

MINUTES

OF THE

NINTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

MT. VERNON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

MOUNT ZION CHURCH, PHILLIPS CO., ARK., }
Thursday Morning, Sept. 28th, 1865. }

The Mt. Vernon Baptist Association, after a painful suspension of four years, brought about by the unfortunate war, from which we have just emerged, held its *Ninth Annual Meeting* with the church above designated, commencing Thursday before the 1st Sabbath in October.

I. The services were introduced by an introductory sermon by the Rev. W. H. BARKSDALE, of Helena.

II. After which the Association was called to order by its former Moderator, and letters from sister churches read, and names of Messengers enrolled as appears in the table below.

TABULAR STATEMENT.

CHURCHES.	POST OFFICE.	PASTOR.	NAMES OF MESSENGERS.	Days of Meeting.	For Minutes.	Total.	Blacks.	Whites.	Dead.	Excluded.	Unsanctified.	Restored.	Received by Letter.	Baptized.
PHILLIPS COUNTY.														
Helena.....	Helena.....	Rev. W. H. Barksdale.....	Rev. W. H. Barksdale, C. W. Hickey.....	.....	.....	70	70	\$6 00	1					
New Hope.....	Lagrange.....	Rev. P. S. G. Watson.....	E. St. J. Martin, P. S. G. Watson, W. L. Martin.....	.....	.....	80	80	.....	4					
Liberty.....	Marianna.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sterling.....	Helena.....	Rev. P. S. G. Watson.....	Geo. T. Baldwin, Edwin M. Mooney, Wm. F. Trask.....	.....	.....	15	15	5 10	1					
Salom.....	Frenton.....	Rev. E. Holland.....	Thos. Bunch,† W. H. Henderson,† Wm. Fisher†.....	.....	.....	25	25	2 50	1					
Cypress Valley.....	Lagrange.....	.....	Not Represented.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Blackfoot.....	North Creek.....	.....	Not Represented.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Frenton.....	Frenton.....	Rev. T. U. Wilke.....	Not Represented.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
St. Zion.....	Frenton.....	Rev. T. U. Wilke.....	H. P. Slaughter, G. F. Black.....	.....	.....	1 20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
T. FRANCES Co.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sh Grove.....	Cotton Plant.....	Rev. H. R. Bray.....	Rev. H. R. Bray, W. H. Johnson†.....	.....	.....	20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Opowell.....	Taylor's Creek.....	Rev. B. F. Thomas.....	B. F. Sleight, G. J. Hisset.....	.....	.....	140	140	3 00	1					
ible Union.....	Marianna.....	Not Represented.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
St. Vernon.....	Madison.....	Rev. B. F. Thomas.....	Jno. M. Daniel.....	.....	.....	11 51	11 51	3 00	3					
MONROE COUNTY.														
ethel.....	Trenton.....	Rev. E. Holland.....	Not Represented.....	.....	.....	10	10	1 00	1					
ak Grove.....	Moro.....	No Pastor.....	B. F. Richardstad, Science Hall.....	.....	.....	12	12	.....	2					
armory.....	Lawrenceville.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Liberty.....	Aberdeen.....	.....	Not Represented.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
arendon.....	Lawrenceville.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
inn Grove.....	Trenton.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
t. Moriah.....	.....	Rev. E. Holland.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
hilo.....	.....	Rev. W. M. Raper.....	J. W. Rhenark and Bro. Wicker.....	.....	.....	38	38	3 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
anassas.....	.....	Rev. H. W. Pasley.....	Rev. H. W. Pasley.....	.....	.....	8	8	2 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
ear Cr. (Phil's.).....	.....	Rev. P. S. G. Watson.....	.....	.....	.....	14	14	3 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
ARKANSAS Co.														
uhanan.....	Long Point.....	.....	Not Represented.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
ig Creek.....	St. Charles.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
ewitt.....	Dewitt.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
PRAIRIE Co.														
hilo.....	Lagrange.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
arie.....	Aberdeen.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

• Office not Reestablished.

† Absent.

‡ Now Dead.

III. By motion, adjourned until 10 o'clock to-morrow morning—
Prayer by Deacon S. HALL. Sermon at night by Rev. H. R. Bray.

FRIDAY MORNING, 10 o'clock.

The Association was convened by singing and prayer.

1. Proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, which resulted in the choice of Deacon S. Hall, Moderator; Rev. W. H. Barksdale, Clerk; Rev. P. S. G. Watson, Cor. Sec'y.; Deacon Jno. C. McCray, Treasurer.

2. The Moderator, on taking his seat, offered a few appropriate remarks, and proceeded immediately to the regular order of business.

3. Petitionary letters called for, and the following offered: *Bear Creek*—Delegates, J. J. Welb, J. C. McCray, *Manassas*—Delegate Rev. H. W. Pasley, *Shilo, Monroe*—Delegates, J. W. Rheurark, and J. A. Wicker. To all of whom the right hand of fellowship was given by the Moderator.

4. By motion, the clerk was instructed, as but little money had been sent up for Minutes, to make them *as brief* as his judgment would dictate, abbreviating, if necessary, every report which may be offered, so as to make the publishing of the Minutes as cheap as possible.

5. Following Committees were then appointed to report as soon as practicable:

Committee on Devotional Exercises, consisting of J. C. McCray, H. P. Slaughter and McDail.

" " *Sabbath School*—D. W. Hickey, Ed. Martin, and J. J. Welb.

" " *Finance*—D. S. Bleigh, H. F. Slaughter and George Blissit.

" " *Domestic Board*—H. P. Slaughter, Wm. Porter, C. W. Hickey, J. H. Hicks, Ed. Martin.

" " *Education*—H. W. Pasley, H. R. Bray, John McDaniel.

Com. to Ascertain State of Churches—P. S. G. Watson, G. F. Black, G. F. Baldwin.

" *on Temperance*—W. L. Martin, C. W. Hickey, and Ed. M. Mooney.

" " *Missions*—P. S. G. Watson, J. C. McCray, and H. P. Slaughter.

" " *Circular Letter*—H. W. Pasley, P. S. G. Watson.

6. The Association adjourned, and by appointment made by the Chairman on Devotional Exercises, the Rev. W. H. Barksdale again addressed the congregation, after which there was intermission for dinner, which the kind neighbors had provided for the occasion.

2 o'clock, P. M.

Dinner being over, the Association re-assembled for business.

1. Rules of Decorum were read by the Moderator.

2. Report on Devotional Exercises submitted and accepted:

Friday, at 11 o'clock, Rev. W. H. Barksdale.

" night, Rev H. W. Pasley.

Saturday, 11 o'clock, Rev. P. S. G. Watson.

" 2 " Rev. H. W. Pasley.

" night, Rev. H. R. Bray.

Sunday, 11 o'clock, Rev. W. H. Barksdale.

" night, Rev P. S. G. Watson.

J. C. McCray, *Chairman.*

3. The Association adjourned until Saturday morning, 10 o'clock.

SATURDAY MORNING, Sept. 30th, 1865,

The Association met pursuant to adjournment.

1. Prayer and reading of Minutes by Clerk.

2 Report on Temperance called for and read.

TEMPERANCE.—Your Committee on Temperance beg leave to make the following report, 1st to the existence of the evil, of the use of liquors as a beverage, second to its remedy.

We see great necessity for reform in this respect, in our judgment there is nothing so hurtful or prejudicial to the cause of Christ, as the improper use of ardent spirits. It is one of the greatest agents in the hands of Satan, for the advancement of his cause and the overthrow of christianity, that we have any knowledge of. It is argued by some, that a moderate use of liquor injures no one. But we are commanded by the scriptures, "to abstain from all appearance of evil." This certainly has the appearance of evil about it.

We think it is the bounden duty, of every follower of Christ, to discountenance this evil, to the very utmost of their ability. We would earnestly impress it upon the church to use every legitimate means to put it down, by both precept and example. Keep away from liquor shops, refrain to patronize them, and advise your friends to do likewise. Your committee would recommend that the various churches unite in petitions to the General Assembly, to pass legislative enactments, on the subject of refusing license to dram shops. We verily believe, that if every christian would do his whole duty in this behalf, that this great evil would be reasonably removed. Dram shops would die out for want of custom, and thousands of souls would be saved from ruin.

Respectfully submitted,

W. H. MARTIN, *Chairman.*

3. Report on Circular Letter ordered to be published.
4. Report on Domestic Missions.

DOMESTIC MISSIONS.

We, your committee, present a condensed resolution, in lieu of a report, which we respectfully submit :

Resolved, That we consider Domestic Missions—within the bounds of this Association—as being the most important of all objects at present, claiming the aid of this body; and we urge our Executive Board to do all within *its* power, and all the brethren and sisters to do all within *theirs*, to have the gospel preached in every neighborhood in this Association

P. S. G. WATSON, *Chairman*.

5. Rev. H. W. Pasley was appointed to preach the next introductory sermon. Rev. H. R. Bray alternate.

6. New Hope was selected as the next place for holding the Association.

7. Rev. P. S. G. Watson to preach next year during the Association, on the distinction of Church and Christian fellowship.

8. Adjourned by motion, when Rev. P. S. G. Watson, according to appointment, preached.

2 O'CLOCK, P. M.

The Moderator having called the Association to order, proceeded to business—

RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved, That it is with sorrow we hereby record the death of Elder T. U. Wilks, a member of this Association. He died on the — of — 1865. We offer our sympathy to his bereaved family and destitute churches.

Resolved, That we need greatly a Baptist newspaper published somewhere in this region of country.

Resolved, 2. That we recommend Memphis as the place at which we are willing to unite with the Baptists of Tenn. and Miss., in sustaining a Denominational organ, and until then we recommend to the denomination the very valuable paper known as the "Western Recorder" published by Rev. Mr. Waller, in Louisville, Ky.

2. Treasurer's report called for, and submitted as follows:

TREASURER'S REPORT.

DEAR BRETHREN: As I am unable to ascertain the amount paid for the Minutes of the last Association until I go home, I would ask leave

to report to the clerk in regard to the balance on hand, and he can report the amount through the Minutes.

Received present session \$39 45.

We the committee certify the above as correct, in regard to the amount paid at this session.

H. P. SLATGITER.

3. Report on Education and Sabbath Schools read and approved, but for the want of means their publication is omitted. Not because they are unimportant, for we cannot *too* strongly urge both upon our Churches, being, as they really are, the hand-maids to religion.

4. *Resolved*, That this Association appoint a Missionary who shall act as *Agent* for the Association, and thereby raise his own salary in the field in which he preaches; and if, at any time he thinks proper, to constitute an auxiliary board, who shall act in harmony with the Board of this Association.

Resolved. 2. That Bro. Bray be appointed said agent; all of which was carried.

5. *Resolved*, 3. That the thanks of this Association are due and are hereby tendered to the members of this Church, and also to the neighborhood for the very kind manner in which they have entertained this body.

6. *Resolved*, 4. The Clerk be granted the usual fee, and drive the best bargain he can for the *publication* of the Minutes.

7. *Resolved*, 5. That the Moderator and Clerk assign at their leisure, and choose men to report at the next Association on the subjects reported at this, and that their report be made in the *published Minutes*.

8. Brethren, in compliance with your request, we know no better place for said report than on this page.

On Education—Rev. H. W. Pasley, Rev. Wm. Raper, E. Lockh.

On Sabbath Schools—Rev. E. Holland, C. W. Hickey.

On Temperance—Rev. P. S. G. Watson, John C. McCrary.

On Domestic Missions—Rev R. F. Thomas, and Rev. H. R. Bray.

On Circular Letter—W. L. Martin, Rev. M. W. Izard.

On State of Churches—E. St. J. Martin, Ed Mooney and P. S. G. Watson.

9. All business being now disposed of in a very quiet and harmonious manner, the Association was addressed for a few moments by the presiding officer, and, on motion, stood adjourned until Thursday morning preceding the 1st Sabbath in October, 1866, then to be con-

vened with New Hope Church, Phillips county, 13 miles N. W. of Helena.

SPENCE HALL, *Moderator.*

W. H. BARKSDALE, *Clerk.*

SATURDAY EVENING, Sept. 30th, 1865.

AN AFTER NOTE BY THE CLERK.

The Brethren of the Association were now prepared to listen to *preaching*, instead of *preparing* reports, as is too frequently done, when the Association meets on *Saturday* instead of *Thursday*.

The neighbors too, had built quite a large arbor, and Sunday it was crowded with willing hearers, to whom the word was preached in faithfulness by those appointed in the *Report of the Committee*. Nor was it confined to that day; but for *eleven* days and nights,—brethren remained and preached until *forty* souls were, as we trust, hopefully converted to God. To Him be glory and honor!—Amen.

LIST OF ORDAINED MINISTERS.

Rev. M. W. Izard, Rev. H. W. Pasley, Rev. P. S. G. Watson,
Rev. Wm. M. Rafer, Rev. H. R. Bray, Rev. E. Holland,
Rev. B. F. Thomas, Rev. W. H. Barksdale.

LICENTIATES.

— Wolverstern and R. N. Crawford.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

To the Brethren and Sisters of the Mount Vernon Association:

As your messengers we have transacted the business harmoniously, and take this occasion to address each of you personally, as though present with you, upon the duty you owe to God and to your fellow-man.

1. *Your duty to God.* You are not your own, you are bought and paid for with the blood of the Son of God, therefore, you should glorify him, both in your body and spirit which are his. As the purchased on earth, let your *conversation* be such as becometh a christian; never use the name of God in a light or trifling manner: never say irreverently, "My God," "Good Lord," "Lord-a-mercy;" never so speak as to give a reason to even doubt your word; never in short, speak in such a manner that you cannot consistently ask God to bless what you have said.

Let your *actions* be like Christ's. Remember, you are justified before God by faith, but before men by works; God can see faith, men can see works only; hence, you are hereby exhorted so to act that

others—impenitents—"may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven." If you would effect good, you must gain and sustain a consistent christian character "by a pious walk and a godly conversation." "The tree is known by its fruit;" if your fruit is bad, the people of the world will say, the tree is bad also, and just there ends all your influence for good. Guard carefully your influence, "Abstain from every appearance of evil;" never hazard your christian reputation by countenancing dram-drinking, dancing, novel reading, or any other thing that has the "appearance of evil."

"*The time is short*," and you have much to do. "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ." Are you ready? Is your lamp trimmed and burning? Have you discharged all your duty to God as he requires of you? Answer these for yourself.

2. *Your duty to your fellow-man.* Though christians, God designs to convert the impenitent, and hence a reason why you were not immediately taken up to heaven, upon being converted; you have much work to do, to benefit your fellow-man; God has honored you instead of angels, as his instrument in the conversion of the world. How great the honor? How weighty the responsibility?

God has chosen you and us it appears, to labor within the bounds of this Association; is the field well, thoroughly cultivated? Alas! No.

Brethren and Sisters, bestir yourselves: read the Bible more, reflect and act. Establish and keep up prayer-meetings, Sabbath Schools, Bible Classes; attend promptly your Saturday and Sabbath church-meetings. You belong to Christ, labor for him; give to his cause your influence, your time, and money, till you *feel* the sacrifice. Do not give more for tobacco, plugged or pulverized, or for jewelry and ribbands, than you give to the cause of Christ. Once we had much but honored God with a mite only, and he has permitted us to be robbed; shall we provoke his displeasure with what little is left? May God forbid.