

Mrs. H. A. C. Daniel

MINUTES

OF THE

Thirteenth Annual Session

OF THE

of the

WEST FLORIDA

WE

Baptist Association,

HELD WITH THE

ORANGE CHURCH,

Washington County, Florida.

On the 23d, 24th and 25th of October, 1859.

COLUMBUS, GA.

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MINUTES.

1. The Congregation assembled at the Stand, and, at the request of brother MERCER, who had been appointed to preach the Introductory Sermon, brother H. B. PARKER preached the Introductory from the Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Ephesians, 2d Chap. and 5th verse, "By grace ye are saved."

2d. After intermission and suitable refreshments, the Association convened in the house, and was organized by singing and prayer. Brother L. R. SIMS led in prayer.

3d. The Letters from the Churches were then handed in and read.

4th. Brether JOSHUA MERCER was elected Moderator, and brother STEPHEN ROWE Clerk.

5th. Brother LAWRENCE is appointed to preach at the Stand this afternoon.

6th. Appointed the following Committees, viz :

On Preaching.—F. T. Miller, J. A. Collier, D. P. Everett, G. W. Underwood, W. P. L. Horne.

On Business.—C. N. Hartsfield, L. R. Sims, A. Bevis.

On Finance.—T. Barnes, E. N. Hyatt, A. J. Sims.

On Publications.—W. B. Lacy, J. R. Bell, R. C. B. Lawrence.

On Sabbath Schools.—W. B. Lacy, J. A. Collier, T. R. Mercer.

On Missions.—L. R. Sims, N. Whiddon, D. Neel.

On Documents.—W. P. L. Horne, R. Bennett, W. L. Hatton.

On Nominations.—G. W. Underwood, B. T. Barkley, J. Bird.

On Deceased Ministers.—J. A. Collier, G. W. Underwood, E. H. Still.

To Write the Corresponding Letter.—S. Rowe.

7. Called for Petitionary Letters from Churches newly constituted, when the following petitions were handed in: from Pilgrim's Rest, Pine Barren, and Limestone; and the Churches were received into connection and fellowship with this body, and the hand of fellowship extended by the Moderator to as many of the Delegates as were present.

8. On motion, invited Baptist Ministers, not of this body, to take seats with us. Present brother T. Muse, Z. Nix, M. Brooks, H. B. Parker, T. E. Langley, H. Hartsfield, W. M. Janes, W. M. Davis and W. M. Howell.

9. Called for Correspondence from Sister Associations, and received from the Judson brethren W. M. Howell, R. R. Phillips and A. N. Thompson. From the Bethel, T. Muse, H. Hartsfield, W. M. Janes and W. H. Long. From the Zion, brother Middleton Brooks, proposing correspondence with the body.

10. Brother Z. Nix is appointed to preach to-night and brother Muse in the afternoon to-morrow; brother W. M. Davis to-morrow night, and brother Langley in the forenoon on Monday.

11. A letter from the Sabbath School Missionary Society, at Campbellton, was received and read, and while the subject to which it alluded was before the body, on motion, the Association adjourned to half past 8 o'clock on Monday morning. Prayer by brother Muse.

SABBATH, 23d.

The congregation assembled in the house for prayer at half past 9 o'clock, and after some time spent in prayer, repaired to the Stand for preaching. At 11 o'clock, by the request of brother Sims, who had been appointed to preach the Missionary Sermon, brother Wm. M. Davis delivered a very interesting discourse on the subject of missions, when a collection of \$66 was made for missions. In the afternoon brother Muse, from Cuthbert, Ga., preached with great zeal and power to an attentive congregation.

Brother J. Mercer preached to the colored people in the forenoon and brother R. C. B. Lawrence in the afternoon.

At night brother L. R. Sims preached a heart-searching and heart-cheering sermon. Brother muse followed in exhortation, making a powerful appeal to sinners to open their hearts for the admission of the blessed Saviour. The exercises of the day and of the night were truly interesting. At the close of the night's services, many precious souls came forward for prayer, and the hearts of Christians were cheered and abundantly refreshed. May God bless the labors of the day.

MONDAY, 24th.

Met according to adjournment. Prayer by brother Rowe.

1. Called for report of Committee on Business, which was read and adopted.

2. Called the roll and read the minutes of the past two days.

3. Called for report of the Special Committee to prepare documents for the Association, who reported not ready, and, on motion, time was granted till next session, and brother Lacy appointed to fill the vacancy of brother Wombwell, deceased, as Chairman of the Committee

4. Appointed Correspondence as follows:

To the Tuskegee Association, 25 miles above Ufala, Friday before the 3d Sabbath in September, J. Mercer, D. P. Everett.

The Ufala, Glennville, Saturday before the 4th Sabbath in September, J. Mercer, D. P. Everett.

The Salem, Troy, Saturday before the 1st Sabbath in October, J. Mercer.

The Judson, Newton, Saturday before the 3d Sabbath in October, W. B. Lacy, J. Mercer, J. A. Collier, J. Mashburn, D. Neel, G. W. Underwood.

The Bethel, Cotton Hill, Saturday before the 1st Sabbath in November,—D. P. Everett, G. W. Underwood.

The Florida, Friendship, 10 miles S. W. of Thomasville, Friday before the 3d Sabbath in November, ———.

5. On motion, agreed to open Correspondence with the Zion, at Elba, Saturday before the 1st Sabbath in November. Delegates, J. Mercer, W. H. Mercer.

6. On motion, invited Agents of Literary and Religious Institutions to address the body, when brother Muse, from Cuthbert, delivered an interesting address in behalf of the Baptist Female College, at Cuthbert; and on motion, the following Resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That having heard last year, by brother Warren, of the merits of the Baptist Female College at Cuthbert, Southwestern Georgia, and now listened with gratification to the address of brother Muse, we do heartily recommend that excellent Institution as eminently deserving the most extensive patronage.

7. On motion, brother W. B. LACY was recognised as Agent for the Sabbath School Missionary Society at Campbellton, who made some interesting remarks in relation to that Institution, and presented a contribution of \$42.25 for Missions. Whereupon resolved, that we tender our hearty thanks to the managers of that Institution for their liberal contribution.

8. Brother D. P. EVERETT also presented the claims of the *Landmark Banner & Cherokee Baptist*, and a number of subscriptions were taken for that paper, and on motion the following Resolution adopted:

Whereas, as an Association we have no medium of communication, and whereas our beloved brother D. P. Everett is one of the Editors of the *Landmark Banner & Cherokee Baptist*—resolved, therefore that we adopt said paper as a medium of Associational communication.

9. Agreed to hear the 11 o'clock sermon.

10. The congregation then assembled at the stand, to hear brother LANGLEY from Georgia, who preached truly as with a holy unction from on high, and the effects upon the congregation were such as are rarely witnessed in our country.

11. After suitable refreshment business was resumed, and the Bro. Moderator addressed the body interestingly on the subject of the revision of the English Scriptures.

12. The report of the Committee on Publications was read and adopted. (See Appendix A.)

13. The report of the Committee on Sabbath Schools was read and adopted. (Letter B.)

14. The report of Committee on Missions was read and adopted. (Letter C.)

15. The report of the Committee on Documents was read and adopted, (D.) and a subscription was raised for the purpose of aiding the Apalachicola Church in supporting a Pastor, payable at the next session of this Body, provided that Church can procure the services of a Pastor, but if not, the subscriptions will be null.

W. B. Lacy,.....\$10	C. N. Hartsfield,.....\$10	F. T. Allen,.....\$10	W. P. L. Horn,.....\$10
Thos. Barnes,.....10	Sarah Barnes,.....10	J. A. Collier,.....10	A. J. Sims,.....10
D. P. Everett,.....10	W. Hartsfield,.....10	Wm. Lacey,.....10	W. M. Davis, (pd)... 5
Thos. Langley,..... 5	Wm. Butler,.....10	A. Bevis,..... 2	Total.....\$182

16. The report of Executive Committee was read and adopted, (E.) and the subject referred to in reference to employing a Missionary for the Walton Mission, was referred to the Executive Committee.

17. On motion, and by vote of the Body, the next session is appointed to be held with the Campbellton Church, commencing Saturday before the 4th Sabbath in October, 1860.

18. The appeal of the Pine Barren Church, in behalf of brother Underwood, was taken up, and pending the discussion, the Association adjourned to half past 8 o'clock to-morrow morning. Brother Wm. M. James to preach to-night. Prayer by brother Brooks.

TUESDAY, Oct. 25th.

1. Met according to adjournment. Prayer by brother Allen.

2. On motion, adopted the following Resolution: Whereas, brother Underwood has labored abundantly this year, at a great personal and pecuniary sacrifice, and his ministry has been signally blessed—

Resolved, That his example should stimulate us all to greater zeal and energy, and his success cause us to rely more and more upon the Divine care.

Resolved, That brother Underwood deserves the especial assistance of our brethren, both in prayers and in supplying him with temporal support.

8. On motion, called for volunteers to the Florida Baptist Convention, at Jacksonville, East Florida, and the following brethren volunteered their services: C. N. Hartsfield, W. B. Lacy, and F. T. Allen. Brother Edward Barnes, being absent, was proposed as a delegate, and on motion was added to the number.

4. The report of Committee on Nominations, read and adopted (F.)

5. The following brethren were elected Executive Committee, viz: J. A. Collier, A. J. Sims, F. T. Allen, C. N. Hartsfield, Wm. Sorey, W. B. Lacy and Wm. Hartsfield; Bro. Sorey Treasurer. On motion, bro. T. Barnes was added to the committee.

6. The report of the Committee on Deceased Ministers was read and adopted, (G.) and on motion, bro. C. N. Hartsfield was appointed agent to carry out the object mentioned in the report; and in view of the bereavement in the loss of brother Wombwell, it was proposed to spend some time in prayer—brother Sims leading in prayer.

7. The report of the Finance Committee read, and adopted, (H.)

8. The Treasurer's Report was read and adopted. (I.)

9. The subject of a proposition from the Judson Association relative to building a Meeting House in Woodville, was taken up and discussed. Whereupon the following resolution was adopted:

Whereas, we have long desired the building up of the cause of Christ in all our country, and more particularly our county towns—Therefore

Resolved, That we recommend to the friends of the Baptist cause, the building of houses for worship in every town within our bounds, and that we will co-operate with our sister Association (the Judson) in this enterprise, by holding mass meetings, and in any other laudable way with reference to that object.

10. On motion, the following Resolutions were adopted: *Resolved*, That this Body invite Elder J. B. GRAVES to visit us at the next Annual Meeting of this Association.

Resolved, That the Clerk be instructed to have 500 copies of our Minutes printed and distributed among the Churches, and that he be allowed \$30 for his services, and that he be allowed to draw upon the Treasury for the funds wanting to defray these expenses.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Body are due, and are hereby most heartily tendered the Church and community for the bountiful accommodations afforded us during our present session.

11. The Minutes were then read, and on motion the Association agreed to adjourn to the time and place before mentioned.

13. After singing, and taking the parting hand, and prayer by bro. Langley, the body was dismissed, in order, by the Moderator.

JOSHUA MERCER, Moderator.

STEPHEN ROWE, Clerk.

Articles of Faith of

The West Florida Association.

ART. 1. We believe in the existence of one only true and living GOD, and that he has made himself known to his people under the name of the FATHER and the SON, and of the HOLY GHOST; the same in essence, and equal in every divine perfection. Refer to Mark xii. 32, 1 Tim. ii. 5, Ex. xx. 3, Isa. xli. 9, Ps. xlv. 3, Isa. ix. 6, John i. 1, 4; v. 23, x. 30, Matt. xxviii. 19, 1 John v. 7.

ART. 2. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice. 2 Tim. iii. 16, 17; 2 Peter i. 21, 2 Sam. xxiii. 2, Acts i. 16.

ART. 3. We believe in the doctrine of Election; that God chose his people in Christ before the foundation of the world; that they should be holy and without blame before him in love, having predestined them unto the adoption of children, by Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will. Eph. i. 4, 5, Jer. xxxi. 5, 2.

ART. 4. We believe in the doctrine of Original Sin. Gen. iii. 6, 7; vi. 5, viii. 21, Isaiah i. 5, 6, Psalms xiv. 1, 2, 3; Rom. v. 12; i. 28, 32, vi. 23; Matt. xv. 18, 20.

ART. 5. We believe in man's impotency to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature, by his own will and ability. John vi. 44, 45; Rom. xi. 6, Eph. ii. 8, 9.

ART. 6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Christ. Rom. iii. 21, 26; iv. 5, 18; vi. 23, John x. 9-15; Isa. lvii. 8; Acts iv. 11, 12; Rom. v. 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 21.

ART. 7. We believe that God's Elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Ghost. Eph. ii. 1, 10; 2 Tim. i. 9; Titus iii. 4, 7; Col. i. 11 to 13; 1 Cor. ii. 10 to 12; 2 Cor. i. 10 to 12; iv. 6, John vi. 63, xvi. 13, 14.

ART. 8. We believe that nothing can separate the true believers from the love of God, but that they will be kept by the power of God through faith, unto salvation. John x. 28, 30; vi. 37; xiii. 1; Phil. i. 6, 1 Peter i. 5; Deut. xxxiii. 3, Heb. vi. 17, 18, John xvii. 23.

ART. 9. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ; that true believers are the only subjects of

these ordinances, and that immersion only is Baptism. Matt. iii. 5, 12, Mark i. 5, Luke iii. 7, Acts ii. 38 to 42; John iii. 23, Rom. vi. 3, 4; Col. ii. 12; 1 Peter iii. 21; Acts xviii. 8.

ART. 10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and a General Judgment. Job xix. 26; 27; Dan. xii. 2; Hosea xiii. 14; Mark xii. 24 to 27; 1 Cor. xv. 5; 2 Cor. v. 10.

ART. 11. We believe that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting, and that the joys of the righteous will be eternal. Matt. xxv. 46; 2 Thess. i. 9; Rev. vii. 14 to 17.

ART. 12. We believe that no Minister has a right to administer the Ordinances, unless he is called of God, and come under the imposition of hands by a Presbytery, and is in fellowship in the Church of which he is a member.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The West Florida Baptist Association to the sister Associations with whom she corresponds, sends Christian love and salutation:

BELOVED BRETHREN: Through divine mercy we have been permitted to hold our thirteenth annual session. Our Churches were well represented, and the divine presence was manifested among us. Blessed be His holy name. Though few and weak, we are still gradually gaining ground; and although our Heavenly Father has again smitten us, by calling away from our midst one of his faithful Ministers, he has kindly sent another to supply his place; His holy will be done. Our number was increased by three newly constituted Churches, and our Western Mission seems, by the blessing of heaven, to be prospering; may God increase and bless the work, more and more. But notwithstanding we have been favored with Heaven's blessings during the past year, we are still in great need of more ministerial aid. Our hearts were refreshed and encouraged by the presence and kind labors of our brethren from sister Associations; may God bless them and the Associations from which they came. Dear Brethren: still continue your kind correspondence, and favor us with an interest in your prayers, that we may be more and more faithful in the work of the Lord, and that we and you may be fellow-laborers in the kingdom of our blessed Redeemer, until we all are called home to receive the reward of our labors in Heaven.

JOSHUA MERCER, Moderator.

STEPHEN ROWE, Clerk.

APPENDIX A.

The Committee on PUBLICATIONS present the following as their report:

It is truly a source of denominational pride to know that the Baptists are no longer branded with the odium of an "ignorant sect." We rejoice in the fact that there are not wanting, in our own ranks, men of the best order of talents,—men who have furnished the world with

the best religious literature of the day, not fearing to declare "the whole counsel of God." Your Committee feel that they cannot too strongly urge upon our people the study of those religious books and papers which teach the distinctive principles of our denomination. Baptists owe it to themselves and to the cause of truth, to send abroad through the land those books and religious newspapers which teach the "principles and practices" of our order. In this connection your Committee would especially endorse and recommend *The Tennessee Baptist* and the *Landmark Banner & Cherokee Baptist*, as every way worthy of our patronage as Baptists. The latter, published at Rome, Ga., (our brother D. P. Everett corresponding editor for our own State,) we think has peculiar claims upon us, and we hope it will have a wide circulation in our bounds. Respectfully submitted,

W. B. LACY, Chm'n.

On adopting the above report, the following Resolution was unanimously passed, and ordered to be appended to the above:

Resolved, That we most cordially endorse the *Children's Friend*, edited by Elder A. C. Dayton, and earnestly recommend its patronage to all the friends of Baptist Sabbath Schools.—CLERK.

(B.)

Your Committee on *Sabbath Schools*, report—

That they regard the cause of Sabbath Schools as of vital importance to our religious interests. Next to the preaching of the gospel, we deem the subject of Sabbath School Instruction as requiring our most earnest efforts; surely no christian labor is more important than the truths of the Bible to the young and rising generation. Until recently a great obstacle has been in the way in this department of christian enterprise, in the want of suitable books for our Schools—books which teach the distinctive principles of our order. But your committee are happy to state that that obstacle no longer exists; that we can now easily procure books suitable for our schools, written by some of the most able and pious men in our own ranks. And your committee cannot but regret that notwithstanding we are thus amply provided for, so few of our Churches have availed themselves of the advantages arising from Baptist Sabbath School Literature, and are still using the *Union Books*, which purposely keep hid our distinctive principles as Baptists. We think Baptists should not be afraid, or ashamed, to teach in the *Sabbath School*, what they declare *from the Pulpit*. In closing this report, your committee would therefore recommend to the friends of our Schools the Books published by the S. S. S. Union—especially the *Question Books* by Elder A. C. DAYTON—fully believing, with the facilities now at our command, *there exists no good reason why there may not be a Sabbath School in every Baptist Church.*

Respectfully submitted,

W. B. LACY, Chm'n.

On the adoption of the above report, it was unanimously:

Resolved, That we recommend to each church in our association, to establish a Sabbath school and prayer meeting, so as to insure religious exercises on every Sabbath.—CLERK.

(C.)

Committee on *Missions*, make the following report :

To give others the means of salvation, is a part of that work which the christian feels he ought to do. The Apostle tells us, as we have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him ; and while it is true, that in receiving Christ, his spirit in all his character dwells in us ; yet that principle which moved the Saviour on his mission to this world, is in a special sense imperfect in us. When we are converted to Christ, and our sins pardoned, among our first desires, is that our relatives and friends may receive the same blessedness, and for this we begin to pray and labor ; the nearest relatives and dearest friends are first thought of ; from these, our desires go out to neighbors and friends all around, and finally, to all the world. While the charity of the christian is so enlarged that it embraces the world, those at home must claim that charity first. In doing the work which this charity suggests, we must not only tell them the truths of the Gospel once, but from day to day they must be urged upon them, that by all means, we may save some ; and the work must not cease until the cause shall be established at home and abroad. While we pray, and preach, and give, as the Lord hath prospered us, let us not forget that we are to trust alone in the great head of the church for success.

And now brethren, is there work for us to do, at home ? to know this, you have only to look around you for one moment. You see your very neighbors begging for the bread of eternal life. In the field West of the Chattahoochee river, there are hundreds who are dependent upon us for the Gospel ; some there are, who have been so situated, that they have grown to the years of maturity without hearing the Gospel. Recently, you by your Missionary, have hunted them out, and declared to them the way of salvation ; they have heard, and some of them have believed.

Shall we give reasons why we should give the Gospel to the destitute ? One, and a sufficient one is, Christ commands it ; but, added to this, is the fact, that it is so pleasant to feel that we have done something for the cause of our Saviour, and for our perishing fellow-beings.

Brethren, it is our cause, let us move it on ; all of us can do something, that something our Saviour commands us to do. For the encouragement of you all, your committee would say, the Lord is blessing your efforts ; in two years, fifty-four have professed the name of Christ in your Western field, and others are coming, inquiring the way of life, and the prospects now are brighter than ever before.

Let us work while it is day, for the night cometh when no man can work. As ye have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him.

Respectfully submitted.

L. R. SIMS, Chm'n.

(D.)

The Committee on *Documents*, report :

That they find in the letters the following items claiming the attention of your body : The church at Apalachicola request this body to assist them in procuring a regular Pastor. The churches in our Mission-field in Holmes and Walton counties, request the Association to

assist them in sustaining bro. Sims in their midst. The Sardis church desires your next session to be held with them.

The Pine Barren church solicit for bro. Underwood the sympathies and encouragement of your body, who has been preaching for them two years, as often as possible.

Respectfully submitted.

WM. P. L. HORN, Chm'n.

(E.)

The *Executive* Committee beg leave to report :

That they employed brother L. R. Sims to preach in Walton and Holmes counties, at a salary of \$400, of which the Domestic Board at Marion, Ala., have paid \$166 66 $\frac{2}{3}$, and your committee have ordered him paid \$233 33 $\frac{1}{3}$. He has reported as follows : Travelled 1,336 miles ; preached 168 sermons ; baptized 26 ; received by letter 24 ; constituted one church, and ordained one deacon, besides attending prayer meetings, religious visits, delivering exhortations, &c. He says, I leave the field in a prosperous condition, much more so than at any time since my acquaintance with it, and I cannot feel that it is right for us to leave the field unsupplied ; an influence is being felt all over this country, among those who hitherto have manifested little or no interest in their eternal welfare. We could not do better than to keep up the Mission a year or two longer, when according to present appearances, it will be self-sustaining.

Your committee recommend that he be continued at least another year.

C. N. HARTSFIELD, Chm'n.

(F.)

The Committee on *Nominations*, report :

That brother D. P. Everett is appointed to preach the next introductory sermon, and brother J. Mercer, his alternate ; and brother W. B. Lacy, is appointed to preach the next missionary sermon, and brother L. R. Sims his alternate.

G. W. UNDERWOOD, Chm'n.

(G.)

The Committee on decease of *Ministers*, submit the following as their report :

While we have great reason to be thankful to the Great Shepherd above, for sparing the lives of so many of our ministers amid the shafts of death, which are constantly falling around us ; yet it is our mournful task to report, that since last we met in this capacity, one of our faithful watchmen has been taken from the walls of Zion, one warning voice has been hushed in death, our brother, elder Joseph H. Wombwell, was called from the scenes of his earthly labor on the 17th day of July last. Your committee have to regret that they are not able in this brief report, to present such an Obituary notice of our deceased brother, as his merits, and the sad event demand. They can only state, that in the death of bro. Wombwell, we, as an association, and our denomination at large, have lost a faithful and an efficient minister of the Gospel. That while we would bow in humble submission to the will of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will ;

