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# Eleventh Annual Session

OF THE

*Santa Fee River Baptist Association,*

HELD AT

**SHARON CHURCH, NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA,**

OCTOBER, 1867.

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*1867*

Jacksonville, Florida:  
C. DREW'S JOB OFFICE.

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PROCEEDINGS

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### ORDER OF BUSINESS.

- 1st. Introductory Sermon.
- 2nd. Association called to order by Moderator.
- 3rd. Letters from Churches called for, read, and names of delegates enrolled.
- 4th. Petitionary Letters called for.
- 5th. Election of Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer.
- 6th. Inviting visiting Brethren to seats.
- 7th. Letters of Correspondence called for.
- 8th. Appointment of Committees.
- 9th. Circular Letter called for.
- 10th. Reports of Standing and other Committees.
- 11th. Queries called up and considered.
- 12th. Miscellaneous Business.
- 13th. Say where the next Association is to be held.
- 14th. Adjourned.

### LIST OF MINISTERS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.

Breaker, J. H.	Gainesville, Florida.
Becks, B. W.	Palatka, "
Brannin, E.	Hurtsville, "
Chambers, K.	Lake City, "
Cannon, J. J.	Palatka, "
Dees, Z.	Houston, "
Guthery, G.	Magnolia, "
Johnson, W.	Morrison's Mills, "
Keep, W. W.	Lake City, "
Moore, L. W.	Lake City, "
Strickland, M. N.	Waldo, "
Scarborough, M.	Welborn, "
Simmons, L. J.	Providence, "
Timmons, E. B.	Waldo, "
Tomkies, J. H.	Fernandina, "
Thomas, J. W.	Palatka, "
Weeks, S.	Waldo, "

### LICENTIATES,

Caldwell, W. H.	Callahan, "
Coon, I. S.	Sanderson, "
Keen, James	Lake City, "
McHan, A.	Providence, "
Cain, R. W.	Olustee, "

## PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

### SANTA FEE RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

OCTOBER 12th, 1867.

The Santa Fee River Baptist Association convened at 11 o'clock, A. M., with Sharon Church, Nassau County, Florida. The Introductory sermon was preached by Elder W. W. Keep, from Romans, XIV Chapter, last clause of the 10th, together with the 11th and 12th verses, after which a short intermission was taken.

### AFTERNOON.

The Delegates assembled at the stand at the call of Elder K. Chambers. On motion K. Chambers was chosen Moderator and Elder J. H. Tomkies Clerk pro. tem. After singing and prayer by the Moderator, letters from sixteen Churches were received and read. A petitionary letter from Gadara Baptist Church was presented by Elder E. B. Timmons. Her delegates, H. Smith and H. S. Minton being absent, on motion, the Church was received, the right hand of fellowship to be extended to her delegates at the next meeting of this Association, if present.

The Association then proceeded to the election of its officers, with the following result: Elder K. Chambers Moderator, Elder J. H. Tomkies Clerk and Brother G. U. Ellis Treasurer. On Motion, Bro. A. McHan was invited to a seat as delegate from Providence Church, one of her delegates being absent.

Brethren J. Pringle and W. Pringle were received as delegates from Deep Creek Church.

The Moderator proceeded to appoint standing Committees, as follows:

*On Preaching*—Brethren W. S. Perry, F. Weeks and J. O. Kelley, together with the delegates of Sharon Church.

*On Sunday Schools*—Elders L. J. Simmons and E. B. Timmons and Bro. A. McHan.

*On Letters and Queries*—Elders Keep, Simmons and Tomkies.

*On Finance*—Brethren W. S. Perry, E. Earle and J. O. Kelley.

*On Nominations*—Brethren J. Roberts, W. H. Caldwell and J. Beiling.

On Motion the following committee on Religious Literature was appointed: Elders Keep, Tomkies and Simmons.

The committee on Preaching made the following report:

Elder J. H. Tomkies to preach to-morrow at 11 o'clock and Elder K. Chambers at 2 P. M. The Association then adjourned with prayer by Elder L. J. Simmons, to meet Monday morning at 9½ o'clock.

OCTOBER 13th, 1867.

#### SUNDAY.

The word of God was preached to-day, at 11 o'clock, by Elder J. H. Tomkies, after which a collection was taken up for Missionary purposes amounting to \$35.80. At 2 o'clock Elder K. Chambers preached according to previous appointment. We trust the good seed was not sown in vain.

OCTOBER 14th, 1867.

#### FORENOON.

The Association met and was opened with prayer by Bro. A. McHan. Minutes of Saturday read and adopted. The following committee was appointed on Circular Letter: Brethren Timmons, Earle and McHan. Called for reports of committees, as follows:

1 The committee on Sunday Schools made a report which was adopted. (Paper marked "A" in Appendix.)

The committee on Religious Literature made a report which was adopted. (Paper marked "B.")

Report on Letters and Queries was read and adopted. (Paper marked "C")

Report on Nominations was read and adopted. (Paper marked "D.")

On motion the regular order of business was suspended and the Association proceeded to consider the Queries sent up from Providence Church.

*Query 1st.* What shall be done with members of the Church who dance, and others who advocate dancing?

*Query 2nd.* What shall be done with members of the Church, who sing and play upon instruments of music those vulgar tunes so prevalent in the country?

*Query 3rd.* What shall be done with members of the Church, who play at dice or cards for amusement?

After some discussion, participated in by Brethren Keep, Simmons, Chambers and Tomkies, the following answer was returned to each of the above Queries. ["We recommend to the Church to labor with these members, and if they cannot be reclaimed to exclude them."] ]

Moved by Bro. Timmons, to consider the subject of Missions within the bounds of this Association. After interesting remarks by several Brethren, a committee was appointed to present to the Association a plan of operations. Brethren Keep, Timmons, Simmons, Chambers and Earle, constituted that committee. On motion, adjourned to 2 o'clock.

#### AFTERNOON.

The Association met at the call of the Moderator. The report of the committee on Circular Letter was read and adopted. (Paper marked "E.")

Elder J. H. Tomkies was appointed to prepare the next Circular Letter.



The Report of the committee on Finance was read and adopted. (Paper marked "F.")

On motion, the collection on Sunday was divided between the Association and the Marion Board of Domestic Missions. Elder Keep acting as agent for that Board.

The report of the committee on Home Missions was read and adopted. (Paper marked "G.")

The following was passed:

*Resolved*, That we recommend to the members of all our Churches, to adopt the Scripture plan in raising funds for Missionary and other Religious purposes. "Let every one of you, on the first day of the week, lay by in store as God hath prospered him."

The following delegates were appointed to the Baptist State Convention. Elders K. Chambers, J. H. Breaker, L. J. Simmons, J. H. Tomkies, E. B. Timmons, and Brethren E. Earle, A. McHan and H. V. Massey.

The committee on Constitution, Articles of Faith and By-Laws, not being ready to report, was continued.

Appointed Correspondents to the Alachua Association, Elders W. Johnson, L. J. Simmons, J. H. Tomkies, and Brethren Earle and W. S. Perry.

Elder Simmons offered the following, which were adopted.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk have printed 700 copies of the Minutes, and that he receive \$25 for his services. Also,

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this association be tendered to the members of Sharon Church and the friends of this community, for their kindness and hospitality during its session. Also,

*Resolved*, That this Association now adjourn, to meet with the Falling Creek Church, Columbia county, Fla., on Saturday, before the 2nd Sunday in October, 1868.

The Hymn, "Blest be the tie, &c." was sung, the parting hand given, after which prayer was offered by Elder W. W. Keep.

K. CHAMBERS, *Mod'r.*

J. H. TOMKIES, *Clerk.*

## APPENDIX.

(A.)

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Your committee on Sunday Schools respectfully report, that so far as they can ascertain, there are only three or four Baptist Sunday Schools within the bounds of our Association. We regret the painful necessity that compels us to report a state of things so lamentable as this. Sunday Schools are of great importance, and a potent instrumentality in training the young in the ways of virtue and religion. May we not cherish the hope that our Churches will sometime awake to the importance of this subject? We are informed that Sunday School books and Testaments can be obtained at Lake City, free of cost, by calling upon Bro. Keep.

Respectfully submitted.

L. J. SIMMONS, Chairman.

(B.)

### REPORT ON RELIGIOUS LITERATURE

It is almost impossible to over estimate the importance and advantage resulting to any community from the general circulation of good Religious Books, Newspapers, Periodicals, &c. We therefore recommend to the members of our Churches, to take some of the many good Baptist papers, published in the bounds of the Southern Baptist Convention. We would especially commend. The "Religious Herald," published in Richmond, Va. The "Christian Index and South Western Baptist," published in Atlanta, Georgia, and "The Baptist," published in Memphis, Tenn. These papers are worthy the patronage of the Baptists of Florida.

Respectfully submitted.

W. W. KEEP, Chairman.

**(C.)****REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON LETTERS.**

Your committee on Letters report, that we find nothing of interest in the Letters requiring action, unless it be the following:

1st. We suggest the next meeting of this body at Falling Creek, Columbia county.

2nd. The Queries from Providence Church are designed to save feeling and interest by a clearer understanding of these subjects, and we therefore return them for your further consideration—in mass or by committee.

Respectfully submitted.

W. W. KEEP, Chairman.

**(D.)****REPORT ON NOMINATIONS.**

Your committee on Nominations beg leave to submit the following report: We have chosen and appointed Elder L. J. Simmons to preach the next Introductory Sermon, Elder K. Chambers Alternate—Elder E. B. Timmons to preach the next Missionary Sermon, and J. H. Tomkies Alternate.

Respectfully submitted.

J. ROBERTS, Chairman.

**(E.)****REPORT ON CIRCULAR LETTER.**

Your committee have examined an Essay read by Bro. J. T. Cauthen at the last Union Meeting of the 3rd District, and we suggest that this Essay be printed in the Minutes, in lieu of a Circular Letter, and that if its length is too great, the clerk be instructed to condense it.

E. B. TIMMONS, Chairman.

**(F.)****REPORT ON FINANCE.**

The committee on Finance beg leave to make the following report:

Received from the Churches for Minutes and other purposes,	\$58 23
Collection on Sunday	35 80
Remaining in the Treasury,	68 10

Making a total of \$162 13

W. S. PERRY, Chairman.

**(G.)****REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.**

Your committee on Home Missions recommend,

1st The appointment of the following brethren as Executive Committee—A. A. Stewart, A. J. Hutchinson and Kinsey Chambers.

2nd. That the delegates of this Association, present the subject to their Churches and take up collections at once.

3d. That they receive subscriptions, payable during the Associational year, and forward to the Treasurer.

4th. That the Executive Committee be instructed to secure a Missionary as soon as practicable, and determine his salary.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. W. KEEP, Chairman.



### ESSAY IN LIEU OF CIRCULAR LETTER.

"What constitutes any one a Christian, and what are the duties, the proper performance of which makes him an orderly member of the Church?"

To be a Christian is a glorious, heaven-conferred privilege. It is an honor which only God can bestow.

"Earth's fairest scenes the Christian calls his own;  
He is a monarch, and his throne  
Is built amid the skies."

We have so often heard from the Pulpit, as well as read in our Bibles, what forms the Christian character, that I almost deem it a work of supererogation to say any thing on this part of the subject. We shall therefore briefly enumerate what we conceive to be essential to the constitution of the Christian character.

In the first place, then, to be a Christian, a man must have felt himself to be a lost helpless sinner; have been made to inquire what he must do to be saved, and have laid hold of the only hope set before him in the Gospel—in other words he must have truly and sincerely repented of his sins and exercised faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. From that moment his heart is changed, the whole current of his affections, desires and inclinations, begins to flow in a new channel. "Old things are passed away, behold all things are become new." He turns his eye heavenward—his aims and aspirations all tend thither. He no longer lives without God and without hope in the world. While he breathes the pure air around him, looks out upon the beauties of nature, feasts upon the divine bounty, enjoys health of body and peace of mind, together with all the mercies which a Father's hand bestows, his heart swells with emotions of gratitude and love to the Almighty and beneficent Giver. And in the enjoyment of these blessings he is not unmindful of the great and important duty of using them for the glory of God—but faithfully seeks to employ them to this end.

2ndly. He now delights to think of God and meditate on the precious truths revealed in the Bible. Formerly, he did not like to think of God. 'Tis true it was impossible for him to have no thoughts of his Maker, for there was a faithful Monitor within his bosom, that ever and anon reminded him of that Being who made him, to whom he was accountable, and before whom he must shortly appear in judgment. But these thoughts, instead of being willingly cherished were banished from his mind as unwelcome intruders upon his peace. But all this is changed. He now delights to meditate on God in all his glorious attributes and perfections. Before, he could see no beauty in these attributes; could derive no comfort from a contemplation of them, because he was unable to discover by what means they could be brought to harmonize in his behalf.

But now that he has been spiritually enlightened and brought to understand the matchless plan of Redemption through a once crucified but now a risen and exalted Saviour, the Divine Attributes become a theme of joyful meditation, and his heart kindles into a flame of love and praise, when he thinks of the sure reconciliation that has been made for him. To him, the name of Jesus is the sweetest of all names. It brings music to his ear, and joyful consolation to his soul. What cares he now for the scoffs of an unbelieving world? With his anchor of hope cast within the veil, he presses "forward toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." He no longer craves the perishing things of earth, no longer cultivates an alliance and congeniality with whatever is opposed to holiness of heart and life; no longer prefers temporal and evanescent gratifications, to those that are spiritual and eternal, but seeks to lay up his "treasures in Heaven, where moth and rust do not corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal." He seeks to live a holy life—at all times to act

the part of a good citizen, neighbor, friend—in a word, to discharge his duty with fidelity in all the relations of life.

3rdly. The sincere Christian seeks to hold daily communion with his God, by prayer and the study of the Holy Scriptures. The Saviour has said, "Enter into thy closet, and when thou has shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret, and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." "Search the Scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of me." By the obedient use of these appointed means of grace, in humble dependence on the influences of the Holy Spirit, the Christian advances in the divine life, makes progress in spiritual knowledge and strength. He becomes built up and established in the faith of the Gospel, fortified against the artifices of satan, the false teachings of the world and better prepared to enter upon a proper discharge of his varied Christian duties.

4thly. The true Christian will be most anxious to keep his heart with all diligence. The words of the wise man are not forgotten, "Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life." Without a strict observance of this divine command he cannot enjoy communion with his Heavenly Father; for his heart being deceitful and prone to evil, without constant watchfulness and prayer he will be led into those paths that are destructive of his peace and happiness. Without mentioning others, there is one glorious object, the contemplation of which by the Christian, will serve to keep his affections in the right channel—that object is Christ, his great exemplar in all things. It is by meditating upon Christ, the object of faith, love, hope and obedience, that these and other graces are enkindled and kept alive in his heart. Is he harrassed by temptations within and without? he sees in his Saviour the example of resisting the devil, that

he may flee from him. Is he tempted to indulge the passions of hatred, malice and revenge? he perceives in his Divine Master the exhibition of gentleness, meekness and love. Has he enemies? he learns the example of doing good to them. Have these enemies injured him? he has before him the example of forgiveness and the exercise of charity. Is he tempted to the indulgence of intemperate habits? he finds the example of sobriety. In short, is he tempted to the gratification of any unholy desire? he sees in his Saviour the bright pattern of purity of heart and life. "They that are Christ's, have crucified the flesh, with its affections and lusts" "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."

Having noticed what we conceive to be some of the principal traits of a christian, let us now briefly point out some of the duties resulting therefrom, the performance of which makes him an orderly member of the Church.

1st. We think one of the plainest of these duties is the punctual attendance on the public means of grace. The Psalmist says—"I was glad when they said unto me let us go into the house of the Lord." "I had rather be a door keeper in the house of my God then dwell in the tents of wickedness; for the Lord God is a sun and a shield, he will give grace and glory, and no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. The Christian should attend upon this duty, not only from the personal benefit derived thereby, but also that his example and influence may induce others to do likewise. The Gospel of Christ is the power of God, to the salvation of every one that believeth. Through this divine instrument many have been convicted of sin, regenerated and saved; hence the Christian should esteem it the highest privilege to come to the place where the Gospel is preached, and to bring others to that same holy spot.

2ndly. He should treasure up what he hears proclaim-



ed from the Pulpit by the faithful ambassador of Christ, carry the same home with him, and like the good Bereans of old, who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether these things were so," he should make the same diligent search, and whatever he finds to correspond with the teachings of the Bible, he should endeavor to reduce to practice, and also persuade others to a similar course of duty. Thus the good seed sown would germinate and spring up in honest hearts, and receiving this Berean cultivation, and blest with the sanctifying influences of the Holy Spirit, would bring forth much fruit to the honor and glory of the great Head of the Church.

3rdly. It is a duty binding on the Christian, to be faithful in partaking of the Lord's Supper—thus commemorating by this act the sufferings and death of Christ, and manifesting to the world his faith and trust in the risen Redeemer. After Christ has left behind him this touching memorial of his love, shall his professed people treat it with neglect? Will the christian refuse the benefits of that tender and expressive memento of his suffering and dying Lord? Yet how sad it is to witness the low estimate which sometimes appears to be placed upon that holy ordinance, by professing Christians refusing to partake of it.

4thly. Another manifest duty of the Christian is, that he be punctual to attend conference meetings. As one of the members of the "Spiritual Building fitly framed" he ought to render his share to its support, both by way of counsel and by exhibiting a lively interest in the welfare and prosperity of the Church. To neglect this duty, without a just excuse, manifests a spirit of indifference which neither comports with his solemn engagements, nor forms any part of the duties of an orderly church member.

6thly. The Christian should consider it his duty, to

watch over his brethren in the Lord, giving them such counsel and encouragement as they may need. "Now we exhort you brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient towards all men. "Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ." In this world of trouble and temptation, we often need sympathy, counsel and encouragement, and the Christian who sees his brother going astray, and makes no effort to reclaim him, clearly violates the law of christian love.

7thly. The Christian should always act and speak in such a way as shall strictly comport with his character and profession. To do this he must derive his principles from that unerring guide, the Holy Bible. He should bring every maxim of the world to the test of that infallible standard, and whatever fails to abide that test must be rejected. Without this circumspection he is liable to be drawn into those inconsistencies, both of action and speech which will bring injury upon his character and reproach upon the cause of Christ.

"So let our lips and lives express  
The holy Gospel we profess;  
So let our works and virtues shine,  
To prove the doctrine all divine."

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	POST OFFICES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	REC'D BY BAPTISM.	REC'D BY LETTER.	DIS'D. BY LETTER.	EXCLUDED.	RESTORED.	DEAD.	WHITES.	COLORED.	TOTAL.	CONTRIBUTORS.
Antioch, .....	Live Oak, Fla.	K. Chambers,	C. Brinson,	W. F. Bynum, * W. A. Brinson, *	2	1	2	3	1		25	8	33	\$ 3.00
Mount Pleasant	Weldon, Fla.	K. Chambers,	J. A. Griffin,	K. Chambers, M. Scarborough, *		14					27	1	40	3.50
Lake City, .....	Lake City, Fla.	W. W. Keep,	A. A. Stewart,	W. W. Keep, D. Jones, *	111	3		1			31	3	29	
Macedonia, .....	Live Oak, Fla.												34	
Falling Creek, .....	Lake City, Fla.	K. Chambers,	A. J. Hutchinsonson,	J. Male, *									28	2.00
Bethlehem, .....	Lake City, Fla.	K. Chambers,	J. B. Edge,										31	
Elim, .....	Lake City, Fla.	L. J. Simmons,	Jason Tyulack,										36	1.50
Mount Zion, .....	Lake Butler, Fla.		Chas. E. Jones,	L. J. Simmons, I. S. Coon, *	1	6	10	2	1		35	1	36	1.50
North Plk. Grove	Newmansville, Fla.		R. Cason,	S. H. Burnett, * R. Cason,		2	4	16			27	18	45	2.00
Olive, .....	Lake Butler, Fla.		W. H. Jamison,										22	
Providence, .....	Providence, Fla.	S. Weeks,	J. B. Horn,	F. A. Weeks, J. Billing,							115	30	145	3.85
New River, .....	Lake Butler, Fla.	J. H. Breaker,	R. F. Lewis,	J. O. Kelley, J. B. Cason,	15	14	3				30	1	31	3.50
Elham, .....	Waldo, Fla.	Wm. Johnson,	W. R. Napier,	E. B. Timmons, E. Earle,	15	14	2	2			77	13	90	5.00
Pleasant Grove,	Waldo, Fla.	J. H. Breaker,	W. H. Sanders,	H. V. Massey, W. S. Perry,	28	7	2		3	2	104	19	123	16.00
Param, .....	Morrison's Mills, Fla.	Wm. Johnson,	G. Weatherbee,	J. W. Thomas, * B. W. Beck's,	1	1	1				51	3	54	2.00
Penah, .....	Palatka, Fla.	J. W. Thomas,	W. R. Harris,	Jas. Burney, A. Geiger,	1	3	12		2		56	1	57	2.00
Balah, .....	Starke, Fla.	S. Weeks,	D. L. Alvarez,	Owen Alvarez, R. Buckles,	9	3					56		57	2.00
New Zion, .....	Lake City, Fla.	J. H. Tomkies,	L. Dozier,	J. H. Tomkies,				1			15		19	2.25
Fernandina, .....	Fernandina, Fla.	J. H. Tomkies,	J. Higginbotham,	J. H. Tomkies,							15		15	5.00
Sharon, .....	Callahan, Fla.	E. B. Timmons,	W. R. Harris,	W. S. Braddock, W. H. Caldwell,							19		32	3.60
Jacksonville, .....	Jacksonville, Fla.	J. H. Tomkies,	D. L. Alvarez,	J. Roberts, W. H. Goddard,							19		32	3.60
Deep Creek, .....	Louisville, Fla.	W. H. Caldwell,	J. Higginbotham,	J. Pringle, W. Pringle,							19		33	1.00
Ephesus, .....	Kings Ferry, Fla.	J. H. Tomkies,	X. Foreacre,								16		16	
Gadara, .....	Starke, Fla.	E. B. Timmons,	Joc. Haddock,	H. Smith, * H. S. Minon, *	13	4					15		17	1.50
Gainesville, .....	Gainesville, Fla.	J. H. Breaker,									15		15	
Total,					70	58	73	34	8	6	877	151	1028	\$58.23

Those marked thus \* were absent. No letters were received from the following Churches, Macedonia, Bethlehem, Elim, Olive, Paran, Deep Creek, Gainesville and Ephesus, and their membership is given from last years report.



