

# MINUTES

OF THE

## 7TH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

## MT. VERNON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

HELD WITH THE

## TRENTON CHURCH,

PHILLIPS COUNTY, ARKANSAS, SEPT. 1-3, 1860.

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### OFFICERS OF ASSOCIATION.

MR. SPENCE HALL, *Moderator.*  
REV. W. H. BARKSDALE, *Clerk.*  
REV. T. S. N. KING, *Cor. Secretary.*  
MR. J. C. McCRARY, *Treasurer.*

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THOMAS J. KEY, PRINTER,

MEMPHIS, ARKANSAS.

1860.

# MINUTES.

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TRENTON, PHILLIPS COUNTY, ARK.,  
Saturday Morning, Sept. 1, 1860. }

The Mt. Vernon Association of Baptist convened at 11 o'clock this morning with the Trenton Church, and were addressed, according to a previous appointment, by Elder B. B. Black, from Gal. 6:14—"God forbid that I should glory save in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ". The Sermon was prepared with great care and gave credit to its author.

Upon conclusion of the Introductory Sermon, the Moderator announced an intermission of sufficient time to partake of the refreshments which the generous community had kindly furnished for the occasion.

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2:30 P. M.

1. The afternoon session was called together by the singing of that good and familiar old hymn

"Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me." &c—

This spirit-stirring hymn awaked the sympathies of the soul, and prepared us all to join with Elder B. F. Thomas in prayer, who, being called upon by the Moderator, invoked the blessings of Heaven upon the proceedings of the body.

2. The Presiding Officer then declared the Association ready for reading of the letters, and the enrollment of names: Brethren T. S. King and Jno. C. McCray were appointed readers. The letters read complained greatly of destitution, and gave evidence of the necessity of immediate action in the way of supplying the laborers so earnestly solicited.

3. After the reading of said letters, the Association was announced as then prepared for the election of Officers for the ensuing year, which resulted in the re-election of Brother Spence Hall, Moderator; Elder W. H. Barksdale, Clerk; J. C. McCray, Treasurer.

4. After a few remarks from the Moderator, he proceeded to read the rules of decorum, and then called for petitioning letters. There were presented by the delegates from the following Churches: Dewitt, Prairie, and Big Creek, to the delegates of which the Moderator extended the hand of fellowship and ordered their names to be spread upon the minutes, which will be found accordingly in the statistical table.

5. Proceeded to appoint a Committee on Devotional exercises, which was done by the Moderator and consisted of the following brethren: J. W. Scaife, W. W. Baker and Jno. C. McCray.

6. Adopted by acclamation, the order of business as seen upon the previous minute.

7. Brother T. S. N. King, Chairman of the Committee on education, appointed at last meeting, to report this, requested, in the absence of the two other brothers who were appointed with him, that the Moderator would appoint two others in their place; brethren M. W. Izard and B. F. Thomas were accordingly added to the Committee.

8. Committee on Finance was then appointed, consisting of J. W. Sullivan, C. W. Hickey, and H. Hopkins.

9. Visiting brethren were invited to seats which was accepted by Elders W. M. Lee, N. Holland, E. P. Luckards.

10. Chairman on Devotional exercises asked leave to report, and announced the following order: Saturday night—Elder B. F. Thomas; Sabbath morning at 10 o'clock—Elder W. M. Lee; Sabbath morning at 11 o'clock—Elder W. H. Barksdale; Sabbath at 3 p. m.—M. W. Izard; Sabbath at night—N. Holland; Monday at 11 o'clock—H. R. Bray; Monday at 3 p. m.—W. J. Hood; Monday night—W. H. Barksdale.

11. Motion of adjournment being in order, prayer was offered by brother M. W. Izard, and the Association was announced adjourned until Monday morning, 9 o'clock.

MONDAY MORNING, 9 o'clock, Sept. 3, 1860.

The hour having arrived the Association convened by singing 510th hymn—

"O here if ever God of Love  
Let strife and hatred cease." &c.

Prayer by B. B. Black.

1. Brother P. Parker of Bible Union Church asked permission of absence, which was granted:

5. Called for reading of the minutes, which was done and the absentees marked upon the roll.

3. Letter from Clarendon Church came to hand by mail, which was read and names accordingly enrolled.

4. Report on Domestic Mission was read by the Chairman, and after amendment was received and adopted.

### REPORT ON DOMESTIC MISSIONS.

Your Committee on Domestic Missions beg leave to submit the following Report:

That there is an appalling destitution in our Associational bounds, none at all acquainted with the extent of the territory embraced within the same, or who has listened to the letters sent up to this anniversary from the churches, will be disposed to doubt. From all portions of the country the cry, "Come over and help us" is heard. Shall we make a united effort, and one commensurate with the interests involved, to supply this question? If so, how shall we do it? After consultation with some of the most discreet brethren in the Association, your Committee would recommend the Association to instruct the Board to carry out the following, if possible:

1st. In attempting to supply the home destitution, Phillips county, and all that part of Monroe East of the 5th principal meridian and North of the base line, with the part of St. Francis East of the 5th principal meridian, shall compose the 1st. District.

2d. All of Monroe East of White river, (except as above) and that portion of St. Francis West of the 5th principal meridian, shall compose the second district.

3d. The counties of Arkansas and Prairie, with the part of Monroe West of White river, to compose the third district.

B. B. BLACK, *Chairman*.

5. Brother T. S. N. King offered the following resolution, which was read :

*Resolved*, That each member of this body do now subscribe such amount as he may think proper for Domestic Missions—and that they be urged to make collections for this purpose in their respective Churches, either in cash or subscription, which shall be turned over to the Treasurer of this body.

6. A Committee to secure Missionaries for the ensuing year was, upon motion, appointed by the Moderator, consisting of Henry F. Mooney, T. S. N. King, W. H. Barksdale, J. W. Sullivan, J. W. Seafie, and H. Hopkins.

7. The hour for preaching having arrived the business of the association was suspended, and the congregation was addressed by Elder H. R. Bray, from Matthew 3:7.

2 O'CLOCK P. M.

The Association came to order by call of the Moderator.

1. The report of Committee to secure Missionaries for the present year was offered and read by the Chairman, which, after debate, was adopted as follows.

### REPORT ON SECURING MISSIONARIES.

The Committee appointed to endeavor to secure the services of Missionaries in the bounds of this Association, report :

That Elder B. F. Thomas be appointed Missionary and agent, to spend such time as he can the ballance of this year within St. Francis and Phillips counties, in preaching, holding meetings, and raising funds for the Association, either by cash or subscription. He to receive seventy-five dollars per month, provided he collects it. All over that amount shall be paid to the Board, and to report to the Board.

2d. That we recommend the appointment of Elder T. J. Parker as a Missionary and agent in Arkansas and Prairie counties, and that part of Monroe and White counties on White river, at a salary of \$350 per year. He relying upon his collection for one-half the amount.

3d. We recommend Elder H. R. Bray as a Missionary and agent for the 3d. district, at a salary of \$75 per month. The Association paying him one-half the amount of funds on hand, and he relying on his collections for the remainder.

2. Report of the Committee on Finance was read and adopted.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

Treasurer's Report of the Mt. Vernon Association :

To amount on hand Sept. 1859.....	\$ 51 45
By Printer's Fee and charges as per account of	
W. H. Barksdale .....	\$48 38
Am't paid Brother Watson.....	3 12
	\$ 51 50
Balance on hand Sept. 1st., 1860.....	\$ 2 95
To Am't received present session.....	\$ 69 25
Sept. 1st. 1860, present Am't.....	\$ 72 20

J. C. McCRAY, *Treasurer.*

We, the Committee, have examined the above amount and find it correct.

J. SULLIVAN, *Chairman.*

3. Report of Committee on Colored Population called for, and upon motion, was adopted as below.

### REPORT ON COLORED POPULATION.

Your Committee appointed on the religious instruction of our Colored Population submit the following:

They conceive it wholly unnecessary now to spend time in showing the importance, or duty, of having the Gospel preached to this class of persons. They are in our midst, and under our control; and by no manner of means can we shift the responsibility. Nor will the mere passing of resolutions accomplish anything. There must be action; prompt and persevering action on our part, if we would do our whole duty to them. We recommend 1st.: That our ministering brethren preach to the Colored people in our bounds, wherever a door may be open for them to do so.

2d. That the churches in our bounds do all in their power—in such manner as they may judge best—to have the great truths of Christianity made known to them; and

3d. That the Board of this Association endeavor to procure the services of a minister of a proper character, to preach the Gospel to them. All of which is respectfully submitted.

WM. R. RAKER, }  
J. W. SCAIFE, } *Committee.*

4. Report on Temperance was called for and adopted.

### REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Your Committee on Temperance beg leave to call your attention,

1st. To the necessity of the churches, in their capacity as an executive body, to be faithful to the requisitions of the New Testament, in withdrawing from those who walk disorderly in this respect, either by being drunken themselves, or by producing or encouraging drunkenness in others. Until the churches do their duty on this subject, they cannot expect those great blessings which otherwise God would bestow upon them.

2d. To the importance of devising and using all lawful means, whether by legislative enactments or otherwise to remove this temptation out of the reach of those who are liable to be injured by it.

This may be done, first: By refusing to visit or patronize any shops or resort for drinking and by opposing to the extent of our ability the use of ardent spirits except for medicinal, mechanical, culinary and sacramental purposes. Second: By procuring legislative enactments, requiring a petition asking license, signed by a majority of the citizens of towns, precincts, &c., to be presented before any license shall be granted to retail liquors in quantities less than one gallon, except for the above named purposes. This course, and these means, we humbly but earnestly recommend to the prayerful consideration of the churches, and all philanthropists.

Respectfully, B. F. THOMAS, *Chairman.*

The following resolution was ordered to be attached to the report:

*Resolved*, That this Association respectfully request the State Convention, at its next session, to get up a memorial to the next Legislature, and have the same circulated

through the State for signatures, asking further restraints around the liquor traffic.

5. Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools was read by the Chairman and adopted after a few speeches urging its utility.

### REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your Committee on Sabbath Schools would submit the following :

That a sad neglect is manifest among the churches of this Association, relative to the means of training up the children in the way they should go, that when they are old, they may never depart from it. Also training them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, as commanded in the scriptures.

The Sabbath school being the best means as yet devised to bring the youth of our country under correct, and holy influences, has been evinced in many instances from the great revivals of religion that proceed from them, and the character of the members obtained over the people by other denominations in the schools, is seen by every discerning mind. Who, then, can object to this resolution?

*Resolved*, That we recommend the establishment of a Sabbath school, or Bible class in every church within the bounds of this Association.

Respectfully submitted, E. HOLLAND, Ch'n.

6. Brother J. McCray requested the following resolution to be spread upon the minutes, which was carried :

7. *Resolved*, That we recommend to the churches composing this Association to organize Sabbath schools, wherever five children or more could be obtained, and procure the Southern Sabbath School Books, and The Children's Friend for said schools.

8. Report on Education being called for the Chairman read as follows :

### REPORT ON EDUCATION.

ITS IMPORTANCE.—To minds accustomed to think, no argument is necessary to convince them of the necessity of education. The proper training of the intellectual powers,



is an essential element of civilization: and whenever, and wherever the former is at a low ebb, the latter is correspondingly depressed: and, following the scale downward we reach the most degraded barbarism known to the annals of the world: whilst on the contrary, to the extent the mind of the masses are enlightened—educated—to that extent, are Nations and individuals capacitated, or qualified, to appreciate all that is meant by civilization:—to-wit: an enlightened self-respect, and a just and due regard for the liberties, rights, and privileges of others; politically, morally, and religiously. This may be called, so far as this world is concerned, the highest style of man: for, these constitute the foundation principles upon which all that good and excellent in society, or government, rests; and embrace all the obligations we owe our country. Hence arises the duty of every patriot—of every friend of his species—to put forth corresponding efforts;—to make sacrifices of time, attention and means, to sustain and carry forward that, that may be literally called the great cause of humanity.—And such is the condition of the human family, and such the antagonistic forces at work, that it involves and demands a perpetual effort. To falter or fail in the performance of this duty is to loose ground.

**EDUCATION AS BEARING UPON CHRISTIANITY.**—If education is important to the well-being of human society, how much more to the wellfare of the soul of man,—to the great cause of Christ on earth. None may charge us as maintaining that intellectual training will prepare any one for Heaven. It never was,—never will. But as an instrumentality, it boldly lifts its head amongst others in the front ranks, and puts forth an undeniable claim for consideration. In proof of its high pretensions, it appeals to the history of the world. Where ignorance has prevailed, there the masses of men, though perhaps professedly religious, have been biggotted, superstitious, fanatical and Priest ridden; but more generally idolaters. The religion of the Bible has thriven and flourished best in a free atmosphere of thought, word, and action:—In a word, in the language of Roger Williams, it seeks “soul liberty.”

**BAPTISTS HAVE BEEN PATRONS OF EDUCATION.**—From time immemorial Baptists have proved themselves the friends and promoters of education. It is true in many portions of the world, and for considerable period of time, they have been so persecuted and restrained by those hydra-headed monsters in the shape of church and State, and

other dominant parties, that they were not at liberty to carry out these their cherished principles. But no sooner did they find themselves breaking the free atmosphere of civil and religious liberty than we find them the early, and amongst the foremost promoters of educational enterprises. Nor, will they yield the palm in this respect, to any: evincing of this, we record the following Literary and Theological Institutions in the United States established by, and under the control of the Baptists, to-wit:

### Baptist Colleges.

Brown University. ✓	University at Lewisburg
Madison University.	University at Rochester.
Waterville College.	Oregon College.
Columbia College.	William Jewell College. ✓
Georgetown College.	Forman University. ✓
Richmond College.	Mississippi College.
- Mercer University.	Mt. Lebanon University.
Denison University.	Marshall College.
Shurtleff College.	Cherokee College.
Wake Forest College.	Burlington University.
Rector College.	Central University. (Ia.)
Union University.	Wayland University.
Howard College.	Elentherian College.
- Baylor University.	Central University (Min)
Ranklin College.	Kalamago College.
Central College.	Mt. Pleasant College.

In all thirty-two, with a large number of Female Colleges and Institutes.

### BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTIONS.

Theological Department	Theological Department
Madison University.	Union University.
New Hampton Theological Seminary.	Kalamazoo Theological Seminary.
Newton Theo. Institution	Rochester Theo. Seminary.
Mercer Theological Sminary.	nary.
Forman Theo. Seminary.	Fairmount Theological Institute.
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.	Theological Department
Western Baptist Theological Institute.	Union at Lewisburg.
Theological Department	Theological Department
Howard College.	Mt. Lebanon University.
	In all. .... 14.

The foundation of one of the oldest, if not the very oldest, Literary Institutions in the United States was laid by a Baptist. We allude to Harvard University. In the control of which, however, the Baptists have long since been disfranchised, and denied any participation:—which is in keeping with most, if not all other co-operative laborers, or benevolent enterprises, on the part of Baptists with other denominations.

HOW CAN THE WORK OF EDUCATION BE EFFICIENTLY CARRIED FORWARD?—It can only be done by a liberal outlay of means; consequently, the call is loud, and the appeal imperative upon those Providence has blessed with an abundance of the good things of this world. Will they use these talents bestowed upon them, as an instrumentality to advance the glory of God, the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ, the good of their souls, and the welfare of human society; or will they heap up treasures for the eye to behold; or to leave to others, when they know not “whether they shall be wise men or fools.”? What an incalculable amount of good, humanly speaking, might be accomplished by the wealthy, in the appropriation of their munificence in channels of benevolence and Christian charity. One individual in the State of Alabama, a brother Brown, is himself supporting and educating twenty young men, in Howard College preparing for the Christian ministry. Eternity itself will unfold the amount of good thus accomplished; and the difference in thus using the means God has blessed him with, and hoarding up his treasures merely to be called a rich man.

Our own College enterprise is standing at our doors and pleading earnestly for help, that the Baptists of Arkansas may be armed with this instrumentality in the maintenance of Bible truth; and to enable them to do all in their duty to the world. Will the Baptists of Arkansas worship the phantom wealth, and let this cherished enterprise sink, and die, for the lack of that support that they alone can give? Forbid it humanity. Forbid it Christianity.

And still another enterprise is uttering its more modest but not less meritorious claim. Three years ago this body resolved to establish a high school for males, and one for females; but for the want of the means, the work has progressed at a slow pace: still, something has been done. One building has been commenced, and at this moment funds are needed to carry it on to completion; and for

other purposes concerned with the enterprise. The amount required is comparatively small, and if all that have the ability to do so, will lay to a helping hand, the burden would be light, and the project succeed with the happiest results. In God's Providence, we get nothing without laboring, or praying for it. Who is willing to make sacrifices for the cause of Christ? and the welfare of man? Neither resolves, nor favorable consideration, will build up Literary Institutions:—there must be action. And we submit the time for action has now come, and the duty now upon us. T. S. N. KING, *Chairman*.

9. On motion, the business of the Association was suspended for the purpose of giving an opportunity to the Messengers to raise a subscription for Missionary purposes. The following was the result:

H. F. Mooney,	\$ 2 50	H. L. Cordell,	\$ 5 00
C. W. Hickey,	1 00	Richard Brown,	10 00
A. H. Hopkins,	1 00	Thomas Bunch,	5 00
C. W. Hickey,	1 00	J. W. Hyman,	10 00
J. T. Golding,	1 00	E. Holland,	5 00
T. J. Parker,	5 00	S. Hall,	12 00
B. Bailey,	2 50	W. J. Hood,	5 00
J. H. Bailey,	2 50	J. C. Erwin,	5 00
T. S. N. King,	5 00	A. G. Jarmin,	5 00
W. H. Barksdale,	5 00	A. H. McDonald,	2 50
T. M. Turner,	5 00	A. H. Powell.	2 50
J. Barker,	}	\$ 25 00, for their Church.	
P. G. Tyer,			
H. G. Rainsower,			
Total amount of subscription and cash,			\$ 128 00

The Ruhanna Church letter has the following sums pledged to be paid by the 1st of September, 1860.

T. S. McAdams,	\$ 2 50	Wm. Young,	\$ 1 00
J. B. Hunnycutt,	2 50	Wm. Graves,	1 00
Jessie Skipper,	2 50	Thos. McAdams,	2 50
J. H. McAdams,	2 50		
T. J. Parker,	5 00	Total.	\$ 24 50
G. W. Bailey,	5 00		

10. An opportunity was given the agent in behalf of the Collego enterprise, which, with the energy of Brother Leo, was carried up to (\$1800) eighteen hundred dollars, several

scholarships having been previously taken by the members.

11. On motion, the notice given at the previous meeting to change the time of holding our usual meetings of this body, was taken up, and disposed of by changing from Saturday before the First Sabbath in September, to Thursday before the First Sabbath in October.

12. By ballot, Elder B. F. Thomas, is to preach the Introductory, and Elder R. H. Bray, his alternate.

13. On motion, the Constitution and Rules of Decorum were ordered to be corrected and re-published with our minutes.

14. Committees were next appointed by the Moderator, to report on the following subjects at the next meeting:

DOMESTIC MISSIONS.—Elder M. W. Izard, John McDaniel, and Jno. McCrary.

EDUCATION.—Elder B. F. Thomas, E. Holland, and J. W. Scaife.

SABBATH SCHOOLS.—Jas. Enslee, C. W. Hickey, and A. H. Hopkins.

COLPORTAGE.—Elder W. J. Hood, A. G. Ramsower, and R. H. Bonner.

TEMPERANCE.—J. W. Sullivan, W. Townsen, and J. H. Hobbs.

COLORED POPULATION.—A. G. Jarman, H. Hicks, and H. F. Mooney.

15. On motion, the word *Messenger* was ordered to be inserted in lieu of the word *Delegates*, in the revising of the Constitution, as well as the minutes.

16. Report of the Educational Board was read and adopted.

## REPORT OF THE EDUCATIONAL BOARD.

Your Board of Education report: That at an early day after their appointment, they entered upon the discharge of the duty assigned them. They found a subscription for the erection of buildings to accommodate a male and female

school at Trenton, amounting to \$2,125,00, but, inasmuch as it was of long standing, and some of the subscribers had moved away, and others refusing payment, it was judged best to appoint an agent to have the subscriptions of such as were willing to pay, renewed, and to solicit new subscriptions, which was accordingly done. The agent has reported \$ ——— renewed, and \$ ——— secured from others. In all \$1,297,75; about \$273,75 of which has been paid.

Your Board failing to secure the lots heretofore reported, upon which to erect buildings for school purposes, purchased one, of four acres, at \$30 per acre, on which to put up a building for the accommodation of a female school; and on the ——— last, appointed an Executive Committee to contract for the work. They accordingly contracted for a house of the following dimensions, to-wit: 44 feet long and 30 feet wide, with a vestibule of 6 feet; for which they were to pay the sum of \$1,000,00; first payment due July 15th, 1860; second payment due September 15th, 1860, and third on the 1st day of January, 1861. This was only for the hull of the house: the ceiling or plastering, seats, &c., &c., yet to be contracted for. The work has been delayed for the want of means.

As this is an enterprise of this Association, we respectfully submit, if this body will not adopt prompt measures to raise funds for the completion of the building now on hand—which will be some eight hundred dollars—and whether they will furnish the means for the erection of a building for the use and accommodation of a male school, as originally contemplated by this body.

Respectfully, T. S. N. KING, *Secretary*.

17. Perceiving the slow progress which the Association was making, in the Trenton Female School, and having learned from the Deacons of the Trenton Church, that they would much prefer shouldering the responsibility individually, as a church, than to cripple on in this manner, on motion, the following resolution was, therefore, adopted:

*Resolved*, That this Association donate the four acres of land and building erected thereon for the accommodation of a Female School, to the Trenton Baptist Church.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees be, and are authorized to execute a deed and conveyance of title of the lot and building, to the Trenton Church.

18. The Association called for volunteers, to represent this body in the Baptist State Convention, to convene at Pine Bluff, Friday before the 4th Lord's day in October, 1860: Elders T. S. N. King, W. H. Barksdale, W. J. Hood, H. G. Ramsower, and T. J. Parker, offered, their services, and their names are here enrolled as Messengers.

19. The Moderator then re-announced *The Missionary Board*: T. S. N. King, *Chairman*; J. W. Sullivan, J. Q. Taylor, C. W. Hickey, and W. H. Barksdale.

20. *Resolved*, That the thanks of this body are hereby tendered to this Church, as also, to the surrounding neighborhood, who have so kindly entertained us during our sojourn with them.

21. Report of Treasurer was then called for.

### TREASURER'S REPORT.

Report of Treasurer to the Missionary Board of the Mt. Vernon Association:

Am't on hand, Sept. 1st, 1859.....		\$ 142 75
Received on Sabbath, Sept. 2d, 1860.....	\$ 16 30	
"    in pledges.....	10 50	
Missionary Money from the Church.....	14 25	
Rubanna in pledges.....	24 50	
Cash by subscription.....	6 50	
In pledges.....	110 00	182 05
Total.....		\$ 324 80

The \$10,50 pledged in the above report were from John Q. Taylor, \$5,00; James Dandee, \$2,50; W. R. Baker, \$2,50, and W. H. Woodall, 50.

22. Elder T. S. N. King, by acclamation, was elected Corresponding Secretary.

23. Our Agent for the College, Elder W. M. Lee, was quietly mingling with the Brethren, and presently announced, as the result of his effort, \$1,800—Elder LEE is a host. May God bless him wherever he goes.

24. On motion, any Brother who is a member of this body, and who may visit any of the Associations, with whom we have heretofore corresponded, is requested, and

hereby delegated to represent us, in said body as our Messenger.

25. *Resolved*, That this Association instruct her Clerk to have six hundred copies of the minutes of the present session printed, and distributed among the different churches according to their membership, and that he be allowed ten dollars for his compensation, and that he draw on the Treasurer for said amount.

26. Adjourned to meet on Thursday before the 1st Sabbath in October, 1861, with the Mt. Vernon Church, St. Francis county. Thus passed the Seventh Annual Meeting of this body in pleasantness, and during its deliberation, we trust the Spirit of Christ reigned in the hearts of the messengers to that degree, as shall secure much good to the cause of the Redeemer, in days to come.

The Moderator, in conclusion, offered a few touching remarks, and the parting hymn was sung, while the hand of each was taken, in renewal of fidelity to the cause of God.

Prayer by W. H. Barksdale.

SPENCE HALL, *Moderator*.

W. H. BARKSDALE, *Clerk*.



# MINISTERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

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## ORDAINED.

Elder T. S. N. KING,  
" W. H. BARKSDALE,  
" B. F. THOMAS,  
" R. H. BRAY,  
" W. J. HOOD.  
" M. W. IZARD,  
" H. G. RAMSOWER,  
" T. J. PARKER.

## LICENCIATES.

J. W. SULLIVAN,  
JAMES ENSLEE,  
J. HOBBS,  
J. C. ERVIN.

# CONSTITUTION.

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1. This confederation of Churches shall be known and called by the name of "MOUNT VERNON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION."

2. The object of this Association shall be to promote the glory of God on the earth, by the preaching of the gospel of his Son Jesus Christ, our Savior; 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 body shall be a Moderator, a Clerk or Clerks, a Corresponding Secretary, and a Treasurer, shall be elected annually by ballot, by a majority of the members present, immediately after the names of the delegates enrolled; which officers shall perform all the duties, respectively, usually devolved on such officers; and continue to exercise their respective functions until they shall be superceeded by a subsequent election.

6. The Clerks shall preserve a regular record of the Association, and have it present at the meeting of the body;

and when they vacate their office, 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, and disown 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 all 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 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 the Thursday before the first Lord's day in October, in each year, and not adjourn until all the business shall have been regularly finished, except circumstances imperiously 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 messengers duly appointed by such church or churches; *Provided*, They give satisfactory evidence that they are orthodox in faith, and correct in the practice of the Gospel ordinances.

11. Every minister of the Gospel (either ordained or licensed) whose membership is in, or who may be a Pas-

tor of, any church belonging to this body, shall be ex-officio a member of the Association, with the privilege of offering resolutions and speaking, but not of voting, unless specially delegated by some church.

12. When in session the Association shall be governed by such rules of decorum as it may adopt for itself.

13. It shall be the duty of the churches respectively, annually to report to the Association their general condition; the number of members in fellowship; the number baptized, received by letter, dismissed, ex-communicated, restored, and dead during the year; and the names and post-office address of all ministers whether ordained or licensed, designating each—and also the name and address of their Clerks. They shall also report on any special matter required, and send up such contributions as they may willingly contribute to aid the body to disseminate more widely the truth as contained in the Holy Scriptures, and the establishment of the Redeemer's kingdom on the earth.

14. The neglect or failure of a church to be represented by a Messenger or Messengers in the Association for three consecutive years, shall be cause to withdraw from such churches at the discretion of the Association.

15. This Association may correspond by letter and Messengers with any other religious body of the same faith or order.

16. A board consisting of five members, any three of whom to constitute a quorum, shall be elected at each annual meeting, whose duty it shall be to devise means to carry forward the benevolent objects of the Association; and the officers of this Association shall be ex-officio officers of the Association.

17. The minutes of the Association shall be publicly read and corrected if necessary, and then signed by the Moderator and clerk before the Association adjourns.

18. Any amendment may be made to this constitution at any meeting of the Association, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present; *Provided*, The same shall have been published in the minutes of the preceeding year.

# RULES OF DECORUM.

1. On the assembling of the Association, the former moderator, or in his absence some brother nominated for the purpose, shall take the chair and call the body to order.

2. After prayer, the names of the messengers shall be enrolled and officers elected; and when the body is organized, applications for membership from new bodies shall be decided on, and if admitted, their messengers received by the right hand of fellowship. Communications and messengers from corresponding bodies, shall then be attended to, and visiting brethren invited to seats.

3. At every sitting business shall be opened and concluded with prayer by the moderator, or whomsoever he may request.

4. No motion shall be discussed without it has been seconded, and reduced to writing if requested by any member.

5. If any proposition, or motion under debate contain two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member, and the vote taken separately.

6. Every speaker shall rise and address the chair by the term *brother Moderator*, and shall use the appellation of *brother* in addressing or speaking of each other. And no member shall speak more than twice on the same subject, without leave of the body.

7. The moderator shall be the judge as regards order, but an appeal may be made to the Association.

8. All Committees appointed by this body shall be nominated by the moderator, subject, however, to the approval of the Association.

9. No member shall absent himself from the meeting of the Association without permission.

10. These rules shall be distinctly read from the chair immediately after the organization of each Association.

## STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES	COUNTIES	PASTORS	CLERKS	POST-OFFICE	DELEGATS SENT TO THIS TERM OF ASSOCIATION	Baptized.....	Received by Letter.....	Restored.....	Dismissed.....	Excluded.....	Dead.....	Whites.....	Blacks.....	Total.....	Minute Money.....	Meeting Day.....	Home Missions.....	Indian Missions.....
1 Helena.....	Phillips.....	W H Barksdale	J Q Taylor.....	Helena.....	W H Barksdale, C W Hickoy, H F Mooney	13	7		1	1		72	16	88	10,00	1		
2 Ash Grove.....	St Francis.....		J Simpson.....	Cotton Plant.....	H R Bray, J P Hobbs.....							108	9	117	5,00	2		
3 Bible Union.....	St Francis.....	M W Izard.....	Wm N Privett	Taylor's Creek...	Peter Parker,† R P Satterwhite,† E Elliot...	1	4		4	1	2			18	3,00			
4 New Hope.....	Phillips.....	T S N King...	R C Bush.....	Lagrange.....	J McKelly, A H Hopkins, J C McCray.....	12	3		7	1	2	41		66	8,00			
5 LIBERTY IN PHILLIPS	Phillips.....		A E Lockhart	Marianna.....	H L Cordel,† A E Lockhart,† Wm Chasteen,	7	2					28	25	32	5,00			
6 Sterling.....	Phillips.....	T S N King...			Not Represented								3	45				
7 Salem.....	Phillips.....	E Holland.....	R Brown.....	Trenton.....	J W Hyman, Thos Bunch, Rich Brown.....				2	1		23	3	26	4,00	1		
8 Bethel.....	Monroe.....	E Holland.....		Trenton.....	Lewis Mooney,† J J Green,† J J Cureton.....				4			15	3	18	2,00			
9 Oak Grove.....	Monroe.....	No Pastor	Jas W Sullivan	Moro.....	Jas W Sullivan, Wm Townsen, S Hall.....					3	2	31		34	5,50	3		
10 Ruhannah.....	Arkansas.....	T J Parker....	J M McAdams	Long Point.....	T J Parker,† Thos McAdams,† J P Huneycut	4	10		2			22	1	22	1,50	4		
11 Harmony.....	Monroe.....	No Pastor	E W Vann.....	Lawrenceville...	Not Represented							14	20	15				
12 LIBERTY IN MONROE	Monroe.....	W J Hood.....	B Walkes.....	Aberdeen.....	"							46	8	66				
13 Shilo.....	Prairie.....	W J Hood.....	R A Hood.....	Lagrange.....	W J Hood, G W Belcher, R A Hood.....	10	6	1	4	6		25	1	33	2,00	1		
14 Cypress Valley.....	Phillips.....	B B Black.....	R B Bailey.....	Lagrange.....	R B Bailey, Jas H Taylor, G Few†.....	4	5					12		13	3,00			
15 Clarendon.....	Monroe.....				E Black,† Jao L Chaney,† J P Vann†.....	1						9		9	1,00	4		
16 Lina Grove.....	Monroe.....	E Holland.....	J C Erwin.....	Lawrenceville...	G W Wilder, Jno C Erwin, J R Walker.....							17	17	2,50	8			
17 Blackfoot.....	Phillips.....	T S N King...	G R Johnson...	North Creek.....	A G Jarman, T S N King, G R Johnson†.....	3			1			8		25	3,00	4		
18 Hopewell.....	St Francis.....	B B Black.....	M B James.....	Moro.....								8		8				
19 Trenton.....	Phillips.....	T S N King...	J W Seafie.....	Trenton.....	J W Seafie, W R Baker, H Bonner.....							10		6				
20 Mt Vernon.....	St Francis.....	B F Thomas...	W A Koones...	Madison.....	W W Izard, B F Thomas, J L McDaniel.....	9	3					35		49		3		
Petitionary Churches.....													1					
Big Creek.....	Arkansas.....	T J Parker....	P G Tyer.....	St Charles.....	H G Ramsower, J Barbee, R W Hudson.....							18		19	4,75	3	2,75	2,80
Prairie Grove.....	Prairie.....	W J Hood.....	J F Golding...	Aberdeen.....	A Kelly,† Wm Bolt,† J F Golding.....									9	1,00	2		
Dewitt.....	Arkansas.....	T J Parker....	J H Meritt.....	Dewitt.....	T M Turner, A H McDonald, J H Powel.....	11	3				2			18		1		
Total.....						67	43	1	32	18	8	425	117	663	61,25		2,75	2,80

† Absentees.

† Absentees.

Total.....	67 43 1 32 18 8 425 117 663 61,25	2,75 2,80
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