

MINUTES

OF THE

Sixth Annual Session

STETSON LIBRARY

WEST FLORIDA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

HELD WITH SARDIS CHURCH,

Jackson County, Florida,

OCTOBER 23—26, 1852.

Sentinel Office:

PRINTED BY JOSEPH GLIBBY.
1852.

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MINUTES.

MINISTERS OF THE WEST FLORIDA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Ordained Ministers in SMALL CAPITALS—Licentiates in *Italics*.

NAMES.	ADDRESS.
T. L. HANSFORD,	Ochesee, Florida.
S. ROWE,	Chattahoochee, Florida.
E. MINCHIN,	Greenwood, " "
<i>T. R. Mercer</i> ,	" " " "
D. CUMBIE,	Ucheeanna, " "
J. MERCER,	Orange Hill, " "
H. MERCER,	" " " "
D. P. EVERETT,	" " " "
J. H. WOMBWELL,	" " " "

THE WEST FLORIDA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION met in its Sixth Annual Session with the Sardis Church, Jackson County, Florida, October 23, 1852.

The Introductory Sermon was preached at the request of the appointed Minister, by Elder M. WESTMORELAND, from 2d Corinthians, 8:9—"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye, through his poverty, might be rich."

These services being concluded, after a recess, the Association was called to order by the Moderator of the last session. After singing, prayer was offered by Elder J. H. Wombwell.

The Clerk being absent, J. H. Wombwell was appointed to that office *pro tempore*. The letters of the Churches were called for, presented and read.

The Association then proceeded to the election of officers, when Elder J. Mercer was chosen Moderator, and J. H. Wombwell, Clerk.

The privilege was extended to Churches desirous of connecting themselves with the Association, to present their communications and delegates: The Bethel, Decatur County, Georgia—the Salem, Jackson County, and the Alaqua, Walton County, Florida, accepted the offer, presented letters and delegates, were received, and the hand of fellowship was given them by the Moderator.

Messengers from Corresponding Associations were requested to present themselves, and affectionately invited to participate in the deliberations of this body. It was announced that brethren J. E. Dennard, J. S. Dennard and W. W. B. Weston, were present from the Salem—brother M. Westmoreland, from the Tuskegee, and brother O. E. McKewn, from the Florida.

Visiting Ministers, not Messengers, were solicited to

seats, and to participation in the business. Brother D. Giddens accepted this invitation.

On motion, the following committees were appointed:

On Religious Exercises—D. P. Everett, T. R. Mercer, K. Jones, A. J. Barksdale and L. Patterson.

On Business—D. P. Everett, W. Sorey, J. Wooten and T. L. Hansford.

On Finance—S. Rowe, K. Jones and J. Wooten.

On State of the Churches—J. H. Wombwell, T. L. Hansford and J. Wooten.

On Documents—D. P. Everett, L. Patterson and W. Sorey.

On Nominations—D. Cumbie, W. A. Bell and H. L. Silvers.

On Corresponding Letter—J. H. Wombwell.

To Prepare Obituary Notice of Elder J. R. Jones—J. H. Wombwell.

On motion, then adjourned to Monday morning, 9 o'clock. Prayer by Elder J. S. Dennard.

LORD'S DAY.

The exercises of the day began with a prayer-meeting, conducted by Elder M. Westmoreland, and followed with preaching by Elders J. S. Dennard and W. W. B. Weston—at the close of which, a collection was taken up, amounting to \$20 90.

In the afternoon, Elders J. H. Wombwell and O. E. McKewn led the services.

The congregation was large and generally, attentive.—It is hoped “the word spoken may prove the power of God unto the salvation of many precious souls.”

MONDAY, A. M., 9 o'clock, October 25, 1852.

The Association assembled according to adjournment.—Prayer by Elder O. E. McKewn.

The minutes of Saturday were read, and the roll called.

The Committee on Business presented their report; which was adopted, and the committee discharged.

Read the Rules of Decorum. Appointed brethren D. P. Everett, W. Sorey and J. H. Wombwell to correspond with the Alabama Baptist State Convention. Subsequently voted the sum of \$30, to be paid through that body to the Board of Domestic Missions, S. B. C., at Marion, Alabama.

Received correspondence from the Bethlehem Female Missionary Society, and the Orange Hill S. S. Missionary Society, enclosing donations, and specifying their direction.

The Committee appointed at the last session to prepare a Standing Order of Business, reported unfavorably; their sentiments on the subject were agreed to, and they were discharged.

The Missionary Agent submitted the following report; which was adopted. Before the session closed, the sum of \$50 was voted for his services, and he was requested to continue his efforts.

“The Agent in behalf of your Missions reports that he has travelled in your bounds as much as he was able to do, on account of weather and sickness. He was kindly received by all the Churches to whom he applied, and they have sent up contributions with their letters to your body; besides this, he presented the subject to the consideration of several liberal-minded persons, who responded cheerfully to his demands.

“Your agent visited the last sessions of the Tuskegee and Salem Associations, and presented an account of your destitution to those esteemed bodies; the result has been that the former has agreed to sustain among you a missionary at their own expense the coming year—the latter made a liberal contribution of funds, and will do more another time.

“Respectfully submitted.

“JOSHUA MERCER, *Agent.*”

The reading of this report was accompanied by remarks by several brethren, and the subjoined resolutions were carried:

Resolved, That the harmony of feeling and union of interest existing between this body and the Tuskegee and Salem Associations, call upon us for an expression of our

gratitude, and a sense of the obligations we are under to those noble-hearted brethren. We pray God to bless them, and to bless the Tuskegee Missionary.

Resolved, That our growing friendship abroad, and the dawning of a better day in our bounds, demand of us increased zeal and perseverance in efforts to do good, and also a more hearty engagedness in prayer to God for his blessings to attend our labors.

Resolved, That the East Alabama Female College, located at Tuskegee, is eminently worthy of our patronage, prayers and contributions. Its faculty is able—the course of instruction thorough, and location delightful. These render it *the place* at which our daughters can complete their education.

The Executive Committee presented the following report; which was adopted:

“In the beginning of the Associational year past, we engaged Elders Minchin and Cumbie to labor in prescribed sections of our bounds; the former resigned his commission at the expiration of the second quarter—the latter has continued his labors to the present time.

“Your committee, also, entered into an agreement with Elder D. Giddens in January last, requiring him to labor in the most destitute parts of the Association not named in the commissions of the other Missionaries. We are happy to state, that a good degree of success has attended these labors; and, also, pleased to have it in our power to say, that we have been able to meet all our obligations.

“In addition to what your committee have been able to accomplish through their Missionaries, they are authorized to mention that the Bethlehem Female Missionary Society has sustained in its vicinity regular monthly preaching throughout the year.

“Respectfully submitted.

“T. BARNES, *Chairman.*”

Appointed Messengers to Corresponding Associations, as follows:

To the Tuskegee, to be holden in Barbour County, Ala-

bama, Saturday before the fourth Lord's day in September, 1853, Joshua Mercer, D. P. Everett and T. L. Hansford.—At a later period of the session, these brethren were instructed to confer with the Agents of the Tuskegee College, in reference to the terms of co-operation with them in aiding that institution.

To the Salem, to be holden in Troy, Pike County, Alabama, Saturday before the first Lord's day in October, 1853, J. Mercer and D. P. Everett.

To the Judson, to be holden in Dale County, Alabama, Saturday before the third Lord's day in October, 1853, D. Cumbie, T. R. Mercer, T. Hall and N. W. Miller.

To the Florida, to be holden in Thomas County, Georgia, Saturday before the fourth Lord's day in November, 1852, J. Mercer, D. P. Everett and S. Rowe.

To the Bethel, to be holden in Blakeley, Early County, Georgia, Saturday before the first Lord's day in November, 1852, D. P. Everett and W. A. Bell.

The Committee on Documents submitted the following report; which, after some discussion, was adopted.

Your Committee find in the letter from the Orange Hill Church, the subjects of Sabbath Schools and the Revision of the Scriptures, presented for the consideration of your body—the importance of these questions claims your attention.

The Econfina Church requests that you make some arrangement, by which that community can have preaching, of which they have been destitute for nearly two years.—The want of the ministry of the word is also mentioned in the letter from the Apalachicola Church.

Submitted respectfully,

D. P. EVERETT, *Chairman.*

In connection with the adoption of this report, the following resolutions were passed:

Resolved, That since the notice of the Baptist denomination has been called to the question of revising the sacred scriptures, we deem it our duty to express an opinion in the premises, and would deferentially say, that the necessity of

the measure is over-ruled by its great impracticability, and its likelihood to produce divisions and departures from the faith in the church, and to increase scepticism in the world.

Resolved, That we heartily sympathize with the churches at Apalachicola and Econfina in their destitution of pastoral supply, and hereby instruct the Executive Committee to use the earliest practicable means to supply, as far as possible, those and many other destitute places in our bounds.

The Committee on Nominations reported that Elder J. H. Wombwell preach the next Introductory Sermon, Elder J. Mercer his alternate; and Elder D. P. Everett preach the Missionary Sermon, Elder S. Rowe his alternate.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The business of the Association having been resumed, the next session was appointed to be holden with the Bethlehem Church.

Elected for an Executive Committee, D. P. Everett, Chairman, T. Barnes, A. McNeely, G. W. Underwood and W. Sorey; Treasurers. Afterwards, by a resolution, the Moderator and Clerk were added.

The Committee appointed for the purpose, submitted the following report on the

STATE OF THE CHURCHES:

Flat Creek, Gadsden County, Florida, is a feeble band, but has for its motto "Onward," and is encouraged to persevere, knowing that He who gave Christ to die, will also with Him, give all necessary assistance and blessing to those who ask him in believing prayer.

Bethel, Decatur County, Georgia, is a recent interest—has no pastor. This Church is situated in quite an extensive community; they want a minister of good ability and untiring zeal. It is hoped the collections begun will soon be sufficient to enable them to realize their desires.

Apalachicola is without a pastor; but against every untoward circumstance, continues to increase in numbers.—Their Meeting House was injured in the late storm which devastated that City. The Association sympathizes with

this Church, and has instructed the Executive Committee to assist them in procuring a suitable pastor as soon as possible; in the meantime, they are exhorted to persevere in their own efforts—to strive for the Redeemer's glory, and to preserve unshaken confidence in the promise, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

Sardis, Jackson County, Florida, is one of the oldest Churches in the Association, but is in a lingering condition. An agreeable change might be wrought, if the members would labor earnestly, prayerfully and constantly. A Church would hardly ever complain of coldness or barrenness, if the membership met every Lord's day for the purpose of prayer, and the religious instruction of their families.—They are engaged in building a new Meeting House in a better situation; it is hoped when this is finished, that every Sabbath the hymn of praise will be heard within its walls.

New Hope, Henry County, Alabama, has dissolved. The early demise of this body ought to teach the important lesson, that unregenerate persons received into a church will always prove a source of trouble, and sooner or later tarnish its name, and destroy its very existence.

Mount Pisgah, Jackson County, Florida, has been troubled the year past by some restless, dissatisfied spirits; these have been cut off very properly, leaving the remainder orderly and orthodox. Under the labors of the present pastor, it is hoped they will become a prosperous and happy people. New Providence enjoys the pastoral services of Elder T. L. Hansford, and is slowly increasing. It is hoped this institution will prove a blessing to the community, using the means of grace and living for the glory of God.

Big Spring, Henry County, Alabama, is reported by the delegate to be in a cold state, without any Sunday School and Prayer Meeting. How long will Churches neglect the greatest means in their possession to secure prosperity?—Brethren must pray, would they be blessed; must teach, if they would they be interested; must be zealous, if they wish not to be cold.

Union Academy, Jackson County, Florida, is steadily growing, and during the past summer was somewhat revived. The lay members in this Church are unsurpassed for liberality, zeal, faithfulness and consecration. The fair name of this Church is a proof of the correct lives the members lead. May they become a thousand.

Salem, Jackson County, Florida, is a new organization—was formed by persons dismissed for the purpose from the Orange Hill Church. The members are laboring for, and hastening unto, the coming of the Redeemer's kingdom.—Opposing principles in the vicinity are against the immediate increase of their numbers. They have a regular prayer meeting, and are willing to unite in every good work.

Bethlehem is the oldest Church in the Association—has a prayer meeting and Sunday School; and in connection with these, there is also a Female Missionary Society, which is prospering and eminently useful in aiding the support of the ministry, having raised during the year about fifty dollars for that purpose. There are but a few male members in this Church—the deficiency is well supplied by the females, who are active and zealous. The prospects of an extensive work of grace among this people are bright and cheering. Soon shall we expect to hear that the Holy Spirit has been poured out upon them.

Holmes' Creek is almost dead—has only two members remaining. Principles of an antagonistic nature prevail in the neighborhood, and have always kept this vine from flourishing; yet the state this church is in, should teach us this lesson—it is not always proper to constitute interests where four or five brethren can meet once a month, especially when none of them are permanently located.

Orange Hill, Washington County, Florida, is in a healthy and growing condition—has in its connection a Sunday School and Prayer Meeting, together with a Missionary Society. These, and the large amount of funds sent up to your session, show that the members are a working people. May

the Lord abundantly bless them, and may they prove a blessing to others.

Econfina has been without regular preaching for almost two years. The members are anxious to have "the word spoken" to them, and will attend meeting not only on Lord's day, but in the week also. They are commended to the favorable notice of the Executive Committee. May the Lord send them a faithful shepherd.

Holmes' Valley is scarcely breathing—has no pastor, and only two male members. Surrounding circumstances are adverse to its prosperity. Unless the Lord should bless them, this already feeble body must cease to exist. These brethren are likewise commended to the cares and sympathies of the more highly favored. May the Lord's face shine upon them.

Liberty Hill, Walton County, Florida, is in a novel situation—every adult in the neighborhood is in the Church.—Surely this people have been blessed. Now, at least, ought they to try to help others.

Harmony has a bad name. It is said there are those in the Church who do not live as christians. This is grievous to our bond of union, and is a reproach to them. The Lord give them grace to cast out the unclean—to wash their garments from the filth of the world, and to become "without spot, wrinkle, or any such thing."

New Hope, Ucheeanna, Walton County, Florida, is steady and faithful; lives and increases, although opposed. The Lord send them favor from the people, and make them a light to those among whom they live.

Alaqua, another new establishment, is reported to be in a favorable condition. May it "flourish as a tree planted by rivers of water," and may its members be careful to live void of offence both towards God and man. The members of a Church must be circumspect in life, pure in heart, and scriptural in their deeds, if they would gain honor among men, and secure the blessings of Christ upon them.

Allow us, in conclusion, to remark, that there are several other places deserving the notice of your Executive Com-

mittee, besides those noticed in the foregoing statements of the state of the Churches in our bounds. Among them, we would mention Marianna—Woodville, Calhoun County, and Holmes County. It is hoped that, before long, you will be able to gather in each of these places vigorous churches, in which every doctrine of the Bible shall be preached, and every ordinance practiced.

It is said "coming events cast shadows before them." If this be true, see we no sign of a better day far than this, which, soon coming, shall burst upon us with meridian brightness, causing our hearts to rejoice within us, and touching our lips with songs of praise to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. WOMBWELL, *Chairman.*

Appointed the following brethren to confer with Elder W. W. B. Weston, in reference to his removal into our midst, as a Missionary—T. L. Hansford, W. Sorey, T. R. Mercer—who, after the conference proposed, stated that circumstances, at present beyond their control, prevented any arrangements being made.

7 On motion, adjourned to 8½ o'clock to-morrow morning.
Prayer by Elder T. L. Hansford.

TUESDAY MORNING, 8½ o'clock, October 26, 1852.

Met according to adjournment. After singing, prayer was offered by Elder S. Rowe.

Received and adopted following report from the Committee on Finance:

"Your Committee have received and paid over to the Treasurer these sums, as follows: For Minutes, \$21 50; for Associational Missions, \$129 50; for Central African Mission, \$17 80; for Elder Z. Nix, \$21 45; from Collectors on Sabbath, \$20 90; for Alabama Baptist State Convention, \$30 00. Total, \$241 15.

"Respectfully submitted,

"S. ROWE, *Chairman.*"

The Treasurer made the subjoined report; which was adopted.

W. Sorey, *Treasurer, in account with the West Florida Baptist Association.*

		DR.	
1851.			
Oct. 27,	To cash on hand,	-	\$267 22
" "	To collection for Alabama Baptist State Convention,	-	10 25
Nov. 15,	To cash from various sources,	-	5 75
1852.			
Sept. 1,	To cash from Elder D. Giddens,	-	18 00
Oct. 26,	To amount received from Committee on Finance,	-	241 15
			\$542 37
		CONTRA.	
1851.			
Oct. 28,	By amount forwarded to Alabama State Convention,	-	\$20 00
" "	By amount forwarded to Domestic Missions, S. B. C.,	-	5 00
" "	By uncurrent bills,	-	14 00
1852.			
Feb. 1,	By amount paid for Printing Minutes,	-	20 00
" "	By amount paid for services of Clerk,	-	15 00
" "	By amount paid E. Minchin, for Missionary Services,	-	25 00
" "	By amount paid T. L. Hansford, for services 1851,	-	20 00
" "	By amount paid Z. Nix, per order B. F. M. S.,	-	25 20
Oct. 26,	By amount paid D. Cumbie, for Missionary Services,	-	75 00
" "	By amount paid D. Giddens,	-	150 00
" "	By amount paid Alabama Baptist State Convention,	-	30 00
			\$399 20
	Now on hand,	-	\$143 17

Respectfully submitted, W. SOREY, *Treasurer.*

Read and adopted the Corresponding letter; which will be found in the proper place.

On motion, it was—

Resolved, That the Churches in this Association be requested to state in their letters to the next session, their opinion respecting an alteration in the Decorum, so as to allow the officers to be members of the Association by virtue of their office.

The consideration of the destitution in the western part of our bounds, gave rise to an interesting discussion. All seemed to feel in the matter, and a resolution was passed, instructing all present to take a share in supplying that country.

The business of the Association being nearly despatched, the following resolutions were passed:

Resolved, That the thanks of this body are due, and are

hereby tendered, to the brethren and friends in the vicinity, for their unexcelled kindness and hospitality to us during our session.

Resolved, That the Clerk have 500 copies of these Minutes printed and properly distributed among the Churches, and that \$20 be allowed him for his services.

The Association having finished its business, adjourned to hear the Farewell Sermon, which was ably and eloquently delivered by Elder J. S. Dennard. These services over, the Moderator announced the body adjourned, to meet with the Bethlehem Church, Jackson County, Florida, on Saturday before the fourth Lord's day in October, 1853.

JOSHUA MERCER, *Moderator*.

J. H. WOMBWELL, *Clerk*.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

THE WEST FLORIDA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,
TO ALL CORRESPONDING BODIES:

DEAR BRETHREN:

Our Sixth Annual Meeting has been just holden, and with great pleasure, do we send you our Letter of Correspondence. We had the unspeakable satisfaction of seeing several of your Messengers with us, and were edified by their ministerial exercises, as well as aided in our deliberations by their counsels. We entreat you to accept of our thanks for these expressions of regard for us, and to be assured that we will always gladly welcome your Messengers of love.

Our next session is appointed to be holden with the Bethlehem Church, Jackson County, Florida, beginning Saturday before the fourth Lord's day in October, 1853.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ ever be with you, and abundantly bless your labors!

JOSHUA MERCER, *Moderator*.

J. H. WOMBWELL, *Clerk*.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	Post Offices.	DELEGATES.	Baptized.	Rec'd by let.	Restored.	Dis. by let.	Excluded.	Deceased.	Total.	By delegates for minutes.	By delegates' associational missions.	By delegates' for cent' mission.	Monthly Meetings.
<i>First District.</i>													
Big Springs,	Open Pond, Alabama,	T. R. Mercer,	3	5	2	3	2	2	40	50	2 00		2d Lord's day.
Mount Flagler,	Marianna, Florida,	H. L. Sillers, Kelly Sillers,	4	1	13	3	13	2	32	1 00			" "
Sardis,	Chattahoochee, "	A. J. Barksdale, L. Patterson,	1	1	5	5	5	1	27	1 00	95	95	2d "
Flat Creek,	"	J. Wooten,	2	2	2	2	1	1	12	1 50		1st "	" "
Bethel,	"	S. Rowe, G. W. Clay,	22	4	1	1	2	6	73	50 25	1 50		3d "
Apalachicola,	Apalachicola,	L. Fort,	2	2				18	39	1 00	1 00		1st "
New Providence,	Ochesee,	T. L. Hansford, L. C. Musgrove,	3	7			5	39	39	3 00	15 00		" "
Union Academy,	Greenwood,	J. H. Wombwell, W. Sorey,	9	4			6	2	14	1 50	2 50		4th "
<i>Second District.</i>													" "
Salem,	Marianna,	W. A. Bell, K. Jones,	9	4			4	2	53	2 00	5 05	1 00	4th "
Bethlehem,	Campbellton,	N. W. Miller,	5	5			13	4	59	3 00	94 20	15 85	2d "
Holmes' Creek,	"	J. Mercer, D. P. Everett,	2	2			13	4	11	50	6 00		" "
Orange Hill,	Orange Hill,		8	7			7		20	50	2 00		3d "
Ecotina, Valley,	St. Andrew's Bay,		3	3			7		7	1 50			1st "
Holmes' Valley,	Vernon,		64	30			40	25	646	21 50	129 50	17 80	" "
Harmony,	Cerro Gordo,												" "
New Hope,	Ucheeanna,												" "
Liberty Hill,	"												" "
Alaqua,	"												" "

1780
1473