

Minutes
OF THE
Twenty-Fourth Session
OF THE
Grand Prairie
Baptist * Association,

HELD WITH
Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church,
October 8, 9 and 10, 1898.

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:- OFFICERS: :-

R. H. Parker, DeWitt, Moderator.
Eld. B. F. House, Hazen, Vice-Moderator.
Eld. N. G. Williams, Deluce, Clerk.
J. F. Swanson, Stuttgart, Treasurer.

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Next Session to be held with Hazen Church, Hazen, Arkansas,
Friday before the Third Sunday in October, 1899,
at 10 a. m.

Proceedings.

The Grand Prairie Baptist Association assembled in the meeting house of the Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church at 10 a. m. The body was called to order by the Moderator, R. H. Parker. Sang hymn, "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name." Prayer by Eld. H. M. Crain.

It was found that the clerk of the twenty third session of this body had failed to record in the minutes of that session the appointee to preach the introductory sermon. It was moved and seconded that Eld. B. F. House preach the sermon. Unanimously carried. After reading the first chapter of Job, prayer was offered by Eld. N. G. Williams. The introductory sermon was then preached by Eld. B. F. House, from Job 1: 8. After sermon the congregation sang "Children of the Heavenly King." Prayer by Bro. J. A. Swanson.

The body then took recess until 1 p. m. Dismissed by Eld. B. F. House.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Body re-assembled at 1 p. m. Sang "How Firm a Foundation," Prayer by Eld. H. Y. Morris.

Letters from the churches were then called for. Elds. B. F. House and H. Y. Morris were appointed reading clerks, and letters were presented as called and messengers enrolled:

Big Lagrue—Eld. N. G. Williams:

Cash Prairie—S. K. Downs.

Center Point—Jessie Raper, J. Isabel, J. Kent.

Hurricane—I. T. Lewis, G. Westrop, Sister Westrop.

New Bethel—J. S. Wood, S. F. Harrison.

New Zion—Pastor and letter.

New Hope—Pastor and letter.

Pleasant Ridge—J. T. Rowe, T. L. Ricks.

Point DeLuce—J. H. Powell, Abbot Powell.

Salom—S. R. Styers, Sister Styers.

Rising Sun—B. F. Keaton.

Crossroads—Riley Key, J. T. Hammond, G. T. Toler.

Petitionary letters were then called for. Fairmount church presented a letter, asking admission into the body of churches composing this Association. On motion she was admitted to mem-

bership and the right hand of fellowship was extended to J. W. Robinson, messenger, by the Moderator for the body, welcoming him to a seat with us.

Roll of churches taken up and the following churches reported:

DeWitt—Eld. H. M. Crain.

Stuttgart—H. B. Dudley, J. F. Swanson, Sister H. B. Dudley.

Hazen—Sister Hattie Sanders, Sister R. F. Routh.

On motion, the rules governing the election of officers suspended.

On motion, Bro. R. H. Parker was unanimously re-elected Moderator.

Eld. B. F. House, vice-moderator; Eld. N. G. Williams, clerk; J. F. Swanson, treasurer, were all elected by acclamation.

Bros. H. B. Dudley, and Harvey Powell, together with the pastor and deacons of this church, were appointed a Committee on Religious Exercises.

By consent of Eld. R. F. Routh, the regular appointee, Eld. H. M. Crain was unanimously chosen to preach the missionary sermon Sunday at 11 a. m.

Invitation extended to visiting brethren. Eld. C. G. Howard, of Caroline Association, representing the Arkansas Baptist, welcomed to privileges of the body; also, Sister Lu'a Scruggs, from Caroline, invited to seat in the body.

Delegates to Baptist State Convention: Eld. H. M. Crain, Eld. R. F. Routh, Eld. N. G. Williams and Bro. J. F. Swanson.

Committee on Finance: B. F. Keaton, J. W. Highfill and G. Westrop.

Treasurer's report read and adopted.

Time and place of the next meeting of the Association was taken up. Hazen and Rising Sun churches petitioned. The vote of the body decided in favor of Hazen. Time of meeting changed from Saturday before the second Sunday in October to Friday before the third Sunday in October, 1899, at 10 a. m.

Eld. B. F. Coburn was elected to preach the introductory sermon, 1899; Eld. N. G. Williams, alternate. Eld. H. M. Crain was elected to preach the missionary sermon Sunday at 11 a. m.

Motion to adjourn until 7:30 p. m.

Grand Prairie Baptist Association.

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EVENING SESSION.

Congregation came together for preaching. Sermon by Eld. W. A. Roberson. Text, John 10: 28, 29.

SUNDAY MORNING.

Congregation assembled for preaching. Sang hymn "On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand." After the reading of Romans 10 and prayer by Eld. H. M. Crain, the congregation sang No. 208, Harvest Bells. The missionary sermon was then preached by Eld. H. M. Crain. Theme, Missions; text, Romans 10: 14, 15. After sermon, hymn, "Here Am I, Send Me," sung by congregation

Committee on Religious Exercises reported that Eld. C. G. Howard, of Caroline Association, preach at 3 p. m.; Eld. N. G. Williams at 7:30 p. m.

Prayer was then offered by Bro. J. F. Swanson.

Brethren L. H. Fowler, Roberson and Swanson were asked to take up a collection for missions, to be equally divided between Associational, State, Home and Foreign Mission Boards. Nine dollars and fifty cents collected and turned over to the treasurer, Bro. J. F. Swanson.

Adjourned to 3 p. m. Benediction by Eld. R. F. Routh.

AFTERNOON.

After a bountiful repast, congregation re-assembled in meeting house to hear a sermon by Eld. C. G. Howard. Theme, Work for Jesus; text, John 1: 4.

Services dismissed by Eld. R. F. Routh, to meet at 7:30 p. m.

EVENING.

Preaching at 7:30 by Eld. N. G. Williams. Theme, Once in Christ, always in Christ; once in grace, not always in grace, followed by Eld. Giles C. Taylor, from Conway.

Adjourned to meet at 9 a. m. Monday.

MONDAY—MORNING SESSION.

At 9 a. m. Monday the Association was called to order by the Moderator. Sang hymn, "My Faith Looks Up to Thee," Prayer by Bro. H. B. Dudley.

Reports of committees called for,

Minutes of the

State Mission report read. Discussed by Eld. H. M. Crain and adopted as read.

Foreign Mission report presented. Discussed by Elds. H. M. Crain and R. F. Routh. Adopted.

The report on education was ably discussed by Eld. Giles C. Taylor, of Conway, representing Central Female College, and Eld. H. M. Crain, of DeWitt. At the close of the discussion, a collection was taken for Central Female College. Cash, \$3.85, which was turned over to Bro. Giles C. Taylor. Pledges to be paid by January 1, 1899: Eld. R. F. Routh, \$1; Sister Tulla Scruggs, 50c.

Committee on Sunday-schools reported. Discussed and adopted.

Committee on Temperance reported. The report was ably discussed by Eld. Giles C. Taylor. The church whisky voter was shown up in his true light, or rather darkness. Report adopted.

Committee on Finance reported. Adopted as read.

Report on Publications read and adopted.

Report on Obituaries read and adopted.

The Association then took a recess until 1 p. m. Dismissed by E'd. L. H. Fowler,

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The body came together. Sang hymn, "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing."

The report of the Executive Board was read and adopted.

A motion was then made and sustained that a Historical Committee be appointed to write up the history of the Grand Prairie Baptist Association, to be read by said committee at the next meeting of this body. The following brethren were appointed: Bro. S. K. Downs, Eld. R. F. Routh, E'd. N. G. Williams, James Reagan, Sr.

Motion, sustained by the body, that the clerk take the minute money sent up by the churches and have as many minutes published as he can, and distribute among the churches according to the money sent by them, and that the treasurer pay over to the clerk all the minute fund, to pay for same.

A resolution of thanks was offered and adopted.

The minutes of the proceedings of the body were then read by the clerk and adopted.

Thus, closed the most harmonious meeting ever held by the Grand Prairie Baptist Association. Every speech made, every word spoken, seemed seasoned with grace and steeped in the fountains of love, drawing all hearts closer together and causing us to look for grand things at our next meeting, if God wills, with Hazen church, Friday before the third Sunday in October, 1899, at 10 a. m.

R. H. PARKER, Moderator

N. G. WILLIAMS, Clerk.

Appendix.

EDUCATION.

Your Committee on Education submit the following report for your consideration: The importance of this question demands our most earnest consideration. When we look around us, we see crowning almost every hill schools, where the children of our country are being educated. Parents are striving to give their children every possible advantage calculated to advance their intelligence and add to their accomplishments. Standing at the present, and viewing the result of these educational advancements upon the next generation, we are profoundly impressed with the necessity of our denomination keeping pace. Indeed, we should not be satisfied with simply keeping pace with the grand educational movement, but we should strive to be in the very advance guard of progress. The Baptists of Arkansas are blessed with facilities for higher education. Ouachita College, at Arkadelphia, can not be excelled as an institution for male education, and we most heartily commend it to our people who may have sons to whom they desire to give the very best advantages. Central Female College, at Conway, is equally as well equipped for the education of the young ladies of Arkansas. The aim of Central College is to develop the girl nature, understanding at the very beginning that they are not boys, and that what is suited to the one is not necessarily suited to the other. The girls of our Association who are prepared to go to college can not do better than to patronize this worthy school. However, we would not fail to recommend that this Association place itself in line with the educational plan recently promulgated by the State Board. This plan contemplates the establishment of high schools and academies in various sections of our State, to be controlled by the Associations. We would suggest that a committee be appointed, which shall confer with a like committee from Mt. Vernon Association, with a view to securing the co-operation of the two associations in the establishment, management and support of such an academy.

Respectfully submitted.

W. H. DUDLEY,
H. M. CRAIN.

OBITUARIES.

Your Committee on Obituaries reports as follows: We find that eleven of our brethren and sisters have departed this life since our last meeting, as reported by letters sent up by the churches to this body. There are others known to your committee who have died since last association that would swell the number to seventeen.

Respectfully submitted.

N. G. WILLIAMS.

STATE MISSIONS.

We, your Committee on State Missions, submit the following for your consideration: The State mission work is that branch of missions which is fostered within the bounds of our own State Convention and by that convention. It is a work from which every church within our State may expect some benefit sooner or later. This work deserves the earnest prayers of every Baptist in the State. We look with humility on the past, that the means contributed to this work by the churches of this Association have been so small. The State Board sustains the same relation to the State Convention that the Executive Board does to the Association. The State Board is composed of one member from each Association, and every effort is made to make its work a State work in deed and in truth. They seek to cultivate fields where no work is done, and so far as they are able to supplement salaries of pastors of churches which are weak but located in populous communities. The idea is to bring Baptist doctrine to the attention of the greatest possible number of souls. It is evident that the board is limited only by the means given it by the churches. Give the State Board double the means next year that it has had and it will occupy double the number of unoccupied fields and supplement the salaries of pastors of twice as many weak churches as it has during the past year. We wish to call the attention of the churches to the fact that every cent given to our State Board goes to the men employed in the field. Not one cent is paid to secretaries. We most heartily commend this work to the churches.

H. M. CRAIG,
J. W. ROBINSON,
G. STYLERS.

HOME MISSIONS.

We fear that this is a mission that has been much neglected. While we could not detract in the least from our giving to mission work in foreign lands, we realize that in our home land there are places almost as destitute of the Gospel as the far off countries of India or Africa. While our Home Board is doing a grand work in spreading the Gospel in our own country and in Cuba, we recommend that greater effort be made to reach those who seldom if ever hear the Word of God preached. We should therefore assist with our money and our prayers, that this work may spread, and that many, through this, may be brought to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

H. Y. MORRIS,
H. G. MILLS.

PUBLICATIONS.

Your committee would respectfully submit the following report on Publications: Good, sound literature as a means for the advancement of our people can not be estimated. There is danger of laying too much stress upon arithmetic and other similar studies during the educational period, and too little stress on good reading along with the child's educational duties. Let

our mothers and fathers provide good books—biographies of pious men and women, books of missionary travels and Bible stories. These books will be found to be of invaluable assistance in instilling pity into the hearts of the children and preparing them for the reception of God's blessed Gospel when they come to maturity. Let every family lay aside at least a part of their means for the purchase of good literature. Above all, we would urge a more general reading of God's Word. As a famous character said when drawing his last breath, "Bring me the book." When asked what book, he replied, "There is but one book. There is but one book." And the neglect of that book by even the professing Christians is simply appalling. We also would urge a more general reading of our State paper, the Arkansas Baptist, for by so doing we can keep pace with the progress of our work in the State. As general literature, we would recommend the Western Recorder, of Louisville, Ky., the Foreign Mission Journal and the Home Field.

Respectfully submitted.

J. W. HIGHFILL,
H. B. DUDLEY.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention is doing great things in spreading the Gospel in foreign lands, which is in obedience to the commission of our Lord: "Go teach all nations." The religious destiny of the world is lodged with the church, as it is the custodian of the Bread of Life. We wish to impress upon the minds and hearts of the brethren of Grand Prairie Baptist Association that it is through the labors of the foreign missionaries from other lands that we can claim three million Baptists in our own favored land. We should rejoice that the efforts of others in the foreign work are being blessed and that thousands are being brought to Christ. But we regret to say that owing to the fact that our churches have withheld from the Lord's treasury we can make no report of anything done by our Association to help on the Lord's work.

Amended. And that each pastor on visiting the churches under his care at first appointment preach a special sermon on Foreign Missions, take collection for the same and forward to R. J. Willingham, Secretary Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.

R. F. ROUTH.

SUNDAY-SCHOOL.

Your Committee on Sunday-schools would report: Whereas, We believe that a Sunday-school is needful to the well-being of a church in order to extend Gospel influences among the people, we would urge the assistance of each member of this body on returning home to shake off the shackles that have bound them so long, arise, go to work and organize a Sunday-school in every church. Urge the prompt attendance of every brother and sister, with all the little folks. We so earnestly insist that our brethren organize and carry on a Sunday-school because we believe, 1. That there have been many dear souls pointed to the way of life in a Sunday-school. 2. That it is edifying to our children when rightly carried on. 3. Where we find a lively Sunday-school, we find a lively, prosperous church. Whereas, we believe, that this is one way whereby we are enabled to sow precious seed in the hearts of our children, we do urge our brethren of this Association when they return to their different churches to resolve to work on this line until the whole church shall become aroused to a sense of the need of a Sunday-school.

W. A. ROBINSON,
L. H. FOWLER,
B. F. KEATON.

Minutes of the

EXECUTIVE BOARD.

Your Executive Board would report that we held our first meeting with Fairmount Baptist Church. At that time we employed Eld. C. I. Walker for the Associational year, at a salary of twenty-five dollars per month, who engaged in the work. At our meeting in Hazen, in May, our missionary resigned and was paid in full for the time he was in the service of the board as missionary. At this time, for the need of money, we thought it best not to attempt to continue missionary work. We held other meetings, but could do nothing.

Respectfully submitted.

R. H. PARKER, President of Board.

N. G. WILLIAMS, Secretary.

FINANCE REPORT.

Received for Associational Missions.....	\$1 40
Home Missions.....	65
Foreign Missions.....	25
Clerk's fees.....	1 00
For Minutes.....	14 25
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Total.....	\$17 55

B. F. KEATON, for Committee.

TEMPERANCE.

Your Committee on Temperance would report the following: We are commanded to add to our faith temperance, II Peter 1: 6. "And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things." I. Cor. 8: 25. 1. In sleep—"Let us not sleep as others." I. Thess. 5: 6. 2. In eating—"The glutton shall come to poverty." Prov. 23: 21. "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." 3. In buying—"Owe no man anything." Rom. 15: 8. "Extortioners shall not inherit the kingdom of God." II. Cor. 6: 10. 4. In talking—"If any man among you seems to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain." James 1: 26. "The tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity, and is set on fire of hell." James 3: 6. 5. In drink—"No drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of God." I. Cor. 10. This nation pays \$1.11 for religion, \$2.02 for salvation and \$17 for drink per capita. For every missionary sent to Africa, 75,000 gallons of liquor are sent. In 1895, eight States drank 90,434 barrels, or one quart per capita, under prohibition, while other States and Territories drank 33,501,188 gallons, or 16 gallons per capita, without prohibition. If you will drink, buy a gallon of whisky, make your wife bartender, and when you want a drink, pay her 15 cents a drink, and when the whiskey is gone she will have \$6 75 clear profit.

R. F. ROUTH.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Called to order by the Moderator to hear introductory sermon, after which the Association re-assembled, with the Moderator and Clerk in their seats.
2. Letters read and messengers enrolled.
3. Petitionary letters called for.
4. The election of officers for the ensuing year.
5. Call for correspondence.

6. Invitation to visiting brethren and sisters to seats in the body.
7. Committees appointed on Education, Sunday-schools, Finance, Foreign Missions, Publications, Religious Exercises, Temperance.
8. Complete correspondence and appoint messengers to sister Associations and State Convention.
9. Reports of standing committees.
10. Contributions and pledges taken from churches.
11. Resolutions and propositions received.
12. Report of Executive Board.
13. Determining time and place of holding next annual meeting.
14. Treasurer's report.
15. Executive Board appointed.
16. Reports of temporary committees.
17. Appointment of brethren to preach the introductory and missionary sermons.
18. Reading of minutes.
19. Parting address by the Moderator.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Education—Prof. J. W. Simmons; J. W. Boe.
 Sunday-schools—Eld. H. Y. Morris, J. W. Highfill and J. T. Hammond.
 Foreign Missions—Eld. R. F. Routh, J. W. Roberson and H. G. Müller.
 Publications—Eld. D. S. Cannon. B. F. Keaton and William Luckett.
 Temperance—J. F. Swanson, A. H. Soekland and H. B. Dudley.
 Home Missions—Eld. N. G. Williams, Eld. L. H. Fowler and S. K. Downs.
 State Missions—Eld. B. F. Coburn, Elmer Moore and Charley Edwards.
 Obituaries—Eld. B. F. House, J. S. Wood and R. L. Davis.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS.

Charley Edwards.....	Almyra	W. W. Alt.....	Macedonia
G. W. Belcher.....	Bethel	J. S. Wood.....	New Bethel
J. P. Allen.....	Big Lagrue	Pat Donovan.....	New Zion
Caren McSwane.....	Bellone	W. L. Cole.....	Oak Grove
J. Carpenter.....	Bayou Meto	T. L. Ricks.....	Pleasant Ridge
S. K. Downs.....	Cash Prairie	Albert Powell.....	Point DeLuce
E. J. McEwen.....	Center Point	B F. Keaton.....	Rising Sun
H. H. Highfill.....	Crossroads	W. C. Luckett.....	Salem
J. W. Merritt.....	DeWitt	J. N. Worthy.....	St. Charles
G. Westrop.....	Hurricane	J. F. Swanson.....	Stuttgart
H. G. Miller.....	Hazen	Elmer Moore.....	New Hope
J. W. Robinson.....	Fairmount		

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Received from E. A. Allen, old treasurer.....	\$3 32
Home Missions.....	75
State Missions.....	1 55
Foreign Missions.....	25
Associational Missions.....	1 60
Collection at last Association for Associational Missions.....	5 15
Bro. Cannon.....	1 00
For minutes.....	20 46
Clerk's fees.....	2 40
Foreign Mission Journal.....	5 50
S. K. Downs.....	75

Minutes of the

Big Lagrue church.....	5 00
Macedonia.....	1 00
DeWitt.....	11 75
Oak Grove.....	2 00
Rising Sun.....	3 50
Stuttgart.....	8 00
Fairmount.....	1 50
Bro. Fowler.....	15
Almyra.....	2 00
Pleasant Ridge.....	4 00
New Hope.....	1 50
A. H. Soekland.....	3 00
Collection for Bro. Morris.....	2 50
Total.....	\$88 63

DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid to A. H. Soekland for printing minutes.....	\$17 50
To Bro. Cannon for preaching at Crooked Creek ch.....	6 00
H. Y. Morris for preaching at Hurricane church.....	11 53
Bro. Walker, Associational missionary.....	42 65
Sent to Foreign Mission Journal.....	5 50
To Foreign Mission Board.....	1 50
State Mission Board.....	1 55
Paid to E. A. Allen, clerk's fee.....	2 40
Total.....	\$88 63

J. F. SWANSON, Treasurer.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

D. S. Cannon.....	DeWitt.
H. M. Crain.....	DeWitt.
N. G. Williams.....	DeLuce.
C. I. Walker.....	Fairmount.
R. F. Routh.....	Hazen.
H. Y. Morris.....	Barrettsville.
B. F. House.....	Hazen.
L. H. Fowler.....	Roe,

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	By Baptism.	By Letter.	Restoration.	Statement.	Excluded.	Dis. by Letter.	Died.	Present Membership	Sunday-schools	For Minutes.	Pastor's Salary.	Associational Missions.	State Missions.	Home Missions	Foreign Missions.	Value of Church Property.	ORD'INED MINISTERS.
Pleasant Ridge.....	3	2	3		7			68	1	\$1 00	\$32 00	\$4 00				\$750	H. Y. Morris.
Hazen.....	1	5				3		53	1	1 00	64 10					950	R. F. Routh.
Stuttgart.....	11	4					1	48	1	1 50	155 00	11 00	\$7 50			600	B. F. Coburn.
Point DeLuce.....					4	2	1	76		1 00							
New Hope.....	7		1	2	13			90		80		1 50					
DeWitt.....		5				4		66	1	1 25	600 00		11 35	\$2 50		2,500	H. M. Crain.
New Zion.....								14		50							
New Bethel.....						1	1	23	1	50						300	
Fairmount.....	6	3		5	2			17		75	75 00						
Crossroads.....	2	2			6		2	55		50	35 00					400	
Center Point.....	3					3		76		1 85						600	
Hurricane.....		7						20		50							
Rising Sun.....	1	1	2	2	1		4	64	1	1 10				65	\$2 54		
Big Lagrue.....	1		1		1	2	1	59	1	1 00		6 25		65	2 00		
Cash Prairie.....								12		45							
Salem.....								32		60		25	25	25	25		
Bellvue.....								56		60							
Total.....	35	31	6	9	35	17	10	825	7	\$14 90	\$650 10	\$23 00	\$19 10	\$4 05	\$4 79	\$6,100	

Grand Prairie Baptist Association.

CHURCHES, PASTORS, ETC.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	POST-OFFICES.	CLERKS.	POST-OFFICES.	Days of Meeting.
Pleasant Rldge.	W. Y. Morris	Barrettsville	T. D. Ricks	Barrettsville	2d.
Hazen	R. F. Routh	Hazen	Mattie Saunders	Hazen	3d.
Stuttgart	B. F. Coburn	Stuttgart	H. B. Dudley	Stuttgart	2a4
Point Deluce	D. S. Cannon	DeWitt	Abbo Powell	DeWitt	2a4
New Hope	N. G. Williams	Deluce	Elmer Moon	Hagler	2d.
De Witt	H. M. Crain	DeWitt	J. L. Wafford	DeWitt	1a3
New Zion	N. G. Williams	Deluce	W. L. Bennett	Tichnor	3d.
New Bethel	B. F. House	Hazen	George Gerrin	Carlisle	4th.
Fairmount	B. F. Coburn	Stuttgart	Flora Cone	Fairmount	3d.
Cross Roads	R. F. Routh	Hazen	J. T. Hammond	Hickory Plains	4th.
Center Point	H. Y. Morris	Barrettsville	W. H. Bullock	Hazen	1st.
Hurricane	H. Y. Morris	Barrettsville	J. Westrobe	Vaby	3d.
Rising Sun	D. S. Cannon	DeWitt	C. J. Henderson	Sassafras	1st.
Big Legrue	N. G. Williams	Deluce	R. H. Parker	DeWitt	1st
Cash Praire	W. A. Roberson	Sassafras	J. A. Thomason	Stuttgart
Salem	B. F. House	Hazen	Lillie Banfield	Cosco	2d.
Bellvue	N. G. Williams	Deluce	Carew McSwain	Ethel	4th.