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MINUTES

OF THE

SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

**ST. MARY'S RIVER
MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,**

HELD WITH

Ephesus Church, Nassau Co., Fla.

OCTOBER 4th, 5th and 6th, 1884.

OFFICERS:

E. A. McWHORTER, - - - - MODERATOR.
G. H. PEEPLES, - - - - CLERK.

LAKE CITY, FLA.:

The Florida Baptist Witness Publishing House.

1885.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Association Called to Order by Moderator.
3. Letters from the Churches called for, read and the names of Messengers enrolled.
4. Petitionary Letters called for.
5. Election of Officers.
6. Inviting Visiting Brethren to Seats.
7. Letters of Correspondence called for.
8. Appointment of Committees.
9. Circular Letter called for.
10. Reports of Standing and other Committees.
11. Queries called up and considered.
12. Miscellaneous Business.
13. Adjournment.

MINUTES.

FIRST DAY—MORNING SESSION.

SATURDAY, October 4, 1884.

Elder K. Chambers, who was appointed to preach the Introductory Sermon, failing to attend the Association, and G. A. Pendarvis, the alternate, not being present, the Introductory Sermon was preached by the Rev. J. M. Cross, pastor of the church at Waycross, Ga., from Deut. xxxii. 31: "For their rock is not as our Rock, even our enemies themselves being judges." After which an intermission of one hour was given for refreshments.

The Association was then called to order by Rev. G. A. Mallett, Moderator, and after religious services proceeded to business.

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

From Hebron—J. B. Jones, Wm. J. Caldwell.
From Mount Olive—John A. Braddock, W. C. Wilds.
From New Providence—E. A. McWhorter, A. B. Brown.
From Ephesus—Wm. M. Vinzant, Charles E. Haddock.
From Thomasville Chapel—Abram Ogilrie, I. Geiger.
From Brandy Branch—W. R. Dyass, Jos. Higginbotham.
From Sharon—Not represented.
From Mount Zion—Not represented.

Messengers I. Geiger, from Thomasville Chapel, and Jos. Higginbotham, from Brandy Branch, failing to attend the Association, Alternates Elijah Higginbotham and Aaron Fourakers were enrolled in their stead.

Petitionary letters were called for, but none were presented.

On motion, an election was then held for officers of the Association for the ensuing year.

The Constitution of the Association, requiring officers to be elected by ballot, was, on motion, suspended for the time being, and the officers were elected by acclamation, viz.: E. A. McWhorter, Moderator; G. H. Peoples, Clerk; W. C. Wilds, Treasurer.

Visiting brethren were then invited to seats, when Elder J. M. Cross, pastor at Waycross, Ga., and Elder A. A. Andrews, our Associational Missionary, a member of New Sunbury Association, were welcomed by the Moderator, and requested to take part in the deliberations of the Association.

Correspondence from sister Associations called for. None presented.

Appointment of committees as follows:

On Letters and Queries—J. B. Jones, J. A. Braddock.
On Sunday Schools—W. C. Wilds, A. B. Brown.
On Missions—Abram Ogilvie, W. C. Wilds.
On Periodicals, Etc.—Wm. M. Vinzant, W. R. Dyass.
On State of Religion in the Churches—W. C. Wilds, Aaron Fourakera.
On Finance—C. E. Haddock, Elijah Higginbotham.
On Nominations—W. R. Dyass, J. B. Jones.
On Religious Exercises—Wm. M. Vinzant, J. A. Braddock.

The Committee on Religious Exercises were requested to report as soon as possible.

The Committee on Religious Exercises reported, that on Sabbath morning, at 10 o'clock, a missionary mass meeting would be held, to be conducted by Bro. E. A. McWhorter; 11 o'clock A. M., the Missionary Sermon, to be preached by Elder J. M. Cross; 2 o'clock P. M., preaching by Elders G. A. Mallette and A. A. Andrews, and at 7 o'clock P. M. preaching at King's Ferry, Fla., by Elder J. M. Cross.

Report received and adopted.

The following resolution was then offered:

Resolved, That 3rd article in Rules of Decorum shall read: Each church shall be entitled to three messengers, instead of as now, two delegates; and that the word "delegate," in the 2nd clause, be changed to messenger. Making the 3rd. article, as amended, read: Each church shall be entitled to three messengers, and shall be entitled to one additional messenger for every fifty members after the first hundred; and a majority of the churches represented shall constitute a quorum.

Resolution adopted.

After singing and prayer, adjourned to meet on Sabbath morning at 10 o'clock.

SECOND DAY.

OCTOBER 5, 1884.

By appointment the Missionary Mass Meeting was held, and after an appropriate address by Bro. E. A. McWhorter on the general subject of Missions, and the duty of our churches to sustain the Boards of our Southern Baptist Convention, and some remarks by other brethren, there was an intermission of ten minutes, when the Association again assembled and the Missionary Sermon was preached by Elder J. M. Cross, from Phil. 1: 21: "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain," to a large and attentive congregation. After which a hymn was sung and a collection taken up, amounting to \$17.85, for general Missionary purposes. An intermission was then had for dinner.

The Rev. A. P. Ashurst, editor of *The Florida Baptist Witness*, having arrived, preached at 2 o'clock P. M. from Luke xxiv. 49: "And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." The Association then adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock A. M. Monday, October 6th.

The Rev. A. P. Ashurst preached at King's Ferry, Fla., at 7 o'clock P. M., from Acts ix. 1-20. Subject, Conversion.

THIRD DAY.

MONDAY, October 6, 1884.

The Association was called, and after singing and prayer by the Moderator, business was resumed. The minutes of Saturday were read and approved.

Reports of committees were called for and read, as follows:

ON LETTERS AND QUERIES.

Your Committee on Letters and Queries beg leave to report that no queries have been presented to the Association by any of the churches, and that there are no letters of correspondence.

Respectfully submitted.

J. B. JONES,
J. A. BRADDOCK.

Report received and adopted.

ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The Committee on Sunday Schools report: That it is not expected that in a report like this, that we discuss in detail the subject of Sunday Schools. Suffice it to say that it is a very important part of our church work, and to the success of this work our prayers, our energies and our means are necessary. The affections which we cherish for our children, in connection with the fact that it is our duty to train them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; combine to impress its importance and to stimulate us to action. Believing as we do, that the truths as taught by us as Baptists are a pure gospel, truly a pure gospel, we ought to employ all agencies and appliances to correctly teach them to our children. We would recommend that every church in this Association have a Sunday School, and put in the hands of their children *Kind Words*.

Respectfully submitted.

W. C. WILDS,
A. B. BROWN.

Report received and adopted.

ON PERIODICALS AND RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

Your Committee report; The importance of the circulation and inculcation of our religious literature ought to be brought prominently before the minds of our people, to the end that they may be correctly informed of our doctrines, and properly impressed with the truth, which we, as Baptists, hold and teach. To do this, in part at least, we would commend to your patronage and support *The Christian Index*, published at Atlanta, Ga.; and *The Florida Baptist Witness*, published at Lake City, Fla.; *The Foreign Mission Journal*, and the circulation of such tracts and periodicals as shall best promote the desired end.

Respectfully submitted.

WM. M. VINZANT,
W. R. DYASS.

On motion to receive and adopt this report, Rev. A. P. Ashurst made some remarks in advocacy of his paper, the *Witness*, and also of the *Index*. Brethren J. M. Cross and A. A. Andrews spoke to the general subject of religious literature, and recommended both papers.

Bro. McWhorter advocated the cause of the *Index*, and offered to send forward any subscriptions to the *Index* or *Foreign Mission Journal*.

Report received and adopted.

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ON MISSIONS.

Your Committee on Missions would call attention to the fact that much is needed in the way of mission work in our own Association. Heretofore the churches, in sending up funds to the Association, did not send anything for Missions, but we are pleased to report that two churches have sent up funds to this Association for that purpose, and we commend their example to the others. The gospel cannot be preached to the poor of our land, or sent to the people in heathen lands, without sacrifice, and it is generally in proportion to the sacrifice made that the word of God is blessed to the conversion of sinners. All love must give. God so loved as to give his only Son to die, that those who believed on him might be saved. Christ so loved that he suffered and died to redeem fallen man. If we truly love his cause, and realize that souls will perish without the gospel, we can but give of our means to have the gospel preached. Your Committee would recommend the churches to contribute regularly and systematically to the cause of Missions. Remember the words of the wise man, "There is that giveth and yet increaseth, and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, and it tendeth to poverty." We would recommend further, that the churches of this Association hold meetings, at least quarterly, of prayer for Missions and Missionaries, and at this meeting contribute something for their support. Much good is being done by the sisters of our churches, in many sections of this country, in their missionary societies, which meet regularly, and contribute small amounts at each meeting. None can say that they can do nothing for the spread of the gospel, for God accepts the smallest offerings that can be made, when it is made cheerfully and according to the ability of the giver. Demands are not made upon us for what we have not, but for what we have. The rule of the Bible is as God has prospered us, and let every man give as he purposeth in his own heart—that is, let his offering be given as a free will offering, without grudging.

Respectfully submitted.

ABRAM OGILVIE,
W. C. WILDS.

Report received and adopted.

The following resolution was offered by Bro. Andrews, and adopted:

Resolved, That we encourage each of our churches to adopt the plan for raising funds for general missions as recommended by the Georgia Baptist Convention.

Remarks were made by Brethren Cross, Ashurst and Andrews.

ON THE STATE OF RELIGION IN THE CHURCHES.

Your Committee, after an examination of the letters of the different churches of the Association, which are represented by messengers at this Association, find that not one of them have a regular pastor, and no regular preaching, except that afforded by the Missionary of our Association (Elder A. A. Andrews), who has been employed by the Committee on Missions. No revivals have been reported, yet some report accessions by baptism, and nearly all some by letter. One reports a loss by death, and there has been no decrease by excommunication. The general tenor of the letters is encouraging, showing that there has been a steady growth of grace among the membership in most of our churches, no doubt result-

ing from the faithful preaching of the gospel by our Association's Missionary. Your Committee believe that if our churches could all have faithful pastors, with regular preaching, that our churches would continue to grow and increase in numbers, which would give our Missionary more time to devote to those churches which are too weak to support a pastor, and to destitute portions of our Association. It is a deplorable condition of things that we have so few active preachers in our bounds; in fact, the only active preacher within the bounds of the Association is the Missionary of the Association. Your Committee would suggest to our churches that they each meet at their respective places of worship, on the first Sunday in December next, and hold a concert of prayer, humbling ourselves before God, and pray him to send laborers into this field, for our destitution is great; and that, also, our churches meet once a month, at least, and hold a prayer-meeting. We would also recommend, that each family connected with our churches have regularly family prayer, for religion neglected at home will be neglected in the churches.

Respectfully submitted.

W. C. WILDS,
N. FOURAKERS.

Report received and adopted.

ON FINANCE.

Your Committee on Finance beg leave to report that there is a slight improvement in benevolent contributions by our churches over last year, which are as follows:

For State Missions, New Providence.....	\$3 00
For State Missions, Mount Olive.....	3 00
For Home Missions, New Providence.....	2 00
For Foreign Missions, New Providence.....	3 00
For Foreign Missions, Thomasville Chapel.....	1 65
For Printing Minutes, New Providence.....	3 00
" " " Mount Olive.....	3 00
" " " Hebron.....	3 00
" " " Thomasville Chapel.....	3 00
" " " Ephesus.....	3 00
" " " Brandy Branch.....	3 00

Respectfully submitted,

C. E. HADDOCK,
ELIJAH HIGGINBOTHAM.

Report received and adopted.

ON NOMINATIONS.

Your Committee on Nominations beg leave to report, that Elder A. A. Andrews be requested to preach the Introductory Sermon, and that Elder G. A. Mallette be requested to preach the Missionary Sermon. We also recommend that the next Association be held with Thomasville Chapel, Duval county, Fla.

Respectfully submitted,

W. R. DYASS,
J. B. JONES.

Report received and adopted.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS IN THE BOUNDS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

The Committee on Missions, appointed to hold union meetings to foster a missionary spirit in the churches and to procure a Missionary within the bounds of the Association, beg leave to report that they have discharged the duties imposed on them by the Association as far as was in their power. We have held four Union Missionary Meetings since our last Association, attended with good results, at each of which collections were taken up. We have employed Elder A. A. Andrews as Missionary, who has been laboring with and supplying all the churches of the Association, besides preaching at outside stations and neighborhoods, since January last. He reports that he has traveled 2,244 miles, preached 150 sermons, made 265 visits, praying with the families, made 13 addresses, distributed 1,025 pages of tracts, 25 Bibles, established 2 Sabbath Schools, baptized 6, received 3 by experience now awaiting baptism, received 4 by letter. Your Committee is, through the churches, to pay Bro. Andrews \$300, and the State Mission Board gives \$100 more, making his salary \$400, which is little enough for the amount of work he does. We are gratified to know that the assessments made upon the several churches have been generally promptly met, and Bro. Andrews has received up to this time \$241.27, including \$25 from the State Board. The balance, your Committee believe, will be promptly paid at the end of each quarter, as requested. A few of the churches have paid up in full to this time. Your committee, while there has been no great ingathering in the churches, feel that a good work has been done, and that if carried on with vigor will result in a great pouring out of the Spirit on all our churches; and to this end your Committee invoke the earnest prayers of all our churches. We recommend that our churches give our Bro. Andrews their earnest help and prayers for the success of our Mission in the bounds of this Association. We also recommend that the Association increase the number of the Committee. The Committee have done what they could, and ask the prayers of the churches for the prosperity of our work. Respectfully submitted.

E. A. McWHORTER,
G. H. PEEPLES,
W. C. WILDS,
G. W. HADDOCK.

A motion was made to receive and adopt the report, continue the Committee, and that Bro. Abram Ogilvie, of Thomasville Chapel Church, be added thereto. Carried.

The following resolutions were offered and carried:

Resolved, That this Association recommend to the churches in its bounds that they purchase religious literature for distribution among their members and in their neighborhoods.

Whereas, This Association has been invited to co-operate with the Florida Baptist Convention, be it

Resolved, That the messengers of this Association be and are hereby instructed to ascertain the feeling and wishes of the churches within our bounds, and report at the next Association.

Resolved, That any member of this Association bearing the minutes of our body to any other Association, may be recognized as a messenger to said Association.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association be tendered the members of Ephesus Church and the surrounding neighborhood for their hospitable entertainment of its messengers.

E. A. McWhorter and G. H. Peeples were appointed messengers to the State Convention, and W. C. Wilds to the New Sunbury Association.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet with Thomasville Chapel Church, Duval county, Fla., on Friday before the first Sunday in October, 1885.

A hymn was sung, the parting hand given, and after prayer by Bro. J. M. Cross the Association was closed in order.

G. H. PEEPLES, Clerk. E. A. McWHORTER, Moderator.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

E. A. McWHORTER, Moderator, St. Mary's, Ga.
G. H. PEEPLES, Clerk, Oakwell, Ga.
W. C. WILDS, Treasurer, Crandall, Fla.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

G. A. MALLETT, King's Ferry, Fla.
THEODORE DAVIS, King's Ferry, Fla.
G. A. PENDARVIS, Hart's Road, Fla.

MISSIONARY IN BOUNDS OF ASSOCIATION.

A. A. ANDREWS, King's Ferry, Fla., or Oakwell, Ga.

STATISTICS.

NAMES OF CHURCHES.	MEMBERSHIP.						CHURCH PROPERTY.						
	When constituted.	Membership last year.	Baptism.	Letter.	Experience.	Restoration.	Letter.	Deaths.	Present membership.	No Meeting Houses.	Seating capacity.	Value of Meeting Houses.	Total value of Church property.
Hebron	1878	30	3	1	1	1	1	1	35	1	200	\$ 500	\$ 000
Mount Olive .....	.....	34	4	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	38	1	125	100	130
New Providence .....	.....	33	1	2	1	.....	.....	.....	36	1	100	200	250
Thomasville Chapel	1883	13	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	13	1	100	150	200
Ephesus .....	.....	22	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21	1	125	200	250
Brandy Branch	1878	13	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	14	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mount Zion, (not represented) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sharon (not represented) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total .....	.....	145	8	8	1	1	5	1	157	5	650	\$1150	\$1450

STATISTICS (CONTINUED)—SUNDAY SCHOOL RECORD.

NAMES OF SUPERINTENDENTS.	Number of Schools.	Officers and Teachers.	Scholars Enrolled.	Average Attendance.	Teachers Baptized.	Number Sunday School Papers.	Number Months in Session.
W. C. Wilds	1	2	15	9	.....	10	.....
Joseph Mills, Jr.	1	6	24	20	2	18	.....
Nathan Sprunt	1	6	16	10	.....	.....	1
Total	3	14	55	39	2	28	1

CONTRIBUTIONS.

NAMES OF CHURCHES WITH THEIR SUNDAY SCHOOLS.	Home Church Expenses.		Home Sunday School Expenses.		Missions.		Foreign Missions.		Printing Minutes.	Total.
	Home	Church	Home	Sunday School	Home	Missions.	Foreign	Missions.		
Hebron	\$ 35 00	\$ 4 50	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 3 00	\$ 42 50		
By Sunday School .....	.....	3 25	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 25		
Mount Olive	30 00	.....	3 00	.....	.....	.....	3 00	36 00		
By Sunday School .....	.....	27 50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	27 50		
New Providence	30 00	.....	3 00	.....	2 00	3 00	3 00	41 00		
Thomasville Chapel	168 00	.....	3 00	.....	.....	1 65	.....	174 65		
Ephesus	131 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 00	134 00		
Brandy Branch .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 00	3 00		
By Sunday School .....	.....	3 25	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 25		
Total	\$304 00	\$38 50	\$8 00	\$2 00	\$4 65	\$18 00	\$465 15			

NOTE BY CLERK.—Thomasville Chapel and Ephesus Churches have built new houses of worship this year, and expenses of building are included in their report of home church expenses. The two churches not represented in this Association, in their last reports, reported the number of members as follows: Sharon 23, Mount Zion 23, making the sum total of membership of the whole Association 203, instead of 157, as in the statistical table above.