

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

Twenty-Third Anniversary

OF THE

SHELBY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

LIBERTY CHURCH,

Shelby County, Alabama,

On the 24th, 26th and 27th of October, 1874.

COLUMBIANA, ALABAMA:

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WILSON

Twenty-Third Anniversary

WELLS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

1888

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Minutes.

SATURDAY, October 24, 1874.

The Twenty-Third Anniversary of the Shelby Baptist Association convened with Liberty Church, Shelby county, Alabama, on Saturday, the 24th day of October, 1874.

Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder J. H. R. Carden, from the 7th and 8th verses of the iii chapter of the I Epistle General of John.

After a short intermission, the delegates assembled in the school house and were called to order by the former Moderator, Eld. T. P. Holcomb; prayer was offered by Eld. W. W. Armstrong.

Brethren H. W. Bowers and J. H. R. Carden were appointed to read.

Letters from the churches were called for, received, read and the names of the delegates enrolled. (See table of statistics.)

Brethren H. W. Bowers and W. V. Arnold were appointed tellers, who, after having received the vote, reported the former Moderator and Clerk re-elected.

Called for correspondence from sister Associations. The following were present and were welcomed among us—the Moderator extending the right hand of fellowship:

From the Cahaba Valley—Eld. I. L. Brasher, and Bro. E. W. Attaway, without minutes or letter, but on motion were received.

From the Mulberry—Bro. Thos. R. Lovett, with minutes and letter.

From the Tuscaloosa—Minutes with letter.

On motion, agreed to call for correspondence again on Monday morning.

Appointed Committees;—

ON DEVOTIONAL EXERCISE.—Brethren W. V. Arnold and Stephen Johnson from the 1st District; Nathaniel Thomas and J. W. Dodson from the 2nd District, with the Deacons of Liberty Church, and on motion Bro. Wesley Armstrong was added to the committee. (For arrangement of the same see Appendix H.)

ON DOCUMENTS.—J. H. R. Carden, H. W. Bowers, W. W. Armstrong and Wesley Armstrong.

ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.—Brethren W. W. Armstrong, J. G. Sayers, and Thornton Fancher.

AN TEMPERANCE.—W. V. Arnold, N. Thomas, J. G. Sayers, Thornton Fancher and W. W. Armstrong.

ON FINANCE.—H. W. Bowers and C. L. Mooney.

ON MISSIONS.—W. V. Arnold, W. C. Powell J. H. R. Carden, J. G. Sayers and H. W. Bowers.

On motion the reading of the Constitution, Abstract of Principles and Rules of Decorum was postponed, until Monday morning.

Benediction by Eld. J. H. R. Carden, after which the Association adjourned until 9 o'clock Monday morning.

—o—

SUNDAY, October 26.

Under appointment of the last session, Eld. T. P. Holcomb announced the 15th and 16th verses of the xvi chapter of our Lord's Gospel by St. Mark, as a text from which to preach a Missionary Sermon, but after a few remarks had to desist owing to feebleness, when Bro. W. W. Armstrong preached a missionary sermon from the 9th verse of the viii chapter of II Epistle to the Corinthians, after which a collection was taken up for the support of Domestic Missions, the amount of which will be found in the Report of the Committee on Finance.

—o—

MONDAY, October 26.

Association met pursuant to adjournment; prayer by Elder James Grimes.

Called for correspondence, when Eld. James Grimes came forward from the Canaan Association, with letter, who was welcomed among us, the Moderator extending the right hand of fellowship.

Called the roll and marked absentees.

On motion, the Constitution, Abstract of Principles and Rules of Decorum were read.

On motion of Bro. J. H. R. Carden, the 17th Article of the Rules of Decorum were amended by inserting the word "Clerk" in the place of Moderator.

On motion of Bro. C. W. O'Hara, the 7th Article of the Constitution was amended so as to read "one for every additional twenty-five over fifty."

By an act of the District Meeting of the 1st District, and by request of Six Mile Church the next session of this body will be held with her; and, on motion the time of meeting was changed from Saturday before the 4th Sabbath in October, to Saturday before the 3rd Sabbath in September 1875.

The following brethren were appointed, by ballot, to preach at our next session: J. H. R. Carden the Introductory Sermon, C. W. O'Hara alternate; J. H. R. Carden the Missionary Sermon, J. G. Sayers alternate.

Appointed a committee on the State of Religion, viz: J. H. R. Carden, J. G. Sayers, H. W. Bowers, W. W. Armstrong, Thornton Fancher, N. Thomas and W. V. Arnold.

Returned Correspondence:—

To the Mulberry Association—Stephen Johnson, W. V. Arnold and J. W. Arnold.

To the Tuscaloosa—W. V. Arnold and J. L. Peters.

To the Cahaba Valley—J. H. R. Carden, L. J. Coats and W. C. Wilder.

To the Canaan—H. W. Bowers, N. J. Jarvis, J. H. R. Carden, L. J. Coats W. C. Powell.

After prayer by Bro. J. G. Sayers, adjourned for preaching, to meet again at 1 o'clock.

—o—

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Pursuant to adjournment the Association met, and prayer was offered by the Moderator.

The Report of the Committee on Documents, was received and the committee discharged. (See Appendix A.)

The Report of the Committee on the State of Religion was received and the committee discharged. (See Appendix B.)

Inasmuch as it is known by this Association that there is a great declension in Cahaba Valley Church; that she has had, and still has Bro. R. Wood, as pastor, whose actions, as we believe, have been derogatory, in the extreme, to the cause of Christ, and that there has been a decrease in the membership of said church since the year 1871, of fifty-six members, unaccounted for; and as we believe we should labor for the good of our brethren and for the promotion of the cause of truth, therefore—

Resolved, That the following committee—P. M. Fancher, J. C. Sayers and W. V. Arnold—be appointed to wait upon said church, to labor with her in love, to enquire into the state of the church, and to endeavor to set all things in order, that God's name may be glorified in the building up and reclamation of the church—and report at our next session.

Report of the Committee on Missions was received and the committee discharged. (See Appendix C.)

After prayer by Bro. J. W. Dodson adjourned until Tuesday morning 9 o'clock.

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TUESDAY, October 27.

Association met and prayer was offered by the Clerk.

Report of the Committee on Temperance was received and the committee discharged. (See Appendix D.)

Appointed a committee consisting of J. H. R. Carden, W. V. Arnold and Thorton Fancher on the distribution of the Domestic Mission Fund.

On motion, the action of the Association in the appointment of a committee on Sabbath Schools was rescinded, from the fact that the Committee on Documents embraced the same in its report.

Report of the Committee on Finance was received and the committee discharged. (See Appendix E.)

The Report of the Committee on Distribution of Domestic Mission Fund was received and the Committee discharged. (See Appendix F.)

Called for the Report of Domestic Missionaries, when Bro. J. H. R. Carden presented a report which was received. (See Appendix G.)

As recommended by the Committee on the Distribution of the Domestic Mission Fund, the following committee was appointed, viz: W. V. Arnold, Thorton Fancher, N. J. Jarvis, P. W. Nelen, Saml. Wallis, H. W. Bowers, Wm. Acker, Nathaniel Thomas, Wesley Armstrong, J. A. Gould, Elisha Fancher, Wm. M. McMath, Stephen Johnson, L. J. Carden, W. C. Powell and W. C. Wilder. Bro. H. W. Bowers was appointed treasurer.

On motion, Eld. T. P. Holecomb was granted the privilege of giving the Domestic and Indian Mission Board, at Marion, Ala., credit for \$5, which has been subscribed by himself for Domestic Missions.

The following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That this Association recommend the churches, when a minister, in passing, should administer to our spiritual wants that we administer to his temporal wants—not suffering him to go away empty.

Resolved, That the Association recommend the churches not to send delegates that cannot stay until the business of the Association is finished, or until Tuesday 12 o'clock.

Query.—Is it consistent with gospel order for a minister to administer the ordinances of the church while holding a letter of dismission? Answer—No.

Directed that the Clerk superintend the printing of 300 copies of these minutes, reserve 50 copies for correspondence, subscribe the present minutes in the Association Book and that he receive \$15 for his services.

Bro. Thornton Fancher was appointed distributing agent for the 1st District, the Clerk for the 2nd District.

The District Meeting of 1st District, will be held with Dogwood Grove church on Friday before the 2nd Sabbath in September, 1875. Introductory Sermon to be preached by Eld. T. S. Dison.

The District Meeting of the 2nd District will be held with Union (Shelby) church, on Saturday before the 2nd Sabbath in July, 1875. Introductory Sermon to be preached by Eld. J. H. R. Carden; Missionary Sermon by Eld. T. P. Holcomb.

Resolved, That the thanks of this body be tendered to the brethren and sisters of Liberty Church, and the citizens in the surrounding community, for their hospitality during our session.

A parting hymn was sung while the delegates extended to each other and the congregation the parting hand, and prayer was offered by the Moderator, after which the Association adjourned to meet at the time and place designated.

T. P. HOLCOMB, Moderator.

C. W. O'HARA, Clerk.

Received of H. W. Bowers, treasurer, \$28 70 for services rendered as Domestic Missionary.

J. H. R. CARDEN.

Reports.

Report of the Committee on Documents.—(Appendix A.)

We, your committee have examined the documents, and are grieved to say (by comparing our present statistics with our last) that we find a decrease in membership of nearly one-tenth, caused mostly by the withdrawal of letters. We are gratified to learn that there has been but few exclusions. But few of the churches report any revivals. We also find that there are three churches not represented either by letter or delegates. But few of the churches report having kept up Sabbath Schools, we would recommend that the churches interest themselves more in the cause, and for parents to attend the schools with their children and take part in the exercises. We notice that Dogwood Grove Church has ordained Bro. Peter Smith to preach the Gospel, and Bethel Church has ordained Bro. C. W. O'Hara.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. R. CARDEN, Chairman.

Report of the Committee on the State of Religion.—(Appendix B.)

We, your committee on the State of Religion beg leave to report that we believe, from the facts before us, that religion is sadly on the decline. We do not know all the causes, but there is a want of union among the churches, owing, as we believe, to the fact that some of the churches and ministers have held such loose rein in discipline. We

further believe that some of the churches have become offended with the Association for advising for the good of the churches, and therefore will not represent themselves in your body. We would recommend that the Association appoint a committee to labor with such churches for their reclamation. We also believe that both, ministers and lay members, indulge to a great extent in a spirit of levity, while every member should be engaged in prayer, and penitently confess his sins and seek forgiveness in a Savior's blood. We would recommend the churches to hold weekly prayer meetings and ask the Lord to show us our sins, and grant repentance and remission of sins unto his people. Respectfully submitted,

J. H. R. CARDEN, Chairman.

Report of the Committee on Missions.—(Appendix C.)

We, your committee, beg leave to report that the spirit of missions is rapidly declining in our bounds. It seems that the churches plainly show this by not sending up any money for missions. While there is much destitution in our bounds, there are ministers enough to supply it, if they were able to spare the time, but they are not, and the churches do not seem inclined to help them. We would earnestly request your body to urge the churches to faithfully consider this, their duty to their Lord and Master, and come up to the help of the Lord, and that every member composing the several churches, begin as the months pass by, to lay in store for the Lord, so that when your next session convenes they may be ready. All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. V. ARNOLD, Chairman.

Report of the Committee on Temperance.—(Appendix D.)

We, the committee on Temperance beg leave to report that we see nothing in the letters in reference to temperance. We have but little data to act upon; yet we learn through the delegates from Union (Bibb) Church, that the brother who was retailing spirits was excluded from the church, and has quit selling spirits and has returned to the church with a satisfactory acknowledgement, and has been restored. We further believe, from what we can learn, that temperance is gaining ground. May the Great Head of the church grant that this evil may continue to abate until there will be no need of a committee of this kind. We hope that every Baptist in our bounds will at all times remember that dram drinking is an evil example. All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. V. ARNOLD, Chairman.

Report of the Committee on Finance.—(Appendix E.)

We, your committee, beg leave to report:

Amount sent up for minutes.....	\$18 00
“ “ “ “ Associational purposes....	12 00
Collected on Sabbath for Domestic Missions...	6 00
“ “ subscription for Dom. Missions...	5 00
Amount in hands of Treasurer.....	13 70
Total.....	\$54 70

H. W. BOWERS, }
C. L. MOONEY } Committee.

Report of the Committee on Distribution.—(Appendix F.)

We, your committee, appointed by you to say what disposition should be made of the subscription and funds raised to be paid for missionary labor performed by our own pastors and ministers in the bounds of this Association, beg leave to report that we think an equal distribution, according to the amount of labor reported performed by your ministers at this session should be made of the funds on hand, and of what may hereafter be collected on previous subscriptions. But in no case to pay more than \$1 50 per day. In order to carry out the design of this report, we would recommend that a committee consisting of one from each church, be appointed to collect what may have been subscribed by the members from the different churches, and also that there be a Treasurer appointed to collect and pay out the same as directed in this report.

W. V. ARNOLD, Chairman.

Report of the Domestic Missionary.—(Appendix G.)

As I performed some missionary labor in your bounds, I beg leave to report: I spent about sixty days, traveled about 400 miles, besides going to and from the churches which I was attending as pastor. Preached seventy-two sermons to attentive congregations, baptised one and several others were converted. Numbers presented themselves as subjects of prayer, manifesting a desire to be saved.

J. H. R. CARDEN.

Arrangement of the Committee on Devotion.—(Appendix G.)

Introductory Sermon, by J. H. R. Carden. Preaching, Saturday evening, by I. L. Brasher, Saturday night, by J. G. Sayers; Sunday, Missionary Sermon, by W. W. Armstrong. Preaching, Sunday evening, J. H. R. Carden. Monday 12 o'clock, by C. W. O'Hara, Monday night, by James Grimes.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

TO SISTER ASSOCIATIONS: Receive this, our Letter, with our minutes and messengers, as a token of our regard for you and the expression of our desire to continue correspondence with you. Viewing ourselves as co-workers in the great cause of truth, as gentle, yet firm opposers of error, we wish to keep a close alliance. Our next session will be held with Six Mile Church, Bibb county, Ala., 11 miles southeast of Montevallo, on the Centerville road, commencing on Saturday before the 3rd Sabbath in September, 1875, at which time meet with us. May good bless you abundantly. Amen.

T. P. HOLCOMB, Moderator.

C. W. O'HARA, Clerk.

Ordained Ministers.

T. P. HOLCOMB, Columbiana, Ala.
 J. H. R. CARDEN, " "
 W. W. ARMSTRONG, Wilsonville, Ala.
 J. G. SAYERS, Columbiana, Ala.
 C. W. O'HARA, " "
 T. B. DISON, " "
 PETER SMITH, Montevallo, "

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	P. O.	DISEGATES NAMES		Total,	Minutes and	
			Obtained Ministers ¹ Absentees ²	Not represented.		Assessational	Purposes.
Cahaba Valley...	R. Wool.....	Montevallo.	Not represented.	58	4	1	2 00
Dogwood Grove...	T. B. Dison.....	"	J. Janens, ² N. J. Jarvis, J. Holsonback, ² P. Smith, 1, ²	103	16	4	2 00
Enon.....	J. M. Langston...	Centerville.	Stephen Johnson, J. W. Arnold, L. R. Russell ²	52	3	1	1 75
Montevallo.....	T. B. Dison.....	Montevallo.	Not represented.	51	.....	.....	.....
New Antioch.....	J. H. R. Carden.	"	Not represented.	68	.....	.....	.....
Six Mile.....	"	Day's Mill.	E. S. Edwards, ² W. V. Arnold, J. M. Park, ²	48	1	3	3 00
Union Bibb.....	"	"	Thorton Fancher, Colonel Fancher, Jas Fancher, ²	21	6	2	1 50
Bethesda.....	W. W. Armstrong	Wilsonville.	W. W. Armstrong, ¹ Thos. Stone, J. M. Taylor, ²	90	10	1	3 00
Bethel.....	J. H. R. Carden.	Columbia.	J. H. R. Carden, I. C. W. O'Hara, 1 W. C. Powell, ²	25	3	.....	2 00
Beaver Creek....	"	"	J. A. Gould, ² L. Q. Gould, ² H. B. Horton, ²	22	2	1	1 50
Columbiana.....	J. C. Wright.....	"	J. E. Ware, ² Wm. Davis, D. T. Castleberry, ²	14	.....	1	1 00
Evergreen.....	J. G. Sayers.....	"	J. G. Sayers, 1 Wm. Acker, ²	17	1	9	1 00
Hopewell.....	W. W. Armstrong	"	Wesley Armstrong, ² Geo. Elliott, ² Henry Freeze, ²	29	4	4	2 00
Liberty.....	T. P. Holcomb...	"	T. P. Holcomb, 1 W. C. Wilder, W. L. Gardner,	77	1	8	5 00
Mt. Calvary.....	"	"	B. Moore, Sr., ² N. Thomas, ² C. L. Mooncy ²	36	1	1	3 00
Salom.....	I. L. Brasler.....	"	J. W. Dodson, J. J. Miner, L. R. Kindrick, ²	19	3	1	1 25
Union Shelby ...	J. H. R. Carden.	Helena.....	L. J. Coats, ² B. L. Douglas, ² H. W. Bowers.....	34	1	4	2 00

NOTE.—The previous total of Churches not represented is given.



