

MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

SALINE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

MARBLE CHURCH, SALINE CO., ARK.

FROM OCT., 3 TO 5, 1868.

MINUTES

OF THE

Third Annual Meeting of the Cadron Baptist Association.

HELD WITH LIBERTY CHURCH, PULASKI COUNTY, IN

OCTOBER, 1868.

MINUTES

OF THE

Arkansas Baptist State Convention,

HELD WITH

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

NOVEMBER 21st to 23d, 1868.

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WM. WOOLFORD, PRINTER, DITTMER BLOCK,

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

1868.

MINUTES.

SALINE ASSOCIATION.

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SATURDAY, October —, 1868.

The Saline Regular Baptist Association, met pursuant to adjournment, with "Marble Church," Saline county, Arkansas.

The appointee to preach the Introductory sermon, being absent, by request of the Moderator and brethren, Elder R. M. Thrasher preached said sermon at 10 o'clock A. M. from Corth. xiv, 40; "Let all things be done decent and orderly."

After which the delegates assembled and were called to order by the Moderator. Prayer by Elder Wilkins Tate.

The Moderator then announced the absence of the Clerk, Henry C. Smith, whereupon, Elder R. M. Thrasher, was appointed Clerk, *pro tem.*

1st. The letters from the several Churches were called for, read, and the names of Delegates enrolled. See Table.

2d. The Association then proceeded to the election of officers, which resulted in the election of Elder Thomas Whitten, Moderator, and Elder R. M. Thrasher, Clerk.

3d. Petitionary letters were called for, whereupon the following Churches presented petitionary letters: Friendship Church, Montgomery county, Magnet Cove and Washita Churches of Hot Springs county.

Which were received and names of delegates enrolled.

4th. Called for correspondence from sister Associations, whereupon, Bro. Jno. C. Henderson presented a letter from Columbia Association, also letter from Washita Association, by W. H. Hilton, both of whom were cordially received and invited to seats.

5th. Appointed committees as follows:

On Preaching.—C. T. Glenn, Rigsby and Nowlin.

On Documents.—Hendricks, Collie and Howard.

On Finance.—Baker, H. H. Williamson and S. A. Powers.

Destitution.—Pope, Wm. Williamson and Nally.

Sabbath Schools—Gullett, Hurst and M. L. Ritter.

On State of Religion.—Tate, Moore and H. Lindsey.

Adjourned to 8 o'clock, Monday morning.

and holds them responsible for its being preached in its ordinances scripturally administered by ministers called but qualified and commissioned by the churches.

We believe that when a minister departs from the faith and of the gospel, he should be denied by the church the use of it and all participation in or administration of its ordinances until converted from his errors; and therefore we hold that consistency requires that we should not invite ministers of other denominations to preach for us who are guilty of those things for which we would exclude our own ministers. We would not be understood as holding that such men are therefore, not good men, but that we regard them as disqualified to preach, and as teachers of acknowledged errors that we can in no way, by act or word, bid God speed.

Specifically. We believe that the religion of Christ is a personal matter; that all its requisitions are personal, and the obedience of the gospel is personal, and therefore conscious. Therefore we hold that all those religious systems whose teachings and practice are to the contrary—that admit of obedience through sponsors and proxies—are opposed to the fundamental and vital principles of the doctrines of Christ.

We believe in salvation by the sovereign grace of God extended to us through Jesus Christ, and not contingent upon good works foreseen in us. We believe in justification by faith, and not by works of righteousness that we have done or can do. We therefore hold all those religious systems that teach a ritual salvation as regeneration of heart, remission of sin, and justification in connection with baptism or any rite of the church, as destructive of the doctrine of Christ and manifestly anti-christian.

We believe that all those who teach that regeneration of heart, justification and continuance in the grace or favor of God and salvation are conditioned upon our good works, are manifestly judaizing teachers, and preach another gospel than that preached by Christ and his apostles.

Finally. While we have no fellowship for Romanism, Protestantism, Methodism or Campbellism, as such, yet we extend our Christian fellowship to all persons in all denominations who give us evidence of spiritual regeneration by manifesting the spirit of Christ in their godly lives and conversation; and while we are compelled to regard them as walking disorderly, it is not for us to judge their demerit, but love them, and by all means to seek to convert them from the error of their way."

R. M. THRASHER, *Chairman.*

12th. Changed the name of our District meetings to that of "Ministers and Deacons meetings."

13th. Appointed R. M. Thrasher, John C. Henderson, W. J. Neighbors and C. T. Glenn to draft forms of letters from the churches to the Association and letters of dismission from one church to another. Committee to report at the session of the Association.

ned "Ministers and Deacon's" meetings: 1st District, Bates, who at Bethlehem, Brushy Creek, Fair Play, Franciway, Ken-
ppointment at Grove, Ouachita, Rockport, Smith Creek and Magnet
ART. churches. Meeting at Rockport, on Saturday before the 4th
to a day in July. Elder W. Tate to preach on Ministerial Support.
Ark. district.—Composed of Hot Springs, Marble, Mt Pleasant,
Fork, Pleasant Grove, Salem, South Fork, Union of Mont-
mery, Friendship and Union of Saline. Meeting to be at Hot
springs on Saturday, before the first Sabbath in July. R. M. Thrash-
er to preach on Ministerial Support.

15th. Heard the report of the meeting held in the 2d District with
Mt. Pleasant Church, embracing the 1st Sabbath in September; and
ordered so much of the report printed in these Minutes as relates to
duty of Deacons.

EXTRACT.—"Elder R. C. Short, introduced the subject of MINISTE-
RIAL SUPPORT. It was taken for granted by a majority of the mem-
bers present that it is the duty of the Deacons of the different chur-
ches, to attend to the supporting of the ministering brethren, and the
relief of the widow and the orphan in their midst. We think there is
scriptural proof of this fact, and we wish your honorable body would
take this subject into consideration; and impress it upon the minds
of the Deacons that this is their duty; for our ministers need pecuni-
ary aid, and it is the Deacons' business to stir up their brethren and
sisters. There are, also, numbers of widows and orphans, who need
assistance. We do, therefore, brethren, earnestly solicit you—do
urge it upon you—to prove to the Deacons that this is their duty, for
some of them, in fact, almost all seem to think otherwise, and are,
therefore, loth to take hold."

16th. Adopted the following resolutions:

Resolved, That we return our most grateful thanks to the brethren
and friends at Marble Church, for the very kind and generous manner
in which they have entertained the Association, during the present
session.

Reso'ved, That the Clerk superintend the printing of these Min-
utes, and have fifteen dollars for his services.

17th. Appointed the next session of this Association to be held
with "Smith Creek Church," in Hot Springs county, commencing on
Saturday, before the first Sabbath in October, A. D. 1869.

The Moderator now announced that the business of the Association
was finished, returned his thanks to the brethren for the brotherly
love manifested towards each other, and for the very harmonious
manner in which all the business had been transacted. He then
called upon Elder W. Tate to conclude; who did so with appropriate
remarks and prayer. After which a hymn was sung, and the breth-
ren extended to each other the parting hand. Thus closed one of the
most harmonious sessions, and the Association adjourned to the time
and place for holding the next meeting.

THOMAS WHITTEN, *Moderator*.

R. M. THRASHER, *Clerk*.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	No. Baptized.							PASTORS.	CLERKS.	Post Office.	
		Received by Letter.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded.	Restored.	Died.	Total in fellowship.	Contributions.				
Bethlehem,	James Hurst, John Gearing, M. L. Ritter,	2	9	5	1	0	350	3	00	4	W. J. Neighbors,	Ak's Store
Brushy Creek,	R. Ross, P. R. Brashears, D. Cunningham.*	5	0	6	0	0	048	2	00	3	R. M. Lindsey,	Tulip,
Fair Play,	Wm. Devenport,* C. F. Moore, A. Hendricks,	0	1	0	0	1	048	3	00	2	R. M. Thrasher,	Fair Play,
Franciway,	H. J. Clift * L. Collie, J. W. Collie,*	0	2	0	0	0	037	3	00	2	R. M. Thrasher.	Rockport.
Hot Springs,	W. Tate, F. Sperling.*	1	0	0	0	0	012	3	25	1	W. Tate,	Hot Springs
Kentucky,	H. Lindsey, W. R. H. Mills, W. J. Terry,*	0	1	0	0	0	229	4	00	4	J. C. Henderson,	Benton,
Marble,	C. T. Glenn, A. J. Ritter, Wm. Glenn,	1	7	1	2	0	352	2	00	2	Thomas Whitten,	Ak's Store
Mt. Pleasant,	Thomas Whitten, J. J. Adams, C. Cain,	3	0	26	3	2	067	5	00	2	J. J. Adams,	Harrold,
Magnet Cove,	B. F. Cook*, Sam. A. Powers, J. C. Powers,	4	4	0	0	0	024	3	75	1	R. M. Thrasher,	Rockport,
North Fork,	Moses Bolt,* Wm. Cox*, M. Bruzel,	0	0	0	0	0	096	50		1	W. J. Neighbors,	Benton,
Oak Grove,	B. F. Gullett, D. Hammonds.* J. Griggsby.	15	4	4	0	0	081	5	00	3	J. Clem,	Rockport,
Ouachita,	Sam. H. Davis, J. Kemp, R. J. Benson,*	1	3	0	0	0	012	2	00	4	J. Clem.	do
Pleasant Grove,	B. W. Nowlin,* A. J. Hutchingson, A. J. Nowlin,	10	1	1	0	1	132	2	00	4	A. J. Hutchingson	Northpoint
Rockport,	R. M. Thrasher, H. McCollum,* J. H. Howard,	4	5	21	0	0	122	5	00	4	R. M. Thrasher,	Rockport.
Salem,	W. F. Rose, L. Wilhite, P. W. Jones.	2	0	3	1	0	063	1	50	1	J. C. Henderson,	Owensville
Smita Creek,	W. H. Rigsby, J. B. Hutchingson, W. P. Buster,	17	3	0	2	0	238	3	00	2	W. Tate.	do
South Fork,	W. J. Neighbors, R. C. Short,* Wm. Nally,	8	4	3	3	2	092	4	00	3	W. J. Neighbors,	Hot Springs
Union.	E. W. Amerson,* C. C. Pope, J. A. Baker,	17	0	14	6	2	138	6	00	2	E. W. Amerson.	Mt. Ida,
Union.	J. A. Ragan, H. Hall.* J. C. Henderson.	0	8	0	0	0	010	1	00	2	J. A. Hutchingson	Benton,
friendship,	H. H. Williamson, R. J. Housley,* T. Ratcliffe,*	0	8	0	0	0	017	3	00	3	J. J. Adams.	Harold.

APPENDIX.

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(A.)

On Documents.—Your committee would report, that we find in the communications from the Churches composing this body, demanding special notice, except the petition of Smith Creek Church, for the next session of this Association, to convene with her.

Respectfully submitted,

A. HENDRICKS, *Chairman.*

(B.)

We, your committee, look on the fields as being ready for the harvest, but finding our laborers are few, we should pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth more laborers to assist in the great work. Our destitution is great. Some churches are without Pastors, and some places have no preaching. In the name of the Lord we call upon you to send forth such as your wisdom may direct, to supply the destitute churches and neighborhoods in this Association, praying that they may put their hands to the plow and not look back. The ministers of this Association ought to be supported, so that they could go forth to their work without hindrance. Brethren, let us all work, and then our labors will be blessed.

C. C. POPE, *Chairman.*

(C.)

Your committee are sensible that a subject of such importance demands a more thorough investigation. It has pleased God to appoint means to the saving of souls; and we believe that "Sabbath Schools" is one of those instrumentalities, whereby young men and maidens may be made wise unto salvation, and brought into the fold of Christ. It is with much pain that we see this subject is much neglected by the churches, notwithstanding the advice of the Association in our annual reports, urging them to engage in this important work. May the Lord incline our hearts and the hearts of the brethren and sisters in all of the churches, to pay more attention to future and immortal welfare of the youth of our land, and rear up Sabbath Schools for their instruction in the principles and doctrines of the Bible. All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES HURST, *Chairman.*

(D.)

Your committee beg leave to report, that, from the information we have been able to gather from the letters to the Association, there is much prosperity in some parts of the Association. Churches have been revived, and God has blessed the labors of his servants in preserving order and union, and in bringing to the Faith many fresh seals

of their ministry : and among the number many young men fair to become valuable recruits in the army of the Lord. the Licentiate Ministers have made such proficiency in the knowledge of the scriptures and given such evidences of their call to, and qualifications for the ministry, that their churches have had them set apart to the full work of the ministry ; and we hope the time is not far distant when all of our churches shall have Pastors, and every community shall have the gospel preached in their midst.

But, while we rejoice at these indications of prosperity, we are sorry to hear of reports in circulation, that some of the churches and ministers of this Association have engaged in communing with Protestants and sinners, at the Lord's Supper. We would, therefore, recommend, that the Association investigate these reports, as unrestricted communion is contrary to the constitution and former practice of the churches composing this Association.

Respectfully submitted,

HARRISON LINDSEY, *Chairman.*

(E.)

On Finance.—Your committee submit the following as our report :

Amount sent up by Churches,	-	-	-	\$57 00
Amount on hand from last year,	-	-	-	4 00
Total,				\$61
By Printing Minutes,	-	-	-	\$37 50
Clerk's fees,	-	-	-	15 00
Postage, etc.,	-	-	-	1 50
Balance on hand,	-	-	-	\$7 00

N. B.—In connection with the above report on Finance, received, read and approved the letter from Bro. H. C. Smith, the former Clerk, and ordered the \$8 00 contributed by certain brethren at the last session to aid in printing the minutes in connection with those of Red River Association, containing a sermon, by Elder D. M. Cochran, on Ministerial Support, to be returned to the contributors, as the object for which it was contributed has not been effected.

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CONSTITUTION.

OF THE

SALINE ASSOCIATION.

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ART. 1st.—This Union of Churches shall be known and distinguished by the name and title of the "SALINE REGULAR UNITED BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,"

ART. 2d. This Association shall be composed of Delegates from Churches in Union. Each Church shall be entitled to three (3) Dele-

gates, who shall be required to furnish satisfactory evidence of their appointment, by their several churches, before they take their seats.

ART. 3d. The Delegates when convened, shall organize themselves into a deliberative body, by the appointment of a Moderator and Clerk, who shall be chosen by ballot, at each annual Association, and continue in office until their successors are chosen.

ART. 4th. The Association shall not interfere with the rights of the Churches, of which it is composed; it shall regard them as independent bodies, in all matters of internal government, and shall only act as an advisory council, assuming no authority except what is expressly delegated to it by the Churches, or evidently implied by the very nature of the compact. It nevertheless, claims authority over its own members—the Delegates from the Churches, and in justice and propriety, must have power to withdraw from and disown all churches which depart from the principles of this compact, by becoming heterodox in faith, or disorderly in practice. It should, therefore, regard all churches united under this Constitution, with a vigilant eye for good. Its principal business shall be to promote the declarative glory of God, by extending the Kingdom of Grace on earth, through the medium of preaching the Gospel, and the means in accordance with that Gospel, to cultivate union and fellowship with all the Churches of Christ, especially with those united in this Constitution.

ART. 5th. Newly constituted Churches, or Churches dismissed from other Associations of the same faith and order, may be admitted into this union, on their sending up three Delegates to the annual meeting of this Association, with a petition for admission, and by their Delegates agreeing to the abstract of principles herewith published.

ART. 6th. The Churches in this Union shall transmit to every annual session of the Association, a written communication, specifying the names of their Delegates, their number in fellowship, number baptised, received by letter, dismissed, excommunicated, restored or deceased, since the last session, and all other information which the Churches may deem important, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

ART. 7th. This Association may have a fund, supplied by the voluntary contributions of the Churches; and all the money thus contributed, shall be transmitted from the Churches and paid over through the Committee of Finance to the Treasurer, who shall be elected by ballot, and hold his office during the pleasure of the Association, he shall retain and manage the funds agreeably to the order of the Association; and present annually, for insertion, in the Minutes, a clear and succinct statement of all the receipts and expenditures.

ART. 8th. This Association shall furnish the Churches with the Minutes of every session.

ART. 9th. This Association shall take cognizance of no query sent up from the Churches, unless they have endeavored to solve the same, and have failed: nor of any difficulty between Churches, unless they have persued the directions in the 8th chapter of Matthew, and have not been able to settle them. Then the Association shall take such matter into consideration, and act upon them at its discretion.

ART. 10th. It shall be the duty of the Clerk of this Association to keep a regular file of the printed Minutes of every session of body, and deliver over the same to his successor in office.

ART. 11th. This Constitution may be altered or amended at regular meetings of the Association, by the concurring voice of two thirds of the members then present; *Provided*, Such alteration or amendment be approved of by the churches comprising this Association.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1.—The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

2.—A Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by the suffrages of the members present.

3. The Moderator shall be considered a judge of order, and shall have a right to call to order at any time.

4. A member not satisfied with his decision, may appeal to the Association on the same day, but at no other time.

5. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise on his feet, and obtaining permission, proceed.

6. The Moderator, when addressed by a member for permission to speak, shall signify the same by naming the person, or otherwise.

7. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he departs from the subject, or uses words of personal reflection. Every motion made and seconded, shall come under the consideration of the Association unless withdrawn by him that made it.

8. Every case taken up by the Association shall be decided, or withdrawn before another be offered.

9. When a question is taken up, after allowing time for debate, the Moderator shall take the voice of the Association and the subject, and the members on affirmative of the question shall signify the same by rising from their seats, and those in the negative shall retain theirs.

10. The Moderator shall pronounce the decision before the standers resume their seats.

11. Any member wishing to retire, shall obtain permission from the Moderator.

12. No member shall speak more than twice on the same proposition without permission of the Association, nor more than once till every member wishing to speak shall have spoken, nor shall any proposition be made to close the subject, till the debates have been carried through.

13. The appellation of "Brother" shall be used in the Association by members in their addresses one to another.

14. The names of members shall be called as often as the Association may direct.

15. No member shall be tolerated in any practice which tends to interrupt public speaking.

16. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, provided he appoint another to his seat during the time; but shall not vote on any question unless the Association be equally divided.

17. Any member violating these RULES may be reproved by the Moderator at discretion, but only on the day the breach shall be made.