

MINUTES

OF THE

NINETEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

At. Vernon Baptist Association,

Held with the

OAK GROVE CHURCH,

Lee County, Arkansas,

Saturday before the First Sabbath in October, 1875.

OFFICERS:

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



MEMPHIS, TENN.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

AS OBSERVED BY THIS BODY.

1—Called together by the Moderator for the purpose of hearing the Introductory Sermon.

AN INTERMISSION.

Delegates re-assemble, Moderator and Clerk in their seats.

2—Letters read and Delegates enrolled.

3—Election of officers for ensuing year.

4—Petitionary Letters.

5—Call for Correspondence.

6—Invite Visiting Brethren to Seats with us.

7—Committees Appointed—Domestic Missions.

8— " " Education.

9— " " Sabbath Schools.

10— " " Temperance.

11— " " Finance.

12— " " Religious Exercises.

13— " " Correspondence & Messengers of Sister Association.

14—Contributions from Churches received.

15—Determine place of next Annual Meeting.

16—Resolutions and Propositions in Order.

17—Appoint a Brother to Preach the Introductory.

18—Executive Board Nominated.

19—Report of Committees.

20—Report of Board.

21—Printing of Minutes, and Number determined on.

22—Reading of Minutes before adjournment.

23—A Parting Address by the Moderator.

MINUTES

MORO, Lee Co., Ark., Saturday, Oct. 2. 1875,
11 o'clock, A. M.

Pursuant to adjournment, the MOUNT VERNON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION met this day with the Oak Grove Church, and, in the absence of both principal and alternates, Elder B. F. Thomas was chosen to preach the introductory sermon, which he did from Heb. ii, 3: "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation."

On motion, it was agreed to have a recess until half-past 1 o'clock, P. M.

1½ O'CLOCK, P. M.

Association assembled for business, and, after singing the 99th Hymn of Southern Psalmist, and prayer by Eld. L. K. Obenchain, the body proceeded to organize.

The Letters from the different Churches were read by Elds. A. M. Russel and L. K. Obenchain. Whereupon the following Messengers were enrolled. (See Statistical table).

The Association was organized by the re-election of old officers. H. P. Slaughter, Moderator, and J. K. Murphy, Clerk, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.

Petitionary Letters were called for, when the following churches asked for admission into our body:

Zion Church, which was received and the right-hand of fellowship extended to Messenger, Eld. B. F. Thomas.

Brinkley Church was received on petitionary letter, no Messenger being present.

New Hope No. 3, from whom the Association withdrew its fellowship on last meeting for receiving alien immersions, was admitted back to the fellowship of the body upon the ac-

knowledge of its error and the assurance that it would be guilty of the like again. The right-hand of fellowship extended to Messengers T. D. Cooper and J. W. Smith.

Committee on Religious Exercises appointed, consisting John Taylor, J. F. Jarrett, J. E. Turner and the Pastor and Deacons of Oak Grove Church.

Call for Correspondence; whereupon Elder M. Green was received as a Corresponding Messenger from the Carolina Association, and also as Corresponding Secretary of State School work of State Convention, and Financial Agent of Judson University, located at Judsonia, White County, Ar.

Committee on Religious Exercises reported Elder M. Green to preach to-night.

On motion, it was agreed to have a Sunday School Meeting at 9 o'clock Sunday morning.

On motion, the Association adjourned to 9 o'clock Monday morning, after singing the 182d Hymn, and prayer by Elder M. Green.

Elder M. Green preached at night, from Romans iv 24 and 11th verse.

LORD'S DAY.

Sunday School Mass-Meeting of Mt. Vernon Association met at 9 o'clock, and was opened by singing the 1st Hymn Supplement of Psalmist, "A charge to keep I have," and prayer by Elder W. M. Raper.

On motion, it was agreed to change the clause of the Constitution of Sunday School Convention, so as to read "make report to the Secretary of Sunday School Work of State Convention," instead of "to Secretary of State Sunday School Convention."

Report on Sunday Schools called for, and after being discussed and amended, was adopted. (See appendix A).

Elder M. Green addressed the meeting on Sunday School work.

The meeting adjourned to meet with this body on Saturday night of each meeting, and hold a Sunday School Institute in accordance with recommendation of report.

11 O'CLOCK, A. M.

Elder L. K. Obenchain preached the Missionary sermon on Mark xvi. 15; after which a collection was taken up for the Missions, amounting to \$36 40, and \$19 00 in pledges.

2½ O'CLOCK, P. M.

Elder P. A. Haman preached on Ministerial Consecration on 1 Tim. iv, 15; which sermon was unanimously requested the congregation for publication in the Western Baptist, the Baptist.

At night, Elder A. M. Russel preached from the name Jesus."

The congregations, during the day, were large and attentive: deep feeling and solemnity manifested. The people of God were revived, and sinners made to cry out "What must I do to be saved?" To God be the glory.

MONDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 4

Association assembled for business, and after singing the 15th Hymn, prayer was offered by Bro. E. T. Mitchell.

Roll called; Messengers answered. Minutes read and approved.

Finance Committee appointed, consisting of E. T. Mitchell, John Farrar, sr. and T. C. Davis.

Report on Education received, and, after amendment and remarks by brethren Green, Thomas, Izard, Russell and Murphy, was adopted. (See appendix B).

Report of Executive Board of High School of this Association located at Forrest City, received and adopted. (See appendix C).

11 O'CLOCK, A. M.

Association adjourned until 2 o'clock, P. M. Preaching by Elder J. K. Murphy at this hour, from Acts xxvi. 29.

2 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Association assembled for business; Singing the 983d Hymn, and prayer by Elder E. Holland.

On motion, the following named brethren were appointed Board of Trustees of the High School at Forrest City, to-wit: V. B. Izard, H. P. Slaughter, W. H. Pasley, A. L. Grady, C. Davis, A. M. Russel, E. L. Black, J. K. Murphy and John Taylor.

By V. B. Izard:

Resolved, That we, the Mt. Vernon Association, having every confidence in the Editor, our Brother J. R. Graves, of the Baptist, published at Memphis Tenn., and would fully endorse him and his paper as true exponents of Bible doctrine and teachings, and recommend them with "Kind Words" as our Sunday School paper to Baptists generally, throughout the State.

By J. K. Murphy:

Resolved, That this body recommend the Western Baptist, our denominational State paper, published at Kearney, Arkansas, as a true and faithful exponent of Baptist doctrine, and well worthy of the patronage of the members of our churches within the bounds of this Association and throughout the State.

Finance Committee presented report as follows:

We, your Finance Committee, beg leave to report the following amount collected, v z:

Foreign Missions.....	\$ 15
*Home "	00
For Minutes.....	50
Total.....	\$15 50

E. T. MITCHELL,
J. P. FARRAR,
T. C. DAVIS,

—* Handed back to Liberty Church \$15 00; deduct from above am't, leave \$15 50

Treasurer presented his report. (See appendix E).

By Elder A. M. Russel:

Resolved, That we allow the Clerk of this body \$10 00 for his services, and request that he have as many Minutes published in pamphlet form, as the funds in hand will admit, by the Southern Baptist Publication Society, and distribute the same *pro rata* to the churches.

The following brethren were appointed Corresponding Messengers to other bodies:

Caroline Association—Elder A. M. Russel.

Mt. Zion—Elder B. F. Thomas.

The following Messengers were appointed to go to our State

convention, which meets at Searcy on Thursday before the Sabbath Sunday in July, 1876: A. M. Russel, W. H. Pasley, B. Bartles, P. A. Haman, R. S. Barden, H. P. Slaughter, J. W. Graham, B. F. Thomas, J. K. Murphy.

Report on Home Missions, received and adopted. (See appendix D).

On motion, Letters were granted to the following churches belonging to this body, to form a new Association: St. Charles, Mt. Zion, Liberty, Rising Sun, DeWitt, Big Creek, New Hope No. 2, Mill Bayou, Bayou Meter.

The place of meeting of this body was next taken up, and was agreed to hold the next meeting with the Ash Grove Church, near Cotton Plant, Woodruff County, Ark.

Elder A. M. Russel was appointed to preach the introductory sermon, and Elder W. H. Pasley alternate.

On motion, the Association adjourned until 9 o'clock Tuesday morning, after singing hymn 197, and prayer by Elder J. W. Graham.

Monday night Elder J. L. Wilson preached from Psalms xxxvii. 23-24.

TUESDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK.

Association assembled, and after singing "Do not I love thee O my Lord," and prayer by Bro. J. F. Jarrett, the body proceeded to business.

Roll called, Messengers answered.

The Centennial movement which was made the special order of this hour, was taken up, when the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That we, in common with other Associations, appoint as Centennial agents, our brethren Elders W. H. Pasley and B. F. Bartles, as our agents to collect the Centennial contributions for Colleges, and report to State Committee as appointed at last State Convention.

By request of the body, Elder M. Green delivered an address on the Centennial work.

By. Elder B. F. Bartles :

Resolved, That we, the Mt. Vernon Association, hereby tender our sincere thanks to the Oak Grove Church and community, for the cordial entertainment we have received during the sitting of this body.

The following Standing Committees were appointed to report at next session of this body :

Domestic Missions—J. K. Murphy, W. M. Raper, John Taylor.

Education—W. H. Pasley, V. B. Izard, A. M. Russel.

Sunday Schools—L. K. Obenchain, B. F. Thomas, E. F. Mitchel.

On motion, it was agreed to do away with a report on Temperance, as it was thought the churches were the proper tribunals to deal with drunkards.

11 o'clock. Adjourned for preaching by Elder M. Green, who preached from Heb. vi. chap. After preaching, Association adjourned to 1½ p. m.

1½ o'clock, p. m.

Association assembled, and after singing the 1015th hymn of Psalmist and prayer by Elder P. A. Haman, proceeded to business.

By Elder J. W. Graham :

In view of the great need of an efficient Missionary in our Association, be-
Resolved, That the Deacons of each church take up a monthly Missionary collection from each member of their churches, and such other persons as give, in order to employ such Missionary in our Association.

The query sent up from Salem Church "Was John's baptism Christian baptism?" was answered unanimously by the body, in the affirmative.

On motion, the clause of the Constitution providing for a Executive Board, was re-considered, when the following named brethren were appointed a new Board in lieu of the old one: W. H. Pasley, J. M. Anderson, H. R. Farrar, John Taylor, C. W. Hickey, together with the Moderator and Clerk of Association who are *ex-officio* members of the Board

On motion, Elder J. K. Murphy was appointed to preach the next Missionary sermon, with Elder L. K. Obenchain for alternate.

Minutes being read and adopted, and a parting hymn sung and the parting hand given, the Association adjourned to meet with the Ash Grove Church, near Cotton Plant, Woodruff County, Arkansas.

II. P. SLAUGHTER, Mod.

Spring Creek, Ark.

J. K. MURPHY, Clerk,

LaGrange, Ark.

APPENDICES.

[APPENDIX A.]

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Your Committee, to whom was referred the subject of Sunday Schools, beg leave to report the following :

The Sunday School may be made the great auxiliary of the Church in preaching the Gospel. This truth, we deem it not necessary to stop to prove, but would urge the churches and Pastors to do all in their power to carry on the Sunday School work. We further recommend that a Sunday School Institute be arranged to hold a session on Saturday night of each session of the Association, and that the officers of this Association be, and are hereby, ordered to secure a suitable Lecturer for Saturday night, to lecture on the subject of Sunday Schools, and that all the brethren be allowed five minutes to suggest improvements on the lecture, but not to so criticize as to make the Institute a debating society.

Your Committee would modestly say that every member of the church should be a teacher or pupil in the Church Sunday School.

All of which we respectfully submit.

P. A. HAMAN, Clerk.

[APPENDIX B.]

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

We, your Committee, beg leave to report : That we are gratified to learn that the attempt to locate a Denominational High School at Forrest City, has been made a partial success since our last meeting, and that some \$1,500 (one thousand five hundred) has been raised in reliable subscriptions, and the lot for building secured; and your committee urge that the work be prosecuted with diligence until this school be put in full operation, and that, to further advance the interest of this school, that this body now take up a cash collection and subscription for the purpose of building a house, and also, that an agent now be appointed to canvass this Association for money payable 1st of next January to a body of Trustees appointed by this body, and that we repeal the resolution made by this body under report on education, 1873. And

WHEREAS, A school of high grade and liberal charter has been long needed in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, The Judson University is such a school, and the Trustees offer it to the State as a Baptist School, with a property worth \$50,000 00. Therefore we accept the offer of the University and recommend it to the consideration of the churches.

L. K. OBENCHAIN, Ch'm.

[APPENDIX C.]

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE BOARD OF FORREST CITY HIGH SCHOOL.

We, your Committee, to whom was intrusted the management of the High School located at Forrest City, beg leave to report : That we now have a reliable subscription of Fifteen Hundred Dollars, and have secured the grounds

for said location, and we would recommend that this Association make a determined effort, by every means at their command, to have the school in operation at the earliest possible day; and would further recommend the election of a Board of Trustees by this body, and that said Board be empowered to elect a Treasurer and general agent, and that every Baptist, and others favorable to the enterprise, be requested to send their contributions direct to said Treasurer, on or before the first day of January, 1876; and that this report be published in pamphlet form and forwarded to each Pastor of churches forming this Association. All of which is respectfully submitted.

V. B. IZARD,
H. P. SLAUGHTER.

[APPENDIX D.]

DOMESTIC MISSIONS.

We your Committee, to whom was committed the subject of Home Missions, would respectfully beg leave to submit the following:

- 1st. A great destitution prevails within our bounds.
- 2d. It ought to be supplied.
- 3d. We would recommend—
 - 1st. That a present cash collection.
 - 2d. A subscription payable at our next session.

H. HALIBURTON, Ch'm.

[APPENDIX E.]

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Treasurer submit the following report:

<i>J. K. Murphy in account with Mt. Vernon Association,</i>		<i>Dr.</i>
Associational fund sent up by churches, October, 1874.....	\$ 69 15	
<i>Cr.</i>		
By amount paid printing Minutes.....	\$ 40 00	
" " " Freight.....	1 00	
" " " Postage.....	2 00	
" " " Clerk's Fee.....	20 00	
Total.....	\$ 63 00	\$ 63 00
Leaving Balance Due Association.....	\$ 6 15	

STATEMENT OF MISSIONARY FUND.

Oct. 1874—Sent up by churches and collected on Sunday.....	\$ 41 00	
<i>Cr.</i>		
By amount sent to Foreign Mission Board, sent up by Salem Church, 1873, but Treasurer not credited with in last report.....	\$ 5 00	
Leaving Balance Missionary Fund.....	\$ 36 50	

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	NAMES OF MESSENGERS.	POST OFFICE.	PASTORS.	Baptized.	Restored by let.	Excluded.	Dead.	Total.	Aid'n Fund	Domestic Missions	Foreign Missions	Days Met.		
1st District.	2nd District.	3rd District.												
St. Charles	Letter	St. Charles	H. Halliburton	1	3	1	8	1 00				2		
Mt. Zion	Letter	DeWitt	H. Halliburton	5	2	1	13	1 00				2		
Liberty	P. A. Haman, E. T. Mitchell, W. G. Harris	DeWitt's Bluff	P. A. Haman	4	2	2	33	2 00				2		
New Hope No. 3	T. D. Cooper, J. W. Smith	Indian Bay	T. D. Cooper	1	11	1	24	2 00				4		
Rising Sun	J. L. Wilson, L. C. Smart, J. E. Turner	Crickett's Bluff	J. T. Marshall	12	3	2	6	75	3 25			1		
De Witt	No Representation	De Witt					1	21				4		
Big Creek	No Representation	St. Charles	J. F. Brice				61					8		
New Hope No. 1	Letter	DeWitt	F. M. Freeman	11	3	3	2	43				3		
Mill Bayou	Letter	DeWitt	J. T. Marshall	1	3		25	2 25				3		
Bayou Meter	J. T. Tanner	DeWitt	J. T. Marshall	2	1	3	1	12	2 00			4		
New Hope	J. K. Murphy, C. W. Hickey, W. L. Howard	LaGrange	J. K. Murphy	4	1	2	1	60	3 00			2		
Helena	Represented by J. K. Murphy, Pastor	Helena	J. K. Murphy			1	1	58				3-4		
Spring Creek	H. P. Slaughter, W. D. Roane, Geo. Slaughter	Spring Creek	W. H. Pasley				38	2 00				3		
Oak Grove	J. H. Spivey, R. J. Bickerstaff, W. F. Ligon	Moro	W. H. Pasley	1	5	3	2	61	4 00			1		
Blackfoot	C. H. Belsha	Barton	J. K. Murphy				13	1 50				1		
Trenton	Not Represented	Trenton					4	44	16 30					
Salem	Wm. Thompson, J. F. Jarrett, J. W. Graham	Marvell		2	1	3	8	9	3	47	2 50	1		
Cypress Valley	Samuel Bonner	Poplar Grove	J. J. Huckaby			2	1	24	50			1		
Shiloh	W. M. Raper	Cypress Ridge	W. M. Raper	11	3		5	38				3		
Bethel	R. C. Davi, W. S. Turner, G. B. Turner, E. T. Boardman	Vineyard's	J. J. Huckaby	1		2	2	30	2 50			2-4		
Linn Grove	James Walker, Littleton Hill	Holly Grove	D. R. Wilder	2		1	1	2	40	2 30		1		
Philadelphia	John Babb	Brinkley	B. F. Bartles				34		2 50			3		
Ash Grove	K. S. Bardon, E. L. Hammons	Cotton Plant	H. F. Bartles	10	4		2	1	59	2 00		4		
Pine Fork	Wm. Scott, W. L. Gustavus	Moro	W. M. Raper			9	6	8	24	1 50		4		
Mount Gillead	No Representation	Hickory Ridge	W. M. Raper				25					2		
Clarendon	E. Holland, J. L. Hinton	Clarendon	John A. Wheelack	4	3	1		31	1 95			2		
Bethlehem	W. M. King	Clarendon	B. F. Bartles	4				22	1 25			4		
Brinkley	Letter	Brinkley					1							
Forrest Chapel	S. C. Buckingham, Jno Taylor, L. K. Obenchain	Forrest City	L. K. Obenchain	5	8	2	2	5	1	105	2 50	2-4		
Forrest City	T. C. Davis, V. B. Icard	Forrest City	A. M. Russel	7	8	17	4	10	5 60	10 25	1 25			
Hopewell	M. R. James	Clifton				7	1	24	1 75			2		
Bible Union	John J. Fulkerson	Forrest City	W. D. Smith			1	1	74	2 50			4		
Marianna	J. M. Anderson, P. Farrar, Jr, C. A. Wilson	Marianna	W. H. Pasley	3	1	1	1	27	2 50			2		
Pleasant Grove	Not Represented	Cotton Plant					41					4		
Manassas	J. B. Parsons, D. B. Evans	Wheatly	W. H. Pasley	1	2	1	2	34	2 00			4		
Alligator Bayou	Not Represented	Akw					19					4		
Zion	R. F. Thomas	Forrest City	R. F. Thomas				13	75				3		
TOTAL				11	50	14	10	50	204	50	79	60	51	90

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MINUTES

PRAIRIE GROVE CHURCH, PRAIRIE COUNTY, ARK. }
Nov. 28th, 1875. }

According to agreement the following named churches formerly belonging to the Mount Vernon and Caroline Associations, viz :

DeWitt, Rising Sun, Mill Bayou, New Hope, Mt. Zion, St. Charles, Bayou Meto, Swan Lake, Liberty, and Prairie Grove, met with Prairie Grove Church, Prairie county, Ark., for the purpose of organizing a new Association.

The meeting was called to order by Elder T. A. Haman, and on motion Elder J. T. Marshall was made Moderator, and Elder H. Halliburton, Clerk *pro tem*.

After reading a portion of Scripture and singing the 262 hymn of Southern Psalmist, and prayer by the brother Moderator, it was announced that the Introductory Sermon was first in order, and on motion the delegates representing Prairie Grove Church, with their pastor, were granted the privilege of selecting the one of their choice, to preach said sermon; whereupon Elder F. M. Freeman was chosen; who preached a very forcible and interesting sermon, upon the subject of the church, from 12th chapter, 28th verse, of Hebrews.

2 O'CLOCK P. M.

After a short intermission the meeting assembled for business.

After singing a hymn, Elder H. Halliburton led in prayer. On motion the following committee was appointed to draft Constitution and Rules of Decorum, namely :

Elders H. Halliburton, P. A. Haman, F. M. Freeman, J. L.

Wilson, and deacon E. T. Mitchell; after a short interval the committee submitted the following Constitution and Rules of Decorum, which were adopted. (See Constitution and Rules of Decorum.)

On motion the Articles of Faith as set forth in Hiscox Church Directory were adopted. The following churches with their respective delegates were then enrolled as members of this Association.

Bayou Meto—J. T. Marshall.

De Witt—H. Halliburton.

Liberty—P. A. Haman, E. T. Mitchell, J. P. Windham.

Mill Bayou—J. T. Marshall.

Mount Zion—J. W. McCowen, John Simpson, A. J. Bryer.

New Hope—F. M. Freeman.

Prairie Grove—D. H. Lee, A. M. Wylie, J. W. Edmonson.

St. Charles—H. Halliburton.

Rising Sun—J. A. Ragan, J. L. Wilson, A. H. Furgeson.

Sican Lake—L. F. Bunyard.

On motion the Association went into the election of a permanent Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, which resulted as follows :

Brother A. H. Furgeson, Moderator ; Elder H. Halliburton, Clerk, and Deacon E. T. Mitchell, Treasurer.

On motion the following brethren were appointed a committee on religious exercises :

T. M. Belcher and E. G. Lee. Elder P. A. Haman was added to the committee.

On motion a Finance Committee was appointed consisting of brothers J. A. Ragan, A. M. Wylie and D. H. Lee.

Committee on religious exercises reported that Elder H. Halliburton would preach the Missionary Sermon Sunday 11 o'clock, Elder J. L. Wilson, 2 o'clock P. M., and Elder J. T. Marshall, 7 o'clock P. M.

The Committee on Finance made the following report which was received and adopted :

Amount received for minutes from churches.....	\$20 50
Amount received by voluntary contribution.....	8 00
Total.....	\$28 50

Brother L. F. Bunyard was granted leave of absense, the Association then adjourned to meet Monday 9 o'clock A. M.

Sunday 11 o'clock, Elder H. Halliburton, preached from 6th verse, 9th chapter, of 2nd Cor., followed by Elder E. M. Freeman, in a few appropriate and well-time remarks in behalf of the missionary cause; after which a collection was taken up amounting to \$11.25 in cash and \$109.25 in pledges. Elder J. L. Wilson, preached at 2 o'clock P. M., from 3rd 4th and 5th verses, of the 1st chapter, of Peter. In consequence of the inclemency of the weather the appointment for Elder J. T. Marshall was postponed until Monday 11 o'clock A. M.

MONDAY 9 O'CLOCK A. M.

The Association assembled for business.

After reading the Scriptures and singing the 325th hymn Southern Psalmist, brother A. M. Wylie led in prayer.

Roll of messengers called and responded too, and the minutes read and adopted.

On motion the following named brethren were appointed as an Executive Board :

E. T. Mitchell, E. G. Lee, T. M. Belcher, P. A. Haman, and J. A. Ragan.

On motion a committee was appointed on Divine service, to appoint some one to preach the Introductory Sermon with an alternate, also some one to preach missionary sermon with an alternate; the following brethren were appointed :

E. T. Mitchell, J. A. Ragan and D. H. Lee.

On motion the following committees were appointed to report at the next session of this body, viz :

On Education—Elders F. M. Freeman, P. A. Haman and H. Halliburton.

On Sabbath-schools—J. T. Marshall, J. A. Ragan and J. L. Wilson.

On Periodicals—P. A. Haman, F. M. Freeman and J. T. Marshall.

On Temperance—J. T. Marshall, H. Halliburton and J. L. Wilson.

On Missions—H. Halliburton, J. A. Ragan and E. T. Mitchell.

On Ministerial Support—J. E. Turner, A. H. McDonald, L. E. Thomas, William Graves, John Simpson, L. F. Bunyard, D. S. Bass, John Tanner, E. T. Mitchell, and T. M. Belcher.

On Obituaries—F. M. Freeman, P. A. Haman and H. Halliburton.

The Committee on Divine Service reported Elder P. A. Haman, to preach the Introductory Sermon, and Elder J. L. Wilson his alternate. Elder F. M. Freeman, the Missionary, and Elder J. T. Marshall his alternate.

On motion the Association took a recess for preaching. Elder J. T. Marshall preached from 15th verse, 1st chapter, Romans.

2 O'CLOCK P. M.

Association assembled for business by singing a hymn.

Prayer by brother J. A. Ragan.

Brethren J. W. McCowen and John Simpson, were granted leave of absense.

The following resolutions were offered and adopted by Elders F. M. Freeman.

Resolved, That this Association earnestly recommend every church in its bounds, not having one, to organize a Sunday-school and report annually the number of teachers and pupils in attendance in their schools, that we may ascertain their numerical strength.

By Elder H. Halliburton.

Resolved, That this is a Missionary Body, and that we earnestly urge the importance of every church in our union seeing to the support of their pastor and to the raising of funds for Home Missions in our bounds.

By Elder P. Haman.

Resolved, That the following be inserted as an article in our constitution. The motto of this Association shall be, "The truth in its purity preached in every section of our bounds."

By Elder H. Halliburton.

Resolved, That we tender our sincere thanks to the members of Prairie Grove Church, for the kind and hospitable manner in which they have entertained the delegates and members of this body.

By Elder J. L. Wilson.

Resolved, That such members of this body as shall attend the Mount Vernon and Caroline Associations, and State Convention, the same is hereby declared to be our Corresponding Messengers.

On motion it was decided that our next session be held with the Rising Sun Church, on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in October, 1876.

On motion the Clerk was instructed to have as many copies of the minutes printed as the money on hand would admit of, reserving sufficient to pay postage for distributing the same.

On motion the Executive board was instructed to employ a Missionary at the earliest practicable moment.

On motion minutes were read and approved.

After singing the 956 hymn, "when I can read my title dear," the Association adjourned to meet with Rising Sun Church, Arkansas county, Arkansas, Saturday before the 4th Sunday in October, 1876.

A. H. FURGESON, MODERATOR, Crocketts Bluff, Ark.
I. HALLIBURON, Clerk, DeWitt, Ark.

CONSTITUTION OF THE GRAND PRAIRIE ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE I.

This body shall be known by the name of Grand Prairie Baptist Association, and composed of members chosen by the different churches in the union, who, on producing letters shall be entitled to seats.

ART. II.

The letters from the churches must state the number of members baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed by letter, excluded, the name and position of the pastor and clerk.

ART. III.

The members thus chosen and convened, shall have no power to infringe on any of the rights of the churches, but may act as an advisory council for the common good of all the churches and advancement of the Redeemers kingdom, and have power to exclude any church from her fellowship which may depart from the gospel of Christ, either in faith or practice.

ART. IV.

Every church composing this Association shall be entitled to three delegates.

ART. V.

Should any church fail to represent herself for two consecutive years she may be dropped from the list of churches, should a satisfactory reason not be given.

ART. VI.

New churches may be admitted into this body who petition by letter and delegates, if found to be sound in the faith and in good order, the reception to be manifested by the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship to members.

ART. VII.

This Association shall annually elect a Moderator from among themselves whose duty it shall be to see that the Rules of Decorum are observed, and take the voice of the Association on all questions properly brought before it, also a Clerk elected, whose duty it shall be to keep a correct record of all the business of the Association, also a Treasurer to receive and disburse the funds sent to the Association as directed by the body, or churches sending the same.

ART. VIII.

This Association shall in all case be governed by a majority of the members present, except in the reception and dismissal of a church, which shall be unanimous.

ART. IX.

This Association may correspond with other Associations and Conventions may be agreed upon while in session.

ART. X.

It shall be the duty of the Association to appoint a minister to preach a Introductory Sermon with an alternate, also one with an alternate to preach a Missionary Sermon at each succeeding session and to fix the time and place for the next meeting of the body.

ART. XI.

This constitution may be altered or amended at any time by a two-third vote of the members present, except that clause in the third article which prohibits the interference with the internal rights of the churches which shall forever remain in tact.

ART. XII.

The minutes shall be signed by the Moderator and Clerk.

F. M. FREEMAN,
H. HALLIBURTON,
J. L. WILSON,
P. A. HAMAN,
E. T. MICHELL.

Clerk

RULES OF DECORUM.

Art. 1. The Association shall be opened by singing and prayer

Art. 2. The Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, shall be elected by ballot by the members present.

Art. 3. The Moderator shall be considered the Judge of order, but any member not satisfied with his decision may appeal.

Art. 4. The Moderator shall be entitled to the privilege of speaking as other members, but not to vote unless it is a tie.

Art. 5. All questions shall be introduced by motion and if seconded shall be opened for discussion unless withdrawn by the mover or his second. When a subject has been discussed a reasonable time, the Moderator shall, when the question is called for, proceed to take it by calling for the yeas and nays, and if a call for a division is made, he shall call for a standing vote.

Art. 6. Any member wishing to speak shall rise and address the Moderator. Only one shall speak at the same time, and shall not be interrupted while speaking unless he depart from the subject or make personal reflections.

Art. 7. No person shall speak more than once upon any subject, until all who wish to speak have had an opportunity, nor more than twice without permission.

Art. 8. Every subject introduced for discussion shall be decided before another is offered, unless it be laid over by motion with the consent of the mover and the Association.

Art. 9. The names of messengers shall be called whenever the Association shall direct, and absentees marked. Any member wishing to retire shall obtain permission from the Moderator.

Art. 10. The appellation of brother shall be used in addressing each other.

Art. 11. Any member violating the rules shall be subject to reproof by the Moderator.

Art. 12. Amendments or alterations may be made to these rules when a majority may deem it necessary.

Art. 13. Any case coming before the Association not provided for in these rules shall be governed by general parliamentary rules.

F. M. FREEMAN.

H. HALLIBURTON,

J. L. WILSON.

P. A. HAMAN,

E. T. MITCHELL.

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