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MINUTES  
OF THE  
**Seventeenth Annual Session**  
OF THE  
**St. Marys River**  
**Missionary Baptist Association,**

HELD WITH THE  
**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH,**  
**Jacksonville, Florida,**  
OCTOBER 24th, 25th and 26th, 1895.

**OFFICERS:**

REV. MALCOLM MacGREGOR	- - - - -	Moderator
JAS. D. CHALKER,	- - - - -	Clerk
D. C. ANDRESS,	- - - - -	Treasurer

MACLENNY, FLORIDA.  
BAKER COUNTY PRESS PRINT.  
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## MINUTES.

### THURSDAY MORNING SESSION.

October 24, 1895.

The St. Marys River Association met pursuant to adjournment with the First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Florida, at 11 o'clock a. m., October 24th, 1895.

The introductory sermon, in the absence of the regular appointee, was preached by Rev. Dennis Spencer, from Psalm 51-12:—"Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit."

The Association was then called to order by the former Moderator, Rev. Malcolm MacGregor. Letters from the churches were called for and read, and the names of delegates enrolled as follows:

Bethel—D. C. Andress, Thos. Patten, G. H. Townsend, T. W. Williams, and J. D. Chalker.

Brandy Branch—Nathan Hunt and Elias Fouraker.  
Marietta—Archibald Peterson.

First Jacksonville—Rev. Malcolm MacGregor,  
E. Bean, and Abraham Wheeler.

Mount Olivet—W. C. Wilds.

Thomas Creek—H. C. Pickett, Adolphus Turner  
and S. A. Ogilvie.

Petitionary letters were called for. None were presented.

Election of officers was then called for; ballot was taken, and the following were declared elected: Rev. Malcolm MacGregor, Moderator; Jas. D. Chalker, Clerk, and D. C. Andress, Treasurer.

Visiting brethren were invited to seats with us;

### ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Association called to order by the Moderator.
3. Letters from the Churches called for, read, and Delegates 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.

Bethany—A. E. Braddock.

Ruhama—W. F. Allen.

New River—W. N. Braddock.

Deep Creek—R. C. Hicks.

A petitionary letter from Perseverance, at Bayard, was received by the hands of her delegates, Brother J. O. Thompson and Sister Jane Wing, asking for membership with us. A committee, consisting of Rev. D. Sykes and Brethren W. C. Wilds and Elias Fouraker, were appointed to examine as to the orthodoxy of said church, made the following report:

We, your committee appointed to examine the petitionary letter of the Perseverance church, submit the following report:

From examination we find the church orthodox, and recommend it be received.

D. SIKES,  
W. C. WILDS,  
ELIAS FOURAKER.

On motion and by a vote the report was received and the right hand of fellowship was extended to the delegates by the Moderator.

The Committee on Periodicals made the following report:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PERIODICALS.

WHEREAS, The power of our religious press, for good in every department of Christian enterprise, is unquestionably great and manifold, therefore be it

*Resolved*, That this Association earnestly recommend to all the persons and churches connected with it to make the fullest and most earnest use of the Sunday-school literature of our Sunday-School Board and the literature of the American Baptist Publication Society, and especially the Florida Baptist Witness, the worthy organ of our denomination in Florida.

ABRAHAM WHEELER,  
ARCHIBALD PETERSON,  
R. H. JONES.

On motion and by a vote the report was adopted.  
Committee on Missions reported as follows:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS.

The cause of Christian Missions, Foreign, Home and Local alike, is the supreme work appointed by Christ for Christian churches.

The great mass of mankind, all but the merest fraction of it, are perishing for lack of the Gospel of Christ.

There should be earnest prayer, liberal giving and faithful work in every church for the advancement of the missionary enterprise.

The churches should pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into his harvest. And they should watch and pray for Christian young men, possessed of gifts suitable for the work of the ministry, both in its pastoral and in its missionary departments.

There should be much work, systematic and generous, giving not merely to local and associational missions, but also, and especially to the work of the State Convention and the Home and Foreign Mission-work of the Southern Baptist Convention.

It is very important to Missionary enterprise in the Churches that the Pastors preach frequently on the duty and work of Missions, giving full information of the wondrous doings of the Lord with the Missionaries to the heathen, as well as those in civilized lands. More light on Missions is necessary to increase activity in the cause of Missions.

Respectfully submitted.

THOS. PATTEN.  
T. W. WILLIAMS.  
D. C. ANDRÉSS.

The report was ably discussed by Revs. D. C. Andress, Malcolm MacGregor, D. Sykes, and by brethren W. C. Wilds and Scruggs.

On motion, and by a vote, the report was then adopted.

Committee on Christian Education made the following report:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION.

WHEREAS, The acceptance of the doctrines and tenets of Christianity are dependent upon the intelligence and ability to understand and comprehend them, and

WHEREAS, The spread of the Gospel must be largely influenced by the training, intelligence and ability of its promoters; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That in the judgment of this body, it is the duty of every professing Christian, and especially of every member of a Baptist Church, to encourage and sustain to the full extent of their ability the means for general education.

By Education we mean the training commencing in the Home, extending outward through the Sunday School, Kindergarten, Public School, Academy, College and University.

Our denomination is rapidly going to the front on these lines. Chicago, Washington, Louisville, Richmond, Vassar, and our own Stetson, with a host of others, furnishing all of the modern appliances for high culture and training, and are notable evidence, and are worthy of confidence and support.

E. BEAN.  
JAS. D. CHALKER.  
R. H. JONES.

On motion, and by vote, the report was adopted. Committee on Sunday Schools made the following report:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

We, your Committee on Sunday Schools, submit the following report:

We find that most of our Churches report good Sunday Schools. We are glad to report that the Sun-

day School cause is advancing, and we would beg that all Baptist Sunday Schools secure the very best Baptist literature for their schools.

Respectfully submitted,

D. SYKES.  
W. F. ALLEN.

After discussion by Revs. D. Sykes, D. C. Address and Dennis Spencer, the report was adopted.

Committee on Nominations made the following report:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS.

We, your Committee on Nominations, beg leave to make the following report:

We recommend that the next Session of this Association be held with the Live Oak Church, Nassau county, Fla., and that Rev. L. W. Kickliter preach the Introductory Sermon, and Rev. D. Sykes, Alternate; and that Rev. J. C. Porter preach the Missionary Sermon, and Rev. Theo. Davis, Alternate.

We also nominate an Executive Committee for the consideration of the Association, viz.: A. E. Ogilvie, J. C. Braddock, J. B. Jones, A. S. York, J. B. Lloyd, L. L. Jones, R. C. Hicks, C. A. Young, A. Wheeler, J. O. Thompson, W. N. Brazzle, Geo. Adams, W. C. Wilds, A. B. Brown, and B. L. Higginbotham.

Respectfully submitted.

THOS. PATTEN,  
T. W. WILLIAMS.  
A. PETERSON.

On motion, and by vote, the report was adopted. Association took recess till 2 o'clock.

## AFTERNOON SESSION.

Association convened at 2 o'clock, and the Session was opened with singing and prayer.

Committee on the state of Religion made the following report:

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON THE STATE OF RELIGION.

We, your Committee on the state of Religion in the Churches, beg leave to report as follows: By the letters and statistics from the Churches, and by the presence of as many Delegates, we are happy to report an advance in the cause of the Master. While some of our Churches have been without preaching, they have kept the fire of love and grace burning, and ask our prayers for the Lord's harvest to supply their spiritual needs. Respectfully submitted.

D. C. ANDRESS.

D. SYKES.

G. H. TOWNSEND.

Committee on Woman's Missions reported as follows:

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON WOMAN'S MISSIONS.

Your Committee on Woman's Mission Work strongly recommend that the Churches of this Association form and make diligent use of Woman's Missionary or Aid Societies or Missions to assist in disseminating information about Missions, and to cultivate the grace of giving to our existing Missionary enterprises in connection with our State, Home and Foreign Missionary Boards. We further recommend that these Societies be closely patterned after the Woman's Missionary Union Auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention, and that they be strictly auxiliary to the Missionary department of our Churches.

In the opinion of your Committee, such societies thus constituted and worked, would prove useful handmaids and helpmeets to the Churches in their work of faith and labor of love in the cause of Missions.

Respectfully submitted.

W. C. WILDS.

D. SYKES.

H. C. PICKET.

The report was ably discussed by Revs. D. C. Andress, D. Sykes, Malcolm MacGregor and other brethren, and on motion, and by a vote the report was adopted.

Committee on Deceased Ministers and Deacons made the following report:

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DECEASED MINISTERS AND DEACONS.

We, your Committee on Deceased Ministers and Deacons, beg leave to report that we are rejoiced to find there has been no deaths of any minister or deacon in the bounds of our Association since we last met.

Respectfully submitted,

JAS. D. CHALKER,

ABRAM WHEELER,

A. PETERSON.

On motion, and by vote, the report was adopted.

While waiting for the reports of other committees, the Association engaged in singing and prayer.

The Committee on Church Discipline made the following report:

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CHURCH DISCIPLINE.

We, your Committee on Discipline, submit the following report:

We find that the most of our churches have very good discipline; that the most of the immoral practices spoken of in our last report have been banished, and good order is maintained.

adopted, that the Clerk be authorized to draw on the Treasurer of the Association for an amount sufficient to pay for the printing of the minutes, and that the Treasurer be authorized to pay the same out of any money in his hands belonging to the Association. Also to pay the Clerk ten dollars for his services.

On motion and by a vote it was adopted.  
Committee on Prayer Meetngs report as follows:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PRAYER MEETINGS.

Your Committee on Prayer Meetings find that very few of our Churches have reported that they have Prayer Meetings. Brethren, as we consider that Prayer Meeting is one of the means by which we can with joy draw water from the wells of salvation, we recommend that all of our Churches maintain Prayer Meetings, so that our Churches may be spiritually strong.

Respectfully submitted.

D. SYKES.  
D. C. ANDRESS.  
G. H. TOWNSEND.

On motion and by vote the report was adopted.  
The following resolutions were offered and adopted:

RESOLUTIONS OF THANKS.

Resolved, That the hearty thanks of the St. Mary's River Baptist Association be hereby tendered to the First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, for its kind and bountiful hospitality to our delegates and visitors.

Resolved, That the thanks of St. Mary's River Baptist Association be tendered to the F. C. & P. and S. F. & W. Railroads, for their kindness in granting reduced rates to delegates to our meetings.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet with the Live Oak Church Thursday before the First Sunday in October, A. D. 1896.

MALCOLM MACGREGOR,  
Moderator.  
JAS. D. CHALKER,  
Clerk.

LADIES' AID SOCIETY MEETING.

Saturday, October 26, 1895.

The Ladies' Aid and Missionary Society held a meeting Saturday afternoon, October 26th. Mrs. Green, President of the Jacksonville Society, presided. Mrs. Guernsey was chosen Secretary. The meeting opened with singing, reading and prayer, after which reports were called for from other Societies of the Association. Only one Church was represented, that of Ruhamah. Mrs. Caldwell reported \$7.00, (seven) sent during the year by the Ruhamah church. There is no regularly organized Society at that place, put by the untiring efforts of one or two members some money is raised every year, and Missionary tracts are distributed. Owing to the absence of the Secretary there was no written report of the Jacksonville Society, but Mrs. Green gave a short talk on the work done during the year. The ladies of this Society have undertaken much toward the furnishing of the new church, and of necessity their efforts have been largely in that direction. But interest in Missionary Work has been maintained, and much interest concerning the work at home and abroad has been given at the meetings. Thirty-two (\$32) have been sent forward. After an informal discussion of this work, the meeting adjourned with prayer.

### CHURCH FINANCIAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	DAYS OF MEETING.	Current Expens- es, Pastor's Salary, Etc.	Unusual Re- pairs or Building.	Poor and Home Charities.	Other Purposes.	MISSIONS.			WOMAN'S SOCIETY.		Minutes of Association	Associational Purposes.
						State.	Home.	Associational	Foreign.	Home.		
Bethel.....	1st & 3d Sun. & Sat. before.	150 00	30 00	10 00	22 00						2 00	4 10
Bethany.....	4th Sun. and Sat. before.....	40 00									1 00	1 00
Brandy Branch.....	3d Sun. and Sat. before.....	30 00									1 50	
Buford Grove.....	Not Represented											
Deep Creek.....	2d Sun. and Sat. before.							2 80				50
Ephesus.....	Not Represented											
Fernandina 1st.....	Not Represented											
*Folkston, 1st.....	1st Sun. and Sat. before.....	24 65	15 00	4 00	20 00			8 25			1 50	
*Jacksonville, 1st.....	Every Sunday.	1807 70			425 69	61 44	16 99				1 00	1 85
*Live Oak.....	3d Sun. and Sat. before.	51 75		8 60				5 85			7 00	25
*Marietta.....	3d Sun. and Sat. before.		60 75	8 67	5 60						2 00	1 20
Macedonia.....	Not Given	10 00										
Midway.....	Not Represented											
Monteref Springs.....	Not Represented	85 00									1 50	1 56
*Mount Olive.....	2d Sun. and Sat. before.	10 00										
*New Providence.....	4th Sun. and Sat. before.											
New Sharon.....	No Statistics.											
Perseverance.....	No Statistics.	101 25										
*Rahama.....	1st Sun. and Sat. before.	98 50									2 00	
*Thomas Creek.....	4th Sun. and Sat. before.			14 81							6 50	2 00
		2408 85	105 75	45 08	473 29	61 32	64 7 00	31 50	15 10	11 53		

\* Days of Meeting taken from last year's report.

685.12

### CHURCH STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	When Constituted.	Membership Last Year.	Red by Baptism	Increase, Decrease						Present Membership	No. Church-houses.	Seating Capacity.	Value of House.	Total Value of Property.
						By Letter.	Exclusion.	By Letter.	By Experience.	By Letter.	By Letter.					
Bethel, of Maccleenny.....	D. C. Address.	G. H. Townsend.....	1877	103	7	9	10	5	2			94	1	300	700	
Bethany.....	Theo. Davis.	J. H. Buford.....	1890									27	1	200	200	
Brandy Branch.....	Samuel Godwin	Aaron Fouraker.....										60	1	150	150	
Buford Grove.....																
Deep Creek.....																
Ephesus.....																
Fernandina, First.....	D. Sykes	G. C. Burgess.....	1863	36	2	1						28	1	400	400	
Folkston, First.....	Malcolm Macgregor	J. W. Goggin.....	1883	75	2	13	6	1	18			39	1	20	20	100
Jacksonville, First.....	D. Sykes	J. S. Bradford.....	1883	33	2	6	6	1	89			89	1	20	20	100
Live Oak.....	W. F. Malphurs	C. A. Young.....	1880	97	2	4	6	1	88			88	1	100	100	275
Marietta.....												17	1			
Macedonia.....																
Midway.....																
Monteref Springs.....	W. B. Bennett	T. J. Wingate.....		5	1				47			47	1	100	100	
Mount Olive.....	E. J. Barber	J. M. Ogilvie.....		21					13			13	1	200	200	
New Providence.....	S. S. Proctor	John G. Young.....	1886	6	3				15			15	1	600	600	
Perseverance.....	W. B. Bennett	H. R. Stewart.....		70	7	2			83			83	1	500	500	
Rahama.....	L. W. Klefiter	W. A. Ogilvie.....	1868	52					52			52	1	400	400	
Thomas Creek.....																
				563 83	1 28	5 10	23 4	790 20						23 865	23 865	

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**SUNDAY-SCHOOL STATISTICS.**

CHURCHES.	SUPERINTENDENTS.	POST-OFFICE.	Local Expenses.	Geny to Missions.	Officers and Teachers.	Number Enrolled.	Average Attendance.	Number Baptized.	Number In Library.
Bethel.....	Thomas Patten.....	Glen St. Mary, Florida.	13 68 1 65	10	65 45	2			
Bethany.....	J. B. Jones.....	Callahan.	2 00	4	18				00
Brandy Branch.....	N. H. Hunt.....	Bryceville.	1 00		25				
Folkston, First.....	J. C. Burgess.....	Folkston.	16 89 9 80	8	100				100
Jacksonville, First.....	H. O. Tanner.....	Jacksonville.	2 00	1 50	6 15				
North Orlene.....	W. C. Wilds.....	Crandall.			7 37				
North Orlene.....	H. B. Stewart.....	Kingsland.	8 25 7 15	6	25				75
Rubama.....	A. E. Ogilvie.....	Callahan.							
Thomas Creek.....									

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1909

**CONSTITUTION OF THE ST. MARYS  
RIVER MISSIONAY 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 I. This body shall be called the St. Mary's River Missionary Baptist Association.

ART. II. 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.

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

ART. IV. We believe in one true and living God, and that there are three persons in the Godhead.

ART. V. 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 this life, and particularly in transacting the affairs of our churches.

ART. VI. 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.

ART. VII. We believe Jesus Christ to be the Great Head of the Church; that Spiritual Discipline, with an eye to the glory of God, must greatly conduce to the final prosperity and union of the churches.

## **RULES OF DECORUM.**

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1. The Association shall not be dissolved without the 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 church 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 four delegates, and shall be entitled to one additional delegate for every fifty members after the first hundred; and one-fourth of the churches represented shall constitute a quorum.
4. Any query sent up 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 the permission of the body.
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 the 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.
10. The Constitution and Rules of Decorum of this body may be altered or amended by the concurrence of two-thirds of its members.