

MINUTES

OF THE

Saline Baptist Association

HELD WITH

TEN MILE CREEK CHURCH, SALINE CO., ARKANSAS,

SEPTEMBER 28-29-30, 1876.

OFFICERS:

ROBERT M. THRASHER, MODERATOR.

WILLIAM DANIEL, CLERK.

Next Session to be Held with South Fork Church, Garland County, Arkansas.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.:

PRINTED BY "WESTERN BAPTIST," 114 MARKHAM STREET.

1876

WILSON & WEBB,
Booksellers and Stationers

NO. 107 MAIN STREET.

(BET. SECOND AND THIRD),

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

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THE WESTERN BAPTIST

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Terms—\$2.15 per Year; to Clubs, \$1.65. To Advertisers "The Baptist" offers unusual inducements. Send for Rates.

WEBB & BURROWS, Publishers.
ADDRESS—Postoffice Drawer Q, Little Rock, Ark.

MINUTES

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SALINE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

—HELD WITH THE—

TEN MILE CREEK CHURCH, SALINE COUNTY, ARKANSAS,

SEPTEMBER 28, 29 and 30, 1876.

The Saline Baptist Association met, according to previous appointment, with Ten Mile Creek Church, Saline county, on Thursday before the first Sunday in October, A. D. 1876, and had the following proceedings:

There being no Minister appointed at the last session to preach the Introductory sermon, the Association appointed Eld. Wm. J. Neighbors to preach the Introductory sermon, which he did, from the 15th chapter, 58th verse of First Corinthians:

“Therefore, my beloved Brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that, your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”

After the sermon, prayer was offered by the Moderator, Eld. R. M. Thrasher, after which the Association took recess for refreshment until 3 o'clock p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association met and was called to order by the Moderator.

After singing, prayer was offered by Eld. John C. Henderson.

Letters from the Churches composing the Association were then called for, which were presented and read, and the names of delegates enrolled. (See Statistical Table).

The Association then went into the election of officers for the present session, which resulted in the election of Eld. Robert M. Thrasher as Moderator and William Daniel as Clerk.

The Moderator appointed the following committees, to-wit:

On Preaching—O. L. Cate, M. L. Nelson, John Hutchingson. On motion, the Pastor and Deacons of Ten Mile Creek were added to the Committee.

On Documents—John A. Verser, E. B. Deer, Lemuel A. Cook.

On Foreign Missions—S. M. Provence, H. H. Williamson, William J. Neighbors.

On State Missions—J. H. Howard, Robert Collie, J. A. Verser.

On Sunday Schools—J. B. Wood, H. S. Benjamin, William Lett.

On Ministerial Education—James E. McGoveran, R. B. Clyde, J. H. Howard.

On Prayer Meeting—J. C. Henderson, N. P. DeBolt, E. W. Gentry.

On Finance—H. Elliott, C. F. Moore, J. R. Holcomb.

On motion, adjourned till 8:30 a. m. to-morrow.

Prayer by Eld. T. P. Boone.

SECOND DAY.

FRIDAY MORNING, 8:30 O'CLOCK.

Association met pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer by Eld. J. H. Welch.

The Minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

A call for Correspondence was made, whereupon a letter from Caddo River Association was presented by Eld. J. H. Welch, Missionary of that body.

Letter read, and Eld. Welch was invited to a seat with us, the right hand of fellowship being extended by the Moderator.

An invitation was extended to visiting Brethren to take seats with us, whereupon Eld. T. P. Boone, senior editor of the WESTERN BAPTIST, and Eld. J. B. Hartwell, Missionary from China, responded, and they were cordially invited to seats and to aid us in counsel. The invitation was extended to all visiting Brethren.

The Moderator appointed a Committee on Religious Literature, to-wit: Elds. S. M. Provence, J. C. Henderson, Alex. Tucker and J. H. Welch.

On motion, it was agreed that the Association spend from half past 8 o'clock to 9 a. m. in devotional services, and that the Association adjourn at 11 o'clock each day for preaching.

On motion, the Constitution was read, and the first Article was changed to read the "Saline Baptist Association," instead of the "Saline Regular United Baptist Association," two-thirds of the delegates present agreeing thereto.

On motion, the order of the day in regard to preaching to-day at 11 o'clock was suspended.

The Moderator appointed Corresponding Messengers to sister Associations, to-wit:

To Jackson—E. B. Deer, D. Cunningham and J. J. Yates.

To Pine Bluff—C. F. Moore, J. C. Henderson and Wm. Tucker.

To Red River—S. M. Provence and J. H. Howard.

To Caddo River—John R. Holcomb and H. H. Williamson.

The invitation to visiting Ministers and Brethren was extended, whereupon Eld. S. Stevenson was invited to a seat with us.

Adjourned till 2 o'clock p. m.

Prayer by Bro. William Lett.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Association met pursuant to adjournment.

The report on Foreign Missions was made the special order for to-morrow at 2 o'clock p. m.

Report on Documents was read and recommitted.

On motion, the resolution marked (1) was adopted.

Treasurer's report read and adopted. (See Appendix A).

On motion, adjourned to 8:30 o'clock a. m. to-morrow.

Prayer by Eld. S. Stevenson.

THIRD DAY.

SATURDAY MORNING, 8:30 O'CLOCK.

Association met pursuant to adjournment.

One-half hour was spent in devotional service, after which the Minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

Report on Ministerial Education read, and after a lengthy and interesting discussion by different Brethren, the report was adopted. (See Appendix B.)

The Association then took recess for preaching and refreshment until 2 o'clock p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Association met pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer by Bro. E. W. Gentry.

Report of the Committee on Foreign Missions was called for, which was read, and a motion made to adopt.

After considerable discussion, the report was adopted. (See Appendix C.)

On motion, the Resolution marked (2) was adopted.

Report of the Committee on Finance read and adopted. (See Appendix D.)

Report of Committee on State Missions read and discussed, and, on motion, was laid on the table.

Report of the Committee on Sunday Schools was read and adopted. (See Appendix E.)

Report of the Committee on Religious Literature read and adopted. (See Appendix F.)

Report of the Committee on Prayer Meeting read and adopted. (See Appendix G.)

Report of the Committee on Documents was read and adopted. (See Appendix H.)

On motion, the Resolution marked (3) was adopted.

On motion, adjourned until after preaching to-night.

Benediction by the Moderator.

NIGHT SESSION.

The Association met immediately after preaching.

The Moderator appointed the following Committees, to report at the next session of the Association;

On Home Missions—S. M. Provence, Chairman.

On Foreign Missions—J. H. Howard, Chairman.

On Ministerial Education—J. B. Wood, Chairman.

On Sunday Schools—J. E. McGoveran, Chairman.

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Saline Baptist Association.

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The following named brethren were appointed, in accordance with Resolution 4th, on Foreign Missions:

E. B. Deer, D. F. Morrison, J. B. Holcomb, E. D. Tramel, S. F. Funk, H. H. Williamson, J. R. Wallace, H. S. Benjamin, Wm. I. Hardin, R. B. Clyde, William Terry, Alex. Tucker, C. T. Glenn, J. A. Verser, J. M. Crawford, William Daniel, Wm. T. DeBolt, R. M. Thrasher, W. R. Adams, W. K. Medlock, W. A. Shell, O. L. Cate and J. C. Henderson.

The following Resolutions were adopted:

1. Resolved, That the Chairmen of the Standing Committees be appointed at the session preceding that at which the Committees are expected to report.
2. Resolved, That this Association co-operate with the Committee on Ministerial Education of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention in seeking out young Brethren who feel themselves called of God to preach the Gospel, and aiding them to secure the advantages of a liberal education.
3. Resolved, That this Association co-operate with the Mission Board of our State Convention.
4. Resolved, That the Moderator of this Association appoint a committee of three whose duty it shall be to mature and submit to the next meeting of the Association a plan for the support of Mission work within the bounds of the Association.

The following named Brethren were appointed said Committee: S. M. Provence, W. J. Neighbors, L. A. Cook.

5 Resolved, That we take up a public collection at the close of the 11 o'clock service to-morrow for the benefit of Bro. John B. Hartwell, Missionary to China, and that the money sent up by the Churches for Missions be added to the public collection.

6. Resolved, That the thanks of this body are due, and are hereby tendered, to the Brethren and Sisters, and other Christians of this community, for the generous hospitality which has been extended to us; that we deeply sympathize with the entire community in their distress, occasioned by the prevailing sickness, and pray that God will speedily remove this scourge from among them.

7. Resolved, That the thanks of this Association are due, and are hereby tendered, to our Brother Moderator for the dignity and courtesy with which he has presided over our deliberations.

The Moderator appointed Eld. John Clem to preach the Introductory sermon at the next session of the Association, and Eld. C. F. Moore as alternate.

It was ordered by the Association that the Clerk superintend the printing of the Minutes, and distribute the same to the Churches, and that he be allowed twenty dollars for his services.

The Minutes were read; roll called, and absentees marked thus (*).

There being no other business presented, the Moderator announced that the Association was ready to adjourn.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn *sine die*.

The Moderator then made some appropriate remarks, of considerable length, at the close of which prayer was offered by Eld. C. F. Moore.

After prayer, a hymn was sung, and during the singing the Brethren gave each other the parting hand.

The Association then adjourned, to meet with South Fork Church, ten miles east of Hot Springs, on the Wire road from Hot Springs to Little Rock, on Thursday before the first Sunday in October, A. D. 1877, peace and harmony prevailing.

ROBT. M. THRASHER, Moderator.

WILLIAM DANIEL, Clerk.

EXERCISES OF THE SABBATH.

Met at 9 o'clock a. m.

Sunday School exercises conducted by Eld. S. Stevenson.

At 11 o'clock a very interesting lecture was delivered by Eld. J. B. Hartwell, Missionary to China (on the Religion and Customs of the Chinese), to a large and attentive congregation.

At the close of the lecture, a public collection was taken up for Foreign Missions, amounting to \$20.35.

At 2 o'clock p. m., another lecture was delivered by Eld. J. B. Hartwell, on the Manner and Customs of the Chinese, at the close of which the exercises of the Association closed.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX A.

REPORT OF TREASURER, 1876.

	Dr.
Received of Finance Committee for 1875,	\$51 45.
	Cr.
Paid for printing 500 copies of Minutes, and mailing same, .	\$30 00
Clerk's fees, per order of the Association.	20 00
Balance due Treasurer,	1 45
	<hr/>
	\$51 45

All of which is submitted,

WILLIAM DANIEL, Treasurer.

APPENDIX B.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

DEAR BRETHREN: We find from a careful examination of the Scriptures, and especially Paul's Epistles to Timothy and Titus, that if a man would be fully qualified to preach the Gospel, he must understand the language in which the Gospel is given to him, or else how can he preach or teach? Paul instructs Timothy to preach the Word, to exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine. He commands Titus to speak those things which become sound doctrine. Now how, we ask, can a man preach that Word unless he understands it? Or, how is he to speak those things which become sound doctrine unless he knows what sound doctrine is; and how is he to know, if he does not understand the power or force of the language in which he finds that Word or doctrine contained? Again, we find he must be apt in teaching, and that word *apt* means a great deal. First, a man must know; second, he must be able, by the proper use of words, to communicate that which he does know, as words are the medium through which we convey our ideas one to another; and for these reasons we would urge it upon our Brethren in the Ministry that they give themselves wholly to the study of the Word of God; that they search the Scriptures, that they may be able, with sound doctrine, to stop the mouths of gainsayers; and not only so, but that they may be able to feed the Church of God over which the Holy Ghost has made them overseers with the sincere milk of the Word, and that they may be able to declare the whole counsel of God; 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 language 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 Judsonia University free of charge for tuition; and similar liberal arrangements have been made with the Centennial Institute, at Warren, Ark., and we would recommend all who can possibly do so to attend these institutions.

Respectfully submitted,

JAS. E. MCGOVERAN, Chairman.

APPENDIX C.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Christianity is inherently progressive. Our Lord himself compared it to leaven, which constantly works by its own natural force. Ever since the persecution which arose about Stephen, scattering the Saints so that they went everywhere preaching the Word, the followers of the Lord Jesus have delighted to tell the story of the Cross to others. It is impossible that the religion of the Bible shall not advance. Everywhere that the life-giving truth of God has come into contact with men, it has proven to be their best friend, their truest civilizer, their richest salvation. Its adaptability to the wants of the human soul commend it to universal acceptance; so that our Lord gave us a work pregnant with

the highest interests of humanity when he commanded us to "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." As his Disciples, and as friends of the great human brotherhood, it is our duty to carry out this command. A dispensation of the Gospel has been committed to us, and it is through our instrumentality that God hath given to His Sons "the heathen for an inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for a possession." Through the evangelization of the nations, the kingdom of God is to break in pieces and destroy the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them, and to bring them into the kingdom of the Lord and his anointed. God has planted his Church in the world in order to subdue the world into harmony with Himself; in order to save His elect from the four quarters of the earth; and the means which He has given us to use is the Gospel of Jesus Christ, His Son; and it is only through the Gospel that men can be saved. There is no other name given under heaven among men but the name of Jesus. But how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they are sent? So, then, the salvation of the world depends, under God, upon the sending of Missionaries to preach the Gospel to the heathen. There is no evidence that God ever converts a soul except in connection with the Gospel, and the Scriptures everywhere teach that no soul can be saved without conversion. So that it is plainly our duty, by all possible means, to bring the Gospel into contact with men's hearts, praying that the Holy Spirit may make it the power of God unto their salvation. Our work is as wide as the world, and must last till our Lord shall come again, without sin unto salvation. How vast and awful is our responsibility in this matter. When the Shepherd shall divide the sheep from the goats, how can we bear to hear the millions of the lost heathen cry, "I never knew there was a Savior; I never heard of Jesus and his great salvation." Brethren, it is high time for us to awaken out of sleep. If we cannot go ourselves to the perishing heathen, we can at least give of our means, as God's stewards, to support those whom He has set apart for this work. And the letters sent to this Association show that our Churches are living in habitual neglect of their duty in this matter. Of the forty-one Churches composing this Association, only one—the Hot Springs Church—reports any systematic effort in behalf of the Foreign Mission work; and two others only—Rockport and Fairplay—send contributions for this object, and these contributions are the result of individual efforts. In view of the wide-spread apathy in regard to this subject, your Committee earnestly recommend the following resolutions:

1. Resolved, That we regard it the duty of every Christian to identify himself actively with the work of preaching the Gospel among the heathen.

2. Resolved, That we urge every Church in this Association to devote at least one meeting regularly each month to prayer for Missions among the heathen, and to getting information in regard thereto.

3. Resolved, That we recommend that each Church in this Association appoint, at its first Conference meeting, a Committee of earnest Brethren and Sisters whose duty it shall be to visit every member of the Church and strive by earnest personal effort to secure a contribution regularly from each one.

4. Resolved, That this Association appoint one delegate in each Church to represent this Association, and urge upon the Church the importance of this Committee; and, also, that the Churches be requested to report the result of their efforts in their Letters to the Association next year.

S. M. PROVENCE, Chairman.

APPENDIX D.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We, your Committee, beg to report as follows:

We find, from all the information accessible to us, that only four Churches of the number represented in this Association, to-wit: Hot Springs, South Fork, Ten Mile Creek and Smith Creek, are manifesting any interest in this very important work. At the last session of the Saline Association there was a resolution adopted, embodied in the report of the Committee on Sabbath Schools, recommending that the Pastors of the various Churches within the bounds of this Association, attend to the organization of Sunday Schools in the Churches under their charge; and we are glad that two Churches—Ten Mile Creek and Smith Creek—have since the last report organized Sunday Schools, and report them in a flourishing condition. The other Churches have wholly failed to carry out the purpose of said resolution, or to do anything whatever in that direction. Two of the Sunday Schools report the use of the International series of Uniform Lessons, published in "Kind Words;" and we do most heartily recommend their adoption and use in all the Sunday Schools that are now, or may hereafter be, organized within the bounds of this Association. It behooves us, as Christians, to use every exertion and employ all the means in our power for the advancement of Christianity in our midst; and we regard the Sunday School as one of the principal aids to the Church in establishing and maintaining the religion of Jesus. To be efficient Christians, we must have a knowledge of God and His will concerning us. And we must endeavor, at least, to impart that knowledge to others. This we can do, as lay members of the Church, in no better way than through the medium of Sunday Schools. We deem it of great importance for our growth in grace and the promotion of the cause of Christianity that we have throughout the bounds of this Association a well organized system of Sunday Schools. And to that end, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of this Association that Sunday Schools are great auxiliaries to the Church in bringing sinners, especially the children, under the moral influence of Christianity and in promoting the religion of Jesus, and that we do most heartily approve of the organization thereof throughout our Associational limits.

Resolved, That the Pastors and Delegates of the various Churches represented do pledge themselves to use their personal efforts, during the ensuing Associational year, to organize a Sunday School in each of their respective Churches.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

JAMES B. WOOD, Chairman.

APPENDIX E.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

The circulation of Religious Literature is an important help in bringing men to a knowledge of the Truth, and in securing greater zeal and efficiency in our Churches. In order to be an intelligent people, we must be a reading people; in order to expand our minds and broaden our sympathies and elevate our affections, we must bring ourselves into contact with the thoughts and sympathies of others. The world recognizes this, and is constantly influencing men by means of the press. If we would withstand the influence of evil and hurtful literature we must antidote the poison with a pure literature. Your Committee would therefore urge upon the Pastors of Churches in this Association to make earnest efforts to induce the members of their Churches to give more time and money to the diffusion of our denominational literature. It is only in this way that our people can be properly instructed in regard to our peculiar views, and be enabled to stay the tide of error that threatens our land. Your Committee would therefore earnestly recommend the following resolutions:

Resolved, That Religious Literature should be abundantly circulated among our people, as a means of religious growth and increased usefulness.

Resolved, That the WESTERN BAPTIST is an ably edited denominational journal, a necessity among our people, and deserving of their patronage and support.

Resolved, That the Southern Baptist Publication Society has our hearty sympathy in its efforts to supply our people with a sound denominational literature.

S. M. PROVENCE, Chairman.

APPENDIX F.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

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

We find the amount sent up by the Churches for printing Minutes to be \$49.40, and \$7.50 for Foreign Missions, all of which is collected and ready to be paid over to the Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,

H. ELLIOTT, Chairman.

APPENDIX G.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTS.

Your Committee on Documents beg leave to report:

On examination, we find that out of the forty-one Churches composing this body, only twenty-five are represented; some of those not represented appointed Delegates, but from sickness they are not here, and some have not been represented for several years. The cause is unknown to us; therefore, we recommend that they be notified through the Minutes to represent themselves at the next meeting of this body or their

names will be dropped. Further, we find nothing of interest in the Letters, except the petition of South Fork Church, for the next session of this body, and that of Spring Creek Church, for a Letter of Dismissal from this body to join the Pine Bluff Association, for convenience, which petitions we recommend be granted.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN A. VERSER, Chairman.

APPENDIX H.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PRAYER MEETINGS.

Your Committee, after hearing the several Letters read, learn that there are several Churches holding prayer meetings, and we would recommend that every Church have prayer meeting each Lord's day. We would refer them to the language of Paul: "Pray without ceasing, and in everything give thanks." And Christ says that "Men ought always to pray and not to faint." Peter says, "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil."

"Prayer is the contrite sinner's voice,
Returning from his ways,
While angels in their songs rejoice,
And cry, "Behold, he prays!"
The Saints, in prayer, appear as one,
In word and deed and mind,
While with the Father and the Son
Sweet fellowship they find."

JOHN C. HENDERSON, Chairman.

ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR POSTOFFICES.

S. Rowe, Hot Springs.	J. Spurtin, Hot Springs.
A. Files, Hot Springs.	J. E. McGoveran, Malvern.
J. R. Holcomb, De Roche.	C. F. Moore, Benton.
B. M. Phillips, De Roche.	R. M. Lindsey, Fitzhugh's Mill.
J. T. Thornton, De Roche.	S. F. Funk, Malvern.
J. H. Howard, Malvern.	A. Tucker, Malvern.
J. Clem, Malvern.	Wm. Tucker, Traskwood.
R. M. Thrasher, Malvern.	F. M. Sanford, Benton.
S. M. Provence, Hot Springs,	J. C. Henderson, Benton.
J. J. Adams, Harrold.	E. L. Manard, North Point.
W. J. Neighbors, Hot Springs.	Wm. P. De Bolt, North Point.
J. B. Neel, Whittington.	

LICENTIATE MINISTERS AND THEIR POSTOFFICES.

William Moore, Benton.	C. J. Elliott, North Point.
H. W. Hewbanks, Benton.	W. R. H. Mills, Whittington.
J. M. Power, Malvern.	D. K. McVay, Malvern.
B. F. Gullett, Malvern.	