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MINUTES

STETSON LIBRARY

OF THE

ST. MARY'S RIVER

MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

AT ITS

FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD ANNUAL SESSIONS.

HELD 1879, 1880, 1881.

TOGETHER WITH THE

CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF DECORUM.

Baptists. Florida. Jacksonville  
Baptist Association

FERNANDINA, FLORIDA:  
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## ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Introductory Sermon.  
II. Association called to order by the Moderator.  
III. Letters from the Churches called for, read, and names of  
Delegates enrolled.  
IV. Petitionary Letters called for.  
V. Election of Officers.  
VI. Inviting Visiting Brethren to seats.  
VII. Letters of Correspondence called for.  
VIII. Appointment of Committees.  
IX. Circular Letter called for.  
X. Reports of Standing and other Committees.  
XI. Queries called up and considered.  
XII. Miscellaneous Business.  
XIII. Adjournment.

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CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF DECORUM  
OF THE  
ST. MARY'S RIVER  
MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

In view of the increase of fraternal love, knowledge, usefulness and efficiency, which must accrue from an association of churches in cordial union upon the principles of the Gospel, we now seek to be thus united, that, by individual and collective action, we may subserve the great objects of the Redeemer's Kingdom.

ARTICLE 1. This body shall be called the St. Mary's River Missionary Baptist Association.

ARTICLE 2. It shall be composed of such churches as hold to the doctrine of human depravity; the atonement of Christ; the election unto eternal life; regeneration and the perseverance of the saints; baptism by immersion, administered to none but professed believers; and the Lord's Supper intended for those only who have been regularly admitted into the visible Church.

ARTICLE 3. The officers of this Association shall consist of a Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer, who shall be elected annually by ballot.

ARTICLE 4. We believe in only one true and living God, and that there are three persons in the Godhead.

ARTICLE 5. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the only rule of faith and practice, both in the concerns of religion and the general affairs of life, and particularly in transacting the affairs of our churches.

ARTICLE 6. We believe the Church of Christ to be a congregation of faithful believers, who live in fellowship, and have given themselves to the Lord and to one another, in cordial

agreement to observe holy discipline in conformity with the requirements of the Scriptures.

ARTICLE 7. We believe Jesus Christ to be the **Great Head** of the Church; that spiritual discipline, with an eye single to the glory of God, must greatly conduce to the final prosperity and union of the churches.

### RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Association shall not be dissolved without a concurrence of two-thirds of the churches composing the body, and shall have power to withdraw its connection from any church which shall act contrary to the teachings of the Holy Scriptures.

2. Any churches wishing to be admitted into this body shall petition by letter and messengers, and upon examination, if found orthodox and orderly, shall be admitted.

3. Each church shall have a right to two (2) delegates, and shall be entitled to one additional delegate for every fifty members after the first hundred; and a majority of the churches represented shall constitute a quorum.

4. Any query sent to the Association by any of the churches composing this body, shall be read and duly considered.

5. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the observation of the Association, unless withdrawn by the mover.

6. Every member who speaks shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator, and shall not be interrupted unless he depart from the subject.

7. No brother shall speak more than twice upon one subject, without permission of the body.

The Constitution and Rules of Decorum of this body may be altered or amended by the concurrence of two-thirds of its members.

8. No member shall absent himself without leave of the Moderator.

9. It is the duty of this Association to provide for the general union of churches; to provide for the destitution of the territory within its bounds by missionary aid, and to give the churches the best advice it can in matters of difficulty.



MINUTES OF THE FIRST ANNUAL SESSION  
OF THE  
ST. MARY'S RIVER  
MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,  
HELD WITH  
HEBRON CHURCH, CAMDEN COUNTY, GEORGIA,  
*November 21st and 22d, 1879.*

FIRST DAY.

FRIDAY, November 21st, 1879.

Delegates from the following named churches met this 21st day of November, 1879, at Hebron Church, Camden county, Georgia, for the purpose of organizing an Association, viz.:

Hebron Church and New Providence Church, Camden county, Georgia; Mount Olive Church, Nassau county, Florida.

Rev. G. A. Mallette called the meeting to order, and moved that the Rev. L. W. Simmons be elected temporary Moderator, and Major E. A. McWhorter, Clerk.

The meeting was opened with religious exercises by the Moderator.

Rev. G. A. Mallette, G. H. Peeples and E. A. McWhorter were appointed a Committee on Credentials, and reported on the following, viz.:

*From Hebron Church*—Rev. G. A. Mallette and G. H. Peeples.

*From New Providence*—E. A. McWhorter and Thomas J. Simmons.

*From Mount Olive*—Rev. G. A. Pendarvis and D. H. Higginbotham.

Rev. G. A. Mallette, Rev. G. A. Pendarvis and E. A. McWhorter were appointed a Committee on Constitution and Rules of Decorum.

Adjourned, with prayer, to meet at 9½ o'clock Saturday morning, 22d.

## SECOND DAY.

SATURDAY, November 22d, 1879

The Association met, and was opened with prayer.

The Committee on Constitution, etc., reported a Constitution and Rules, which were received and adopted. (See pages 6, inclusive.)

Delegates from Mount Zion Church—viz.: Rev. Theodore Davis and Daniel Davis, alternate—presented their letter, and were received as members of the Association.

A hymn was then sung and the right hand of fellowship was given between the members of the Association.

An election for permanent officers then took place, when E. A. McWhorter was elected Moderator, G. A. Mallette, Clerk, and D. H. Higginbotham, Treasurer.

A Committee on Preaching was appointed to report immediately—viz.: G. H. Peeples, Daniel Davis, and T. J. Simmons—who reported that the Opening Sermon would be preached by Rev. G. A. Pendarvis, at 11 o'clock; and Rev. L. W. Simmons to preach the Missionary Sermon, at 11 o'clock Sunday morning. Stated committees were then appointed, viz.:

*On Letters and Queries*—D. H. Higginbotham, Theodore Davis, and G. A. Mallette.

*Sunday Schools*—G. A. Mallette, Theodore Davis, and G. H. Peeples.

*Missions*—G. A. Pendarvis, G. H. Peeples, and Theodore Davis.

The Association took a recess to hear the Introductory Sermon by Brother Pendarvis, from John 1: 1, and then re-assembled for business.

The Association resolved to affiliate with the Georgia Baptist State Convention; and the Rev. L. W. Simmons and E. A. Mc-



Whorter were appointed as delegates to attend the Convention in May next.

The Committee on Letters and Queries made the following report, to-wit:

"The Committee on Letters and Queries report that there is a petition from New Providence Church that the next session of the Association be held with their church."

Report received and adopted.

The Committee on Sunday Schools made the following report, to-wit:

"The Committee on Sunday Schools beg leave to report: We regret to say that there are no Sunday schools within the bounds of our Association. We would earnestly exhort our brethren and sisters to wake up to the duty of Sunday schools, in which to teach the children, the rising generation, and indeed all classes, the principles of Christianity and virtue. The children are the hope of the Church and the world. The Bible says: 'Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.'"

"G. A. MALLETT, *Chairman*."

The Committee on Missions made the following report, to-wit:

After due deliberation, we find great destitution within our bounds. The importance of the cause demands our careful consideration; and in view of the former laxity of this work among our churches, we recommend our ministering brethren to urge the matter upon their respective congregations. We further recommend quarterly collections, or the formation of missionary societies, as in their judgment is best, but in no case to pass the matter carelessly by.

"G. H. PEEPLES, *Chairman*."

It was resolved, that the collection to be taken up to-morrow (Sunday), after the Missionary Sermon, be divided among the churches of the Association.

Rev. G. A. Mallett was appointed to preach the Introductory Sermon at our next meeting; alternate, Rev. Theodore Davis. Rev. L. W. Simmons was appointed to preach the Missionary Sermon; alternate, Rev. G. A. Mallett. E. A. McWhorter was appointed to write the Circular Letter to the churches.

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A hymn was sung, the parting hand given, and after prayer the Association adjourned, to meet with the New Providence Church, Camden county, Georgia, on the Friday before the first Sabbath in October next (1880).

E. A. McWHORTER, *Modérateur*

G. A. MALLETT, *Clerk*



MINUTES OF THE SECOND ANNUAL SESSION  
OF THE  
ST. MARY'S RIVER  
MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH  
NEW PROVIDENCE CHURCH, CAMDEN COUNTY, GEORGIA.

October 1st, 2d and 3d, 1880.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION:

I. W. SIMMONS.....Moderator.....St. Mary's, Georgia.  
F. A. MCWHORTER.....Clerk.....St. Mary's, Georgia.  
WILLIAM BRAZILL.....Treasurer.....St. Mary's, Georgia.

ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR POST-OFFICES:

G. A. MALLETTE, King's Ferry, Fla.    THEODORE DAVIS, King's Ferry, Fla.  
I. W. SIMMONS, St. Mary's, Georgia.    G. A. PENDARVIS, Hart's Road, Fla.

FIRST DAY.

FRIDAY, October 1st, 1880.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder G. A. Mallette, from Second Timothy iii: 16.

After the sermon, an intermission of thirty minutes was given for refreshments.

The Association was then called to order for business by G. A. Mallette, Clerk of the Association, the Moderator being absent.

After religious exercises, Elder G. A. Mallette was, on motion, elected Moderator *pro tem.*; G. H. Peoples, Clerk *pro tem.*

Letters were then called for, read, and the names of delegates from the constituent churches enrolled, as follows:

*From New Providence*—E. A. McWhorter, William Brazill

*From Mount Olive*—G. W. Haddock and W. C. Wilds.

*From Hebron*—J. M. Marr and G. H. Peeples.

On motion to elect a Moderator and Clerk, the Moderator *pro-tem*, appointed Brothers William Brazill, J. M. Marr and G. H. Peeples as tellers.

A ballot was then taken, which resulted as follows: Elder L. W. Simmons, Moderator; E. A. McWhorter, Clerk.

On motion, Brother William Brazill was elected Treasurer. Petitionary Letters were then called for.

Correspondence from sister Associations was called for. Appointment of Committees was as follows:

*On Religious Exercises*—G. H. Peeples, J. M. Marr, and W. Haddock.

*On Nominations*—William Brazill, W. C. Wilds, and G. W. Haddock.

*On Letters and Queries*—William Brazill, J. M. Marr, and W. C. Wilds.

*On Finance*—G. H. Peeples, G. W. Haddock, J. M. Marr.

*On Sabbath Schools*—G. W. Haddock, William Brazill, and W. C. Wilds.

*On Missions*—J. M. Marr, W. C. Wilds, and G. H. Peeples.

*On Periodicals and Religious Literature*—G. H. Peeples, William Brazill, and G. W. Haddock.

The Committee on Religious Exercises reported Elder G. A. Pendarvis to preach at 11 o'clock Saturday, and G. A. Mallette in the evening.

## SECOND DAY.

SATURDAY, October 21, 1890

The Association was called to order, and after singing, and prayer by the Moderator, business was resumed.

The minutes of Friday were read and approved.

Reports of Committees called for, and made as follows:

"We, your Committee on Nominations, beg leave to report that we have had the same under consideration, and after due deliberation, recommend that Elder Theodore Davis preach the next Introductory Sermon; Elder G. A. Pendarvis, alternate;



Elder L. W. Simmons preach the next Missionary Sermon; Elder A. Mallette, alternate. We also recommend that the next meeting of the Association be held with the Mount Olive Church, Nassau County, Florida, on the first Sunday in October next and Saturday before.

Respectfully submitted,

G. H. PEEPLES, *Chairman.*

The report was, on motion, adopted.

The Committee on Letters and Queries report that they have examined the corresponding letters, and find nothing claiming attention of the Association.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. MARR, *Chairman.*

Report, on motion, adopted.

The Committee on Finance beg leave to report that five dollars (\$5.00) have been received for Minutes, and recommend that the Clerk of the Association correspond with Messrs. James P. Harrison & Co., Atlanta, Georgia, to know what it would cost to have one hundred and fifty copies of the Minutes of the Association printed—to also include the Minutes, etc., of last year.

Respectfully submitted,

G. W. HADDOCK, *Chairman.*

Report, on motion, adopted.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools report that there is one school at Mount Olive Church, with five teachers, nineteen scholars, and two superintendents. We urgently and affectionately recommend that our brethren and sisters endeavor to form a Sabbath school at every church within the bounds of our Association.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM BRAZILL, *Chairman.*

On motion, adopted.

The Committee on Periodicals and Religious Literature report that there are but few religious papers taken within our bounds; and we do recommend the *Christian Index*, *Kind Words*, and the *Sunday School Teacher*, to the favorable consideration of our people.

Respectfully submitted,

G. W. HADDOCK, *Chairman.*

Your Committee on Missions report as follows: On examination, we find the district within the bounds of our Association

one vast missionary field, which evidently demands much of our attention, and regret that there is so little interest manifested in the support of missions. We would earnestly appeal to our brethren, as lovers of Jesus, to respond more liberally to the various missions that are being fostered by our denomination, and more especially our State mission.

Respectfully submitted,

W. C. WILDS, *Chairman*

On motion, adopted.

### THIRD DAY

SUNDAY MORNING, October 3d, 1881

By appointment, Elder L. W. Simmons preached the Missionary Sermon to a large and attentive congregation; after which a hymn was sung and a collection taken up amounting to ten dollars and seventy-five cents (\$10.75) for the State mission.

*Resolved*, That we tender to this Church and community thanks for their kind reception and liberal hospitality to us during this meeting.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet with the Mount Olive Church, Nassau county, Florida, the first Sunday in October, and Saturday before 1881.

A hymn was sung, the parting hand given, and after prayer by the Moderator, the Association was closed in order.

L. W. SIMMONS, *Moderator*

E. A. McWHORTER, *Clerk*



MINUTES OF THE THIRD ANNUAL SESSION  
OF THE  
ST. MARY'S RIVER  
MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH THE  
MOUNT OLIVE CHURCH, NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA.

October 1st and 2d, 1881.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION:

A. MALLETT.....Moderator.....King's Ferry, Florida.  
H. PEEPLES.....Clerk.....St. Mary's, Georgia.  
WILLIAM BRAZILL.....Treasurer.....St. Mary's, Georgia.

ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR POST-OFFICES:

A. MALLETT, King's Ferry, Fla. | G. A. PENDARVIS, Hart's Road, Fla.  
W. SIMMONS, St. Mary's, Georgia. | THEODORE DAVIS, King's Ferry, Fla.

FIRST DAY.

SATURDAY, October 1st, 1881.

The Introductory Sermon was delivered by Elder G. A. Mallette, from Luke xix: 10:—"For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." After which an intermission of thirty minutes was given for refreshments.

The Association was then called to order by the former Clerk; and after singing and prayer, Elder G. A. Mallette was, on motion, elected Moderator *pro tem*.

Letters were then called for, read, and the names of delegates duly enrolled, as follows:

*From Mount Olive*—D. H. Higginbotham and W. F. Higginbotham.

*From New Providence*—A. B. Brown and William Brazill.

*From Hebron*—G. A. Mallette and G. H. Peeples.

A motion was made and carried to elect a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, by ballot—which resulted in the choice of Elder G. A. Mallette, Moderator, G. H. Peeples, Clerk, and William Brazill, Treasurer.

Petitionary letters were called for.

Correspondence from sister Associations called for.

Appointment of committees, as follows:

*On Religious Exercises*—David Higginbotham, William Brazill, and A. B. Brown.

*On Nominations*—Henry Peeples, William Higginbotham, and D. Higginbotham.

*On Letters and Queries*—A. B. Brown, William Brazill, and David Higginbotham.

*On Finance*—A. B. Brown, David Higginbotham, and G. H. Peeples.

*On Sabbath Schools*—William Higginbotham, D. Higginbotham, and William Brazill.

*On Missions*—G. H. Peeples, D. Higginbotham, and A. B. Brown.

*On Periodicals and Religious Literature*—William Higginbotham, William Brazill, and G. H. Peeples.

## SECOND DAY

SABBATH MORNING, October 2d, 1881.

At 11 o'clock the Missionary Sermon was preached by Elder L. W. Simmons, from **ROMANS XII: 1**, after which a hymn was sung and a collection taken up for the benefit of missionary work done within the bounds of this Association.

One hour's intermission was given for refreshments, after which the Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer was offered by the Moderator.



## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

*(On Nominations.)*

"We, your Committee on Nominations, report that we have had the same under consideration, and, after due deliberation, recommend that Elder K. Chambers preach the next Introductory Sermon; Elder L. W. Simmons, alternate; that Elder J. A. Harper preach the next Missionary Sermon; Elder G. A. Malotte, alternate. We recommend that the next meeting of the Association be held with Hebron Church, Camden county, Ga.

"DAVID HIGGINBOTHAM, *Chairman*"

*(On Letters and Queries.)*

"Your Committee on Letters and Queries beg leave to report as follows. No queries have been presented to this body for consideration. We have carefully examined the letters from the different churches, and find nothing of material importance, more than the general declension of our Association, which we attribute greatly to the want of energy at home. We see no Sunday school reports come up, nor accounts of prayer meetings in the churches; and as such, we greatly fear these things are neglected at home. We are also much pained to see that the mission spirit seems to be lost sight of by the churches and Association. We see, as the result of the past Associational year: by baptism, 20; restored, 1; died, 1; dismissed by letter, 1; total, 91—making an increase of twenty.

"A. B. BROWN, *Chairman*.

*(On Finance.)*

"Your Committee beg leave to report as follows: Sent up for Minutes and Associational purposes, \$19.07.

"D. F. HIGGINBOTHAM, *Chairman*.

*(On Missions.)*

"Your Committee on Missions have nothing to report so far as this Association is concerned, for it has not done anything in this glorious work. It is true we are few in numbers, but that does not excuse our churches in doing nothing. Brethren, how can we prove that we love Jesus, if we refuse to obey His command to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature? We recommend the following to the churches of this Association:

"First—Let the pastors teach their churches the importance and necessity of making regular contribution for missionary pur-

poses. It is not only a duty, but a precious privilege, to give for this Heaven-appointed work. The Lord Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive;" and how can pastors of churches hope to obtain the reward and approbation of their Divine Master if they, through carelessness or timidity, neglect to declare all the counsel of God?

"Second—Let each church adopt some system by the working of which they may be able to obtain the contribution and co-operation of every member.

"Third—Let every member lay by something in store as the Lord prospers him, once a month or once in three months, for this blessed work.

"W. F. HIGGINBOTHAM, *Chairman*.

*(On Periodicals and Religious Literature.)*

"We, your Committee on Periodicals and Religious Literature, report that we have investigated the matter and, after due deliberation, recommend that this Association adopt as an organ the *Christian Index*, published at Atlanta, Georgia, and also *The Baptist*, published at Memphis, Tennessee, by J. R. Graves. But above all things, we would urge a more marked regard for the Holy Scriptures, which contain the words of eternal truth that testify of our blessed Redeemer.

"WILLIAM BRAZILL, *Chairman*."

A hymn was sung, the parting hand taken, and the Association adjourned to meet with Hebron Church, on Friday before the first Sunday in October, 1882.

G. A. MALLETTE, *Moderator*.

G. H. PEEPLES, *Clerk*.