

AMERICAN  
HISTORICAL  
PERMANENT  
SOCIETY

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Thirteenth Annual Session

OF THE

Wolf Bayou Association

OF

General Baptists

Held with Wilburn Church, Cleburn Co., Ark.,  
September 4, 5 and 6,

1913

ELD. MART HOUSE, Moderator.  
E. E. OSMAN, Clerk, Bradford, Ark.

GENERAL BAPTIST PUBLISHING HOUSE  
OWENSVILLE, INDIANA.

### Form of Petitionary Church Letter.

The.....church of General Baptists was brought into church capacity by Elders A B and C D, on the following class of members: By letter..., by recommendation..., by experience and baptism..., total... Received since organization, by letter..., by recommendation..., by experience and baptism..., dismissed by letter..., number excluded..., total number members in good standing. Contribution money..... We are all in peace and have chosen the following brethren, D E and F G, to bear this petitionary letter and sit with you in council. We pray you receive them. We have ordained ministers..., licentiates... Our meeting day is Saturday before the... Lord's Day in each month. We have chosen Elder G H for our pastor the ensuing year and Brother E C for church clerk. Our postoffice is..... This done by order of the church at its...meeting.

B. I. Church Clerk.

Elder E D, Moderator..

### Form of Church Letter.

The.....church of General Baptists to.....Association: We are all in peace. We have elected the following brethren to sit with you in council when convened with .....church of General Baptists at.....on.... before the....Sunday in...., 191...: Brothers A and C. We pray you receive them. We have had the labors of Elder .....the past year and have chosen Elder.....for the ensuing year, and.....church clerk. Our statistics are as follows: Received by letter..., by experience and baptism..., by recommendation... Dismissed by letter..., excluded..., died. Ordained ministers..., licentiates... Our postoffice is..... Day of meeting is on Saturday before the....Sunday in each month. Done by order of the good standing..... Our contribution is \$.....

### Form of Dismission Letter.

We, the General Baptist church known as —, dismiss our beloved brother (or sister) from our watch-care in full fellowship and good standing. Done by order of the church while in conference.

A. B, Moderator.  
C. D, Clerk.

## PROCEEDINGS

Of the Thirteenth Annual Session of Wolf Bayou Association of General Baptists, held with Wilburn Church, at Wilburn, Cleburn County, Arkansas, September 4, 5 and 6, 1913.

The moderator being present, services opened by singing, and prayer by Rev. Thomas and Rev. House. Opening lesson read by Rev. James, and prayer offered by Rev. James. Preaching by Rev. Isbell. Alternate, Rev. Curl. Text, Romans 8:1. Closed with singing and prayer by Rev. Foust.

Adjourned to meet at 8 o'clock Friday.

### FRIDAY MORNING.

The Friday morning session opened with singing, and prayer led by Rev. Thomas. Opening address by Rev. James.

Called for letters: Bethlehem, Walnut Grove, Bethel, Cross Roads, New Hope, Dug Hill, Thompson Grove, Wilburn.

Called for new churches. One received—Harty Chapel. Delegates seated and given the right hand of fellowship.

Election of officers resulted in the choice of Rev. Mart House for moderator and E. E. Osman for clerk.

Called for corresponding letters. One delegate received, from North Arkansas association—Bro. Joseph Laneer.

Called for visiting ministers. None.

Appointment of committee on Divine Services—Bros. J. T. Landrum, R. C. Ramer, E. E. Ramsey.

Appointment of various committees:

Sunday-school—J. W. Freeman, E. F. Foust, T. J. Chastain.

Prayer Meeting—J. L. Angel, Elijah Robertson, J. C. Matheny.

Finance—A. S. Taylor, P. M. Martin, Wm. Nash.

Temperance—E. T. Pennington, J. A. Nixon, Henry Cobb.

Queries and Requests—W. F. Thomas, J. W. James, J. S. Isbell.

Credentials—Riley Riddle, Km. Knu, Thomas Stagers.

Committee on Divine Services reports that Rev. Matheny preach at 11 o'clock Friday.

Adjourned for a few minutes for 11 o'clock service. Closed by singing and prayer by Rev. House.

Friday 11 o'clock services opened with singing. Preaching by Rev. Turner, alternate Rev. Matheny. Text, 2 Tim. 2:15. Adjourned to meet Friday at 2 P. M. Closed by singing. Dismissed by Rev. Thomas.

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

Opened at 2 P. M. with singing. Prayer by Rev. Foust. Called for reports of ministers:

J. S. Isbell—Funerals 3, conversions 11, additions to church 12, sermons preached 80, traveled 367 miles, cash received \$10.17.

J. W. James—Sermons 13, miles traveled 160, helped hold two protracted meetings. Attended two children's day exercises. Witnessed two conversions. Burial services 5.

J. W. Foust—Preached 38 sermons, traveled 100 miles, preached 8 funeral sermons, money received \$1.00, married two couples, pastored one church.

Mart House—Preached 97 sermons, traveled 555 miles, received \$35.00, conversions witnessed 25, received 15 into the church, baptized 5, married 2 couples.

J. C. Matheny—Traveled 208 miles, preached 62 times, funeral services 2, organized 2 Sunday-schools, worked up and helped organize one church, held two protracted meetings and assisted in three, conversions witnessed 16, pastored one church part of year, members received into church 17, baptized 5, received \$17.00

W. F. Thomas—Pastored one church, preached 30 sermons, 4 funerals, received \$2.00.

Called for reports of various committees.

Report on Prayer Meeting received: Find but few prayer meetings. We recommend that all churches and places hold regular weekly prayer meetings. We suggest that pastors encourage the holding of prayer meeting at their churches. Report received and committee discharged.

Report on Sunday-school.—Resolved, that it is the duty of every church to have a Sunday-school; and we think those that have not should organize one at once. Report received and committee discharged.

Report on Temperance.—We recommend that all members abstain from all strong drink, as it has been the

downfall of many good men and has robbed families, both wives and children; and we advise our ministers to preach at least once every six months on said sins and destroying habits. Report received and committee discharged.

Report on Credentials.—Report all O. K., and the committee from last year on Bufford case was discharged and a new committee made, and they found him guilty of walking disorderly, and cite him to trial at New Hope church on Saturday night before third Sunday in October, 1913. Report received and committee discharged.

Report on Finance. Report \$9.15 on hand. Report received and committee discharged.

Adjourned till 8 o'clock Saturday morning. Closed by singing, prayer by Rev. Thomas.

Report on Divine Services for Friday night: Rev. Curl to preach, alternate Rev. Isbell.

Friday night services opened with singing and prayer services and experience meeting. Preaching by Rev. Curl, alternate Rev. Isbell. Text, Romans 6:23.

### SATURDAY MORNING SESSION.

Opened with singing, prayer by Rev. Turner.

Report on Queries and Resolutions.—Beg leave to report: If we find any minister or deacon or lay member walking disorderly, we should attend to him at once and not burden the churches or association longer than necessary. We further recommend that every church examine each candidate as to his worthiness, Christian character, etc., or the presbytery closely examine before ordination.

Committee on Divine Service reported Bro. Ripley, alternate Bro. Matheny, to preach at 11 A. M. Saturday.

Motion made and carried that the clerk write Brother Edward Turner credentials.

Moved, seconded and passes, we send Rev. House as delegate to North Arkansas association.

Moved, seconded and passed that we send Rev. James as delegate to Post Oak Grove association.

Adjourned to meet at 2 P. M. Closed with singing, and prayer by Rev. J. W. Foust.

Saturday 11 o'clock services opened with singing and prayer by Rev. Turner and Rev. Isbell. Preaching by Brother Rippey and Brother Matheny. Text, Matt. 11: 28, 29, 30. Services closed with singing and prayer.

## SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

Opened with singing, and prayer by Sister Higginbotham.

Election of delegates to State association at Cross Roads church, Cleburn county, Ark.: Rev. Foust, Rev. James, Rev. Thomas, Rev. Curl, Rev. Isbell, Bro. Osmon and Bro. J. J. Hooten.

Rev. Isbell was chosen home missionary, the brethren were requested to aid him all they can.

Moved and seconded that we give Rev. Isbell a recommendation, and empower clerk to sign all ministers' names.

Moved that we license Brother Plessie Ripley to preach and that our churches watch over him until our next association.

Two applications made for next association. On voting it was carried to Bethlehem church, near Pleasant Plains, Ark.

Time of next association changed to commence on Thursday night before the third Sunday in September, 1914.

The presbytery organized, and ordained Brother Nixon a deacon, and Bro. Matheny was ordained as a minister.

Electing some one to preach the introductory sermon at our next association: Rev. Thomas was chosen, with Rev. James as alternate.

There were present at our association 30 delegates, 10 deacons, 10 visitors, 7 ordained ministers, 2 licentiates.

Donated to clerk \$2.85.

Committee on Divine Service reported Rev. House, alternate Rev. Foust, to preach Saturday night. Closed with singing, dismissed by Rev. Curl.

Saturday night services opened with singing, and prayer by Rev. Isbell. Preaching by Rev. House, alternate Rev. Foust. Text, Matt. 28:19, 20.

After preaching, the ordinances of the Lord's supper and foot-washing were attended to, and the parting hand was then given, till our next coming together. So ended a grand and glorious association.

### Resolution of Thanks.

Resolved, that the delegates of this association tender their heart-felt thanks to the brethren and the community at large for the kindness shown them during their stay among them.

MART HOUSE, Moderator.

E. E. OSMON, Clerk, Bradford, Ark.

### Addresses of Church Clerks.

### STATISTICAL TABLE.

Church and Pastor.	Meeting Day.....	Received.....	Number Members....	Died.....	Ministers.....	Minute Fund.....	Sunday-school.....	Prayer Meeting.....
New Hope.....J. S. Isbell	10	10	10	10	10	\$ 1.00	10	10
Bethel .....	2	4	4	4	4	.50	4	4
Bethlehem .....	2 12	25	25	25	25	1.00	1	1
Dug Hill.....W. F. Thomas	2 9	17	17	17	17	1.00	17	17
Thompson Grove..Wm. Pearce	1	20	20	20	20	.85	20	20
Harty Chapel...J. C. Matheny	4 5	17	17	17	17	1.40	1	1
Wilburn.....J. W. Foust	4	25	25	25	25	1.00	1	1
Cross Roads..R. E. Smallwood	2	21	21	21	21	1.20	1	1
Walnut Grove.....H. O. Curl	4	35	35	35	35	1.25	35	35
	21	174	174	174	174	\$ 9.20		
From last year.....						.25		
Total .....						\$ 9.45		

### Roll of Delegates.

- Walnut Grove—H. B. Cobb, Deley Cobb.  
 Cross Roads—J. W. Freeman, Francis Freeman, R. C. Ramer, Emma Ramer, Martha Hooten.  
 Wilburn—Bro. Staggs, Bro. Stafford, E. E. Ramsey.  
 Harty Chapel—Riley Riddle, Bannie Curtis, Effie Curtis, Margaret Pennington, E. T. Pennington, Lem Taylor.  
 Thompson Grove—E. F. Foust, P. M. Martin, Wes Martin.  
 Dug Hill—W. S. Nash, William Knu.  
 Bethlehem—Bessie Robertson, Plessie Ripley, Elijah Robertson.  
 Bethel—L. E. Higginbotham.  
 New Hope—J. A. Nixon, Sister Isbell.

### ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe that the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments are the infallible Word of God, and the only safe rule of faith and practice.— 2 Tim. 3:16; Acts 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20, 21.
2. That there is but one living and true God, and in the Godhead, or divine essence, Father, Son and Holy Ghost.— St. John 1:1; 1 John 5:7; Isaiah 45:12; Col. 2:8; Deut. 4:39; 1 Cor. 8:4.
3. That we are fallen and depraved creatures, and cannot extricate ourselves from our fallen situation by any ability we possess by nature.— St. John 14:16, 17, 15:26; Rom. 8:7-20, Rom. 3:10-12.
4. That Salvation, Regeneration, Sanctification, Justification and Redemption are by the life, death, resurrection, ascension and intercession of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.—Eph. 2:8, 9; Acts 4:12; Heb. 10:10; Jer. 29:8.
5. We believe that he that shall endure to the end, the same shall be saved.—St. Mark 13:13; Matt. 24:13; 2 Pet. 2:20, 21, 22; Matt. 10:22.
6. That the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked shall be eternal.—Rev. 20:4, 5; Matt. 25:46; Matt. 19:29.
7. We believe that baptism, the Lord's supper and washing of saints' feet are the ordinances of Jesus Christ appointed in the church, and that none but true believers are proper subjects, and that the only true mode of baptism is immersion.—On Baptism, Matt. 3:15, Romans 6:4, Acts 8:38, Col. 2:12. The Supper, Matt. 26:27, Mark 14:22, Luke 22:19, 1 Cor. 11:23-26. Washing of Feet, John 13:4-17, 1 Tim. 5:10, 1 Peter 2:21.



8. We believe in the sanctity of the first day of the week—or Lord's Day—and it ought to be observed and spent in the public or private worship of God, and on it we should abstain from our worldly concerns, except in case of necessity or mercy.—Deut. 5:12; Exodus 2:8; Matt. 12:2.

9. We believe in the resurrection of the body, both the just and the unjust, but every one in his own order—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life; and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of damnation; and that God hath appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness by Jesus Christ.—Isa. 26:19; St. John 5:2 and 29; Rev. 20:12-15; Acts 24:15.

10. That it is our duty to be tender and affectionate one to another, and to study the happiness of the people of God in general, and to be singly engaged to promote the honor and glory of God.—Gal. 6:10; John 2:9; Rom. 12:19; St. John 15:23; Acts 20:30 and 31.

11. We believe that Jesus Christ, by the grace of God, tasted death for every man, and that none can partake of His divine benefits only by repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. (Infants and idiots excepted, they being included in the covenant of God's grace).—Rom. 4:15; Acts 4:10; St. John 3:14 to 17; Heb. 2:9.

12. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the door into the church, and that baptism is a duty in answer to a good conscience.—St. John 10:9.

13. We believe that the Lord's people are one in Him, therefore should be one at His table.—1 Cor. 12:13, Rom. 6:6, Gal. 3:28, 1 Peter 3:8, St. John 17:21, 22.

## CONSTITUTION.

This association shall be composed of such ministers and messengers as shall be chosen by the different churches composing this association, thought most fit for that purpose, and sent with letters testifying to their appointment to represent them in the association, who shall be entitled to seats.

Article . This association, when properly organized, shall consist of a moderator and clerk, who shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present. The duty of the moderator shall be to keep the association in order, state questions fairly, and take their minds thereon; to have the liberty of speech as other members, provided his seat be filled; to have no vote unless the association be equally divided, in which case he shall have the deciding vote. The duty of the clerk shall be to keep a fair record of all the proceedings of the association.

3. In the letters from the several churches shall be expressed their respective number of members in fellowship, and the number received, dismissed, excluded and died since the sitting of the last association, and day of church meeting.

4. No query shall be received by this association from any church unless it has been acted on in said church and cannot be settled, in which case the association shall take up the same and act on it.

5. Every church in the association shall be entitled to a representation of any number not exceeding six.

6. Every motion made and seconded shall be acted on unless withdrawn by the mover.

7. The association shall not have the power to Lord it over God's heritage, so as to infringe on any of the internal rights of the churches; nevertheless we agree that the churches composing this association shall stand in the same relation to each other in the association that individuals do to each other in the churches; that is to say, if a church trespass against a sister church, the church injured shall try to reclaim them by gospel steps; if they cannot be reclaimed they shall be dropped from our union.

8. We agree to do all business by a majority of the members present.

9. Any church may be admitted into this association by letter and delegate, if upon proper examination it is found to be orthodox and orderly; such admission shall be manifested by the moderator giving the right hand of fellowship to the delegates thereof.

10. This association shall have power to sit as an advisory council; to give churches all necessary advice in matters of difficulty; to inquire into the cause why churches neglect to represent themselves in this association; to appoint any member or members, by and with his or their consent, to transact any business they may deem necessary; to invite any brethren in the ministry to a seat with the association; to adjourn the association to any time and place that may be thought necessary; to exclude from his seat any member who will not conform to the Rules of Decorum, and shall report his or their conduct to the church from which he or they were delegates.

15. Where a church has a deacon that they desire the ordination of, they are authorized to have it done at any time or place where a presbytery can be found.

16. This constitution is not to be altered without a majority of three-fourths of the members composing this body; but if any person after becoming a member shall become dissatisfied with any part of this constitution or articles of faith, he shall be entitled to a letter of dismission, if in fellowship in his own church.

### Program for Association

1. Call for letters. Enrollment of delegates.
2. Organization.
3. Call for new churches.
4. Invitation to seats in council.
5. Appointment of committees.
6. Correspondence from sister associations.
7. Appointment of delegates to General and other associations.
8. Call for contributions.
9. Call for report of treasurer.
10. Call for report on Home and Foreign Missions.
11. Corresponding secretary's report.
12. Reports of committees.
13. Selecting time and place of holding next association.
14. Selecting time and place of holding next ministers' and deacons' meeting.
15. Selecting ministers to preach introductory sermon.
16. Selecting treasurer.
17. Selecting corresponding secretary.
18. Resolution of thanks.
19. Reading of minutes.
20. Closing.

### RULES OF DECORUM

1. The association, when convened, shall be opened and closed by singing and prayer.
2. Only one person shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his feet and address the Moderator.
3. The person speaking shall adhere to the question, and shall in no wise cast personal reflections on any person who may have spoken before him.

The person thus speaking shall not be interrupted in speech, except by the moderator, until he gets through; nor shall the moderator interrupt him unless he break order.

5. No person shall speak more than three times on the same subject without leave of the association.
6. Members shall address each other by the appellation of Brother or Brethren.
7. No member shall laugh or whisper in time of public speech.

8. No member of this association shall absent himself when the association is sitting in conference without leave of the Moderator.

No member shall speak longer than fifteen minutes at any one time without leave of the association.

Any member who shall knowingly break any of these rules shall be reproved by the moderator, according to the direction of the association.

# General Baptist Publishing House

OWENSVILLE, INDIANA.

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