

MINUTES

—OF THE—

Mt. Vernon Baptist Association.

FORREST CITY, ARK.,

October 4th, 1873, Saturday, 11 o'clock A. M.

The Mt. Vernon Baptist Association met to-day, with the Church, at Forrest City, pursuant to adjournment. In the absence of Elder Wm. M. Lea, the Principal, the introductory sermon was preached by the Alternate, Elder L. K. Obenshain, from John vii., 46: "Never man spake like this man."

After which the Association proceeded to organize the former Moderator, Bro. H. P. Slaughter, in the Chair, and in the absence of Bro. S. H. King, Elder J. K. Murphy was elected clerk *pro. tem.*

The letters from the Churches were read by Elder W. H. Pasley and S. C. Buckingham, who were appointed by the Moderator, and their statistics recorded as in the table.

Adjourned till two o'clock P. M.

2 O'CLOCK.

Association assembled for business. After singing the 17th hymn of Supplement of Southern Psalmist, prayer was offered by Elder W. H. Pasley.

The Association was then organized by the election of the following officers: H. P. Slaughter, Moderator; Elder J. K. Murphy, Clerk and Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.

The Moderator, on taking his seat, made a few appropriate remarks, thanking them for this renewal of their confidence, and asking their co-operation in the business before them.

On motion, it was resolved to have the Constitution of the Association read, which was done by Brother S. C. Buckingham.

An invitation was extended to the visiting brethren to take seats with us in our meeting, which was accepted by Brother S. C. Buckingham, Elders B. F. Thomas and B. F. Bartles.

Petitionary letters called for, when a petitionary letter from New Hope Church No. 3 was presented, asking to be admitted as a mem-

ber of the body, which was received, and the right hand of fellowship extended to W. H. Woodail as messenger.

The petitionary letter from Mt. Moriah Church was referred to the Council for further information respecting its articles of faith.

The petitionary letter from North Alligator Bayou Church having been lost by the messenger, he was instructed to duplicate the same, and present it during the session.

A committee on religious exercises was appointed, consisting of the Deacons of Forrest City Church, and Brethren T. H. Bates, James Thompson, E. R. Stanley and D. S. Bass.

A call for correspondence was made, when Elder W. T. Smith and Brother D. B. Peterson, from Mt. Zion Association, presented themselves as corresponding messengers with this body, and were received and installed to seats.

Call for reports of committees, but none being ready to report, was granted further time.

It was moved and carried that one half hour be spent in prayer before each session of the Association for some specified object.

It was agreed that the Association hold a mass meeting on tomorrow, Lord's Day, at nine o'clock, with the Sabbath School of the Forrest City Church.

The Committee on Religious Exercises arranged for Elder C. T. Scaife to preach to-night.

Adjourned till Monday morning at nine o'clock. Prayer by Elder W. T. Smith.

SABBATH.

The Sabbath School exercises were conducted by Elder W. H. Robert. The lesson selected for the occasion was the *Parable of the Sower*. He introduced to the audience the following brethren on these subjects: 1. The field—Elder W. H. Pasley. 2. The seed—Elder L. W. Coleman. 3. The way-side hearer—Elder L. K. Obenshain. 4. The stony ground hearer—Elder B. F. Bartles. 5. Seed among thorns—Elder B. F. Thomas. 6. Good ground hearers—Elder C. T. Scaife. 7. The Sower—Elder W. H. Robert.

The missionary sermon was preached by Elder J. K. Murphy, from Luke xxiv., 46, 47, after which a collection was taken up, amounting to \$21.60 cash, for Home Missions.

At four o'clock p. m. Elder W. H. Robert preached a sermon on the duties of parents to children, from Psalm 127, 3.

At night Elder W. H. Pasley preached from Solomon's Songs, 6, 16. At the same hour Elder C. T. Scaife preached at the Methodist Church. Thus the Lord's Day was spent, profitably, we trust, to all.

OCTOBER 6th, Monday, 9 o'clock A. M.

The Association met for business, and, after singing, prayer by Elder B. F. Bartles.

Roll called. Present—Moderator and Clerk and Messengers from the churches. Minutes read and approved.

The following Committee on Finance was appointed: J. F. Jarrett, M. T. Mitchell, R. J. Bickerstaff.

The Committee on Sunday Schools presented their report, and, after remarks by Brethren Robert, Scaife, Bartles and Murphy, was adopted. (See Appendix A.)

A petitionary letter from North Alligator Bayou Church was received, and the right hand of fellowship extended by the Moderator to Messenger J. L. Hodges, and invited to a seat with the body.

The report on education was received, and its adoption deferred till three o'clock p. m.

The following resolution was offered by Elder J. K. Murphy, in lieu of a report on Home Missions:

Resolved, That we make a more determined effort to prosecute the

missionary work within our bounds, this year, by the appointment of a missionary."

To which an amendment was offered by S. C. Buckingham, as follows: "That each pastor be requested to preach a sermon some time during the year on this subject, and take up a collection for Home Missions." After remarks by Brethren Murphy, Thomas, Scaife and Robert the resolution was adopted.

It was ordered that the former Treasurer turn over the funds in his hands to the Treasurer elect for this year.

Adjourned till two o'clock. Prayer by Elder R. F. Thomas.
2 O'CLOCK P. M.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. After singing, Brother J. F. Jarrett offered prayer.

The Committee on Temperance presented their report, and after remarks by Brethren Buckingham, Robert, Thomas and Scaife was adopted. (See Appendix C.)

The hour now arrived for the report on education to be taken up, which, after remarks by Brethren Scaife, Bell, Slaughter, Olenstein, Davant, Buckingham, Robert, Willard, Murphy and Bates was adopted. (See Appendix D.)

The resolutions in Appendix D were offered by Brother F. H. Bates and, after revision by a committee appointed for that purpose, consisting of Brethren Davant, Scaife and Bates, were adopted.

The Committee on Finance presented their report, which was adopted and the committee discharged. The following is their report:

For Minutes.....	\$78 00
Church at Rome.....	2 50
Domestic Mission.....	22 80
Sabbath School Cause.....	5 00

Total.....\$118 40

The following pledges were taken for Home Missions, to be paid during the year:

C. T. Scaife.....	\$ 10 00	V. B. Beard.....	50 00
M. P. Willard.....	5 00	B. F. Barstow.....	5 00
S. R. Bell.....	5 00	W. H. Robert, Jr.....	10 00
Geo. Slaughter.....	5 00	J. F. Langston.....	5 00
Wm. Muirhead.....	5 00	L. W. Coleman.....	5 00
W. H. Woodall.....	5 00	E. R. Stanley.....	5 00
Wm. Rushing.....	2 00	S. H. Bates.....	5 00
T. B. Wilder.....	1 00	J. M. Ragan.....	10 00
E. Ables.....	2 00	J. E. Turner.....	10 00
R. D. Everett.....	2 00	R. J. Bickertall.....	5 00
J. F. Jarrett.....	5 00	J. L. Hodges.....	2 50
Wm. Thompson.....	5 00	John Taylor.....	5 00
J. W. Graham.....	5 00	Total.....	\$114 50
J. K. Murphy.....	5 00		
H. P. Slaughter.....	10 00		

OCTOBER 7th, Tuesday, 9 o'clock A. M.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment, and after singing, Brother H. R. Farrar offered prayer. Roll called. Present—Moderator, Clerk and Messengers from Churches. On motion the same Executive Board was continued, consisting of Elders J. K. Murphy, W. D. Mayfield, T. M. Jacks, H. P. Slaughter, J. Q. Taylor and S. H. King.

Elder W. D. Mayfield was appointed to preach the next introductory sermon; Elder W. H. Pasley, alternate. Elder C. T. Scaife was appointed to preach the missionary sermon, at 11 o'clock on Sabbath, after which a collection is to be taken up for Domestic Missions. Elder L. K. Olenstein was appointed his alternate.

Committees to report at the next session of this body:

ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS—C. T. Scaife, John Taylor, J. W. Graham.

ON EDUCATION—J. K. Murphy, W. H. Pasley, R. P. Darant.

ON TEMPERANCE—W. D. Mayfield, J. F. Jarrett, H. R. Farrar.

Delegates were then appointed to attend the State Convention to meet at Little Rock, Thursday before the first Lord's day in November;

J. K. Murphy, C. T. Seafie, W. M. Lea, W. H. Robert, W. H. Robert Jr., V. B. Izard, A. E. Lockart, L. W. Coleman, H. P. Slaughter, D. S. Bass, E. T. Mitchell and W. D. Mayfield.

On motion it was ordered that the minutes of our Sabbath School Convention be published, with our Association minutes.

The time and place of the next meeting was taken up, when it was agreed to hold the next meeting of this body with Big Creek Church, four miles west of St. Charles, on White river, Saturday before the first Sabbath in October, 1874.

It was agreed to have 600 copies of the minutes published, and that there be a *pro rata* distribution according to the amount of funds sent up from each church, and that the Clerk have \$10 for his services.

Correspondence with other bodies, and messengers appointed to represent our body.— On motion,

Resolved, "That we open a correspondence with Red River Association, to meet with the Washington Church, Washington, Hempstead County, October 17th, and that Brethren W. H. Robert and W. H. Robert, Jr., be appointed to bear our fraternal regards to that body. Mr. Zion Association, Elder W. M. Lea; Caroline Association, Elder L. W. Coleman."

Moved and carried, that the Clerk write letters for the corresponding messengers to other bodies.

Adjourned till two o'clock. Prayer by Elder W. H. Robert.

2 O'CLOCK.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. After singing, prayer by Brother E. T. Mitchell.

By Elder W. H. Robert:

Resolved, "That while this Association fully endorses the Baptist, published at Memphis, as the true exponent of Baptist doctrines and principles, and Kind Words as our Sunday School paper, and the Home and Foreign Journal as our missionary paper, we further express our gratitude at the appearance of the Western Baptist, published at Searcy, and commend it to Baptists generally."

It was agreed to go into the election of a general agent to collect funds for the High School, according to the provisions in the resolutions on that subject adopted by this body. Elder W. M. Lea was chosen that agent. The Board provided for in the second resolution on High School consists of V. B. Izard, Chairman; Poindexter Dunn, A. E. Lockart, H. P. Slaughter and H. R. Farrar. On motion,

Resolved, "That the school of Elder B. F. Thomas, located four miles west of Forrest City, be commended to the patronage of Baptists everywhere."

On motion the minutes were read, corrected and approved, and after some impressive remarks by the Moderator, and singing the hymn, "How firm a foundation ye saints of the Lord," and the parting hand extended amid eyes suffused with tears of brotherly love, the Association adjourned to meet at the Big Creek Church, Arkansas County, on Saturday before the first Sabbath in October. Prayer by Elder W. H. Robert.

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

J. K. MURPHY, Clerk,
LaGrange, Lee County, Ark.

APPENDIX.

[A.]

Report on Sunday Schools.

Your Committee on Sunday Schools beg leave to report that, from every manifestation, there seems to be an increasing interest with regard to Sunday Schools within the bounds of this Association. There are more than twenty schools among our thirty churches, and in many other places the brethren who have it not in their power to labor in Baptist Sunday Schools, have been engaged with others in keeping up such schools as best they could. This gives encouragement and reason to look forward to an enlivened effort in this direction another year.

It is worthy of consideration, also, that those churches which have Sunday Schools are more flourishing and have had happier revivals during the year than those which have had no schools.

The great need now is that every church have one or more men, with greater skill and more experience in this important work, and to affect this we *earnestly recommend* that we have more Sunday School mass meetings and institutes.

We would recommend that your body appoint the best man for each church, to carry on this educational work, and hope that many will rise to bless our labors in the Sunday School cause.

W. H. ROBERT, Chairman.

[B.]

Report on Temperance.

WHEREAS, Alcohol is one of the greatest enemies of God and man on earth, and one of the most potent agents of evil used by the devil for the destruction of the souls of men; therefore,

Resolved 1, "That we, as Baptists, to remove the stigma attached to our name on this subject, and place ourselves in our true position before Christendom on the subject of drunkenness, will, as far as lies in our power, withdraw our patronage from makers and venders of ardent spirits as a beverage."

Resolved 2, That we advise all churches of this Association to

promptly deal with every member for the first offence of wanton drunkenness.

S. C. BUCKINGHAM,

J. K. MURPHY,

L. W. COLEMAN,

Committee.

Report on Education.

Your Committee on Education beg leave to report that, while the cause of education has been generally neglected during the past few years, there is at this time increased interest on the subject; that the effect of the free school system, as now managed, is damaging to the cause; that there is among our people a disposition to encourage denominational schools; we recommend the encouragement of such schools whenever practicable.

We would further recommend the concentration of the educational efforts of our denomination at some one point; that that point be Forrest City; that an agent be appointed by this body to raise funds during the winter and spring months for the founding of such an institution.

C. T. SCAIFE,

L. K. OBENSHAIN,

Committee.

In order to carry out the suggestion of the report on education adopted by this body, be it

Resolved 1, "That the pastors of the different churches appointed local agents to solicit funds for that purpose, and that one general agent be appointed to travel through the bounds of the Association, or elsewhere, to raise funds for the same purpose, and that he receive ten per cent. of all cash collections made by him for his services; that all of these agents report their collections directly to the board hereinafter described."

Resolved 2, "That a board of five be appointed, whose business it shall be to negotiate and raise funds, upon the notes of the stockholders' and other property; also, to issue stock in shares of twenty-five dollars to stockholders."

Resolved 3, "That said board be further empowered to proceed in the selection and purchase of grounds, and to the erection of buildings, as soon as \$5000 cash has been raised, and make a full report of their proceedings at the next session of this body."

Resolved 4, "That, after the first session of this body after the erection of the buildings, a permanent board of trustees of the school be appointed."

Resolved 5, "That twenty per cent. of subscription be paid at the time of subscription and twenty per cent. annually thereafter."

Resolved 6, "That the Institution be known as the Baptist High School of the Mt. Vernon Association."

R. P. DAVANT,

C. T. SCAIFE,

T. H. BATES,

Committee.

Sunday School Convention.

FRIDAY EVENING, October 3rd, 1873.

The Sunday School Convention of Mt. Vernon Association met this evening in the Forest City Church, the former President, Elder W. H. Robert in the Chair. J. K. Murphy was appointed Secretary *pro tem.* After reading, singing and prayer, Elder Robert delivered a short address to the children, after which, letters were called for from the different Sabbath Schools of the Association, when the following responded: Sabbath School of Trenton Church, Sabbath School of Lime Grove Church, Sabbath School of Cypress Valley Church, Sabbath School of Bible Union Church.

The following brethren were then received as members of the Convention, as representatives from the Sabbath Schools: J. K. Murphy, New Hope Church; R. J. Bickerstaff, Oak Grove Church; D. S. Bass, Big Creek Church; R. P. Davant, J. H. Crabtree, V. B. Izard, F. W. Whitaker, F. M. Prewett, Wm. Pope, A. E. Lockart, and T. C. Davis, Forrest City Church.

SATURDAY—4 O'CLOCK.

The Sabbath School Convention met pursuant to adjournment. Ascertained what churches within our bounds had Sunday Schools. Glad to find that most of them had Sabbath schools.

Elder W. H. Robert being about to leave, and on this account could not be our President longer, it was agreed to unite the work of the Sabbath School Convention with the Association work, and that the same Moderator and Clerk answer for both. All our Sabbath School Superintendents are Vice Presidents of this Convention, namely, Bible Union, M. P. Willard; Trenton, J. F. Humphries; Salem, R. M. Jackson; Cypress Valley, W. R. Barnett; Forrest Chapel, John Taylor, Jas. M. Thompson; Rising Sun, J. F. Ragan; Helena, John Q. Taylor; New Hope, C. W. Hickey; New Hope No. 3, Wm. Lovett; DeWitt, J. Puryear; Forrest City, A. E. Lockart; Oak Grove, R. J. Bickerstaff; Ash Grove, ———; Big Creek, D. S. Bass; New Hope No. 2, W. Graves; Liberty No. 2, E. T. Mitchell; Spring Creek, E. L. Black; Shilo, Joseph W. Morris; Bethel, E. Holtzclaw; Linn Grove, John W. Walker; Philadelphia; F. J. Turrentine.

On motion, adjourned to meet on Friday before the meeting of the Association, and it is desired that all Vice Presidents and all members of the Convention meet with us.

J. K. MURPHY,
Secretary.

H. P. SLAUGHTER,
President.

Statistics of the Church, 1872-73.

Churches.	Messengers.	Post Office.	Pastor.	Received by letter.	Received by letter.	Discontinued by letter.	Discontinued by letter.	Total in Fellowship.
Rising Sun.....	J. A. Ragan and J. E. Turner.....	Crockett's Bluff.....	W. W. Chaney.....	11	3	1	1	82
DeWitt.....	Letter.....	DeWitt.....	A. M. Russell.....	10	1	3	3	175
Big Creek.....	H. D. Bass.....	St. Charles.....	J. F. Brice.....	14	7	0	0	5
New Hope No. 2.....	Not represented.....	DeWitt.....	DeWitt.....	0	0	0	0	2
Mill Bayou.....	Not represented.....	DeWitt.....	Aberdson.....	0	0	0	0	2
Liberty No. 2.....	E. T. Mitchell.....	DeWitt.....	DeWitt.....	0	0	0	0	2
Bayou Meter.....	Not represented.....	DeWitt.....	Indian Bay.....	10	2	0	0	2
New Hope No. 3.....	W. H. Woodall.....	DeWitt.....	Latrance.....	12	2	1	0	2
New Hope.....	Elder J. K. Murphy.....	DeWitt.....	Spring Creek.....	0	1	0	0	3
Helena.....	Not represented.....	DeWitt.....	More.....	10	11	0	0	2
Spring Creek.....	H. P. Slaughter and G. W. Slaughter.....	DeWitt.....	Trenton.....	0	0	0	2	2
Oak Grove.....	H. J. Bickstaff and Hugh McCreary.....	DeWitt.....	Marvel.....	12	9	1	3	2
Blackfoot.....	Not represented.....	DeWitt.....	Marvel.....	0	0	0	0	2
Trenton.....	W. H. Robert, W. H. Robert, Jr., Eld. C. T. Seale and T. H. Bates.....	DeWitt.....	LaGrange.....	0	1	0	1	3
Salem.....	Wm. Thompson, J. P. Jarrett J. H. Graham.....	DeWitt.....	Cypress Ridge.....	0	0	0	3	3
Hickory Ridge.....	Letter.....	DeWitt.....	North Creek.....	0	0	0	1	3
Cypress Valley.....	John Langston.....	DeWitt.....	Holly Grove.....	9	1	3	1	2
Shilo.....	D. M. Braxfield.....	DeWitt.....	Hinsley.....	3	4	2	0	3
Fothel.....	Letter.....	DeWitt.....	Cotton Plant.....	0	1	0	0	3
Linn Grove.....	D. E. Wilder, R. D. Everett and E. Abel.....	DeWitt.....	More.....	0	0	0	2	2
Philadelphia.....	G. W. Wilson.....	DeWitt.....	Hickory Ridge.....	0	0	0	2	2
Ash Grove.....	Elder L. W. Coleman and E. R. Stanley.....	DeWitt.....	Forrest City.....	12	1	0	1	2
Pine Fork.....	L. C. Whitt.....	DeWitt.....	Forrest City.....	0	0	0	0	2
Mt. Gillend.....	J. H. Graham.....	DeWitt.....	Forrest City.....	0	0	0	0	2
Forrest Chapel.....	Eld. L. K. Obenshain, J. Taylor, J. H. Thompson.....	DeWitt.....	Forrest City.....	0	0	0	0	2
Forrest City.....	A. E. Lockart, R. P. Davant and V. B. Izard.....	DeWitt.....	Forrest City.....	0	0	0	0	2
Hopewell.....	W. Muirhead and S. N. Evans.....	DeWitt.....	Forrest City.....	0	0	0	0	2
Bible Union.....	S. R. B. H. and M. P. Willard.....	DeWitt.....	Forrest City.....	0	0	0	0	2
Marianna.....	H. R. Farrar and J. P. Farrar.....	DeWitt.....	Forrest City.....	0	0	0	0	2
Pleasant Grove.....	Not represented.....	DeWitt.....	Forrest City.....	0	0	0	0	2
Clarendon.....	D. Hurst.....	DeWitt.....	Forrest City.....	0	0	0	0	2
Manassas.....	Elder W. W. Pasley.....	DeWitt.....	Forrest City.....	0	0	0	0	2
North Aligator Ha.....	Letter.....	DeWitt.....	Forrest City.....	0	0	0	0	2

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

AS OBSERVED BY THIS BODY.

—(18)—

1st.—Called together by the Moderator for the purpose of hearing the Introductory Sermon.

AN INTERMISSION.

Delegates re-assembled. Moderator and Clerk in their seats.

2nd.—Letters read and Delegates enrolled.

3rd.—Election of officers for ensuing year.

4th.—Petitionary Letters.

5th.—Call for Correspondence.

6th.—Invite visiting brethren to seats with us.

7th.—Committee Appointed—Domestic Missions.

8th.— " " Education.

9th.— " " Sabbath Schools.

10th.— " " Temperance.

11th.— " " Finance.

12th.— " " Religious Exercises.

13th.— " " Correspondence and Messengers of

Sister Associations.

14th.—Contributions from Churches received.

15th.—Determine place of next Annual Meeting.

16th.—Resolutions and Propositions in Order.

17th.—Appoint a brother to preach the Introductory.

18th.—Executive Board nominated.

19th.—Report of Committees.

20th.—Report of Board.

21st.—Printing of Minutes, and number determined.

22nd.—Reading of Minutes before adjournment.

23d.—A parting address by the Moderator.