

MINUTES

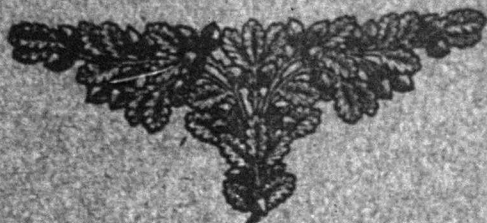
Of the Eighteenth Annual Session of the

FOURCHE VALLEY MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Held with the Esau Missionary Baptist Church, October the
7th, 8th and 9th, 1905.

ELDER E. H. OWEN, Moderator.
H. H. DAVIS, Clerk
J. W. HARRIS, Treasurer.

The Next Session of the Association will be Held with the
Antioch Church, at 9 O'clock, on Saturday Before the
Second Sunday in October 1906.



MINUTES

The Fourche Valley Missionary Baptist Association, convened with the Esau Baptist church, pursuant to appointment, on Saturday at 9 o'clock a. m., October 7, 1905. Engaged in devotional exercises, conducted by Eld. E. H. Owen, Moderator pro tem. Subject "23 chapter of Psalms of David." Prayer by Eld. D. L. Redditt.

The Moderator then called the roll and the following churches responded: Hickory Grove—Eld. W. A. Steakley, present; Rad Leach, absent.

Oppelo—W. H. Perry, present; J. M. Wood, absent; Eld. G. W. Wilcox and Mary Perry, alternate, present; Minnie Hart, alternate, absent.

Harmony—J. D. Martindale, present; Richard Williams, absent.

Casa—Eld. D. L. Redditt, Walter Hill.

Mulberry Grove—G. C. McCabe present; R. L. Williams, absent; H. W. Duncan, present.

Houston—J. W. Harris, H. B. Liscomb, J. A. Lovelace, present; Walter Harris, G. W. Wages, alternate, present.

Dixie—Eld. E. H. Owen, J. N. Ragsdale, M. E. Owen, present.

New Home—Deacon D. B. James, present; Ham Homes, James Shelton, absent; J. M. Tidmore, alternate, present.

Aplin—J. H. Alexander, S. O. Welch, Jr., present.

Ada—Eld. J. H. Hammonds, N. Turnbull, present; J. Turnbull, alternate, present.

Cherry Hill—A. J. Ussurry, absent; G. W. Grice, W. M. Porter, present.

Antioch—W. A. Bond, A. L. Handy, present.

Esau—T. J. Nixon, A. Bland, W. F. Owen, Wm. Ballard, alternate, present.

The Moderator appointed Eld. G. W. Wilcox and J. W. Harris, reading clerks, who proceeded to read the letters from the churches represented.

On motion being carried the regular order of business was tabled and Eld. G. W. Wilcox was chosen to preach the introductory sermon in as much as Eld. E. L. West was not in attendance.

Permanent organization of the body resulted in the election of Eld. E. H. Owen, Moderator; H. H. Davis, Clerk; J. W. Harris, Treasurer.

On motion the body adjourned for introductory sermon at 11 o'clock A. M. Text: 9, 10, 11 vs. 3 chap. Cor.

AFTERNOON.

At 2:15 p. m. the body came together with prayer led by Eld. W. C. Palmer.

Moderator proceeded to the appointment of committees who reported as follows:

DIVINE SERVICE.

Eld. Huff to preach at 7 p. m. Saturday. Text, "Ye must be born again." John 3 Chapter 15 verse.

Eld. Grumble Missionary sermon, Sunday 11 a. m. Text "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel." Mark 16 Chapter 15 verse.

O. T. Finch, Sunday 7 p. m. Text, "Knowing therefore of the terror of the Lord we persuade men." 2 Cor. 5 Chapter 11 verse.

O. T. Finch, Monday 11 a. m. Text, "Be ye therefore of good cheer."

Eld. H. G. Johnson, Chr.
A. Bland,
W. F. Owen, Committee

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

We your committee on Sabbath Schools submit the following report:

The Sabbath School work is one that should be near and dear to every christian heart. here we find a place for every class of christian workers for in it, all can do something for the Master, indeed so intimately is this work connected with the Church that we cannot afford to dispense with it. It requires but a casual observation to note the vast amount of good that has been accomplished by this agency, the work in some of our Churches is in a flourishing condition but there is still room for improvement. We urge upon all Churches the necessity of a well organized Sabbath School in their midst and that special attention be given to this branch of Church work.

J. W. Harris, Chr.
Eld. D. L. Redditt,
H. B. Lipscomb, Committee.

DOCUMENTS.

Eld. W. A. Steakley Chr., Deacon D. B. James, Committee.

OBITUARIES.

We your committee on obituaries submit the following report:

That there has been a total of eight deaths in the bounds of this Association during the year of 1905.

Eld. G. W. Wilcox Chr.
W. F. Owen,
N. Turnbull, Committee.

NOMINATIONS.

We your committee on nominations recommend that the body elect the men to preach the introductory and missionary sermons at the next setting of the Association.

Eld. J. H. Hammors Chr.
H. W. Duncan, Committee.

LITERATURE.

We your committee on literature submit the following:

We find it to the best interest of the Churches to use the American Baptist Publication Society, the Southern Baptist Convention Literature, the American Baptist Flag and the Baptist Advance as sound Baptist papers and do hereby recommend them as our state papers, and last but not least the revealed will of Christ which is the book of all books. Respectfully submitted.

Eld. D. L. Redditt Chr.
J. N. Ragsdale
W. H. Perry, Committee.

MISSIONS.

J. A. Tidmore Chr., J. H. Alexander, Committee.

FINANCE.

We, your committee on finance submit the following report :

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Associational Missions | \$ 2 50 |
| Foreign Missions .. | 75 |
| Home Missions..... | 50 |
| State Missions..... | 9 45 |
| Orphan's Home Missions..... | 22 97 |
| Houston Church State Missions..... | 22 25 |
| Esau Church State Missions | 22 42 |
| For Printing Minutes..... | 15 00 |
| Collection for extra Printing | 3 40 |
| For Clerk..... | 1 50 |
| Ministerial education collection..... | 3 25 |
| Total | \$103 94 |

TEMPERANCE.

We, your committee on Temperance submit the following report:

To use intoxicating liquors as a beverage in any form is detrimental to the Church and the cause of Christ and to the world and tends to the destruction of the souls of men, we therefore ask our Baptist churches in the bounds of the Fouché Valley Association, to earnestly solicit all men and especially those claiming to be Baptists to give their help at the polls in putting down the demon that is leading so many men's souls to destruction and ruin. We further recommend that all temperance men in their homes, in their churches, and communities to use their influence to lead the intemperate from the error of their way by their Godly walk and pious conversation. All of which is respectfully submitted.

ELD. G. W. WILCOX, Chr.
J. W. HARRIS, Committee.

ORPHAN'S HOME

We, your committee on Orphan's Home offer the following report on the Home located at Monticello. There is at present about 66 orphans in the home. These children must be fed and clothed and the only way we have to raise funds for this purpose is by contributions from the churches and Associations throughout the state. Brother O. T. Finch is now acting Financial Secretary of the Home. Winter is now coming on and we should do all in our power to aid and support these children. We recommend that this Association take up a collection once a year for this Home. Respectfully submitted.

J. W. HARRIS, Chr.

J. A. LOVELACE, Committee.

EDUCATIONAL.

We, to whom the subject of education was referred, beg leave to submit the following report:

We feel the great need of an educated ministry in our association and state. We are having to meet issues that we cannot meet without an educated ministry. Not educated in literature alone, but taught in the Sacred Scriptures, we recommend that this Association encourage the education of the entire membership in our missionary work. We recommend that steps be taken at an early date to establish a Preachers Institute at some central point at the most convenient time. We recommend further that our country preachers be especially encouraged to attend such Institute. We would recommend Ouachita, Central, Mountain Home, and Magazine Colleges as schools under good and able management and offering good advantages in education and we ask parents and young men and women anticipating sending, or going to school, to investigate the inducements offered by these institutions before going elsewhere. Respectfully submitted.

Eld. G. W. Wilcox Chr.

Eld. D. L. Redditt, Committee.

LETTERS

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Church | 13 |
| Petitionary | 0 |
| Dismissal | 0 |

Eld. T. G. Grumble, corresponding messenger for Dardanelle Association was given the right hand of fellowship by the Moderator and was then seated in the body.

The right of visiting Ministers not sent as messengers to sit on committees was discussed at length and was finally decided to be unconstitutional.

The following brethren were appointed as corresponding messengers to the neighboring Associations:

Greenbrier—Elders G. W. Wilcox, J. H. Hammonds, W. A. Steakley and W. H. Perry.

Dardanelle—Eld. D. L. Redditt, H. W. Duncan, Deacon D. B. James and J. D. Martindale.

Saline—Elders W. A. Steakley and J. H. Hammonds.

DISTRICT MEETINGS.

Eld. G. W. Wilcox discussed at some length the district or fifth Sunday meetings. A ballot resulted in the choice of Casa as the next place of the district meeting.

NEXT MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

Houston and Antioch requested the next meeting of the Association to be held with their churches. The body by ballot decided to hold the next session with Antioch Church.

VISITING MINISTERS AND THEIR ADDRESS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Eld. T. G. Grumble, Magazine | Eld. Casin of the Convention and Advance, Conway. |
| Eld. O. T. Fitch, Little Rock | |
| Eld. H. R. Parks, of the Flag, Little Rock. | Eld. H. G. Johnson, Booneville |

LICENSED MINISTERS.

Names of licensed ministers and their Post Offices:

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Elder E. H. Owen, Dixie. | Elder J. H. Haimmonds, Ada. |
| “ W. A. Huff, Adona. | “ D. L. Redditt, Casa. |
| “ J. H. Johnson, Houston. | “ W. A. Steakley, Perryville. |
| “ D. B. Ford, Moab. | “ M. G. McMillan, Rover. |
| “ J. V. Pearson, Ada. | |

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

After prolonged discussion by various brethren the body decided to include in the minutes of the Association, the articles of Faith which are here given.

OF THE SCRIPTURES.

1. We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired. That it is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction. That it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter. That it reveals the principles by which God will judge us and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried.

OF THE TRUE GOD.

2. We believe that there is one, and only one living and true God; an infinite, intelligent spirit, whose name is Jehova, the maker and supreme ruler of heaven and earth, inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love. That in the unity of the God head, there are three persons, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct, but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

OF THE FALL OF MAN.

3. We believe that man was created in Holiness under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from that Holy and happy state, in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but by choice, being by nature utterly void of that Holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil, and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

OF THE WHY OF SALVATION.

4. We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of Grace, through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God; who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon him our nature, yet without sin; honored the Divine law by his personal obedience, and by his death made a full atonement for our sins, that having risen from the dead he is now enthroned in heaven; and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with Divine perfections, he is in every way qualified to be a suitable compassionate, and all sufficient Saviour.

OF JUSTIFICATION.

5. We believe that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in him is justification, that justification includes the pardon of sin; and the promise of eternal life and principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; by virtue of which faith his perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

OF THE FREENESS OF SALVATION.

6. We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

OF GRACE IN REGENERATION.

7. We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a Holy disposition to the mind; that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with Divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; and that its proper evidence appears in the Holy fruits of repentance, and faith, and newness of life.

OF REPENTANCE AND FAITH.

8. We believe that repentance and faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces wrought in our souls by the regenerating spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of salvation, by Christ we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest, and King and relying on Him alone as the only and all sufficient Saviour.

OF GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE

9. We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in

the highest degree that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the gospel; that it is the foundation of christian assurance, and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.

OF SANCTIFICATION

10. We believe that Sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of his holiness, that it is a progressive work, that it is begun in regeneration and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Healer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means, especially the word of God, self examination, self denial, watchfulness and prayer.

OF THE PERSEVERANCE OF SAINTS

11. We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special providence watches over their welfare; and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

OF THE HARMONY OF THE LAW AND THE GOSPEL.

12. We believe that the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government; that it is Holy, Just and Good, and that the inability which the scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts, arises entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the Holy Law is one great end of the Gospel, and of the means of Grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

OF A GOSPEL CHURCH.

13. We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptised believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by his laws, and exercising the gifts, rites and privileges invested in them by His word. That its only scriptural officers are Bishops or Pastors and Deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

OF BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

14. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer into the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is a prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation; and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church by the sacred use of bread and wine are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preached always by solemn self-examination.

OF THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH.

15. We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath, and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor, and sinful recreations; by the devout observance of all the means of Grace both private and public, and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT.

16. We believe that civil government is of Divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ who is the only Lord of the conscience and the Prince of Kings of the earth.

OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED.

17. We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in his esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are wicked and under the curse and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

OF THE WORLD TO COME.

18. We believe that the end of this world is approaching; that at the last day Christ will descend from Heaven, and raise the dead from the grave to judgment, that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy, and the judgement will fix forever the final state of man, in Heaven or hell on principles of righteousness.

MONDAY MORNING SESSION.

The Association was called to order at 9 o'clock. The Moderator read the 37th division of the Psalm of David and the time was very profitably spent until 11 o'clock, the members of the body being entertained by some interesting discourses by the following brethren on the several subjects of interest as follows:

Temperance, Elders O. T. Finch, H. R. Parks and D. L. Redditt.

Education, Elders H. R. Parks, Jas. I. Casin, G. W. Wilcox, J. H. Hammonds and A. J. Johnson.

Divine services at 11 o'clock by Eld. O. T. Finch. Text, 22nd and 23rd verses of the 21st chapter of the Acts.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The body was again called to order at 2 o'clock p. m. Literature and Nominations were discussed at some length by Elders D. L. Redditt, E. H. Owen, G. W. Wilcox, J. H. Hammonds and N. Turnbull, W. F. Owen and W. H. Perry.

The body next instructed the clerk to have 300 copies of the minutes printed and distributed among the churches of the Association, and also voted to allow the clerk \$8.00 for his services.

Discussion of Orphans Home by Elders H. G. Johnson and E. H. Owen.

The body next moved that the Moderator appoint the members of the Executive Board, who were appointed as follows;

J. A. Lovelace, W. H. Perry and J. W. Harris, Houston; J. N. Rigsdale, Erie; and W. F. Owen, Esau.

On motion the body asked the Executive Board to look after the education of the young brother S. O. Welch, jr., and that they at once enter into correspondence with the churches of this Association to that end.

VOTE OF THANKS.

Resolved: That the thanks of this body are eminently due and are hereby tendered to the good people of Esau and surrounding country for their kind hospitality to us during this session of our body. Presented by G. W. Wilcox, and adopted. Benediction by S. O. Welch jr.

Thus closed the Eighteenth Annual Session of the Fourche Valley Baptist Association.



ORDER OF BUSINESS.

- 1—Devotional Exercises.
- 2—Calling for and reading letters and enrolling names.
- 3—Election of Officers for ensuing year.
- 4—Call for petitionary letters.
- 5—Inviting visiting Ministers to seats.
- 6—Appointment of Committees.
- 7—Granting Letters of Dismission and other Correspondence.
- 8—Reports of Committees.
- 9—Miscellaneous Business.
- 10—Time and Place of Next Meeting.
- 11—Vote of Thanks and Adjournment.

STATICISTAL TABLE OF SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

| Schools..... | Superintendent..... | Kind of Literature..... | OT & T ^r | Scholars.. | No class's | AV. att'd. |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Houston..... | G W Wages..... | | 7 | 40 | 5 | 47 |
| Aplin..... | A. J. Little..... | | 7 | 80 | 5 | 50 |
| Cherry Hill..... | J. B. Rogers..... | A. Bap. Pub. Society | 7 | 75 | 4 | 35 |
| Esau..... | | So. Bap. Con. | 7 | | 5 | 35 |

All churches are invited to send in tables of Sunday Schools with their Church letters.

STATISTICAL TABLE OF CHURCHES.

| Churches | Clerks | Pastors | Post Office | Total Membership | Voucher | Erased | Baptised | Received by letter | Restored | Dismissed by letter | Excluded | Died | Minutes | Foreign Missions | State Missions | Associational Missions | Orphan's Home |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|------------------|---------|--------|----------|--------------------|----------|---------------------|----------|------|---------|------------------|----------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Houston | G W Wages | H G Johnson | Houston | 89 | | | 14 | 5 | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 50 | | 22 25 | | |
| Mulberry Grove | R S Williams | W A Huff | Casa.. | 70 | | | | | | | | | 1 00 | | | 50 | |
| Casa | V N Redditt | D L Redditt | Casa.. | 38 | | | 6 | 5 | | | | | 1 00 | | | 1 00 | |
| Hickory Grove | G W Bland | W A Huff | Houston | 36 | 9 | 3 | | | 1 | 6 | | 1 | 1 60 | | | 1 00 | |
| Harmony | Moses Brazil | J M Neale | Maumelle | 67 | | | | | | 10 | | | 11 00 | 50 | | 50 | |
| Oppelo | J M Wood | G W Wilcox | Oppelo | 37 | | | 7 | 1 | 2 | 2 | | | 1 1 00 | | | | |
| Dixie | M E Owens | E H Owen | Dixie | 10 | | | 1 | | | 2 | | | 1 00 | | | | |
| New Home | D B James | D L Redditt | Casa.. | 48 | | | 4 | | | 2 | | | 1 00 | | | | |
| Aplin | J H Alexander | W A Huff | Aplin | 50 | | | 6 | 1 | | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 80 | 25 | 55 | | 65 |
| Ada | B. Hammonds | J H Hammonds | Ada | 23 | | | 3 | 1 | 2 | | | | 1 10 | | | | |
| Cherry Hill | W M Porter | J H Hammonds | Aplin | 54 | | | 2 | 4 | 3 | | 3 | | 1 50 | | | | |
| Antioch.. | A L Handy | G T Ford | Moab | 27 | 3 | | 3 | 1 | 2 | | | | 1 1 00 | | | | |
| Esau | A Bland | H G Johnson | Esau | 25 | | | 2 | 2 | | 3 | 1 | 1 | | 22,42 | | | |
| Mount'n Grove | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pilgrims Rest | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Viney Grove | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| F V Association | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 22 97 |
| Total | | | | 504 | 4 | 9 | 71 | 20 | 10 | 30 | 7 | 8 | 1350 | 75 | 45 | 223 00 | 23 62 |

[Houston gave \$1.50 for Clerk.]

Respectfully Submitted,

H. H. DAVIS, Clerk