

MINUTES

OF THE

ELEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

Mt. Vernon Baptist Association,

COMMENCING ON

Thursday before First Sabbath in October, 1867,

HELD WITH THE

SHILOH CHURCH, MONROE CO., ARKANSAS.

OFFICERS:

HON. H. P. SLAUGHTER, MODERATOR.
REV. W. H. BARKSDALE, CLERK.
MR. R. P. DAVANT, CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.
MR. E. L. BLACK, TREASURER.

MEMPHIS:

SOUTHWESTERN PUBLISHING HOUSE.

1867.

PROCEEDINGS.

SINLOH BAPTIST CHURCH,
Monroe County, Ark., October 3, 1867.

The Messengers and Delegates from the sister Churches composing the "Mount Vernon Association," met this morning, and were addressed by the Rev. R. H. Wolverton, from Romans 1:16:

"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

After which there was an intermission of some fifteen minutes, when the Association was called to order by the former Moderator, the congregation uniting in singing.

"How oft, alas! this wretched heart
Has wandered from the Lord."

Prayer was then offered by Rev. Ezekiel Holland.

Proceeded to the reading of the letters, and enrolling of the names of delegates, which are seen in the table following:

TABLE OF STATISTICS.

CHURCHES.	DELEGATES.	Baptisms.	Received by Letter.	Restored.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Dead.	Whites.	Blacks.	Total.	Contributions.	Day of Meeting.	PASTORS OR SUPPLY.	POSTOFFICE.
Helena ^o	Rev. W. H. Barksdale.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	68	.....	68	\$9 00	.....	W. H. Barksdale ^o	Helena.....
New Hope.....	C. W. Hickey, M. Anderson.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	75	8 00	.....	W. H. Barksdale.....	LaGrange.....
Liberty.....	A. E. Lockart.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sterling.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Salmon.....	J. F. Jarrett, Thom. Bunch, W. H. Henderson.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	4	30	4	31	4 00	3	E. Holland.....	Trenton.....
Blackfoot f.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Trenton f.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	W. H. Barksdale.....	.....
Mt. Zion.....	H. P. Slaughter, E. L. Black, Jno. Taylor.....	.....	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	38	3	41	5 00	3	W. H. Barksdale.....	Marianna.....
Bear Creek f.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Bethel.....	J. J. Green, Jordan Thomas, E. Holland.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12	.....	12	2 00	2	E. Holland.....	Trenton.....
Hopewell.....	F. W. Thompson, W. S. Cooper, G. Blissett.....	1	3	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	25	5 00	1	F. W. Thompson.....	Marianna.....
Bible Union.....	Peter Parker, B. F. Nail, J. B. Nail.....	3	.....	3	.....	4	4	58	1	59	4 25	3	B. F. Thomas.....	Taylor's Creek.....
Mt. Vernon.....	John McDaniel, Wm. Achen, P. H. Ramsey.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	61	4	67	5 50	.....	B. F. Thomas.....	Madison.....
Oak Hill.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Oak Grove.....	S. Hall, R. J. Bickerstaff, R. P. Davant.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	16	.....	16	3 00	1	H. F. Morrison.....	Moro.....
Harmony f.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Liberty f.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Linn Grove.....	W. E. King, Jno. Walker, Jas. H. Walker.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	27	5 00	4	No Pastor.	Indian Bay.....
Mt. Moriah.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Shiloh.....	W. M. Raper, R. H. Wolverton, Thos. Mathis, A. A. Bryan.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	42	3	63	6 00	3	W. M. Raper.....	Clarendon.....
Philadelphia.....	E. N. Fitzhugh, S. P. Jolly, W. D. Munery.....	12	1	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	47	3 25	2	W. M. Raper.....	Clarendon.....
Manassas f.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Shady Grove f.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Point De Luce f.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ruhama f.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Big Creek.....	J. M. Bunyard, Isaac V. Morgan, G. P. Tyer.....	31	2	.....	.....	.....	13	.....	.....	40	5 00	1	J. T. Marshall.....	St. Charles.....
De Witt.....	No Delegate, but a letter.....	14	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	51	5 00	.....	J. T. Marshall.....	DeWitt.....
Rising Sun.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Prairie County.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Prairie f.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Shiloh f.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

^o Rev. Mr. Barksdale resigned the care of this Church, and secured them a new Pastor, at the beginning of the year, (having preached to them ten years.) He preferred a change of territory, and accepted of country Churches, but Rev. Mr. Burgo, the new Pastor, remaining only two months, left this Church destitute of a Pastor, Mr. Barksdale being at home in the week, holds service for them Wednesday evenings.

[†] Rising Sun, Point De Luce and Shady Grove, being new Churches, their letters were put to themselves by the Clerk, and were accidentally burned before transcribed. The accident is much regretted by the Clerk.

[‡] Dropped from this body by order of the Association, (see 3d page,) for failing to represent for three years.

The Association being informed that the enrollment was completed, proceeded then to the election of the officers, which resulted in the election of Deacon H. P. Slaughter, Moderator, Rev. W. H. Barksdale, Clerk, and E. L. Black, Treasurer.

The Moderator, after a few appropriate remarks, then read the rules, and called for petitionary letters.

Three Churches responded, viz.: Rising Sun, Point De Luce and Shady Grove—to the delegates of which the Moderator extended the hand of fellowship, welcoming the brethren to seats with us in the deliberations of this body.

The Committee on Religious Exercises was appointed by the Moderator, consisting of brethren W. Cooper, C. W. Hickey and A. A. Bryan.

The brethren were then allowed the privilege of retiring for the purpose of making a report for preaching. After a few minutes deliberation, the committee reported for the night, Rev. John J. Marshall; Rev. E. Holland, to-morrow at eleven, and Rev. F. W. Thompson at night.

Prayer by Deacon Spence Hall. Adjourned until 9 a.m., Friday.

FRIDAY MORNING.

The Association convened according to previous appointment.

Prayer by the Rev. J. J. Marshall, and reading of the minutes by the clerk.

On motion, the fourteenth clause of the Constitution requiring the Churches to represent themselves in this body annually and—failing to represent themselves for three consecutive meetings, do thereby subject themselves to exclusion—be brought to bear upon all said Churches having failed to represent themselves in this body during said time; which motion elicited a good many remarks from brethren, and after some debate was carried by 22 to 13.

On motion, the Clerk was granted the privilege of abridging the minutes so as to have them published on the best terms.

The Moderator then announced the Financial Committee, consisting of the following brethren: P. H. Ramsey, H. W. Keaton and M. Anderson.

Committee on Education was called for, and at the request of the chairman, further time was given him to report.

Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools was read, which called forth several speeches from the brethren; pending the discussion of which the hour for preaching was announced.

On motion, the Association now adjourned for preaching by the Rev. E. Holland.

1½ O'clock P. M.

The Association re-assembled by singing and prayer by the Rev. H. F. Morrison.

The Report on Sabbath Schools was again before the body, and after further remarks by brethren, was adopted and ordered to be published.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

The Committee made every exertion to obtain some information with regard to the number and condition of Sabbath Schools within the bounds of this Association, but without success. Your Committee has not been able to ascertain whether there is a single Sabbath School within its limits, except Helena and Trenton.

In lieu of a report, we beg leave to offer the following preamble and resolutions:

WHEREAS, The importance of Sabbath Schools is admitted by all who have given the matter due investigation; and

WHEREAS, The ministers and brethren have not manifested that interest in Sabbath Schools that the subject demands; be it, therefore,

Resolved, That Pastors of Churches be earnestly requested to use their utmost exertion to have a Sabbath School organized in all their Churches.

Resolved, That private members, both brethren and sisters, be exhorted to display more zeal and energy in organizing and maintaining Sabbath Schools, not simply by sending their children, but by accompanying them, thus teaching by precept and example.

R. P. DAVANT, Chairman.

Committee on Temperance was called upon to report, and the chairman being absent, further time was given.

Brother Hall offered the following resolutions:

Resolved, That inasmuch as a number of Churches have asked to be dismissed from this Association, to form a new one, the territory being considered too large by them for the Churches conveniently to represent themselves; therefore, be it

Resolved, That while we grant such letters, yet in the wisdom of this body such a division is not advisable, and we do very respectfully request such Churches to reconsider the matter and report at the next session.

After discussion the reported was unanimously carried.

The Committee on Religious Exercises reported: Rev. W. M. Raper at 11 o'clock, Saturday morning; Rev. H. F. Morrison at night, and Rev. W. H. Barksdale at 11 on Sabbath morning, according to previous appointment.

On motion, proceeded to select a location for the sitting of the next session of this body. The Rising Sun Church was thus selected by the delegates, being fifty miles west of Helena, in Arkansas county, and seven miles west of Crockett's Bluff, on White river.

While the brethren were voting, Rev. Mr. Barksdale urged the claims of "The Baptist," "The Western Recorder," and "Christian Herald," and obtained two subscribers for the former.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE.

Your Committee beg leave to report that the cause of Temperance is much neglected. We grieve over the indulgence of many members of the Churches in this Association. Nothing tends more

to darken the light of such christians who thus indulge. Therefore, we recommend to all the Pastoral supplies in her bounds to preach at least twice on this subject next year.

That every means be used to keep up strict and wholesome discipline as to the evil.

That we commend to every brother, who would live holy; to set the example in this noble work.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. M. RAPER, Chairman.

The Association appointed brother F. W. Thompson to preach the introductory, and brother J. T. Marshall, alternate.

By motion, adjourned until 10 o'clock A.M., to-morrow.

Prayer by Rev. W. H. Barksdale.

SATURDAY MORNING.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

105th Psalm was read by Moderator. Prayer by brother C. W. Hickey.

The Moderator then announced the following committees, to report at the next meeting:

On Education—R. P. Davant, E. L. Black, E. Holland.

On Sabbath Schools—A. E. Lockart, J. T. Marshall, P. Ramsey.

On Temperance—C. W. Hickey, B. F. Thomas, F. W. Thompson.

The Executive Board was then elected: J. Taylor, Spence Hall, A. E. Lockart, C. W. Hickey, E. L. Black.

The Report on Education was read by the chairman, and ordered to be published, as follows:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

As this Association has not for a long time been doing any thing toward fostering education, your committee is unable to make any report on the progress made in this important branch. We can only recommend to parents having children, to send to schools or colleges, such institutions as are devoted to Baptist interests. Georgetown College, Kentucky, under the management of our much esteemed brother, N. M. Crawford, is worthy of patronage. Brother C. is a talented man, an able minister, and a devoted Christian—one who has the cause of his Master at heart. There is also Greenville College, South Carolina, under charge of the celebrated Dr. Boyce, and Union University, situated at Murfreesboro, Tenn., with Prof. Jarman at its head. But we sincerely hope and trust that ere long we will have schools in our midst that will supercede the necessity of sending our children abroad to educate them.

A. E. LOCKART; Acting Chairman.

On motion, a committee was appointed to report on Domestic Missions, consisting of brethren A. A. Bryan, C. W. Hickey and A. E. Lockart.

It was further suggested by the Clerk that each minister should here promise to devote at least one month in the next Associational

year in doing missionary laoor. The Churches, in the meantime, are by this minute requested to relinquish the time to their pastors to perform the desired work.

The hour having arrived for preaching, the Association adjourned, on motion, until half after 1 o'clock this evening.

Service by the Rev. W. M. Raper, text, Math. vii: 21.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association convened at the appointed hour.

After prayer by Rev. E. Holland, the following resolution was offered by brother T. B. Mathis:

WHEREAS, In view of the great destitution now existing among the Churches in the bounds of the Association,

Resolved, That this body recommend to the various Churches comprising this Association, (notwithstanding our *distressed pecuniary condition*), that each Church make, through their pastors or deacons, a direct appeal to its members to aid in this important matter, calling upon each member to contribute his mite, however small—remembering that "God loveth the cheerful giver"—and forward the same through their deacons to the Executive Board, to be applied by them as they may see proper.

Brother R. P. Davant was appointed Corresponding Secretary.

Resolution offered by brother Hickey:

Resolved, That the Association refund to the Clerk the amount that he was compelled to advance to complete the publication of the Minutes of our last session.

Resolution offered by the Clerk, and adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association be returned to the members of the Church, and the community generally; for the very kind and hospitable manner in which they have entertained the delegates of this body; and that the Clerk be requested to read this from the pulpit at 11 o'clock, Sunday morning.

Report on Domestic Missions was called for, read and adopted:

REPORT ON DOMESTIC MISSIONS.

Your Committee beg to present to the Association the great necessity of domestic missions. We can but say, that if there ever was a time in the history of the Baptists that they should press the great and glorious principle of mission work, that time is now. Do you not brethren desire to see Baptist principles cover the land? And if you believe what you profess, you most certainly do. Then look at the influx of foreign population into your country and the bounds of your Association; is not this, of itself, a subject to awaken the Christian mind to use all the means that God has placed in its power to forward the cause of religion at home?

And we would call your attention to another object of religious sympathy in the bounds of this Association—the African race. We would wish to impress upon the minds of the Association the great fact that the Churches seem to have forgot that they profess to be

Missionary Baptists; and our Association, at its last annual meeting, to take so little interest in the principles of domestic missions as to fail to appoint a committee upon this subject. Your committee are pained to report that during the Associational year of 1867 there has nothing been done; and from the report of the Executive Board, we, your committee, came in possession of the fact that the Churches had not put them in possession of one dollar, from which fact the Executive could do nothing to forward the great home enterprise.

Let us say to you that we are heartily impressed with the great fact that our cause must dwindle into one of the minor subjects of denominational religion if you do not take steps to avert it, and that speedily. This you have the power to do; you have the talent within the bounds of your Association to preach the doctrine of salvation by grace, as we denominationally believe it. God has blessed you with the means; and will you, can you, in view of the necessity for domestic missions, withhold the means from the Executive Committee that they might employ the services of some faithful minister of God to go forth in your bounds upon this great and laudable purpose? We feel, brethren, that if you do ere long, when it is too late, you will be willing to lay your all at the foot of the Cross; but, alas! the time is past. In view of these things, we recommend that the Association take some steps to employ a Missionary to preach in its bounds.

A. A. BRYAN.

On motion of brother Bryan, the resolution offered by brother Barksdale at our last session, on the African Mission, be adopted and ordered to be spread upon the Minutes, as expressive of the sentiments of this body on this subject. The following, according to the above, is copied from the previous Minutes:

Resolved, That the peculiar condition of the African race demands our sympathy, and that we urge upon all churches connected with this Association a lively interest in their spiritual welfare. That we approve of the organization of Sabbath schools and day schools for their enlightenment and proper training, inasmuch as they are now a free people, and thrown upon their own resources; but, in so doing we would by no means be regarded as countenancing the abominable doctrine of negro amalgamation or equality."

The Moderator proceeded to appoint a committee to report on Domestic Missions at next session of this body: H. Keoten, W. S. Cooper, R. J. Bickerstaff.

Report of Treasurer called for, and adopted:

REPORT OF TREASURER.

Received from Churches by Delegates.....	\$78 50
Paid Bro. Barksdale, as Clerk for this term....	\$10 00
Paid Bro. Barksdale, amount advanced by him for last year's Minutes, including in it Abstract of Principles, etc.....	25 00
Paid cash handed him for this year.....	43 50
	—————\$78 50

E. L. BLACK, *Treasurer*.

Brother Hall offered the following motion: That the Clerk be granted his usual fee, with the instruction to have published as many copies of the Minutes as the money paid in would secure, after subtracting the amount advanced by him last year, including fees, and that he be instructed to distribute to the Churches in proportion to the money sent for said purpose.

On motion, the location of the next Association was reconsidered, inasmuch as the Rising Sun Church had asked for a letter of dismission. Mount Vernon was put in nomination, and elected by acclamation.

On motion, the Association appointed the following brethren as Messengers to the State Convention, to meet at *Little Rock*:

Rev. W. H. Barksdale, A. E. Lockart, H. P. Slaughter.

On motion of the Clerk, the Association stood adjourned until early candle light, at which time our former Moderator, S. Hall, and the present presiding officer, H. P. Slaughter, were requested to deliver parting addresses, followed with a parting hymn.

NIGHT SESSION.

After a sermon by Rev. H. F. Morrison, the Association was called to order by the Moderator.

On motion of brother Bryan, Rev. W. H. Barksdale was requested to preach at 11 o'clock, on Sunday morning, on the "Distinctive Principles of our Denomination."

After which, the parting addresses were delivered and the farewell hymn sung amid tears of brotherly love.

Adjourned to meet on Thursday before the first Sabbath in October, 1868, at Mount Vernon, St. Francis county.

H. P. SLAUGHTER, *Moderator*.

W. H. BARKSDALE, *Clerk*.

AN AFTER-NOTE BY THE CLERK.

The Sabbath was a beautiful morning, and in compliance with the request of the Association, the writer addressed the large and attentive audience for two hours on the Distinctive Principles of the Baptist Denomination, and from the attention given, has reasons to believe that *good* will grow out of it, although some few prejudiced persons left the house, being, as they expressed it, ~~unwieldy~~ and unbaptized. The denomination was edified, as we were assured by the many brethren who shook us cordially by the hand for having "so nobly," to use their language, defended ourselves from false charges, and developed the *truth as it is in Jesus*.

Before preaching, the attention of the Association was called to an item overlooked by the body, which should have come up in their deliberations on Saturday morning, viz: the adoption of some Hymn Book throughout the bounds of the Association. And as it was thought not out of place even for Sabbath morning to make a suggestion which would add so much to the worship of God, it was ordered that the Clerk be instructed to insert in the Minutes the following resolution:

Resolved, That for the sake of uniformity in that most delightful portion of God's worship, *singing*, we do hereby adopt, and recommend to all our Churches and sister Associations, THE SOUTHERN PSALMIST, with Arkansas edition, published by the Southwestern Publishing House.