

MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

MT. VERNON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

FORREST CITY BAPTIST CHURCH.

St. Francis County, Ark.,

Friday, before the 1st. Sabbath in Oct., 1880.

OFFICERS:

H. B. SLAUGHTER, MODERATOR.

G. A. GRAMMER, CLERK.

MEMPHIS, TENN.:

ROGERS & Co., PRINTERS, 315 MAIN STREET

1880.

PROCEEDINGS.

FORREST CITY, ST. FRANCIS CO., ARK.,
Friday October 2, 1880.

The Mt. Vernon Baptist Association met according to adjournment with the Forrest City Baptist Church at 10 o'clock A. M. The Association was called to order by the Moderator, Deacon H. P. Slaughter, and Brother J. R. Brown was elected Clerk, pro tem. Elder L. K. Obenchain previously appointed to preach the Introductory Sermon being absent, on motion of Elder W. H. Paslay, the Association spent one hour in devotional exercises led by Elder G. A. Grammer.

A committee on Religious Exercises was appointed, consisting of Brothers J. H. Crabtree, J. R. Brown, J. H. Thompson, F. L. Gustavus and John P. Farrar.

On motion, adjourned to meet at 2:30 o'clock P. M.

2:30 O'CLOCK P. M.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Sang, "O for a closer walk with God." Prayer by Elder G. A. Grammer.

Letters from the different churches were read by Elder W. H. Paslay and Brother V. B. Izard, and messengers were enrolled as follows:

Hopewell—J. P. Farrar, Sr., William Holwell.
Zion—Elder B. F. Thomas, M. J. Clay, James Williams.
Helena—Elder R. A. Venable.
Oak Grove—F. L. Gustavus, E. T. Boardman.
Spring Creek—H. P. Slaughter, W. D. Roane.
Pine Fork—W. R. Walston, J. W. Grimes, R. Whitted.
Bible Union—William Elliot, S. R. Bell, C. B. Sherman.
Forrest Chapel—J. H. Thompson, R. H. Sparkman, J. Harder.
Forrest City—Elder G. A. Grammer, J. H. Crabtree, V. B. Izard.
Salem—W. J. Scaife.
Pine Grove—S. W. Eddins, Jr.

On motion, it was agreed to elect all the officers in one ballot, which resulted in the choice of Deacon H. P. Slaughter, Moderator, Elder W. H. Paslay, Treasurer, Elder G. A. Grammer, Clerk and Corresponding Secretary.

Visiting brethren being invited to seats, the following responded:

Brother G. W. Granberry, Big Hatchie Association, Tennessee;
 Brother J. C. Rogers, Big Hatchie Association, Tennessee, and
 Elder E. E. Monroe, White River Association, Arkansas.

On motion, order of business was suspended to take up miscellaneous business.

On motion of Elder B. F. Thomas a committee of three were appointed to draft a blank letter to be used by the churches composing the Association. Committee: Elders R. A. Venable, W. H. Paslay and B. F. Thomas.

On motion, appointed correspondents as follows:

Big Hatchie Association, Tennessee—Elders R. A. Venable, B. F. Thomas and G. A. Grammer.

Grand Prairie Association, Arkansas—Elder W. H. Paslay and H. P. Slaughter;

State Convention—Elders R. A. Venable, B. F. Thomas, G. A. Grammer.

The committee on Religious Exercises reported that Elder R. A. Venable preach at night.

On motion adjourned to meet 9 o'clock Saturday morning.

Prayer by Elder R. A. Venable.

At 7:30 P. M. Elder R. A. Venable preached from John 7: 17.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 2, 1880, 9 O'CLOCK A. M.

The Association met, and after singing and prayer by Brother S. R. Bell, proceeded to business.

Elder W. H. Paslay submitted his report as Treasurer for 1879 which was adopted:

Your Treasurer begs leave to submit the following;

Received from Association	\$ 56 7
Paid Clerk.....	10 0
Paid for Minutes.....	46 2
Paid for Missions.....	3

W. H. PASLAY, Treasurer.

The following committees were appointed by the Moderator:

Sunday Schools—W. J. Scaife, J. P. Farrar, J. H. Crabtree and V. B. Izard.

Education—Elders R. A. Venable, W. H. Paslay and G. A. Grammer.

Home Missions—Elder B. F. Thomas, J. H. Crabtree and W. D. Roane.

Foreign Missions—Elder W. H. Paslay, F. L. Gustavus and S. R. Bell.

Temperance—Elder B. F. Thomas, J. W. Grimes and V. B. Izard.

Finance—J. Harder, M. J. Clay and R. H. Sparkman.

Nominations—J. H. Crabtree, F. L. Gustavus, J. R. Brown and J. H. Thompson.

Elder W. H. Paslay, of Executive Board of Association, stated that the Board had concluded to request churches to settle pastors in their work, and nothing had been done in the Mission field.

Address made on importance of Mission work by Elders W. H. Paslay and R. A. Venable.

Committee on Religious Exercises reported that Elder R. A. Venable would preach at 11 o'clock A. M., and Elder E. E. Monroe at 8 o'clock P. M.

On motion, adjourned till after preaching.

Elder R. A. Venable preached at 11 o'clock A. M., from 1 Cor. 13: 13.

After preaching the Association was called to order by the Moderator, when, on motion, adjourned to 2:30 o'clock P. M.

2:30 O'CLOCK P. M.

Association met—singing—prayer by Brother E. T. Boardman.

Reports of committees being called the following report on Temperance was submitted, and after speeches by Elders B. F. Thomas and R. A. Venable, was adopted.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Resolved. That we hold that true Bible temperance is the restraint and control of all the appetites, passions, lusts and habits in obedience to the will of Christ; that it is a Christian grace, as affirmed by Paul in Gal. 5: 22-23 and by Peter in 1 Peter 1: 5-6, and must depend for its existence and support on the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost.

Resolved. That in view of the terrible prevalence of drunkenness we recognize the necessity of special earnestness in the application of the great Gospel remedy for this sin with all its concomitants.

Resolved. That we recognize the right of civil government to prohibit the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicants, and that we pledge our co-operation in all legitimate efforts to suppress the great evil of intemperance. B. F. THOMAS, Chairman.

The committee on Sabbath Schools made the following report, which was adopted after addresses by R. A. Venable, W. H. Paslay and V. B. Izard:

Your committee appointed to report upon the Sabbath School interest of this association would beg leave to submit, that we find the reports from the churches on Sabbath Schools so meagre, and

wanting in interest that we can only recommend that the delegates and pastors of churches do agree and pledge themselves, one with the other, to do more in this important work the coming year. We recommend that every church member in this Association becoming a member of Sabbath School either as pupil or teacher this year, and your committee are clearly of the opinion the result will be beneficial not only to themselves but to many others.

Respectfully,

W. J. SCAIFE,
J. P. FARRAR,
V. B. IZARD,

Committee.

The committee on education made the following report, which after amendment and addresses by Elders R. A. Venable, W. H. Paslay and V. B. Izard, was adopted:

The committee on Education beg leave to make the following report: We are sorry to say that nothing has been done for the last year in the bounds of our Association in the cause of education. We feel that we, as a people, cannot afford to be neglected in this important work, therefore we offer the following resolutions.

Resolved, That the Executive Board of Education of this Association be requested to make to the clerk of this Association a report of the condition of the school located at Forrest City, and that they be requested to suggest and inaugurate some method by which the school may be relieved from its present financial embarrassment and again put the school into active operation.

Resolved, That the report be made immediately, i. e., within the next month, and that it be inserted in the minutes of this Association.

Resolved, That every pastor in this Association become interested in this work, both in raising funds and inducing pupils to attend the school.

Resolved, That the Brother Clerk be requested to act as chairman of that Board in calling the meeting together.

R. A. VENABLE, Chairman.
W. H. PASLAY,
G. A. GRAMMER.

The committee on Home Missions made the following report which was adopted:

Resolved, That we recommend the churches according to our former custom, to send up to this Body their contributions for Missions, and we hereby instruct the Executive Board to assist committees according to the rule formerly adopted.

Respectfully,

B. F. THOMAS, Chairman.

Report on Foreign Missions was adopted as follows:

Your committee on Foreign Missions beg leave to submit the following: Not having the data on hand we cannot make a statistical report, but are happy to state the outlook is encouraging.

Our Missionaries in the different fields are meeting with increased success; the heaven of the Gospel is steadily working and hope ere long to see the whole world permeated with Gospel truth, and nations bowing to the sceptre of King Immanuel.

Brethren, let us take courage, shake off our lethargy and come up to the help of the Lord with our prayers and means, and never cease to work until the "kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our Lord Jesus Christ." The command to preach the Gospel to every creature has never been revoked, but it is still the substrata of the Christian religion. And though it be the eleventh hour let us enter heartily into this part of the work in our Master's vineyard, and shove forward the wheels of salvation's car and thus hasten the coming of our blessed Savior.

Respectfully submitted,

W. H. PASLAY,

T. L. GUSTAVUS,

S. R. BELL,

Committee.

Committee on Finance reported as follows:

Your committee on Finance would report, that we have received for printing minutes, \$20.90; for Missions, nothing.

J. HARDER,

R. H. SPARKMAN,

M. J. CLAY,

Committee.

By Elder B. F. Thomas—

Resolved, That the order of business shall be as follows: (See last page of minutes), and that the Moderator be requested to appoint the committees accordingly.

On motion, churches were requested to pledge amounts and send money to Elder G. A. Grammer for the support of Brother Barth's, now at school at Jackson, Tenn., when Forrest City pledged \$5 and Elder W. H. Paslay \$10.

Committee on Nominations reported as follows:

Elder W. H. Paslay to preach the Introductory Sermon, Elder J. H. Bales alternate, and Elder R. A. Venable, Missionary Sermon.

On motion, the following brethren were appointed Executive Board of the Association:

H. P. Slaughter, W. H. Paslay, V. B. Izard and J. P. Farrar.

By vote of the Association, Bible Union church was selected as the place for next meeting of the Body.

Report of committee on preparing blank letter for use of churches, adopted as follows:

Post-office County Ark.

The Baptist church to the Mt. Vernon Baptist Association.
Greeting :

Dear Brethren—We send this, our annual letter, by our delegate. Brethren alternates to sit with you in your deliberations. Our statistics are as follows:

No. baptized received by letter restored dismissed by letter excluded dead total Contributions minutes contributions Home Missions Foreign Missions Ministerial Education No. Sunday School pupils No. Sunday School teachers contributions preaching remarks

Committee to draft resolutions in memory of Deacon John Taylor made the following report:

Your committee to draft resolutions of respect to the memory of Brother John Taylor submit the following report:

WHEREAS, Brother John Taylor, a member of the Baptist church for forty-one years, always maintained a high degree of Christian integrity, an unfailing attachment to the church and an unswerving devotion to the cause of Christ even amid sad degeneracy and difference; and whereas our beloved brother departed this life in the triumphs of a Gospel faith, November 29, 1879.

Therefore, Resolved, That in the demise of our brother this Association has lost a warm supporter, the truths of the Gospel an ardent defender, the church of which he was a member and deacon at Forrest City, the church so dearly loved by him, a friend, and his family a devoted, pious father.

Resolved, That we cherish the memory of our deceased brother and emulate his piety and devotion.

Resolved, That we tender to his bereaved family our Christian sympathy in this dispensation of Providence.

V. B. IZARD,
W. H. PASLAY,
G. A. GRAMMER.

Committee

On motion, the following persons were appointed Executive Board of Education:

L. K. Obenchain, J. W. Beck, H. P. Slaughter, A. G. Jarmar, H. P. Davant, J. B. Hodges, F. M. Prewitt, J. W. Couch, V. B. Izard, W. H. Paslay, W. H. McDaniel, Geo. H. Sanders, J. W. Wynne, R. H. Sparkman and J. H. Crabtree.

By R. A. Venable—

Resolved, That this Association tender its thanks to the church at Forrest City and to the community for the generous hospitality extended in our entertainment during the sitting of this Body.

Adopted.

By W. D. Roane—

I hereby give notice that at the next meeting of this Body I will offer a resolution to change the time of meeting to Saturday instead of Friday.

On motion of V. B. Izard a committee of three were appointed to draft resolutions in memory of Deacon John Taylor. Committee: V. B. Izard, W. H. Paslay and G. A. Grammer.

The committee on Religious Exercises reported that Elder W. H. Paslay, the appointee, would preach the Missionary Sermon Sunday at 11 A. M., and Elder G. A. Grammer at 8 P. M.

On motion, adjourned till after preaching.

Prayer by Rev. W. D. Roane.

Elder E. E. Monroe preached at 8 P. M., from mark 4:38; when the Association was called to order by th Moderator.

The Moderator appointed the following standing committees to report next year:

Temperance—L. R. Obenchain, W. J. Scaife and T. D. Cooper.

Sunday Schools—W. H. Paslay, W. D. Roane and J. W. Graham.

Education—G. A. Grammer, B. F. Thomas and J. H. Crabtree.

Home Missions—R. A. Venable, M. K. McCarty and J. P. Farrar.

Foreign Missions—V. B. Izard, J. H. Bales and Geo. P. Taylor.

On motion, the Clerk was instructed to have 300 copies of the minutes printed, and be allowed \$10 for his services.

On motion, after singing the parting hymn and extending the parting hand, adjourned to meet with the Bible Union church on Friday before the 1st Sabbath in October, 1881, at 10 o'clock A. M.

Prayer by Elder R. A. Venable.

H. P. SLAUGHTER, Moderator,

Spring Creek, Lee Co., Ark.

G. A. GRAMMER, Clerk, Forrest City, Ark.

SUNDAY EXERCISES.

At 11 A. M., Elder W. H. Paslay preached very acceptably to a large audience in the Baptist church, from Mark 16:15-16, after which eighteen dollars and seventy-five cents was received in cash and subscriptions for missions.

At 8 P. M., Elder G. A. Grammer preached from Isa. 28:17.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Your Executive Board of Education submit the following:

In accordance with the resolution of the Association, the Clerk called a meeting of said Board, at which meeting only a few

members of the Board were present. After a careful examination of the financial condition of our College, would state that there yet due on said building about \$3000. with a credit say of about \$1000. We also find in unpaid subscriptions about \$1000 that might be utilized. While we verily believe it is to the interest of our people to relieve this college of its financial embarrassment and thus save it, to prove of incalculable service to the denomination and while we believe this can be done by a proper effort, and while we regret the condition of said interest, your Board in view of the present surroundings have no plans to propose, no suggestions to make, that might secure so glorious a result.

G. A. GRAMMER, Chm.

ORDER OF EXERCISES.

1. Called together by the Moderator for the purpose of hearing Introductory Sermon. An intermission. Delegates re-assembled—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 for next year on Domestic Missions, Education, Temperance, Sabbath Schools, Foreign Missions.
8. Appoint Committees on Finance, Religious Exercises and Nominations.
9. Reports of Committees.
10. Miscellaneous Business.
11. Appoint Correspondence.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	POST OFFICE.	PASTORS.	Baptized.	Received by Letter.	Restored.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded.	Deaths.	Total.	Contributions Minutes	Cont's for Missions.	Days of Meeting.
New Hope, No. 3		Indian Bay								14			3
Marvell		Marvell	L. K. Obenchain							14			1
Trenton		Trenton	L. K. Obenchain							21			1
Spring Creek	H P Slaughter, W D Roane	Spring Creek	W H Paslay		1					35	2 00		1
Oak Grove	F L Gustavus, E T Boardman	Moro	W H Paslay							29	3 40		1
Bethel		Poplar Grove	M K McCarty							50			1
Cypress Valley		Vineyard	J J Huckaby							40			2
Salem	W J Scaife	Marvell	L K Obenchain				1			47	2 00		1
Helena	Elder R A Venable	Helena	R A Venable							100	4 00	20 00	Ev'ng
Blackfoot													
New Hope		Brinkley	J L Wilson							35			
Philadelphia		Saulbury	W H Paslay							90			4
Ash Grove		Moro	T D Cooper	5	1	1		3		30	1 50		3
Pine Fork	W R Walton, J W Grimes, R Whitted	Holly Grove	J L Wilson							25			1
Lynn Grove		Clarendon	J L Wilson							20			
Bethlehem													
Shiloh		Clarendon											
Clarendon		Wheatley	P C Crow				1		1	36	2 00		1
Pine Grove	W Eddins, Jr.	Marvell	M J Graham							18			
Mt. Gilead			P C Crow							14			
Lone Chapel		Clifton	J H Bailless				3		3	47	1 50		4
Hopewell	J P Farrar, Sr, Wm Holwell	Forrest City	W H Paslay	2	1	1	2	2	1	94	3 00		2
Forrest Chapel	J H Thompson, R H Sparkman, J Harder	Forrest City	G A Grammer	3			11		6	90	3 00	25 25	Ev'ng
Forrest City	Elder G A Grammer, J H Crabtree, B Izard	Forrest City	J H Bailless		1	1			6	31	1 50		4
Bible Union	William Elliot, S R Bell, C B Sherman	Forrest City	B F Thomas		1		1			27	1 00		3
Zion	Elder B F Thomas, M J Clay, James Williams												
Total				15	16	3	24	7	20	1087	\$24 00	\$15 25	

* Amounts paid by the church, not sent up to Association