted.

The Executive Committee made a verbal report that only one union meeting was held in the first district, and that in the second district four meetings were held, at each of which collections for missions were taken and the amount forwarded to Bro. W. N. Chaudoin, Treasurer of the State Board of Missions. On motion the Executive Committee was re-elected for the ensuing year, D. C. Hull, J. C. Langley, O. S. Bogue, J. C. Davant and J. M. Hedick.

On motion of E. H. Rennolds, Sr., it was agreed to hold the next session with the Brooksville Church, commencing at 11 o'clock A. M., on Friday before the fourth Sunday in October, 1898. The following brethren were elected delegates to the State Convention, to meet in Tampa January 5, 1898: W. J. Hughes, E. H. Rennolds, Sr., J. M. Hedick, T. W. Spicer, H. W. Zellner, J. Q. Smith, A. H. Helvenston, J. B. Harralson, J. C. Langley and O. S. Bogue. E. H. Rennolds, Sr., was elected as delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention, to meet in Norfolk, Va., in May, 1898, and T. W. Spicer as alternate. It was ordered that the Clerk be paid \$10 for his services, and that he solicit reputable advertisements to supplement the printing fund. On motion of W. J. Hughes a vote of thanks was tendered the Sardis Church and community for their hospitality, and to the F. C. & P. R. R. for reduced

After singing "We'll Work Till Jesus Comes," the Association adjourned, with prayer by E. H. Rennolds, Sr., to meet at Brooksville Friday before the fourth Sunday in October, 1898.

D. C. HULL, Moderator,

E. H. RENNOLDS, SR., Clerk.

Dedicated to the Memory

Rev. M. A. Bailey,

Born in Lawrence County, Ala.

Died July 7th, 1897.

Assistant Secretary Georgia Baptist Convention.
Clerk Santa Fe River Association.
Clerk Marion Association.
Moderator Wekiva Association.
Vice President Foreign Mission Board.
Secretary Florida Baptist Convention.

"How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things."

# Union Meeting at Oxford.

The Union Meeting of the First District of Alachua Association met at Oxford Saturday, October 30, 1897. T. W. Spicer was elected Moderator and E. H. Rennolds, Sr., Secretary. The first subject discussed was, "Is it consistent with the teachings of the New Testament for the membership of a Baptist Church to forsake the assembling of themselves together while at the same time they are devoting their time to other religious organizations? If not, why not?" The discussion was opened by W. R. Oberry, followed by E. H. Rennolds, Sr., O. S. Bogue, J. W. Brice, J. S. Geiger and C. A. Hooks, and answered in the negative. T. W. Spicer preached at II A. M. Text, Mal. iii. 8. "Will a Man Rob God?"

In the afternoon an interesting discussion was had on the subject, "Is the tithing system, as laid down under the Mosaic law, still in force or binding upon the children of God, under the New Testament dispensation? If not, why not?" Led by J. S. Geiger and followed by Dr. T. H. Hammond, E. H. Rennolds, Sr., J. W. Brice and C. A. Hook. Some of the brethren took one side of the question and some the other, and some were undecided.

On Sunday, after the Sunday school exercises, the subject of "An ideal Sunday school; have you one in your church? If not, why not?" was discussed by E. H. Rennolds, Sr., followed by W. P. Ebbs, of Lady Lake, T. W. Spicer, of Leesburg, O. S. Bogue and T. H. Hammond, of Oxford, W. S. Grimes, of Sardis, J. S. Geiger, of Webster,

W. V. Peacock, of Whitney, and W. R. Oberry, of Wildwood. The discussions were quite animated and lively, and imbued with the spirit of brotherly love.

J. S. Geiger preached Friday night and J. W. Brice Saturday night and Sunday, and remained to continue the meeting, the prospect being fine for a revival. The mission collection on Sunday amounted to \$5.

The next meeting will be held at Leesburg.

Total	Antioch Brooksville Bushnell. Cool Spring Cove Bend Grand Island Grand Island Gum Slough Lady Lake Lake Weir Lake Weir Leeshurg Liebon Loesburg Lisbon Oxford Sardis Sumterville Webster Whitney Wildwood	OHURCHUS. PASTORS.			
h	I. G. W. Kraker L. D. Getger J. C. Langley J. G. Davani J. W. Brice J.B. Harraison J.B. Harraison J.B. Harraison J.B. Harraison J.B. Harraison J.B. Harraison				
	J. S. Beville, Center Hill. John C. Law Brooksville W. H. Snow Bushnell H. W. Zellner, Floral City J. Ridgway, Brooksville R. L. Natt, Grand Island I. M. Woodward, Bay Hill J. W. Woodward, Bay Hill J. P. Sharp, Stage Fond W. W. Brown, Lake Weir J. Y. Barnes, Lecanto J. Y. Barnes, Lecanto J. Y. Barnes, Lecanto J. Y. Barnes, Lablom O. B. Bogue, Oaford A. J. Perry, Oxford, D. C. Hull, Sunterville A. Kellam, Wester E. H. Rennolds, Sr., Orange E. M. Chungton, Wildwood	CLEEKS.			
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81		By Baptism.			
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6		By Restoration.			
8 27	** *** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** **	By Exclusion.			
		By Death.			
88	282282018200	Total Membership.			
	R. H. Cook, Center Hill W. S. Jordan, Brooksville A. M. Norwood, Bushnell C. P. Vaughn, Lady Lake J. Y. Barnes, Lecanto M. E. Weeks, Leesburg O. S. Bogue, Oxford A. H. Helvenaton, Sumtery A. K. Ham, Webster E. H. Rennolds, Sr., O. H.	Officers & Teachers Pupils.			
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STATISTICAL TABLE.I.

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