



MINUTES  
OF THE  
**EIGHTH SESSION**  
OF THE  
ALACHUA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,  
HELD AT  
**NEW HOPE CHURCH,**  
MARION COUNTY, EAST FLORIDA,  
On the 21st & 23rd of October,  
1854.

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**OCALA, FLORIDA:**

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1854.

# MINUTES.

The Associational services were introduced by brother **Shepherd F. French**, who addressed the audience from 2nd Corinthians, 4th chap. and 17th verse; "For our light afflictions which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

And after refreshments the delegates convened in the house, and the Association was called to order, by Elder **William Royall**.

Letters were called for and read from the Churches, and names of delegates enrolled.

The Association was organized by electing Elder **Daniel Edwards**, Moderator, and **J. M. Hayman**, Clerk. Called for petitionary letters; whereupon Volusia Church, of Orange County, Midway Church, of Columbia county, Ameth Church of Columbia county. The Church at Tampa, of Hillsborough county, and the Church Pease Creek, and Tenotassassa, of Hillsborough county, presented their letters for admittance, and being found orthodox, they were received and the right hand of fellowship given to their delegates, by the Moderator.

The Moderator appointed a Committee on preaching—brethren **A. Gibson**, **W. B. Smith**, and **J. Curry**. Appointed a committee on finance brethren **S. T. Stanaland**, **R. P. Lewis**, and **J. H. Cosby**.

Called for correspondence, whereupon brother **W. H. Scruggs**, from the Florida Association, as one of their Messengers to this body, presented himself, unto whom the right hand of fellowship was extended by the Moderator.

The Moderator then appointed a committee on correspondence, brethren **J. H. Breaker**, **W. Royall** and **M. N. Strickland**.

Invited visiting brethren to seats with us.

The Moderator appointed a committee to examine the Circulars and other letters, brethren **S. French**, **W. D. Branch** and **A. Gibson**.

Called for and read the circular, which was referred to committee on letters. On motion adjourned till Monday morning half past 9 o'clock. Prayed by brother **Breaker**.

**SUNDAY.**—The stand was occupied in the forenoon by Elder **C. B. Jones**, who delivered quite an interesting discourse on the subject of Missions. After which a public collection was taken for the support of missions within the bounds of this association. And in the afternoon Elder **J. H. Breaker** interested the large and intelligent audience with an impressive discourse, and we hope will have good effect.

**MONDAY MORNING.**—Met pursuant to adjournment—prayer by brother

**Scruggs**—read and approved the minutes of Saturday. Then called the roll. Inasmuch as it was neglected on Saturday, went into the election of a Treasurer, which resulted in the choice of brother **A. Geiger**.

Appointed Elder **S. French** to write our next Circulars; Elder **M. N. Strickland**, his alternate.

Elder **D. Edwards** was appointed to preach the next Introductory Sermon, and Elder **C. B. Jones**, alternate.

Elder **Wm. Johnson** to preach our next Missionary Sermon, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon on Sabbath—Elder **J. H. Breaker**, his alternate.

Received from J. W. Jeffers two dollars for Missions, in this Association.  
On motion, the Moderator appointed an Executive Committee, consisting of brethren C. B. Jones, G. U. Ellis, W. D. Branch; and it being suggested, the Moderator was added, and to include the Treasurer, A. Geiger.

Called for Report of Committee on Letters—when the Circular was submitted, read, and adopted.

Called for Report of Committee on Constitution and By-Laws—which was read, and referred to a Committee for amendments, consisting of brothers Jones, Edgall and French.

The Committee on Letters recommended the consideration of the Queries sent up from Salem Church, viz: 1st. "Can we, as Baptists, consistently receive persons into our Churches without baptizing them, who have been immersed in Pedo-Baptist Churches?" 2nd. "Can we, consistently, as Baptists, invite to the Lord's Table, at communion services, members of Pedo-Baptist Churches, who have been immersed?"

To the first query this Association answers: We cannot recommend to receive into our Churches, members of Pedo-Baptist Churches, who have been immersed, without baptizing them. And to the second query, this Association answers NO!

Called for Report of Committee on Correspondence, which was read and adopted.

On motion the following named brethren were appointed as delegates to meet and co-operate with the brethren of the Florida Association, in forming a State Convention, viz: Elders Wm. Royall, D. Edwards, J. H. Breaker, Wm. Connell, J. M. Hayman, with brother Simeon Sheffield.

Called for Report of Committee on Constitution and By-Laws, who reported the same amended, which was adopted. See Appendix A & B.

Read and adopted order of business to be a standing rule to be observed by this Association. See Appendix B.

On motion, be it unanimously Resolved, That the Churches of this Association, and the members generally, be requested to discountenance every thing which may cause the enemies of God to speak reproachfully.

Called for Report of Committee of Finance. See Appendix C.

The Association then made choice of Elder C. B. Jones, as corresponding Secretary.

On motion, ordered one thousand copies of these Minutes printed.

Appointed a Union Meeting to be held with the New River Church, of Columbia county, to commence on Friday before the fifth Sabbath in December next. Also, one to be held with the Eden Church of Hernando at the same time.

Called for Report of Executive Committee, which was read and received, and all that requires to be noticed at present, is the appointment of the Missions within the bounds of this Association, which are as follows, namely: Elders S. T. Stanaland, to labor in the northern and eastern portion, J. M. Hayman, in the south, and W. Connell, in Levy county.

Inasmuch as brother J. A. Lewis has done very efficient service amongst the churches and brethren at home, unanimously resolved that he be tendered thirty-five dollars by the Executive Committee.

On motion agreed to pay the Clerk twenty dollars for his services as Clerk during this session.

On motion the Moderator returned thanks to the brethren and friends in this vicinity for their hospitality to us during this session.

On motion adjourned to meet with Pleasant Grove Church, of Alachua county, near Little Grange Lake, on Saturday before the fourth Sabbath in October, A. D. 1855. Prayer by Elder Jones.

DANIEL EDWARDE, Moderator.

J. M. HAYMAN, Clerk.

## Circular Letter.

DEAR BROTHERS.—The subject upon which we purpose addressing you at this time, is one of a nature eminently practical.

The proper religious training of youth should always claim the earnest attention of the Churches of Christ. And God has, in his infinite wisdom, seen fit to set apart one day in seven, for the celebration of his worship, and the improvement of the mind and heart in those doctrines taught in divine Revelation, and those graces therein set forth, as objects, the attainment of which is worthy of diligent study and earnest pursuit. In the arrangements of Providence and Grace, as in nature, nothing is accomplished without great labor. For while it is true, on the one hand, that grace and virtue may in a short period of time, adorn a character, hitherto untutored and unchristianized—as happens in the case of many pious heathen—it is on the other hand equally true, that stability in virtue, maturity in christian judgment, ripeness in christian grace, and preparation for extensive usefulness, are the results only of long and familiar acquaintance with, and early enlightenment in christian doctrine. Paul had the greater confidence in Timothy, when he called to remembrance the thorough religious training he had received, and the examples of faith in his mother and grandmother, which he had doubtless witnessed from the period of early childhood. Brilliant instances of piety and devotion to the cause of Christ, may be found, unconnected with a long course of previous religious instruction. These, however, are but apparently exceptions to the general rule. Such persons will perhaps be proved, when brought to the test, to be lacking symmetry, and devoid of some of the sublimest traits of christian character. In a word, in order to a consistent, well balanced, proportionately exercised and harmoniously developed faith, there must be a thorough, early training and instruction in divine truth. Let none flatter himself that he can, without imperiling the religious hopes and standing of his offspring, neglect to impart religious teaching to their youthful minds, on the Sabbath, and all other suitable occasions. Now the point at which we aim is to impress upon you the importance of the Sabbath School. And brethren of the Alachua Association, let us briefly bring to your attention the peculiar propriety of our cherishing this divine instrumentality.

First—The sparseness of our population renders it impossible for us to enjoy, except in a very limited degree, the labors of a regular ministry. Thirty Churches, feeble and languishing at best, scattered over a scope of country, such as in older States is often occupied by hundreds, afford not that field for ministerial labor, which offers inducement for a sufficient number of able ministers of the New Testament, as such, to locate in charge of them. Hence we are dependent upon such occasional ministrations as God in his abundant mercy sees fit to furnish us with. This state of things though lamentable, and forbidding the indulgence of the hope of great and immediate success, may still be relieved, if our membership could properly appreciate their individual responsibilities to God and their families. Although the preaching of the word is the great means of reforming the world, yet it is our happy privilege to inform you, that in its absence, there are others which to some extent may be substituted for it. God expects every man to do his duty in the warfare with Satan. And if every one among us was suitably impressed upon this point, measures would be taken for removing, as far as possible, the evils resulting from our destitution: and among the most prominent of these is the instrumentality of the Sabbath School.

Second: On account of the above, and the fact that our country is a new and inviting one, there is, even on the part of stable christians, a constant

Let but one energetic, devoted man of God in each Church, come out and take a decided stand upon this subject, and move forward, impelled by love to the cause of Christ, and desire to train up these young ones to take the place of those who are fast falling at our side—our fathers and brothers and the work is done. Discouragements must be expected; the frown of even the Brethren may rest upon us; but knowing, as we do, that the Church cannot without a struggle, allow these little ones to fall from the ranks of innocence, but needs them all to take our places when we are gone; let discouragements come, let frowns be cast on us; in this will we be confident, that because the work is of the Lord, power is on that is with us, then they who are against and we need apprehend no failure. Let us go forth Brethren in this noble cause, strong in the Lord and in the power of his might.

XIV. No person shall speak more than three times upon one subject without permission of the body. The constitution of this body be may altered or amended by the concurrence of two-thirds of its members.

**XVI** It shall be the first business of this Association to provide for the general union of Churches; second to provide for the destitution of the churches and districts, by Missionary aid; third, to keep up a correspondence with other Associations of like faith and order, that a chain of communications may be preserved among the churches; Fourthly to give the churches the best advice they can in matters of diffidity, and if communion should be broken between any of the sister churches to enquire into the cause, and use the best means to remove the difficulty. But if the breach cannot be healed, to withdrawn from such church or churches, as walk disorderly, until they may be reclaimed; and fifthly, to regulate all matters, pertaining to its business, provide for printing its Minutes, and appoint the time and place of its next meeting.

## By-Laws

1. The Officers of this body shall be a Moderator, Clerk, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.
2. The Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, and Corresponding Secretary, shall be chosen by ballot, at each session of the Association, and shall remain in office until their successors are elected.
3. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside over the meetings of the Association, and the duty of the Clerk to keep record of the proceedings, and prepare a minute for the press.
4. It shall be the duty of the Corresponding Secretary, to conduct the correspondence of the Association, and make a report of the same at each regular meeting of the body. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep all the funds of the Association, subject to the order of the Executive Committee.
5. There shall be an Executive Committee appointed at each meeting of this Association, of five brethren, whose duty it shall be to supervise and conduct all matter pertaining to this Association during the year.
6. Churches wishing to dissolve connection with this body, must submit their reasons during its session.
7. It shall be required of the Executive Committee to hold a meeting for business at each session of the Association, before its adjournment.

The Committee on Finance Rec'd of Association Fund	\$178.88
For Minutes	16.70
Collection of Sabbath	44.78
Yet on the Treasury Account	140.20
Treasurer paid out	45.90
Balance in Treasury	229.24
All of which is respectfully submitted	

R. P. LEWIS, Chairman

### Order of Business.

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Association called to order by Moderator.
3. Letters from the Churches called for, read, and names of delegates enrolled.
4. Election of Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary.
5. Petitionary Letters called for.
6. Letters of Correspondence called for.
7. Appointment of Committees.
8. Invitation to visiting brethren to seats.
9. Circular Letter called for.
10. Reports of Standing and other Committees.
11. Queries called up and considered.
12. Missionary business.
13. New business.
14. Miscellaneous business.
15. Corresponding Letter called for.
16. Adjourn.

# STATISTICAL TABLE.

Churches	Counties	Delegates Names	Pastors	Address	Members	Received by Letter	Restored	Dismissed	Expelled	Deceased	Ills	Colored	Total number of members	Time of meeting
1. Aida	Hillborough	M. Hayman	J. M. Hayman	Tampa	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1st
2. Astock	Columbia	J. K. Smith, S. Shadfield	K. Carleton	Philips	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	1st
3. Bethel	Deval	S. Farnce, R. G. Jacob	A. Parker	Deval	17	15	2	1	0	0	0	0	15	1st
4. Bethlehem	Hernando	By Letter		Deval	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1st
5. Bethesda	Hernando	A. Thomas, J. Gurry	A. Thomas	Port Dade	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1st
6. Bethel	Deval	Not Represented			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1st
7. Columbia	Columbia	Not Represented			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1st
8. Deep Creek	St. James	J. A. Lewis	R. G. W. Jones	Deval	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	2nd
9. Eden	Hernando	W. H. Metc, J. A. Hayman	W. H. Metc	Deval	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2nd
10. Edgewood	Martin	G. U. Ellis, M. Ramsey	W. D. Smith	Port Clark	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2nd
11. Port Clark	Alachua	W. D. Smith, S. T. Brown	W. D. Smith	Port Clark	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2nd
12. Indian Spring	Martin	W. D. Smith, S. T. Brown	W. D. Smith	Indian Spring	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2nd
13. Lake Bryant	Martin	J. H. Cook, J. L. Hartsden	W. D. Smith	do	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2nd
14. Money Grove	Alachua	J. H. Cook, J. L. Hartsden	W. D. Smith	do	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2nd
15. Missionary	Columbia	W. H. Metc, J. A. Hayman	W. H. Metc	do	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2nd
16. Midway	Columbia	W. H. Metc, J. A. Hayman	W. H. Metc	do	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2nd
17. New River	Alachua	W. H. Metc, J. A. Hayman	W. H. Metc	do	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2nd
18. New River	Alachua	W. H. Metc, J. A. Hayman	W. H. Metc	do	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2nd
19. K. Providence	Martin	D. Edwards, W. D. Brown	D. Edwards	Princeton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2nd
20. New Hope	Martin	A. Gibson, W. B. Smith	A. Gibson	Princeton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2nd
21. Oak	Martin	C. H. Jones, W. B. Smith	C. H. Jones	Princeton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2nd
22. Providence	Alachua	E. Tucker	E. Tucker	Princeton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2nd
23. Pond	Alachua	W. H. Metc, J. A. Hayman	W. H. Metc	Princeton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2nd
24. Pleasant Grove	Alachua	W. H. Metc, J. A. Hayman	W. H. Metc	Princeton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2nd
25. Prospect	Alachua	W. H. Metc, J. A. Hayman	W. H. Metc	Princeton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2nd
26. Salem	Alachua	W. H. Metc, J. A. Hayman	W. H. Metc	Princeton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2nd
27. South Front	Alachua	W. H. Metc, J. A. Hayman	W. H. Metc	Princeton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2nd
28. South Front	Alachua	W. H. Metc, J. A. Hayman	W. H. Metc	Princeton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2nd
29. South Front	Alachua	W. H. Metc, J. A. Hayman	W. H. Metc	Princeton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2nd
30. Tan pa	Alachua	W. H. Metc, J. A. Hayman	W. H. Metc	Princeton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2nd
31. Two of Asana	Alachua	W. H. Metc, J. A. Hayman	W. H. Metc	Princeton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2nd
32. Volusia	Alachua	W. H. Metc, J. A. Hayman	W. H. Metc	Princeton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2nd
33. Westbrook	Alachua	W. H. Metc, J. A. Hayman	W. H. Metc	Princeton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2nd

Note.—Ordained Minister names in small capitals.—Licentiate in italics.

PRINTERS RECEIPT.—Received of J. M. HAYMAN, twenty-five dollars for the printing of these Minutes,  
Wm. H. ROYAL, Ed. So. Sun—Ocala.