


10-3-1857

# Proceedings of the Tenth Annual Session of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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## Recommended Citation

Arkansas Baptist State Convention, "Proceedings of the Tenth Annual Session of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention" (1857).  
*Arkansas Baptist State Convention Annuals*. 19.  
<https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/abscannuals/19>

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

TENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Arkansas Baptist State Convention,

HELD WITH THE SAMARIA CHURCH,

Dallas County, Arkansas, October 3-5, 1857.

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PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS.

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE "JEFFERSON ENTERPRISE,"

BY WILLOUGHBY WILLIAMS, JR.

## PROCEEDINGS.

SATURDAY, October 3, 1857.

The Arkansas Baptist State Convention celebrated its tenth anniversary with the Samaria Church, Dallas county, Ark., commencing October 3d, and, in consequence of the almost incessant rains in the forenoon, failed to meet at the hour for which it adjourned, but met at 3 o'clock P. M. The introductory sermon was delivered by Elder T. H. Compere, alternate of Elder P. S. G. Watson—text, John, 15th chap., 14th verse: "*Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you.*"

The President and Secretary being absent, Elder Wm. M. Lea was appointed President *pro tem.*, and M. W. McCraw Secretary *pro tem.* A hymn was then sung; prayer by Elder A. L. Hay. The President then invited the messengers to the Convention to come forward and have their names enrolled. The following is a list:

*Samaria Church.*—R. W. Dickinson, S. E. Hall, J. T. Rogers.

*Camden Church.*—T. Malone, Elders J. Hartwell and A. L. Hay.

*Liberty Association.*—Brethren Hartwell, Madlin, Carleton, Warren and Hay.

*Individual Contributors.*—Elders D. Buckley, W. M. Lea, R. M. Thrasher, T. H. Compere and S. Steverson; brethren D. Cunningham, E. A. Harris, M. W. McCraw, D. C. Hall, M. S. Buckley, R. W. Dickinson, S. E. Hall, J. T. Rogers, W. W. Johnson, W. Harrell, W. Daniel, J. J. Harris, T. H. Brown, J. R. McCargo and John McCargo.

The Convention was then regularly organized by electing Elder W. M. Lea President, and M. W. McCraw Secretary. The following committees were appointed:

*On Preaching.*—During the session of the Convention, the pastor and deacons of Samaria Church.

*On Education.*—D. Buckley, T. H. Compere, E. M. Harris, R. M. Thrasher, D. Cunningham. Moved by Elder Thrasher, and adopted by the body, that the President be added to the committee.

*On Denominational Paper.*—Elders Hay, Compere and Hartwell.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock Monday morning. Prayer by brother Hartwell.

SABBATH, 11 o'clock A. M.

According to appointment, Elder D. Buckley preached on education from 2d Tim., 2d chap., 15th verse: "*Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly divining the word of truth.*" The sermon was literary, interesting and appropriate; showing himself to be a workman that needeth not to be ashamed. At 2 o'clock P. M., by request, Elder J. Hartwell, D. D., preached a sermon on the revision of the English Scriptures—text, Jeremiah, 22d chap., 1st verse: "*Thus saith the Lord.*" It is difficult to describe the sermon appropriately; suffice it to say, it was one of bro. Hartwell's best efforts.

MONDAY MORNING, October 5, 1857.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment, and, after singing one of Zion's songs, and brother Stephenson leading in prayer, the Convention resumed business. The minutes of Saturday were read and approved. An invitation was again given for individual contributors. Bros. Daniel and Harris came forward, and their names enrolled. On motion by bro. Compere, bro. Dickinson, Daniel, Stokes, Harris and D. C. Hall were appointed a committee to nominate preachers to preach at the next session of the Convention.

On motion by Elder Hay, Elders T. H. Compere, D. Buckley and J. Hartwell be requested to furnish a copy of their sermons to bro. Hay and Thrasher for publication.

On motion, the committee on preaching for the ensuing year, was appointed the committee on nominations. Reports from committees. See appendix.

The Convention took a recess till one o'clock. After recess, and prayer by bro. Hay, the Convention resumed business.

*Resolved*, That the next session of the Convention be held with the Church in Charleston, Franklin county, Ark.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary have one thousand copies of these minutes printed and distributed, and he receive fifteen dollars for his services, and that he draw money from our Treasurer to pay the same.

*Resolved*, That bro. W. M. Lea be requested to write a circu-

lar, to be printed with these minutes, expressing the views of this Convention in regard to a denominational paper and school in this State. Sundown. The Convention took a short recess. Candle lighting sermon by Elder W. M. Lea. Immediately after which the President called the Convention to order and resumed business. On motion, by bro. Thrasher,

*Resolved further*, That in locating the college mentioned in a report already referred to, and all other important matters relating thereto, which may require a vote of those concerned, that one hundred dollars shall be necessary to entitle any one to vote, and that every donor shall be entitled to one vote for every hundred dollars subscribed, and that donors and those who take scholarships may vote by proxy; and two-thirds of said votes present at any meeting of the Convention, shall determine and decide all questions pertaining to the locating of said college.

*Resolved*, That the sum of eighteen dollars and seventy cents, sent here by bro. Douthet from the Saline Association, be paid to our Treasurer.

*Resolved*, That we heartily recommend the present move of the Southern Educational Convention, in the endowment of a Southern Theological College at Greenville, South Carolina.

*Resolved unanimously*, That the Constitution be so amended that the annual meetings of this Convention be held on Saturday before the third Sabbath in October.

*Resolved*, That all unfinished business of this body be referred to the Executive Board.

*Resolved*, That we tender our thanks to the brethren and community of Samaria Church for the kind and hospitable manner in which they have entertained the Convention.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Convention be tendered to the President for the able and impartial manner in which he presided over this body.

*Resolved*, That this Convention now adjourn to the time and place appointed. Prayer by Dr. Hartwell. Thus closed one of the most harmonious sessions of the Convention.

W. M. LEA, *President*.

M. W. McCRAW, *Secretary*.

[A]

## REPORT ON DENOMINATIONAL PAPER.

The progress of the denomination in other States enables us to know that very much depends on a Baptist paper. Baptists

of this State feel the importance of a paper; and as two of our number, with a little aid from the denomination, will establish a paper,

*Resolved, therefore,* That we recommend the enterprise proposed by brethren Thrasher and Hay; and as they will establish a paper, and take all the responsibility of publishing the same, if the denomination will purchase a press,

*Resolved,* That we invite those brethren to visit the Churches and solicit contributions to purchase a press, and that we urge the members, and all who wish a Baptist paper, to contribute liberally. We invite brethren in their neighborhoods to solicit funds for the purchase of a press, and send the amounts to Camden; and if the requisite amount be not raised, bros. Thrasher and Hay be authorized to use the funds in purchasing denominational books for judicious distribution.

THOS. H. COMPERE, }  
A. L. HAY, } Committee.

[B]

#### THE COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENT OF PREACHING

Offer the following as their report: The annual sermons were preached by brethren whose names appear in the minutes. Monday evening, 8 o'clock, Elder W. M. Lea delivered a very interesting discourse from John, 6th chapter, 68th verse: "*Lord, to whom shall we go?*" And we humbly pray the Great Head of the Church to bless the word preached by the brethren to His glory. All of which is respectfully submitted.

R. M. THRASHER, *Chairman.*

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

Feeling and seeing the great necessity of educating the rising generation in our State, and more especially that of our young ministers, and believing we should not send either our money or young ministers out of our State, we would recommend the following resolutions:

*Resolved,* That we will build up and endow a first class male college, at some suitable point in our State.

*Resolved,* That we will raise, as an endowment fund, \$100,000 by scholarships of \$500 each, and by subscriptions.

*Resolved,* That no subscriptions or scholarships shall be con-

sidered due until the \$100,000 endowment fund be secured.

*Resolved,* That all cash subscriptions of \$50, and under, shall be appropriated for college building, agent's salary, &c.

*Resolved,* That as soon as the \$100,000 endowment fund is raised, all scholarships and subscriptions shall be considered due, and shall be paid in, or the donors shall pay annually ten per cent. on his or her subscription or scholarship.

*Resolved,* That we will appoint one or more agents for the purpose of raising the endowment fund, who shall canvass the State.

*Resolved,* That our agents are authorized to take subscriptions to the amount of \$25,000 for the purpose of endowing a theological chair.

*Resolved,* That we will co-operate with some individual school for the present, where our young ministers can attend school free of charge.

*Resolved,* That we appoint bro. W. M. Lea to correspond with brethren now engaged in teaching, for the purpose of adopting a school for the time being; and as soon as the object be attained, make his report to the Executive Board.

D. BUCKLEY, *Chairman.*

[D]

#### THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Would respectfully submit the following report: There were Sunday appointments made for meetings of the Board, but it met only three times. The Board tried to procure the services of Elders J. R. Coleman, R. M. Thrasher, P. S. G. Watson, T. S. N. King, J. Weston and bro. J. J. Harris. We failed to procure the services of any of the above-mentioned brethren, except bro. J. J. Harris, who agreed to commence operations last spring. Owing to some cause, or causes, unknown to the chairman, we have no report from him. All of which is respectfully submitted.

M. W. McCRAW, *Chairman.*

[C]

#### THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS.

We, your committee, to whom were referred the appointment of ministers to preach the annual sermons before this body at its next session, beg leave to report, viz: Elder T. P. Boon, intro-

ductory sermon, and A. L. Hay his alternate; and on Sabbath, 11 o'clock A. M., Elder P. S. G. Watson, on Ministerial Education, and Elder W. M. Lea his alternate; and at 3 o'clock P. M., Elder Samuel Steverson, the Revision of the English Scriptures, and Elder D. Buckley his alternate; and at night, Elder T. H. Compere on Ministerial Support, and A. Yates his alternate. And we furthermore nominate the following brethren as the Executive Board for this conventional year: Elder R. M. Thrasher, President; N. G. Smith and M. W. McCraw, Vice-Presidents; J. J. Harris, Corresponding Secretary, and E. M. Harris, Treasurer.

MANAGERS.

Wm. Daniel,	Jonathan McCargo,
D. C. Hall,	D. Cunningham,
D. G. Stokes,	James Ketchum,
R. W. Dickinson,	James Woods,
T. H. Brown,	E. L. Dickinson,
Thomas Malone,	Elder Solomon Gardner,
R. M. Dickinson,	<i>Chairman.</i>

Elder R. M. Thrasher, President of the Executive Board—Post Office, Tulip, Arkansas.

J. J. Harris, Corresponding Secretary of the Board—Post Office, Tulip, Arkansas.

E. M. Harris, Treasurer of the Board—Post Office, Tulip, Ark.

TO THE FRIENDS OF EDUCATION IN ARKANSAS.

By a resolution in these minutes, I am requested to write a circular, giving the views of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention on two resolutions adopted by that body—first, the establishment of a denominational paper in the State; secondly, the endowment of a male college. These are very important objects, and are not by any means of a spontaneous character, or the growth of a day, but, with a well adjusted foundation, are as durable as they are beneficial. Experience has taught almost every minister of the household of faith in the State, that we, as a denomination, have and do labor under many disadvantages for the want of a denominational organ. Our brethren and friends in our State, for the most part, read the Tennessee Baptist, and in our opinion it is one of the ablest defenders of Bible truth, and Baptist doctrines, now published; but such are the irregularities of our mails, that before our communications can go to a neighboring State and return to us in print, often the

interest is measurably lost, or the object defeated—the notices of our associations and conventions, the meetings of their boards, and other notices of vital interest to the cause of Christ among us, and but little to brethren at a distance. They have their State, family and religious papers, weekly visitors, and they enjoy the rich repast as they gather the gems from the columns of a well conducted religious paper; and every State in the South, except Florida and Arkansas, has one or more Baptist papers. And shall we remain inactive in this matter because others have done so before us? Our membership is increasing rapidly, and the productive qualities of our lands are not surpassed by any; and is it still to be a question whether Baptists can edit and sustain a paper in Arkansas? Let echo answer, no. Elders Thrasher and Hay, of Camden, have very nobly proposed, (by way of giving the paper a start,) to assume all responsibilities, publish and edit a Baptist paper, if the brethren and friends will contribute means to buy the press, &c. We should not despise the day of small things. What if the paper be small at the beginning? How few of the many large sheets now, began otherwise. Let us begin with a small sheet, and enlarge it as circumstances will allow.

The school enterprise, I might say, is now the object of the Convention—a male college. It is the wish of the Convention that the Board appoint agents immediately to canvass the State, and raise the endowment fund of \$100,000, as soon as possible for said school, by scholarships and subscriptions. Five hundred dollars constitute a scholarship, payable when the \$100,000 is secured, or ten per cent. on all subscriptions or scholarships annually. All scholarships entitle the donor, for every scholarship taken, to the tuition of one scholar in the school forever. All persons contributing by scholarships, subscriptions or moneys paid, are entitled to one vote for every \$100 thus contributed in locating the college. See report on education. As it is the wish of the Convention to enlist the Baptists of the entire State, it is hoped nothing of a sectional feeling will arise as to the location of the school. Brethren in the southern portion of the State, as far as I have seen on the subject, are perfectly willing that some high, healthy part of the State be selected, where the school can be sustained, and board cheap. Every State south has at least one Baptist college, except ours and Florida. If your sons would acquire an education they are driven to the necessity of going to some other State, with a heavy expense attending to and from school, and parents deprived of their company for years, and the pleasant task of aiding the teachers in impressing morals on the youthful mind, which is an essential part of a polite education.

We are prompted very forcibly with another reason why Baptists should have a male college in Arkansas. Our young men preparing for the ministry are now in other States; and how few of them will return. They there form associations, and it becomes a home, and the older States are able to offer them inducements which take from us many of our most talented and gifted young ministers. Do we not need their influence and labors, even during the two months or the vacation of the school, every year? We have some brethren in the ministry who have families, and are anxious to acquire the art, at least of speaking their own language correctly, that they may the better teach others the way of the Lord, and with a little help from the churches, might spend three or four months in a year in school for a few years. The school being convenient, and tuition free, would be an inducement for many to make the effort, which would prove a lasting benefit to them and the cause of Christ. See what other States have done in a few years. Mississippi has a college at Clinton with a \$100,000 endowment fund; Union University, Murfreesboro, Tenn., the same; Mt. Lebanon, La., is looking up, and no doubt will soon take her stand by the side of the tall ones; Madison College, West Tennessee, at Spring Creek, is now shaking off the shackles which bound her in littleness for a spell, but is now rising in her strength, asserting her claims not inferior to others. In the above-mentioned schools are from fifteen to thirty-five young men preparing for the ministry. And shall we say the time has not come for Arkansas Baptists to create and sustain a male school of high character? Let it not once be mentioned among us, for the time is fully come, and duty calls aloud for a united effort by our brethren and friends throughout the State, and with that effort the work can be easily accomplished. Brethren in the ministry are respectfully solicited to call the attention of their respective congregations to the two resolutions mentioned in this circular, and come up with them to the next anniversary of the Convention, as important measures will claim the attention of the body at that time. In consequence of the unusual sickness in our State, and the protracted rains through the entire session of the Convention, sufficiently explains the thinness of the last session of this body.

W. M. LEA.