

MINUTES

OF THE

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Mt. Vernon Baptist Association,

HELD WITH THE

BIG CREEK CHURCH,

ARKANSAS COUNTY.

Saturday, before the first Sabbath in October, 1874.

OFFICERS:

Hon. H. P. SLAUGHTER, - - - Moderator
Eld. J. K. MURPHY, - Cl'k, Cor. Sec'y and Treas



MEMPHIS, TENN.
SOUTHERN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY, 381 MAIN STREET.
1874

MINUTES.

BIG CREEK CHURCH, ARKANSAS CO., ARK.,

October 3d, 1874, 11 o'clock A. M.

Pursuant to adjournment, the Mount Vernon Association was called together by the Moderator to hear the introductory sermon, which was preached by Elder W. H. Pasley (the alternate appointed at the last meeting, in the absence of Elder W. D. Mayfield, who had left the State, the principal), from Mark 9th chapter, 5th verse, "Master, it is good for us to be here."

1½ O'CLOCK P. M.

After a short intermission the Association again assembled, and the hymn "O, for a closer walk with God" was sung, and Elder J. T. Marshall led in prayer.

The letters from the different churches were read by Elders C. T. Scaife and L. K. Obenchain, and the following messengers enrolled (see table on last page).

After reading the letters, the Association completed its organization by the unanimous election of Deacon H. P. Slaughter Moderator, and Elder J. K. Murphy Clerk, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.

Petitionary letters called for, when the following churches presented their petitions, asking for admission into our body:

Mt. Zion Church, which was received and the right hand of fellowship extended to its messenger, Robert Scanland.

St. Charles Church was also received as a member of the body, and the right hand of fellowship given to messenger D. S. Bass.

Bethlehem Church received, and the hand of fellowship extended to messenger John D. King.

These churches, before being received as constituent members of this body, gave satisfactory evidence that they were properly constituted, by adopting the covenant and articles of faith recognized and indorsed by this Association, and published in its minutes at previous times.

Call for correspondence, when none responded as corresponding messengers from other bodies.

An invitation was extended to visiting brethren to take seats in the body and aid us in our deliberations.

Committee on Religious Exercises was appointed, consisting of E. T. Mitchel, R. H. Sparkman, J. A. Ragan, J. T. Nelson, D. S. Bass and R. H. Parker.

No member of the Standing Committee on Temperance being present; on motion, a committee was appointed consisting of L. K. Obenchain, J. C. Cook and J. F. Brice, to report at this session of the body.

On motion, Wm. Thompson was received as a delegate from Salem Church, in the place of J. F. Jarret, who was not present.

Committee on Religious Exercises reported that Elder F. M. Freeman would preach to-night at early candle-light.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet again at 9 o'clock on Monday morning, after singing 1015th hymn of SOUTHERN PSALMIST, "Did Christ o'er sinners weep," and prayer by Elder L. K. Obenchain.

Saturday night, 7 o'clock p. m., Elder F. M. Freeman preached from Psalms, 60th chap., 4th verse, setting forth very forcibly, some of the doctrines peculiar and precious to us as Baptists, because Bible doctrines.

SABBATH, 9 o'clock A. M.

The Mount Vernon Baptist Sunday-school Convention met, when the following churches reported having Sunday-schools: New Hope No. 2, Liberty No. 2, Helena, Salem, Cypress Valley, Lima Grove, Ash Grove, Forrest Chapel, Forrest City, Bible Union, Pleasant Grove, Manassa, Bethlehem.

The superintendents of these schools, according to our constitution, are vice presidents of this Convention. We were sorry that other churches did not report Sunday-schools.

Elders Freeman and Obenchain made addresses on the Sunday-school work, urging upon the brethren more untiring efforts in this direction.

11 o'clock A. M., Elder C. T. Scaife preached the missionary sermon, from 2d Cor., 9th chap., 7th and 8th verse, "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart so let him give, not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that ye always have all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work." After which a collection was taken up for Domestic Missions, amounting to \$25 75 in cash.

2 o'clock P. M., Elder W. F. Kone preached from John, 18th chap. and 37th verse, "To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth."

At night, Elder J. K. Murphy preached from Heb., 12th chap., 2d verse, "Who, for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross." Elder W. H. Pasley preached at St. Charles, also at night. May the word preached bring forth an abundant harvest to the honor and glory of God.

MONDAY MORNING, 9½ o'clock.

The Association assembled for business. After reading the scriptures, by the Moderator, and singing 497th hymn of the SOUTHERN PSALMIST, "When I survey the wondrous cross," etc., Elder H. Haliburton led in prayer. Roll of messengers called and responded to, and the minutes read and approved.

On motion, Bro. Erastus T. Pruitt was received as a messenger from Forrest City Church and his name enrolled.

The report of missionary was read, and, on motion, it was received and adopted as report of Executive Board. (See Appendix D.)

Finance Committee appointed, consisting of John Walker, W. J. Hicks and J. W. Graham.

Committee on Education made their report, and after remarks by Scaife, Murphy, Pasley and Slaughter, was adopted. (See Appendix C.)

Committee on Religious Exercises reported Elder L. K. Obenchain to preach at 11 o'clock to-day, and Elder W. F. Kone at night.

Report on Sunday-schools was received.

Adjourned for preaching by Elder L. K. Obenchain, who preached from Psalms, 84th chap., 11th verse, "The Lord God is a sun and a shield; the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly."

11 o'clock, P. M.

Association assembled for business, and after singing 514th hymn of the SOUTHERN PSALMIST, "We bid thee welcome in the name," Elder W. W. Chaney led in prayer.

Report on Sunday-schools adopted. (See Appendix A.)

Report on temperance received and, after remarks by Kone, Brice, Marshall, Scaife, Obenchain, Bartles, Freeman and Pasley, was adopted. (See Appendix B.)

Time and place of holding next meeting taken up, when it was decided to hold the next session of this body with the church at Oak Grove, near Moro, Lee county.

On motion, a committee, consisting of R. J. Bickerstaff, R. H. Sparkman and John Langston, was appointed on the names and post-offices of the ministers of this Association.

On motion, Elder C. T. Scaife was appointed to preach the next introductory sermon, and Eld. F. M. Freeman his alternate.

Report of Treasurer received and adopted. (See Appendix E.)

On motion, Elder L. K. Obenchain was appointed to preach the next missionary sermon, and Elder W. F. Kone his alternate.

On motion, the following Executive Board was appointed: H. P. Slaughter, J. K. Murphy, John Q. Taylor, C. T. Scaife, A. G. Jarman.

Moved that the Clerk have \$20 for his services.

By C. T. Scaife:

Resolved, That we tender our sincere thanks to the members of Big Creek Church and Christians of every order, and citizens in the vicinity, for the bountiful and kind manner in which they have entertained the Association.

On motion, the Association adjourned, to meet again to-morrow morning at 9½ o'clock. After singing, Deacon E. T. Mitchell led in prayer.

At night Elder W. F. Kone preached from 1 Pet., 1st chap., 13th verse.

TUESDAY MORNING, 9½ o'clock.

The Association assembled for business. Scriptures read by the Moderator. Hymn, "Amazing grace," etc., sung, and Eld. C. T. Scaife led in prayer. Roll called; messengers present.

On motion, the following messengers were appointed to attend the State Convention, which meets at Dardanelle, Thursday before 4th Sabbath in October, 1874, to-wit: J. K. Murphy, W. F. Kone, C. T. Scaife, H. Haliburton, L. K. Obenchain, B. F. Bartles.

Moved that the Association now appoint a missionary, and, after remarks by Brethren Brice, Obenchain, Slaughter, Freeman, Murphy, and pledges to the amount of \$227 50, from several of the churches, for the support of said missionary, Elder W. W. Chaney was chosen as the missionary of this body for the ensuing Associational year.

Report of Finance Committee was received and adopted, which is as follows:

Associational fund for minutes.....	\$69 15
For Domestic Missions.....	41 50
Total.....	\$110 65

The following standing committees were appointed, to report at the next session of the body :

Temperance—J. T. Marshal, W. F. Kone, J. F. Brice.

Domestic Missions—C. T. Scaife, F. M. Freeman, H. Haliburton.

Education—L. K. Obenchain, W. H. Pasley, J. K. Murphy.

Sabbath-schools—W. W. Chaney, P. A. Haman, J. Langston.

By Elder F. M. Freeman :

Resolved, That we recommend that the deacon go to work at home to raise 50 cents for each member in their churches, during the present monied season, for the support of our missionary.

By Elder C. T. Scaife :

WHEREAS, It has come to our knowledge that New Hope Church No. 3 has indorsed alien immersion by her practice ; therefore,

Resolved 1st, That we regard this church in disorder, and her practice subversive of the ancient usage of our churches and disloyal to Christ.

Resolved 2d, That we hereby withdraw our fellowship from New Hope Church No. 3, till she correct her practice in this respect.

By Elder W. W. Chaney :

WHEREAS, This Association is deeply and earnestly interested in the cause of education, and particularly in the success of the school at Forrest City, which has been adopted by the body as a denominational school ; therefore,

Resolved, That we earnestly request the Educational Board, and general agent, appointed at the last sitting of this body, to report at the next session what has been done toward carrying out the suggestions in the report on education, as adopted by the body at the session of 1873.

On motion, O. W. Watson was appointed a corresponding messenger from this body to the Mount Zion Association.

After reading and approving the minutes, and a parting address by the Moderator, the hymn "Am I a soldier of the cross" was sung, amid tears of brotherly love, and the Association adjourned, to meet with the Oak Grove Church, near Moro, on the Spring Creek road, Lee county, Arkansas, Saturday, before the first Sabbath in October, 1875.

Benediction by Elder J. K. Murphy.

H. P. SLAUGHTER, Moderator,
Spring Creek, Lee Co., Ark.

J. K. MURPHY, Clerk,
LaGrange, Lee Co., Ark.

APPENDICES.

[Appendix A.]

REPORT ON SUNDAY-SCHOOLS.

Your Committee on Sunday-schools report, that they find the Sunday-school work less prosperous than at the last session of this body.

They find that many of the churches have no Sunday-schools, while others have allowed their schools to languish. It was also discovered that those churches were most prosperous where Sabbath-schools had been kept up. Some of the churches report that nearly all their accessions had been from the Sabbath-school; while, almost without an exception, there had been revivals in the neighborhoods where this cause had flourished. On the other hand, the churches where Sabbath-schools had been neglected, were generally in a more languishing condition.

We would recommend the adoption of the following preamble and resolution:

WHEREAS, It appears, from information received from the different churches, that those have been most blest where Sabbath-schools have been kept, and as it seems that God has especially blest those churches that have attended to this work; therefore,

Resolved, That we earnestly recommend to the churches the organization of Sabbath-schools, and the encouragement of the cause as one which God seems to bless.

C. T. SCAIFE. } Committee.
J. W. GRAHAM, }

[Appendix B.]

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

WHEREAS, Temperance being one of Christian virtues, and highly and commendable, we would recommend the observance thereof to all the brethren throughout the bounds of this Associa-

tion; especially, as a departure therefrom by some, has caused a stigma to rest upon us as a denomination. And we are admonished to add to our faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge, and so are we to add temperance, and in order that our light may shine fully, let us contend earnestly for the practice of this virtue; therefore,

Resolved, That we earnestly recommend to superintendents of Sunday-schools, within our bounds, to impress upon the minds of the children in their respective schools the evils of intemperance.

Respectfully submitted,

L. K. OBENCHAIN, Chairman.

[Appendix C.]

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Your Committee on Education cannot do better than recommend the effort already made at the last meeting of this body, to found a denominational High School, to be located at Forrest City, and still wait the action of the Board appointed at last meeting of the Association (1873), to carry out their plans to establish said school, and that the pastors of the different churches within our bounds, be requested to act as agents to raise what funds they can towards the amount proposed, to enable the Board to take steps towards the erection of suitable buildings for said school.

J. K. MURPHY, Chairman.

[Appendix D.]

REPORT OF MISSIONARY.

Receiving my commission to serve as missionary, I commenced my labors, and during four months of service delivered about 75 sermons and addresses, in twelve different localities; traveled about 1500 miles; assisted in organizing two Sabbath-schools; witnessed the conversion of some persons and some additions to the churches where I preached. The field in which I operated reached to Forrest City on the North, Walnut Bend on the East, Helena on the South, and Marvell and Midway on the West. As the result, in part, of my labors at Walnut Bend, they have secured the services of a good brother, Elder H. Williams, formerly of Mississippi, to teach and preach, and ere long we hope to have a church constituted there, as there are some Baptists there who hold letters, and others who are Baptists in sentiment and only awaiting an opportunity to publicly profess Christ.

J. K. MURPHY, Missionary.

[Appendix E.]

TREASURER'S REPORT.

J. K. Murphy, Treasurer, submitted the following report:		
Association fund sent up by churches Oct., 1873.....	\$78	05
By amount paid printing minutes and postage.....	\$46	00
" " of Clerk's fee.....	10	00
	<hr/>	
	\$56	00
Leaving a balance due Association.....		22 05
		<hr/>

STATEMENT OF MISSIONARY FUND.

Oct. 1873—Sent up by churches and collected on Sabbath..	32	55
Paid missionary for services balance of Associ- ational fund and what was sent up for mis- sions, by order of Executive Board.....	54	60
Paid missionary for labors by former Treasurer, Elder W. D. Mayfield, by order of Board.....	102	97

MINISTERS NAMES AND POST-OFFICES IN THE MOUNT
VERNON ASSOCIATION.

ORDAINED.

NAMES.	POSTOFFICE.
J. F. Brice,	St. Charles.
H. Halliburton,	DeWitt.
W. H. Pasley,	Wheatly.
B. F. Bartles,	Clarendon.
W. F. Kone,	Forrest City.
F. M. Freeman,	DeWitt.
L. K. Obenchain,	Forrest City.
J. K. Murphy,	LaGrange.
C. T. Scaffé,	Trenton.
J. T. Marshal,	DeWitt.
J. J. Huckaby,	Poplar Grove.
P. A. Haman,	Devall's Bluff.
W. W. Chaney,	DeWitt.
B. F. Thomas,	Forrest City.
W. M. Raper,	Moro.
H. M. Aiken,	Linden.
H. Williams,	Askew.

LICENTIATES.

J. C. Cook,	Wheatly.
J. W. Graham,	Marvell.
J. T. Corder,	St. Charles.
W. T. Breeding,	Moro.
S. C. Buckingham,	Clifton.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	NAMES OF MESSENGERS.	POSTOFFICES.	PASTORS.	Baptized.....	Rec. by Letter.....	Restored.....	Dis. by Letter.....	Excluded.....	Increased.....	Total.....	Associational F'd	Domestic Miss'ns	Day of Meeting.
FIRST DISTRICT.													
St. Charles.....	D. S. Bass.....	St. Charles.....	J. F. Brice.....	1	6	...	...	...	...	18	\$2 00	.....	.....
Mount Zion.....	Robert Seanland.....	DeWitt.....	H. Haliburton.....	3	1	...	2	...	...	8	.....	.....	2d.
Liberty.....	P. A. Haman, E. T. Mitchell, W. Bolt.....	DeVall's Bluff.....	P. A. Haman.....	4	...	...	...	2	2	33	4 00	.....	2d.
Rising Sun.....	W. N. Bransford, James A. Ragan, N. M. Ramsey.....	Crockett's Bluff.....	W. W. Chaney.....	2	2	...	2	2	1	63	2 75	.....	1st.
DeWitt.....	James H. Merritt, James A. Gibson.....	DeWitt.....	...	1	8	...	10	...	1	21	2 50	.....	4th.
Big Creek.....	R. H. Parker, C. H. Nelson, J. F. Brice.....	St. Charles.....	J. F. Brice.....	5	3	...	14	3	3	63	4 25	.....	3rd.
New Hope No. 2.....	L. F. Bunyard, W. R. Lloyd, F. M. Freeman.....	DeWitt.....	J. T. Marshall.....	12	1	1	3	1	1	35	2 00	.....	2d.
Mill Bayou.....	J. T. Marshall, W. W. Hammett.....	DeWitt.....	J. T. Marshall.....	1	...	...	3	1	...	31	3 50	.....	.....
Bayou Meter.....	G. W. Bayless, Joseph Synco.....	DeWitt.....	...	1	5	...	6	...	...	13	3 25	.....	3rd.
SECOND DISTRICT.													
New Hope.....	J. K. Murphy.....	LaGrango.....	.....	...	...	...	...	...	3	73	1 00	.....	2d.
Helena.....	Not represented.....	Helena.....	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	.....	.....	.....
Spring Creek.....	H. P. Slaughter, G. W. Slaughter.....	Spring Creek.....	W. H. Pasley.....	1	1	...	4	...	...	38	2 50	\$5 50	3rd.
Oak Grove.....	R. J. Bickerstaff.....	Moro.....	W. H. Pasley.....	26	3	1	2	...	...	70	.....	3 00	1st.
Blackfoot.....	Letter.....	Barton.....	J. K. Murphy.....	...	1	...	...	...	...	13	2 00	.....	1st.
Trenton.....	Not represented.....	Trenton.....	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	44	.....	.....	.....
Salem.....	W. Thompson, R. M. Jackson, J. W. Graham.....	Marvell.....	G. T. Seafie.....	10	3	...	2	5	...	59	2 50	5 25	1st.
Hickory Ridge.....	Not represented.....	Marvell.....	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....	.....
Cypress Valley.....	John Langston, J. W. Ramage.....	Poplar Grove.....	J. J. Huckaby.....	...	...	...	6	...	...	27	1 50	.....	1st.
THIRD DISTRICT.													
Shiloh.....	Letter.....	Cypress Ridge.....	W. M. Raper.....	...	1	...	3	...	3	24	1 75	.....	3rd.
Bethel.....	R. C. Reynolds, T. C. Turner, G. F. Thompson.....	Poplar Grove.....	J. J. Huckaby.....	18	1	...	5	5	...	32	3 50	.....	4th.
Linn Grove.....	John Walker, D. B. Wilder.....	Holly Grove.....	B. F. Bartles.....	1	4	...	...	2	...	54	1 50	1 50	1st.
Philadelphia.....	John Dooly.....	Brinkley.....	B. F. Bartles.....	6	1	2	7	...	...	16	2 25	.....	3rd.

CHURCHES.	NAMES OF MESSENGERS.	POSTOFFICES.	PASTORS.	Baptized	Rec. by Letter	Restored	Dis. by Letter	Excluded	Increased	Total	Associational F'd	Domestic Mis'ns	Day of Meeting
Ash Grove.....	W. J. Hicks	Cotton Plant.....	W. H. Pasley.....	1	1	...	3	1	1	43	4 00	.....	4th.
Pine Fork.....	John Grimes.....	Moro.....	.....	15	2	...	...	4	3	45	1 00	.....	4th.
Mount Gilead.....	J. W. Graham, G. W. Tulley.....	Hickory Ridge....	W. M. Rapier.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	1 50	.....	2d.
Clarendon.....	Not represented.....	Clarendon.....	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	.....	.....	.....
Bethlehem.....	John D. King, W. M. King, A. J. Black.....	Clarendon.....	R. F. Bartles.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	1 50	.....	4th.
FOURTH DISTRICT.													
Forrest Chapel.....	L. K. Obenchain, L. Slaughter, R. H. Sparkman.....	Forrest City.....	L. K. Obenchain...	18	6	3	...	2	3	94	3 00	.....	4th.
Forrest City.....	W. F. Kone, T. E. Pruitt.....	Forrest City.....	W. F. Kone.....	19	15	...	8	...	3	112	4 50	.....	.....
Hopewell.....	Not represented.....	Clifton.....	L. K. Obenchain...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32	.....	.....	3rd.
Bible Union.....	W. T. Frazier, O. W. Watson	Forrest City.....	W. T. Smith.....	15	12	2	...	1	1	74	2 00	.....	4th.
Marianna.....	Not represented.....	Marianna .....	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	28	.....	.....	.....
Pleasant Grove.....	W. Hubbard, James Patterson.....	Cotton Plant.....	.....	25	2	2	7	2	2	41	4 00	.....	4th.
Madagascar.....	W. H. Pasley, J. C. Cook.....	Wheatly.....	W. H. Pasley.....	8	7	...	...	...	2	34	3 00	.....	2d.
N. Alligator Bayou	John Burcham, Samuel Holcombe.....	Askew.....	H. M. Aiken.....	10	...	...	...	...	2	19	2 00	.....	4th.
Total.....	180	95	14	113	27	33	1401	\$68 15	\$16 25	

Southern Baptist Publication Society, Memphis, Tenn.

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