

*Letters sent to all but 3 last*

# MINUTES

OF THE EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE

## ST. JOHNS RIVER

# BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, OF PALATKA, FLA.,  
OCTOBER 17, 18 AND 19, 1885.



### OFFICERS:

B. W. BECKS, . . . . .	Moderator.
J. M. FRASER, . . . . .	Clerk.
P. McCULLAR, . . . . .	Treasurer.



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## MINUTES.

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The St. Johns River Baptist Association convened with the First Baptist Church, Palatka, Florida, October 17, 1885.

The Annual Sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. A. H. Robinson, from Psalms 84, 1 and 2.

At 2 p. m. the delegates assembled in the church house.

Prayer by Rev. James Hickey, after which the body was called to order by the former Moderator.

The Clerk being absent, Rev. J. J. W. Place was chosen Clerk.

Letters were presented and read from the following Churches, and delegates enrolled as follows:

Beulah Church—Rev. C. A. Roger, F. E. Reeves.

Decoy Church—T. A. Knowles, J. M. Frazer.

Evergreen Church—A. Geizer, Samuel Green.

Gadara Church—J. C. Strickland and E. D. Prevatt.

Hickory Grove Church—Rev. James Hickey, J. Wingate.

Lake Como Church—Rev. A. H. Robinson, C. T. Potter.

Mount Olive Church—P. McCullar.

Osceola Church—Noe Presly, John Lane.

Penial Church—Revs. B. W. Becks, J. W. Thomas.

Paran Church—S. E. Timmons, J. T. Cawthen.

First Palatka Church—Rev. J. J. W. Place, P. P. Bishop.

St. Johns Church—No delegates.

Sardis Church—J. C. Osten, John Motes.

Shiloh Church—H. S. Minton, P. M. Riggs.

Spring Grove Church—Thomas Underhill, O. J. Dillard.

Sion Church.

Norwalk Church—H. L. Thomas, Edward Carroll.

Then permanently organized by electing Rev. B. W. Becks, Moderator, and J. M. Frazer, Clerk.

Rev. J. J. W. Place, H. L. Thomas and P. McCullar were then appointed a Committee of Arrangements.

Correspondents from other Associations were then invited to seats, which were accepted by Rev. W. N. Chaudoin, of the Santa Fe Association, and Corresponding Secretary of the State Board of Missions, and Rev. B. R. Mosley, of the Santa Fe Association, also Rev. A. P. Ashurst, editor and proprietor of the *Florida Baptist Witness*, published at Deland, Florida.

Visitors—Rev. Dennis Spencer, of Saville Church, Rev. E. W. Jarnigan, from Marion Association.

Then appointed the following committees:

On Religious Literature—J. J. W. Place and J. W. Thomas.

On Missions—A. H. Robinson, D. W. Glisson, S. E. Timmons.

On Sunday-schools—J. J. W. Place, E. H. Padgett and C. A. Roger.

On Nominations—A. Geizer, F. E. Reeves and P. McCullar.

On Temperance—E. H. Padgett, J. C. Strickland and J. Hickey.

On Finance—S. E. Timmons, E. Carroll and Thos. Underhill.

On Women's Work—J. J. W. Place, J. W. Thomas, D. W. Glisson, A. H. Robinson.

On motion, adjourned until Monday, 9 a. m.

Rev. A. P. Ashurst preached at 7 p. m. in the church.

## SUNDAY.

11 O'CLOCK A. M.

A missionary sermon by Rev. B. W. Becks, after which a collection was taken for the benefit of the St. Johns Missionary, amounting to \$23.02.

There was preaching elsewhere in the Methodist church by Rev. D. Spencer at 11 a. m.

3 O'CLOCK P. M.

A children's meeting was held, J. J. W. Place officiating. Addresses from Revs. A. P. Ashurst, W. N. Chaudoin, A. H. Robinson, Crane and Place, by whom many bright-eyed little ones were cheered and made happy.

7 O'CLOCK P. M.

Preaching by Rev. W. N. Chaudoin to a large and orderly congregation. A collection was taken for the benefit of the State Board—amount \$12.10. Also, preaching at Frances station by Rev. D. W. Glisson.

MONDAY, 9 O'CLOCK A. M.

Devotional exercises conducted by Rev. D. W. Glisson.

The body was then called to order by the Moderator. A letter was presented from Hickory Grove Church and read and delegates enrolled.

Correspondents were invited to seats.

Committee on Nominations reported as follows:

We do recommend that the next meeting of this body meet with the Spring Grove Church, Volusia county. Also, that B. W. Becks preach the Annual Sermon, and Rev. J. J. W. Place preach the Missionary Sermon. Adopted.

## TEMPERANCE REPORT.

Your committee in the first place rejoice to report the fact that the temperance cause, and the great evil that arises from intemperance is agitating the people all over our land and country more than ever before, and notwithstanding the mighty efforts put forth by the liquor dealers, the cause of temperance seems to be gaining ground every day. Your committee do not deem it necessary to go into a lengthy report to try and picture to members of this Association the many and great evils that arise from this mighty cause of intemperance, but we feel satisfied that every man, woman and child that has any information in regard to the condition of our country, and the ways and habits of the people of this country, is ready to acknowledge that there is no evil that is so instrumental in bringing sin and sorrow, grief and distress, as intemperance, notwithstanding the joy expressed in the outset of our report of the progress of the temperance cause in the United States. We are grieved at the fact that our own State is far behind many of the other States in the suppression of the liquor traffic, and especially would we mention our sister State, Georgia; that a large portion of the State has already declared in favor of prohibition.

We also want to mention the fact that our State is left without an excuse, as our legislative body has provided us with a local option law, whereby we may rid ourselves of the liquor traffic.

We acknowledge the good that has already been accomplished by our present local option law, but we feel that a great deal more good would have been accomplished if the Baptists of our State had done their duty by working to defeat the liquor petitions that are circulated in their midst. And your committee would right here take occasion to urge upon the Baptist brotherhood, and also Christians of every denomination that live in precincts where liquor petitions are circulated, not to wait until the

liquor dealer has his petition made up before he goes to work, but go to work now.

Your committee is also grieved to state the fact that some of our brethren of this Association have been signing these petitions. We do condemn such action and pronounce it a sin, one that the church should take notice of, and in every case where a brother signs a petition for a saloon, the church of which he is a member should deal with such a brother just as they would if he had fallen into error in any other way, and if the church should fail after laboring faithfully with the brother to convince him of his sin and to bring a reformation in that respect, it is the duty of the church to expel that brother.

Your committee also wish to call the attention of this Association to the local option clause in the new constitution that is submitted to the people to vote upon separately, and we believe that if it is fully understood by the people it will be adopted by a large majority, thereby securing to this State a glorious victory for the cause of temperance. Therefore, we earnestly urge upon the members of this Association, and also upon Christians and the friends of temperance everywhere, the great importance of becoming familiar with, and working for this local option clause until the time it is to be voted upon, November, 1886.

We believe it is the duty of Christians to take an active part in politics for the purpose of securing to the office of public trust and honor only such men as are in sympathy with, and will work for the glorious cause of temperance. Adopted. E. H. PADGETT, Chairman.

## COMMITTEE ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Committee on Sunday-schools reported the following preamble and resolution for your consideration:

WHEREAS, by close and long continued observation, it has become a settled conviction that man is formed in childhood, and that the first decade of life is most productive of after results; and

WHEREAS, God enjoined his ancient Israel to teach his Word to their children in their houses, as they walked by the way, as they lie down, and as they rise up, and at even their houses and the family gate-posts should teach His words to their children by having them written upon them; and

WHEREAS, God also commanded his ancient people to gather the men, women and children, and the stranger, to teach them his law that they might learn to fear Him; and

WHEREAS, God commanded parents to train up their children in the way that they should go; and

WHEREAS, Christ said suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven; therefore,

Resolved, That we recommend that the brethren of every church in our body should exercise all diligence not only to sustain a Sunday-school in their church, but also in every practical locality in their neighborhood.

And, WHEREAS, Error is very insidious; that a little leaven leaveth the whole lump; therefore,

Resolved, That we recommend our brethren wherever they labor in Sunday-schools to use their influence to introduce and sustain the Sunday-school helps and books published by some of the houses of our great and God-blessed denomination.

Adopted.

J. J. W. PLACE, Chairman.

A proposition was made by brother Ashurst to let this Association have a column, or part of a column, in the *Florida Baptist Witness*, for their sole benefit, terms, etc., stated. A committee of five was appointed to consider the matter and report to the body. Committee: Revs. A. H. Robinson, J. W. Thomas, D. W. Glisson, J. J. W. Place and J. M. Fraser. Said committee reported: We heartily accept the proposition made by

brother Ashurt to give the St. John's River Association a place in the *Witness*, and recommend for the editorship brother O. B. Robinson, of Lake Como Church. Adopted.

On motion adjourned until 1:30 p. m.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Rev. Glisson. The body came to order.

#### MISSIONS.

The Committee on Missions reported and read as follows:

The professed Christian who has to be labored with in order to pray for and give of his earthly substance to advance missions has lost his first love, been poorly instructed by his pastor, or is supremely selfish. It is bootless to argue the cause of missions with such an one. What a'! such need is fulfillment of the prayer of Habakkuk: "O, Lord, revive thy work"—the revival of God's work in his or her soul. Lord what wilt thou have me to do, is the first cry of the newly converted soul, as it is of all truly alive souls in the church. But the great trouble with the churches as a whole, and all, or nearly all of us as Christians, is the want of systematic giving. Spasmodic giving, and intermittent giving; of course better to get what we can this way, than get nothing at all. But how grand and Christianly is this systematic giving. O, that we could carry out the Pauline method: let each one lay by in store weekly, or monthly, that there be no gathering when the money is absolutely needed. Over one hundred dollars is due one missionary in this Association.

Now let me present a new plan, or rather an old one, on this subject. As we have unions of different churches in the Association, why not have special missionary unions. So many churches combine, have one brother or preacher deliver a missionary sermon or address to each one of the churches in this union, at such time and place as shall be agreed upon by the pastor and a committee raised in each church for this purpose during the *interim* of said union. Then when the union meets, let this brother report his work to the said union. Our present missionaries might do this work by the appointment of one man this quarter, and another man another quarter, thus working out this result. The appointed preacher would thus keep up the spirit of the matter during the quarter, and the added interest, and the increased collections and subscriptions, and the more systematic giving, would more than pay for the trifling expenses if any, of the brother's traveling expenses and time thus employed. And should the missionary preaching brother have to leave his Sunday congregation unsupplied, why let the brothers exchange pulpits, or let local church brethren serve his own or another one on that occasion, thus exercising much talent now unused and dormant. Precept upon precept is the language of Scripture on the duties that men owe to God and man. We put but a tythe of the real industry and love into this work we put into our daily avocation. How the widow's mite and the swelling sum of the rich, moderately rich, and even such as think they have nothing to give, would swell the streams of missionary money, all of which would water our own souls and the souls of the home and foreign heathen in the world.

Adopted.

A. H. ROBINSON, Chairman.

#### WOMAN'S WORK.

Committee on Woman's Work reported and read as follows:

It is with gratitude to our divine Lord, that so much has been done by the Christian Baptist Women of the State. The entire convention of Baptists four years since counted into the treasury about four hundred dollars. The present conventional year has nearly expired, and yet the Ladies' Mission Societies and children bands have on hand seven hun-

dred and fifty dollars, and since the commencement of this organization, they have collected \$2,300.

It is no longer then a problem as to the Christianity, desirability and utility of women and children's work in aiding the church and the ministry in the great mission work. This fact demonstrated, let us not merely encourage them, but heartily welcome them as co-workers in the vineyard of the Lord.

But in what way can we as ministers and churches do this? Now what our sisters desire almost above all things else, next to their love to God, is the sympathy of the brethren in all their honest endeavors to bless the world at large who cannot secure this sympathy for them. Learn from the Shunamite with Elisha, our blessed Lord with Martha and Mary, the Syrophenician woman, the widow of Nain, and the many other instances of Christ's love and sympathy with womanly effort.

Now what shall we do as ministers and laymen to aid the sisters in this blessed work? Dear brethren, do not fail to respond to their calls for help in their own way, benevolence, self-sacrifice and reasonable perfection in detail generally, special female gifts.

Therefore, hear their requests, and preach sermons and make addresses in their behalf. Let this be done at least once a year, or oftener, as they may suggest. Do not throw obstacles in their way by quiet, yet efficient opposition, hunting up antagonistic Scriptures to women laborers. Don't repeat continually that Scripture command, "I suffer not a woman," etc. Get better posted on Bible exigencies.

In conclusion we offer the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That as ministers within the bounds of the St. Johns River Association, we will preach at least one discourse a year in each of our congregations, on Women and Children's Missionary Work, and in all suitable and proper ways we will aid them.

Adopted.

A. H. ROBINSON, Chairman.

#### DELEGATES.

Delegates to the Baptist State Convention: Revs. J. J. W. Place, A. H. Robinson, D. W. Glisson, James Hickey, C. A. Roger, E. H. Padgett, R. W. Becks, Aaron Geiger, Jerry Wingate, S. E. Timmons.

Correspondent to the Santa Fe Association—A. L. Geiger.

On motion, we open correspondence with Marion Association to the same, R. W. Becks, A. H. Robinson.

On motion, the present Missionary Board be re-elected, except J. C. Strickland in place of J. Cannon.

On motion, adjourned until 7 o'clock p. m.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Rev. M. L. Dyess.

The body was then declared in order.

The Missionary Report as follows: Days labored, 50; miles traveled, 820; sermons preached, 42; traveling expenses, \$7.90; received on field at Palacerie creek, \$9 80; Cowpen Branch, \$10; Etoniah Mission, \$3.45.

M. L. DYESS, Missionary.

#### REPORT OF THE MISSIONARY BOARD.

We employed Rev. M. L. Dyess on what is known as the St. Johns mission on the east side of the river, and on what is known as the Etoniah mission on the west side: Brother Dyess to begin his work in December, 1884, and to perform eight days' labor per month for the remainder of the year, for which we agreed to pay him the amount of \$175. But we find that Brother Dyess did not perform the full amount of work, as you will see from his final report. As to the outlook from the work done, we can say that it is encouraging, but we do not believe work done for the Lord is

lost. Perhaps the Association have not been praying for a blessing on the labors of our mission work as it should. Not only the Missionary needs your prayers, but the Board also, that both the Missionary and the Board may have gu dance from on high. As to the amount of work done by our Missionary, we refer you to his report. As to the finances of the Board, we refer you to the Treasurer's report.

(Signed) S. E. Timmons, P. McCullar, Noe Presly, J. Wingate, J. M. Cannon, Board.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1884 AND 1885.

October 20. Received Finance Committee.....	\$114 07
October 20. Received B. W. Becks, L. M. S. Penial.....	5 00
October 20. Received Putnam Mission meeting.....	5 13
October 20. Received Putnam Mission meeting.....	11 00
May 30. Received Putnam Mission meeting.....	3 00
August 30. Received Putnam Mission meeting.....	8 28
August 30. Received Hick'ey Gro e Church.....	2 40
August 30. Received Brother Seigl-r.....	10 00
August 30. Received Brother Wingate.....	7 00
August 30. Received Spring Grove Church.....	40
August 30. Received Shiloh Church.....	2 05
August 30. Received Evergreen Church.....	2 50
August 30. Received Osceola Church.....	1 80
August 30. Received Mount Olive Church.....	70
	\$173 33

AMOUNT PAID OUT.

October 21. Rev. D. W. Glisson.....	\$ 86 00
October 21. State Board.....	4 00
October 21. S. E. Timmons, Clerk.....	10 00
October 21. B. W. Becks, Foreign Missions.....	4 50
October 21. B. W. Becks, Home Missions.....	4 00
October 21. B. W. Becks, Indian Missions.....	50
October 21. Returned S. E. Timmons.....	10 00
May 30. D. W. Glisson.....	10 00
May 30. M. L. Dyess.....	8 00
May 30. Stationery, etc.....	3 00
September 15. M. L. Dyess.....	7 13
	\$147 88

PERRY McCULLAR, Treasurer.

On motion, the Clerk be paid \$10 for his services.

Resolution by A. Geiger:

Resolved, That we tender to the Church and citizens of Palatka our sincere thanks for hospitalities during our session; also to railroads and steamboats for reduced fares.

ORDAINED MINISTERS' POST-OFFICE.

B. W. Becks.....	Palatka, Fla	Jas Brooker.....	Green Cove Springs, Fla.
J. J. W. Place.....	Palatka, Fla	Jas. Hickey.....	Green Cove Springs, Fla.
J. W. Thomas.....	Palatka, Fla		
P. P. Bishop.....	Sanmateo, Fla		
C. A. Roger.....	Fruitland, Fla	E. B. Timmons...	Putnam Hall, Fla
A. H. Robinson.....	Lake Como, Fla	P. Queen.....	Bostwick, Fla
D. W. Glisson.....	Green Cove Springs, Fla.	M. L. Dyess.....	Bostwick, Fla

On motion, adjourned to meet with the Spring Grove Church, Saturday before the third Snday in October, 1886.

J. M. FRASER, Clerk.

B. W. BECKS, Moderator.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	POST-OFFICES.	DELEGATES.	Baptized.	Received by letter.	Dismissed by letter.	Restored.	Excluded.	Dead.	Total.
Benlah.....	C. A. Koger.....	A. J. Wood.....	Fruitland.....	C. A. Koger, F. E. Reeves.....	12	12	1	1	19	19	19
Decoy.....	M. L. Dyess.....	J. M. Fraser.....	West Tocol.....	T. A. Knowles, J. M. Fraser.....	27	27	1	1	27	27	27
Evergreen.....	E. B. Timmons.....	E. W. Geizer.....	Wilderness.....	A. Geiger, S. Green.....	33	33	1	1	33	33	33
Gadara.....	A. H. Robinson.....	J. L. Becks.....	Green Cove Sp'gs.....	J. Hickey, J. Wingate.....	144	144	2	2	144	144	144
Hickory.....	Jas. Hickey.....	W. H. Brooker.....	Lake Como.....	A. H. Robinson, C. T. Potter.....	14	14	1	1	14	14	14
Lake Como.....	M. L. Dyess.....	O. B. Robinson.....	Norwalk.....	H. L. Thomas, E. Carroll.....	7	7	1	1	7	7	7
Mt. Olive.....	B. W. Becks.....	H. L. Thomas.....	Picolatta.....	Noe Presla, Jno. Lane.....	150	150	1	1	150	150	150
Osceola.....	E. B. Becks.....	Noe Presla.....	Palatka.....	B. W. Becks, J. W. Thomas.....	160	160	1	1	160	160	160
Penial.....	A. H. Robinson.....	J. L. Becks.....	Palatka.....	S. E. Timmons, M. Padgett.....	257	257	3	3	257	257	257
Paran.....	E. B. Becks.....	J. D. Hill.....	Putnam Hall.....	P. F. Peak, J. J. W. Place.....	138	138	1	1	138	138	138
Palatka.....	A. H. Robinson.....	A. J. Wood.....	Palatka.....	J. C. Osteen, Jno. Motes.....	21	21	1	1	21	21	21
St. Johns.....	E. B. Becks.....	Edward North.....	Bostwick.....	McWilliams.....	21	21	1	1	21	21	21
Sardis.....	J. J. W. Place.....	F. J. Buchanan.....	Green Cove Sp'gs.....	H. S. Minton, P. M. Riggs.....	139	139	1	1	139	139	139
Shiloh.....	D. W. Glisson.....	L. W. Myers.....	Emmaria.....	T. Underhill, O. J. Dillard.....	37	37	6	6	37	37	37
Spring Grove.....	D. W. Glisson.....	L. M. Richardson.....			7	7	1	1	7	7	7

MINUTES.

Statistical Table.

CHURCHES.	Cash Sent to Association.					Cash Received by State Board During the Year.						
	Minutes.	Associational Missions	State Missions.	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Total.	State Missions.	Church Edifice Fund.	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Ministerial Education.	Total.
Reulah		1 15				1 15						
Decoy		1 50				1 50						
Evergreen		50				50						
Gadara		1 00	1 00			2 00						
Hickory Grove		2 00				2 00						
Lake Como		2 00		1 00	2 16	5 16						
Mt. Olive												
Norwalk	1 00			65		1 65						
Osceola	50					50		5 35	2 75			8 10
Peniel		7 00				7 00	1 30		1 30			3 90
Paran	1 50	1 55				3 05	35 12		7 50	15 43		58 35
Palatka	2 00		7 00		1 75	10 75	2 85	20 00				22 85
St. Johns		75				75						
Sardis		3 00				3 00						
Shiloh		2 77				2 77						
Sprng Grove	1 00	50				1 50	7 00		16 00			23 00
Sion												
Pro'iscu'usEtonialeB'nd							1 00		2 60			3 60
Mrs. S. R. Mallette									1 00			1 00
Carrie Green									50			50
At. Association.										3 75		3 75
Mattie Wood, Palatka										5 60		5 60
Sunday Collection		22 02				22 02				1 00		1 00
Sunday night collection			12 10			12 10						
	88 75	242 09	220 10	81 65	53 91	577 40	247 47	220 00	214 15	230 50	210 35	2131 55

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