

MINUTES

—OF THE—

Thirteenth Annual Session

—OF THE—

SPRINGTOWN ASSOCIATION

OF BAPTISTS,

HELD WITH THE

BAPTIST CHURCH AT WAGER MILL,

COMMENCING ON FRIDAY, SEPT. 19, 1884.

OFFICERS:

DEACON P. R. JOHNSON, - - - - - MODERATOR.

ELDER J. C. ROBERTSON, - - - - - CLERK.

Postoffice, Elm Springs, Ark.

*Next Session to be held at Temperance Hill, commencing on
Thursday before the 3d Sabbath in September, 1885.*

MINUTES.

SPRINGTOWN ASSOCIATION.

WAGER MILL, WASHINGTON CO., ARK.,
SEPTEMBER 19TH, 1884.

The Springtown Baptist Association met with the church at Wager Mill, according to previous appointment, and the introductory sermon was delivered by Elder A. J. Estes, from II Cor. 5, 20: "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ."

Recess was then taken and dinner provided upon the grounds, after which the Association was called to order by the former moderator, J. H. Hogan; prayer offered by Elder L. H. Palmer.

Elders A. J. Estes and J. F. Mitchell were appointed to read the letters from the churches and the messengers' names were enrolled. (See table.)

Brethren T. B. Greer and James W. Greer were appointed tellers and the Association went into permanent organization, electing P. R. Johnson, Moderator, and J. C. Robertson, Clerk.

Petitions were called for, when a petition was presented from the Liberty church, near Evansville, borne by T. B. Greer, F. G. Kimbrough, B. P. Fields and J. W. Greer. A protest against its reception, purporting to be from the Vineyard church was presented by Geo. Tatum. The consideration of the petition was set for Saturday morning, first business.

Correspondence called for; none responded.

Visiting ministers were invited to seats, and accepted by Elders J. H. Hogan, Indian Territory, L. H. Palmer, Bethel church, W. W. Rife, Eureka, and Geo. Tatum, Round Mountain. The following committees were then appointed: On Divine Service, J. C. Robertson, W. M. Murphy, G. W. McCoy, J. M. Peak and John Givens, Jun. Finance: E. S. Gibbs and G. W. Setser. Education: B. A. Sammons, A. E. Bright and J. F. Mitchell. Temperance: H. Highfill, A. E. Bright and B. H. Weller. Obituaries: Wm. Edwards, G. W. McCoy and J. M. Allman. Sabbath

Schools: H. Highfill, A. M. Rodgers and A. E. Bright. Home Missions: Wm. Davis, D. Jesse and Wm. Edwards. Publications: A. J. Estes, J. C. Robertson and J. F. Mitchell. Queries: W. M. Murphy, J. M. Peak and B. A. Sammons. The Association adjourned till half past 8 o'clock, Saturday morning. Prayer by Wm. Davis.

SATURDAY MORNING.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by G. W. Setser. The minutes of Friday read and approved; roll called and absentees marked.

The petition of Liberty church was taken up, and T. B. Greer was heard in answer to the protest. Action upon the petition was deferred till the next meeting of this body, and a committee of six were appointed to meet with the Liberty church and investigate as to their condition, and report at the next meeting of the body; also that the committee be instructed to act in concert with a like committee from the Fayetteville Association, should they deem it advisable to meet with us. The following brethren are the committee: J. F. Mitchell, A. M. Rodgers, A. J. Estes, B. A. Sammons, Wm. Davis, P. R. Johnson. Reports called for, when the committee on Home Missions was read; pending action on the report, took recess for preaching and dinner, to resume business at 1 o'clock. After recess resumed business, and the report on home missions was adopted.

The Executive Board made their report, read and adopted. The committees on finance, temperance, Sabbath schools, education, and obituaries made reports in order, each of which was read and adopted. Adjourned till Monday morning half past 8 o'clock. Prayer by Bro. W. W. Rife.

MONDAY, SEPT. 22D, 1884.

8½ o'clock A. M., Association called to order by the moderator; prayer by Elder Wm. Edwards.

The minutes of Saturday read and approved.

Permission was granted to read an address presented by the messengers from the Liberty church.

The committee on queries reported the following query and answer: "How should a church be regarded that fosters and sustains a minister who is known to be irregular in his ordination?" Answer: "Regard it as being in disorder." B. A. Sammons, chairman. In as much as Zion Hill church is the church referred to in the above query, and Bro. B. Moor the minister, *Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to labor with said church, and if possible rectify the irregularity of Bro. Moor's ordination and report at the next meeting of this body. Breth-

ren B. H. Weller, A. E. Bright and E. S. Gibbs were appointed, and on motion, J. M. Peak and D. Jessee were added to the committee.

The committee on publications made a report which was read, objected to, amended, and adopted as amended. See the report.

It was determined that the next meeting of this Association be held with the church at Temperance Hill, commencing at 11 o'clock on Thursday before the 3d Sabbath in Sept., 1885, Elder John Givens to preach the introductory sermon, and Elder J. W. West alternate. The following resolutions were offered: *Resolved*, That Art. 2 of the Constitution be amended so as to read, "On Thursday before the 3d Sabbath in September at the place previously appointed." Adopted by a two-third vote.

Resolved, That Art. 4 of the Constitution be changed so as to read, "Three messengers for each church of fifty members or less, and one messenger for each fractional part of fifty over." Adopted by a two-third vote. Also the following was offered: We the messengers of the Siloam Baptist church offer the following amendment to Art. 1 of the Constitution: That all ordained ministers in the bounds of this Association shall be members of the body, when recommended by the churches to which they belong. After discussion it was tabled.

The following correspondence was appointed: To the Fayetteville Association, Elder J. C. Robertson, L. H. Palmer; To the Bentonville, Elder J. C. Robertson; To the Cherokee Baptist, Elder Wm. Edwards, and brethren A. E. Bright, E. S. Gibbs and J. M. Peak.

On the petition of the Round Grove church, a letter of dismission to the Shoal Creek Association was granted.

The Executive Board was continued. D. Jesse, B. A. Sammons, and B. H. Weller were appointed to constitute the Board, and were instructed to employ a missionary and collect means for his support, provided the Association shall not be involved in debt.

It was ordered that the clerk superintend the printing and distribution of 500 copies of these minutes, inserting the Articles of Faith, Constitution and Rules of Decorum, and that he have \$5 for his services.

The following resolution was offered by J. F. Mitchell:

Resolved, That this body return its thanks to this church and community for their hospitality during our stay in their midst.

Each church is requested to give in their Associational letter the amount raised for missionary purposes, Sabbath School statistics, and the names of their deceased members during the year.

The minutes having been read and approved, the Association adjourned to time and place of next meeting. Prayer by Elder J. H. Hogan.

J. C. ROBERTSON, Clerk.

P. R. JOHNSON, Moderator.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

HOME MISSIONS:—We your committee on mission work beg leave to make the following report: We find great destitution in the bounds of this Association. Many places where the gospel trumpet is seldom heard: souls perishing without God's precious word to bring them into his fold. Believing that we should go in and occupy the field in obedience to Him who said, "Go ye into all the world and preach my Gospel," that they may hear and believe, and believing this to be the duty of the churches, we, therefore, recommend that the Association appoint and keep a missionary in the field, and that the churches contribute liberally of their means for his support, while he is doing the work of the churches. Brethren, let us prove our faith by our works, and not simply wish and pray that the destitute may be fed while we withhold from them the bread of life.

Respectfully submitted,

WM. DAVIS, Chairman.

FINANCE:—We your committee find sent up from the churches for printing minutes \$22.00. In hands of the clerk from the last year \$2.75. Total amount \$24.75.

Ed. S. GIBBS, Chairman.

TEMPERANCE:—We your committee on temperance submit the following: As we are denominated by God himself "the light of the world," and commanded to shun the appearance of evil, therefore we believe it to be morally wrong for a brother to make a habit of visiting saloons, or drinking intoxicating drinks as a beverage, because the tendency is evil only, and has the effect of casting a shadow over the influence of the cause of Christ. Brethren, encourage temperance, lest our light become darkness. Some of our hearts have been made to bleed because of intemperance. May God open the eyes of his people to the good of his cause, is our prayer.

H. HIGHFILL, Chairman.

SABBATH SCHOOLS:—We your committee on Sabbath Schools submit the following: We are happy to say to you that the Sabbath School work has been a success during the past year, yet there is much more to be done. May God enable us to see the great responsibility that rests upon us in this great work. Brethren, let us train our children in the way they should go. As each grain of sand helps to build the great bars of the ocean, so each act of the child forms so much of its future character. As we believe the Sabbath School to be one of the most efficient means of supplying the future generation with stores of truth and useful knowledge, and the better to enable them to carry out the heavy responsibilities that will rest upon them, we recommend Baptist Sabbath Schools where it is practicable, but in their absence we recommend union schools. Lose

not the great opportunity of imparting useful knowledge.

H. HIGHFILL, Chairman.

EDUCATION:—Your committee on education would state that we, as Baptists, are the friends of education; therefore we should foster and liberally sustain institutions of learning where children may acquire a liberal education to prepare them for the duties of life. The need of an educated ministry is so plain that all can see its great necessity; therefore, we, your committee, would recommend earnest effort in this direction, that our ministers may be qualified to present truth, combat error, and sustain the cause of Christ.

A. J. ESTES, Chairman.

OBITUARIES:—We, your committee on obituaries, find that mortality has been unusually great in our midst during the past year. It has pleased God in His providence to remove from us by death the following named brethren and sisters: Brethren G. S. Frashur, G. W. Woodard, Deacon G. D. Buckner, J. Skaggs and E. J. Gibbs. Sisters Maxey Lane, Ruth J. Spradling, Mary Alfrey, Nancy Wilson, Martha Jones, Jane Whiteside, Hannah Burgess and Alice Bell. All of whom died in the triumphs of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We do not mourn for them as if they had no hope, but we mourn and deplore the loss of our loved ones.

Resolved, That this Association tender its sincere and heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved relatives and friends of the deceased.

WM. EDWARDS, Chairman.

PUBLICATIONS:—We, your committee on publications, beg leave to report. We first of all recommend the careful reading and study of the book of books, the Bible, and that they procure such other literature as will aid them in understanding the book divine. There are things published which we believe to be detrimental to the prosperity of the cause of Christ; brethren, we cannot recommend the reading of such publications.

Respectfully submitted.

A. J. ESTES, Chairman.

Amendment: We (the Association) recommend the Tennessee Baptist, Memphis, Tenn.; The Central Baptist, and American Baptist Flag, St. Louis, Mo., as sound in the main and worthy of our patronage.

EXECUTIVE BOARD:—We, your Executive Board, submit the following: We employed Elder J. H. Hogan by the year at a salary of \$150 for half his time, the Board agreeing to pay half the amount, \$75. He has labored 74 days, preached 56 sermons, delivered 20 exhortations, made 39 religious visits; conversions 21, baptisms 19; assisted in organizing two churches, traveled 450 miles, collected on the field \$34.50, received from the Board \$35.50, leaving a balance due the missionary from the Board of \$39.50.

P. R. JOHNSON, Chairman.

On Monday a collection was taken and the above debt paid off, the missionary donating \$6.25. Collection on Sunday \$9.25, which was turn-

ed over to the treasurer of the new Board.

CHURCHES AND AMOUNTS CONTRIBUTED BY THEM TO MISSIONS:—Siloam Springs, \$5.75; Springtown, \$1.00; Norwood, \$2.00; Wager Mill, \$12.00; Cave Springs, \$20.00; total \$41.75. Sabbath Schools reported by the following churches: Siloam Springs, Mt. Enterprise, Harmony Grove and Wager Mill, with a total attendance of 183; papers, 80.

MESSENGERS:—Flint Creek church—J. A. Willis, S. W. Potts; Siloam Springs—A. J. Estes, E. S. Gibbs, D. Jessee, Wm. Davis; Spavinaw—A. M. Rodgers; Temperance Hill—A. E. Bright, B. A. Sammons, J. L. Jones, B. E. Gamble; Honey Creek—T. M. Bagby; Mt. Pleasant—Wm. Edwards; Mt. Enterprise—G. W. Setser; Butler Creek—J. W. West; Corner Springs—J. M. Peak; Springtown—J. F. Mitchell, H. Highfill; Norwood—John England, Ed. England; Mason Valley—B. H. Weller, John Givens, Jr.; Wager Mill—J. C. Robertson, W. M. Murphy, G. W. McCoy; Harmony Grove—J. M. Allman; Cave Springs—P. R. Johnson; Bozarth—G. W. Brunhill.

PREACHING EXERCISES:—Friday, introductory by A. J. Estes, text, II Cor., 5:20; Friday night, J. W. West, text, John, 14-19; Saturday, G. W. Setser, text, Rom., 6:23; Saturday night, J. H. Hogan, text, Mark, 16-15; Sunday, 11 o'clock, J. C. Robertson, text, Levit., 13-12, 13; at 3 o'clock, A. J. Estes, Dan., 2-44; Sunday night, J. F. Mitchell, Isa., 55-1.

ORDAINED MINISTERS:—Elders: John Y. Black, S. E. Baldwin, Wm. Cunningham, B. F. Cooper, W. B. Collins, A. J. Estes, Wm. Edwards, John Givens, Sr., G. W. Gorden, J. F. Mitchell, J. M. McCraw, L. H. Palmer, J. C. Robertson, W. H. Mapes, B. Moore, C. Seeley, Joseph Setser, Joseph Winfield, J. W. West and G. W. Kenedy. Total, 20.

LICENTIATES:—Wm. Davis, D. Jones, H. B. Lewis, Geo. Matthews, J. W. Netherton, G. W. Setser, B. H. Weller, B. Brannon and Shed. Pearce. Total, 9.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1st.—We believe that the Holy Bible, written by men divinely inspired, and full of unmixed truth, is a perfect rule of faith and practice.

2d.—We believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

3d.—We believe that man, once holy, fell by voluntary transgression from that happy state, and is now utterly void of holiness.

4th.—We believe that sinners are saved by grace alone.

5th.—We believe that men are justified by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

6th.—We believe that salvation is free to all who will accept the

Gospel.

7th.—We believe that, except a man be renewed by the Holy Spirit, he is not qualified or prepared for the Kingdom of Christ on earth, or to enjoy his glory hereafter.

8th.—We believe that repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are the duties of every one who hears the Gospel.

9th.—We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God by which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners.

10th.—We believe that sanctification, begun in regeneration, and ever progressive, is the process by which we are made to partake of God's holiness.

11th.—We believe in the preservation of the saints; that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

12th.—We believe that God's law is the only, the eternal and unchangeable rule of his church and moral government.

13th.—We believe that a church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, united in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel, observing the ordinances and obeying the laws of Christ; and that its officers are pastors and deacons.

14th.—We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, by a properly qualified administrator, into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

15th.—We believe that only such as have been properly baptized and received into the fellowship of a regularly organized Baptist Church, should partake of the Lord's Supper.

16th.—We believe that the Lord's day or Christian Sabbath should be devoutly observed, and sacredly devoted to religious services.

17th.—We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, and that the Governors of States and Nations should be obeyed, when the laws they seek to enforce are not in conflict with the Gospel.

18th.—We believe in the future resurrection of the dead.

19th.—We believe in the final judgment; and that, in that day, the righteous and wicked will be separated forever.

20th.—We believe that the righteous will be made happy forever in Heaven, and the wicked miserable forever in Hell.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The association shall be opened and closed by prayer.
2. The moderator and clerk shall be chosen by the suffrages of the

members present.

3. The moderator shall be deemed a judge of order, and shall have a right to call to order at any time.

4. Any member not satisfied with decision on any point of order may appeal to the association on the same day, but at no other time.

5. But one person shall speak at a time, and he shall rise to his feet and on obtaining leave proceed.

6. The moderator when addressed for leave of speech shall signify the same by naming him or otherwise.

7. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject in hand, or use words of personal reflection; and every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the association, except withdrawn by the member who made it.

8. Every case taken up by the association shall be decided on or withdrawn before another is offered.

9. When anything is taken up by the association, after allowing a reasonable time for debate, the moderator shall take the question and those in favor of the proposition shall rise to their feet, and those against it shall keep their seats.

10. The moderator shall pronounce the decision before the standers take their seats.

11. No person shall depart from the service of the association without leave.

12. The appellation of brother shall be used in addressing one another.

13. The names of members shall be called as often as the association may direct.

14. No member shall be countenanced in any practice that has a tendency to interrupt in time of public speech.

15. The moderator shall be entitled to same privilege of speech as any other member, provided he appoint some other member to his seat while he is speaking, but shall not be allowed to vote unless the association be equally divided.

16. Any member breaking this decorum shall be reproved at the discretion of the association, but only on the day the breach is made.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.—This Association shall be composed of messengers who shall be members of the Churches they represent, (except such as may be invited to a seat by consent of the body,) and shall be styled "The Spring-

town Baptist Association."

ARTICLE II.—This Association shall meet annually, on Thursday before the 3d Sabbath in September, at the place previously appointed; and after public worship, reading the letters from the Churches, and acting upon those soliciting membership, a Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen from the messengers by ballot, both of whom shall hold their offices until others shall be elected.

ARTICLE III.—It shall be the duty of the Clerk to make an accurate record of the proceedings of each meeting of the Association, in a book provided for that purpose. He shall also act as Treasurer.

ARTICLE IV.—Each church of fifty members or less may send three messengers, and one messenger for each fractional part of fifty over. The messengers shall present letters certifying their appointment and briefly expressing the state of the Churches, their increase and decrease, and their aggregate number. Each Church shall send with their letter, money for printing the Minutes.

ARTICLE V.—Churches wishing to unite with this Association may apply by letter and Messengers, and giving satisfactory information of their being sound in doctrine and correct in practice, they may be received by a unanimous vote; in token of which, the Moderator shall give to their Messengers the hand of fellowship in behalf of the Association. Churches may be dismissed upon application.

ARTICLE VI.—We acknowledge the independence of the particular Churches, and that no authority or jurisdiction is to be exercised over them by this Association; nor will the Association decide in any controversy that may arise in any Church: Nevertheless, they deem it their duty to disown any Church belonging to this body, which may have essentially departed from the faith.

ARTICLE VII.—When a Church shall neglect making any communication to the Association for three years successively, it shall be considered as having withdrawn from us, and shall be dropped from the Minutes of the Association, unless at least two members request their continuance, who shall also engage to inquire into their standing and report at the next meeting of the Association.

ARTICLE VIII.—This Association shall have the right to open and hold correspondence with other Associations, as may be deemed expedient.

ARTICLE IX.—It shall be the duty of the Association, from time to time, to suggest to the several Churches, such measures as may be deemed wise and proper, to promote the interest of the Messiah's Kingdom, and spread the Gospel throughout the world.

ARTICLE X.—This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the Association, by a two third vote of all the members present.

TABLE OF STATISTICS.

CHURCH.	CLERK.	POSTOFFICE.	PASTOR.	Day of Meeting.	Baptized	Received by Letter.	Restored.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded.	Deceased.	Total Membership.	Ordained Ministers.	Licentiates.	Contribution to print Minutes.
Ellet Creek.....	S. A. Miller.....	Springtown.....	W. B. Collins....	2	2	6	1	8	..	1	60	..	..	80
Siloam Springs.....	Wm. Cravens.....	Siloam Springs.....	A. J. Estes.....	3	6	13	..	3	..	2	115	2	1	2 00
Spavinaw.....	T. P. Shelly.....	Nebo.....	B. F. Cooper....	4	..	1	..	..	..	1	50	..	..	1 00
Temperance Hill...	S. Murdock.....	Osage Mills.....	I. R. Hall.....	1	9	4	3	7	..	..	145	..	..	2 00
Round Grove.....	T. J. Roark.....	Southwest City, Mo.	J. W. West.....	2	..	5	..	20	1	2	31	..	..	75
Honey Creek.....	B. K. Netherton....	Maysville.....	J. W. West.....	1	..	2	..	1	..	..	56	1	1	1 25
Mt. Pleasant.....	J. L. Mondler.....	Nebo.....	B. F. Cooper....	1	..	2	..	1	1	..	40	1	1	1 00
Mt. Enterprise.....	J. M. Cowart.....	Pactolus.....	G. W. Kennedy...	4	..	1	..	..	..	1	65	1	1	80
Butler Creek.....	F. G. Lindsey.....	Sulphur Springs....	John Givens....	2	1	4	1	1	..	1	42	3	1	1 00
Cornac Springs.....	J. M. Abercrombie..	Springtown.....	B. Moor.....	3	..	..	..	3	..	1	86	..	..	1 00
Springtown.....	W. S. Smith.....	Springtown.....	J. F. Mitchell...	4	..	2	..	..	3	2	111	2	..	1 75
Norwood Prairie...	W. P. Gregg.....	Weddlington.....	L. H. Palmer....	3	3	1	..	1	4	..	40	..	..	1 00
Mason Valley.....	W. M. Gholson.....	Mason Valley.....	J. W. West.....	3	13	14	3	4	..	..	55	..	1	1 50
Wager Mill.....	S. V. Robertson....	Elm Springs.....	J. C. Robertson..	1	..	9	..	3	2	1	53	1	..	1 50
Zion Hill.....	A. F. Keith.....	Cherokee City.....	B. Moor.....	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	35	1	..	..
Harmony Grove....	J. A. Brooks.....	Nebo.....	Wm. Edwards....	3	11	4	..	6	..	..	62	1	1	75
Cave Springs.....	John Chastain.....	Osage Mills.....	J. C. Robertson..	4	5	4	..	5	2	1	55	..	1	1 50
Bozarth.....	W. Q. Johnson.....	Bloomfield.....	B. F. Cooper....	1	2	..	..	5	..	..	36	..	..	1 00
Bethel.....	M. Daniels.....	Siloam Springs.....	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	..	..	..
Council Grove	J. L. Williams.....	Siloam Springs.....	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..
Pleasant Valley....	W. Alley.....	Siloam Springs.....	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..
Totals.....				..	52	72	8	68	13	13	1115	13	8	22 00