

MINUTES.

The Mt. Vernon Baptist Association met with the Salem Church, Phillips County, at 11 o'clock a. m., Friday, September 29, 1882, Deacon H. P. Slaughter, former Moderator, in the Chair.

The Moderator having called the Association to order, Eld. G. A. Grammer, the appointee, preached the Introductory Sermon. Text: Galatians, VI, 2.

After an intermission of ten minutes, the Association met and engaged in singing. Prayer by Eld. J. J. Huckaby.

On motion of Bro. S. H. King proceeded to organize.

Eld. W. H. Paslay and Bro. S. H. King being appointed by the Moderator, letters were read from the Churches and the following Delegates were enrolled:

Clinton Grove—W. D. Roan, H. P. Slaughter.

Clinton—Sylvester Johnson, R. R. King, W. Porter.

Clinton—By Letter

Clinton—G. A. Grammer, M. W. Izard.

Clinton—W. H. Paslay, F. L. Coatsworth.

Clinton—Geo. W. Warner.

Clinton—D. W. Gideon, J. B. Haddock.

Clinton—W. H. Henderson, Wm. Thompson, W. T. McKin-

ney.
Forest Chapel—R. H. Sporkman, J. H. Thompson, H. Moore.

Clinton Grove—John Walker.

Clinton—R. R. Whitfield.

Clinton—W. A. Bobbitt, J. J. Huckaby.

Marvell—L. K. Obenchain, S. H. King.

On motion of L. K. Obenchain it was agreed to elect all the officers in one ballot.

Brethren W. J. Scaife and F. L. Gustavus being appointed as tellers, announced Deacon H. P. Slaughter, Moderator; Eld. W. H. Paslay, Treasurer; Eld. G. A. Grammer, Clerk and Corresponding Secretary.

On call for petitionary letters, Marianna Church, through J. P. Farrar, Sr., was readmitted into the Association. Action upon the petition of Refuge Church was postponed until it could be ascertained what articles of faith it had adopted.

The following Committee on Divine Service was appointed by the Moderator: S. H. King, R. H. Sparkman, W. A. Babbitt, W. J. Scaife and W. H. Henderson.

Brethren J. P. Farrar, Sr.; M. W. Izard, F. L. Gustavus were appointed as Committee on Finance.

The Committee on Divine Service reported that Eld. J. J. Huckaby preach to-night and Eld. W. H. Paslay preach to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

On motion, adjourned till after preaching to-night. Prayer by Eld. W. H. Paslay.

FRIDAY NIGHT.

At 7:30 Eld. J. J. Huckaby preached from John III; 14-15, when the body proceeded to business.

The following additional Messengers were enrolled: Philadelphia—R. J. Windley, N. T. Higginbotham.

Eld. W. H. Paslay submitted the following report on Foreign Missions which, after remarks by W. H. Paslay, G. A. Grammer, L. K. Obenchain, and a collection amounting to \$6.10, was adopted:

It is now too late to argue the importance of Missions. That the heathen have claims upon us cannot be denied. Those who have had the blessings of the Gospel extended to them have in a great measure cast their idols to the moles and bats and are now bowing to the sceptre of King Emmanuel and thousands are yearly converted to God. Christians are generally awakening to the importance of this work, and it is now

admitted that the Gospel must be preached to all nations through the instrumentality of the Church.

While charity may begin at home, it does not end there. It ought to include in its embrace the nations of the earth.

The reports from all the foreign fields are encouraging, and the Macedonian cry is coming up from different places, "Come over and help us." Many have volunteered to respond to the call, but the necessary funds are lacking and our Missionary Boards are appealing to us for help. God has blessed us this year with abundant harvests; let us consecrate at least a portion to his cause as a free-will offering, with the prayer that it may be blessed to the salvation of many immortal souls, and thus aid in extending the conquest of our blessed Redeemer's Kingdom to earth's remotest bounds.

"Shall we whose souls are lighted
With wisdom from on high,
To heathens who sit in darkness,
The Lamp of life deny?"

God forbid! But give us grace to give according as he has blessed us that they who now sit in moral darkness may merge into the marvelous light of the Gospel of His dear Son.

Respectfully submitted,

W. H. PASLAY,

W. T. SCAIFE,

Committee.

Eld. G. A. Grammer offered a report on Home Missions, which, after addresses by S. H. King and L. K. Obenchain, was laid on the table until the report of Executive Board was submitted.

Eld. L. K. Obenchain read the report on Sunday-Schools, which, after remarks by G. A. Grammer and L. K. Obenchain, was adopted.

Your Committee on Sabbath-Schools beg leave to submit the following:

That the Sabbath-School work is a great and good work we will not in this report undertake to prove. If duration and results are evidences of worth, surely we must conclude that it is

valuable; yea, an almost indispensable institution. It is a field in which all who are desirous of working may enter and labor with great hope of success and receiving a rich reward. It gives an opportunity for the development of every variety of laudable talents. No christian can excuse himself or herself on the ground that they have no office to fill; nothing to do for the Master. We have with pleasure heard read that nine Churches of the twenty-one composing this Association have Sabbath-Schools, with no report from Helena Church which has a school, making an increase of five schools. There should be greater interest taken in an enterprise of such magnitude and importance. We can but feel that many golden opportunities for doing good have passed, never more to be realized. Many talents have been and are now buried. Christian energies and graces undeveloped, when so many openings for usefulness present themselves to every one. Brethren, let us take in the situation by surveying our homes and the homes of our neighbors, and viewing the real and true condition of our country and countries beyond the great deep. I mean our moral condition in the light of God's word, and let us with one united effort come boldly to the front in Sabbath-School work. Let our Deacon and Delegate in this Association return home, with a mind imbued with the love of God and immortal souls, determined to do more in this department of Christian work than ever before, till skepticism, infidelity and all other baneful influences, with sluggishness on the part of Christians, shall disappear. We would urgently recommend that every Church in this Association organize as soon as practicable, an evergreen Sabbath-School. We would further recommend as supplies for said schools, *Kind Words*, a Sabbath-School paper, containing international lessons, published by Eld. S. Boykin, at Macon, Ga., under the auspices of the Southern Baptist Convention; or, international lessons as arranged and published by the American Baptist Publication Society, 1420 Chestnut street, Philadelphia, Pa.

L. K. OBENCHAIS,
Chairman.

Moved that when we adjourn, we do so till 9 o'clock to-morrow, holding session until preaching hour, then have an intermission of one hour, when we convene to adjourn at option of the body.

On motion, adjourned.

SATURDAY, Sept. 30, 9 o'clock a. m.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Sang Hymn 999, Southern Psalmist. Prayer by Eld J. J. Huckaby. Roll was called and minutes of yesterday read, revised and adopted.

On motion a Committee on Publications was added to the usual committees appointed, and ordered to report this session.

The Moderator appointed as said Committee, L. K. Obenchain, W. H. Paslay and G. A. Grammer.

In consequence of absences, the following changes were made in Committees: Education—W. D. Roan, J. P. Farrar, Sr. Temperance—F. L. Gustavus, J. J. Huckaby.

The Refuge Church having stated it had adopted the articles of faith published in the minutes, on motion of Eld. W. H. Paslay, was received and the Moderator extended to the Delegate the hand of fellowship.

S. H. King, Secretary of Executive Board, read report of said board, which, after addresses by Bros. S. H. King, W. H. Paslay and G. A. Grammer, it, together with the report on Home Missions, was adopted.

The Great Head of the Church, in His commission to His disciples, said: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature;" plainly indicating that to evangelize the world was their mission. Actuated by the spirit of this command, churches work together in an associational capacity, that the gospel might be supplied to the destitute.

In the language of another: "Every other phase of Christian life is comprehended in the Bible idea of missions." Our mission as Christians is not simply to accept and appropriate the provisions of God's grace, and be content therewith. Our mission as churches is not simply to hold intact our organizations. Our mission as an Association is not simply to hold

annual meetings and submit reports. Fewer reports, resolutions, etc., and more work done in the line of missionary operations would indicate our appreciation of the Master's love for us in making us stewards of His manifold grace and His treasures.

We made quite a forward movement at our last session. A cash collection of \$18.50, and pledges to the amount of \$160 was raised, and a missionary was employed for four months. We believe that good was accomplished.

Let us not be satisfied with the past. The field is as large, the work is as great, and the Master's commands just as imperative as ever. Respectfully submitted,

G. A. GRAMMER,

Chairman.

To the Mt. Vernon Association:

Your Executive Board submit the following report:

Under instruction from your body to employ a Missionary to serve within its bounds, we employed Bro. G. A. Grammer, pledging him \$25 a month from the Board, he raising what additional amount he could on the field. Bro. Grammer entered the work immediately, and worked faithfully for about three and one-half months, when for want of funds, and bad weather, he was compelled to quit the field. The Board paid Bro. Grammer \$87.50, all we pledged him, and collected on the field \$87.50.

Your Board urge the Association to make renewed efforts to secure a Missionary for the ensuing year, and request the Delegates from each Church to raise, at least, \$10, and forward to Bro. W. H. Paslay, Wheatley, as soon as practicable; also that all Pastors in the Association take up a collection at some specified time for this purpose. The Missionary duty shall be to preach in destitute places.

S. H. KING,

Secretary of Board.

In accordance with recommendation of Board, Bro. S. H. King solicited pledges and cash, with the following response:

S. H. King, (paid).....\$ 5 00

Marvell Church.....	\$10 00
Centre Grove Church.....	10 00
Lynn Grove Church.....	10 00
Oak Grove Church.....	10 00
Bethlehem Church.....	10 00
Ash Grove Church.....	5 00
Forrest Chapel Church.....	10 00
Trenton Church.....	5 00
Salem Church.....	10 00
Forrest City Church.....	10 00
Refuge Church.....	5 00
Macianna	10 00
H. P. Slaughter.....	5 00
W. H. Gideon, (paid).....	1 00
L. K. Obenchain.....	2 50
W. J. Seafie and daughters.....	15 00
F. L. Gustavus.....	1 00
J. J. Huckaby.....	5 00
Mrs. L. C. Bush.....	5 00
Wm. Thompson.....	5 00
W. T. McKinney, (paid).....	1 00
Monroe Kersey.....	5 00

Contributions to State Missions as collected by W. A. Clark,
State Evangelist of Churches in Mt. Vernon Association:

Helena Church collections.....	\$ 29 30
Helena private contributions.....	7 70
Helena Ladies Aid Society.....	10 30
Forrest City collections.....	34 75
Forrest City Gleaners.....	11 00
Forrest City Colored Baptist Church.....	2 35
Forrest City private contributions.....	1 00
Salem Church collections.....	5 00
Marvell Church collections.....	6 90
Trenton Church collections.....	2 70
Total.....	<u>\$111 00</u>

W. A. CLARK,

Financial Secretary Ark. Baptist State Convention.

Preaching hour having arrived, adjourned to hear preaching. Eld. W. H. Paslay gave us a good sermon from Romans X, 4.

SATURDAY, 2 o'clock p. m.

Association convened for business.

The following Committees were appointed for next year:

Sunday-Schools—S. H. King, J. H. Thompson, J. P. Farrar, Sr.

Education—J. J. Huckaby, W. A. Bobbitt, W. D. Roane.

Temperance—W. H. Paslay, G. A. Grammer, W. J. Seaife.

Foreign Missions—B. F. Thomas, R. H. Sparkman, J. B. Harding.

Home Missions—L. K. Obenchain, Wm. Thompson, F. L. Gustavus.

Publications—G. A. Grammer, L. K. Obenchain, W. H. Paslay.

Brethren S. H. King, J. P. Farrar, Sr. and W. D. Roane were appointed Committee on Nominations, to report this session.

On motion of L. K. Obenchain, the report of W. A. Clark, Missionary of State Board, was appended to report on Home Missions.

W. A. Bobbitt offered Report on Temperance, which, after addresses by S. H. King, G. A. Grammer and L. K. Obenchain, was adopted.

WHEREAS, The temperance question is one that is agitating the American people from one end of this broad land to the other, and is one of the signs of an advance in American civilization; it is now the great conflict in State as well as Church. Never in the history of Arkansas has such an interest been awakened; such a sentiment been cultivated for the entire suppression of this monster evil of intemperance. The struggle now is for the prohibition of the sale of ardent spirits altogether, and with our temperance societies all over the country, and with earnest temperance workers everywhere, we hope soon to see this monster evil—this "child of hell"—this the devil's chief

agent for the destruction of the bodies and souls of men, driven from our land. Your Committee recommend the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, The temperance question is one of vital importance to every lover of good morals; and, whereas, we believe that the time has come when the Church of Christ, which is made up of the conservative element and of the social compact, should take high and firm grounds in favor of the temperance reform; therefore, be it

Resolved 1st, That we will earnestly advocate the cause of temperance, and give to the prohibition enactment of this State our unqualified endorsement and cordial support.

Resolved 2d, That we, members of the Mt. Vernon Association, tender a cheerful aid and sympathy to all those who are engaged with us in suppressing the monster evil of intemperance.

Eld. W. H. Paslay read the report on Publications, which, after remarks by Bros. W. H. Paslay, L. K. Obenchain, G. A. Grammer and W. D. Roane, was adopted.

Your Committee on Publications beg leave to submit the following:

Believing that ignorance is the parent of many gross errors, and the not understanding of the truth as it is in Jesus causes many to be weak in the faith and unable to give a reason for the hope that is in them. Therefore we recommend that while the Bible should be the daily companion of every Christian, yet as helpmeets for indoctrinating our membership more fully in Baptistie doctrine and acquainting them with the workings of the denomination and awakening in them a greater interest in the cause of our Blessed Redeemer, that every family should take at least one religious paper; and would especially recommend the *Arkansas Evangel*, our State paper, of Russellville, Ark., the *Tennessee Baptist*, of Memphis, with *Kind Words*, for Sabbath-Schools.

L. K. OBENCHAIN,

Chairman.

Notice given by Bro. S. H. King last session of change of

time of meeting was called up and the Association adopted said time, being Friday before the third Sunday in October.

On motion the following brethren were appointed Delegates to State Convention: L. K. Obenchain, G. A. Grammer, W. H. Paslay, Wm. Thompson, B. F. Thomas, V. B. Izard, H. P. Slaughter, T. E. Jasper, M. W. Izard, J. J. Huckaby.

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

On motion the following brethren were elected as Executive Board, the officers of the Association being ex-officio members: L. K. Obenchain, J. H. Thompson, W. J. Seafie, J. J. Huckaby, S. H. King.

The Committee on Nominations made the following report: Eld. L. K. Obenchain, to preach the 'introductory sermon. Eld. B. F. Thomas, alternate; Eld. G. A. Grammer, the missionary sermon, alternate. Eld. J. J. Huckaby; place of meeting, Ash Grove Church, Monroe County:

By G. A. Grammer:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association is hereby tendered to the brethren and citizens of this community for their kind and hospitable entertainment of this body.

Committee on Divine Service reported G. A. Grammer to preach to-night; W. H. Paslay, missionary sermon Sunday at 11 o'clock; G. A. Grammer Sunday night.

On motion, adjourned till after preaching to-night.

Prayer by G. A. Grammer.

G. A. Grammer preached at night; text, Ezekiel XI: 19, 20; when, on motion, adjourned to 9 o'clock to-morrow.

SUNDAY, Oct. 1, 9 o'clock a. m.

Association engaged in a Sunday-School mass-meeting, although only a few were present on account of rain. Addresses were made by S. H. King and G. A. Grammer.

At 11 a. m. Eld. W. H. Paslay preached the missionary sermon; text, John IV, 34. Cash collection amounted to \$7.80. The following additional pledges were made:

W. A. Boblitt	\$5 00
W. H. Henderson	1 00
Mrs. Kendle	5 00
Mrs. Simms	50
F. L. Gustavus	1 00
L. B. Luccando	1 00
A. J. Hogan	1 00
Mrs. King	1 00
Mrs. Bush	50

S. H. King submitted the following report on Education.

Remarks were made S. H. King, L. K. Obenchain, W. A. Bobbitt and G. A. Grammer, and report adopted:

It is a lamentable fact that education, both mental and moral, is much neglected by our denomination. Parents seem not to realize the responsibilities devolving upon them, and make little or no effort to prepare their children to fight the battle of life. Soon the parent will pass away, and the children will be called upon to step forward and take their places; and if their education is neglected how can they successfully contend against error clothed in so many deceitful forms? If we expect our children to exert an influence in this life, they must be educated; both morally and mentally, that the world will respect them. Let us, then, as Baptists, make renewed efforts, realizing the fact that education is the foundation of religious liberty.

S. H. KING,

Chairman.

Your Committee on Finance would make the following report:

Received for minutes.....	\$32 00
Received for missions.....	16 55
Received for foreign missions.....	6 10
Total.....	\$54 65

Eld. W. H. Paslay, as Treasurer, submitted the following report for 1881:

Received from Finance Committee.....	\$80 20
Paid for minutes.....	\$30 00
Paid Clerk.....	10 00
Paid G. W. Reeves, State Board...	9 00
Paid G. A. Grammer, missionary.....	15 70
Balance on hand.....	15 50

By L. K. Obenchain:

Notice is hereby given that a motion will be made at the next meeting of this body, to change the time of meeting from Friday before the third Sabbath in October, to Saturday before the third Sabbath in October.

By L. K. Obenchain:

Resolved, That this Association hereby invites Eld. J. R. Groves to deliver his lectures at the next meeting of this body.

On motion (after singing the parting hymn, extending parting hand, and prayer by W. H. Paslay), adjourned to meet with Ash Grove Church, Monroe County, on Friday before the third Sunday in October, 1883, at 10 o'clock a. m.

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

H. P. SLAUGHTER, Moderator,
Spring Creek, Lee Co., Ark.

Statistical Table of Mount Vernon Baptist Association.

CHURCHES.	Baptized.	Rec'd by Letter.	Restored.	Wiggin's by Letter.	Excluded	Dead	Transf.	Total	Number in Sunday-school.	Contributions for Minutes.	Contributions for Missions.	Pastors' Salary.	CLERKS AND POSTOFFICES.	PASTORS.	DAYS OF MEETING.
Marvell	12	4				1		17	2	2			125 & H. King, Kewanee, Phillips County.	L. K. Orenchain	2d Sunday.
Trenton	1	1				1		3		1			R. H. King, Trenton, Phillips County.	L. K. Orenchain	3d "
Rehoboth	2	1			1			4		1			W. A. B. Hill, Kewanee, Phillips County.	J. J. Huckaby	2d "
Oak Grove	6	2	1				2	11	2	1			L. K. Orenchain, Moro, Lee County.	W. H. Paslay	1st "
Salem	6	2			1			9	3	1			L. J. Brown, Moro, Phillips County.	L. K. Orenchain	4th "
Centre Grove	6	2						8		1			W. D. King, Spring Creek, Lee County.	W. H. Paslay	
Helena	1	1				1		3		1				T. E. Jasper	Every Sunday.
Philadelphia	10	3			1			14		2			George H. B. Binkley	J. M. Davis	3d "
Ash Grove	1	1						2		1			J. W. Orenchain, Saultsburg, Monroe County.	W. H. Paslay	4th "
Pine Fork	1	1						2		1			C. J. Morgan, Moro, Lee County.	M. K. McCarty	3d "
Lynn Grove	1	1						2		1			John Walker, Kewanee	J. L. Wilson	1st "
Bethlehem	1	1						2		1			W. M. King, Orenchain	M. D. Thompson	4th "
Clarendon	1	1						2		1					
Pine Grove	1	1						2		1					
Hopewell	1	1						2		1					
Forest Chapel	4	1			1			6	3	3			15 Geo. L. Rogers, Forest City	W. H. Paslay	2d Sunday.
Forest City	2	1			1			4	1	3			Geo. F. Fournier, Forest City	G. A. Grammer	1st and 3d "
Bible Union	1	1						2		1					
Zion	1	1						2		1			James Williams, Forest City	H. F. Thomas	3d Sunday.
Marianna	1	1						2		1			29 J. P. Ferrer, St. Marianna	G. A. Grammer	2d and 4th "
Refuge	1	1						2		1			James Smith, Saultsburg	J. M. Davis	1st "
Aggregate	71	35	8	11	11	15	31	249	287	263	80	50	75	21	14

*Discrepancy, Clerk supposed that many erased.

†Only a few of the Churches reported Pastor's salary.