

AMERICAN BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
1100 S. GOODMAN ST.  
ROCHESTER 20, NEW YORK

# MINUTES

OF THE

## Florida Baptist Association,

HELD WITH THE CHURCH AT

GROOVERSVILLE, BROOKS COUNTY, GEORGIA,

Commencing Saturday, Oct. 17, 1868.

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### OFFICERS:

MODERATOR.....W. BLEWETT, Thomasville, Ga.  
CLERK.....C. D. CAMPBELL, Quincy, Fla.

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Atlanta, Georgia:

FRANKLIN STRAM PRINTING HOUSE—J. J. TOON, PROPRIETOR.

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# MINUTES.

GROOVERSVILLE, BROOKS Co., Oct. 17, 1868.

The Florida Baptist Association met as appointed with the church at Grooversville, Brooks county, Ga. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder A. M. Manning, from ———. After which there was an intermission of one hour.

## AFTERNOON.

The Association met and was called to order by Elder W. Blewett, Elder C. D. Campbell, acting as Clerk, *pro tem*. The call of the churches was ordered, and the names of messengers enrolled.

On motion the regular order of business was suspended to take up an amendment to the Constitution, passed by the last session of this body, changing the basis of representation so that each church shall be entitled to representation according to the number of its members. A motion to adopt the amendment was lost.

Brother Whitehurst, of Elizabeth church, was granted leave of absence on account of serious sickness in his family.

Called for petitionary letters, which resulted in the application and admission of Big Creek Church, Thomas county, Ga.

Called for correspondents, to which Elder Jas. McBride, of the Mercer Association, responded, inviting brethren to attend the next session of that body to be held with the church at Quittman, Brooks county, Ga. Also Elder Robert Fleming, of the Bowen Association, inviting attendance on that body's next session, to be held with Bethel Church, Baker county, Saturday before the 2nd Lord's day of October, 1869.

Proceeded to choose Moderator and Clerk, which resulted in the election of Elder Blewett, as Moderator, and Elder Campbell, as Clerk.

Appointed the following Standing Committees:

*On Preaching*—Brethren Jno. H. Scruggs, and Joshua P. Smith, and the Pastor and Deacons of Liberty church.

*On Sunday Schools*—Brethren Ed. S. Davis, Jas. Rushin, and Jno. Johnson.

*On Deceased Ministers and Deacons*—Elder C. D. Campbell, and Brethren Wm. H. Scruggs, and Allen Groover.

*On Finance*—Brethren Jas. Rushin, J. P. Turner and Allen Groover.

The Committee on Preaching report the following appointments for to-morrow, at Baptist House of Worship: Elder C. D. Campbell, followed by Elder C. Smith; at Methodist, Elder J. H. Campbell, followed by Elder R. Fleming; at Colored, Elder Stephenson, followed by Elder Manning.

On motion adjourned until Monday morning, 9 o'clock.

On Saturday night there was preaching at the church in which Elder G. W. Hall officiated.

MINUTES.

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## SUNDAY.

Preaching in forenoon as previously appointed. In the afternoon as follows: At Baptist Church, Elder B. S. Fuller; at Methodist, Elder W. Blewett; at African, Elder R. Fleming.

## MONDAY.

Association met pursuant to adjournment. Called for correspondents, to which none responded. Called for other delegates, to which brother J. B. Hines, of Olive Church, responded, stating that sickness prevented his reaching the Association on Saturday, although he came within a very few miles of the church.

Proceeded to elect delegates to the State Convention, which resulted as follows: Elders H. Z. Ardis, A. M. Manning, J. H. Campbell, B. S. Fuller, W. B. Cooper, C. Smith, A. B. Campbell, and brethren E. E. Barclay, S. P. Mays, J. M. Rushin, W. J. Carroll, A. B. Campbell, and Jno. H. Scruggs.

Committee on Preaching report Elder A. B. Campbell, to preach at 11 o'clock in the Methodist church.

Called for reports of Standing Committees.

The report of the Committee on Deceased Ministers and Deacons was read and adopted. (See Appendix.)

The report of the Treasurer was read and adopted. (See Appendix.)

The report of the Committee on Sunday Schools was read. This report elicited several earnest addresses from brethren E. T. Davis, C. D. Campbell, J. H. Campbell, and Jas. McBride, showing a high appreciation of the advantages of Sunday Schools. Afterward the report was recommitted, amended, and ultimately adopted. (See Appendix.)

The report of Executive Committee was read and adopted. (See Appendix.)

The report of the Committee on Missions was read and adopted. (See Appendix.)

The report of the Committee on Finance was read and adopted. (See Appendix.)

Proceeded to elect an Executive Committee as follows: Elders W. B. Cooper, B. S. Fuller, A. M. Manning, and brethren J. M. Marvin, Asa May, W. H. Scruggs, and Thos. P. Hartsfield.

Elected W. H. Scruggs, Treasurer.

Appointed the next session of the Association with Oak Grove church, Thomas county, Ga., and changed the time to Friday, (instead of Saturday) before the 3rd Lord's day of October, 1869.

Had short intermission to take dinner.

## AFTERNOON.

Association convened.

Elder C. Smith proposed the following:

*Resolved*, That fifty dollars (\$50 00) of the Associational fund be appropriated to the Convention for the purpose of defraying the expenses of Minutes for the last, and the approaching session, which was laid on the table.

The following was proposed by brother E. T. Davis:

This body have learned with deep regret that our excellent brother, Elder H. Z. Ardis, is in feeble health, and that he has for months past on that account, been disqualified for preaching, and attending to his other public duties as a minister of the gospel. Therefore,

*Resolved*, That we deeply sympathize with brother Ardis in his affliction, and fervently pray for his speedy restoration to vigorous health.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk be instructed to forward to brother Ardis a written copy of the foregoing. Which was unanimously adopted.

Elder C. Smith moved to have a number of the Minutes printed proportional to the amount sent up for that purpose from the churches, and that the Clerk be allowed \$30 00 for his services, which was agreed to.

It was moved that the thanks of the Association be tendered to the brethren and friends of this community for the hospitable and Christian entertainment extended to it, which was agreed to.

Appointed the following correspondents:

To the *Bowen Association*.—C. D. Campbell, Asa C. Stephenson, Allen Spears, W. Blewett, and G. W. Hall.

A motion was made by brother Jas. Rushin to appoint a committee to seek correspondence with the Ockolockonee Association, on the original 12 articles held by that body, and this before the separation took place, which motion prevailed. The committee is as follows: Elders J. H. Campbell, B. S. Fuller, and brethren J. G. Dekle, J. M. Marvin, and S. A. Smith, Sr.

Called for addresses from Agents, whereupon Elder Jas. McBride presented the claims of several religious newspapers of our denomination.

Elder Manning made some pointed and earnest remarks in relation to the employment of a Missionary to travel within our bounds, raising funds for that purpose, &c., after which there was a subscription of \$320 secured, to be paid by the first of next May. It was moved that the funds now in the Treasury and the above amount be appropriated to the employment of a Missionary, and that the Executive Committee employ that Missionary as soon as possible, which was agreed to.

The Preaching Committee report Elder B. S. Fuller to preach the Introductory Sermon at the next Association, Elder W. Blewett alternate.

On motion adjourned to meet as above appointed. Prayer by Elder W. B. Cooper, after the parting hand was given.

## LIST OF MINISTERS

H. Z. ARDIS.....	Madison, Fla.	W. H. JORDAN.....	_____
W. BLEWETT.....	Thomasville, Ga.	JNO. B. LACY.....	Glasgow, Ga.
G. W. BOSTICK.....	Sopchoppy, Fla.	ROBT. LEVY.....	Tallahassee, Fla.
A. B. CAMPBELL.....	Thomasville, Ga.	H. S. LINTON.....	Monticello, Fla.
C. D. CAMPBELL.....	Quincy, Fla.	A. M. MANNING.....	Monticello, Fla.
J. H. CAMPBELL.....	Thomasville, Ga.	O. E. McKEOWN.....	Quincy, Fla.
W. W. CHILDERS.....	Tallahassee, Fla.	J. J. POLHILL.....	_____
W. B. COOPER.....	Junction, Fla.	A. C. STEVENSON.....	_____
B. S. FULLER.....	Monticello, Fla.	R. F. STUBBS.....	Quincy, Fla.
W. H. GOLDWIRE.....	Valdosta, Ga.	R. H. SHACKLEFORD.....	Monticello, Fla.
J. M. GRAY.....	Thomasville, Ga.		

## LICENTIATES

W. S. BEVEL.....	Sopchoppy, Fla.	T. W. TERRELL.....	Duncanville, Ga.
W. F. COOK.....	Quincy, Fla.		

## CORRESPONDING LETTER.

DEAR BRETHREN: It has given us great pleasure to have some of your number to meet with us this year, and we trust that this pleasure may be often renewed. We feel that in these days of such general religious declension, we should be more than ever earnest to "provoke one another to love and good works," and to speak often to one another words of encouragement, rebuke, and exhortation." May the great Head of the Church abundantly prosper you, beloved, in all spiritual blessings.

W. BLEWETT, *Moderator*.

CHAS. D. CAMPBELL, *Clerk*.

## APPENDIX.

## A.—REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DECEASED MINISTERS AND DEACONS.

The Committee on Deceased Ministers and Deacons beg leave to report: That the Association is called to mourn the loss of some of our most highly esteemed brethren. Of the Ministers, brother O. E. McKeown, and brother Robt. Levey, have died during the past year; and of the Deacons, brother Marvin, who had been Senior Deacon of the church at Monticello, for many years. While we feel that we can but ill-afford to do without the labors, counsels, and prayers of such good men, we would not lift up obstinate or rebellious thoughts against the dispensation of our kind Heavenly Father.

In view of the loss of such men, and the already felt scarcity of preachers, we would beg leave to recommend that the churches throughout the bounds of the Association make special and constant prayer during the year for an increase of the numbers and efficiency of ministerial laborers. All of which is submitted.

C. D. CAMPBELL, *Chairman*.

## B.—TREASURER'S REPORT.

B. S. FULLER, *Treasurer, in Account with Florida Association.*

1868.		DR.
To Associational Fund.....	\$188	75
To Minute Fund.....	55	00
To Foreign Mission Fund.....	10	00
To Domestic Mission Fund.....	5	00
To Rev. J. B. Lacy.....	6	00
To Rev. J. S. Baker.....	6	00
Total.....	\$270	75
1867.		CONTRA.
Oct. By cash paid Clerk for services.....	\$	30 00
Dec. 17. By cash paid Clerk on Minutes and Postage.....	56	50
Dec. 17. By cash sent J. B. Taylor, Foreign Missions.....	10	00
Dec. 17. By cash sent M. T. Sumner, Domestic Missions...	5	00
Dec. 17. By cash J. B. Lacy.....	6	00
1868. By cash sent J. S. Baker.....	6	00
Oct. 17. By cash in hand.....	157	25
Total.....	\$270	75

Respectfully submitted.

B. S. FULLER, *Treasurer.*

I also respectfully tender my resignation, together with this report.

## C.—REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee of the Florida Baptist Association beg leave to report:

That at their first meeting after the Association they entered into correspondence with brother Sumner of the Domestic Mission Board, asking co-operation, in order to enable us to secure the services of a Missionary within our bounds: but no co-operation could be had. After which enquiries were received from brother Tomkies, and brother Fuller was appointed to correspond with him and endeavor to engage his services on the best possible terms, but before correspondence could be had, he had entered upon other engagements. There being no other brother within our knowledge whose services could be engaged, nothing has been accomplished.

The unfinished business relating to our superannuated ministers has happily been adjusted.

And we would suggest the propriety of changing the present Executive Committee, as they are now very widely separated.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. B. COOPER, *Chairman.*

## D.—REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your Committee on Sabbath Schools are reluctantly forced to report a continued desideratum of this important auxiliary to the Church. From the letters and by interview with the delegates of the various Churches, it is ascertained that there are not exceeding eight Sabbath Schools, in a healthy and flourishing condition, within the bounds of the Association, and that, too, after the many urgent appeals sent out, year after year. The influence of a well appointed and energetically superintended Sabbath School upon the moral and intellectual status of a community of children cannot well be estimated. And to remove the existing apathy, and supplant it with a more lively and zealous interest, should be the constant effort of every good Christian. In the opinion of your Committee, this great cause cannot be advanced commensurately with its importance until the matter is taken in hand and urgently pursued by the lay members of the several churches, aided and assisted by the pastors, wherever necessary. To effectually secure this end, they recommend that the delegates of the various churches be constituted a committee, and requested to organize Sabbath Schools, and that the associational letters of the churches be accompanied by a report from these different committees. And further, that all the churches be requested to give a fuller statement of the condition of the Sabbath Schools in their midst,—this has been the practice heretofore,—That the churches of the several districts of this Association be recommended to appoint and hold, at such time and place as may suit their respective convenience, Sabbath School Conventions, to talk and pray over this interest.

E. T. DAVIS, *Chairman.*

## E.—REPORT ON MISSIONS.

Your Committee beg to submit the following as their report:

1st. Respecting our own local Mission, we report that we have not been able to perform any missionary labor, and, in view of this fact, your Committee submit to the churches and pastors if they can say, "We have have done what we could." Do we feel that, if called to our account, we should receive the plaudit, well done, good and faithful servants, enter into the joy of thy Lord?

## OUR DOMESTIC MISSION BOARD,

From their reports, are in very straightened circumstances. They have been compelled to recall many of their Missionaries, and consequently many points of interest have been abandoned. Brethren, we should remember that this Board has been a fostering mother to many points within our own bounds, and especially in our State. Is there not, then, obligation resting upon us to sustain, by prayers and material aid?

## OUR FOREIGN MISSION BOARD.

Our Foreign Mission Board is in a more prosperous condition, both in regard to their finances and the prosperity of its operations. The way now is open to the gospel all over the empire of China. Twelve

months since fourteen hundred converts have been reported as the fruits of our own Missionary labors. In 1856, our Mission was confined to the suburbs, now the whole empire is open before us, and may we not confidently hope that our success will correspond with the facilities? Our Burmah Mission is now in a prosperous condition. Though Judson labored for years without any fruit, yet he writes to brother Ross to say to the churches to have patience, and he further says, if there was a ship here to carry me to any part of the world, I would not leave my field. Tell the brethren success is certain: God's faithful word makes it so. The Mission was commenced in 1814; in 1820 three converts were reported, and to-day we suppose they would number 100,000, and may we not say, "What hath God wrought?"

Our African Mission is, at present, less prosperous than formerly. The feuds which have arisen between different tribes have resulted, in many places, in driving our Missionaries under the protection of the British flag, which protection was afforded our Missionaries, and they are now laboring to some extent under that protection.

We should not be discouraged by these reverses, but should hold up the hands of our Boards by cheerful co-operation with them in all their labor of love.

Respectfully submitted. B. S. FULLER, *Chairman.*

#### F.—FINANCE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The Committee on Finance report:

Associational Fund.....	\$152 65
Minute Fund.....	58 25
Foreign Missions.....	—
Domestic Missions.....	4 00
Superannuated Ministers.....	10 55
J. B. Lacy.....	11 00
J. H. Campbell.....	10 00
Total.....	\$246 45

We also report a gold pin sent up for Associational purposes by a sister of Monticello church. Also \$10 55 for Home Missions sent up from Union meetings held with Mt. Elon church.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. M. RUSHIN, *Chairman.*

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REV. D. SHAYER, D.D., Editor.

J. J. TOON, Proprietor.

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