

10-1860

# The Minutes of the Thirteenth Session of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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THE MINUTES  
AMERICAN BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
1100 S. GOODMAN ST.  
ROCHESTER 20, NEW YORK

THIRTEENTH SESSION

OF THE

ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION,

HELD IN

PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS.

November 26th to 29th, 1860.



LITTLE ROCK:  
TRUE DEMOCRAT PRINT.  
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**MINUTES**  
OF THE  
**ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION.**

PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS,  
Friday, October 26th, 1860.

The Arkansas Baptist State Convention met in the city of Pine Bluff, Ark., on the 26th of October, A. D., 1860.

The President and Secretary being present, the Convention was called to order to proceed in its business. Prayer by Eld. R. J. Coleman.

Delegates from Churches and Associations were called for by the President, whereupon the following were enrolled:

CHURCHES.

*New Hope, Dallas county:* Elder A. Yates,\* William Daniel\* and E. L. Dickinson.\*

*Samaria, Dallas county:* D. C. Hall,\* John P. Hall\* and M. W. McCraw.

*Pine Bluff, Jefferson county:* Elder Wm. M. Lea, T. A. Read and L. S. Read.

*Providence, Jefferson county:* Elder R. J. Coleman, Sidney Worthen and H. Woodard.

*Alabama, Dallas county:* Eld. J. T. Craig.

*Little Rock, Pulaski county:* Elders, P. S. G. Watson, J. F. Hooten and S. K. Melton.

*Princeton, Dallas county:* S. G. Greer, R. H. Hoshall and Wm. Connell.\*

*Providence, Drew county:* J. D. Johnson.

Absentees marked thus.\*

ASSOCIATIONS.

*Caroline:* Elders, G. W. Thompson, J. M. Cox, and brethren, R. A. Edwards\* and L. L. Boone.\*

*Red River:* Elders, M. D. Bell,\* Miles L. Langley,\* S. Stevenson, and brethren, W. Brown,\* and T. A. Heard.\*

*Bartholomew:* W. R. Trawick and J. D. Johnson.

*Union:* Elders, E. B. Dover, T. P. Boone\* and F. M. Wadley.\*

*Mount Vernon:* Elders, W. H. Barksdale and T. J. Parker.

*Judson:* Elders, Sol. Gardner,\* H. M. Wilkinson, and B. Hendley, and brother W. H. Bradshaw.

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS.

Nat. G. Smith \$5, N. Holland 50 cts., J. P. B. Alexander \$1, I. Holcomb \$1, Wm. Majors 25 cts., C. C. Verser \$2 50, W. F. Morton \$1.

Capt. William Morton gave \$2—(not a Baptist.)  
On motion, the Convention held an election for officers; whereupon Elder W. M. Lea was elected President and R. M. Thrasher Secretary.

On motion, Elder P. S. G. Watson was appointed to preach the Introductory Sermon, the brother appointed at the last session having failed to attend.

On motion, adjourned to 2½ o'clock P. M.

2½ o'clock, P. M.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment.

The following annual committees were called on for reports:  
1st. *Committee on Hymn Book*—The committee was continued till to-morrow, and vacancies in said committee were supplied by adding thereto Elders, Thrasher, Dover and Thompson.

2nd. *Committee on the Constitution*—The committee was allowed until to-morrow to report, and the vacancies were filled by adding thereto Elders, Melton, Stevenson and Craig.

The following committees were appointed:

1st. *On Finance*—T. A. Read, T. J. Parker and J. Holcomb.

2nd. *On Arrangement*—Watson, Holland and Alexander.

3rd. *On Preaching*—Trawick, Verser and Bradshaw.

4th. *On Sabbath Schools*—R. J. Coleman, S. Stevenson and L. S. Read.

On motion,

*Resolved*, That the Corresponding Secretary be requested to write a circular letter to be appended to these minutes to arouse the ministers and other members of our denomination to attend the annual meetings of the Convention.

On motion, adjourned till 8½ o'clock to-morrow morning.

Absentees marked thus.\*

SATURDAY, Oct. 27th, 8½ o'clock, A. M.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder J. S. Murrow.

On motion, read the minutes of yesterday, which were corrected and approved.

Delegates to the Convention were next called for, when the following presented themselves:

*Spring Hill church, Jefferson county:* Elder E. D. Taylor and S. J. Appling.

*Dardanelle Association:* Elders, J. V. Cross, J. S. Murrow, Willis Burns and E. L. Compere.

*Oak Bend church, Franklin county:* Elder J. V. Cross.

*Fort Smith church, Sebastian county:* Elder E. L. Compere.

*Dardanelle church, Yell county:* Elder E. L. Compere.

*Liberty Association:* Elders, B. F. Gray and W. C. Johnson.

*Helena church, Phillips county:* W. M. Oldham and Elder Barksdale.

On motion, visiting brethren from beyond this State, were invited to seats with us; whereupon Elder J. S. Murrow, of the Creek Nation, and Elder Willis Burns, of the Choctaw Nation, were received.

The report of the committee on Arrangement was called for, which was read and adopted. (See 4th page of cover.)

On motion, the names of the members of the Convention were now called and absentees marked.

The committee on the Constitution and Rules of Order made their report, which was received.

On motion, the reading by article was called for; upon which there arose a discussion; pending which, the Convention adjourned till 2 o'clock P. M., Elder R. J. Coleman on the floor.

2 o'clock P. M.

The Convention assembled pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder Melton.

The Convention proceeded in the consideration of the Constitution as offered by the committee. Elder Coleman resumed the floor.

After considerable discussion the Constitution was adopted with some amendments. Rules of order were also read and adopted:

CONSTITUTION  
OF THE  
Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

ARTICLE 1. This Institution shall be called the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

ART. 2. The primary objects of this Convention shall be the education of young men called of God to the Gospel ministry, and approved by the churches to which they respectively belong; the employment of missionaries within the limits of the State, or elsewhere, and the dissemination of Baptist literature.

ART. 3. The funds devoted to these objects shall be kept distinct from each other, and punctually appropriated, agreeably to the specific intention of contributors.

ART. 4. This Convention shall be composed of such individuals and delegates from such institutions as shall make adequate contributions to its funds.

ART. 5. Every Association, church or individual shall be entitled to send to the Convention one delegate, who shall be a member of a Baptist church, for every five dollars paid into the treasury.

ART. 6. It is distinctly understood that this Convention shall have no ecclesiastical jurisdiction, nor even act as an advisory council, nor in any way interfere with the constitution of any church or Association.

ART. 7. The officers of this convention, to be elected annually, shall be a President, three Vice-Presidents, a Corresponding and Recording Secretary, a Treasurer and an Auditor, who with twenty others, shall constitute a Board of Managers, five of whom shall form a quorum.

ART. 8. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Convention and Board, that of the Vice-Presidents, to preside in case of his absence, according to seniority. The Secretaries shall be required to discharge the duties appropriate to their respective offices. The Treasurer shall hold the funds of the Convention, to be subject to the order of the Board; shall give security for the faithful discharge of his duty, and shall make an annual report of all receipts and expenditures which shall be audited and published with the minutes. The duty of the Auditor will be to audit the accounts of the Treasurer.

ART. 9. The Board of Managers shall meet quarterly or oftener, at such time and place as they shall, from time to time, designate; when they shall adopt such measures as shall best tend to carry into effect the objects of the Constitution.

ART. 10. There shall be an adequate number of Agents, subject to the direction of the Convention or its Board, whose duty it shall be to visit Associations, churches, etc., and endeavor to secure their co-operation with this Institution, conformably to the provisions of the Constitution.

ART. 11. The Convention shall hold its meetings annually, at such time and place as it shall direct.

ART. 12. The Convention shall require of its Board a full report of all their proceedings at each annual meeting.

ART. 13. Any alteration may be made in this Constitution at any annual meeting, with the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present, except Art. 6, which shall forever remain unaltered.

ART. 14. The 4th and 5th articles of the Constitution are to be so construed as to allow the different Associations to represent in this body upon funds expended within their own bounds, for the objects of the Convention, on condition that the Board of the Convention be allowed to confirm the appointment of their missionaries, and a regular correspondence be kept up between the Boards of the Associations and the Board of the Convention, and that they report their funds to the Treasurer of the Convention at each annual session.

RULES OF ORDER.

1. Every meeting for business shall be opened and closed by prayer, either by the presiding officer, or some one whom he shall appoint.

2. Every speaker shall rise and address the President on any subject to be discussed.

3. No motion shall be debated unless seconded; and no member shall speak more than twice on the same motion, without special leave of the Convention.

4. The President and Recording Secretary shall be chosen by ballot. The other officers in any way the Convention may direct, but not necessarily from among the members.

5. Every question shall be decided by the living voice, unless otherwise directed.

6. The names of members shall be called each day previous to proceeding to business.

7. All resolutions shall be reduced to writing, signed by the mover, and handed to the Chair or Secretary, before debated.

8. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received but to adjourn, to postpone indefinitely, to commit, to lay on the table, or to amend; which several motions shall have precedence in the order in which they are arranged. But no motion or proposition on a subject different from that under consideration, shall be admitted under color of amendment.

9. When a motion has been once made and carried in the affirmative or negative, it shall be in order for any member who voted with the majority to move for reconsideration thereof on the same day.

10. When the reading of any paper is called for, and is objected to by a member, it shall be determined by the vote of the convention.

11. No member shall absent himself from the service of the Convention, unless he has leave, or be sick and unable to attend.

12. All questions, except such as relate to the Constitution, shall be decided by a majority of votes.

13. Should the presiding officer fail to enforce the foregoing regulations, he shall be regarded as untrue to his trust, and shall be liable to be reminded of his duty by any member present.

Dr. J. L. Goree, of Auburn, contributed \$1 and took his seat as a member of the Convention.

Elder U. H. Parker reported himself a delegate from the Bartholomew Association, and was invited to a seat.

The report of the Committee on Hymn Book was called for, which was accordingly made. The report was received, and pending the discussion of a motion to adopt it, the Convention adjourned to Monday, 8 o'clock A. M. Prayer by Elder J. V. Cross.

MONDAY, October 29th, 8½ o'clock A. M.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder N. Holland.

The minutes of Saturday not being at hand, the reading, calling the roll, etc., was postponed for the present.

On motion, the Convention went into the consideration of the carrying into effect the Indian Missionary contribution of Sabbath evening, when it was agreed that the matter be referred to the Executive Board of the Convention for proper management.

The minutes of Saturday having come to hand, were read and approved, and the roll was called.

On motion, the Convention took up the report of the Committee on Hymn Book, and proceeded to the further consideration of the same. The report was adopted with the following amendment, to-wit:

That the "SOUTHERN PSALMIST" be adopted, provided fifty Hymns can be added without cost. If not, that the committee proceed to negotiate with the publishers for the "PSALMODY," on the same conditions—and if they fail in this last arrangement also, then we adopt the "PSALMIST."

#### REPORT.

##### Report of the Committee on the Hymn Book.

We, your committee on the Hymn Book, ask leave to report the following:

We have become somewhat familiar with the Hymn Books principally in use amongst us, and find all of them possessed of excellences, yet defective so far as this State is concerned. Many of our most common and familiar Hymns are not to be found in any one of the books known to us, and this defect would prevent any book from being generally adopted throughout the State.

We have a verbal proposition from brother Marks, of the Firm of Graves, Marks & Co., to add to the Southern Psalmist, fifty additional Hymns or less of our own selection, without additional cost, provided we adopt and recommend their book: therefore we recommend the adoption of the following Resolutions:

1st. Resolved, That it is highly desirable that there be some one Hymn Book adopted for general use by the Baptists of Arkansas.

2nd. Resolved, That in consideration of the addition to the Southern Psalmist, of fifty hymns or less, without additional cost, we recommend the adoption of that book.

3rd. Resolved, That a Committee of three be appointed to select the fifty Hymns or less, and to carry out and complete the whole arrangement with Graves, Marks & Co.

4th. Resolved, That in case the arrangement as above con-

templated, cannot be completed with Graves, Marks & Co., then the Committee contemplated in the 3rd Resolution, be hereby instructed to select some other Hymn Book and to add the fifty additional Hymns or less.

Respectfully,  
P. S. G. WATSON, *Chm.*  
On motion, a committee consisting of the following brethren was appointed to complete the arrangement for a Hymn Book as contemplated by 3rd Resolution of the foregoing report: Elders, Watson, Hooten and Lea.

The report of the committee on Sabbath Schools was called for, read and adopted, being amended with the subjoined resolution:

Resolved, That this Convention recommend the circulation of the Sabbath School books, published by the SOUTHERN BAPTIST S. S. Union, at Nashville, Tennessee.

#### REPORT.

##### Report on Sunday Schools.

DEAR BRETHREN—There is perhaps no department of christian effort to which God has more signally given his approbation, and upon which his rich blessings have descended more fully than the faithful labors of the Sunday School teacher. Multitudes of souls have been hopefully converted through his instrumentality.

All admit the advantages of early religious instruction—profess to believe God's word which says—"Train up a child in the way it should go, and when it is old it will not depart from it." But, alas! how few of the professed followers of the blessed Savior labor in this promising field! Here is a department in which all may labor; and the master seems to say by all the rich blessings that flow from early religious training—both in the life that now is, and that which is to come—"Why stand ye all the day idle?" And many of our church members say by actions, that speak louder than words—"Because no man has hired us." Thus the children of the profligate and ungodly grow up in our midst almost as ignorant of the way of salvation, as if they were in a heathen land. And yet it was for these destitute children of irreligious parents that Sunday Schools were first instituted. They have, however, in many places, become powerful engines in promoting Sectarianism. And will not we be as diligent in propagating the truths of the blessed bible, "by inspiration given," as are those who "teach for the commandments of God, the traditions of men?" Dear Brethren, can we accomplish nothing by these appeals? Will you still fold your arms and hope to

" \* \* \* be carried to the skies  
On flow'ry beds of ease!"

Could we but find a Sunday School in every church, and see every Baptist heartily engaged in training up children for God

and for Heaven, saints and angels might rejoice at the prospect, and eternity would develop the glorious consequences.

R. J. COLEMAN, *Chm'n.*  
On motion, adjourned to 2½ o'clock. Benediction by the President.

2½ o'clock, P. M.

The Convention assembled at the appointed time. Prayer by Eld. Compere.

On motion, appointed the following brethren delegates to the S. B. S. S. Union, to meet in the city of Louisville, Ky., on the Friday before the 4th Sabbath proximo: Elders, Lea, Compere, Thompson, Holland and W. R. Trawick.

On motion, the delegates were instructed to invite the next semi-annual, or annual session of the S. B. S. S. Union, to convene in the city of Helena, Arkansas.

The report of the Executive Board was called for; further time was granted, and Elders, G. W. Thompson and H. M. Wilkinson were added to the Board in order to form a quorum.

On motion, the following Committee on Nominations was appointed: Stevenson, Gray and Trawick.

On motion of Elder R. J. Coleman, the following resolutions were adopted:

1st. Resolved, That we hereby request brother Barksdale to furnish his sermon preached on Sabbath, on Revision, to the editors of the Arkansas Baptist for publication, and that he be requested to add some other imperfect translations contained in the New Testament of King James' Version, with the amendments of the version by the Bible Union.

2nd. Resolved, That brethren, Watson and Hooten be, and are hereby requested to publish the same in their paper.

On motion, ordered the names of those who subscribed to Indian Missions and the amount subscribed by each to be printed in these minutes.

##### Subscription taken up on Sabbath evening for Indian Missions, viz:

|                      |         |                      |         |
|----------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|
| Nat. C. Smith.....   | \$25 00 | N. Holland.....      | \$25 00 |
| P. A. Feamerly.....  | 25 00   | W. F. Owen.....      | 25 00   |
| B. F. Smith.....     | 25 00   | P. S. G. Watson..... | 10 00   |
| T. Brownfield.....   | 25 00   | Saml. Stevenson..... | 10 00   |
| W. H. Barksdale..... | 25 00   | T. J. Parker.....    | 10 00   |
| B. F. Gray.....      | 25 00   | H. M. Wilkinson..... | 10 00   |
| R. M. Thrasher.....  | 25 00   | J. W. Harris.....    | 10 00   |
| John T. Craig.....   | 25 00   | E. D. Taylor.....    | 10 00   |
| W. R. Trawick.....   | 25 00   | A. K. Patten.....    | 10 00   |
| J. M. Cox.....       | 25 00   | U. H. Parker.....    | 10 00   |
| J. V. Cross.....     | 25 00   | T. A. Read.....      | 10 00   |

|                     |       |                         |       |
|---------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|
| J. L. Goree.....    | 25 00 | L. S. Read.....         | 10 00 |
| W. H. Bradshaw..... | 25 00 | Mrs. P. Smith.....      | 10 00 |
| J. F. Hooten.....   | 25 00 | Mrs. S. K. Smith.....   | 10 00 |
| W. M. Lea.....      | 25 00 | Mrs. Mary K. Reame..... | 10 00 |
| J. L. Riggs.....    | 25 00 | Mrs. H. Anderson.....   | 5 00  |
| G. W. Thompson..... | 25 00 | Mrs. N. E. Goree.....   | 5 00  |
| E. L. Compere.....  | 25 00 | Mrs. C. A. Curlin.....  | 5 00  |
| N. P. Moore.....    | 25 00 | S. K. Melton.....       | 5 00  |

Total.....\$675 00

On motion, the Secretary was instructed to have the "Order of business" printed on the cover of the minutes for convenient reference.

The Committee on Finance made their report, which was adopted:

#### REPORT.

##### Report on Finance.

Your Committee on Finance would submit the following report:

##### Cash receipts from Associations.

|                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Judson.....        | \$10 00      |
| Same for 1859..... | 10 00        |
| Union.....         | 8 00         |
| Caroline.....      | 30 35        |
| Mount Vernon.....  | 3 00—\$61 35 |

##### Cash Receipts from Churches.

|                                   |              |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| New Hope.....                     | \$ 5 00      |
| Samaria.....                      | 3 00         |
| Pine Bluff.....                   | 10 00        |
| " " African.....                  | 2 80         |
| Providence, Jefferson county..... | 3 00         |
| Alabama.....                      | 3 00         |
| Little Rock.....                  | 5 00         |
| Princeton.....                    | 4 00         |
| Providence, Monticello.....       | 4 00         |
| Spring Hill.....                  | 5 00         |
| Oak Bend.....                     | 3 00         |
| Fort Smith.....                   | 2 50         |
| Dardanelle.....                   | 3 00—\$53 30 |

##### Cash receipts from individuals.

|                              |         |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Bro. N. G. Smith.....        | \$ 5 00 |
| Elder N. Holland.....        | 50      |
| Bro. J. B. P. Alexander..... | 1 00    |
| Isaiah Holcomb.....          | 1 00    |
| Wm. Majors.....              | 25      |
| C. C. Verser.....            | 2 50    |

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| " W. F. Morton.....       | 1 00         |
| Capt. Wm. Martin.....     | 2 00         |
| Bro. J. L. Goree.....     | 1 00         |
| Elder S. Stevenson.....   | 5 00         |
| Sister Mrs. Anderson..... | 50           |
| " Miss Anderson.....      | 50           |
| " Miss McCraw.....        | 1 00         |
| Others.....               | 1 00—\$22 25 |

##### Public Cash Collections.

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| Saturday night.....  | \$39 50       |
| Sunday morning.....  | 35 75         |
| For bros., Murrow and Burns, Missionaries, Sunday night..... | 11 00—\$86 25 |

##### For Indian Missions.

|                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Dardanelle Association.....      | \$16 00  |
| Total cash.....                  | \$239 15 |
| Pledges for Indian Missions..... | 675 00   |

Total.....\$914 15

Respectfully submitted,

T. A. READ, *Chm'n.*

On motion, the cash on hand after paying for printing Minutes, Clerk's fees, etc., was ordered divided between the Agents of the Convention, Trawick and Lea.

The Committee on Nominations made their report, which was adopted.

#### REPORT.

##### Executive Board.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Wm. M. Lea, <i>President.</i>                 |  |
| Gen. Nat. G. Smith, } <i>Vice Presidents.</i> |  |
| Dr. M. W. McCraw, }                           |  |
| P. S. G. Watson, }                            |  |
| J. F. Hooten, <i>Corresponding Secretary.</i> |  |
| R. M. Thrasher, <i>Recording Secretary.</i>   |  |
| E. M. Harris, <i>Treasurer.</i>               |  |
| P. Watts, <i>Auditor.</i>                     |  |

##### Managers.

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Wm. Daniel,      | P. P. Siler,     |
| T. G. Freeman,   | L. L. Boone,     |
| T. H. Brown,     | R. A. Edwards,   |
| D. C. Hall,      | U. H. Parker,    |
| R. W. Dickinson, | W. R. Trawick,   |
| Aaron Yates,     | E. N. Chennault, |
| James Woods,     | S. Stevenson,    |
| T. A. Heard,     | R. J. Coleman,   |
| Spencer Greer,   | J. C. Henderson, |
| J. H. Thomas,    | Willis Burns.    |

Respectfully submitted,

S. STEVENSON, *Chm'n.*

*Resolved*, That 1000 copies of the minutes of this session of the Convention be published and distributed under the direction of the Secretary and brother P. S. G. Watson; and that the Secretary be allowed the sum of fifteen dollars for his services; and also, whatever amount of postage he may have to expend.

On motion, that the President now re-appoint the Board of Trustees for the next Conventional year; the following were appointed:

T. B. Van Horne, John H. Carlton, Nat. G. Smith, P. P. Siler, T. S. N. King, L. B. Fort, John Woods, W. R. Trawick, M. Shelby Kennard, M. W. McCraw, E. L. Compere, E. M. Harris, A. Yates, D. C. Hall, James Woods and R. M. Thrasher. The Executive Board now reported, which report was adopted.

#### REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD.

TO THE ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION:—

*Dear Brethren:* Your Executive Board has had no meetings during the past Conventional year, because there has no business come to our knowledge requiring a meeting. Our agents, W. R. Trawick and W. M. Lea, have been actively engaged in raising the Endowment Fund; and we are proud to say they are progressing admirably as their respective reports will more fully show, which we herewith respectfully submit.

R. M. THRASHER, *Pres. E. B.*

To the Executive Board of the  
Arkansas Baptist State Convention:

*BRETHREN*—Your agent has traveled during the last year for the objects of the Convention, and with some success. I have now in my books in bonds for the College, fifty-six thousand and two hundred dollars, (\$56,200 00.) I have received from different sources and acknowledged through the Arkansas Baptist, three hundred and one 50-100 dollars, (\$301 50.)

A continued effort for the College and success is ours.

Respectfully,  
W. R. TRAWICK, *Agent.*

To the Executive Board of the  
Arkansas Baptist State Convention:

*BRETHREN*—I find on my books in scholarships and subscriptions, thirteen thousand nine hundred and fifty dollars, (\$13,950 00.) I have collected sixty three 40-100 dollars, (\$63 40.) in cash for conventional expenses, and solicited others who have promised to aid. The hearts of the people are beating favorably for the endowment.

Yours, etc.,  
W. M. LEA, *Agent.*

On motion, the Convention appointed its next session to be holden in Fort Smith, commencing on Friday before the 4th Sabbath in October, 1861.

On motion, appointed the following brethren to preach annual sermons at the next session, viz:

*Introductory Sermon*—Elder H. F. Buckner—Elder J. S. Murrow, alternate; Friday 11 o'clock A. M.

*Revision Sermon*—Elder W. C. Johnson—Elder P. S. G. Watson, alternate; Friday 7 o'clock P. M.

*Missionary Sermon*—Elder W. H. Barksdale—Elder J. S. Murrow, alternate; Sabbath 11 o'clock A. M.

*Educational Mass-meeting*—Saturday 7 o'clock, P. M.

*Missionary Mass-meeting*—Sabbath 7 o'clock P. M.

On motion, adopted the following resolutions:

1st. *Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed to propose to the city council of Helena, Arkansas, the uniting of the funds of the Craig Bequest, with a Fund to be raised by this Convention.

2nd. *Resolved*, That this Convention will raise the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ to unite with the Craig Fund, provided the control of the Institute be given to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

3rd. *Resolved*, That the after named committee be requested and authorized to proceed immediately to carry this matter into effect, by appointing one or more Agents; and that the committee fill the blank in the 2nd resolution with any sum they may think best; provided that in no case whatever, either of the Agents' salary or in the proposed College Fund, shall the Convention be brought under any pecuniary liabilities.

4th. *Resolved*, That this committee shall have power to fill any vacancy that may occur in said committee by reason of death or otherwise.

5th. *Resolved*, That the said committee make a report of their progress to the next session of this Convention.

The following brethren were appointed as a committee to carry into effect the purposes contemplated by the foregoing resolutions, viz:

W. M. Lea, J. H. Hicks, W. H. Barksdale, T. S. N. King, P. S. G. Watson, W. F. Owen and Nat. G. Smith.

Pending the discussion of a resolution commendatory of the Arkansas Baptist, adjourned till after sermon to-night.

The Convention met according to adjournment.

The question on the resolution was called for, and it was unanimously adopted:

*Resolved*, That we most heartily recommend to the Baptists of this State, "THE ARKANSAS BAPTIST," and most earnestly solicit their support for the same.

On motion, Adopted the following preamble and resolutions:

WHEREAS, From the statements of the editors of the Arkan-

sas Baptist, it appears that the income of our paper is entirely insufficient for its liabilities; therefore

*Resolved 1st*, That we hereby call upon our brethren, and every friend of the Arkansas Baptist to aid in the purchase of a Press and appurtenances, by which the publishing expenses will be greatly curtailed—said Press and fixtures to be owned by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

*Resolved 2nd*, That we recommend the introduction of more suitable advertisements until the income of the paper will fully sustain it.

Upon the adoption of the preceding resolutions, the following pledges for the Press and fixtures were taken, to-wit:

|                      |       |                     |      |
|----------------------|-------|---------------------|------|
| W. M. Lea.....       | \$100 | G. W. Thompson..... | \$50 |
| W. R. Trawick.....   | 100   | N. P. Moore.....    | 25   |
| W. H. Barksdale..... | 100   | Willis Burns.....   | 25   |
| Needham Holland..... | 50    | T. J. Parker.....   | 10   |
| J. S. Murrow.....    | 50    | S. Stevenson.....   | 10   |
| U. H. Parker.....    | 50    | J. V. Cross.....    | 10   |

Total..... \$580

On motion, delegated the following brethren to represent this body in the next session of the Southern Baptist Biennial Convention, to be held in Savannah, Georgia, in May, 1862: Elders, W. H. Barksdale, J. S. Murrow, W. M. Lea, P. S. G. Watson, J. F. Hootten, G. W. Thompson and W. R. Trawick.

On motion  
*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Convention are due the brethren and citizens of Pine Bluff and vicinity for their hospitality manifested in the entertainment of this body during the present session; and for their liberal contributions to the objects of the Convention.

On motion, adjourned to meet in the city of Fort Smith, Arkansas, on Friday before the 4th Sabbath in October, 1861, peace and harmony prevailing.

W. M. LEA, *President*.

R. M. THRASHER, *Secretary*.

## CIRCULAR LETTER.

*To the Baptists of the State of Arkansas: Dearly Beloved Brethren: The grace and truth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be with you all to the end.*

By an act of the last Arkansas Baptist State Convention, this resolution was passed:

*Resolved*, That the Corresponding Secretary be requested to write a circular letter to be appended to these minutes to arouse the ministers and other members of our denomination to attend the annual meetings of the Convention."

Then, brethren, let us all give the hearing ear and the heeding heart; for this matter is of supreme importance to us as a religious people.

What are the objects of our State Convention? And what will be the result of putting these objects into their fullest effect? To the first query: The primary objects of the Convention are three fold, and all of the highest consideration. 1st. The education of the rising ministry called of God and approved by their churches. The power of a thorough, masterly edgation, admits of no question. It is one of the fixed facts among men, one of the blazing realities in human affairs. For weal or for woe, it is the most effective, most overpowering, of all human engines that work upon human destinies. Catholics, for a long line of centuries, have well known that "knowledge is power" and shapes destiny; they have also but too well known the opposite fact, that ignorance is the mother of superstition and ignorant, enslaved membership, has made the world groan, and the witnesses and martyrs of Jesus wait in sackcloth, under the work of her torments. But her end draweth nigh. The poor old Pope, besieged in Babylon by wars without, and betrayed by friends within, wails for relief and dreams of exile. The hand of an avenging God is upon the bloody pillars of Babylon the great. The kings of the earth are standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, alas, alas, that great city of Babylon! In an hour thy judgment is come!



Having come out of Rome, all Protestant denominations have inherited the sagacity and *telling policy* of their mother, on the school question. They educate the rising youth, make doctors of divinity, and books of divinity—marshall them into solid defense of their church-institutions—and teach them their A B C, which is to say, "the Baptists are illiterate, bigotted, sectarian."<sup>9</sup>

Baptists, according to Catholic, Protestant and profane historians, are the only community of Christians that have stood from the days of the Apostles to the present time, and kept the word of God pure in all ages.

The persecutors of our brethren, through the bloody ages of Rome, and Protestantism, loaded Baptists with chains, immured them in deep, foul dungeons, strangled them in the flood, disjointed their limbs by heartless degrees, and consumed their precious, innocent lives in the writhing torments of the stake! And for what? Because, refusing all compromise with Antichrist, they witnessed unto death, that the principles Baptists are now proclaiming to the world, were the truth of Jesus in the New Testament! But more. To perfect the destruction of their principles, works and memory, they were denied citizenship in every kingdom of earth, and like their Master, had not where to lay their head; their men, women and children were slaughtered without mercy or distinction, and pushed into the wilderness and dens of earth in sackcloth and ashes; their property was seized, their church houses burnt; and last of all, their church records and historical papers, were all committed to the flames, to blot out the very idea that *Baptists had ever been*. Without the support of State, money, human learning or popular favor, but with all these terrible engines ceaselessly working joint destruction against them, our martyr brethren have, through their blood and death, delivered into our hands, the principles of eternal Truth—Jesus pure and undefiled.

Baptist principles therefore, have been proven to be *indestructible and eternal*; every test of destruction has been strained to the death against them; all that can be done against them has been done, and yet they live, live on, and perpetuate themselves by their own inherent, unconquerable nature. Intelligent Catholics and Protestants, wherever they behold a pure Baptist, recognize in him an indestructible representative of the New Testament. There being unfulfilled prophecy touching the future of this witnessing people, their scripture destiny is doubtless to move in solemn grandeur in the triumphing scenes of the everlasting Gospel over the kingdoms of this world!

Brethren, give us a godly, powerful ministry! Give us a faithful, enlightened membership! Let all urge, without compromise, the New Testament, pure and undefiled, and the world must fall before us. Brethren in the ministry, you who, with limited means and education, have sacrificed all, and laid the founda-

tions of our Zion in the wilderness and mountains! You have done the work! I delight to honor you and make obeisance to your sacrificing souls! Come now, and help rear an Institution of learning for our rising ministry. Come brethren, of every estate and degree, bring hither your offerings unto the Lord, lay them on the altar of pious knowledge, and create a Sun of intelligence in the midst of our people. The work to be done in this age is *irreversible*! An era of destiny is upon the world. The foundations of governments and religions are shaking throughout the earth. The future character of governments and religions must be determined infinitely, by the settled turn present exciting elements take. In after ages, when tranquillity shall again reign over the earth, this age will be referred to as the parent of destiny. In this war of Principle, the most powerful must overcome and prevail.

All Christendom is upheaving, all denominations are in commotion. The passages of Christianity are undergoing a steady, thorough, final examination. The origin, history, and peculiar character of every church institution must be dug up and passed in living review, before the Gospel tribunal of this day. This is the great question: Which is the church Christ built when he was in the world and said the gates of hell should not prevail against? All are going into the balances to be weighed; they that are wanting must behold their days numbered. To be proven to have been originated by men and not by Christ, is fatal to any claimant. But this can be proven of every denomination save the Baptists. The validity of their claim is firmly established by the testimony of their enemies. Baptist principles have never before been permitted to enter a great religious conflict with unbound limbs. But if they have ever conquered even in chains, floods and flames, how much more shall they conquer now, being unbound, to exert their full, eternal energies? In this great work, we need the counsels, united strength and means of our people throughout our State. We need the personal presence, and encouraging words, of our hosts in our great annual meetings. Come up brethren, come up sisters, come up all the tribes of Israel to the testimony of the Lord, for you stand in a line with the martyrs of Jesus to perpetuate the faith once delivered to the saints.

2nd object—"The employment of missionaries in the limits of this State, or elsewhere. Jesus told his Apostles to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature, telling the people everywhere, that thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer and rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached among all nations in his name. But how can they preach except they be sent? This is the grand sun of our Convention: to send the Light of redemption to and fro in the earth. Our brethren are traversing the kingdoms of this world, and the isles of the sea,

on this heaven-born mission. Brethren, let our hearts and treasures, be open to the uttermost parts of the earth, for they are Christ's possession. But let our heart and eyes be specially on the spiritual wants of our own beloved State and Indian sister Nations. Here let our love flow, our ministry preach and our treasures sustain, for in Arkansas, and in our Indian sister lands, the Lord hath a great harvest of souls.

3rd object: The dissemination of Baptist Literature. The spread of Baptist principles at this period, has almost no parallel. Our bibles, denominational books, tracts, and papers are flooding the land with the light thereof. They are making their way to communities, families, and individuals, overthrowing the arguments of Pseudo-baptist books, tracts, papers, and preachers; and showing that Pseudo church institutions are not of Christ, but of men; and by the force of invincible truth, prostrating error and opposition upon the ground!

These then, are the objects of our State Convention. Let all the tribes of our people come up to our annual State meetings. Let us see each other's faces, hear each other's voices, and in the unity of the spirit and in the bond of peace consecrate our lives and treasures to God, and receive our kingdom and reward in Heaven. Thus doing in faith, hope and love, the triumph is ours. Let every soul that can, attend our next Convention to be held at Fort Smith, on the line of the Indian Nations. Large numbers of our Indian brethren are to be there. Thrilling interest is anticipated. Since the desire to unite with our Convention has been expressed by some Baptists of the Nation, we hope that occasion will be made memorable, by being the first case on record, in which our Red brethren and White brethren have joined their religions together.

In Christ, your fellow servant,

J. F. HOOTEN.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS.

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1. Call together the members to hear Introductory Sermon.
2. Read letters and enroll the names of delegates.
3. Elect officers for the ensuing year.
4. Call for correspondence.
5. Invite visiting Brethren to seats.
6. Appoint committees.
7. Hear Reports of Annual Committees.
8. " " of Executive Board.
9. " " Financial Committee.
10. " " Treasurer.
11. " " Auditor.
12. General Business, Resolutions, &c., &c.