

➤ MINUTES ➤

OF THE

EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

SANT MARY'S RIVER

Missionary Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

RUHAMAH CHURCH, CAMDEN COUNTY, GA.,

SEPTEMBER 24TH, 25TH, AND 26TH, 1886.

OFFICERS:

E. A. McWHORTER, . . . Moderator, . . . ST. MARY'S, GEORGIA.  
G. H. PEEPLES, . . . Clerk, . . . OAKWELL, GEORGIA.  
W. C. WILDS, . . . Treasurer, . . . CRANDALL, FLORIDA.

FERNANDINA, FLORIDA:  
THE MIRROR STEAM PRINTING HOUSE.  
1887.

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## ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Association called to order by Moderator.
3. Letters from Churches called for, read, and 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 Letters called for.
10. Reports of Standing and other Committees.
11. Queries called up and considered.
12. Miscellaneous business.
13. Adjournment.

## MINUTES.

### FIRST DAY.

FRIDAY, September 24, 1886,

Rev. Theodore Davis, who was appointed to preach the Introductory Sermon, not being present, the Introductory Sermon was preached by the Rev. G. A. Mallette, followed by the Rev. L. C. Music, from 1st Samuel, 7th chapter and 12th verse—"Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us;" after which an intermission of ten minutes was given. The Moderator not being present, the Association was called to order by the Clerk, and, after religious exercises, proceeded to business.

On motion, Major E. A. McWhorter was elected Moderator *pro tem*. Letters from the churches were then called for, read and the names of messengers duly enrolled, as follows:

*From New Providence*—E. A. McWhorter, J. A. Mills, Joseph Mills, Sr., Joseph Mills, Jr.

*From Live Oak*—L. W. Simmons, J. A. McIntosh, J. S. Braddock.

\**From Thomas Creek*—A. E. Ogilvie, Henry Geiger, Elijah Higginbotham, Irenæus Geiger.

*From Ruhamah*—M. B. McKendree, W. F. Allen, A. B. Brown, J. B. Jones.

*From Mount Olive*—W. C. Wilds, J. A. Braddock, W. S. Braddock.

*From Brandy Branch*—J. M. Higginbotham.

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\*Thomasville Chapel, having changed its name to Thomas Creek, as appears in these Minutes.

Petitionary letters were called for, none being presented.

The Association then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, which resulted in the selection of E. A. McWhorter as Moderator, G. H. Peeples as Clerk and W. C. Wilds as Treasurer. Visiting brethren were then invited to seats, when Elder G. W. Hall, of the Santa Fe Association of Florida and Children's Missionary for the State of Florida; Elder L. C. Music, of Missouri; Elder G. A. Mallette and Daniel Sikes, of Georgia, were welcomed by the Moderator, and requested to take part in the deliberations of the Association.

Correspondence from sister Associations called for. None presented.

The following committees were then appointed, as follows:

*On Letters and Queries*—Joseph Mills, Jr., J. S. Braddock, M. B. McKendree.

*On Sunday-Schools*—A. E. Ogilvie, A. B. Brown, J. M. Higginbotham.

*On Missions*—L. W. Simmons, Irenæus Geiger, W. C. Wilds.

*On Periodicals, etc.*—Henry Geiger, J. A. McIntosh, W. F. Allen.

*On State of Religion in the Churches*—L. W. Simmons, W. S. Braddock, Elijah Higginbotham.

*On Finance*—J. B. Jones, A. E. Ogilvie, J. A. Mills.

*On Nominations*—W. C. Wilds, A. E. Ogilvie, J. M. Higginbotham.

*On Temperance*—L. W. Simmons, Henry Geiger, J. A. Braddock.

*On Religious Exercises*—W. B. McKendree, W. F. Allen, A. B. Brown, J. B. Jones.

The Committee on Religious Exercises were requested to report at as early an hour as possible. It was then announced that Elder G. W. Hall would preach to-night at early candle light. After singing and prayer, the Association adjourned to meet on Saturday at 9 o'clock a. m.

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SECOND DAY.

SATURDAY, September 25, 1886.

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

The messenger bearing the letter from Ephesus Church having arrived, the letter was read and the name of the messenger duly enrolled, as follows: Thomas Haddock.

The minutes of Friday were read and approved.

The Committee on Religious Exercises reported that Elder L. C. Music would preach to-day at 11 o'clock, Elder Daniel Sikes would preach at early candle light to-night, and that Elder G. W. Hall would preach the Missionary Sermon on Sunday at 11 o'clock, and that he would also preach to the children at 3 o'clock p. m. Report received and adopted.

Reports of committees were called for and read as follows:

ON LETTERS AND QUERIES.

Your Committee on Letters and Queries beg leave to report as follows: That, after strict attention to the reading of the letters, find that there are no queries presented to the Association.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH MILLS, JR.,  
JOHN S. BRADDOCK,  
M. B. MCKENDREE.

Report received and adopted.

ON SUNDAY-SCHOOLS.

God commands us to teach the Holy Scriptures diligently unto our children. This teaching should commence at home. As soon as the little child is old enough to learn anything, it should be taught at its mother's knee. Here the foundation is laid upon which the grand and glorious work of the Sunday-school should rear its beautiful superstructure of moral and Christian character. No church should consider herself completely organized without a Sunday-school. No pastor should slacken his efforts until there is an ever-green Sunday-school at every church and preaching point. We are glad to report schools at nearly all the churches in this Association. We take pleasure in noting the blessed work done among the children and Sunday-schools by Rev. G. W. Hall, the Children's Mission-

ary, who has visited the churches and Sunday-schools of this Association during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

A. E. OGILVIE,  
A. B. BROWN,  
J. M. HIGGINBOTHAM.

Received and adopted.

Upon the motion to receive and adopt this report Elders G. W. Hall and L. W. Simmons, and the Moderator, made feeling addresses.

The hour of 11 o'clock having arrived, the Association listened to an instructive sermon from Rev. L. C. Music, from Acts, 2nd chapter, xxxvii and xxxviii verses. After which the Association took a recess for one hour for refreshments, when it reassembled and resumed business.

#### ON MISSIONS.

Your Committee feels the want of information and cannot make an accurate report, the churches having made but little or no note of the contributions during the last year. We note with gratitude to almighty God that the cause of missions is receiving more attention from the churches than in former years. We would, therefore, recommend that this Association reappoint the Executive Board of Missions, consisting of seven brethren, and that they have power to appoint union mission meetings and take up collections for the purpose of supplying the destitution within our bounds, asking each church to take up quarterly collections and forward to the unions, which shall be held each fifth Sabbath in the year. We would also recommend that the churches take up collections for Home and Foreign Missions and forward to this Board, whose duty it shall be to transfer the same through the proper channels.

Respectfully submitted,

L. W. SIMMONS,  
IRENEUS GEIGER,  
W. C. WILDS.

After some discussion by the brethren, the report was adopted.

#### ON PERIODICALS, ETC.

The religious press is a power for good, the importance of which cannot be estimated. The members of our churches who subscribe for and read their denominational papers are always prepared to

faithfully and successfully discharge their duties as church members and Christians. We regret the painful necessity of noting that very few of the members of the churches read our Baptist literature. We heartily recommend to all the Baptist families of this Association the *Florida Baptist Witness* as the organ of communication between us. We also recommend the *Christian Index* and *Baptist Flag* as able advocates of gospel truth and Christian instruction. As Sunday-school literature we would first of all earnestly recommend *Kind Words* and the *Child's Gem*; also the publications of the American Baptist Publication Society. We also recommend the *Foreign Mission Journal* to all our churches.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

J. H. GEIGER,  
W. F. ALLEN,  
J. A. McINTOSH.

#### ON STATE OF RELIGION IN THE CHURCHES.

From the imperfect statistics accessible to your committee, no definite comprehension can be had of the state of religion in the churches. There are, however, a few facts of so favorable a nature as to deserve some notice. In all the churches the tendency is upward. Progress has been slow, but with a degree indicating some life in the churches. Twenty-seven have been baptized during the year, and the contributions larger. For this we thank God and take courage. While we have done something, we are ashamed and ought to be humbled in the dust that we have not done more with the field for influence and the importance of the work before us. Christ has set an open door before our churches, and we ought to go in and possess the land in his name. We notice with sorrow and humiliation that one-half of our churches have no prayer-meetings and some make no contributions for missions or any religious cause. In some of the churches there is a great want of good and wholesome discipline, which, we hope, will receive more attention in the future. It is hoped that each church will organize a Sabbath-school and prayer-meeting, and thus cultivate the field as well as the talent that they have before them.

Respectfully submitted,

L. W. SIMMONS,  
W. S. BRADDOCK,  
ELIJAH HIGGINBOTHAM.

Received and adopted.

## ON FINANCE.

Your Committee on Finance beg leave to report that there is a slight decrease in benevolent contributions, but hope, from the indications, that there will be a decided increase for the coming year:

For State Missions, Ruhamah.....	\$ 7 00
" " " Mount Olive.....	3 28
" " " Ephesus.....	1 86
" " " Thomas Creek.....	5 00
" " " Brandy Branch.....	6 00
" " " Live Oak.....	10 75
For Home Missions, New Providence.....	2 00
For Foreign Missions, New Providence.....	2 00
" " " Thomas Creek.....	3 03
" " " Ruhamah.....	3 20
For Sunday-schools, Ruhamah.....	6 00
" " " Live Oak.....	2 90
For Minute Fund, New Providence.....	3 00
" " " Live Oak.....	2 00
" " " Brandy Branch.....	2 00
" " " Thomas Creek.....	2 00
" " " Ephesus.....	1 50
" " " Mount Olive.....	3 00
" " " Ruhamah.....	3 25
For Home Church Expenses, Ruhamah.....	42 40
" " " Mount Olive.....	.....
" " " Ephesus.....	.....
" " " Thomas Creek.....	27 50
" " " Brandy Branch.....	10 00
" " " Live Oak.....	53 00
" " " New Providence.....	17 50

Respectfully submitted,

J. B. JONES,  
A. E. OGILVIE,  
J. A. MILLS.

Received and adopted.

## ON NOMINATIONS.

Your Committee on Nominations beg leave to report that we recommend the next session of this body be held with the Brandy Branch Church, Nassau county, Florida, on Thursday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1887, and that Rev. L. W. Simmons preach the Introductory Sermon, Rev. Theodore Davis alternate; that Rev. A. P. Ashurst be requested to preach the Missionary Sermon, G. A. Pendarvis alternate.

Respectfully submitted,

W. C. WILDS,  
A. E. OGILVIE,  
J. M. HIGGINBOTHAM.

Received and adopted.

## ON TEMPERANCE.

Your committee deem a lengthy report on this subject unnecessary, and will just submit the following: We do heartily endorse the report on this subject presented last year. We also give our hearty endorsement to the efforts that are being made against this, our worst enemy, to drive it from our land. The cause of temperance, just at this time, needs action, individual as well as united. Let each church and individual inscribe upon her or his banner the church for temperance and temperance for the church, and never cease work until the curse of drink shall be known no more in our land.

Respectfully submitted,

L. W. SIMMONS,  
HENRY GEIGER,  
J. A. BRADDOCK.

Received and adopted.

The following resolution was then offered:

*Resolved*, That this Association request the churches to instruct their clerks when they receive members from other churches to notify the clerks of the churches granting the letter upon their reception; also that the churches limit the time of letters of dismissal when granted to three, six or twelve months.

After a spirited discussion of the above resolution by Elders G. W. Hall and L. C. Music, and by the Moderator, E. A. McWhorter, for, and Elder L. W. Simmons against, it was passed.

The Association then appointed the following Executive Board of Missions, viz: E. A. McWhorter, J. M. Higginbotham, A. E. Ogilvie, Thomas Haddock, G. H. Peoples, L. W. Simmons and W. C. Wilds.

As this Association, at its last session, resolved to unite with the Florida Baptist Convention, it was moved that the clerk prepare a Petitionary Letter for admission to membership in that body, and that the following-named brethren be appointed messengers to said Convention, viz: E. A. McWhorter, G. H. Peoples, W. C. Wilds, L. C. Music, A. B. Brown, L. W. Simmons, J. Mills, Jr., W. F. Allen, A. E. Ogilvie and J. S. Braddock.

It was moved that the collection taken up on Sunday after the Missionary Sermon be equally divided between the

State Board of Missions for Florida and the Home and Foreign Mission Boards. Motion carried.

It was resolved that the thanks of the messengers and visitors attending this Association be given to the members of Ruhamah Church and surrounding country for their kind hospitality in the entertainment of the Association, and that the thanks of the Association be tendered to the Savannah, Florida & Western Railroad for courtesies shown the messengers of the Association. Adopted.

After singing and prayer, adjourned to meet on Sunday morning at 9 o'clock for prayer-meeting before the sermon.

### THIRD DAY.

The Association assembled for prayer. After the prayer-meeting the Rev. G. W. Hall preached the Missionary Sermon to a large and attentive audience from 2d Corinthians, 2d Chapter and 15th verse, after which a hymn was sung and a collection taken up, amounting to \$18.35, for missionary purposes. There was an intermission of one hour for dinner, when the Rev. G. W. Hall held a very interesting service for the children, interspersed with singing and short talks by him, which had a manifest effect upon the children, causing many of them to weep.

The Association adjourned to meet with the Brandy Branch Church, Nassau County, Florida, on Thursday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1887.

After the parting hand had been given, a hymn sung, and prayer and the benediction by Brother Hall, the Association closed in order.

E. A. McWHORTER, *Moderator.*

G. H. PEEPLES, *Clerk.*

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### 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.....Tisonia, Fla.  
L. W. SIMMONS.....St. Mary's, Ga.

### NAMES OF CLERKS OF CHURCHES AND THEIR POSTOFFICES.

Ruhamah.....A. B. BROWN.....Oakwell, Ga.  
New Providence...JOSEPH MILLS, SR.....St. Mary's, Ga.  
Ephesus.....C. E. HADDOCK.....King's Ferry, Fla.  
Mount Olive.....D. H. HIGGINBOTHAM...King's Ferry, Fla.  
Brandy Branch....AARON FOREACRES.....Baldwin, Fla.  
Thomas Creek.....L. GEIGER.....Callahan, Fla.  
Live Oak.....J. S. BRADDOCK.....Dyall, Fla.



## STATISTICS.

NAMES OF CHURCHES.	MEMBERSHIP.										CHURCH PROPERTY.			
	When Constituted	Increase.					Decrease				No. of Meeting Houses.	Seating Capacity	Value of Meeting Houses.	Total Value of Church Property.
		Memb' rship Last Year	Baptism.	Letter.	Experience	Resto' at on	Exclusion.	Letter.	Deaths.	Present Mem- bership.				
Mount Olive.....	1878	43	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	45	1	150	\$ 125	\$ 230
New Providence.....	1878	37	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	34	1	100	100	175
Thomas Creek.....	1883	18	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	1	15	1	100	150	200
Brandy Branch.....	1878	16	14	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	30	.....	.....	.....	400
Ruhamah.....	1884	40	3	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	48	1	200	350	400
Live Oak.....	1885	11	1	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	13	1	150	1,050	1,066
Ephesus.....	.....	21	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	24	1	125	200	250
Totals.....	.....	186	27	5	1	1	.....	9	2	209	6	825	\$1,975	\$2,321

NAMES OF SUPERINTENDENTS.	No. Schools.	Officers and Teachers.	Scholars En-rolled.	Average At- tendance.	Teachers Baptiz- ed.	No. Sunday- school papers No. Months in Session.	Scholars Baptized.	Vols. in Libry
R. L. Peterson.....	1	3	17	1	.....	10	1	24

NOTE.—Some of the churches report that they have schools, but give no statistics of them.

## CONTRIBUTIONS.

NAMES OF CHURCHES, WITH SUNDAY-SCHOOLS.	Home Church Ex- penses.	Home Sunday- school Expenses.	State Missions.	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Printing Minutes.	Ministerial Educa- tion.	Total.
New Providence.....	\$ 17 50	.....	.....	\$ 2 00	\$ 2 00	3 00	.....	\$ 21 50
Thomas Creek.....	27 50	.....	5 00	.....	3 03	2 00	.....	37 53
Live Oak.....	53 00	.....	10 75	.....	.....	2 00	.....	63 75
By Sunday-school.....	.....	\$ 2 90	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2 90
Ruhamah.....	42 40	.....	7 00	.....	3 20	.....	.....	57 60
By Sunday-school.....	.....	6 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6 00
Brandy Branch.....	10 00	.....	6 00	.....	.....	2 00	.....	18 00
Ephesus.....	.....	.....	1 86	.....	.....	1 50	.....	3 36
Totals.....	\$ 150 40	\$ 8 90	\$33 86	\$ 2 00	\$ 8 23	\$13 50	.....	\$ 216 64