

ARKANSAS BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

—OF THE—

Forty-Third Annual Session

—OF THE—

Bentonville Baptist Association

—HELD WITH—

PLEASANT HILL CHURCH, BENTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS,

September, 21 to 24, 1883

Next Meeting to be Held with Twelve Corner Church, Friday before Fourth Sabbath in September, 1884.

OFFICERS

J. DUNAGIN	Moderator
F. M. SEAMSTER	Clark

MINUTES.

—OF THE—

Forty-Third Annual Session

—OF THE—

Bentonville Baptist Association

—HELD WITH—

PLEASANT HILL CHURCH, BENTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS,

September 21 to 24, 1888.

Next Meeting to be Held with Twelve Corner Church, Friday before
Fourth Sabbath in September, 1884.

OFFICERS

J. DUNAGIN	Moderator
F. M. SEAMSTER	Clark

MINUTES.

FRIDAY before the 4th Sabbath in September, 1283, the Bentonville Association met, pursuant to adjournment, with Pleasant Hill church, Benton county, Arkansas. Introductory sermon was delivered at 11 o'clock a. m., by Eld. I. R. Hall from Luke 19 chapter and 19 verse.

The Association was called to order by former Moderator.

Appointed G. C. Harris and H. M. Butler reading Clerks.

Letters from different churches read and delegates names enrolled.

Petitionary churches called for, which was responded to by two newly constituted churches to-wit: Bentonville and Rogers. Which were received and the hand of fellowship extended by Moderator.

The Association was permanently organized by re-electing Eld. J. Dunagin Moderator and F. M. Seamster Clerk.

Visiting ministers present invited to seats. Responded to by Eld. S. Cornelius, D. D., State Sunday School Evangelist and Eld. W. H. Gorman, from the Rehaboth Association, Texas.

Called for correspondence. Received from the Springtown Association, Eld. J. H. Hogan and P. R. Johnson.

On motion appointed the following committee on constitutional amendments. Eld. M. C. Harris, H. G. Hartly, and J. M. Brown, to which the Moderator was added.

The following committees were also appointed:

On Divine Service—C. S. Netherton, Charles Patterson, with the delegates of this church.

On Sabbath Schools—Eld. G. C. Harris, J. Sanders and John Hall.

Foreign Missions—Eld. R. C. Bone, R. Weaver, R. W. Lychliter, W. O. Searcy and A. Sanders.

On Finance—J. N. Sharp, D. V. Walker, J. Tuck and Wm. Libe.

On Temperance—H. C. Chiles, D. D. Hopkins, J. L. Cardin.

Obituaries—R. Weaver, J. B. Vernon, and C. O. Williams.

Report on Sabbath Schools made especial order for Saturday 10 o'clock.

On Books and Periodicals—Eld. I. R. Hall, F. M. Seamster, N. V. Mayo.

Adjourned to Saturday morning 9 o'clock.

Prayer by S. Cornelius, D. D.

SATURDAY 9 O'CLOCK.

Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Eld. M. C. Harris. The minutes of Friday read and approved.

Committee on Sabbath Schools read their report. Elder Cornelius then addressed the Association at some length on the Sunday school question, after which the report was adopted as follows:

Your committee on Sabbath Schools submit the following: Whereas we find in the seventeen churches represented only eight Sabbath Schools reported, four of them Baptist schools, the other four Union, we think the most earnest effort should be made where it is practicable to organize Baptist schools and supply them with Baptist literature. As one important means to this end we recommend that a meeting for the purpose of organizing a Sabbath School Convention be held on Friday next at this place.

G. C. HARRIS, Chairman.

On motion took a recess for preaching.

At 11 o'clock Eld. R. C. Bone addressed a large audience for an hour and a half. The audience was delighted with the sermon.

The Association then took a recess for dinner.

At 2 p. m. resumed business. T. A. Henderson and E. W. Ward, delegates from the Fayetteville Association, were invited to seats.

The following correspondents were appointed:

To the Fayetteville Association, which meets —, Elders J. Dunagin, I. R. Hall, S. S. Graham, T. T. Black, R. Weaver and J. T. Boyd.

To the Springtown Association: Elders G. C. Harris, F. M. Seamster, T. T. Black, S. S. Graham, A. J. Maxwell and brethren H. C. Chiles, J. B. Vernon and Porter Onbey.

Shoal Creek Association: Elders R. C. Bone and M. C. Harris.

To the State Convention—Elders I. R. Hall, S. S. Graham, G. C.

Harris, M. C. Harris and R. O. Boue.

On motion the committee on Divine Service was authorized to arrange the preaching for Sabbath.

On motion agreed to take a public collection on Sabbath for Home Missions and for Sunday School Evangelist. For Missions, \$22.60, and for Sunday School Evangelist, \$6.00.

Report of committee on Books and Periodicals read and adopted as follows:

We earnestly recommend to your favorable consideration and patronage the ARKANSAS EVANGEL, published at Russellville, Arkansas, as the only medium of communication between the brotherhood of the State. And that the children be furnished with such literature as will aid them in the study of the Bible.

J. R. HALL, Chairman.

The committee on Temperance submitted the following report which was adopted:

That the uses that are now being made of intoxicating beverages is a great evil in the land, and that we as a body enter our most solemn protest against the same.

H. C. CHILDS, Chairman.

On motion Eld. H. H. Hilton, of the White River Association, being present, was invited to a seat in our body.

Adjourned to 9 o'clock Monday morning.

Prayer by T. T. Black.

On Sabbath the stand was occupied at 11 o'clock by Eld. W. H. Gorman of the Rehoboth Association, Texas. The sermon was well delivered and duly appreciated by a packed audience. At the same hour Eld. G. C. Harris, preached to a well ordered crowd in the grove near by. Those that heard him were well pleased. Eld. S. Cornelius gave us a fine sermon at 3 p. m. Eld. H. H. Hilton preached at night to a large audience. His sermon was highly appreciated. God bless the seed sown to the glory of his own name.

MONDAY MORNING.

Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Moderator.

Committee on Finance reported as follows:

Amount sent up by the churches for printing and distributing minutes, \$18.95.

J. N. SHARP, Chairman.

Committee on Obituaries report the following which was adopted:

WHEREAS, It has pleased God in his providence to remove from us by death our brethren and sisters to-wit: Eld. A. J. Vaughn, Wm. Boyd, W. C. Phillips, J. D. Goodman, J. W. Threet, Eliza Atwood, T. Perkins and May Threet. All of whom died in the full triumphs of faith. While we mourn the loss of these dear ones, we deeply sympathize with the surviving friends.

R. WEAVER, Chairman.

Report of the Executive Board read and adopted:

DEAR BRETHREN:

We are glad to be able to report a larger measure of success in the mission work entrusted to our hands at the last session of your body than we had anticipated. We watch-

ed and prayed for the Divine guidance until we saw in a series of circumstances what we believed to be Divine indications to us to go forward. We did so; and the 10th of December last we employed and commissioned Brother G. C. Harris to labor in the bounds of the Association, as Missionary, at a salary of three hundred dollars per annum. We immediately informed the Secretary of the State Mission Board of our action and solicited the aid and co-operation of said Board in our mission work. The State Board did not meet till in February, at which time it approved Brother Harris as its missionary, and recommended him to the Home Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. That Board did not meet until April 10, at which time it approved and commissioned Brother Harris as its Missionary for one year, at a salary of \$150 per annum--or that it would pay one half of his salary. This explains the cause of the delay in securing the co-operation of the Boards. The present relation and co-operation of these Boards are entirely satisfactory. Your Board would most earnestly recommend all the churches to take an active part in our mission work. While we have not been able to accomplish what we could have wished, yet God has crowned your labors with a large measure of success. We would earnestly recommend that you continue Brother Harris, first; because God has put his seal of approval upon his labors as Missionary; because his commission does not expire until April. Owing to the delay in securing the co-operation of said Board, your Board had to pay the full amount of \$75.00 for the first quarter, since which time the Home Board has paid and will pay one half of the salary. We have paid our pro rata of Brother Harris's salary to date (as will be seen from the following tabulated statement of his work) and have a balance of \$36.00 to be turned over to our successors.

MISSIONARY REPORT.

Your missionary makes the following report:

Time spent in missionary work	9 mo.
No. miles traveled	226
" sermons preached	146
" addresses	79
" religious conversations	109
" conversions	75
" accessions to the churches	35
" baptisms	40
" churches organized	2
" Sabbath schools	1
Am't contributions received	\$39.00
" received from Associational Board	\$150
" " Home Mission Board	\$7.50
Missionary's total salary	\$360.

G. C. HARRIS, Missionary.

In conclusion, dear brethren, your Board would say, the field is large and inviting; destitution in many places is great; and the duty is imperative upon us to occupy the field and supply the demand, and as soon as it can be done, we should supplement our Missionary and Sunday School work with a well devised system of colportage. All of which is respectfully submitted

J. DUNAGIN, Executive Board of
J. R. HALL, Bentonville Ass'n.
H. A. BUTLER

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I. This Association shall be composed of Delegates, who shall be members of the Churches they represent, (except such as may be invited to a seat by consent of the body,) and shall be styled "The Bentonville Baptist Association."

ARTICLE II. This Association shall meet annually, on Friday before the first Sabbath in September, at the place previously appointed; and after public worship, reading the letters from the Churches, and acting upon those soliciting membership, a Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen from the Delegates by ballot, both of whom shall hold their offices until others shall be elected.

ARTICLE III. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to make an accurate record of the proceedings of each meeting of the Association, in a book provided for that purpose.

He shall also act as Treasurer.

ARTICLE IV. ~~The Churches~~ shall each send not more than three Delegates, who shall present the letters certifying their appointment and briefly expressing the state of the Churches, their increase and decrease, and their aggregate number. Each Church shall send with their letter, money for printing the Minutes.

ARTICLE V. Churches wishing to unite with this Association may apply by letter and Delegates, and giving satisfactory information of their being sound in doctrine and correct in practice, they may be received by a unanimous vote; in token of which, the Moderator shall give to their Delegates the hand of fellowship in behalf of the Association. Churches may be dismissed upon application.

ARTICLE VI. We acknowledge the independence of the particular Churches, and that no authority or jurisdiction is to be exercised over them by this Association; nor will the Association decide in any controversy that may arise in any Church: nevertheless, they deem it their duty to disown any Church belonging to this body, which may have essentially departed from the faith.

ARTICLE VII. When a Church shall neglect making any communication to the Association for three years successively, it shall be considered as having withdrawn from us, and shall be dropped from the Minutes of the Association, unless at least two members request their continuance, who shall also engage to inquire into their standing and report at the next meeting of the Association.

ARTICLE VIII. This Association shall have the right to open and hold correspondence with other Associations, as may be deemed expedient.

ARTICLE IX. It shall be the duty of the Association, from time to time, to suggest to the several Churches, such measures as may be deemed wise and proper.

Your committee on Constitutional Amendments report the following: Which was adopted.

Add article 10, as follows:

The object of this association is to give the gospel to all within its bounds, and for this purpose it shall be the duty of the association to appoint annually an Executive Board to superintend its mission work; to solicit means, employ its missionary and make annual reports of their work; and that the churches be requested to furnish the board quarterly with means according to their several ability.

H. G. HARTLY, Chairman.

On motion a collection was taken for Foreign Missions which resulted in \$11, which was turned over to the Chairman of the Executive Board for that purpose.

On motion the association agrees to hold its next session with the 12 Corner Church, Benton County, Arkansas, commencing on Friday before the 4th Sabbath in September 1884.

On motion, agreed to continue the present Executive Board of the Association for another year. All communications and contributions should be sent to Eld. J. Dunagin, Chairman, Rogers, Ark.

On motion, the clerk superintend the printing and distribution of these minutes and that he be allowed ten dollars for the same; and that each church send up a small sum to supply the deficit.

On motion, the clerk was instructed to have the printing done at the office of the Evangel, provided it could be done in due time and at reasonable rates.

On motion, J. Dinnagin, J. R. Hall, F. M. Seamster draft a blank letter for the use of the churches comprising this association; and that it be printed in these minutes.

The following brethren subscribed the amounts set to their names for mission work during this year: J. R. Hall, \$10; A. J. Maxwell, \$5; A. Sanders, \$5; C. O. Williams, \$2.50; F. M. Clanton, \$2.

RESOLVED, That this association in session tender their hearty thanks to the Pleasant Hill church and citizens for their hospitality and kindness shown us during our stay among them.

RESOLVED, That the thanks of this body are due and are hereby tendered to the Moderator and Clerk for the efficient manner in which they have discharged their duty.

Thus closed one of the largest and most harmonious gatherings of this body. Adjourned to meet at the time and place before mentioned. Prayer by Eld. J. R. Hall.

ELD. J. DUNAGIN, MODERATOR.

ELD. F. M. SEAMSTER, CLERK.

BLANK LETTER.

The Baptist church at———, to the Bentonville Baptist Association when convened with the——— church, on Friday before the 4th Sabbath in September 188—; sendeth christian salutations, greeting: Dear brethren, we rejoice greatly that the time is again at hand when we can meet you again by letter and delegate in an associational capacity for the purpose of co-operating with each other in giving the gospel to all at home and abroad to the utmost of our ability.

Our statistics are as follows: Since our last meeting we have received By baptism——. By letter——. Dismissed by letter——. Excluded——. Restored——. Died——. Total——. We send for minutes——. For home missions——. Foreign missions——. Pastor's salary——. Sabbath or Bible school, Number of officers——. No. of teachers——. No. of pupils enrolled——. Average attendance——. Donations, and for what purpose——.

May the Great Head of the church be with you and direct all your deliberations.

Signed by order of the church:

J. R. HILL,	} Committee.
F. M. SEAMSTER,	
J. DUNAGIN,	

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	COUNTY.	POST OFFICE.	PASTORS.	DELEGATES.	Baptized Days.	Dismissed.	By Letter.	Excluded	By Relation.	Dead.	Restored.	Total Memb.	Contributions.
Walnut Hill.....	Benton.....	Pea Ridge.....	M C Harris.....	H Harris.....	1 9	6				1		32	1 00
Rogers.....	Benton.....	Rogers.....	J Dunagin.....	H Childs.....	1 1	2 9	1		1			12	50
Southern Grove.....	Benton.....	Lowell.....	S S Grayham.....	J F Anderson, M Maya.....	3 1	2 1						51	75
Bentonville.....	Benton.....	Bentonville.....	J Dunagin.....	C E Netherston, Stahdly.....	4 4	11						22	60
New Prospect.....	Benton.....	Seligman, Mo.....	R C Bone.....	F M Clanton.....	3 12	7 2						104	1 50
Spring Creek.....	Washington	Elm Spring.....	J C Robertson.....	J M Beard, J M Brown, H M Sharp.....	2 9	3 3 0						85	1 55
New Salem.....	Benton.....	Avoca.....	F M Seamster.....	J Tuck, D V Walker.....	1	3						28	50
Shady Grove.....	Benton.....	Springdale.....	W F Green.....	J B Vernon, L D & N P Thurman.....	2	6 2 1						34	1 05
Pleasant Sight.....	Benton.....	Bentonville.....	J R Hall.....	C O Williams.....	4	4 1						28	1 25
Spring Valley.....	Benton.....	Spring Vally.....	C P Tupper.....	Jno Sanders, A Sandery, T T Black.....	1 6	5 6 2			1 1			121	1 00
Twelve Corners.....	Benton.....	Pea Ridge.....	R C Bone.....	W B Moseley, Chas Patterson.....	1 3	6 2 1						90	1 50
Pleasant Hill.....	Benton.....	Rogers.....	J Dunagin.....	G C Harris, J Maxwell.....	2 3	8 1						150	1 50
Pleasant Grove.....	Benton.....	Lowell.....	J R Hall.....	J N Sharp, Wm Libe.....	3	1						47	1 25
Friendship.....	Washington	Springdale.....	J D Boyd.....	P M Onby, J T Boyd, H G Hartley.....	11	5 2 3			4			110	1 25
Liberty.....	Washington	Springdale.....	J C Robinson.....	J L Watson, R M Lichyler, W O Searcy.....	24	5 4 2			2			72	2 00
Mount Pleasant.....	Barry, Mo.	Seligman Mo.....	R C Bone.....	S B Walker, J F Carden.....	2 8	5 1 1						28	75
Pea Ridge.....	Benton.....	Pea Ridge.....	M C Harris.....	Jno Hall.....	4 13	2 13 1						63	4 00

Received of J. Dunagin the sum of \$20.

(Signed)

ARKANSAS EVANGEL.