

• MINUTES •

OF THE

FORTIETH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

*Mt. Vernon*

*Baptist • Association,*

HELD WITH

*Brinkley Baptist Church,*

Monroe County, Ark., October 16, 1896.

S. H. KING, Moderator, Poplar Grove.

LON SLAUGHTER, Clerk, Marianna.

# ... PROCEEDINGS ...



BRINKLEY, ARK., OCT. 16, 1896.

Pursuant to adjournment the Mt. Vernon Baptist Association met with Brinkley Church Oct. 16, 1896, and was called to order by the former moderator, Bro. S. H. King, at 10 a. m. The appointee to preach the introductory sermon, Rev. H. C. Rosamond, being absent, the alternate, Rev. J. B. Wise, after singing and prayer, preached from John, 4:37. Prayer by Rev. W. H. Pasley. Recess of ten minutes, after which the body was called to order by singing. Letters from different churches were called for, when the following messengers were enrolled :

Clarendon—J. C. Russell, W. M. King.

La Grange—W. A. Bobbitt.

Level Valley—W. C. Garner.

Helena—Thos. Oldham, L. J. Wilkes, S. A. Stearns.

Salem—B. L. Carey, Jas. Henderson.

Cypress—C. S. Belsha.

Mt. Gilead—S. H. Thompson, J. L. Wilson, R. G. Thomas.

Marvell—Wade Preston, Will. J. Preston, Mrs. J. L. Gatty.

Rehobeth—S. H. King, F. H. Hopkins, T. C. Langston, R.

W. McKinney.

Parks Grove—Thos. E. Knight, Hiram Breeden.

Cotton Plant—G. W. Hill.

Brinkley—A. Flora, Wat. Brooks, J. T. Roach.

Hebron—W. P. Taylor, P. H. Psalmonds.

Philadelphia—G. C. Goodwin, S. D. Sawyer.

Big Creek—E. S. Miller, J. R. Sherman.

Ash Grove—B. F. Anderson, A. A. Andrus, J. A. Simpson.

Good Hope—L. B. Winfrey, S. D. Johns.

Moon Lake—Joseph Kruse.

## MT. VERNON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Colt—Not represented.

Bible Union—W. H. Higgins, Will McMickols.

Palestine—F. M. Gorum, Miss Lena Williams, A. Votrain.

Poplar Grove—J. B. Hodge, D. W. Neal.

Mars Hill—W. K. Leach, Z. T. Billingsly.

Forrest City—W. H. Pasley, F. G. Bozeman, J. B. Sanders.

Forrest Chapel—Sister Thompson, R. A. Sparkman.

Haynes—J. T. Friar, W. T. Gray, Mrs. Weatherly.

Christian Valley—W. A. Wall, J. E. West.

Oak Grove—F. L. Gustavus, J. W. Boardman.

Marianna—J. B. Wise, N. J. Williams, Lon Slaughter.

Vincent—D. K. Nuffer, Mrs. Nuffer.

Wheatley—J. H. Freeman, Miss Fannie Brooks, S. L. Holloway.

Pleasant Grove—G. R. Reyno, J. C. Griffin, J. F. Smith.

Raymond—Z. T. West, A. J. Holloway, J. B. Cobb.

Prairie Grove—W. L. Freeman.

Monroe—J. W. Grimes.

Mt. Olive—T. C. Scaif.

Shiloh—J. H. David, W. C. Satterwhite.

Oak Hill—By Statement.

Trenton—L. P. Anderson, Lon Porter, J. L. Kendal.

Rama—By Letter.

After the enrollment of messengers the following officers were elected by acclamation:

Bro. S. H. King, Moderator; Bro. Lon Slaughter, Clerk, and Rev. W. H. Pasley, Secretary and Treasurer.

After appropriate remarks by the moderator, petitionary letters were called for, when the following were presented: Prairie Grove, Monroe and Mt. Olive, all of which were received and messengers enrolled.

Motion made that we adjourn until 2 p. m. Motion prevailed.

### AFTERNOON SESSION.

Body called to order and sang Hymn No. 613, Gospel Hymns. Prayer by Rev. J. L. Wilson. Not being through with petitionary letters, others were called for, when the following was Committee appointed on the following subject:

presented: Shiloh. Motion made that the same be received and messengers enrolled.

Motion by W. H. Pasley that the clerk be instructed to get last statistics of all churches and report same. Motion prevailed and so ordered.

The moderator then appointed committees as follows:

Divine Service—J. B. Hodge, L. J. Wilkes, Z. T. West and the deacons of Brinkley church.

State Missions—J. B. Wise, B. Q. Carey, E. S. Miller.

Associational Missions—W. H. Pasley, F. M. Gorum, D. H. Psalmonds.

Home and Foreign Missions—F. G. Bozeman, Z. T. Billingsley, S. D. Sawyer.

Publications—T. M. Oldham, W. T. Gray, C. S. Belsha.

Education—J. T. Roach, M. J. Day, F. L. Gustavus.

Sunday Schools—S. A. Stearns, R. G. Thomas, W. L. Freeman.

Temperance—L. J. Wilkes, F. H. Hopkins, W. H. Higgins.

Nominations—W. H. Pasley, Lon Slaughter, T. C. Scaif.

Finance—Wat Brooks, J. B. Hodge, N. J. Williams.

Obituaries—W. H. Pasley, J. B. Wise.

Correspondents called for, when Rev. A. A. Andrus presented himself as messenger from White River Valley Association. Motion made that he be received as such. After discussion by Bros. Andrus, Wise, Pasley, Gustavus and others, motion was withdrawn and question decided by the moderator that said brother is a messenger from a church in this association.

Call for visiting brethren to seats with us, when Bro. J. H. Peay, of Mt. Zion Association, and also a representative of the Arkansas Baptist, came forward.

Motion made by Bro. J. B. Wise that a committee of three be appointed to draft a resolution to change a clause in Section 11 of the Constitution, as regards the membership of this body. Motion lost.

Motion by R. G. Thomas that the question be reconsidered. After discussion by J. B. Wise, T. M. Oldham, J. H. Peay and A. A. Andrus, question was called and motion prevailed and so ordered.



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Changing clause of Constitution—W. H. Pasley, L. J. Wilkes, J. B. Wise.

Motion by F. G. Bozeman that the chair appoint a Committee on Young People's Work. Motion prevailed and so ordered.

Committee on Young People's Work—F. G. Bozeman, S. A. Stearns, J. A. Smith.

Motion by W. H. Pasley that this body meet at 8:30 a. m., adjourn at 11:30 for preaching, meet at 2 p. m. and adjourn at will. Motion prevailed and so ordered.

Nothing being before the body, time was granted Rev. J. H. Peay to make an announcement in behalf of his work in connection with the Arkansas Baptist.

Motion by J. B. Wise that this body now go into the election of messengers to the State Convention. J. B. Wise, W. H. Pasley, F. G. Bozeman, S. A. Stearns and Leon Slaughter were elected.

Messenger elected to go to Southern Baptist Convention was H. C. Rosamond; alternate, F. G. Bozeman.

Motion by J. B. Wise that we adjourn, to meet at 7 p. m. for preaching. Benediction by W. H. Pasley.

## EVENING SESSION.

Called to order at 7 p. m., by singing Hymn No. 615, Gospel Hymns, also No. 729. After reading a part of the first chapter of Mark, prayer by Bro. Giles C. Taylor, of Morrilton, Ark. Sermon by Rev. J. H. Peay, from Matt. 3: 1; 12: 3. Subject, "Who are the Missionary Baptists? What do they believe and where do they come from?" This subject was very ably discussed.

After singing Hymn No. 719, the association was called to order for further business.

Letters from churches whose messengers were absent at organization of body, called for, when the following were presented, read and messengers enrolled: LaGrange, Marvel and Trenton.

Report on State Missions called for, when the committee made the following, through their chairman, J. B. Wise:

Owing to a lack of information as to exact data, our report is necessarily brief. We learn that twenty missionaries have been employed during the year. For some cause seven of these have resigned their positions under the

Board, leaving only thirteen laborers to supply the vast destitution in our beloved state, under the supervision of the State Mission Board. There have been only thirty-five dollars reported for this work to this association. Your committee know not the cause of this meager contribution, and recommends that the churches take collections for this work at their earliest convenience.

J. B. WISE,  
B. Q. CAREY, } Committee.  
E. S. MILLER, }

Motion by W. H. Pasley to amend the report by substituting \$38.80 paid for State Missions instead of \$35.

Motion made that report be adopted as amended. After discussion by Bros. G. C. Taylor, J. B. Wise, J. H. Peay, W. H. Pasley and T. M. Oldham, motion prevailed and so ordered.

Moved by W. H. Pasley that we adjourn until 8:30 a. m. Saturday. Benediction by J. B. Wise.

### SATURDAY MORNING.

At 8:30 a. m. body called to order by singing Hymn No. 583. Gospel Hymns. Prayer by Rev. S. D. Johns.

Reports of committees called for, when the Committee on Home and Foreign Missions made the following, through their chairman F. G. Bozeman:

The religion of Christ is in origin and nature essentially missionary. The Prince of missionaries gave himself to save men that he might send them to save others. The same voice of invitation that said "Come" was the voice of command that said "Go" and those heroic men who had left all to follow Christ were as mindful of Gospel obligation as of gospel privilege. To us as to them the gospel invitation comes hand in hand with the gospel commission. We rejoice in the deepening conviction of this mighty truth. Even a partial realization of it has made this age one of marvelous missionary activity, and to the lost in all lands human hands are reaching, bearing the rich treasures of divine life and light. We rejoice in the portion of this mighty work being accomplished by Southern Baptists. Our Home Board is doing efficient service throughout the territory of the Southern Baptist Convention and in Cuba. In the last named field, at present torn by civil and religious disturbances, the hand of the Lord has wrought wondrously, and let us hope that the result may be the opening of still more splendid opportunities to the missionaries of the Cross.

The Foreign Board, though handicapped by an insufficiency of funds, is prosecuting its work with vigor. We have missions in China, Japan, Brazil, Africa, Mexico and Italy. Last year the Baptists of Arkansas gave to the work \$1,248; this year we are asked to give \$2,400, of which amount only \$451 have been given up to Oct. 1. We deplore the shameful want of heart in this splendid work on the part of the churches composing this Association, as shown by their contributions for this year. We respectfully urge the necessity of a campaign of education along this line. We need more information, more

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heart, more prayer, more money. To this end we heartily recommend the missionary literature of the Southern Baptist Convention, and urge its free circulation in our churches. Missionary societies and classes for missionary study should by no means be neglected, and every effective instrumentality should be enlisted that will deepen the interest and enlarge the results in the coming days.

FRANCIS BOZEMAN, Chairman.  
Z. T. BILLINGSLEY,  
S. D. SAWYER.

Moved that the report as read be adopted. After discussion by Bros. Wade Preston, S. H. King, A. A. Andrus, J. B. Wise, J. C. Russell, J. H. Peay, W. H. Pasley, W. A. Bobbitt, F. L. Anderson, S. D. Johns, J. L. Wilson, J. B. Sanders and G. C. Taylor, motion prevailed and so ordered.

Committee on Publications being ready, made the following report through their chairman, T. M. Oldham:

The efficiency of a person in any of the pursuits of life is in proportion to information he may have of the thing pursued. Therefore, the efficiency of the Christian is in proportion to the knowledge they may have of God's laws and plans for the government and extension of His Kingdom, and not only so, but we are responsible to the extent of the knowledge we should have acquired by the means that have come within our reach. God is entitled to the very best we can possibly do, both by precept and example. Therefore, it behooves us to earnestly seek after wisdom which comes from the fountain of all wisdom—the Bible. After that, our State paper, the Baptist, we earnestly recommend, and urge its liberal support. Also the Home and Foreign Mission Journal, with as many other sound Baptist publications as their circumstances permit. We also recommend and earnestly urge the use of the Southern Baptist Convention series in our Sunday-schools.

Respectfully submitted,

T. M. OLDHAM, Chairman,  
C. S. BELSHA.

Moved that the report be adopted as read

After discussion by J. H. Peay, J. C. Russell, S. D. Johns, J. A. Bell, J. B. Wise, T. M. Oldham, W. H. Pasley, J. L. Wilson and S. A. Stearns, motion prevailed and so ordered.

The Executive Board made the following report through their chairman:

Your Executive Board would submit the following report: That, acting under your instructions, have employed Bro. J. A. Smith to labor as missionary again. He has worked four months, preached 133 sermons, had forty-four conversions in connection with his work. Additions: By baptism, 45; letter, 15; restoration, 5; total, 65.

Thus again has the Lord abundantly blessed his labors, and our gifts and prayers. Brethren, let us not relax our efforts, but increase our donations

and thus enlarge the work. We recommend the same or similar policy be pursued. S. H. KING, Sec.

The report of Committee on Associational Missions was called for in connection with above report, and the following made through their Chairman, W. H. Pasley.

Your Committee on Associational Missions would report that our Heavenly Master is still crowning our efforts with success. Although there has not been as extensive revivals as in former years, yet the work done has been of a solid and permanent character. We are now reaping the fruits of former labors; the seed sown is bringing forth fruits. This is evidenced by the large representation at this meeting, and the addition of several new churches. It would be an unwise policy to relinquish our efforts. We still hear the "Macedonian cry: Come over and help us." Shall we heed the call? Many happy souls will meet us in the resurrection morn and thank us for sending the word of life unto them. So let us continue to strengthen and encourage our weak churches and carry the light of life to those places yet darkened by sin. The investment we make from year to year is signally blessed. God has given us good measure, press down, leaped up and running over. So let us thank God and take courage, and press on, until God's praise is heard from redeemed souls in every part of this Association. Respectfully submitted,

W. H. PASLEY.

Moved that the two reports be adopted as read.

After discussion by W. H. Pasley, the hour having arrived for preaching, the body adjourned until 2 p. m. After recess of five minutes, called to order at 11:30 for preaching, by singing a hymn. After hearing a part of God's word read and prayer by W. H. Pasley, Rev. Giles C. Taylor gave us a sermon from Ephesians 1:3; subject, Christian Treasures.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 2 p. m. Association called to order by singing hymn No. 172, H. B. Prayer by Rev. S. L. Holloway.

Reports of Executive Board and Committee on Associational Missions not having been disposed of, were taken up and further discussed by Bros. J. A. Smith, T. E. Knight and J. H. Peay.

Moved that the present order of business be suspended to hear resolution from J. H. Peay.

Motion prevailed and so ordered.

Whereas, It is a known fact that Prof. W. H. Whitsitt, President of the S. B. T. S., of Louisville, Ky., and teacher of church history in said institution, has published in the New York Independent, a free-lance religious paper, and in Johnson's Cyclopedia, a pedit-baptist work, statements contrary to Baptist belief, destructive to Baptist faith and subversive to plain historic facts, and upon other occasions making utterances equally repugnant to Baptist doctrine



and polity, to-wit:

1. That Baptists from 1500 to 1641, in England, practiced sprinkling and pouring for baptism.

2. That it is right for a Baptist wife to join a pedo-baptist church to be with her husband.

3. That he believes in the branch theory of the church, and so teaches.

4. That such teaching will be continued in the Seminary so long as he teaches in it. Therefore be it

Resolved, By Mt. Vernon Association, now in assembly, that while we love the Seminary, we deplore and repudiate, as Baptists, such teaching, and that it is the judgment of this body that no more young ministers should be encouraged to attend said Seminary, and that not another dollar be contributed to its support until said Prof. Whitsitt retract such statements or resign his entire connection with said institution:

J. H. PEAY.

Moved that said resolution be adopted by rising vote, which was unanimous.

Regular order of business was resumed by discussions by Revs. J. B. Wise, W. H. Pasley and S. W. King.

Pledges taken as follows for Associational Missions:

Marianna.....	\$20 00	Brought forward.....	\$149 50
Rehobeth.....	20 00	Forrest Chapel.....	5 00
Helena.....	10 00	Haynes.....	5 00
Clarendon.....	10 00	Christian Valley.....	5 00
LaGrange.....	5 00	Oak Grove.....	10 00
Salem.....	10 00	Vine.....	5 00
Level Valley.....	2 50	Wheatly.....	2 50
Cypress.....	5 00	Pleasant Grove.....	2 50
Mt. Gilead.....		Raymond.....	5 00
Marvel.....	4 00	Prairie Grove.....	
Parks Grove.....	5 00	Monroe.....	2 50
Cotton Plant.....	2 00	Mt. Olive.....	5 00
Brinkley (A. Flora, Paid).....	5 00	Shiloh.....	5 00
F. H. Thompson (Paid).....	1 00	Oak Hill.....	2 50
Hebron.....	2 50	Trenton.....	10 00
Philadelphia.....	5 00	W. H. Pasley.....	10 00
Big Creek.....	1 50	J. C. Russell.....	5 00
Ash Grove.....	5 00	F. L. Gustavus.....	2 50
Good Hope.....	5 00	S. D. Sawyer.....	5 00
Moon Lake.....		W. A. Wall.....	2 00
Bible Union.....	5 00	Sister Andrus (Paid).....	1 00
Palestine.....	5 00	Sister Wall (Paid).....	1 00
Poplar Grove.....	10 00	Sister Weatherly (Paid).....	1 00
W. K. Leach.....	2 00	F. G. Bozeman.....	2 50
Forrest City.....	10 00	W. T. Gray.....	2 00
Carried forward.....	\$149 50	Total.....	\$148 00

Report adopted as read.

Committee on Temperance made the following report through their chairman, L. J. Wilkes:

Your Committee on Temperance beg to submit the following report. The subject of temperance is one about which much has been said and written, and owing to the baneful influence of intemperance upon the human family, it can-

not be agitated too much. It has been thundred in our ears from our earliest existence to the present, and yet the warnings have not been heeded by so many of our people. The Allwise One has established natural or physical laws for our government while tabernacling in the flesh, and if these laws are observed and obeyed, we are healthier and happier thereby. The environments of these laws are such as to say, thus far shalt thou come or go and no farther, and if we trespass upon these boundaries we suffer the consequences of a violated law, and what is true in the natural is true in the spiritual. That which bedwarfs and injures in the one has a blighting effect upon the other.

"Be temperate in all things," is a familiar expression, one which it would be well for us to adopt as our motto. The intemperate use of morphine as well as alcoholic drinks has and is sapping the life blood and dethroning the mental powers of so many of our rising generation that we stand amazed in the presence of these gigantic evil influences. It has been said that morphine and alcohol have killed more people and wrecked more homes than all the wars of the world. We believe that the church of Christ is in a measure responsible for this state of facts, in that she has not come up to the full measure of usefulness, as we believe the Master intended she should. Out of the failures of church we believe have sprang all the temperance unions of the country. Let us thank God for the success which has been attained in stamping out this great evil, and with renewed energy let us continue to fight, praying God to help and direct.

Respectfully submitted,

J. L. WILKES, Chairman.

F. H. HOPKINS,

W. N. HIGGINS.

Moved by W. A. Bobbitt that the report be adopted as read, and after discussion by Bros. A. A. Andrus, Giles C. Taylor and J. C. Russell, S. L. Holloway offered the following amendment:

We recommend that our churches withdraw fellowship from all members who drink intoxicants as a beverage, or vote for license, or rent their property for saloons, or in any other way aid or abet this damnable traffic.

Motion that the amendment become a part of the report.

After discussion by W. A. Bobbitt L. J. Wilkes, A. A. Andrus, T. C. Kendall, Giles C. Taylor, J. C. Russell, M. J. Day and T. M. Oldham, motion prevailed and so ordered.

Motion taken on the whole, adopted and so ordered.

Moved that we adjourn until 7 p. m. Benediction by J. C. Russell.

### NIGHT SESSION.

The hour having arrived for the meeting, the association was called to order by the moderator. After singing Hymn No. 598, Gospel Hymns, prayer by Bro. Wade Preston, reading the 97th Psalm, prayer by Rev. J. B. Wise and singing Hymn No. 682, Gospel Hymns. Rev. F. G. Bozeman, of Forrest City, gave us an excellent sermon from Daniel 4: 1, 3.

After the sermon an appeal was made by the moderator for aid for Rev. Graham, who is very much afflicted, and has been for years, and is worthy of the aid and assistance of the brethren. Collected \$24.21, which was turned over to Bro. Graham.

After preaching, business continued.

Motion by J. B. Wise that speeches be limited to ten minutes and no brother be allowed to speak more than once on the same subject, except to explain himself. Motion prevailed and so ordered.

Committee on Young People's Work made the following report through their chairman, F. G. Bozeman:

We live in an age of marvelous religious activity on the part of the young. Perhaps never before has there been such a movement of enthusiastic young head and heart in behalf of the Cross. The rising generations are seeking competent equipment in the Master's service, and are laying the resources of young life at the feet of Christ. We hail such a movement, persuaded that it speaks mighty things for us in the days to come. The churches have not been altogether unmindful of the door of splendid opportunity thus opened, and in many of them societies for the encouragement and development of the young are to be found. The last national convention of the Baptist Young People's Union, at Milwaukee, affords some conception of the magnitude of the work. There are at present in the United States and Canada not less than 8,000 local societies, with a membership of 400,000. During the past year state organizations have been formed in Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Montana and Maine, while territorial organizations have been formed in Arizona, Indian Territory and Oklahoma. Within the bounds of our own association we have, as yet, only three organizations, with a membership of 150. We have perfected arrangements for a special department in our state paper, as the organ of the work in the state. In view of the needs and opportunities of the hour, we recommend:

1. That all churches, where it is deemed expedient, organize societies, under the entire control of the local church.
2. That our young people subscribe for and read such publications as the "Baptist Union," of Chicago, and "The Young People's Leader," of Birmingham, Ala.
3. That the work be granted representation in the annual meetings of our association, along with the other great departments of our associational work.

FRANCIS BOZEMAN, Chm'n.

J. L. KENDALL,

J. A. SMITH.

Moved by T. M. Oldham that the report be adopted. After discussion by Bros. S. A. Stearns, F. G. Bozeman, A. A. Andrus, Wade Preston, L. J. Wilkes and J. C. Russell, motion prevailed and so ordered.

Report on Education called for, when they made the following through their chairman, J. T. Roach:

We, the Committee on Education, beg to submit the following report: The argument for popular education is familiar and trite. And yet it needs to be occasionally restated and enforced. There is no community in which there is not a considerable number of persons grossly and dangerously ignorant, and there are many communities in which the majority of the people are in this condition. There is no community in which the importance of general education is overestimated. There are, unfortunately, many communities in which education is held the least important of public interests. A brief discussion of the subject, therefore, can never be entirely out of place. Knowledge is the natural ally of religion. To hold otherwise is to disparage and dishonor religion—to imply, if not to say, that ignorance is the mother of devotion. There is an inborn antagonism between the intellectual and the sensual nature of man. If you give the intellect no development, you leave the senses as the ruling power. We see this strikingly illustrated in the idiotic, who are for the most part disgustingly sensual. To society belongs the duty of seeing that its members do not fall into degrading ignorance and vice. God in ordaining human society had something higher in view than merely providing for the punishment of crime. Our Heavenly Father would have his children raised to the full enjoyment of their privileges as social and rational beings, and he seems to have established society for this very end, among others, that there may be an agency and a machinery adequate and fitted to drag even the unwilling out of the mire into which they have fallen, and that his rational creatures, bound by the laws and necessities of their own welfare, may have a competent agency to make adequate provisions for the instruction and education of every human being. For this purpose God has ordained the parental relation, the common schools and the church. Whatever view of this subject may be taken in other countries, we, in this country, are shut up to the necessity of popular education.

Notwithstanding the educational opportunities with which our people are blessed, it becomes us as true followers of Christ to handle with care and alacrity the sacred means with which we are entrusted. The kingdom of Heaven is compared not to any great kernel or nut, but to a grain of mustard seed, which is of the least grains, but hath in it a property and spirit, hastily to get up and spread. This property and spirit should characterize the individual as a man, the people as a nation, and the church as a society of Christians. We might mention as some of the leading factors in this God-given work of developing character, the schools of Arkadelphia, Mountain Home, Conway and others. These are especially ours, and we commend them as worthy of your patronage. We would also recommend the common schools of our State as the instruments through which we may reach the masses of the people.

The common schools are right and proper, because without them the majority of those created in the image of God will never attain to that noble manhood which is their rightful inheritance.

J. T. ROACH, Chairman.

M. J. DAY,

F. L. GUSTAVUS.

Moved that the report be adopted as read. After discussion by G. C. Taylor, S. L. Holloway, J. B. Wise and J. A. Smith, a



# ASSOCIATION

Report of the Association for the year 1880-1881. Adopted by the Association at its annual meeting, held at the residence of Bro. J. B. Sawyer, on Sunday, the 18th of May, 1881.

The Association, recognizing the great need of ministerial education, and the importance of providing for the education of ministerial students; and desiring to secure a fund for the benefit of young men who are called to the ministry, have resolved to pay the board of one young man for this year.

Resolved, That the association pay the board of one young man for this year.

Resolved, That the association be adopted.

Resolved, That the association be adopted. Sunday, the 18th of May, 1881.

## MORNING SESSION.

At a meeting called to order by the moderator, Bro. H. M. Sawyer. Hymns. Prayer by I. M. Graham.

After reading and discussing their report on education, it was taken up and after a long discussion by Bro. W. H. Pinsky, pledges for young men to be educated.

Marlboro	\$10 00	Brought forward	\$77 50
Marlboro	10 00	LaGrange	2 50
Marlboro	10 00	Brinkley	5 00
Marlboro	10 00	Poplar Grove	5 00
Marlboro	2 50	Moon Lake	2 50
Marlboro	10 00	Marcel	5 00
Marlboro	5 00	Clarendon	2 50
Marlboro	7 50	Trenton	5 00
Marlboro	5 00	C. F. Belsha	2 50
Marlboro	5 00	Palestine	1 00
Marlboro	2 50		
Carried forward	\$77 50	Total	\$105 50

Discussion continued by A. A. Andrus. Report adopted as amended.

Moved that the association appoint a committee (the Executive Board to be the committee), and after a recommendation from his church to said board, if worthy, said fund to go to Bro. S. D. Sawyer.

Amended to include any other brother that may come so recommended from this association to said Board.

Moved to adopt amendment. After discussion by Bro. J. B. Wier, motion prevailed and amendment adopted.

Moved to adopt report. Motion prevailed and so ordered.

Report of Committee on Sunday Schools being called for, made the following, through their chairman, S. A. Stearns:

We, your Committee on Sunday Schools, beg to report as follows:

Realizing that the Sunday School is the Bible school of the churches, and noting the beneficial results of the work therein, we believe no church, however small, should fail to provide a Bible school for the instruction of her young. We are made mindful of the fact, after examining the statistical reports of the churches in this association, that there is something wrong; yea, woefully wrong, somewhere: that there is not the interest taken in this work there should be. We find reported in this association, a church membership of about 1,800; a Sunday School membership of about 700. Assuming that there are at least 1,800 children of Baptist families who are not members of the church, we find the per cent. of those not attending Sunday School to be 81 per cent. or about nineteen persons out of every one hundred who attend our Sunday Schools. Another lamentable fact is that only 50 per cent. of the churches maintain a Sunday School. We therefore recommend that our churches bestir themselves in this matter, and we urge upon our pastors to take this work in hand at once and see to it that this important department of our church is more earnestly prosecuted. Brethren, let us come up to the next meeting of this association with a report that will bring joy and gladness to our hearts, in that we have advanced along this line, to the end that our boys and girls are learning the way of eternal life in the Sunday School connected with each one of our churches.

Respectfully submitted.

S. A. STEARNS, Chm'n.

R. G. THOMAS.

Moved by W. H. Pasley that said report, as read, be adopted. After discussion by Bros. W. H. Pasley, A. Flora, A. A. Andrus, T. M. Oldham, J. B. Sanders, J. C. Russell, F. L. Anderson, Owen and S. A. Stearns, motion prevailed and so ordered.

Moved by L. J. Wilkes that we meet at 4 p. m., to resume the Sunday school work. Motion prevailed and so ordered.

Resolution by S. L. Holloway:

Resolved, That it is the sense of Mt. Vernon Association that a theological chair should be established at Ouachita Baptist College, and that an endowment be made as soon as practicable to maintain said chair.

Moved that resolution be adopted as read. Motion prevailed and so ordered. Motion by W. H. Pasley that we adjourn for preaching. At 11:30 body called to order by singing. After reading Proverbs 17; singing hymn 598; prayer by J. C. Russell, and hymn 569, Rev. J. A. Smith gave us a splendid sermon from Proverbs 18:24, latter clause; subject, what a friend we have in Jesus. Hymn 584; while singing hymn collection taken for foreign, home and state missions. Collection amounted at Baptist church to \$17.50. Chas. Pasley, \$2.50.

## MT. VERNON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

## AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 2 p. m. Association called to order by moderator. Sung hymn 141, Harvest Bells; prayer by A. A. Andrus. Committee on Nominations made the following report through their chairman, W. H. Pasley:

We, your Committee on Nominations, beg to make following report. That this body meet with Salem church, Phillips county, Arkansas, on Friday before the third Lord's day in October, 1897, at 10 a. m. That J. A. Smith preach the introductory sermon, W. H. Pasley, alternate. J. B. Wise, A. Flora, Jno. P. Farrar, Sr., L. J. Wilkes and W. A. Bobbitt constitute the Executive Board for the ensuing year.

W. H. PASLEY,  
LON SLAUGHTER,  
T. C. SCAIFE.

Moved to adopt said report as read. After discussion by S. D. Johns, moved that Good Hope be substituted for Salem. After discussion by S. D. Johns, J. B. Wise and B. L. Carey, question on amendment lost. Question on report of committee carried and so ordered.

Resolution offered by L. J. Wilkes:

Be it resolved by the Mt. Vernon Baptist Association, in conference assembled, that the thanks of this body are due, and are hereby tendered, to the Baptist church and citizens generally of Brinkley, for their kind hospitality to the messengers during the sitting of this body.

L. J. WILKES.

Moved its adoption by rising vote. Carried and so ordered.

Resolution offered by S. A. Stearns:

In view of the fact that the clerks of churches in the Association when making up their church letters to the meeting of the Association, overlook matters of importance to a full and correct statistical report, be it

Resolved, That the clerk of this Association be and is hereby instructed to secure and forward to the pastor or clerk of each church, at least thirty days prior to the annual meeting of the Mt. Vernon Association, a blank form of church letter, with a request that it be filled out as per the questions therein.

Moved its adoption as read. Motion prevailed and so ordered.

Treasurer made following report:

Treasurer's report for 1895-6:

RECEIPTS.	
From Finance Committee.....	\$214 50
From Marianna church.....	2 50
From Level Valley church.....	2 50
From Rehobeth church.....	1 00
From Bro. Black.....	50
From Bro. Flora.....	5 00

\$226 00

## DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid Bro. Smith.....	\$71 05
Paid Clerk, \$10; printing Minutes, \$20.....	30 00
Paid Treasurer.....	12 16
Paid State Missions.....	38 80
Paid Foreign Missions.....	2 75
Paid Postage on Minutes.....	2 50
Paid J. W. Graham.....	24 80
Paid Bro. Smith.....	130 00
	—————\$312 06

Receipts.....226 00

Due Treasurer.....\$86 06

One hundred dollars collected and paid over to Ministerial Board, at Arkadelphia.

Moved the adoption of the report as read. Motion prevailed and so ordered.

Moved that the clerk be requested to have the Constitution printed in the Minutes. After discussion by W. H. Pasley, T. E. Night, S. D. Johns and F. L. Anderson, motion prevailed and so ordered.

Resolution offered by W. H. Pasley:

(Resolved, That the clerk of this association be authorized to have 600 Minutes printed, including Rules of Decorum and Constitution, and that he be allowed ten dollars for his services and the necessary amount for postage and blank letters to churches.

Moved that the same be adopted as read. Motion prevailed and so ordered.

Committee on Change of Constitution made the following report through their chairman, W. H. Pasley:

We, your committee to revise the Constitution of this association, would recommend the following amendment: That Section 11 be amended by omitting the last clause.

W. H. PASLEY,

L. J. WILKES,

J. B. WISE.

Laid over until next association.

Resolution offered by J. B. Wise:

Resolved, that a Committee on Ministerial Education be and become a part of our annual program.

Moved its adoption as read. Motion prevailed and so ordered.

Moved by J. B. Wise that we adjourn until after services to-night. Motion prevailed and so ordered.



## NIGHT SESSION.

At 7 p. m. body called to order by singing No. 712, G. H. Rev. W. H. Pasley, after reading a part of the 1st chapter of John, and prayer, gave us a splendid sermon from Matthew 28:18, 19. At 8:35 Association called to order.

Moved that further time be allowed Committee on Obituaries to write their report and send same to clerk for insertion in the minutes. Motion prevailed and so ordered.

While we adore the Heavenly Father for his mercy and love to us during this associational year, yet we have to record the death of several of our members, viz.: Bro. W. H. Porter, of Trenton church. Deacon Porter was a devoted husband, kind father and a consecrated Christian. Society has lost a good citizen and the church a faithful worker. He died in peace and now is resting from his labors. Bro. Jim Slaughter and Sister Maud Slaughter, also Bro. John Gist, members of Marianna church, have also been taken home to rest. God alone can supply their loss to the church and community. How dear is their memory. Bro. Roy, of Oak Hill church, died in the faith in October. Philadelphia church has also been called to mourn the loss of Bro. F. J. Tarrentine, Sister Georgia Tarrentine, Sister Lou, Craig, Spence and Sadie Dwaddle. May the Lord comfort their families and church in their afflictions. There are others whose names have not been reported, but our Heavenly Father keeps the record, has blessed their graves, and will raise them up at the sounding of the trumpet. Brethren, watch and pray, and be ready, for perhaps you and we will be numbered with the sleeping before the next report is made.

W. H. PASLEY,

J. B. WISE.

Report of Committee on Finance called for and not being ready, motion made that the Finance Committee make out their report and hand same to the clerk. Motion prevailed and so ordered.

State Missions.....	\$ 13 80
Home ".....	19 15
Foreign ".....	28 35
Associational Missions.....	139 10
Minutes.....	44 40
Ministerial Education.....	5 00
Total.....	\$249 80

Moved that we adjourn to meet with Salem church, in Phillips county, Arkansas, on Friday before the third Sunday in October, 1897, at 10 a. m. Motion prevailed and so ordered.

S. H. KING, Moderator.

LON SLAUGHTER, Clerk.

## Constitution.

1. This confederation of churches shall be called by the name of "Mount Vernon Baptist Association."

2. The object of this association shall be to promote the glory of God on earth by the preaching of the Gospel of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour; the universal spread of the Bible, the word of the true and living God, and by other appropriate means.

3. This association shall consist of messengers from the churches now forming this Union, and such other Baptist churches as may hereafter be received as constituent members thereof.

4. Every church shall be entitled to three representatives, without regard to the number of their members, respectively; and to an additional one for every fifty members exceeding fifty, provided that no church shall ever be entitled to more than five. A certificate of appointment, or letter, from their respective churches shall be evidence that they have been so delegated.

5. The officers of this association shall be a Moderator, a Clerk or Clerks, a Corresponding Secretary and a Treasurer, who shall be elected annually by ballot, by a majority of the members present, immediately after the names of the delegates have been enrolled, which officers shall perform all duties usually devolving upon such officers, and continue to exercise their respective functions until they shall be superseded by a subsequent election.

6. The Clerk shall preserve a regular record of the Association and have it present at the meeting of the body, and when they vacate their offices, deliver the same, with all other books and papers relative to said office, to their successors.

7. The association shall regard the churches as independent bodies in all their internal affairs and exercise no ecclesiastical jurisdiction, or claim any legislative or judicial prerogative over them; nevertheless, the association may exercise authority over its own members, the representatives of the churches, and power to withdraw from all churches which may depart from the Gospel, as understood and held by this body, by becoming either heterodox in faith or disorderly in practice, and should therefore regard the churches united in the association with a vigilant eye for good, and may give, at its own discretion and in its own way, advice or information, when sought, to any church connected with it.

8. It shall be the duty of the association to ascertain the general condition of its constituent's churches; devise means to promote their harmony and increase their spirituality and efficiency to promote the cause of truth and righteousness.

9. The association shall hold annual sessions, to convene on Friday before the third Lord's Day in October, in each year, and not adjourn until all the business shall have been regularly finished, except circumstances imperatively demand. The place of meeting shall be determined at each previous session and published in the Minutes.

10. Baptist churches not before united in the association, or those dismissed from other associations, may be admitted as members into this Union on application by a written petition or letter, presented by one or more mes-

**Statistical Table.**

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	POSTOFFICES.	Sunday of Meeting.	MEMBERSHIP.							CONTRIBUTIONS.							No. in S. School.	Value of Church Property.	
					Increase.			Decrease.			Present Membership.	For Missions.				Other Purposes.					
					Baptized.	By Letter.	Restored.	By Letter.	Excluded.	Died.		Home.	Foreign.	Association.	State.	Ministerial Education.	Minutes.	Pastor's Salary.			Other Purposes.
Clarendon.	J. C. Russell.	J. T. Barnes.	Clarendon.			6				18						\$2 00					
New Hope.	J. B. Wise.	C. T. Chatcler.	La Grange.	2d.	1			10	2		50			\$5 00		\$2 50	1 00	\$150	\$16 30	30	\$500
Level Valley.	J. L. Wilson.	D. F. Wilson.	Holly Grove.			5	1	2		1	29			2 50			1 00				
Helena.	H. C. Rosamond.	B. R. Fitzpatrick.	Helena.	evy	17	11		5	4	4	172	\$10 00		10 00		12 70	2 00	1035	930 00	100	12 000
Salem.	Wade Preston.	J. F. Jarratt.	Marvell.	4th.	15	3		5	11	3	78			10 00			2 00	150		35	580
Cypress.	Wade Preston.	W. F. King.	Turner.	3d.	1		1	2			20			5 25			1 00	85	5 00		500
Mt. Gilead.	J. L. Wilson.	G. W. Bratton.	Blockton.		1	5			1	1	31						1 00				
Marvell.	Wade Preston.	E. E. McMurry.	Marvell.	2d.	4	3		1			24				\$2 50		50	100	31 20	42	
Rehobeth.	W. H. Pasley.	C. L. Langston.	Vineyard.	2a4	8	1			2	4	105	\$5 50	5 00	20 00		10 00	2 00	300	10 00	54	600
Park Grove.	R. G. Thomas.	J. W. Knight.	Clarendon.		11	6					31			1 00			1 00				
Trenton.	Wade Preston.	J. L. Kindall.	Trenton.	1st.	17	8				1	56	5 00	4 70	5 00		5 00	1 50	120	30 00	60	
Mt. Olive.	M. J. Day.	T. C. Seafie.	Turner.								12						1 00				
Monroe.	J. L. Wilson.	C. L. Whitted.	Monroe Sta.	1st.	6	3					15						1 50				
Cotton Plant.	A. A. Andrus.	G. W. Hill.	Cotton Plant.	1st.													40				
Brinkley.	Ben Cox.	A. Flora.	Brinkley.	2d.	6	5				1	59	5 00	5 00		2 50		2 00			35	2500
Hebron.	G. C. Goodwin.	W. P. Taylor.	Wheatley.	3d.				4	10	2	31	1 25	1 25				50				
Philadelphia.	G. C. Goodwin.	H. N. Daniels.	Brinkley.	1a3	27	19	8	9	13	5	142						1 50			58	250
Big Creek.	J. A. Bell.	T. C. Coock.	Goodwin.	3d.	2	1		1	2	1	27						50				150
Ash Grove.	A. A. Andrus.	H. W. Stewman.	Cotton Plant.	3d.	12	3		4	1	2	66			2 50			1 00	20	9 10		500
Good Hope.	S. D. Johns.	L. C. Gibson.	De View.	2d.	2	5	1	1	2	5	103			5 00			1 00	100		25	
Moon Lake.		S. T. Schlenker.	Goodwin.		2				3	2	17	90					50				
Wheatley.		C. L. Waldrop.	Wheatley.		1	5				1	15			7 00	10 60		75		3 54		400
Pleasant Grove.		J. C. Griffin.	Howell.	4th.	1	1	1			1	33			2 30			1 50		2 40	33	250
Raymond.	P. C. Crow.	J. C. East.	Raymond.	1st.	27	3	2	2			41						2 00	4			3
Prairie Grove.		J. F. Deason.	Hutter.			7					11						50				
Rama.	S. D. Joans.	W. A. Bonham.	Augusta.		9	3	1	7		4	86						50				
Lone Chapel.	P. C. Crow.	John Horoton.	Brinkley.	2d.	13	7	1			5	58										
Bethlehem.	G. C. Goodwin.	W. W. King.	Clarendon.	4th.	19	2			2		45			5 00				75			
Bible Union.	R. G. Thomas.	John S. Gil em.	Forrest City.	4th.	19	2	6		11		73			5 00			1 25	115			25
Palestine.	Geo. W. Thomason.	F. M. Gorum.	Palestine.	3d.	10	5	4				33			5 00		5 00	1 50	150		48	300
Poplar Grove.	W. H. Pasley.	Bruce Smith.	McDaniels.	1st.	6			3		1	81			10 00			1 00				
Mars Hill.	J. C. Cook.	W. K. Loach.	Palestine.	2d.				2	2		40			5 00			1 00				
Forrest City.	F. Bozeman.	W. T. Sanders.	Forrest City.	evy		2	1	2		2	135	8 30	2 70	10 00	5 00	10 00	2 50	600	220 00	84	7000
Forrest Chapel.	W. H. Pasley.	Carroll James.	Forrest City.	3d.	1	2					50			5 00			1 00	75		45	600
Haynes.	W. H. Pasley.	Geo. R. Robuek.	Haynes.					1		1	45	2 50	2 50	5 00			1 00				
Christian Valley.	J. A. Bell.	P. W. Long.	Clifton.	2d.	11	2	1				41	1 00	1 00	5 00			1 00	40			400
Oak Grove.	W. D. Hargraves.	F. L. Gustavus.	Moro.	1st.				6		1	56	2 50	2 50	10 00		10 00	2 50				
Marianna.	J. B. Wise.	Jno. P. Farrar Sr.	Clifton.	134	5	4			5	3	83	9 23	6 70	20 00			2 50				
Vincent.		W. H. Borum.	Vincent.	2a4		4		1			15		2 90	8 00			1 00				
Shiloh.	R. G. Thomas.	W. C. Satterwhite.	Colt Sta.	2d.	10	4					31						1 00	75			
Colt.											18										
Prospect.		S. M. Brooks.	Colt Sta.								17										
New Prospect.		J. D. Heath.	Wynne.								11										
Caldwell.		N. H. White.	Caldwell.								34										
Totals.					267	140	28	48	71	51	2081	\$41 18	\$44 05	\$163 50	\$20 00	\$53 20	\$13 30	\$3764	\$1347 91	732	\$27,658



## Rules of Decorum.

ARTICLE I. The Association shall be opened by singing and prayer.

ART. II. The Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer shall be elected by ballot by the members present.

ART. III. The Moderator shall be considered the judge of order, but any member not satisfied with his decision may appeal.

ART. IV. The Moderator shall be entitled to the privilege of speaking as other members, but not to vote unless a tie.

ART. V. All questions shall be introduced by motion, and if seconded shall be opened for discussion, unless withdrawn by the mover or his second. When a subject has been discussed a reasonable time, the Moderator shall, when the question is called for, proceed to take it by calling for the yeas and nays, and if a call for a division is made, he shall call for a standing vote.

ART. VI. Any member wishing to speak shall rise and address the Moderator. Only one shall speak at the same time, and shall not be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject to make personal reflections.

ART. VII. No person shall speak more than once upon any subject until all who wish to speak have had an opportunity, nor more than twice without permission.

ART. VIII. Every subject introduced for discussion shall be decided before another is offered, unless it be laid over by motion with the consent of the mover and the association.

ART. IX. The names of the messengers shall be called whenever the association shall direct, and absentees marked. Any member wishing to retire shall obtain permission from the Moderator.

ART. X. The appellation of "Brother" shall be used in addressing each other.

ART. XI. Any member violating the rules shall be subject to reproof by the Moderator.

ART. XII. Amendments or alterations may be made to these rules when a majority may deem it necessary.

ART. XIII. Any case coming before the Association, not provided for in these rules, shall be governed by general parliamentary rules.