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MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

SOUTH DISTRICT

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH THE

PLEASANT RIDGE CHURCH,

ST. CLAIR COUNTY, ILL.;

Commencing September 28th, and Continuing until October 1st, 1854.

SAINT LOUIS:
USTICK, STUDLEY & CO., PRINTERS.

ASSOCIATIONAL PROCEEDINGS, &c.

NAMES OF MINISTERS

WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCHES FORMING THIS ASSOCIATION; WITH
THEIR POST-OFFICES.

JOSEPH LEMEN,.....	Collinsville Post-office.
JAMES LEMEN,.....	“ “
NATHAN ARNETT,.....	Smithton “
THOMAS A. MORTON,.....	Belleville “
D. M. HOWELL,.....	“ “
B. FENIX,.....	Mascoutah “
E. M. BROWN,.....	“ “
JOSEPH GASKILL,.....	“ “
JOHN PETERS,.....	Waterloo “
JOSIAH LEMEN,.....	“ “
C. BOSTWICK,.....	“ “
A. P. LACEY,.....	“ “
JOHN BELL,.....	Renault “
JOHN PADON (Madison county).....	Troy “
T. W. B. DAWSON, “ “.....	“ “
WM. M. LINDLEY, “ “.....	St. Jacobs “
SAMUEL ROACH,.....	Millstadt “

MINUTES.

THURSDAY, September, 28th, 1854.

THE ministers and messengers from the churches, and the corresponding brethren from other Associations assembled, according to appointment of last year, at 2 o'clock, and after praise and prayer, Elder John Peters preached the Introductory Sermon from Heb x. 24: *Let us consider one another, to provoke unto love, and to good works.*

After sermon, Elder J. Peters was elected Moderator in the absence of the Moderator of last session, and took the chair. D. M. Howell and N. Smith were called upon to act as Clerks, *pro tempore*. But the organization of the Association was deferred until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Brethren Joseph Lemen, Wm. Lindley, J. Virgin, E. Cox, H. McCoy, and C. Harris being appointed a Committee on Religious Exercises. Adjourned until to-morrow morning at 8 o'clock, for prayer, and 9 o'clock for business.

Prayer by Elder Moses Lemen.

FRIDAY, September 29th.

At 8 o'clock met for prayer. At 9 o'clock, the Moderator called the meeting to order for business — prayer by Robert Lemen. The letters from the churches were then called for and received, and the names of the ministers and messengers enrolled, with the statistics of the churches.

TABULAR STATISTICS OF THE CHURCHES.

NOTE. — Ordained Ministers' names in SMALL CAPITALS; Licensed Preachers' names in *Italics*. Those not present marked thus, *

CHURCHES AND POST-OFFICES.	MINISTERS AND MESSENGERS.	Baptized,	Received by Letter,	Restored,	Dismissed by Letter,	Excluded,	Dead,	Present Number,
Bethel, Collinsville P. O.	JOSEPH LEMEN, JAMES LEMEN, Pastors; J. Hart, R. Lemen, J. Begole, J. P. Lemen, J. A. Cook, J. B. Cox, J. Hogan, Ira Wilson,.....	6	2	2	2	4	143	
Silver Creek, Mascoutah P. O.	NATHAN ARNETT, B. FENIX,* <i>Joel Jackson</i> ,* Wm. Virgin, Charles Foulks, S. Teter, J. Mason, R. Whitchurch, J. Harrison, Joel Mason,..... Dropped, 4.	19	2	9	5	113		
Fountain Creek, .. Waterloo P. O.	JOSEPH LEMEN; MOSES LEMEN, Pastor; C. BOSTWICK,* <i>A. P. Lacy, J. Rich, S. Harlow, Sen'r, J. Garretson, J. Hilton, J. Kenney, S. Harlow, Jun'r,</i>	47	19	1	157			
Belleville, " P. O.	T. A. MORTON, Pastor; James Marney, W. Rittenhouse, J. Hill, J. H. Wilderman, T. Williams, J. Harrison, H. Leach,	42	11	2	14	1	2	134
Troy, " P. O.	JOHN PADON, T. W. B. DAWSON, W. CARD,* A. Waddle, J. C. Gonterman, L. Barber, W. N. Gonterman, Wm. Mize, <i>John Mize,</i>	4	4	2	2	2	116	
Waterloo, " P. O.	JOHN PETERS, John Rogers,	9	10	2	78			
Richland, Smithton P. O.	Joel Robertson, R. K. Smith, Jun'r, H. Holcomb, N. Smith,	5	2	2	1	1	52	
Pleasant Ridge, .. St. Jacob's P. O.	JOSEPH LEMEN, Pastor, <i>Wm. M. Lindley, J. Ely, J. Lindley, E. Fairres, J. Virgin, J. Geers,</i>	13	8	5	4	2	86	
Nine-mile Creek, .. Ellis Grove P. O.	H. S. DEPPE, Pastor; H. Hughes, Jacob Lennhert,	20	8	6	69			
Harmony, Millstadt P. O.	S. ROACH,* Jordan Burkey, J. M. Eyman, S. Ferrill,.....	15	3	30				
Mascoutah, " P. O.	D. M. HOWELL, Ephraim Brown, T. J. Gaskill, S. Wetmore, G. Swaggert, <i>Josiah Gaskill,</i>	5	3	3	19			
Salem, Rhenault P. O.	<i>John Bell,</i> Paley T. Fisher, James R. Fisher,	24	4	18	2			
		209	66	25	43	18	19	1048

1. Elder John Peters was then chosen Moderator, J. H. Lemen, Clerk, and N. Smith, Assistant Clerk.

2. A letter from a new church, called Salem Church, was received and read. Its reception into the Association was recommended by Elder Thomas A. Morton, and some other brethren. It was accordingly received, and the hand of fellowship given to the brethren present. Baley T. Fisher and James R. Fisher.

3. Correspondence from other Associations was called for.

Edwardsville — No messengers.

North District — No messenger.

Nine Mile — P. Hagler, who brought minutes.

Vandalia — J. R. Ford, minutes.

Mount Olive (colored) — No messengers.

Wood River (colored) — No messengers.

4. At 11 o'clock the Association suspended business, to hear a sermon from Elder P. Hagler, who preached from Gal. vi. 10.

5. Ministers present, and visiting brethren, were invited to a seat in the Association.

6. Committee to arrange, digest and prepare business of the Association — T. A. Morton, T. Williams, J. Rogers, J. Mason, and Robert Lemen were appointed for that purpose.

7. Committee on Finance — Wm. M. Lindley, T. W. B. Dawson, and J. Begole, appointed.

8. The Committee on the business of the Association, reported in part; each item was acted upon separately.

9. That a copy of our Minutes be sent by mail, as they were last year, to each Association within the State, and to each of the benevolent societies with which we co-operate, and that messengers be now appointed to—

Carrollton Association — (late North District.)

Nine Miles — Nathan Arnett.

Vandalia — T. A. Morton, D. M. Howell.

Mount Pleasant (colored) Joseph Lemen.

Wood River — (colored) Moses Lemen.

10. The Committee on Itinerant Missions, within the bounds of the Association, asked leave to report, which was granted.

REPORT.

That during the session of the last Association, subscriptions were obtained to an amount that seemed to justify the Committee in taking hold of the matter, which they did with much pleasure. They appointed Elder John Padon their chairman, and J. H. Lemen their Secretary and Treasurer. They met at the Harmony Church, on the 29th day of October, 1853, (just one month after the Association) at which, arrangements were made with Elder D. M. Howell, to act as their traveling missionary for one year, as required by order of the Association, and for which they engaged to pay him, on behalf of the Association, \$300. Bro. Howell entered at once upon the labor assigned him, and under our instructions has been faithfully employed ever since, as his quarterly reports to the Committee will evidence, and to which we refer.

Subscriptions to the amount of about \$150 were secured at the last Association.

Of that amount there was taken up	\$14 75
Since then by individuals,	3 00
From Churches, Bethel Church has raised and paid.....	69 75
“ “ Silver Creek Church “ “	23 00
“ “ Fountain Creek “ “	4 25
“ “ Belleville “ “	20 00
“ “ Troy “ “	25 30
“ “ Waterloo “ “	20 20
“ “ Richland “ “	29 25
“ “ Pleasant Ridge “ “	33 35
“ “ Nine-mile “ “	13 65
“ “ Harmony “ “	29 50
“ “ Mascoutah “ “	14 10

Total, \$300 00

We have, therefore, been enabled to collect and pay over to Brother Howell the whole of the sum agreed upon. He has labored already eleven months, and will continue to labor another month, which will close the year.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN PADON, CHAIRMAN.
J. H. LEMEN, SECRETARY.

MISSIONARY REPORT.

During the eleven months I have been in the employ of the Association I have preached 129 sermons, given 167 exhortations, attended 44 prayer meetings, made 301 family visits, baptized 37 converts, administered five times the Lord's Supper, distributed 4,000 pages of tracts, sold and donated 19 Bibles, sold 34 hymn books, traveled 2,517 miles, and taken part in the constitution of one church, called Salem, in Monroe county, Illinois. In performing the above labor, I have visited Sugar Creek, Lebanon, Mascoutah, Belleville, Anderson's School-house, Ogle's School-house, Turner's School-house, Rider's School-house, Silver Creek, Richland, Harmony, Waterloo, Salem, Prairie-de-long, Redbud, Nine-mile Creek, Sparta and Ruma.

Submitted to the Executive Committee.

D. MASON HOWELL.

11. That the Resolution (No. 17) from the last minutes be again adopted :—

Resolved, That while we entertain the same interest in the American Baptist Missionary Union, the American Baptist Home Mission Society, the American and Foreign Bible Society, Shurtleff College and Ministerial Education, the American Baptist Publication Society, Sabbath Schools, and every other object of Gospel benevolence, as in former years, we deem it unnecessary to make special reports on the subjects.

The Committee recommend that addresses, not exceeding fifteen minutes each, be made on the following objects :—

American Baptist Missionary Union ;
Home Missions, by E. S. Palmer ;
American and Foreign Bible Society, by T. A. Morton ;
German Home Missions, by T. W. B. Dawson ;
Shurtleff College and Ministerial Education, D. M. Howell ;
Bible Classes and Sabbath Schools, Joseph Lemen ;
American Baptist Publication Society, J. R. Ford ;
Temperance question, Moses Lemen.

12. That Thomas A. Morton, Wm. Lindley and Thompson Williams be a Committee to report upon the Temperance question.

13. That J. Peters, J. Mason and J. Rogers, be a Committee to report what action the Churches can take in order to supply the destitution of exhorters, so much felt ?

Adjourned till to-morrow — for prayer at 8, business at 9 o'clock.
Closing prayer by Brother Ford.

SATURDAY MORNING, 9 o'clock.

Opening prayer by Elder Dawson.

14. The Committee upon the Destitution in our Churches of Exhorters, report :—“ We, your Committee, beg leave to urge upon all the

Churches forming this association the great importance of seeking out among themselves such as may have any gifts, and that they give every encouragement to such of their members as, in the judgment of the Church, shall appear to have any qualifications for exhorting, and that the Church direct them, by a committee, or otherwise, in their labors; and we also recommend that some member of our body be directed to prepare for publication a CIRCULAR LETTER upon this important subject, to be presented to our next associational meeting. On behalf of the Committee,
 "J. PETERS."

This report was accepted and adopted.

15. Elder Thomas A. Morton was appointed to prepare the Circular letter recommended by the Committee.

16. *Resolved*, That, encouraged by the success of the missionary labors of the past year, the Association continue a Committee, composed of one from each Church, to take charge for another year of this very important matter, and that the Committee be instructed to make an increased effort during the present year in the same direction, so as to get the Churches, if possible, to raise sufficient funds to enable them to employ *two missionaries* in the field, instead of one, as last year; and that, if the liberality of the Churches shall enable them to employ more than one, they be recommended to make an effort to induce Brother Deppe to take this field; and if they cannot get him, that an endeavor be made to get some other qualified brother to labor in part, at least, with the *German* portion of our population.

17. *Resolved*, That this Association continues cordially to co-operate with the BAPTIST CONVENTION OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS, and has no wish in any way to draw off from that body; and that our appointment of a missionary, or missionaries, in our field is intended in no way to interfere with the liberality of our Churches towards sustaining the home missionary labors of the Convention, and we recommend that each Church make an effort to raise funds for its support, and that our Secretary write to the Secretary of the Convention to explain our action, about which there seems to be some misunderstanding on the part of some of the brethren of the Convention.

18. COMMITTEE ON ITINERANT DOMESTIC MISSIONS APPOINTED: --

For Bethel Church, James Hart; Silver Creek Church, James Mason; Fountain Creek Church, James L. Garretson; Belleville Church, Thompson Williams; Troy Church, L. Barber; Waterloo Church, J. Rogers; Pleasant Ridge Church, J. P. Hayes; Harmony Church, Jordan Burkey; Mascoutah Church, E. M. Brown; Richland Church, N. Smith; Salem Church, James Fisher.

19. Elder Thomas A. Morton read a communication he had received from Brother Jerah D. Cole, the agent for the American Baptist Missionary Union, and strongly urged the claims of that philanthropic society upon all who love the souls of men and the cause of our Lord Jesus Christ.

20. Short, but exceedingly interesting addresses were delivered, as by the appointment of yesterday.

21. Report of the Committee on Temperance was then called for. They submitted the following: --

"Your Committee upon *Temperance* would submit for the consideration of the Churches the cheering truth, that within the last few years

much light, through the mercy of God, has been diffused upon this subject. The evils that inevitably result from the use of intoxicating drinks have been laid bare, and are now open to the view of all. It is, therefore, now seen and generally acknowledged — that to continue in any way a friend to a traffic in strong drinks, is to be an enemy to good morals, and, consequently, to be at war with the peace and best interests of society. Christians are, therefore, under the most solemn obligations to use all their influence to uproot the evil, and to discountenance entirely the manufacture, sale or use of alcoholic or fermented liquors as a beverage.

“ And your Committee would respectfully suggest — that, surrounded with the light that is now diffused upon this subject, any individual who will engage in this proved-altogether-evil traffic, or who will encourage it in any way, either by trading in the evil and unclean thing after it is made, or be guilty of manufacturing it, or even of growing corn for the purpose of disposing of it to whisky makers, to be turned into a fire liquid to destroy the peace of families and the bodies and souls of men, ought, if a church member, to be well admonished to look to *his title to an immortality with Jesus* — for the Master has commanded his followers and disciples not only to abstain from sin, but from every thing that has the appearance of evil. On behalf of the Committee.

THOMAS A. MORTON.

This report, after a very interesting discussion, was unanimously received, and adopted as an expression of the views of the Association upon this subject.

22. *Resolved*, That a public collection be taken to-morrow for itinerant domestic missions.

23. That the next association be held with the Troy Church, to meet on Thursday before the first Lord's Day in October (4th), at 2 o'clock, p. m. Introductory sermon to be preached by D. M. Howell; or, in his absence, by T. W. B. Dawson.

24. That Brethren T. A. Morton and Thompson Williams be appointed to prepare the Minutes for the press, and that 800 copies be issued.

25. That Thompson Williams be appointed Treasurer.

26. That our standing Secretary, J. H. Lemen, send a copy of our Minutes to all the associations and philanthropic societies with which we correspond, and that the Secretaries of these associations are hereby solicited to send unto him a copy of their Minutes or proceedings, post paid, in return.

27. REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

Dr.		Cr.	
Received at last Association, . . .	\$30 15	By cash paid for printing Minutes,	\$30 15
Collected for Southern Convention,	26 85	By cash paid to Southern Convention,	26 85
Received for Domestic Missions,	300 00	By cash paid to D. M. Howell, Domestic Missionary,	300 00
Received this year for printing Minutes,	25 50	By cash on hand,	25 50
	\$382 50		\$382 50

Respectfully submitted,

WM. M. LINDLEY.

Contributions reported by the Churches for various purposes, as raised during the year.

Bethel,	\$921 60	Richland,	\$ 39 45
Silver Creek,	_____	Pleasant Ridge,	_____
Fountain Creek,	403 00	Harmony,	54 50
Belleville,	983 50	Mascoutah,	_____
Troy,	390 05	Nine-mile,	457 50
Waterloo,	337 00	Salem,	_____

Those left blank, omitted to state in their letters the sums raised.

LETTER OF CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Associations and Other Bodies with which we Correspond.

BELOVED BRETHREN :— We have been permitted, through the rich mercy of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, to enjoy another associational meeting. It has been to us a feast of love, for every thing has been harmonious and delightful. The churches of our body have been stirred up to greater exertion; and, as will be seen from our Minutes, a very marked improvement has been made during the past year in the liberality of the Churches for religious purposes. It was a good beginning in the right direction, and it was much needed. We trust our next report will show an equally decided improvement upon our present.

One new Church has been added to our number. We have, as will be seen from our Minutes, eleven Ordained Ministers and five Licentiates; but more than half of the Ordained Ministers reported are greatly incapacitated, from age and other infirmities, for active service: their day of labor is near its close. One, Elder James Pulliam, was called home last year, and several more are only waiting for the summons. We feel much the want of qualified men to take their places. May the Lord, in his goodness, raise them up and send them to this important field.

Two hundred and nine baptisms are reported by the Churches. Our whole number is now 1,048. Connected with our Churches are, generally attached, active Sunday-schools; but, for want of regularity in the returns, they cannot this year be presented in a statistical form in our Minutes. Co-workers in the Vineyard of the Lord, pray for us.

JOHN PETERS, MODERATOR.

JAMES H. LEMEN, Clerk.

During the sitting of the Association there were interesting meetings every night, the result of which was some three or four conversions and a very interesting state of feeling. After the sermon, on Sunday morning, something like \$200 were raised by collection and subscription for the support of the Domestic Missions.

The address of our standing Secretary :—

JAMES H. LEMEN,

*Collinsville Post-office,
Madison Co., Ill.*