MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING

SALINE REGULAR BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

Brush Creek Church, Grant County, Arkansas, October 3, 4, 5 and 6, 1873.

The Saline Regular United Baptist Association met, pursuant to adjournment, with Brush Creek Church, on Friday before the first Sunday in October, A. D. 1873.

The brother appointed to preach the introductory sermon being absent, Eld. Stephen Rowe was unanimously requested to preach the introductory, which he did from Matthew, fifth chapter and first clause of the 14th verse: "Ye are the light of the world."

The Association then adjourned to 3 o'clock P.M.

- 3 O'Clock P.M Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Eld. Wm. Graham.
- 1. Read the letters from the churches, and enrolled the names of delegates. [See table]
- 2. Went into an election for officers (Moderator and Clerk) for the present session, whereupon Eld. R. M. Thrasher was elected Moderator, and Wm. Daniel, Clerk.
- 3. Appointed Committee on Preaching: E. B. Deer, J. J. Yates, M. L. Nelson, L. A. Cook, M. P. Goodman, M. L. Nelson, chairman.
- 4. Called for petitionary letters, and received the following: Ten-Mile Creek, Corinth, Damascus, Hickory Grove and Hopewell; delegates' names enrolled.
 - 5. Adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

SATURDAY, October 4, 1873-9 O'Clock A.M.

Met pursuant to adjournment, after having spent some time in devotional services.

- 1. Read and adopted the proceedings of yesterday.
- 2. Renewed the call for letters.
- 3. Called for corresponding messengers, whereupon Elders J. S. Morton, D. G. Barnet and U. J. Newell responded from Pine Bluff Association, and were cordially received and the right hand extended to them by the Moderator, and invited to seats to aid us in council.
- 4. Ministering brethren and lay brethren of our faith and order were invited to seats with us to aid us in council.
 - 5. Appointed the following committees:

On Documents-Elder Wm. Graham, Peter Smith and S. T. Morris.

On Destitution—Elders B. M. Phillips, W. D. Smith and A. Bagley.

On Sabbath Schools—John A. Verser, E. W. Gentry, H. Elliott, and Eld. Stephen Rowe.

On Finance-Moses P. Goodman, J. Langford and C. F. Guerin.

On Mutual Relation of Ministers and Churches-Eld. F. M. Sanford, Wm. Worford, J. A. Berry.

On Domestic Missions-Eld. Stephen Rowe, L. A. Cook.

- 6. Renewed the Committee on Temperance, whereupon L. A. Cook, J. A. Verser, M. P. Goodman; and, on motion, Eld. U. J. Newell, was added to the Committee by request.
- 7. Renewed the Committee on Prayer Meetings. Eld. J. E. McGoveran, Wm. Daniel and E. D. Goza, appointed.
- 8. On motion, the matter of appointing Committee on Ministerial Education, was laid on the table until the report of last year be called for.
 - 9. Adjourned until 3 o'clock p.m.—Prayer by Wm. Daniel.
- 3 O'Clock P.M.—Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Eld. J. S. Morton.
- 1. Called for petitionary letters, whereupon Antioch presented a letter by her delegates, and was received, and delegates' names enrolled.

- 2. Renewed the call for correspondence, whereupon Eld. J. B. Searcy, State Evangelist, under the appointment of the Arkansas B. S. C. and Secretary of the Convention, responded to the call, and presented a lot of the minutes of the Convention, was cordially received by the body, and leave granted him to address the Association at a suitable time.
 - 3. Read the letter from Brush Creek Church.
 - 4. Called for reports. The following received and read:

Report of our Missionary, R. M. Lindsey, read and adopted. [See Appendix A.]

On Destitution, read and recommitted.

On Documents, read and adopted. [B.]

On Prayer Meetings, read and recommitted.

5. Adjourned until Monday morning, 8 o'clock. Prayer by Eld. J. B. Searcy.

SABBATH EXERCISES.

The Committee on Preaching failed to hand in their report, but the stand was regularly filled, on Sabbath at 10 o'clock, by J. B. Searcy, to a large and attentive congregation. At the close of the sermon a collection was taken up in behalf of Bro. Searcy's labors in the State, amounting in money and pledges to about \$30. At 3 o'clock the stand was occupied by U. J. Newell—subject: "A good Minister of Jesus Christ." At candle-light, by J. S. Morton—subject: "What it takes to make a Christian; and how we may know we are Christians." The congregation was unusually large on Saturday and Sunday, and we hope the truth, so clearly set forth and impressed on the hearers, will redound to the glory of God, and the advancement of His Kingdom on earth.

Monday Morning, October 6, 1873-8 O'Clock.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Eld. B. M. Phillips.

- 1. Read and adopted the proceedings of Saturday.
- 2. Suspended the rule of roll call for the present.
- 3. Renewed the call for petitionary letters, whereupon Harmony Church presented a letter and delegate, which were received.
 - 4. Appointed messengers to sister Associations:

To Pine Bluff-Elders R. M. Lindsey, J. E. McGoveran and F. M. Sanford.

Judson-R. M. Thrasher, J. C. Meeks, D. D. Cunningham and J. A. Verser.

Red River-B. M. Phillips, S. T. Morris and L. A. Cook.

Caddo-E. D. Trammel, J. T. Thornton.

On motion, appointed Brethren -Peter Smith, J. J. Adams, W. D. Smith, Wm. Ratcliff, a committee to meet with Ouachita Association in a matter of correspondence.

Dardanelle-William Daniel, by letter or otherwise.

Propose correspondence with Friendship Association—J. A. Verser, J. E. McGoveran, R. M. Thrasher, S. F. Funk.

Arkansas B. S. C.—R. M. Thrasher, F. M. Sanford, J. E. Mc-Goveran, Frank Moore, M. L. Nelson, L. C. Yates, William Daniel.

On motion, that the matter of contribution to the Convention be deferred until after the report of Finance Committee.

6. Renewed call for reports.

On ministerial education, read, and, after being ably discussed by Elders D. G. Barnet, J. B. Searcy and others, was adopted, [C.]

7. Treasurer's report read and adopted. [D.]

On prayer meeting, re-read and adopted. [E.]

On domestic missions, read, and, after being discussed, was adopted. [F.]

- 8. On motion, we appoint Elder Rufus M. Lindsey Missionary of the Saline Association.
- 9. On motion, requested Bro. R. M. Lindsey to answer the Association in accepting the appointment, whereupon Bro. Lindsey responded that he accepted the appointment.
- 10. The churches are requested to take up collections quarterly, and pay the same to their Treasurer, and he pay the same to Bro. Lindsey, our Missionary.
- 11. Report on the relation of church and minister read and adopted. [G.]

On destitution, read and adopted. [H.]

On Sunday Schools, re-read and adopted. [I.]

12. On motion, Brethren Wm. Daniel and R. M. Lindsey were appointed a committee to district the Association and have the same printed in this Minute. [J.]

13. Further time was granted the Committee on Temperance, and to report at the next session of this Association.

- 14. Roll called, and absentees marked thus *.
- 15. Report on finance read and adopted. [K.]
- 16. On motion, that we take up collections for mission subscribed last year:

Lone Hill Church, paid	5 2	00	C. J. Elliott, paid	3 4	00
Wm. Daniel, paid	5	00	Emaline Elliott, paid	5	00
			A. J. and B. W. Nowlin, paid	5	00
John A. Verser, paid	5	00		40	00
R. M. Thrasher, paid	20	00	W. J. Neighbors, paid	4	50
C. F. Moore, paid	5	00	Mary J. Harrison, paid	1	50
L. A. Cook, paid	25	00	A. J. Cliff, paid	1	50
P. M. Cain, paid	5	00	John Langford, paid	3	50
N. T. Williams, paid	2	00			

Called for resolutions:

- 1. Resolved, That we recommend the Western Baptist, published at Searcy, Arkansas, by Elders Boon and Espy (and the only religious paper published in the state), to the favorable consideration of the churches of this Association.
- 2. Resolved, That we change the time of the meeting of this Association from Friday to Thursday before the first Sunday in October.
- 3. Resolved, That we do earnestly admonish our brethren who are members of the churches of this Association that they abstain from the habit of dram drinking, and mixing and mingling with drinking crowds; and also, that if any of their members indulge in drunkenness, that they labor with them and admonish them, and if such cannot be reclaimed, exclude them from the church.
- 4. Resolved, That we tender our most grateful thanks to the brethren and friends of Brush Creek Church for the kind and generous manner in which they have entertained the Association during the present session.
- 17. The Clerk is instructed to have eight hundred copies of this Minute printed, and distribute the same among the churches, and he be allowed twenty dollars for his services.
- 18. Appointed the next session of this Association to meet with Friendship Church, Montgomery county, three miles west of Cedar Glades, on Little Rock and Mount Ida road.
- 19. Appointed R. M. Thrasher to preach the introductory sermon at the next session, and R. M. Lindsey, alternate.
- 20. The Moderator announced that the Association was ready for adjournment, whereupon a suitable hymn was sung, during which the brethren extended the parting hand with much brotherly love to each other. At the close of the singing, Bro. Rufus M. Lindsey lead in prayer with much fervency. The Moderator then announced the Association stand adjourned until Thursday before the first Sunday in October, A D. 1874, at the place appointed by this Body.

ROBERT M. THRASHER, Moderator.

APPENDIX.

A.

Report of Elder R. M. Lindsey, Missionary of the regular United Baptist of Saline Association:

DEAR BRETHREN-Pursuant to your appointment, I entered upon the missionary work in the Saline Association immediately after the adjournment of Association, and prosecuted the work. In the absence of any definite instructions, I concluded in the first place to visit all the churches of the Association. This I did during the Winter and early Spring; visited all the churches, and most of them the third time. Owing to the excessively cold weather during the Winter, these appointments were thinly attended; but considerable interest was manifested for the success of the mission. As the Spring opened, the congregations increased, and with this an increase of interest. After the early Spring weather opened, having obtained, by advising with the brethren in different parts of the Association, a pretty good knowledge of the destitution, and having also secured the co-operation of ministering brethren, I began to make appointments and hold meetings in destitute neighborhoods and churches. I have devoted my entire time and energies to the work during the year, and the result of my labors is as follows: Traveled, 3698 miles; preached sermons, 301; aided in constituting churches, 8; aided in ordination of ministers, 2; aided in ordination of deacons, 2; added to the churches by letter, 123; added to the churches by experience and baptism, 27; number of professions at meetings attended, 57; amount of money collected, \$152; traveling and incidental expenses, \$86.75. All of which is respectfully submitted.

R. M. LINDSEY, Missionary.

B.

Your Committee of Documents submit the following report:

We find on examination of the several letters presented to your Body nothing of interest, except the petitions for the next Association, which are Friendship, Oak Grove and Smith Creek.

Respectfully submitted.

WM. GRAHAM, Chairman.

C.

Your Committee on Ministerial Education would report that this is a subject of grave importance, and we hope it will receive at the hands of this Association that consideration that its merit demands. While it is true that it is not the duty of all teachers to preach, yet it is the duty of all preachers to teach. And as the lessons to be taught by preachers are to be couched in language similar to that used by other teachers, it follows that preachers have great need of being as thoroughly taught as possible, that they may be able to teach others. Of course, no amount of education can compensate for piety in the ministry. But, perhaps, none, will deny that with an equal amount of piety, an educated ministry can do much more good under God than an uneducated ministry. We do not claim that a man should be a graduate before he preaches, or that he should necessarily ever be a graduate; yet it is the duty of every preacher to study to show himself approved of God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, and whenever an opportunity presents itself for a minister to attend school, whether for one year or for a full course, it is the opinion of your Committee that such preacher should embrace such opportunity. It is further the opinion of your Committee that this Association should enter heartily into the work of ministerial education, in concert with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

J. A. VERSER, Chairman.

D.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

DEBIT_1872.

Received of Finance Committee		
Total	95	50
CREDITS.		
Paid for printing minutes		
Amount due last year printing Minutes, etc, 30 95—Showing balance due Treasurer 30 95 95 95 95 95 95 95 95 95 95 95 95 95	\$110 15	95 45

WM. DANIEL, Treasurer.

E.

Your Committee on Prayer Meetings beg leave to submit the fol lowing as their report upon a review of our former report, and hearing the statement of a good many brethren in regard to this all important subject of prayer: We are grateful for the manifestation of this spirit among some of our churches. But yet this does not altogether suffice. Every church ought to be alive to this all-important work. One of the principal means God has appointed for the advancement of his cause and the strengthening of his saints, should not be neglected by any of them. And, in fact, brethren, so great is this work that we deem it criminal to neglect it. A duty we owe to God, ourselves and our fellow-creatures, should not be thought of carelessly, or be put aside for causes of minor importance. Brethren, let us enlist in this work with vigor this in-coming year, and we will not have any of these cold times spoken of in some of your letters, but God will abundantly bless our efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES E. McGOVERAN, Chairman.

F.

Your Committee on Domestic Missions beg leave to report as follows:

We learn from the report of our Missionary for the last Associational year, Elder R. M. Lindsey, as well as the letters from the churches, that his labors have been successful even beyond our most sanguine hopes. He has aided in the constitution of eight churches, besides rendering other valuable and efficient services in the promulgation of the gospel in the destitute regions of our Association. We feel assured that Brother Lindsey has faithfully discharged his duty in his missionary labors, but learn that a number of the newly constituted churches, as well as some of the old ones, are without pastors, and unless we continue our missionary operations, those churches will probably decline and come to nothing. We therefore recommend that, if possible, Brother Lindsey be continued as our Missionary for the next associational year.

We also recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved. That we earnestly request the churches of our Association to take the subject of Domestic Missions under prayerful consideration, and that every

member make some contribution, according as he may find in his heart to do, for the carrying out of this great enterprise.

We want more system in giving. There are more than twelve hundred members belonging to the churches of this Association. Now, it each church member will contribute fifty cents for missions, the ensuing year, we will have at least six hundred dollars, which will sustain an active Missionary.

We therefore recommend that each member of the churches give fifty cents this year for missions, and that each church raise and send up to the next session of this Association an amount which shall be equivalent to fifty cents to each member for missions.

Your Committee would call the attention of the churches to the pissionary work of our State Convention, as set forth in the minutes of that Body, and we recommend that this Association co-operate with the State Convention in this important work.

Respectfully submitted.

STEPHEN ROWE, Chairman

Gi.

The Committee on the Relation between the Church and the Ministry beg leave to present a few thoughts by way of report.

First, with regard to the relation which the ministry bears to the church: Every true minister is one that is first renewed in the spirit of his mind in the exercise of a living faith in Christ and have membership in the church through the ordinances of baptism, called of God to preach the Gospel; and, secondly, he must be clothed with authority from the church, by the laying on of the hands of the Presbytery, by which he is ordained to the work of the ministry. He is then truly a servant of the church, and is subject to the laws and discipline of the church as the Kingdom of Christ, and all his official acts are virtually the acts of the church, through him, as her servant; and, thirdly, the ministry is given to the church by the great law giver, and it is the imperative duty of the church to take care of her ministers. She should watch over them in love, admonish them when in the neglect of duty, reclaim them when in error, protect and defend their christian and ministerial character; and while they minister to the church in spiritual things, it is the imperative duty of the church to minister to them in carnal things; for it is ordained of God, that they who preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel, in virtue of which we recommend the following resolution:

Resolved, That we admonish our brethen to awake to a sense of their duty on this all-important subject, loose the hands of your ministers from the ax, the hoe and the plow, and they will lift up their eyes upon the fields, and see that they are white unto harvest, and will go as far as their ability will admit, and bear the glad news of salvation to dying sinners.

Respectfully submitted.

F. M. SANFORD, Chairman.

H.

Your Committe on Destitution beg leave to submit the following report:

We have endeavored to ascertain all the destitute places and tell to your honorable Body the names of churches and their localities: Mt. Zion Church is situated on Irons creek, Montgomery county; New Hope Church, on Ouachitariver, Montgomery county; Philadelphia Church, Perry county; Antioch Church, Saline county. We noticed in the reading of her letter it was not signed by any Moderator. We are led to believe that that church is destitute; besides we learned there are several churches in the Northwest portion of this Association—in Polk county, Garland county, Perry county and Saline county. Your committee earnestly request that your body devise some means whereby these destitute places may be supplied.

Respectfully submitted,

W. D. SMITH, Chairman.

I.

Your Committee on Sunday Schools, after having examined former reports made to this Body and judging from the reading of the letters from the several churches, that there has been so little interest taken in those reports, we feel at a great loss to know what to write. It does seem to us if the churches and pastors have read the report in the last minute, and given the subject that careful reading and thought that it deserves, there would have been more reports from the churches, and bible classes and Sunday Schools. Brethren, you say by your actions as an Association in appointing a committee annually on Sunday Schools, you are in favor of them. We hope for the future the churches will bestir themselves and give us some cheering news from the Sunday School department at our fnext ses-

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sion. We are pleased to learn from the delegates that more interest has been reported in the letters from the churches. In order to increase the interest in the Sunday School work, and since the reports from the churches, your Committee would recommend that this Association be divided into three or four districts, and that district meetings be held on the fifth Sundays through the year, and that a leading object of those meetings be to promote the interest of Sunday Schools in said districts. We would state, for the information of the churches, thate a State Sunday School Convention has been organized, and asks the co-operation of the Baptist Sunday Schools and districts or associational Sunday School conventions throughout the State. Its next session is to be held with the Baptist Church in Arkadelphia, on Friday before the fourth Sunday in July next: We would, therefore, recommend the Sunday Schools of this Association to represent themselves in that Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN A. VERSER, Chairman.

DISTRICTS OF THE SALINE ASSOCIATION.

First District—In Northeast portion of the Association with the several churches and their territory, to-wit: South Fork, Spring Creek, Kentucky, Union, North Fork, Hopewell, Ellis Springs, Pleasant Grove, Harmony.

Second District—In Northwest, Philadelphia, Mt. Tabor, Mt. Zion, New Hope, Friendship, Rock Springs, Mt. Pleasant, Bethlehem, Marble.

Third District-In Southwest, Hot Springs, Corinth, Dallas Grove,

Lone Hill, Oak Grove, De Roche, Zion.

Fourth District—In Southeast, Ouachita, Pleasant Hill, Damascus, Brush Creek, Big Creek, Franceway, Rockport, Magnet Cove, Fair Play, Smith Creek, Ten-Mile Creek, New Hope. To hold their several meetings on the fifth Sundays in the ensuing associational year.

R. M. LINDSEY, WM. DANIEL,

Committee.

K.

Your Committee on Finance beg leave to make the following report to this honorable Body: We find that the total amount subscribed by the churches for minutes and associational purposes to be \$62.20, all of which is collected and respectfully submitted to this Body.

M. P. GOODMAN, Chairman.

TABLE OF STATISTICS.

CHURCHES.	COUNTIES.	DELEGATES.	Rec'd by Letter. Rec'd by Baptism	Restored. Excluded.	Sabbath meetings. Total Number in Fellowship.	Contributions.	PASTORS.	CLERKS AND THEIR POSTOFFIC
Brush Creek Bethlehem Big Creek. Corinth De Roche. Dallas Grove. Damascus. Ellis Spring. Franceway Friendship Fairplay Hot Spring. Harmony Hickory Grove. Hopewell Kentucky. Lone Hill Marble. Magnet Cove. Mt. Pleasant Mt. Tabor. Mt. Tabor. North Fork. New Hope. New Hope. New Hope. Ouachita. Ook Grove. Pleasant Grove. Pleasant Hill Philadelphia Rock Spring. Salem South Fork. Spring Creek. Spring Creek. Spring Creek. Sulphur Spring. Teu-mile Creek.	Grant Garland Hot Spring Garland Clark Garland Hot Spring Garland Clark Garland Hot Spring Pulaski Hot Spring Garland Perry Saline Garland Perry Hot Spring Saline Saline Garland Hot Spring Garland Garland Hot Spring Garland Spring Garland Garland Garland Spring Garland Spring Garland Spring Garland Garland Spring Garland Saline Garland Saline Garland Saline Saline Saline	David Milliner, Wm., Williams, John Williams. D. D. Cunndugham, Robert Ross, J. J. Yates. A. J. Ritter, John Guernin, C. F. Guerin. D. F. Morrison, H. Elliott, J. E. McGoveran. Wm. Farr, G. W. Clay, Stephen Rowe. B. M. Phillips, W. B. Cash, Joseph M. Hardage. E. D. Tramell, J. H. Tramell, T. E. Hampton. L. P. Goodman, J. A. Berry, O. H. P. Norwood. A. Langford, A. J. Huchingson, A. Ragan. James Clardy, Arthur Wallace, Alfred Wallace. M. C. Melton, W. C. Henderson, W. B. Ratcliff. M. L. Nelson, John Nucome, G. W. Ebbs. Letter, but no delegates W. B. Brown, G. Wevers. John Mowhan, A. B. Thornton, E. E. Tisdeal. W. C. Huggins, A. Simmons, F. M. Sanford. Not represented. J. Clem, J. Taylor, Wm. Stanley. P. Smith, James Mulkey, John Guerin. L. A. Cook, John A. Verser, J. H. Harbin. J. M. Phillips, Caul H. Muse, H. C. Tomlinson. W. D. Smith, G. W. Bashurs, John Hughas. Camel Sutton, Jasper Gilley, John Priest. Not represented. Not represented. M. P. Goodman, E. D. Goza, R. J. Norman. Not represented. M. Thrashar, Hugh McCallum, Wm. Collies. J. J. Adams, Aaron Gray, John Rigsty. Not represented. Not represented. Not represented. Not represented. Wm. Chillips, S. T. Morris, John P. Adams.	2 2 2 3 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4	2 3	14 611 619 4 19 2 9 3 64 2 12 2 2 14 1 1 22 3 6 4 4 60 4 55 3 19 10 20 4 17 7 2 2 17 27 17 28 1 15 40 4 2 36 2 39 2 2 14 1 55 8 1 1 55 8 3 37 11 5 5 8 3 37 11 5 5 8 3 37 11 5 10 12 9 2 4 2 9 2	\$1 00 \$1 00 \$2 00 1 50 50 50 50 1 00 1 0	William A. Young. W. J. Neighbors. J. E. McGiveran. Stephen Rowe. John Clem. S. F. Funk. A. J. Huchingson. J. H. Horward. J. J. Adams. J. H. Howard. John Clem. W. J. Neighbors. C. F. Moore. J. J. Adams. J. J. Adams. J. J. Adams. J. J. Adams. J. J. J. Adams. J. J. J. Adams. J. J. J. Adams. J. J	J. T. Roberts, Whitington. Jas. M. Page, Tulip F. M. Guerin, Hot Springs. W. Elliott, Rockport. Wm. Farr, Hot Springs. Wm. Holcomb, De Roche. T. E. Hampton, Hot Springs. Wm. A. Brown, Rockport. Jas. Ellis, Little Rock. Jas. Ellis, Little Rock. Jas. Ellis, Little Rock. W. C. Henderson, Harold. Andrew Hendricks, Bob. J. L. B. Caver, Hot Springs. W. B. Brown, Perryville. W. R. Thornton, Rockport. John Guerin Akin Store. John A. Verser, Rockport. John Guerin Akin Store. John A. Verser, Rockport. Thos. A. Ritter, Harold. T. G. Plemons, Harold. S. A. Burnett, Benton. A. Bagly, Fitzhughes Mill. W. W. Hrothro, Northpoint. E. D. Goza, Rockport. Jos. Chapter. Jas. Crawford, Tylors Bluff. H. McCallum, Rockport. W. R. Adams, Harold. T. J. Roberts, Owensville. J. H. Caver, Hot Springs. J. M. Huchingson, Owensville. J. M. Simnons, Benton. Joel Baker, Mt. Ida. O. L. Cates, Bob. A. Simnons, Benton. George Cook, Midway.
*Absentees.	Hot Spring			32 7 22		62 20	J. Clem	George Cook, Midway

The Clerks of Churches will please make out their statistical tables according to the form given in the Minute of 1869, or the above table—[CLERK.