


9-1868

Minutes of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

SALINE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

MARBLE CHURCH, SALINE CO., ARK.

FROM OCT., 3 TO 5, 1868.

—o—
MINUTES

OF THE

Third Annual Meeting of the Cadron Baptist Association.

HELD WITH LIBERTY CHURCH, PULASKI COUNTY, IN

OCTOBER, 1868.

—o—
MINUTES

OF THE

Arkansas Baptist State Convention,

HELD WITH

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

NOVEMBER 21st to 23d, 1868.

•••
Wm. Woolford, Printer, Ditter Block,
LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

1868.

The President named the Committee on Sunday Schools.—H. C. Weymouth, W. T. Poe and J. R. Griffith.

Missions.—W. D. Mayfield, W. M. Lett and J. Howard.

Obituaries.—W. M. Lea, N. P. Moore and W. D. Mayfield.

Finance.—W. T. Poe, R. A. Edwards and H. Haythornewhite.

Ministers Names.—N. P. Moore, H. Haythornewhite and H. C. Weymouth.

Publications.—W. H. Robert, W. D. Mayfield and R. A. Edwards.
On motion, adjourned to meet Monday morning, at 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock.

A. M.

Prayer by N. P. Moore.

At 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ p. m., Elder W. D. Mayfield preached the Convention sermon, text, 2d Cor. III, 5.—“Our sufficiency is of God.”

SABBATH EXERCISES.

At the M. E. Church South, at 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ a. m., N. P. Moore preached—
at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ p. m., Elder W. D. Mayfield.

At the 1st Baptist Church, Elder W. D. Mayfield at 11 o'clock, and
Elder H. C. Weymouth at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ p. m.

—o—

MONDAY MORNING, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock, a. m.

Convention met. Prayer by Dr. J. C. Robert.

On motion, Elder J. R. Graves, was invited to seat, to aid in our deliberations

Reports called for as follows:

1st. On Sabbath Schools, See Appendix A.

2d On Missions, See Appendix B.

3d. On Publications, See Appendix C.

Adjourned to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock p. m. Prayer by Elder J. R. Graves.

2 $\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock, p. m.

Convention met. Prayer by Elder R. S. Coleman.

Resolved, That the following be elected the Board of Trustees of
Arkansas Baptist Convention:

Elders W. M. Lea, (T. S. N. King) A. Yates, R. M. Thrasher, W. H. Robert,
N. P. Moore, W. D. Mayfield, R. J. Coleman, L. N. G. Smith, M. S. Kennard,
E. M. Harris, D. C. Hall, R. A. Edwards, L. L. Boone, J. N. Brantly, R. R.
Dawson.

Resolved, That the committee on obituaries, be allowed time, and requested
to report at their convenience, through the *Arkansas Baptist*.

Resolved, That the committee on ministers names be allowed to report
through the *Arkansas Baptist*.

Elder W. D. Mayfield then introduced the following preamble and resolution:

Whereas, we regard the education of the young as among the most important objects for which we labor; and whereas, we are unwilling to surrender this glorious work into the hands of other denominations; and whereas, we believe that, by controlling education to the extent of our ability, we will turn a current of influence in favor of our Blessed Zion which will ultimately promote the glory of Christ; therefore, be it resolved

1st. That we establish a female school of high grade in the city of Helena, to be named by the Board of Trustees appointed to take care of its interests.

MINUTES

OF THE BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION.

—o—

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH,
Little Rock, Ark., Nov. 21st, 1868.

The Arkansas Baptist State Convention assembled, and in the absence of Elder S. Stevenson, the appointee, Religious services was conducted by Elder, W. D. Mayfield of Helena.

2 o'clock, p. m.

The delegates assembled, and Elder W. M. Lea, President, called the body together by reading the Scriptures and singing. Prayer by Elder H. C. Weymouth.

The names of the delegates were then enrolled as follows:

Pine Bluff Association.—Elders W. M. Lea, N. P. Moore, W. H. Robert, W. T. Poe, and Wm. Sett.

Saline Association.—Elder J. H. Howard.

Caroline Association.—Elder R. J. Coleman, Dr. J. C. Robert and T. Carrol.

Cadron Association.—W. B. Wear, J. K. Griffith, J. A. Jones and C. Parker.

Dardanelle Association.—Letter through Elder E. L. Compere.

Rock Bayou Association.—Elder J. W. Miller.

1st Baptist Church, Little Rock.—Deacon R. A. Edwards, H. Haythornwhite, J. K. Brantly.

Helena.—Elder W. D. Mayfield.

Camden.—Elder H. C. Weymouth.

After reading Constitution and Rules of Order, went into the election of officers. Elder W. M. Lea, elected President, and W. H. Robert, Secretary.

On motion, ministers of our denomination, not members of this body, be invited to seats with us. Elder M. L. Langley, of Clark county, being present, declined the invitation.

COMMITTEE ON PREACHING.—W. T. Poe, J. K. Griffith, with the pastor and deacons of this church.

On motion, it was *Resolved*, That Elders N. P. Moore and W. M. Lea, be appointed to hunt up and report on Monday morning, the chartered privileges of this Convention.

Resolved, That committees be now appointed on the following subjects: Sunday Schools, Missions, Publications, Obituaries, Finance, Ministers names and Post Offices, and on Nominations.

2nd. Resolved, That a Board of Trustees be charged with the care of said university; and that said Board shall consist of the following names: W. M. Lea, Jos. C. Robert, T. S. N. King, Elders W. H. Barksdale, N. P. Moore, B. F. Thomas, E. L. Compere, W. D. Mayfield; and of brethren T. M. Jacks, J. Q. Taylor, Crawford, Jesse A. Jackson, J. H. Hicks, A. G. Gannan, James Scaife, Slaughter.

3rd. Resolved, That the Board shall meet as soon as convenient, and elect President, Treasurer and Secretary. Five members shall constitute a quorum.

4th. Resolved, That the Board, at such time as circumstances may justify, shall proceed to elect president and professors of said school. Due notice of such meeting shall be given in some Baptist paper circulated in the State. The Board shall have power to fill its own vacancies, caused by death or resignation: provided said appointments shall be made from those churches and associations which contribute towards the support of the University.

5th. Resolved. That said Board shall meet annually, and report their work to the state convention.

6th. Resolved, That the Trustees of said school be instructed to consult with the Trustees of Helena Female Institute, and see if they will not risk said Institute, including property and patronage into our University.

7th. Resolved. That said Board shall have power to make arrangements with the general agent of this convention to secure an endowment fund and to solicit patronage; and in case this convention should appoint no agent, or in the event they should fail to secure the services of the one appointed, said Board shall have power to appoint its own agents. In brief, the Board shall have power to employ any means which comport with the dignity of the cause they represent and the principles of our denomination, to build up an Institution in which our daughters shall be brought under right influences and receive a liberal education.

The executive Board made their report through the Secretary, J. K. Brantly, as follows:

In accordance with resolution of the Arkansas Baptist State Mission Board Nov. 22nd, I beg leave to make the following report of the proceedings of the Board during the past year:

The Board was appointed by the Arkansas Convention, Nov. 9th, 1867.

Its first meeting was held the same day at which time an organization was effected.

A resolution was adopted informing the Am. Bap. Home Mission Society of the organization of the Board, and the desire to co-operate with the same.

Elder Wm. M. Lea was selected as general Missionary Agent for the State, to co-operate with the Am. Bap. Home Mission Society. Did not receive his commission until April 1st, '68, and for what he has accomplished while acting as Missionary I would refer you to his report herewith appended marked (F).

Through the kindness of the Am. Bap. Home Mission Society a loan of \$2,500 from the church edifice fund to the 1st Baptist Church of Little Rock has been effected.

Of the sixteen associations of the State, nine of them have ten Missionaries in the field. Although we cannot report a large amount of money passing through the Board. We are glad to report that three thousand dollars, at least, is expended by the association in the support of these Missionaries. All of which is respectfully reported.

J. K. BRANTLY, *Secretary*
of the Arkansas Baptist State Missionary Board.

REPORT OF STATE MISSIONARY.

I entered on the duties of State Missionary, through the recommendation of the Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and under the appointment of the American Baptist Home Mission Society, New York, April 1st, 1868. My second report, ending last of September, which I now give with my first, and is as follows:

Labored 26 weeks, or 2 quarters; preached 148 sermons; 41 exhortations;

attended 22 prayer meetings; visited 73 religious families; visited 2 common schools; baptized 60; organized 2 colored churches; ordained 1 colored minister; ordained 3 colored, and 3 white deacons; received 34 by letter; received about 65 on salary; organized 2 Sunday Schools; traveled 1336 miles; witnessed 42 conversions; delivered 3 lectures to schools; sold \$95 worth of religious books; subscribed to Baptist, 16; Mac. and Record, 19. Submitted.

W. M. LEA, *State Missionary.*

A P P E N D I X.

(A.)

The Committee on Sunday Schools beg leave to report as follows:

We deem the Sunday School work of vast importance. The interests of our church and country are closely identified with the religious instruction of the young and middle aged. From the Sunday School comes the majority of our converts. It is here the young are "trained in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." But we need not lengthen our remarks in support of the great usefulness of this work, for all have admitted it is of great importance to the prosperity of our churches.

The Sabbath Schools are for, particularly Baptist Schools. A large majority of them are either Pedo-Baptist or union in doctrine and teaching. And must Baptist children be poisoned with doctrines that we condemn? No! No more should the church be instructed to adopt their teachings. Therefore, the committee would recommend, for the consideration of this body, the following:

1st. The importance of having a Baptist Sunday School Missionary. One who would be willing to devote his time to organizing purely Baptist Denominational Sunday Schools. One who would be self-sustaining, or who would not be dependent upon the convention.

2nd. That this Convention recommend all Baptist schools and families to use Baptist books in instructing their children. The Pedo-Baptists do this, and have published for the benefit of Baptists Union works. Let us not countenance this practice, but let us urge the propriety of using Baptist works alone.

3rd. That this convention recommend to the different associations the organizations of Sunday school associations and district associations. Also, that we urge the importance of organizing a Baptist State Sunday School Convention to be held annually at the same time this convention shall meet.

4th. That we urge upon all churches the organization of *Adult Bible Schools*, in connection with their Sabbath Schools.

H. C. WEYMOUTH, *Chairman.*

• Little Rock, Ark., Nov. 23d. 1868.

(B.)

Your Committee on Missions beg leave to report, that they regard the State as one vast missionary field. The late revolution and consequent influences have almost swept away the churches. The people are all poor. But the poverty of our brethren is not the worst feature. There seems to be a wide-spread feeling of discouragement; a universal want of interest in the Masters work. This apathy, this indifference, church members has not been without its influence on the few ministers in our midst. The people persuading themselves that they were poor, have withheld a support from our ministers; and thus many able servants of Christ have been driven into secular employments to secure a living. This is wrong. And the remedy may be found in an enlarged liberality. Our brethren in the churches must sacrifice something for Him who sacrificed everything for them. We advise the churches to systematize their contributions. Let each member consent

to give ten cents per week to the support of the pastor, and one cent per week to the cause of missions. What church will not adopt this simple plan? We would all be surprised to see the amount this scriptural plan of weekly contributions would raise. Pastors would find themselves able to give their whole time to the work; and we should find ourselves able to send missionaries into destitute and uncultivated fields. We beg also, that ministers will, in prospect of their glorious reward in heaven, determine to make great sacrifices for Jesus. Let us all resolve to do what we can. Your committee recommend the re-appointment of the Missionary Board, and also the appointment of a general agent to labor throughout the State. We advise our Board to solicit means, if necessary, from beyond the limits of the State, to help supply our destitution. All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. D. MAYFIELD, *Chairman.*

(C.)

The Committee on Publications, beg leave to report.

That in their judgment too much care can not be bestowed upon the literature of our country. Bad books, like bad company, do much in demoralizing society, hence great discrimination should be used in the recommendations, which as religious bodies, we are continually giving to the publications of the day. The press is mightier than the sword, is true, as the moral and intellectual man is mightier than the mere physical.

Let us then urge upon all 'The Book of all books,' the Bible—and urge that the churches be brought to this as the great standard of all truth. This is the book which should be made the basis of all truth in the Sabbath School, and we can only commend such books and papers as will direct to its faithful construction and teachings.

As a hymn book we recommend the Southern Psalmist.

As a Sunday School Paper, "Kind Words."

As a Missionary Paper, "The Home and Foreign Journal, published at Richmond, Virginia," at 50 cents per annum.

We would recommend to the attention of our brethren and sisters "The Arkansas Baptist," now being issued by Elder N. P. Moore, of Little Rock, at two dollars and a half, in advance. From the number of that paper now before the public, we can not but rejoice in its fair promise, and hope that the Baptists of the State will secure it that patronage which will permanently give it to us as our denominational organ.

To all Baptists who can subscribe for a second paper, we would recommend still "The Baptist," edited by Elder J. R. Graves, L. L. D., of Memphis Tenn. This has been very fully endorsed by other meetings of this convention—we trust that its shadow will never grow less, but that The Baptist will thrive and be a tower of defense to Gods truth in all time. That it will continue to defend our distinct, e principles as a denomination against all the errorists of the land, but especially against the flattering insinuations of the over-charitable Baptists of the Warren Association of R. Island.

Resolved, That the following be elected as the State Mission Board for the ensuing year:

W. H. Robert, S. Stevenson, W. M. Lea, N. P. Moore, E. L. Compere, M. Greene, R. J. Coleman, J. S. Merton, R. M. Thrasher, J. R. G. Adams, W. H. Barksdale, W. D. Meyfield, J. K. Brantly, P. R. Smith, J. G. B. Simms, L. L. Boone, W. T. Poe, R. A. Edwards, D. J. Mytinge, H. Hathornwhite.

Committee on Finance reported only sixteen dollars on hand.

Resolved, That H. Hathornwhite be elected Treasurer.

Resolved, That the next session of this body be held with the church at Helena.

Resolved, That Elder J. R. Graves be requested to preach the Introductory Sermon, at Helena—N. P. Moore, alternate.

Resolved, That the Convention refer to the Board, the endorsement of the resolution of the Carolina Association, as to the appointment of Elder Mose-Green, as State Evangelist.

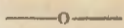
Resolved. That Elders W. D. Mayfield, W. M. Lea, W. H. Robert, N. P. Moore, be appointed to represent us in the Southern Baptist Convention, in Macon, Ga., next May.

Resolved, That there be a Missionary mass meeting in Fort Smith next Spring—the time to be fixed by the Board of the Convention.

Resolved, That the Secretary have three hundred of these minutes printed, and that he receive ten dollars for his services.

W. M. LEA, *President*.

W. H. ROBERT, *Secretary*.



ASSOCIATIONAL TABLE FOR ARKANSAS.

<i>Names.</i>	<i>Moderators.</i>	<i>Clerks.</i>	<i>Post Office.</i>	<i>Sessions</i>
				Oct. '69.
Baptist,	Elder B. Griffin,	W. B. Holland,	Searcy,	2 Sab.
Bartholomew,	A. Collins,	A. B. Files,	Hamburg,	1 "
Cadron,	Elder J. R. Hall,	J. A. Johnson,	Springfield,	2 "
Caroline,	B. Blassingame,	W. M. Warner,	Des Arc,	2 "
Columbia,	J. O. Burnett,			1 "
				Sept. '69.
Dardanelle,	Elder E. L. Compere,	J. N. Ledbetter,	Fort Smith,	3 Sab.
Fayetteville,	" J. Dunnigan,	J. A. Miller,	Bentonville,	
Independence,	Gardner,	J. W. Carnet,	Smithville,	
				Oct. '69.
Judson,	Elder A. Yates,	Wm. Daniel,	Princeton,	2 Sab.
				Sept. '69.
Liberty,	J. P. Event,		Union, La.,	2 Sab.
Little Red River,				
Mount Vernon,				
				Oct. '69.
Ouachita,	W. A. Lawrence,	Thos. Wright,	Dallas,	2 Sab.
Pine Bluff,	W. H. Robert,	W. M. Lea,	Little Rock,	3 "
				Sept. '69
Red River,	H. Haynes,	T. A. Heard,	Arkadelphia,	4 Sab.
				Oct. '69.
Rocky Bayou,	J. W. Miller,	J. A. Causter,	Batesville,	2 Sab.
Saline,	T. Whitten,	R. M. Thrasher,	Rockport,	2 "
Spring River,		J. A. Eaton,	Smithville,	

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The "Arkansas Baptist" is endorsed by the State Convention, and many Associations, with whom the proprietors were able to meet before commencing publication.