

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

HELD WITH
LIVE OAK BAPTIST CHURCH, NASSAU CO., FLA.,

ON
NOVEMBER 22, 23 AND 24, 1888

OFFICERS:

JAS. JOHNSON	Moderator	Folkstone, Ga.
CHAS. A. SAULS	Clerk	Callahan, Fla.
W. A. OGILVIE	Treasurer	Callahan, Fla.

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OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

JAMES A. JOHNSON, Moderator.....Folkstone, Ga.
C. A. SAULS, Clerk.....Callahan, Fla.
W. A. OGILVIE, Treasurer.....Callahan, Fla.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

L. W. SIMMONS.....Callahan, Fla.
THEO. DAVIS.....Hilliard, Fla.
J. A. JOHNSON.....Folkstone, Ga.
J. F. REEVES.....Oakwell, Ga.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Association called to Order by Moderator.
3. Letters from Churches called for, read, and the Names of Messengers Enrolled.
4. Election of Officers.
5. Petitionary Letters called for.
6. Inviting Visiting Brethren to Seats.
7. Letters of Correspondence called for.
8. Appointment of Committees.
9. Reports of Standing or Other Committees.
10. Queries called up and Considered.
11. Miscellaneous Business.
12. Adjournment.

MINUTES.

FIRST DAY.

THURSDAY, November 22d, 1888

Introductory sermon, by Rev. T. Davis, from Luke, 12th chapter, and 31st verse.

Owing to the inclement weather, the Moderator and Clerk not having arrived, the organization was postponed until Friday, 23d.

Association adjourned with the benediction, by Rev. Jas. A. Johnson.

SECOND DAY.

FRIDAY, 9:30, November 23, 1888.

The former Moderator having arrived, the Association was called to order; prayer by Rev. Jas. A. Johnson.

Letters from Churches were called for, read, and names of Messengers enrolled as follows:

THOMAS CREEK CHURCH.—L. W. Braddock, A. E. Ogilvie, E. Higginbotham, W. A. Ogilvie.

CAMP PINKNEY CHURCH.—J. B. Loyd, J. H. Loyd, W. S. Wheeler, Jas. A. Johnson.

RUHAMAH CHURCH.—J. F. Reeves.

NEW PROVIDENCE CHURCH.—Alex. Mills.

MOUNT OLIVE CHURCH.—W. C. Wilds, J. A. Braddock, C. B. Higginbotham, J. H. Braddock.

BUFORD GROVE CHURCH.—Monroe Davis, Henry Roberts, E. O. Small, Aaron Smith.

EPHESUS CHURCH.—Thos. Haddock, Rufus Haddock.

BRANDY BRANCH CHURCH.—Nathan Hunt.

LIVE OAK CHURCH.—L. W. Simmons, T. Davis, C. A. Sauls, J. S. Braddock.

MACEDONIA CHURCH.—J. C. Braddock.

•Petitionary letters called for, and now being presented. The Association then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, which resulted as follows:

Jas. A. Johnson—Moderator.

Chas. A. Sauls—Clerk.

W. A. Ogilvie—Treasurer.

Visiting brethren were then invited to seats; there being none. Correspondence was then called for; there being none, the following committees were then appointed;

On Temperance.—L. W. Simmons, Aaron Smith, L. W. Braddock.

On Letters and Queries.—E. Higginbotham, John B. Loyd.

On Periodicals.—W. C. Wilds, J. A. Braddock, W. A. O'Gilvie.

On State of Religion in the Churches.—C. B. Higginbotham, T. Davis, J. C. Braddock.

On Discipline.—L. W. Simmons, W. C. Wilds, H. Roberts.

On Deceased Ministers and Deacons.—J. F. Reeves, A. E. O'Gilvie.

On Sunday-Schools.—J. S. Braddock, W. S. Wheeler, C. H. Loyd.

On Missions.—J. F. Reeves, Alex. Mills.

On Finance.—Thos. Haddock, O. E. Small, N. H. Hunt.

On Nominations.—J. C. Braddock, Charles A. Sauls, T. Davis.

On Religious Exercises.—T. Davis, O. E. Small, E. Higginbotham.

The Committee on Religious Exercises were requested to retire and make their report as soon as possible. They reported as follows:

Rev. L. W. Simmons to preach at 11 o'clock Saturday.
Rev. J. A. Johnson at 6 o'clock to-night.

T. DAVIS,

O. E. SMALL,

E. HIGGINBOTHAM.

After singing, and prayer by J. F. Reeves, the Association adjourned until 9 o'clock Saturday morning

THIRD DAY.

SATURDAY, November 24, 1888.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator. After prayer, by Rev. T. Davis, business was resumed.

Reports of committees were then called for.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Your Committee on Temperance beg leave to report that we are glad to note that the spirit of temperance is gaining, and we wait, with sweet anticipation, to hail the day when this gigantic evil shall be suppressed, and cease to be a curse to the Church and humanity, and would admonish our brethren never to relax their efforts until every drinking place and the traffic at large in ardent spirits shall cease to exist in our fair land, and we may no longer have cause to fear the demon of strong drink.

Respectfully submitted,

L. W. SIMMONS,
AARON SMITH,
L. W. BRADDOCK.

After discussion by Rev. L. W. Simmons and J. F. Reeves, the report of the committee was adopted.

ON MISSIONS.

Jesus said that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations.

The men of this generation need the Gospel as much as any other ever needed it. The world liveth in sin as it formerly did. The Gospel of Christ is the only sovereign, practical, all-sufficient remedy for the cancerous disease of sin which affects our race.

The obligations to go and to give are as binding on Christians of the last quarter of the Nineteenth Century as they have been in any preceding age.

The churches of the St. Mary's River Association should be deeply and practically interested, not only in the Missionary work in their bounds, but they should extend their aid to the utmost of their ability, morally and financially, to extend the benefits of the glorious Gospel of the Son of God to earth's remotest bounds.

Respectfully submitted,

J. F. REEVES, Chairman.

Report read and adopted.

ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Your Committee on Sunday Schools beg leave to report: From the meagre reports coming up in the letters, we cannot

make as full a report as we desire, and would urge upon the churches the importance of giving this department of Christian work more attention, and endeavor not only to create interest among the children, but also among the parents, and especially their membership, realizing the fact that from the nursery the orchard must be kept up.

Respectfully submitted,

J. S. BRADDOCK,
W. S. WHEELER,
C. H. LOYD.

ON DISCIPLINE.

Your committee beg leave to report that from the best information we can get, we are glad to note that in most of our churches the discipline is good, but note with grief that Ephesus Church is extremely lax in discipline—so much so that it reflects upon her as a church, and also upon the Association; and yet she manifests no disposition to purge herself of her disorderly membership, notwithstanding the abundance of New Testament instruction, and especially that of Paul to the Thessalonians, third chapter, sixth verse:

"Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to withdraw from every brother that walks disorderly."

For we realize that such a state of corruption is detrimental to the Church and Association; and your committee would respectfully recommend that unless the said Church can purge herself of her disorder, the Association withdraw fellowship from her.

Respectfully submitted,

L. W. SIMMONS,
W. C. WILDS,
H. ROBERTS.

Report read and adopted.

ON PERIODICALS.

Your committee feel for loss of language adequate to express the importance of this question. Suffice it to say that we have an abundance of the best religious literature, prominent among which are the Florida Baptist Witness, published at Ocala, Fla.; the Christian Index, published at Atlanta, Ga.; the American Baptist Flag, published at St. Louis, Mo.; also Kind Words, for children, also published in Atlanta, Ga., and many other periodicals published by our American Baptist Publication Society, of Philadelphia. Your committee is impressed with the fact that it is not literature that we want-

but a disposition upon the part of our people to take and read what we have got. Brethren, we cannot expect to live and grow or be strong, physically, without good and wholesome diet, nor can we be strong and useful, spiritually, without good, sound religious diet.

Respectfully submitted,

W. A. OGILVIE,
W. C. WILDS,
J. A. BRADDOCK.

Report read, and, after remarks by Rev. L. W. Simmons, it was adopted.

ON FINANCE.

Your Committee on Finance beg leave to report \$30.64 on hand, of which \$20 is for printing minutes; \$8.10 is for Foreign Missions; \$2.54 for charitable purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

THOS. HADDOCK,
O. E. SMALL,
N. H. HUNT.

Report read and adopted.

ON THE STATE OF RELIGION IN THE CHURCHES.

DEAR BRETHREN:—While it is a source of pleasure to us, and should excite our profound gratitude to God, the giver of all our blessings, that our churches have been enabled to report some progress, and have enjoyed some ingathering of members, thus enabling us to thank God, take courage and press on in His divine service, yet when we remember how much necessity there is for active work, and how short the time be allotted to us to work for the salvation of the perishing in the bounds of our Association, we have serious cause to regret that we have not put forth more united and harmonious efforts (in honor preferring one another), standing shoulder to shoulder and heart to heart, that the labors of our hands and hearts in the Lord might have resulted in greater success to our cause. God grant us more of the grace of humility and Christian charity for the year to come, that our cause may have increased success.

Respectfully submitted,

C. B. HIGGINBOTHAM.

Report read and adopted.

ON LETTERS AND QUERIES.

Your Committee on Letters and Queries beg leave to report as follows: After carefully examining the letters, find no queries.

Respectfully submitted,

E. HIGGINBOTHAM,
JOHN B. LOYD.

Report read and adopted.

ON DECEASED MINISTERS AND DEACONS.

Your committee beg leave to report: It should be with feelings of profound gratitude to God, the giver of all our blessings, that we are permitted to report that none of the Ministers or Deacons of this Association have been called from time to eternity since our last Annual Session.

Therefore, we, your committee, recommend that on the adoption of this report all business be suspended, and the Moderator call upon some brother to lead in a prayer of thanksgiving to God for His blessing in the past, and for a continuation of His providential care and special favor for the year to come.

Respectfully submitted,

J. F. REEVES.

Report read 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 Beauford Grove Church, near Hilliard, Nassau County, Florida, on Thursday before the third Sunday in October, 1889, and that Rev. J. A. Johnson preach the Introductory Sermon; Rev. Daniel Sikes, alternate, and Rev. O. LaRoche preach the Missionary Sermon; L. W. Simmons, alternate.

Respectfully submitted,

J. C. BRADDOCK,
CHAS. A. SAULS,
T. DAVIS.

WHEREAS, In view of the fact that the former Executive Committee have not kept an itemized minute of their work, therefore be it

Resolved by this Association, That the incoming committee be instructed to keep a minute of all their proceedings and present the same to the next session of this body, including the full report of all the Missionary work that may be done under their supervision.

The resolution was adopted.

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

FOURTH DAY.

The Association assembled for prayer.

After the prayer-meeting the Rev. J. F. Reeves preached the Missionary Sermon to a large and attentive congregation, from Matthew, 28th chapter, 18th and 20th verses; Mark, 16th chapter, 15th and 16th verses, and Psalms, 2d chapter, 7th and 8th verses, after which, during the singing of a hymn, the missionary collection was taken up, amounting to \$10.

JAMES A. JOHNSON, Moderator.

C. A. SAULS, Clerk.

STATISTICS.

NAMES OF CHURCHES	MEMBERSHIP							CHURCH PROPERTY					
	When Constituted	INCREASE				DECR'S		Present Membership	Number of Meeting Houses	Seating Capacity	Value of Meeting Houses	Total Value of Church Property	
		Membership Last Year	Baptism	Letter	Experience	Restoration	Exclusion						Deaths
Beauford Grove.....	23	1	5	..	2	1	..	1	29	..	..	..
Ephesus.....	27	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27	1	125	200	200
Live Oak.....	1885	24	15	1	15	..	1	1	40	..	200	225	225
Camp Pinkney.....	43	14	2	..	1	6	16	..	38	1	150	125	125
Brandy Branch.....	1878	36	2	..	..	1	..	..	37	1	250	500	500
Mount Olive.....	1878	48	4	4	..	1	..	1	54	1	200	300	300
Ruhamah.....	1884	58	12	5	1	1	1	4	72	1	250	400	400
New Providence.....	1878	24	1	..	..	..	3	..	22	1	100	100	175
Macedonia.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..
Thomas Creek.....	23	3	..	..	..	2	..	..	24	1	100	125	125
Total.....	306	52	17	16	5	12	26	1	351	7	1375	1975	2050

NAMES OF SUPERINTENDENTS	Total Amount of Money Raised	Volumes in Library	Number of Schools	Number of Scholars	Officers and Teachers	Scholars Enrolled	Average Attendance	Teachers Baptized	No. of Sunday School Papers	No. Months in Session	Scholars Baptized
Nathan Hunt.....	\$ 8	10	60	1	20	7	30	18	1	..	..
W. B. Lewis.....	..	..	..	1	30	6	30	18	6	..	..
A. E. Ogilvie.....	3	40	..	1	21	3	25	20	1	..	..
Total.....	11	50	60	3	71	16	85	56	8	..	..

CONTRIBUTIONS.

NAMES OF CHURCHES WITH THEIR SUNDAY SCHOOLS	Miscellaneous		For Charitable Purposes	Home Church Expense	Home Sunday School Expense	State Missions	Home Missions	Foreign Missions	Printing Minutes	Ministerial Education	Total
	For Visiting Ministers										
Beauford Grove.....			26 70	62 00			16 78		1 55		107 03
Ephesus.....				22 03					2 00		24 03
Live Oak.....				80 00	3 00	4 00			2 00		89 00
Camp Pinkney.....				18 35		5 00			1 50		24 85
Brandy Branch.....									1 00		1 00
Mt. Olive.....			33 00	75 00	85 00						193 00
Ruhamah.....				150 50					3 00		153 50
New Providence.....				33 00					1 00		34 00
Macedonia.....								2 00	50		2 50
Thomas Creek.....	5 50	6 35	4 43	74 35	3 40				2 00		96 03
Total.....	5 50	6 35	64 13	515 23	88 40	3 00	25 78	2 00	14 55		724 94