

MINUTES

OF THE

Twenty-First Annual Session,

OF THE

Mt. Vernon Baptist Association,

HELD WITH THE

Forrest Chapel Church,

St. Francis County, Ark.

Saturday Before the First Lord's Day in October. 1877.

OFFICERS :

H. P. SLAUGHTER, Moderator.

L. K. OBENCHAIN, Clerk.

DARDANELLE :

INDEPENDENT ARKANSIAN PRINT.

1877.

PROCEEDINGS.

FORREST CHAPEL, ST. FRANCIS COUNTY, ARK.,
October 6th, 1877.

Pursuant to adjournment, the Mount Vernon Baptist Association met this day, with the Forrest Chapel church. Eld. W. H. Pasley, being previously chosen to preach the Introductory Sermon, did so from Matthew xvi: 18:—"Upon this rock will I build my church," etc. After which it was agreed to have a recess of ten minutes.

The Association assembled for business, after singing the hymn, "How firm a foundation," etc., and prayer by Eld. B. F. Thomas, Hon. H. P. Slaughter in the chair, L. K. Obenchain, clerk, pro tem.

Letters from the different churches were read by Bro. R. P. Davant and Eld. W. H. Pasley, whereupon the following messengers were enrolled.

Spring Creek.—H. P. Slaughter, W. D. Roane.

Forrest City.—J. Shackelford, V. B. Izard, J. H. Crabtree, and John Taylor.

Linn Grove.—J. W. Langston, C. A. West.

Pine Fork.—J. McAdams, W. Scott.

New Hope, No. 3.—W. R. Smith.

Cypress Valley.—J. F. Langston, W. H. Robards.

Oak Grove.—R. J. Bickerstaff, J. H. Spivy, F. L. Gustav-
is and J. T. Pasley.

Forrest Chapel.—L. K. Obenchain, J. H. Thompson and
R. H. Sparkman.

Marianna.—J. P. Farrar.

Bible Union.—W. M. Elliott, J. Agerton.

Philadelphia.—W. M. N. Daniel.

Zion.—B. F. Thomas, J. Williams and M. J. Clay.

Salem.—J. F. Jarrett, Wm. Thompson.

Manassas.—By letter.

Ash Grove.—B. F. Bartles, D. H. Gideon.

Clarendon.—D. Hurst.

Oakland.—W. L. Martin, C. Porter and J. H. Bailes.

Shiloh.—D. M. Breakfield.

Bethlehem.—P. D. King.

Hopewell.—Wm. Holwell, A. B. Pettyjohn, J. Cosby.

Petitionary letters were called for, when Oakland church,
at Phillips Bayou, asked for admission, which was received.
The hand of fellowship was extended to Bros. W. L. Martin
and C. Porter.

On motion, it was agreed to elect all the officers of this body
by one ballot, which election resulted in the choice of Hon. H.
P. Slaughter, Moderator; L. K. Obenchain, Clerk; Eld. W.
H. Pasley, Treasurer; and Eld. B. F. Thomas, Correspond-
ing Secretary.

On motion, by a provision of the Constitution, Bro. John
Taylor was added to the Forrest City delegation.

Call for correspondence, whereupon Bro. R. P. Davant pre-
sented a letter from Mount Zion Association, which was re-
ceived.

Committee on Religious Services was next appointed, con-
sisting of the Deacons of Forrest Chapel church, J. F. Jarrett,
J. H. Spivy and W. D. Roane.

On motion, it was agreed that the Sunday School Con-
vention meet on Sabbath, at 9 o'clock, A. M. Bro. George Tay-
lor was appointed by the chair to deliver an address.

Committee on Religious Exercises partially reported: Eld.
L. K. Obenchain to preach Saturday night, and Eld. B. F.
Thomas to preach on Sabbath at 11 o'clock, A. M.

On motion, Bro. J. P. Farrar was admitted as a delegate
from Marianna church.

On motion, it was agreed to adjourn to meet Monday, at 9

o'clock, A. M. After singing 999th hymn, Southern Psalmist, prayer was offered by Eld. J. Shackelford, and benediction by Eld. B. F. Thomas.

Preaching on Saturday night by Eld. L. K. Obenchain, from John xii : 26. "If any man serve me, him will my Father honour." Also preaching at the same time at Poplar Grove, by Eld. McAdams.

SUNDAY, October 7th, 1877.

The Sabbath School Convention met at the time appointed. Bro. G. Taylor being absent, Eld. W. H. Pasley addressed the Convention in the interest of Sunday schools. Each church was requested to report, through its delegates, concerning the schools in the bounds of the Association, which reports indicated an increased interest in this direction; but the work has not yet received that attention and fostering care, that the importance of the cause demands.

On motion, the convention adjourned, to meet on Sabbath at 9 o'clock, A. M., at the next meeting of the Association.

11 o'clock, A. M. As appointed, Eld. B. F. Thomas preached from Matthew xvi : 26, to an attentive congregation, after which a collection was taken up for home missions.

Committee on religious services farther reported: Eld. W. H. Pasley to preach to-night at Forrest Chapel, and Eld. J. W. Graham at Poplar Grove.

Eld. Pasley being absent Sunday night, Eld. J. H. Bailes preached in his stead, from Galatians 6 : 1.

MONDAY, October 8th, 9 o'clock, A. M.

Association met pursuant to adjournment, and was called to order by the Moderator.

After singing and prayer, the roll of delegates was called, and minutes read and approved.

Committee on education, consisting of Elds. W. H. Pasley, B. F. Thomas and Bro. V. B. Izard, was appointed by the chair, to report at this meeting.

On motion, Bro. P. Hickey was admitted as a delegate from New Hope church.

Committee on finance, appointed by the chair, consisting of Bros. J. T. Pasley, P. Hickey and J. F. Langston.

Committee on home missions reported as follows: "Your committee on home missions beg leave to report: That we regard this as the great work of this body, and, at present, demands its very special attention. The destitution is more extensive and the necessity for action in this work greater, than at any time since the war.

The following churches are without regular preaching and pastoral labor: Oak Hill, Bible Union, Hopewell, Helena, Marianna, Trenton, Blackfoot and New Hope, and, in addition to these, there are a great many neighborhoods and communities in which the labors of a suitable evangelist might, by the blessings of God, be the means of building up Baptist churches that would be self-sustaining. There are also many good brethren holding letters, scattered about in destitute neighborhoods, who ought to be visited and encouraged to put their letters in some of the churches. A large number of our ministers (12) have been taken from us by death or removal, and others have felt called on, by the necessities of their families, to engage in secular pursuits. There is not now a sufficient number of preachers living in the bounds of this Association to supply the churches already organized, even if they would devote their whole time to the work. How, then, can these churches be supplied with pastors, and these communities with evangelical labor? Your committee sees but one way it can be done, and that is for the churches to awake to a sense of their duty and support the preachers now in their midst, and then God will send others to supply the deficiency. We would, therefore, beg every member of every church in this body, prayerfully to investigate what is their duty in this matter, and, in the fear of God, perform the same. Yearly committees are of the opinion that, if every preacher and every member within the bounds of this Association, would make one simultaneous, faithful effort, a change would take place whereof all would be glad. We, therefore, recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

1st. That we will do all in our power, both preachers and members, by visiting destitute churches and neighborhoods, to induce them to sustain the preaching of the Gospel in their midst.

2d. That we instruct the Executive Board to make appro-

priations only to such destitute churches and communities as will raise at least three-fourths of the amount necessary to support the Gospel in their midst, the appropriation to be paid, only as fast, and in the same ratio, as they shall have paid their proportional part of said support.

W. H. PASLEY, Chairman."

After hearing speeches from Elds. B. F. Bartles, McAdams, W. H. Pasley, B. F. Thomas, J. H. Bailes and Bros. J. F. Jarrett, Wm. Thompson and W. D. Roane, the committee on Religious Exercises farther reported: Eld. B. F. Bartles to preach to-day at 11 o'clock, and Eld. W. H. Pasley to-night.

The time for preaching having arrived, the Moderator announced an intermission of five minutes.

After preaching by Eld. B. F. Bartles, the Association immediately assembled for business, after singing the 167th hymn and prayer by Bro. John Taylor.

The report on home missions was farther discussed by Hon. H. P. Slaughter, and, on motion, was adopted.

On motion, the Board of Trustees of Forrest City Baptist High School was allowed to publish a report through the minutes of this body, which is as follows:

The Board of Trustees of Forrest City High School would respectfully submit the following report to the Mt. Vernon Baptist Association, October 8th, 1877:

Have paid out in the erection of building, etc., the following amounts:

For materials,	- - -	\$1,619.33	
H. A. Irby, brick contract,	-	2,900.00	
S. G. English, wood work contract,	-	614.00	
D. W. Hoshal, roofing,	- -	160.00	
Total,	- - -		\$5,293.33
Have received from subscription,		\$2,184.02	
Proceeds of dis't note, W. H. Couch,		1,991.50	
Donations in work, etc.,	-	600.00	
Total,	- - -		4,775.52

Balance due Trustees	- - -	517.81
Bal. due W. H. Couch note and int. to date about	-	2,400.00

Total balance, - - - \$2,917.81

Would call the attention of the Baptist churches composing this Association to the urgent necessity of aiding in the special

payment of the note due, as above, feeling satisfied if the importance of the matter can be fully understood, that the relief can be had. If half the amount can be raised promptly we think the balance can be satisfactorily negotiated and carried for the next year. We ask all the friends of education in Eastern Arkansas to aid in this important educational interest. The Board has appointed Eld. L. K. Obenchain, who is a member of the Board of Trustees, general agent, to collect all subscriptions now due, and to solicit and receive donations for the college fund. Brethren, and friends of the Institution, much has been already done and considerable remains to be done. Do not pass this matter by lightly, but give it that consideration that you would any important individual enterprise. Our school is, at present, under the management of Eld. J. Shackelford, and is in a flourishing condition, having from 90 to 100 students in attendance. We ask Arkansians, who have children to send to school, to correspond with Eld. Shackelford, or the Board of Trustees, for information. Board can be had for from \$10 to \$15 per month, in private families of the town.

Submitted and adopted by the Association.

V. B. IZARD, Pres't Board.

A. L. GRADY, Sect'y and Treasurer.

On motion, by resolution, a call was made for subscription to liquidate the debt of Forrest City Baptist High School, and resulted in the following subscriptions, to-wit: Eld. W. H. Pasley, \$100; V. B. Izard, \$100; R. J. Bickerstaff, \$50; Eld. Graham and Wm. Thompson, jointly, \$50; L. K. Obenchain, \$10, paid; H. P. Slaughter, \$100; R. H. Sparkman, \$25.

On motion, it was agreed to continue the members who were appointed last year to collect funds for the Forrest City Baptist High School, except that Bro. J. W. Langston take the place of Bro. D. B. Wilder, who is dead, and Bro. D. Hurst the place of Eld. Bartles. The names are as follows: New Hope, No. 3, T. D. Cooper; Helena, J. Q. Taylor; Spring Creek, H. P. Slaughter; Oak Grove, W. H. Pasley; Blackfoot, A. G. Jarman; Salem, Wm. Thompson; Cypress Valley, John Langston; Shiloh, W. D. Breakfield; Bethel, J. H. Bailes; Linn Grove, J. W. Langston; Philadelphia, J. D. Rowland; Ash Grove, J. T. Caplener; Clarendon, D. Hurst; Bethlehem, John King; Brinkley, Dr. Bates; Forrest Chapel, John Taylor; Forrest City, Mrs. Maggie Pearson.

Hopewell, Wm. Holwell; Bible Union, Wm. Elliott; Mari-anna, Monroe Anderson; Pleasant Grove, R. E. Morris; Manassas, J. C. Cook; Alligator Bayou, Bro. Day; Zion, B. F. Thomas; New Hope, T. D. Wells.

The resolution to change the time of meeting of this body, was next presented for consideration. After speeches by Elds. W. H. Pasley, Graham and Wm. Elliott, on motion, it was laid on the table.

A subscription was then taken, to assist Elds. Bartles and Bailes in going to Forrest City High School. W. H. Pasley, John Taylor, W. D. Roane, James Thompson and H. P. Slaughter, each 25 cents per month, to be divided equally between both. H. P. Slaughter paid for this year. J. F. Langston, W. H. Robards, J. T. Pasley and J. H. Spivy, each 25 cents per month, for Bailes; V. B. Izard, \$10, to Bailes; D. N. Breakfield, 50 cents to Bartles; Eld. McAdams, 25 cents, paid; F. L. Gustavis, 50 cents to each.

On motion, it was agreed that the executive board be allowed to publish their report in the minutes of this body, which is as follows:

"We, the executive board of home missions, of Mt. Vernon Association, beg leave to submit the following report:

We have secured the services of Eld. L. K. Obenchain, who has been engaged in the work since July 27th, 1877.

Amount collected, from all sources,	:	:	:	:	:	\$182.25
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Amount expended,	:	:	:	:	:	58.50
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Still on hand,	:	:	:	:	:	\$123.75
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Brethren will please urge upon the churches the importance of assisting us in this noble work.

W. H. PASLEY, Chairman.

Committee on finance reported as follows:

We, your committee on finance, would submit the following report:

Received for home missions,	:	:	:	:	:	\$73.75
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Received for minutes,	:	:	:	:	:	32.50
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Total,	:	:	:	:	:	106.25
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J. T. PASLEY, Chairman.

On motion, the report was adopted.

On motion, the clerk was allowed ten dollars for his services.

On motion, Association adjourned, to meet Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock.

Preaching at night, by Eld. W. H. Pasley, from 1st Samuel, vi : 2.—“What shall we do to the Ark?”

TUESDAY, October 9th, 9 o'clock, A. M.

Association met, pursuant to adjournment, and was called to order by the Moderator; sung the 999th hymn, and prayer by Bro. W. D. Roane.

Standing committees were appointed by the chair.

On Sabbath Schools.—G. Taylor, J. F. Jarrett and J. T. Pasley. Eld. B. F. Bartles to deliver an address on Sabbath Schools.

Domestic Missions.—W. H. Pasley, L. K. Obenchain and J. H. Bailes.

Education.—J. Shackelford, V. B. Izard and B. F. Thomas.

On motion, it was agreed to meet with Salem church, Phillips county, Ark.

On motion, Eld. L. K. Obenchain was chosen to preach the Introductory Sermon, Eld. W. H. Pasley, alternate; Eld. J. Shackelford to preach the Missionary Sermon, at 11 o'clock, A. M., on Sabbath, Eld. B. F. Thomas, alternate.

The following pledges were taken, for home missions:

Oak Grove,	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	\$20.00
Salem,	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	15.00
Forrest City,	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	10.00
Spring Creek,	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	10.00
Cypress Valley	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	5.00
Lynn Grove,	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	5.00
Forrest Chapel,	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	10.00
Ash Grove,	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	5.00
Bible Union,	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	10.00
New Hope, No. 3,	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	10.00

On motion, it was agreed to retain the present Executive Board.

On motion, it was ordered that the minutes be distributed according to amount contributed, except sending two copies to each church not represented.

Resolution offered by Eld. J. W. Graham:

RESOLVED, That the Mt. Vernon Association hereby tender

our sincere thanks to the members of Forrest Chapel church and community for their kind hospitality extended to us during the sitting of this body. Adopted.

The following resolution was offered by Bro. J. T. Pasley :

RESOLVED, That the churches be requested to send up, through their delegates, Sabbath School statistics, to be reported at the next Sunday School Convention. Adopted.

The following was then offered by Eld. B. F. Thomas, which was adopted :

RESOLVED, That the Districts be requested to hold District Meetings.

Correspondents were then appointed :

To Mt. Zion Association.—Elds. B. F. Thomas, J. Shackelford, L. K. Obenchain and Bro. J. Taylor.

Grand Prairie.—Elds. J. W. Graham, B. F. Thomas, W. H. Pasley, Hon. H. P. Slaughter, Bros. Wm. Thompson, W. W. Irwin and J. H. Briant.

On motion, it was agreed to open correspondence with Big Hatchie Association; Tennessee; also Caroline Association. Elds. Thomas and Pasley, appointed as correspondents.

In conclusion, the Moderator addressed the Association in a very feeling manner as to the present condition of religious affairs in this body, and the country at large, and urging all to a more faithful discharge of christian duty.

Thus closed a very pleasant and, we trust, profitable meeting. While the parting hymn, "My Christian friends in bonds of love," etc., was being sung, the parting hand was given; at the conclusion of which the Association adjourned, to meet with Salem church, Phillips county, Arkansas, 6 miles south-west of Marvel and 7 miles west of Trenton, on Saturday before the first Lord's day in October, 1878.

H. P. SLAUGHTER, Moderator,

L. K. OBENCHAIN, Clerk.

Moderator's address.—Spring Creek, Lee county, Ark.

Clerk's address.—Forrest City, St. Francis county, Ark.

STATIST

CHURCHES.

NAMES OF MESSENGERS.

First District.

Cypress Valley	J F Langston and W H Robards
New Hope, No. 3	W R Smith
Oakland	W L Martin, C Porter and J H Bailes
Oak Grove	R J Bickerstaff, J H Spivy and F L Gustav
Salem	J F Jarrett and Wm Thompson
Spring Creek	H P Slaughter and W D Rouse
New Hope	P Hickey
Helena	Not represented
Blackfoot	Not represented
Trenton	Not represented

Second District.

Ash Grove	B F Bartles and D H Gideon
Philadelphia	W M N Daniel
Shiloh	D M Breakfield
Pine Fork	J McAdams and W Scott
Bethlehem	P D King
Clarendon	D Hurst
Linn Grove	J F Langston and C T West
Bethel	J H Bailes
Mt Gilad	Not represented

Third District.

Forrest Chapel	L K Obenchain, J H Thompson and R H Sparks
Zion	B F Thomas, J Williams and M J Clay
Forrest City	J Shackelford, J H Grabtree and V B Izard
Hopewell	Wm Holwell, A B Pettyjohn, J Cosby
Bible Union	Wm Elliott
Marianna	John P Farrar
Manna	By letter

Total

PASTORS.

[illegible]