

MINUTES

OF THE 8th ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

Mt. Vernon Baptist Association,

Held with the Mt. Vernon Church, St. Francis Co., Ark.

Commencing October 3d, 1861.

OFFICERS:

REV. T. S. N. KING.....	MODERATOR.
REV. W. H. BARKSDALE.....	CLERK.
REV. P. S. G. WATSON.....	Cor. Sec.
J. C. McCrARY.....	TREASURER.

NASHVILLE, TENN:

SOUTH WESTERN PUBLISHING HOUSE.

GRAVES, MARKS & CO.

1861.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

AS OBSERVED BY THIS BODY.

- 1 Called together by the Moderator for the purpose of hearing the Introductory Sermon.

An Intermission.

Delegates re-assembled, Moderator and Clerk at their seats.

2. Letters read and Delegates enrolled.
3. Election of Officers for ensuing year.
4. Petitionary Letters.
5. Call for Correspondence.
6. Invite Visiting Brethren to seats with us.
7. Appoint Committee on Religious Exercises.
8. Report of Standing Committees on
 - Domestic Missions.
 - Education.
 - Sabbath Schools.
 - Colportage.
 - Temperance.
 - Instruction of Colored Population.
9. Report of Executive Board.
10. Executive Board nominated.
11. Contributions from Churches.
12. Determine place of next annual meeting.
13. Appoint a Brother to preach the Introductory.
14. Appoint the Standing Committees.
15. Correspondence and Messengers appointed to sister bodies.
16. Report on Finance.
17. Printing of Minutes and number.
18. Reading of Minutes.
19. Parting Address.

PROCEEDINGS.

MOUNT VERNON CHURCH, St. Francis Co. }
Thursday Morning, Oct. 3, 1861. }

The messengers from the various churches comprising the Mt. Vernon Baptist Association convened this morning with the above mentioned church according to previous adjournment.

In the absence of the former Moderator, Eld. T. S. N. King, by request called the Association together for the purpose of hearing the Introductory preached by Elder B. F. Thomas, according to previous appointment. Text: 2 Samuel v: 24.

After the sermon Bro. S. Hall, former Moderator, having arrived, assumed his seat, and, by motion, the usual intermission was postponed until the Association could be organized.

Prayer by Elder H. R. Bray.

Reading of letters and enrolling names of messengers.

Letters from Sterling Church requested that Elders T. S. N. King and P. S. G. Watson might be permitted to represent them in this body, as the entire church, with one exception, was composed of sisters, and that exception lived too inconvenient to attend. After some discussion it was considered unconstitutional, as these brethren were already messengers from other churches. The letter was read as their representation.

All names being enrolled, the Association proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, which, upon ballot, resulted as follows: Elder T. S. N. King, Moderator, Elder W. H. Barksdale, Clerk, Elder P. S. G. Watson, Corresponding Secretary, Deacon John C. McCrary, Treasurer.

A Committee on Religious Exercises being called for, was immediately appointed, consisting of Deacons Jno. McDaniel, Spence Hall and H. Hopkins.

The Committee retired, and after a few moments consulta-

tion reported preaching to-night at 6 o'clock by Elder W. D. Terry.

On motion, adjourned until Friday morning 7 o'clock.

Prayer by Elder P. S. G. Watson.

Friday Morning, Oct. 4th, 9 o'clock.

The Association convened this morning at the appointed hour, and after prayer by Elder T. J. Parker, the business was resumed.

1st. By reading the minutes.

2d. Calling of the roll and marking absentees.

3d. On motion, the Association agreed to adjourn at 11 o'clock this morning for the purpose of hearing preaching.

Delegates having petitioning letters were requested to hand them in, which were read, and names of said messengers were enrolled by the clerk, while the hand of fellowship was extended by the Moderator. The churches thus received were Mt. Zion, of Phillips, and Mt. Moria, of Monroe.

The Chairman on Religious Exercises announced himself as ready to report, and being called on, submitted the following appointments: Elder T. J. Parker at 11 o'clock this morning; Elder H. R. Bray at 7 P. M.; Elder T. U. Wilks at 11 o'clock, A. M., on Saturday; Elder T. S. N. King at 7 o'clock, P. M.; Elder W. H. Barksdale at 11 o'clock on Sabbath morning; Elder P. S. G. Watson at 2 o'clock, P. M. Said appointments were confirmed by the Association, and the Committee discharged.

Visiting brethren were invited to seats, but no messengers from other Associations had as yet arrived.

The regular order of business, as seen upon the back of the minutes of the previous session, was, by motion, adopted as the order of the present, excepting the items which have already been acted upon.

On motion, the request of the Moderator to be allowed until after dinner to make out the Committees, to report at the next meeting of this body, was carried.

The hour for preaching having now arrived, the Association adjourned until 2 o'clock, P. M.

Friday Evening, 2 o'clock.

After preaching, and partaking of a most excellent dinner which the neighbors and brethren kindly furnished at the church, the Association came together by singing the beautiful hymn,

"There is a land of pure delight,
Where saints immortal reign."

The order of business as adopted, was, by motion, now suspended to hear the report on Domestic Missions, which, having been read by the clerk, elicited a good many remarks from the brethren, deploring the destitution, and urging each other to do all they could to supply the destitute regions with the preached word, and inasmuch as the war which is now upon us renders it impossible to raise funds to send out missionaries, it was conceded that the only practicable mode would be for churches to relinquish a portion of their pastor's time without diminishing their salaries to go out and hold protracted meetings in those places thus destitute. Much feeling of solicitude prevailed in the Association, and the brethren all united in fervent prayer at a throne of grace in behalf of so suitable an object. Elder T. U. Wilks led in these devotions, after which the report was adopted.

Your Committee appointed at the last session of the Association to report at this, in the absence of the chairman, beg leave to make the following report: Your Committee, after having consulted with your missionaries, have to report an amount of destitution exceeding their expectations, but owing to the alarming condition of our political relations and the stringency of monied affairs consequent thereon, we feel at a loss to suggest an efficient plan by which said destitution can be met. As the best and an *only* remedy that we can call to mind we would offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That the ministers of the Association extend their fields to the extent of their ability to occupy, and that their churches be requested to sustain them in so doing by releasing a portion of their times as pastors.

JOHN McDANIEL,
JOHN CRARY.

Report on Education was next called for, which was read by the chairman, and after some interesting remarks by the same was adopted.

Your Committee on Education beg leave to report that next to the various means used in disseminating the truths of the Gospel, the subject of education demands the attention of this body. So far as known to your Committee there is but one chartered institution of learning under the control of Baptists within the bounds of this Association, to wit: the Western Home Institute in St. Francis county. This institution, if properly encouraged, may prove a great blessing to the churches of this Association. The cause of education now demands four-fold more attention than at any former period. Our country is now in the transition state, from that state of things in which settlers think it requires all the energies of both parents and children to clear the ground, raise the means of subsistence, and pay for the land. Our people are rapidly passing into another state, with plantations cleared, settled, and paid for, and well supplied with stock, and all the means and appliances necessary to cultivate them. In this condition they will feel that the education of their sons and daughters is a matter of the first importance. If institutions are not built up at home they will send them out of the State. In that event we will lose thousands and tens of thousands of dollars out of the State, as well as the brightest genius and best talents, both male and female, by their forming matrimonial alliances and business arrangements in the States where they are educated.

Another cause which ought to prompt us to immediate and energetic action is, that we have voluntarily withdrawn from the Northern abolitionized States, and hence it would be inconsistent and impolitic to patronize their institutions of learning, or in any other way throw means into their hands which they may hereafter (as they have already done) use to procure our destruction. If we would have our churches supplied with efficient officers and members we must engage heartily in the great work of educating our children. Many good brethren are mourning over the great destitution, not only within the bounds of this Association, but throughout our entire State. The surest way to supply this destitution is to build up high schools and colleges in our own State, and furnish our people with the facilities of procuring an education. With these opportunities let the churches seek out those whom God has called to preach, and give them the means of studying God's eternal truth, as given originally by inspiration in the

Hebrew of the Old Testament and the Greek of the New Testament, and they will become mighty in the Scriptures, and go forth to do battle for the King of Hosts. Within the space ordinarily occupied by a report of this kind it is impossible to elaborate a subject of so great importance as the one under consideration; hence we respectfully submit these few thoughts to the deliberate and prayerful consideration of your body, and to all who may read the same.

B. F. THOMAS, Chairman.

The Chairman on Sabbath Schools presented his report, which was read, and after speeches from various brethren was adopted.

DEAR BRETHREN:—The other Committee men being absent we are pained to state that there are but few Sabbath Schools within this Association. This destitution is caused in part by neglect, which can of course be remedied for the future, and it should be done. Parents are guilty of much wrong in neglecting to send their children to Sabbath Schools. Being in favor of a short report on a subject so plain to every one we conclude by offering the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That the pastors within this Association be requested to deliver to their several churches this fall a sermon each upon Sabbath Schools, and to endeavor to establish schools in every destitute church of this body.

2: That we recommend the books of the Southern Baptist Sabbath School Union, published at Nashville by Graves, Marks & Co.

Respectfully submitted,

A. H. HOPKINS.

The Moderator then announced the following Committees to report next year:

Domestic Missions—B. F. Thomas, John McDaniel, H. L. Cordell.

Education—P. S. G. Watson, A. H. Hoskins, A. E. Lockhart.

Sabbath Schools—T. U. Wilks, G. R. Johnson and H. P. Slaughter.

Colportage—Wm. Terry, H. R. Bray, W. C. Patterson.

Temperance—W. A. Huff, T. J. Porter, John C. McCrary.

Colored Population—W. H. Barksdale, Spence Hall, William Chastain.

Finance—H. P. Slaughter, G. R. Johnson, A. E. Lockhart.

The Association then adjourned until 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Prayer by Deacen Spence Hall.

• Saturday Morning, 9 o'clock.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer by Elder W. H. Barksdale.

Report on Colportage called for. The Committee being absent, brethren B. F. Thomas and P. S. G. Watson were by motion appointed to prepare a report on said subject.

The Committee on Temperance was next in order, which being also absent, brother John C. McCray, by motion, was requested to prepare in lieu thereof a resolution embodying the sentiment of this body on that subject.

The report on the religious instruction of the Colored Population was next in order; said Committee was likewise absent, and upon motion, the old report was substituted, with the omission of the third article, accompanied with the request that the pastors or preachers of the Association report the result of their labors among the people.

Your Committee appointed on the religious instruction of our Colored Population submit the following:

They conceive it wholly unnecessary now to spend time in showing the importance or duty, of having the Gospel preached to this class of persons. They are in our midst, and under our control; and by no manner of means can we shift the responsibility. Nor will the mere passing of resolutions accomplish anything. There must be action; prompt and persevering action on our part, if we would do our whole duty to them. We recommend 1st: That our ministering brethren preach to the colored people in our bounds, wherever a door may be open for them to do so.

2d. That the churches in our bounds do all in their power—in such manner as they may judge best—to have the great truths of Christianity made known to them.

Correspondence on the appointing of Messengers to sister

Associations was taken up and disposed of by the former motion as here seen :

On motion, any Brother who is a member of this body, and who may visit any of the Associations, with whom we have heretofore corresponded, is requested, and hereby delegated to represent us, in said body as our Messenger.

Resolved, That this Association instruct her Clerk to have six hundred copies of the minutes of the present session printed, and distributed among the different churches according to their membership, and that he be allowed ten dollars for his compensation, and that he draw on the Treasurer for said amount.

Contributions from churches was postponed until recess when the Finance Committee could call each church together, receive their contributions, and then simply report the amounts from the churches.

On motion the 18th item of business was postponed until the 19th item in order could be taken up and disposed of.

The church of Ash Grove having petitioned for the next Association obtained it by the unanimous voice of this body.

The hour of preaching having arrived, the Association adjourned until after services, subject to the call of the Moderator.

Saturday Evening, half past 2 o'clock.

Preaching, and the partaking of refreshments being over, the Association re-assembled at the call of the Moderator.

Report of Treasurer was received, read, approved, and ordered to be published.

Report of the Treasurer to the Executive Board of the Mount Vernon Association, Oct. 4th, 1861.

To as charged on Minutes of last session for which see

Minutes	\$179.80
Received since from Bro. Cordell.....	5 00
“ “ “ Bro. J. O. Bowdon.....	5 00
	<hr/>
	\$189 80

Amount brought forward.....	\$189 80
Received at the present session per Bro. Parker:	
J. M. McAdams.....	\$2 50
T. J. McAdams.....	2 50
Jessee Skipper.....	2 50
J. B. Honeycut.	2 50
T. J. Parker.....	5 00
Thos McAdams.....	2 50— 17 50
To amount paid by Bro. Mitchell.....	43 75
Received of R. Brown for Bro. Wilker.....	10 00
Dewit Church.....	1 70
Total.....	<u>\$262 75</u>

Credit by amount paid—

H. R. Bray per order of Board.....	\$100 00
Paid T. J. Parker.....	72 92
Balance on hand.....	<u>\$90 92</u>

We, your Committee on Finance, have examined the above,
and find it correct. H. P. SLAUGHTER, Chairman.

Report of Treasurer to Mount Vernon Association, October
4th, 1861, for Associational expenses.

To amount on hand from last session as per Minutes....	\$72 20
Received present session.....	54 00
Total.....	<u>\$126 20</u>

CREDIT—

By amount paid for Minutes.....	\$45 00
Paid Bro. Barhsdale as Clerk.....	10 00— 55 00
Balance on hand.....	<u>\$71 20</u>

J. C. McCrary.

We, the Committee on Finance have examined accounts,
and find it correct. H. P. SLAUGHTER, Chairman.

The Chairman on Colportage submitted his report, which
upon being read, was accompanied by some very appropriate
remarks from the brethren. A collection was taken up, which
resulted in the following subscriptions for Testaments, to be
distributed among soldiers according to the direction of the
subscribers:

In money—G. R. Johnson \$12 50, T. J. Parker \$1, W. C. Pat-
terson 50 cents, W. A. Huff \$1, W. C. Chastern 50 cents, G. F.

Black \$1, John C. McCrary \$1, Spence Hall \$1, A. E. Lockart \$1—\$19 50 at \$12 50 per hundred would make 156 Testaments.

In Testaments—H. R. Bray 50, (all of Bro. B.'s now on hand and his request granted by the Clerk), H. P. Slaughter 50, Jno. McDaniel 100, P. S. G. Walton 12, Wm. T. Tomlinson 12, A. H. Hopkins 50, T. U. Wilks 50, W. H. Barksdale 25, B. F. Thomas 25, T. S. N. King 25—399.

On motion the Clerk was requested to correspond with Graves, Marks & Co., and attend to the procuring and distributing of said books.

Resolved, That we regard the distribution of the sacred Scriptures and such religious books and Tracts as are approved by the Baptist denomination, among the people within the bounds of this Association, of vital importance to the success of the churches in the same.

2d. That we approve of the present noble effort to have every soldier in the army of the Confederate States of America supplied with the Scriptures and religious literature, and we would respectfully recommend that the brethren composing the churches of the Mount Vernon Baptist Association, and all persons friendly to the enterprise, to aid in the great work to the extent of their ability, contributing money or such Bibles, Testaments, and religious books as they can spare out of their libraries. Respectfully submitted,

B. F. THOMAS, }
P. S. G. WATSON, } Committee.

Resolved, That Bro. W. H. Barksdale be, and he is hereby, appointed to receive and appropriate any and all contributions in money, Bibles, Testaments, or approved books, for the purpose of furnishing said soldiers with the Scriptures and said books. The donors are to specify the company, regiment, among whom they shall be distributed.

Report on Temperance called for and adopted.

Your Committee regret exceedingly the absence of the Committee appointed at the last session, and would only ask leave to submit the following resolution:

Resolved, That this body deem the subject of Temperance one of vital importance, and will offer all possible aid for its advancement, and also throw every obstacle we can consistently to prevent the sale of ardent spirits as a beverage.

J. C. McCRARY, Committee.

The following resolution was then offered and passed.

Resolved, In view of the unhappy, and as we believe, unjust war in which our country is involved, that we suggest to the ministers in our bounds to urge upon all our churches the duty of importunate and continued prayer to Almighty God for His blessing to rest upon our Confederate States and Government, feeling we can appeal with all confidence to the Great Arbiter of Events for the justice of our cause.

The Association then elected by ballot a brother to preach the introductory, which resulted in Elder T. U. Wilks, and P. S. G. Watson as his alternate.

The following brethren were appointed by acclamation to compose the Executive Board: P. S. G. Watson, A. H. Hopkins, J. H. Hicks, W. T. Terry and H. Mooney.

The following resolutions were passed:

Resolved, That this Association instruct her Clerk to have six hundred copies of the present session printed and distributed among the different churches according to their membership, and that he be allowed ten dollars for his compensation, and that he draw on the Treasurer for said amount.

WHEREAS, Since the last session of our Association, owing to the depression in monetary matters, it became necessary to suspend the publication of the *Arkansas Baptist*, therefore

Resolved, That while we regret the loss of the *Arkansas Baptist*, we commend the cause of the editor.

Resolved, That the thanks of this body are due, and are hereby tendered, to the members of the Mount Vernon church, as also the citizens in the neighborhood, for the very kind manner in which they have entertained the members of the Association during its session.

Notice was then filed that the following changes would be made in the Constitution:

I give notice that at the next session of this Association I will move an alteration in the Constitution, 9th Article.

P. S. G. WATSON.

Report of the Executive Board was then read and adopted.

The Board of the Mount Vernon Baptist Association submit the following report of their proceedings since the session of 1860:

Your Board was called together by the Chairman in March last, at Helena, to receive reports from the Missionaries appointed at your last meeting.

Elder T. J. Parker, from the field assigned him, reported that he had devoted five months labor, preached 68 sermons, baptized 6 persons, assisted in the constitution of two churches, and in the ordination of two deacons. Hereupon the Treasurer was ordered to pay Bro. Parker \$73 92.

Elder H. R. Bray, from his field, reported having traveled 625 miles, spent 190 days, preached 125 sermons, assisted in the constitution of two churches, and baptized 8 persons: has kept up regular preaching at five places through the year. An order was passed in favor of Bro. Bray on the Treasurer for \$100 according to the agreement at last session.

Elder B. F. Thomas subsequently reported that he had labored twenty-two days, traveled 218 miles, preached 28 sermons, delivered 14 exhortations, gave 3 lectures, baptized 13, received by letter 8, raised in subscriptions \$49 25, and collected of the same \$32 25.

Bro. Thomas concludes his report by saying "The results of my labors deeply impressed upon my mind the importance of this Association making more energetic efforts to have the Gospel preached to the destitute within our bounds."

The above embraces all the business that has come before the Board, which is respectfully submitted,

T. S. N. KING, Chairman.

W. H. BARKSDALE, Secretary.

The following resolution was ordered to be spread upon the Minutes:

Resolved, That we recommend to the Baptists of this body the "Southern Psalmist" with the Arkansas supplement, published by Graves, Marks & Co., of Nashville, Tenn., and sold by Eld. W. H. Barksdale of Helena, Ark. Price 55c to \$1 50.

On motion, brethren Spence Hall, W. H. Barksdale and P. S. G. Watson were appointed delegates to the State Convention.

On motion, the Moderator was requested to appoint five brethren to represent this Association in the S. B. S. Convention; the following were appointed: Elders B. F. Thomas, P. S. G. Watson, W. H. Barksdale, and Deacons Spence Hall and G. R. Johnson.

The business of the Association was thus harmoniously disposed of, and the 8th Annual Session of this body closed with brotherly love pervading every bosom. The Moderator in a very appropriate manner delivered the parting admonition. After which the brethren united in singing and prayer, and then adjourned to meet on Thursday before the 1st Sabbath in October, 1862, with Ash Grove Church, St. Francis county, Arkansas.

T. S. N. KING, Moderator.

WM. H. BARKSDALE, Clerk.

A LIST OF MINISTERS IN MT. VERNON ASSOCIATION.

ORDAINED.	POST OFFICE.	
Elder T. S. N. King.....	Helena	Elder T. U. Wilks.....Trenton
Elder W. H. Barksdale.....	Helena	Elder E. Holland.....Trenton
Elder B. F. Thomas.....	Madison	Elder W. H. Pangle.....Due West
Elder R. H. Bray.....	Cotton Plant	Elder W. D. Terry.....Moro
Elder W. J. Hood.....	Hamilton	Elder W. M. Rapier.....Moro
Elder M. W. Isard.....	Madison	
Elder H. G. Ramsower.....	St. Charles	LICENTIATES
Elder T. J. Parker.....	Dewitt	J. W. Sullivan.....Moro
Elder P. S. G. Watson.....	Lagrange	James Enslee.....Helena
		J. Hobbs.....Cotton Plant
		J. C. Ervin.....Lawrenceville

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Total number 25.