MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

SALINE REGULAR BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

Friendship Church, Montgomery County, Arkansas, October 1st, 2d and 3d, 1874.

The Saline Regular Baptist Association met, pursuant to adjournment, with Friendship Church, Montgomery county, on Thursday before the first Sunday in October, A. D. 1874.

The introductory sermon was preached by Eld. R. M. Thrasher, from Haggai, second chapter, fourth and fifth verses.

The Association then adjourned to take refreshment until 2 o'clock P.M.

Two o'clock P.M.—Met pursuant to adjournment. The Association was called to order by the Moderator, R. M. Thrasher. Prayer by Bro. Wm. Daniel.

1. Read the letters from the churches, and enrolled the names of delegates. [See table.]

2. Went into an election for officers (Moderator and Clerk) for the present session, whereupon Eld. R. M. Thrasher was elected Moderator, and Wm. Daniel, Clerk and Treasurer.

3. Called for Corresponding Messengers, whereupon Eld. J. A. R. Hunt was received from Pine Bluff Association, and a letter from Land Mark Baptist Association, Conway county.

4. Appointed a Committee on Preaching: H. H. Williamson, Thos. Ratcliff and Hiram Rigsby. On Documents: L. A. Cook, Peter Smith, M. C. Melton. On Domestic Missions: Stephen Rowe, E. W. Gentry, W. J. Neighbors, On Sabbath Schools;

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J. A. R. Hunt, J. J. Yates, C. H. Muse. On Finance: W. J. Neighbors, John Guerin, R. E. Ross. On Ministerial Education: R. M. Lindsey, D. R. Parker, O. J. Busick, R. M. Thrasher.

On motion, adjourned until 9 o'clock to-morow morning. Benediction by Eld. J. A. R. Hunt.

FRIDAY-9 o'clock A. M.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Eld. S. Rowe.

1. Read and adopted minutes of yesterday.

2. Called for letters from the churches.

3. Called for petitionary letters, whereupon the following was received: Concord and Harmony received, and delegates' names enrolled.

4. Renewed call for correspondence.

5. Appointed Committee on Prayer Meetings: John Clem. E. D. Tramel and Peter A. Green.

6. Inasmuch as Eld. R. M. Lindsey has been laboring for the most part of the two last years in the bounds of this association as missionary of this body, and knowing the wants of the association to some extent; therefore, on motion, he be appointed to write a circular letter, selecting his own subject, and present to this body.

7. The district meetings, as laid off last year, be continued, and that the meetings be held, embracing the fifth Sundays, during the ensuing year; and the clerks of said districts make a report to the next session of the Association.

8. Did the Association transcend her constitutional limit in adopting the report on missions last year? was discussed at considerable length, whereupon a vote was taken, and the association was unanimous in sustaining the action of the body last year.

9. Adjourned until 2 o'clock P. M., for preaching.

Two o'clock P. M.-Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Bro. E. W. Gentry.

1. Received correspondence from Caddo River Association by letter, and Eld. H. L. Wasson, who was cordially received and invited to a scat with us; also invitation was extended to visiting brethren to seats with us.

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2. Appointed corresponding messengers to sister Associations. To Pine Bluff, Brethren William R. Chambers and S. Johnson. To Judson, R. M. Thrasher and J. A. R. Hunt.

To Red River, by letter-Clerk to write.

To Caddo River, by letter-Moderator to write.

To Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Eld. R. M. Thrasher and Peter Smith.

To Land Mark Baptist Association, by letter-Eld. Wm. J. Neighbors to write.

To Dardanelle, T. Ratcliff, M. C. Melton, P. Smith, J. A. R. Hunt-to write

3. Called for reports. Report on Sunday Schools read and adopted. [See appendix Λ .]

4. Adjourned until to morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Prayer by the Moderator.

SATURDAY-9 o'clock A. M.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by H. L. Wasson.

1. Called for letters from churches. One presented.

2. Report on Documents read and adopted. [B.]

Report on Ministerial Education read and adopted. [C.]

Report of Treasurer read and adopted. [D.]

Report of R. M. Lindsey read and adopted. [E.]

3. On motion, the Moderator appointed a committee of five to take in consideration the amount due Eld. R. M. Lindsey, as missionary for last year, and report to this body.

4. South Fork Church added to the Second district of this Association.

5. Adjourned until 2 o'clock P.M. Prayer by Eld. T. J. Welch.

Two o'clock P. M.—Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by the Moderator.

1. Read and adopted the report of the Special Committee. [F.]

2. Report on Domestic Missions read and adopted. [G.]

3. The circular letter was postponed until the next session of this body.

4. Report on Finance read and adopted. [H.]

5. Adopted the letters to Land Mark and Dardanelle Associations.

6. Adopted resolution as follows:

Resolved, That we return a vote of thanks to Friendship Church, and triends in this vicinity, for the hospitable manner in which this body has been supported.

7. Adopted resolution as follows:

Resolved, That we recommend the Western Baptist, published at Searcy, Arkansas, to the favorable consideration of the churches of the Saline Association.

8. On motion, that we have six hundred copies of these minutes printed, and the Clerk superintend the same and distribute to the churches; and that he have twenty dollars for his services.

9. Appointed the next session of this Association to meet with Oak Grove Church, Hot Springs County, seven miles from Rockport, west side of the river, on Thursday before the first Sunday in October next.

10. Eld. Wm. J. Neighbors was appointed to preach the introductory sermon, and J. A. R. Hunt his alternate.

11. On motion, adjourned to meet at the time and place above appointed. Prayer by Eld. Rufus M. Lindsey, after which a suitable song was sung. During the singing, the parting hand was extended to each other with brotherly love.

ROBERT M. THRASHER, Moderator. WILLIAM DANIEL, Clerk.

APPENDIX.

A.

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Brethren of the Saline Association, in regard to Sunday Schools, on which we were appointed to write, we do not deem it necessary to say anything to convince you of the utility or the blessed results flowing from them. Our blessed Jesus has signally approbated this means of disseminating truth, and the good seed of the Gospel. And we do not suppose that there is a single member of this body who would not subscribe to the supposition that a Sunday school, as a Bible school, is always doing good, both to old and young. We are very bold in saying there is a sad want of efficiency in Sunday school work in our churches. We have in our Sunday schools a spasmodic life: our churches are bad enough in their spasmodic

way of living, but our Sunday schools are worse. It goes about after this fashion : The Sunday school has its first session about May or June, and takes a month or two to drum up the teachers and scholars, and get under headway. It is in full blast then until December; then the winter is too cold for Sunday school; and so, the poor school dies, or, like the bear, hides itself until spring. The old brethren hang on, and sing, and pray and serve God, leaving the children to go into vanity and folly; so it goes, year after year. What shall be done ? Do not the young need Sunday schools in winter ? Yea; more in winter than any other time. What shall be done ? What would a saloon-keeper do if his house was too cold for his customers to sit in ? He would build a chimney, or buy a stove, and make a big fire in it. Therefore, let us do the same in our church-houses; then our children could go to Sunday school, and learn the word of God and worship him. Hence, dear brethren, let us prove our faith by our works, and God will bless us, and hundreds of children will be gathered into his kingdom.

Respectfully submitted.

J. A. R. HUNT, Chairman.

B.

Your Committee on Documents ask leave to report that we have had the letters from the churches to the Association under consideration, and find nothing in them of interest more than the usual business of such letters. We find that there are two churches that have petitioned for the next session of your body, to-wit: Oak Grove and Ten-mile Creek.

Respectfully submitted.

L. A. COOK, Chairman.

MINISTERIAL EDUCATIÓN.

Dear brethren, we believe that God has completed the revelation of his will to man, and *that will* is contained in the Bible. If this be true, it follows, as a matter of course, that the day of inspiration and revelation is past, and what we know of the will and purposes of God must be obtained from the Bible.

But the Bible was given to world in language-the Old Testament in Hebrew, and the New Testament in Greek. Those who would teach the will of God to their fellow-men must learn his will from the Bible, in the original tongue in which the inspired men wrote, or from faithful translations of the original. In either case it follows that those who preach the truth, as it is in Christ Jesus, must learn that truth from the Word of God. Therefore Paul says to Timothy: "Study to show thyself approved unto God; a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly divining the word of truth. Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine." We conclude, therefore, that the minister of the Gospel should be an educated man; that is, he should be able to read the Scriptures intelligently in his own tongue. This seems to be involved in the very nature of the qualifications of a minister, laid down in the Word of God. In addition to his being a pious man-a good man in every sense of the word-he must be apt to teach. No one can teach the doctrines of the Gospel unless he has learned them: and how can a man know for himself the doctrines of Christ from the traditions of man; the false doctrines that are taught in the world; unless he be able to read and understand the Scriptures for himself ! Again, we ask, how can a man contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints, unless he be able to give himself to reading, meditation, etc.? But to read understandingly, a man must know the meaning and use of words of written language; for it is in that form that God was pleased to reveal his will to man. We conclude, therefore, that while education alone does not qualify a man to preach the Gospel, without piety, neither does piety alone, without education, qualify a man to preach. But the qualifications required by the Word of God include both piety and education, and we cannot separate what God has joined together. The churches should see to it, that no one be ordained to the work of the ministry who is not both pious, and able to read the Word of God understandingly in his own tongue. We believe that the minister of the Gospel ought to avail himself of all possible means and opportunities of mental improvement; and we would especially encourage all who enter upon this work while young to carry their mental training to the highest degree possible, and seek a thorough knowledge of the languages in which the Scriptures were originally written. We are happy to inform all the ministers of our Association and of our State, who wish to take a partial or thorough course in literary studies, that arrangements have been made for them to attend Clinton College, Mississippi, free of charge for tuition; and that similar arrangements have been made for all who wish to take a partial or thorough course in the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, at Greenville, South Carolina. And we would recommend all, who can possibly do so, to attend these institutions.

Respectfully submitted.

R.	M.	LINDSEY,	0.	J.	BUSICK,
D.	R.	PARKER,	R.	M.	THRASHER.

D.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

DEBIT-1874.

Received of Finance Committee. Amount overpaid for postage on minutes. Amount sent from Antioch	32	50 00			
Total	\$67				
CREDIT. Paid for printing 500 copies minutes \$40 00					
Pôstage on same					
Showing balance due the Treasurer					

IE.

To the Saline Regular Baptist Association :

DEAR BRETHEEN—Pursuant to your appointment, I have devoted my time and energies during six months of the past year to the missionary work in the Saline Association. In the absence of any definite instructions, I have labored in such portions as, in my judgment, my services were needed most; and the result of my labors is as follows: Traveled 2,317 miles; preached 186 sermons; added to the churches by letter, 16; added to the churches by experience and baptism, 41; number of professions at meetings attended, 81; amount of

money received, \$79.15; traveling expenses, \$24.50. All of which is respectfully submitted.

R. M. LINDSEY, Missionary.

F.

We, your Special Committee appointed to investigate our indebtedness to Brother Lindsey, our missionary for the last year, have had the same under consideration, and submit the following report. That our missionary ought, in addition to what has been collected, to receive one hundred and twentyfive dollars; and that pastors and deacons of the several churches of our Association use their best skill and ability to collect as much as possible, and forward the same to Brother Lindsey, and that there be a collection taken up to-morrow, and the proceeds be handed to our missionary.

L. A. COOK, Chairman.

G.

The Committee on Domestic Missions beg leave to report as follows:

Brother Lindsey, our missionary, has labored six months, the present year, in which it is thought that more permanent good has been accomplished than in all the labors of last year. From information, we learn that eight or ten churches are now without pastoral supplies, and the solicitations for ministerial aid are now earnest and pressing. The Association is in arrears with Brother Lindsey for the present year's service one hundred and twenty-five dollars. It is with much regret that, in view of the great failure in our crops and the scarcity of money, we feel constrained to recommend a suspension of missionary operations until, in the dispensations of Providence, a change of times and prospects shall be realized : and we do earnestly solicit and urge the churches to take into consideration our indebteduess to Brother Lindsey, and not cease their efforts until the same is cancelled. We would recommend the ministering brethren of our Association to turn their attention to our destitute churches as much as reasonably in their power, until missionary operations can be resumed. We would also recommend that the churches be especially requested to take into consideration the destitute condition of our churches in the destitute regions, and

if they wish to continue our missionary operations, to send up contributions to the next session of this body to enable it to carry out this great enterprise. Respectfully submitted.

STEPHEN ROWE, Chairman.

H.

Your Committee of Finance beg leave to make the following report:

We find the total amount sent up by the churches for printing minutes to be sixty-three dollars and fifty cents (\$63.50), all of which is collected and ready to be paid over to the Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted.

WILLIAM J. NEIGHBORS, Chairman.

I.

We, your Committee on Prayer Meetings, beg leave to report as follows:

While this great duty has been neglected in many churches. others have kept up their prayer meetings in accordance with the command of God and the advice of the Association; and God has blessed them with revivals of religion. If there was any church or brother that denied prayer meetings being a good thing for church and neighborhood, we would reter them to the commands of Jesus, and say: "Pray without ceasing, and in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." [1 Thes., v. ch., 17th verse.] Can we not see the example of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joshua, Caleb. Jonah and Job praying, and all the holy men of old, Christ and the Apostles, and the weeping Mary and Martha, with the weeping sisters of ages, too, have been praying. May the sisters and brethren of Saline Association be waked up to this important subject of prayer. Pray this year; let us hold prayer meetings in the churches and in our families.

"Prayer is the Christian's vital breath— The Christian's native air; His watchword at the gate of death; He enters heaven with prayer." Respectfully submitted. J. CLEM, Chairman.

J.

We, your Committee on Preaching, beg leave to submit the following report:

Thursday—7 o'clock P. M.—J. A. R. Hunt preached from Romans, ii., 28, 29. Wm. J. Neighbors, alternate. Friday—11 o'clock A.M.—Eld. J. Clem preached from Phil., 19, 20. Wm. J. Neighbors, alternate. Five o'clock P. M.—S. Rowe preached from 1 Tim., vi., 12. R. M. Thrasher, alternate. Saturday—11 o'clock A.M.—J.A. R. Hunt preached from Psalms, xxxxvi., 4, 5. Lindsey, alternate. Seven o'clock P. M.—Wm. J. Neighbors preached from Judges, vii., 21. Hunt, alternate.

H. H. WILLIAMSON, Chairman.

To the Churches of the Saline Association :

DEAR BRETHREN-I would call your attention to the reports on Missions in regard to paying our missionary for the two last years. Some of the churches have done well, while the large majority have done but little or nothing toward paying Brother Lindsey, who, when he entered the mission field, was out of debt; and upon the urgent solicitation of the brethren and churches of the Association, and the great zeal he had for the Master's cause, he entered upon the work, and the two years' labors leave him in debt. And, I suppose, the debt was contracted on the faith of the strong solicitation of the brethren for him to go and preach to the destitute; and he went and preached, and we have great reasons to believe that God blessed his labors. And now, brethren and sisters of the Saline Association, I would that I could stir up your pure minds, by way of remembrance, that you would send up your mites during this year to Brother Lindsey, and put him where he was when he entered the field, and God will bless you; for we are blessed in the discharge of our duty, not in the omission of it. Do not say, I cannot; but say I will, God being my helper.-Olerk.

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CHURCHES COUNTIES	DELECATES.	Baptized. Revolution by Letter. Bisnissed by Letter. Bisnissed by Letter. Restored. Restored. Died. Died. Sab. Meetings. Contributions.	eir Post-
Big Creek. Hot Spring. Corinth Garland. Cornord Yell. De Roche. Hot Spring. Dallas Grove. Garland. Darmascus Hot Spring. Darmascus Hot Spring. Friendship. Montgomery. Franceway Hot Spring. Fairplay. Saline. Hord Springs. Garland. Hopewell Saline. Kentucky Saline. Lone Hill. Hot Spring. Marble. Garland. Magnet Cove. Hot Spring. Mt. Tabor. Garland. Magnet Cove. Hot Spring. Mt. Zlon. Montgomery. Montgomery. Montgomery. Montgomery. Montgomery. Ouschitz. Hot Spring. Pleasant Grove. Hot Spring. Pleasant Grove. Hot Spring. Pleasant Grove. Hot Spring. Pleasant Grove. Hot Spring. Philadelphia Yell. Rock Spring. Garland. Saline. S	 R. M. Linsey, J. M. Bachelor, * T. Lindsey*. J. T. Eaves, * W. Witherspoon, T. J. Maberry. R. Williams, * N. T. Williams*. Wm. Daniel, O J. Busick, E. W. Gentry. S. Heard, * G. W. Sutton, * C. J. Elliott. E. D. Goza, * J. B. Wallice, D. N. Staton* A. J. Hawks, * J. A. Crawford, J. J. S. Willis. R. M. Thrasher, H. McCallum, * W. H. Collie*. J. J. Adams, J. Blocher,* W. R. Adams. Not Represented W. J. Neighbors, J. A. R. Hunt, P. M. Cain* J. C. Evans,* W. H. Rigsby, A. Smith* W. Knight,* Wm. Glenn,* H. S. Glenn* David Parker Not Represented 	1	lip ngs n e Roche. Springs lvern k invold invold e Roche. Springs ton ort. ort. ort. d will. arold will. son ort. d son ort. ort. d
	and service and the service of the s	AF 10 10 201 1 21 1000	

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* Absentees. The Clerks of Churches will please make out their statistical tables according to the form given in the Minute of 1869, or the above table.-[CLERK.