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MINUTES
OF THE
FIRST ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
HARRIS
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH
BROWNVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH, ALA.,

October 25th, 27th and 28th, 1886.

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OFFICERS:

C. L. WILLIAMS, MODERATOR..... Seale, Ala.
W. J. BOYKIN, CLERK..... Seale, Ala.
J. T. NUCKOLS, TREASURER..... Owsichee, Ala.

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MONTGOMERY, ALA.:
THE ALABAMA BAPTIST PRINT.
1886.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Opening services.
2. Read Letters from Churches and enroll Delegates.
3. Invite Ministers of our order to seats with us.
4. Organize by electing Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer.
5. Call for Petitionary Letters.
6. Receive Correspondents from sister Associations.
7. Appoint Committees, on Prusching, Documents and Staff of Religion, Missions, Sunday Schools, Education, Temperance, and Deceased Ministers.
8. Appoint Correspondents to sister Associations.
9. Appoint Delegates to State Conventions.
10. Hear report of Executive Committee.
11. Hear reports from other Committees appointed last session.
12. Elect Executive Committee.
13. Hear reports from the several Committees appointed this session.
14. Treasurer's Report.
15. Determine where the next session will be held.
16. Miscellaneous Business.
17. Closing Exercises.

LIST OF MINISTERS AND POST-OFFICES.

I. P. Cheery	.....	Hartsboro, Ala.
J. A. Howard	.....	Seale, Ala.
J. W. Wilson	.....	Lively, Ala.

LICENTIATES.

Joseph Vann	.....	Seale, Ala.
J. M. Loftin	.....	Loftin, Ala.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. This body shall be called the HARRIS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, composed of messengers chosen from the different churches constituting it, holding annual sessions at such time and places as it may select.

ART. 2. Believing that churches are independent religious bodies, owing allegiance only to Christ, this Association claims no right to interfere authoritatively with their internal concerns.

ART. 3. The Association of all elect from its membership, at each annual session, by ballot, a Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, and an Executive Committee, composed of five brethren, who shall hold their offices until their successors are chosen.

ART. 4. The Moderator shall preside over the body, appoint all committees, unless otherwise instructed, and decide all points of order by the rules in Mill's Parliamentary Practice, subject to an appeal to the body.

ART. 5. The Clerk shall keep a record of the proceedings, direct the printing and distribution of the Minutes, and perform such other duties as belong to his office.

ART. 6. The Treasurer shall take charge of the money and general property of the Association; report in writing at each annual session, the condition of the finances, exhibiting vouchers for all sums paid out; he shall also provide himself with blank receipts, to be filled and handed to the delegates from the several churches, respectively, who may bring up funds; and at the expiration of his term, deliver to his successor the property of the Association in hand.

ART. 7. The Executive Committee may fill vacancies occurring in its membership, and shall, under the direction of the Association, manage its business during its adjournment.

ART. 8. At each session, committees of three shall be appointed to report in writing, the following subjects: Preaching, Discipleship, Sunday Schools, Missions, Deceased Ministers, Education, and Temperance.

ART. 9. Churches wishing to become members of this body, must petition by letter or messengers, and, if found to be scriptural in doctrine and practice, be received to fellowship by vote of the Association, and welcomed by the Moderator.

ART. 10. Churches wishing to change their membership may petition by letter or messenger, and, if in fellowship with the body, be dismissed in due form. Any infringement of the laws of this Association, or departure from the faith and practice of the Scriptures by a church, will be a cause of complaint against such church, and will subject it to the discipline of the body.

ART. 11. Messengers, before being enrolled as members, must present evidence of their appointment, giving also the number of the membership of their church, the number received during the past year by baptism, letter and restoration, the number dismissed, expelled and dead, with an account of all the money given to the support of the gospel and general benevolence, the condition of the Sunday School, with statistics, prayer meetings, and other good works engaged in by their Churches.

ART. 12. Each church shall be entitled to five messengers; when the membership is fifty, six; and one for every additional twenty-five, or fractional part thereof.

ART. 13. Amendments to the Constitution may be made by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

ART. 14. The Minutes of the Association may be read, approved, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before final adjournment.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe in the existence of one only living God, and that he has made himself known to his people under the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, the same in essence and every Divine perfection.

2. We believe the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the word of God, and the only rule of Faith and Practice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of eternal and particular election; that God chose in Christ Jesus from before the foundation of the world to save them that believe, that they should be holy and without blame before him in love, having predestinated them unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his grace.

4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

5. We believe in man's impotency to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature, by his own free will and ability.

6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Christ.

7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated, sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

8. We believe that nothing can separate true believers from the love of God, but that they will be kept by the power of God, through faith, unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time.

9. We believe that *Baptism* and the *Lord's Supper* are ordinances of the Church of Christ; that true believers are the only subjects of these ordinances; and that immersion only is baptism.

10. We believe in the resurrection and the general judgment.

11. We believe the punishment of the wicked will be eternal, and the joy of the righteous will be everlasting.

12. We believe that no minister has a right to administer the ordinances only such as are called of God, as was Aaron, and come under the imposition of hands by a presbytery, and in fellowship with the church of which he is a member.

—*MINUTES*—

The First Annual Session of the Harris Baptist Association was held with the church at Brownville on Tuesday, October 20, 1886.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. R. H. Harris, of the Columbus Association, from Mat. 5:14: "Ye are the Light of the World."

EVENING SESSION.

2 O'CLOCK P. M.

At 2 o'clock the body was called to order by C. L. Williams, former Moderator.

After prayer by W. B. Crumpton, W. J. Boykin was elected Clerk pro tem and J. T. Nichols Treasurer.

The letters from the churches were read and delegates enrolled as follows:

Seale—C. L. Williams, W. J. Boykin, S. S. Briscoe, S. R. Boykin, R. E. Ledney, K. A. Ware, W. A. Bellamy.

Orricker—J. A. Howard, O. L. Peacock, J. K. Isbell, W. T. Williams R. A. Stratford, James Hyatt, James Kite, John Gardner.

Mt. Lebanon—M. L. Clutt, G. W. Thomas, B. W. Allen, Zack Simms. Hatchbackham—D. J. Hest, C. E. Ingram, R. D. Denson, C. H. Tallman, R. B. Adams and L. C. Cooper.

Brownville—R. J. Jannetta, A. N. White, G. W. Harris, Jos. Hatcher, W. W. Bloodworth and J. A. Clagg.

After the enrollment of delegates the temporary officers were made permanent.

When a petition was made for letters from other churches Mr. Olive, of Brownville, presented letter and was received.

The following delegates were then enrolled from this church: R. J. Statham, Monroe Cooper, Rev. E. F. Davidson.

Correspondents from sister associations being called for, the following brethren responded and were warmly welcomed by the Moderator:

Centennial—Dr. J. E. Chambliss.
 Tuskegee—E. W. Sollowson, B. J. King, L. R. Wheliss,
 Rev. G. D. Benton.
 Salem—B. H. Rider.
 Columbus—Rev. R. H. Harris and J. W. Wilson.
 Selma—Rev. E. F. Baber.
 Corresponding Secretary—Rev. W. B. Crumpton.
 Agent Howard College—Dr. G. A. Nunnally.

The following committees to report this session were adopted:

On Preaching—S. R. Boykin, Zack Simes and delegates from Brownville church.

On Documents and State of Religion—Rev. I. P. Chesney, R. B. Adams, R. D. Denson.

On Deceased Ministers—R. E. Lednay, James Hyatt, W. I. Williams.

Motion carried, that any member of this Association who may be in attendance on any Association, be an authorized correspondent.

Committee to Nominate Delegates to the State Convention—Rev. I. P. Chesney, C. E. Ingram, R. E. Lednay.

Executive Committee had no report to make.

REPORT ON RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

We are living in a fast age, an age of progress in all the departments of knowledge. There is no denying the fact that the printed page is a powerful factor in shaping the progress of events, socially, politically, morally and religiously. To the making of books there is no end. Our street corners, our railways, our book stores, our publishing houses are crowded with every class of literature. The dime novel, the sensational story book are fast taking the place of the higher and purer literature of the times; and, may we ask, who is some measure, is chargeable with this crime? Who is it that is encouraging the pernicious literature of the times? With shame we must acknowledge—professed christians—men and women, whose influence and energies should be against it, are either openly or tacitly for it. Our brethren and sisters take more delight in reading the secular papers than our religious journals. Is not this true? If then, this be a fact, and be persisted in, it is only a question of time when our religious papers will be overshadowed and lost sight of and infidelity and atheism run riot over all christendom.

We have in our State the *Alabama Baptist*, the organ of the State convention and also the organ of the sixty-four associations and the 1400 churches in the State. All admit this a good paper, newy in character, orthodox in letter and spirit and ably edited—yet, not one out of twenty of our deacons

nation subscribe for it. Why is this; does it spring from a want of religious spirit or denominational pride? Our families should read it; it is food for the mind—and first of all we should provide a healthy religious literature for them. We have the *Christian Index* at Atlanta, the *Religious Herald* at Richmond, and many other papers all over our country which we can get for a small sum. Thus we conclude that it is in the highest degree demanded of us as Baptists to get into the hands of our families orthodox Baptist literature, and through such agencies, educate them in a knowledge of the truth.

Respectfully submitted,

A. N. WHITE.

After the report was spoken to by Rev. R. H. Harris and J. G. Harris it was laid on the table until Wednesday morning.

A motion was then adopted to make the subject of Missions a special order for the night session.

NIGHT SESSION.

After Devotional Exercises the report on Missions was called for and was read by Rev. I. P. Cheney.

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

It is with great joy and profound gratitude to God that your Committee report the general work of Missions in a healthy condition. Our State Mission Board is doing a grand work in Alabama by sending men to the destitute places of our State—men who are building up the waste places and planting the Kingdom of Christ in the cities that are springing up in the northern part of our State like magic. Our State is rapidly filling up with people from every nation and with every kind of religion and it behooves us to arise and occupy these places that we may give them the pure gospel of Christ. There is great destitution in our State and we must supply the wants of those people.

The board has in its employ sixty-five men who are devoting all or a part of their time to this work. They not only preach the gospel but are organizing Sunday Schools and building meeting houses. Thirteen churches have been constituted by these brethren and 22 converts have been baptized by them, besides others who were baptized in connection with their labors; 196 Sabbath Schools have been organized; 2243 books have been sold, valued at \$1,409.02. They have given to destitute families, who were unable to purchase them, bibles and testaments valued at \$90.35. Sixteen meeting houses were commenced and eight finished during the conventional year. In view of all that has been done by this board the cry is continually going up for more help. Shall we give it?

HOME MISSION.

This embraces the Southern States and the Island of Cuba. The magnitude of this work must be understood to be appreciated, and can only be by those who are conversant with the destitution and the efforts that are being made to supply this destitution. This board employed last year, 290 men; these men baptized 2612. The work in Cuba is one of the wonders of the world and they are looking to us to help sustain missionaries in that

land. They are our neighbors and we must give them the gospel of the Son of God. This board asks Alabama to give them \$1,000.00. Shall we give it?

FOREIGN MISSION.

The great command of our Lord to his people all over the world is "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." There are 885,000,000 of souls in the world who have never heard the gospel of the Son of God. Christ says "Go disciple all nations, teaching them to observe all things and lo, I am with you always—even to the end of the world."

This Foreign Mission Board has in its employ seventy-eight men and women who have been laboring in the foreign field; they are faithful to their trusts and should we not also be faithful to them by sending them of our substance as the Lord has prospered us? This board asks us only for the small sum of \$1,000.00 to carry on this great work. The work in the foreign field is progressing very well but they are asking for more men and that means more money. Shall we heed their cry? God help us to do so.

Respectfully submitted,

I. P. CHENEY, Ch'n.

After the report was spoken to by W. B. Crumpton, E. F. Baber, J. E. Chambliss and J. G. Harris, the body adjourned until 9 o'clock Wednesday morning.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 27.

After Rev. I. P. Cheney had read 91st Psalm and prayer by Rev. J. E. Chambliss, motion was made and carried to make the subject of Education a special order for night session.

The discussion of missions was then renewed and after it had been spoken to by Rev. G. A. Nunnally, Rev. W. B. Crumpton and J. G. Harris, the report was adopted.

The report on Religious Literature was then taken up and after a few remarks by E. F. Baber, G. A. Nunnally and J. E. Chambliss, the report was unanimously adopted.

The Treasurer then made his report, which was adopted with the amendment that the sum of \$36.12 board of Ministerial Education.

The committee on Constitution report by recommending the adoption of the Constitution of Tuskegee Association, with few amendments. Report adopted.

The Executive Committee was then appointed.

Committee—C. L. Williams, W. J. Boykin, S. S. Brinson, C. E. Ingram, J. T. Nuckols.

After due consideration it was then decided that Thursday evening at 7 o'clock be set apart for a temperance mass meeting.

Committee on time and place for next meeting of Association was then appointed.

Committee—J. A. Howard, A. N. White and R. B. Denson.

EVENING SESSION.

After a song had been sung and prayer by J. A. Howard, committee on nominating delegates to State Convention reported by nominating as delegates, R. B. Adams, L. C. Cooper, C. L. Williams, S. R. Boykin, J. M. Vann, B. W. Allen, J. T. Nuckols, J. C. Chesney, Elijah Davidson, A. N. White.

The report was ratified by the Association.

Call for Report on Documents.

REPORT ON DOCUMENTS.

We are delighted to report that all the churches in our association have held series of meetings, and trust much good has been accomplished. Fifty baptisms have been reported from the six churches that compose this association. One of the greatest evidences that good has been done is that all the churches, except one, and that one has just been organized, have contributed to the support of the gospel. All the churches in this association have pastors, and there is a great future of usefulness before them. Brethren, let us thank God and take courage.

Respectfully submitted,

I. F. CHESNEY, Ch'n.

Report adopted.

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

There are six churches in this association. Of that number, four have Sunday schools. The two that are without Sunday schools are without a basis of worship. We are very much gratified to say that within the bounds of this association there is great work being done in our Sunday schools. But we are compelled to make the statement that very few of our church members are Sunday school attendants. Why is this? Is it because we have sufficient knowledge of the scriptures? Then let us impart it to others. If it is because of our ignorance, then let us be taught. If we are careless, then let us awake to an active discharge of our own duties. How can we expect the young to be hearty in a cause that we do not advocate by our words as well as our actions. Let us lead and they will follow.

Let us not allow trifling excuses to stand in the way of duty. The development of christian character, and the awakening—³A real according to

the knowledge" may be hoped for when our churches supplement the labor of its pastor by a living Sunday school. Our children and the stranger would be instructed, instructed and led to Christ. The Bible is worthy of our study, and the world and the church will do well to enter in the Sunday school.

We respectfully suggest that there be "no discharge in this work" as account of distance from church, home duties, age, ignorance, or wisdom. As none can afford to do without the truth, let no idlers out. Don't send your children but carry them. If you cannot teach, "ye have need that one teach you."

W. J. BOYKIN, Ch'n.

After the report had been discussed by Rev. E. F. Baber and Dr. J. E. Chambliss, it was adopted by the body.

The Report on Temperance was then called for.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Whiskey drinking is a great evil. It fills our almshouses and asylums, carries disgrace and ruin to a once happy and prosperous household. It not only does all this, but it involves us in the loss of souls—a forever shutting out from God and happiness. "No drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of God." This being so, what a great responsibility rests upon the Church and Christianity at large? Ecclesiastic and civil bodies are awakening to the responsibilities resting upon them, and the dawn of a new era is breaking. Let us labor and pray for the speedy coming of the time when our land shall be rid of the curse.

Respectfully submitted,

L. C. COOPER,
E. E. LEDNAR,
H. WESS,
Committee.

After the report was read, Dr. Nunnally spoke to the report with great power and effect. The report was then adopted unanimously.

NIGHT SESSION.

After a song was sung and prayer by Dr. Chambliss, the report on Education was called for and was read by Rev. J. A. Howard, chairman committee.

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

In what way can we better awaken our people to the importance of education than by giving them the opportunity of obtaining an education? Nor is it wise to simply warn them of the dangers that lurk in the courses of study and the minds and hearts of instructors that are sometimes provided for our children. To suppress these evils we must supplant them by advantages that are equal to the best and that are controlled by the principles of christianity. We must have first-class schools, and then we will find less difficulty in persuading the parents to send their children where minds and hearts will be properly educated. "Patrols home institutions," will not do as a motto except for those whose home insti-

tions are worthy of patronage. We are able to have such institutions and have some of which we need not be ashamed. We can safely urge our people to send their sons to Howard College and their daughters to the Judson. We can go further and promise them that these schools will be made still better when they have that patronage which should be given them. If we should ever feel like complaining that they are not better, let us ask ourselves the question, "whose fault is it." Both of them should be well endowed by the "great Baptist hosts of Alabama."

We therefore pledge ourselves to help in the present effort to endow the Howard. We welcome into our bounds the representative of this cause, and ask for him the earnest co-operation of individuals and churches. We would also urge on churches not to forget to provide for those whom God has called to preach the gospel, and for whose education He has given us the means. We have committed this special work to our Board of Ministerial Education, located at Montgomery. Now let us give them the money with which to do our work.

Respectfully submitted,

J. A. HOWARD,
S. S. BAXSON.

After the report was read and Dr. Nunnally had spoken at some length upon the subject, the report was unanimously adopted.

Standing committees to report next session:

On Missions—J. C. Cheney, M. L. Cliatt, C. H. Tallman.

Education—B. J. Conyers, J. T. Ingram, W. H. Bloodworth.

Sunday Schools—B. W. Allen, S. R. Boykin, and Elijah Davidson.

Temperance—A. N. White, J. A. Howard, J. K. Isbell.

Committee on time and place report to meet with Hatchchubbee on Tuesday after 4th Sunday in October, 1887. Report adopted.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That the thanks of this body be and are hereby extended to the members of this church and the citizens of this community for their generous hospitality.

Treasurer's report called for and adopted.

STATISTICS OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES.	POST OFFICE.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	Expended by Lot-tery.	Restored by Lot-tery.	Restored by Lot-tery.	Living.	Excluded.	Total.	Membership of Sunday School.	Day of Meeting.	Sunday Schools.
Mt. Lebanon.....	Lafayette.....	J. A. Howard.....	W. B. Stafford.....	10			0	0	10	0	1st	1
St. Paul.....	St. Paul.....	J. P. Cheney.....	W. J. Boylin.....	4			0	0	4	0	1st	1
Mt. Olive.....	Levy.....	E. F. Davidson.....	A. C. Hart.....	10	10	0	0	0	20	0	1st	1
Brookfield.....	Brookfield.....	J. W. Wilcox.....	A. C. Cheney.....	10	10	0	0	0	20	0	1st	1
Brookfield.....	Levy.....	J. W. Wilcox.....	A. M. White.....	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1st	1
Overlook.....	Overlook.....	J. A. Howard.....	J. C. Cheney.....	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1st	1
Total.....				36	30	0	0	0	66	0	1st	5

THE ALABAMA BAPTIST

IS THE ORGAN OF THE

Baptist State Convention.

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