

6270 MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTIETH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

West Florida Baptist Association,

HELD WITH THE BAPTIST CHURCH AT

Campbellton, on the 27th, 28th and 29th October, A. D. 1866.



BAINBRIDGE, GEORGIA :

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Twentieth Annual Session West Florida Baptist Association.

MINUTES.

I. The congregation assembled in the house, and at the request of Brother Howell, who was appointed last year, the Introductory Sermon was preached by Brother A. Van House, from the 18th chapter and 15th, 16th and 17th verses of the Gospel by Matthew: "Moreover if thy Brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone; if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy Brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that, in the mouth of two or three witnesses, every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it to the Church: but if he neglect to hear the Church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a Publican."

II. One hour's intermission.

III. After intermission and refreshment, the Delegates convened in the house, and the Association was organized by singing and prayer. Prayer by Brother J. M. Davis.

IV. The letters from the Churches were then handed in and read.

V. Elected Brother W. B. Lacy, Moderator, and Brother Stephen Rowe, Clerk.

VI. Invited Ministers not of this Body to seats with us.

VII. Called for Petitionary Letters from newly constituted Churches, and received a letter from the Church at Smyrna, Ala., which being found orthodox and orderly, was received into this body.

VIII. Called for Correspondence from Religious Bodies, and received from the Judson Association, Brethren L. R. Sims, H. Whiddon Crawford, and J. M. Payner.

From the Newton, (proposing Correspondence which was accepted,) Brethren, T. J. Downing and — Hollis.

From the Bowen, Brother J. M. Davis.

From the Eufaula, Brother A. Van House.

IX. On motion Brother W. B. Lacy was recognized as Agent for the Board of Domestic Missions at Marion, Ala.

X. Appointed the following committees (namely):

On Preaching J. Everett, P. M. Fenley and B. Hinson with the Delegation from the Campbellton Church.

On Finance, S. P. Borrum, A. Beves and James Godwin.

On Publications S. M. Pyles, J. S. Etheridge and W. Williams.

On Documents, S. Rowe, P. M. Fenley and W. A. Phillips.

- On Sabbath Schools T. Barnes, J. J. Grantham and J. C. Coleman.
 On Missions, W. M. Howell, A. Beves, Wm. Brunson.
 On Nominations, J. C. Collier, J. A. Collier and T. D. Brown.
 On State of the Churches, S. M. Pyles, W. M. Howell, J. J. Grantham.
 On Decease of Ministers, S. Rowe, L. D. Coonrod and H. Sewell.
 Corresponding Letter, S. Rowe.
- XI. Appointed Correspondence as follows, viz:
 To the Tuskegee—The Eufaula, Saturday before the fourth Sabbath in September; W. M. Howell, W. B. Lacy.
 The Salem—Brundage, Saturday before the first Sabbath in October.
 The Judson—Shiloh, Saturday before the first Sabbath in October; W. M. Howell, J. A. Collier, W. B. Lacy.
 The Bethel—Albany, Saturday before the first Sabbath in November; S. M. Pyles.
 The Florida—third Sabbath in October; W. B. Lacy.
 The Bowen—Saturday before second Sabbath in October; W. B. Lacy, J. J. Grantham, S. M. Pyles, S. Rowe.
 The Newton—Ebenezer, Saturday before the second Sabbath in October; D. A. Skipper, W. M. Howell, J. J. Grantham.
- XII. At the request of Brother Lacy, on motion liberty was granted him to represent the claims of the Domestic Mission Board on Sabbath, on the subject of Domestic Missions.
- XIII. Agreed to meet in prayer to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock.
- XIV. Adjourned business to 9 o'clock, Monday morning.
 Prayer by the Moderator.

SABBATH, OCTOBER 28.

- The Brethren Lacy and Sims preached in the order of their names to a large and attentive congregation. The Missionary Sermon was preached from the Gospel by Matthew, 21st chapter and 28th verse: "Son, go work to day in my vineyard."
 Brother J. M. Davis preached at night.
 The sum of \$13 75 was collected for Domestic Missions.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29.

- I. The Association met and opened by singing and prayer
 Prayer by W. Williams.
 II. The minutes of the two past days were read and approved.
 III. Renewed invitation to seats with us.
 IV. Renewed call for correspondence, and received from the Zion
 Brother William C. Avant.
 V. Appointed correspondence to the Zion, Brother J. C. Collier.

- VI. Called for report of Executive Committee, which was read and adopted. See Appendix (A.)
 VII. On motion an effort was made to raise funds for the support of a Missionary within our own bounds. Subscription payable quarterly. The amount raised not reported.
 VIII. Adopted the following resolution, namely:
Resolved, That we recommend the Churches to appoint a committee of young ladies to solicit contributions for missions.
 IX. The Treasurer's Report was read and adopted (B.)
 X. On motion, continued the same brethren as Executive Committee that served last year, namely: T. Barnes, Treasurer; J. A. Collier, A. J. Sims, William Sorey, J. B. Everett and William P. L. Horn. The Moderator was added.
 XI. On motion, called for volunteers to the Florida Baptist Convention, when the following brethren volunteered, namely: W. M. Howell, W. B. Lacy, and S. M. Pyles.
 XII. The Report on Publications was read and adopted (C.)
 XIII. The Report on Documents was read and adopted (D.)
 XIV. Appointed the next session of this body to be held with the Church at Greenwood, on Saturday before the fourth Sabbath in October, 1867.
 XV. The Report on Sabbath Schools was read and adopted (E.)
 XVI. The Report on Nominations was read and adopted (F.)
 XVII. Report on State of the Churches read and adopted (G.)
 XVIII. Report on Decease of Ministers read and adopted (H.)
 XIX. Report on Finance read and adopted (I.)
 XX. On motion, instructed the Clerk to have 400 copies of these minutes printed and distributed; and ordered that he have \$20 for his services.
 XXI. One hour's intermission.
 XXII. After intermission, the Farewell Sermon was preached by Brother Avant, after which a hymn was sung and the parting hand taken, and prayer was made. The Association was then adjourned to the time and place before mentioned.

W. B. LACY, Moderator.

STEPHEN ROWE, Clerk.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The West Florida Baptist Association to the sister Associations with which she corresponds sends Christian salutation:

DEAR BRETHREN: Through the dispensations of a kind Providence, we have been permitted to hold our Twentieth Annual Ses-

sion. Our Churches were as well represented as common, yet we have to lament the great lukewarmness manifested in the returns of our Churches. Great destitution and coldness prevail among us, and few additions have been made to the Churches during the past year. We are favored with the presence of a few, though few, of our beloved brethren from your bodies. May God bless them and you, and may he sanctify their labors of love to the promotion of the interests of the Redeemer's Kingdom. And, brethren, pray for us, and still continue your kind correspondence; and may Heaven's blessings rest upon you, is our prayer for the Redeemer's sake.

Our next session will be held with the Church at Greenwood, on Saturday before the fourth Sabbath in October, 1867.

W. B. LACY, Moderator.

STEPHEN ROWE, Clerk.

ARTICLES OF FAITH OF THE WEST FLORIDA BAPTIST 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, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, the same in essence, and equal in divine perfection. Exodus 20, 3; Isa. 9, 6 and 46; Matt. 28, 19; Mark 12, 32; John 1, 1-4; and 5, 23 and 10, 30; 1 John 5, 7.

ART. 2. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the words of God, and the only rule of faith and practice. 2 Sam. 23, 2; Acts 1, 16; 2 Tim. 3, 16, 17; 2 Pet. 1, 21.

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 predestinated them to the adoption of children, by Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will. Matt. 20, 16 and 24, 32; John 13, 18 and 15, 16-19; Acts 13, 48; Rom. 8, 28, 29 and 9, 10-16 and 11, 5; Eph. 1, 4, 11; 1 Thess. 1, 4; 2 Thess. 2, 13; 1 Pet. 1, 2.

ART. 4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin. Gen. 6, 5; Ps. 5, 9; Eccl. 8, 11; Rom. 6, 20 and 7, 18 and 8, 8; 1 Cor. 2, 14; 2 Cor. 5, 14; Eph. 2, 1-3; Col. 2, 13.

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 6, 44, 45; Rom. 11, 6; Eph. 2, 8, 9.

ART. 6. We believe sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Christ. Isa. 57, 8; Acts 4, 11, 12; Rom. 3, 21-26 and 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 21.

ART. 7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated, and sanctified by the Holy Ghost. John 6, 63 and 16, 13, 14; 1 Cor. 2, 10-12; 2 Cor. 1, 10-12; Eph. 2, 1-10; 2 Tim. 1, 9; Tit. 3, 4-7.

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 6, 37; 10, 28-30; 13, 1; 17, 23; Phil. 1, 6; Heb. 6, 17, 18; 1 Pet. 1, 5.

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. 3, 5-12; Mark 1, 5; Luke 3, 7; Acts 2, 38-42; John 3, 23; Rom. 6, 3, 4; Col. 2, 12; 1 Pet. 3, 21; Acts 18, 8.

ART. 10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and a general judgment. Job 19, 26, 27; Dan. 12, 2; Hos. 13, 14; Mark 12, 24-27; 1 Cor. 15 chap.; 2 Cor. 5, 10.

ART. 11. We believe that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting, and the joys of the righteous will be eternal. Matt. 25, 46; 2 Thess. 1, 9; Dan. 12, 2; Mark 9, 43, 44; Luke 3, 17; 16, 26; John 3, 36; 2 Th. 1, 7-9; Rev. 14, 9-11.

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. Isa. 62, 6; Mal. 2, 7; Acts 14, 23; Rom. 12, 6, 7; 1 Cor. 1, 1; 2 Cor. 5, 18; Col. 4, 17; 1 Tim. 1, 12; Eph. 4, 11-13.

DECORUM.

1. Every query sent up to the Association, by any Church in this union, shall be read, and put to vote by the Moderator, whether it shall be debated or not, and if there be a majority for it, it shall be taken up and investigated; but if not, it shall be withdrawn, provided always that those be first considered that affect the union of the Churches.

2. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the observation of the Association, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

3. Every person who speaks in debate shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator, and shall not be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject in debate, or use indecorous language.

4. No person shall speak more than three times upon the same subject, without leave of the body.

5. No member shall abruptly break off or absent himself without leave of the body; and if he so does, he shall be marked as an absence.

6. The names of the members of the Association shall be enrolled by the Clerk, and called over as often as the body may require.

7. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, provided the chair be filled; but he shall not vote except the body be equally divided.

8. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to see that these rules are strictly observed by the body.

9. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a regular record of the proceedings of the body.

10. The minutes of the Association shall be read, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the body rises.

11. Amendments may be made to this form of government by two-thirds of the members in session.

**THE NAMES OF ORDAINED MINISTERS, WITH
THEIR POST-OFFICE ADDRESS.**

Joshua Mercer, Orange Hill;	W. B. Lacy, Greenwood;
W. M. Howell, Woodville (O. Pond);	Stephen Rowe, Chattahoochee;
J. J. Grantham, Chattahoochee;	William Borrum, Bartow;
Green Hartsfield, Greenwood;	Wesley Williams, Open Pond;
— Odom, Vernon;	Daniel Skipper, Bay Spring.

APPENDIX

STANDING ORDER OF BUSINESS.

After the Introductory Sermon, the Association will convene and be opened with singing and prayer; then,

1. Read letters.
2. Elect Moderator and Clerk.
3. Invite visiting brethren to seats with us.
4. Call for and read Petitionary Letters.
5. Call for Correspondence.
6. Appoint Committees.
 1. On Preaching, and hear their report.
 2. On Finances.
 3. On Publications.
 4. On Documents.

5. On Sabbath Schools.
6. On the Propagation of the Gospel.
7. On Nominations.
8. On Decease of Ministers.
9. On the State of the Churches.
10. Write the Corresponding Letter.
11. Appoint Correspondence.

Second day open as before.

 1. Read Minutes of previous meeting.
 2. Call the Roll.
 3. Renew invitation to seats.
 4. Renew call for Correspondence.
 5. Attend to unfinished business.
 6. Call for Report of Executive Committee.
 7. Call for Treasurer's Report.
 8. Elect Executive Committee and Delegates to Convention.
 9. Appoint any other Committees required.
 10. Call for Reports of Committees in order.
 11. Appoint the next Association.
 12. Order number of Minutes, and pay of Clerk.
 13. Miscellaneous business.
 14. Read Letter of Correspondence and Minutes.
 15. Farewell Sermon.
 16. Parting hand.
 17. Adjourn.

REPORTS.

(A)

The Executive Committee report, that
Having no funds upon which to operate, they have held no regular meetings during the year, and done nothing on the subject of missions. The Missionary Mass Meeting appointed by your body to be held at Greenwood, resulted in but little to further the cause of missions, which is of such vital importance to us at this time. Your Committee deeply regret the failure to accomplish anything in this work, and would most earnestly recommend to your body to make an effort at this session to employ a missionary to travel within the bounds of your body. In view of the depressed state of our finances, and our inability to sustain a missionary from our own resources, your Committee would recommend a co-operation with our Domestic Mission Board, at Marion, as the most available means to procure aid in this our time of need.

Your Committee encouraged Brother Howell to continue his pastoral labors at Damascus, promising him such aid as might be in their power. As comparatively nothing has been done to aid him during the last two years for said service, your Committee recommend that an effort be now made to aid him for services rendered that church.

Respectfully submitted.

W. B. LACY, Chairman.

(B)

Thomas Barnes, Treasurer, in Account with West Florida Baptist Association.

1865.	DR.	
Oct. 23--	To cash received of committee on Finance.	\$54 81
Nov. 22--	Received of G. Hartsfield, Associational purposes	1 00
1866.		
Feb. 23--	Received of Wm. Lacy, Associational purposes..	5 00
Feb. 27--	Received of S. M. Pyles, Associational purposes..	1 00
Apl. 29--	To cash collected (fifth Sabbath) at a Missionary Mass Meeting, held with church at Greenwood.	17 85
Oct. 29--	To cash received of committee on Finance.	48 75
		<hr/>
		\$128 41
1865.	CR.	
Nov. 22--	By cash paid Stephen Rowe, Clerk, his fee,	\$20 00
Nov. 22--	By cash paid in part for printing minutes, 1865.	30 00
1866.		
Mar. 24--	By cash paid in part for printing minutes, 1865.	10 00
Oct. 29--	By amount to balance.	68 41
		<hr/>
		\$128 41
Oct. 29--	Balance due the Association.	\$68 41

THOMAS BARNES, Treasurer.

(C)

Your Committee on Publications report, that
There are but few religious periodicals now in circulation worthy of your consideration and perusal. Our loved "Banner" has fallen. The Christian Index still waves; is now published by J. J. Toon, in Atlanta, Georgia. We urge the brethren to take and read the Index. It comes at \$5 a year. Also a neat little paper, entitled "Kind Words to Children," published in Greenville, S. C., at 8 cents per copy, by the dozen; designed for children; a very interesting

sheet. We are much gratified to learn that our loved and esteemed Brother J. R. Graves is about to re-commence the publication of the Tennessee Baptist, in the city of Memphis. We pray for his success, and recommend the brethren to give assistance to one so true and sacrificing as has been Brother Graves. Finally, brethren, above all, read the Bible, God's book.

Respectfully submitted.

S. M. PYLES, Chairman.

(D)

Your Committee on Documents beg leave to report, that
The Church at Greenwood petitions for the next Association, and that the Church at Putman's Creek asks for help to support her pastor, and also asks for a letter of dismission to join the Newton Association. All of which is respectfully submitted.

STEPHEN ROWE, Chairman.

(E)

Your Committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to report, that
From the returns of the Churches, and other information, we find that there are only four Sabbath Schools in operation in the bounds of our Association: one at Providence, one at Apalachicola, one at Sandy Creek, and one at Rehoboth. In view of this highly important enterprise, we would again say to our brethren that notwithstanding the many embarrassing difficulties connected with this subject, we should not be discouraged, but endeavor to persevere till those difficulties shall give way and schools be established throughout our bounds. Respectfully submitted.

T. BARNES, Chairman.

(F)

The Committee on Nominations beg leave to report, that
We nominate Brother Grantham to preach the Introductory Sermon, and Brother Rowe his alternate; Brother Howell the Missionary Sermon, and Brother Williams his alternate. All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. C. COLLIER, Chairman.

(G)

Your Committee on the State of the Churches report:
I. That from all the information furnished, there has been about 76 added to the churches by baptism; that the deaths, dismissions and exclusions are probably very near equal to the number added;

hence your number stands about as last year. This fact calls for serious prayer and zealous efforts on the part of ministers and members.

2. That there are four or five of your churches entirely destitute of preaching, and only three having preaching as often as twice per month.

3. There are five Sabbath Schools reported: one at Apalachicola, in a very flourishing condition; one at Sandy Creek, one at Rehoboth, one at Providence, and one at Holmes' Valley. These, we trust, are indications for good. Upon the whole, we lament the necessity of reporting quite a gloomy state of affairs; and yet it is good to know that all are at peace internally, and with each other.

Respectfully submitted. S. M. PYLES, Chairman.

(H)

Your Committee on the Decease of Ministers beg leave to report:

It is with heartfelt sorrow that we announce the death of our beloved Brother Benard, of Apalachicola. Brother Benard, whose name in Spanish is said to be Lopace, was a colored man, and of Spanish origin. He had long been located at Apalachicola, and may be truly said to have been the pillar of the Baptist cause in that place. He was a man of sound judgment and of unwavering and undoubted christian piety. He was ever active in every important enterprise connected with the cause of religion. He had been speaking in public more or less for many years, and had recently been ordained to the office of the ministry. But God in his all-wise Providence, thought fit to call him from his labors on earth, to a more lofty and glorious station in heaven, where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest. In view of this afflicting dispensation of a kind Providence, we would recommend the following resolutions, namely:

Resolved, That in the death of Brother Benard, the Baptist cause in Apalachicola has sustained a heavy loss.

Resolved, That while we regret the loss of our beloved brother, we would with meekness bow to the dispensation of our Heavenly Father, and say, "Thy will, O God, be done."

STEPHEN ROWE, Chairman.

(I)

Your Committee on Finance beg leave to report as follows:

AMOUNT SENT UP BY THE CHURCHES.

	For Minutes.	Assoc'n Purp.
Greenwood Church.....	\$3 00.....	\$7 00
Campbellton.....	2 00.....	

Damascus.....	1 60.....	1 50
Pilgrim's Rest.....	1 80
Sardis.....	2 50.....	5 40
New Hope.....	1 00.....	
Poplar Springs.....	2 50.....	
Providence.....	1 55.....	2 70
Antioch.....	2 00.....	
Pinebarren.....	1 00.....	
Holmes Valley.....	
Orange Hill.....	90.....	
Friendship.....	2 50.....	
Pittman Creek.....	1 80.....	
Rehoboth.....	2 00.....	
Sandy Creek.....	1 00.....	
Smyrna.....	2 00.....	
Apalachicola.....	1 00.....	

\$28 35 \$18 40

Orange Hill, for missionary purposes.....\$2 00

Amount total for minutes.....\$28 35

Amount total for Association purposes..... 18 40

Amount total for missionary purposes..... 2 00

Received on Sabbath for Domestic Missions..... 13 95—\$62 70