

MINUTES  
OF THE  
**THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION**  
OF THE  
**Alachua Baptist Association,**

HELD WITH  
**UNION LEVEL CHURCH, MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA,**

**Oct. 24th, 25th, and 26th, 1885.**

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STETSON LIBRARY

**Officers :**

ELDER W. B. HARE, Moderator, Sumterville, Florida.  
BRO. E. H. RENNOLDS, Clerk, Orange Home, Florida.  
BRO. W. R. MATTHEWS, Treasurer, Leesburg, Florida.

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DE LAND, FLA.  
PRESS OF A. P. ASHURST.  
1885.

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### ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Read Letters from the Churches.
3. Elect Officers.
4. Petitionary Letters.
5. Invite Visiting Brethren to Seats.
6. Letters of Correspondence.
7. Appointment of Special Committees.
8. Reports of Standing Committees.
9. Treasurer's Report.
10. Appointment of Standing Committees.
11. Reports of Special Committees.
12. Fix Time and Place of Next Meeting.
13. Miscellaneous Business.
14. Read and Correct Minutes.
15. Adjournment.

# MINUTES.

UNION LEVEL CHURCH, Oct. 24th, 1885.

The Alachua Baptist Association met as above at 11:30 A. M.

Prayer was offered by Elder A. E. Cloud, of Jonesboro, Ga.

The introductory sermon was delivered by Elder W. J. Hughes; text, Matt. xxi. 28: "Son, go work to-day in my vineyard."

Adjourned one hour for refreshments.

Prayer by Elder Joshua Perry.

## AFTERNOON SESSION.

Reassembled at 2:30 o'clock P. M.

Prayer by Elder H. H. Sturgis.

In the absence of the former Moderator, the association was called to order by E. H. Rennolds, former Clerk.

On motion of Bro. P. L. Durisoe, Elder W. B. Hare, of Sumterville Church, was called to act as Moderator pro tem.

The pastor and officers of Union Level Church, together with Bros. W. J. Hughes and P. L. Durisoe, were appointed a committee on divine service.

The letters from the churches were read by Elders A. E. Cloud and Frank DeCourcy, and the messengers' names enrolled as follows:

### LIST OF MESSENGERS.

Brooksville—Elder H. H. Sturgis, J. B. Law.

Center Hill—S. D. Futch.

Cool Spring—Not represented.

Crystal River—H. D. Edwards, W. B. Edwards.

Eden—J. B. Higginbottom, J. B. Jackson.

Equity—Elder W. R. Coggins.

Harmony—By letter.

Lake Kerr—Not represented.

Lake Weir—W. H. Fields.

Lecanto—Elder George Frederick.

Leesburg—J. H. Richards, F. M. Chiles, W. R. Matthews.

Midway—E. H. Rennolds.

Ocklawaha Bridge—Elder W. J. Hughes, P. L. Durisoe.

Pleasant Plains—Not represented.

Pine Level—S. K. Revels, J. T. Perry, J. C. Stapp, A. J. Perry, W. S. Grimes.

Sardis—Elder Joshua Perry, C. B. Perry.

Shady Grove—James Priest, G. T. L. Watson.

Sumterville—Elders W. B. Hare and Frank DeCourcy.

Wildwood—G. W. Huntsman.

The permanent organization was then effected by the election of Elder W. B. Hare as Moderator, and the re-election of E. H. Rennolds as Clerk, by acclamation, under a suspension of the rules.

After a few very appropriate remarks by the Moderator, the association proceeded with its business.

In accordance with a resolution adopted at the last session of the association, the Clerk reported that the following named churches had joined Marion Association, and they were accordingly dropped from the roll, to-wit: Cedar Keys, Citra, Ebenezer, Fellowship, Fort McCoy, Hickory Spring, Ocala, Ockwilla, Orange Creek, Simmons', Stafford's Pond, and Wacahoota.

Oak Grove, Palatlahaha, and Unity were reported as dissolved, and were also dropped.

The newly organized churches of Lecanto, Center Hill, Shady Grove, and Sardis were received, and the right hand of fellowship extended by the Moderator to their messengers.

Visiting brethren were invited to seats with the association. Elder A. E. Cloud, of Flint River Association, Georgia, accepted.

Bro. H. H. Hudgens was received as a corresponding messenger from Marion Association.

On motion of E. H. Rennolds, the rules were amended so as to allow each church two messengers, and an additional one for each twenty-five members, or fractional part thereof, in excess of fifty.

The Moderator announced the following committees:

- ✓ Sunday-schools—S. D. Futch, J. T. Perry, L. L. Aiken.
- ✓ Finance—P. L. Durisoe, J. H. Richards, W. R. Matthews.
- ✓ Missions—H. H. Sturgis, F. M. Chiles, G. W. Huntsman.
- ✓ Letters and Queries—W. J. Hughes, H. G. Edwards, J. J. Brown.
- ✓ Periodicals—J. B. Law, W. H. Fields, J. B. Jackson.
- ✓ Temperance—Frank DeCourcy, S. K. Revels, W. R. Coggins.
- ✓ Deceased Ministers and Deacons—Joshua Perry, W. B. Edwards, J. B. Higginbottom.
- ✓ Woman's Work—W. J. Hughes, W. S. Grimes, J. C. Stapp.
- ✓ To Redistrict the Association—E. H. Rennolds, J. H. Richards, W. J. Hughes.

The Committee on Divine Service reported as follows:

To-night, Elder H. H. Sturgis to preach in the church, and Elder Joshua Perry at Blue Spring schoolhouse.

Sabbath morning, at 10 o'clock, Sunday-school services, conducted by Brethren E. H. Rennolds and P. L. Durisoe; 11 a. m., missionary sermon by Elder A. E. Cloud; 2 p. m., Elder Frank DeCourcy; Sunday night, Elder W. J. Hughes, sermon on temperance; at Blue Spring schoolhouse, Elder H. H. Sturgis.

On motion of Bro. P. L. Durisoe, adjourned till 9 a. m., Monday.

Prayer by Elder W. J. Hughes.

#### SABBATH.

At 10:30 a. m. the Sunday-school services were opened by Bro. E. H. Rennolds, and an address was delivered by Elder Frank DeCourcy.

At 11 a. m. the missionary sermon was delivered by Elder A. E. Cloud, of Jonesboro, Ga.; text, Daniel ii. 44: "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever."

At 2 p. m. Elder J. W. McNamara preached; text, Matt. xii. 31, 32.

## MONDAY.

The association assembled at 9 A. M.

Prayer by Elder A. E. Cloud.

The minutes of Saturday's proceedings were read, corrected, and adopted.

Bros. F. DeCourcy, W. B. Edwards, and J. J. Brown were appointed a Committee on Ministerial Education.

Bro. J. J. Brown read the report on deceased ministers and deacons, as follows:

## DECEASED MINISTERS AND DEACONS.

We, your committee, beg leave to report that we find by the letters from the churches and direct information that God has been pleased to call from the labors of earth to the rest of Heaven, during the associational year, the following brethren, viz.:

Elder William Johnson, the former Moderator of this association, whose labors in the harvest-field God crowned with abundant success. He leaves many friends and relations to mourn his loss, but we trust their loss is his eternal gain, and we extend them our deep sympathy.

Also, Deacons J. H. Chiles, of Leesburg, and Isaiah Fort, of Harmony Church. We extend to the sister churches our deep sympathy, and trust that they may find that their loss is for God's glory and the eternal gain of the deceased.

We recommend that a blank page be left in our minutes with the name and a suitable epitaph to their memory, and the ages of deceased, if procurable.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSHUA PERRY,

J. B. HIGGINBOTTOM, } Committee.

W. B. EDWARDS,

Pending the motion to adopt, remarks were made by Bros. Joshua Perry, E. H. Rennolds, and W. B. Hare (E. H. Rennolds in the chair), and adopted.

Bro. F. DeCourcy read the report on

## TEMPERANCE.

The evil of intemperance needs but to be seen to be abhorred, and the fact meets us that with immigration to our sunny land this evil increases. None are shielded from its effects—least of all innocent women and children—so that no Christian can look on with indifference. Human agencies have failed to check the body and soul-destroying evil. The church is the God-appointed means to teach and practice temperance, and every member, under the leadership of his pastor, is in duty bound to advocate temperance. And special care should be given to the young men by promoting prayer and social meetings among them under the direction of Christians, so as to shield our next generation from intemperance. By such means we can effectually aid legislative prohibition; for no law can be enforced until a majority favors its execution. We would recommend that each Christian pray and work for the prevention of this evil, as if his child was in danger. And while all Christian graces in the golden chain should be brightened and strengthened, temperance by precept and example should be made the brightest.

We would again recommend that our churches promptly exclude any member that should persistently contradict his profession by signing a whisky petition.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANK DeCOURCY, }  
W. R. COGGINS, } Committee.  
S. K. REVELS, }

The report was discussed by Bros. F. DeCourcy, E. H. Rennolds, W. J. Hughes, J. W. McNamara, H. H. Sturgis, W. B. Hare (E. H. Rennolds in the chair), and A. E. Cloud, and then adopted.

Bro. H. H. Sturgis read the following report on

#### MISSIONS.

The great work of the church of Christ on earth is to disseminate the glorious light of the gospel of Christ until the whole earth shall be illuminated. Our state mission work is one of transcendent importance, in that new fields of labor are being constantly opened by the rapid influx of population into hitherto sparsely settled communities where towns and villages are springing up as if by magic. These places have claims upon us that we must meet.

Our Home Mission Board of Atlanta, Ga., has claims not only upon our gratitude for their liberal aid in our state work, but also upon our liberality to aid them in supplying the destitution upon our western borders and among the Indians whose lands we now own, and who, having been driven from their hunting-grounds, call upon us to give them the gospel of salvation.

The Foreign Mission Board also have claims upon us which call for our aid, and especially does Cuba, priest-ridden as she is, call for us to hold up to her people the light of the gospel.

We recommend that this association endeavor to sustain a missionary colporteur to disseminate denominational literature throughout the bounds of the association.

Respectfully submitted,

H. H. STURGIS, }  
F. M. CHILES, } Committee.  
G. W. HUNTSMAN, }

The discussion of this report was participated in by Bros. Joshua Perry, Frank DeCourcy, W. J. Hughes, and J. B. Haralson, and adopted.

Bro. E. H. Rennolds offered the following preamble and resolution:

Whereas, We have a large field of destitution within our bounds, which cannot well be reached and worked by the State Board, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Executive Committee be instructed to secure the services of one or more missionaries to travel and preach at places destitute of Baptist preaching, and that the money sent to the association for missionary purposes, not specially designated for other missions, and also the collection for missions on Sabbath, be appropriated as a nucleus for that purpose; and that the pastors and messengers be requested to take up special collections for the support of Associational Missions, and at the same time urge that Foreign, Home, and State Missions should not only receive the support heretofore given them, but that the contributions therefor should be increased to meet increased demands, and that church Treasurers be requested to send all moneys not specially donated for other objects to the Associational Treasurer for Associational Missions, and that the same be reported through the State Board of Missions.

The resolution was adopted.

Bro. W. J. Hughes moved that we proceed to take pledges for Associational missions, with the following result:

W. B. Hare.....	\$ 5.00	J. T. Perry.....	\$ 5.00
W. J. Hughes.....	10.00	P. L. Durisoe.....	10.00
E. H. Rennolds.....	5.00	W. R. Matthews.....	5.00
H. H. Sturgis.....	5.00	J. B. Higginbottom.....	5.00
G. W. Huntsman.....	5.00	Sister Durisoe.....	1.00
W. H. Polk.....	5.00	Miss Willie Barksdale.....	1.00
S. K. Revels.....	5.00	W. H. Fields.....	1.00
W. S. Grimes.....	5.00	Joshua Perry.....	5.00
S. D. Futch.....	5.00	J. C. Priest.....	5.00
W. R. Coggins.....	5.00	W. B. Edwards.....	5.00
L. L. Aiken.....	5.00	G. T. L. Watson.....	1.00
J. B. Haralson.....	5.00	J. S. Perry, Jr.....	2.00
J. B. Law.....	5.00	C. B. Perry.....	2.50
F. M. Chiles.....	5.00		
H. D. Edwards.....	5.00	Total.....	\$138.50
J. H. Richards.....	10.00		

A motion prevailed that we engage in special prayer for a blessing on the work, which was led by Elder A. E. Cloud.

Adjourned one hour for refreshments.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

Reassembled at 1:15 p. m.

Prayer by the Moderator.

Bro. J. B. Law read the following report on

##### PERIODICALS.

While we believe that the teachings of the Bible, strictly followed, are all that is necessary for our salvation, yet we believe it is necessary for our development in the Christian life that we read the literature of our denomination, which aids us to more fully understand the truths of the Scriptures. We therefore commend to the members of our churches, first, The Florida Baptist Witness, as being worthy the patronage of every Baptist family in the state; secondly, The Christian Index of Georgia, which is a treasury of knowledge within itself. We also recommend The Foreign Mission Journal, from which we can gather a store of information in regard to our missions in foreign lands. We recommend to our sisters The Heathen Helper, published monthly at Louisville, Ky., and specially devoted to woman's work. We also advise all our Sunday-schools to use especially Kind Words and Kind Words Catechisms, and also the publications of the American Baptist Publication Society. We note with pleasure the great improvement in The Florida Baptist Witness since our last associational meeting, and since its removal to DeLand.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. B. LAW, }  
W. H. FIELDS, } Committee.  
J. B. JACKSON, }

Adopted without discussion.

✓ Bro. J. J. Brown read the following report on

##### LETTERS AND QUERIES.

✓ We notice with pleasure that the general information and the statistics contained in the letters are much more concise and valuable than those of

last year, which is mostly no doubt attributable to the letter-blanks which Bro. Chaudoin has distributed. We notice that four new churches have been organized during the year, the voluntary efforts of our own ministers tending to this end. There are twelve churches that report Sunday schools, to-wit: Brooksville, Crystal River, Sardis, Eden, Harmony Lake Weir, Midway, Ocklawaha Bridge, Pine Level, Sumterville, Union Level, and Center Hill, leaving only seven churches without Sunday-schools, while some of these report their children in union schools, and Crystal River and Ocklawaha Bridge report that they are assisting neighborhood schools.

We notice that only seven churches have prayer-meetings, viz., Ocklawaha Bridge, Brooksville, Pine Level, Sardis, Sumterville, Union Level, and Center Hill. We exhort our brethren to be more diligent in this matter, and not to forsake the assembling of themselves together.

Only six churches report Ladies' Mission Societies, to-wit: Brooksville, Midway, Sumterville, Ocklawaha Bridge, Pine Level, and Wildwood; and only six report Children's Mission Bands, viz., Harmony, Midway, Brooksville, Ocklawaha Bridge, Sumterville, and Wildwood. Knowing how effective these societies and bands are in fostering the missionary spirit, we would urge our brethren to organize them in all our churches.

Five churches report having built new houses of worship during the year, viz., Harmony, Ocklawaha Bridge, Lake Weir, Union Level, and Sardis, and three—Crystal River, Equity, and Wildwood—report that they are without houses of worship.

Only two churches—Brooksville and Midway—report special revivals, but several write that they are in a healthy, growing condition. Some, however, represent themselves as being in a cold or lukewarm condition, and ask the prayers of their sister churches, and we recommend that upon the adoption of this report special prayer be made for them.

We notice that five churches report preaching twice each month, viz., Leesburg, Brooksville, Sumterville, Lake Weir, and Pine Level.

Upon the whole, we would say that we are upon gaining ground, and that there is good cause for thankfulness to the great Head of the Church, and also urge that there be no diminution of effort in the future, but rather a renewed effort for a forward movement.

Only two churches request that this body meet with them at its next session, and we recommend that it meet with the Pine Level Church, in Sumter County.

Respectfully-submitted,

W. J. HUGHES,	} Committee.
H. G. EDWARDS,	
J. J. BROWN,	

The report was adopted.

Bro. S. D. Futch read the following report on

#### SUNDAY-SCHOOLS.

We do not feel that it is necessary to argue the importance of Sunday-schools before this association. It would seem to us that this is manifest to all missionary Baptists. Nor does it appear necessary to argue the benefit of a good Sunday-school to those who are engaged in this good work, or to the community or church in which such a blessed means of good is fostered. Surely, if it is the duty of all to study God's Word, it is our duty to use all helps in studying the same. We cannot give the exact figures, and must refer the association to the statistics—as compiled from the letters, and to be published in our minutes; yet your committee are

happy to believe and report more Sunday-schools within our bounds in proportion to the number of our churches than ever before. We are also gratified to report that there is a manifest improvement in making our Sunday-schools better in organization and more attractive and efficient. Let the good work go on until we shall report a Sunday-school in every church, and every member of the church and congregation in the Sunday-school. We take pleasure in recommending the use of Kind Words Catechisms and the publications of the American Baptist Publication Society. We also recommend the calling of Sunday-school conventions in each district of this association. Respectfully submitted,

S. D. FUTCH,  
L. L. AIKEN,  
J. S. PERRY, JR., } Committee.

Pending a motion to adopt, remarks were made by Bros. L. L. Aiken, J. B. Law, and H. D. Edwards, and adopted.

Bro. W. J. Hughes read the report on

#### WOMAN'S WORK.

It would be somewhat difficult to overestimate the influence of woman's work, and it is one that should not only commend itself to, but be dear to the heart of every true believer. Our sisters have but one object in view, viz., the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom in the world. Nor is there any desire on their part to go beyond woman's sphere as marked out in the Scriptures, but in this mission—as in every other—simply to fulfill the object of their creation, to be man's helpmeet. There has been some prejudice against this work, but the following facts should divest every mind of all opposition, and bring every lover of Christ to its support. This work specially commends itself to the poor, as the basis of contribution is small, being from five to ten cents per month. While this seems but a small amount—so much so that many say that if they cannot do more than that they will not give at all. But the aggregate of small sums make up a great total. We are all aware that there are many difficulties in the progress of this work in our country churches. The same can be said of every good work. But if we love an object we are willing to make sacrifices for it—yea, to study ways and means by which these obstacles may be overcome.

We would earnestly recommend this work to the pastors and sisters of the several churches composing the Alachua Association, and urge that a society be organized in every church. We would further recommend our sisters to send 50 cents each to Sister N. A. Bailey, of Micanopy, Fla., and secure a copy of The Heathen Helper, published in the interest of woman's work. Finally, we would say that this is surely one of God's instrumentalities for the evangelization of the world, and "I entreat thee also, true yoke-fellow, help those women which labored with me in the gospel."—Phil. iv. 8.

Respectfully submitted,

W. J. HUGHES,  
W. S. GRIMES,  
J. C. STAPP, } Committee.

✓ Remarks were made by Bro. W. J. Hughes, and the report was adopted. Bro. J. H. Richards read the following:

# REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

CHURCHES.	CASH SENT TO ASSOCIATION.						CASH RECEIVED BY STATE BOARD DURING YEAR.					
	General Pur- poses.	Associational Missions.	State Missions.	Home Mis- sions.	Foreign Mis- sions.	Total.	State Missions.	Church Build- ing Fund.	Home Mis- sions.	Foreign Mis- sions.	Ministerial Education.	Total.
Brooksville.....	\$5 00					\$5 00	\$19 75			\$10 00	\$1 00	\$30 75
Cool Spring.....												
Crystal River.....	2 00				\$9 00	11 00						
Center Hill.....	2 00		\$5 50			7 50						
Eden.....	2 50				3 00	5 50	13 95					18 95
Equity.....	5 30					5 30	4 50				5 00	4 50
Harmony.....	2 25					2 25	3 50					5 60
Lake Kerr.....										2 10		
Lake Weir.....	2 00					2 00	38 15					71 15
Leesburg.....	2 00		7 25			9 25	2 65	\$1 00		33 00		3 65
Lecanto.....	1 30				2 20	3 50						
Midway.....	2 65	\$5 85				8 50	8 25			5 00		13 25
New Hope.....												
Oak Grove.....												
Ocklawaha Bridge.....	8 50					8 50	10 50		\$8 20	10 00		10 00
Palatka.....							4 18			18 35	4 83	41 88
Pleasant Plains.....										1 10		5 28
Pine Level.....	14 05					14 05	2 75		1 80	1 70		6 25
Sumterville.....	2 00					2 00	29 81	15 00	3 95	4 85	6 90	69 51
Shady Grove.....	1 50					1 50						
Sardis.....	2 75					2 75						
Union Level.....	2 15					2 15						
Wildwood.....	1 50					1 50	1 00					1 00
Collected by Elder H. H. Sturgis.....							50 00					50 00
Unknown (for Cuba).....										1 00		1 00
Total.....	\$59 45	\$5 85	\$12 75		\$14 20	\$92 25	\$188 99	\$16 00	\$13 95	\$87 10	\$17 73	\$323 77

Bro. Frank DeCourcy read the following report on

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

We all realize that there is an urgent need for an educated ministry. The time is past when the minister stood as an oracle before the people. An abundance of reading matter is placed within the easy reach of every reader, and the minister is expected and in duty bound to keep abreast with the times. Our laity is being educated, and an educated laity demands an educated ministry. The minister who cannot meet the demands will find his congregation slipping from his grasp, and especially young people will seek other meetings of amusement and vice, and their influence will be lost to our churches, and they themselves endanger their eternal welfare, and we cannot hold ourselves blameless. Therefore we recommend that this association try to sustain at least one young minister at college during this collegiate year. Several of our Florida boys have left their homes and have gone to prepare for the Master's service, that they may prove themselves workmen that need not be ashamed. Shall we help these noble young men? our dear cause? the name of Christ?

Respectfully submitted,

FRANK DECOURCY, }  
W. B. EDWARDS, } Committee.  
J. J. BROWN, }

A motion to adopt elicited remarks from Bros. Frank DeCourcy, W. J. Hughes, W. B. Hare (E. H. Rennolds in the chair), and H. H. Sturgis, and a collection amounting to \$12 was taken to assist Bro. W. T. Henderson at Mercer University. The report was adopted.

Bro. E. H. Rennolds read the report of the

REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE.

We recommend that the association be divided into four districts, as follows:

First District—To be composed of all the churches situated east of the F. R. & N. R. R., and north of Township 19, including Lake Kerr, Pleasant Plains, Ocklawaha Bridge, Harmony, Lake Weir, and Equity Churches.

Second District—To be composed of all the churches along the line of the F. R. & N. R. R. and west of that railroad, and north of the Withlacoochee River, including the churches of New Hope, Sardis, Pine Level, Wildwood, and Union Level.

Third District—To be composed of all the churches in Hernando County, including those of Crystal River, Lecanto, Shady Grove, Eden, and Brooksville.

Fourth District—To be composed of the churches south of Township 18 and east of the F. R. & N. R. R., and including those of Leesburg, Midway, Center Hill, Sumterville, and Cool Spring.

Respectfully submitted,

E. H. RENNOLDS, }  
J. H. RICHARDS, } Committee.  
W. J. HUGHES, }

The report was adopted without discussion.

Bro. L. L. Aiken moved that a committee of one from each district be appointed to work in the Sunday-school interest. The Moderator appointed Bros. P. L. Durisoe, L. L. Aiken, J. B. Law, and F. M. Chiles.

Bro. Joshua Perry moved that the thanks of this body be tendered to the Union Level Church and community for the hospitable entertainment en-

joyed during the present session, and also that a thank-offering in the way of a collection be given to assist the church in completing its house of worship. The motion prevailed, and a collection of \$10 was taken up.

Bro. W. J. Hughes moved that the clerk be paid \$15 for preparing the minutes, and be instructed to have the minutes printed and distributed.

The following named brethren were appointed the Executive Committee for the ensuing year: Frank DeCourcy (chairman), P. L. Durisoe, Dr. E. C. Hood, J. T. Perry, E. H. Rennolds, and W. R. Matthews (treasurer).

On motion, the Clerk was instructed to insert the constitution and rules of decorum in the minutes this year.

Elder W. B. Hare was appointed to preach the introductory sermon before the next session, with Elder J. B. Haralson, alternate; and Elder Frank DeCourcy was appointed to preach the missionary sermon, with Elder J. H. Curry, alternate.

Delegates to the state convention to meet in Jacksonville, November 11, 1885: Elders H. H. Sturgis, J. B. Haralson, W. R. Coggins, W. J. Hughes, and Bros. Dr. E. C. Hood, E. H. Rennolds, L. L. Aiken, J. B. Higginbottom, F. M. Chiles, and S. D. Futch.

On motion of Elder Joshua Perry, it was resolved that any member of this association bearing a copy of our minutes be requested to act as messenger to any of our corresponding associations.

The following preamble and resolutions were read by Bro. Frank DeCourcy:

Whereas, Bro. J. W. McNamara did preach yesterday, in the hearing of this body, doctrines contrary to and condemning the articles of faith as held by this association and Baptists generally; therefore be it

Resolved, That we, as the Alachua Association, declare non-fellowship for Bro. McNamara as a Baptist minister.

Resolved, That we recommend Equity Church (of which Bro. McNamara is a member), at its next conference, to withdraw his credentials, thus declaring him no longer a Baptist minister.

Resolved, That should Equity Church fail to comply with the above recommendation, be it known to the Baptists of this and other states that we declare non-fellowship for that church.

Resolved, That Bro. W. R. Coggins be requested to secure a copy of these resolutions from the Clerk, and present it to his church (Equity) at its next conference.

Resolved, That the Clerk be requested to forward a copy of these resolutions to The Florida Baptist Witness for publication.

Bro. W. J. Hughes moved the adoption of the resolutions, pending which they were discussed by Bros. J. W. McNamara, W. R. Coggins, P. L. Durisoe, W. J. Hughes, H. H. Sturgis, and W. B. Hare (E. H. Rennolds in the chair). The resolutions were adopted.

Read, corrected, and approved the minutes of to-day's proceedings.

Bro. Joshua Perry moved that we adjourn to meet at Pine Level Church, near Oxford, Marion County, Florida, on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in October, 1886. The motion prevailed, and, while singing "Blest be the tie that binds," the parting hand was given to each other by the gathered brotherhood.

Prayer by the Moderator.

(Signed,)

W. B. HARE, Moderator.

E. H. RENNOLDS, Clerk.

# MINISTERS' POST-OFFICES.

A. E. Cloud.....	Lady Lake.
W. B. Carson. ....	Candler.
W. R. Coggins.....	Stanton.
J. H. Curry.....	Lady Lake.
George Frederick.....	Mansfield.
A. B. Goodwin.....	Leesburg.
W. J. Hughes.....	Grahamville.
W. B. Hare.....	Sumterville.
W. H. House.....	Lady Lake.
J. B. Haralson.....	Crystal River.
J. P. Parker.....	Moss Bluff.
Joshua Perry.....	Oxford.
A. W. Peck.....	Sligh.
H. H. Sturgis.....	Brooksville.
J. P. Smith.....	Wildwood.

## LICENTIATE.

W. T. Henderson.....	Macon, Ga.
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1985

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STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE ALACHUA ASSOCIATION.

No.	CHURCHES.	COUNTY.	INCREASE.			DECREASE.			Total.	PASTOR.	CLERK.	CLERK'S POST-OFFICE.	Officers and Teachers.	Pupils.	SUPERINTENDENT.
			By Baptism.	By Letter.	By Restoration.	By Letter.	By Exclusion.	By Death.							
1	Brooksville.	Hernando.	19	7		2		1	64	F. DeCourcy.	J. C. Law.	Brooksville.	15	88	W. S. Jordan, J. B. Law.
2	Center Hill.	Sumter.							10	F. DeCourcy.	T. W. Spicer.	Center Hill.	3	25	T. W. Spicer.
3	Cool Spring.	Sumter.							18	W. B. Hare.	A. M. Cason.	Sumterville.			
4	Crystal River.	Hernando.	1	1	1	9		3	51	J. B. Haralson.	W. B. Edwards.	Crystal River.	5	20	E. M. C. Duncan.
5	Eden.	Hernando.	6	14	2	13	2		67	H. H. Sturgis.	J. M. Hedick.	Add.	4	20	J. N. Hedick.
6	Equity.	Sumter.		4		3		1	19	J. P. Smith.	W. P. Ebbs.	Lady Lake.			
7	Harmony.	Marion.	1	2		2	1		44	W. J. Hughes.	W. E. Martin.	Moss Bluff.			
8	Lake Kerr.	Marion.							27		W. P. Williamson.	Norwalk.			
9	Lake Weir.	Marion.	4	5	5	2		1	32	J. H. Curry.	Alfred Ayer.	N. Lake Weir.	7	40	C. F. Benson.
10	Lecanto.	Hernando.	1	9					18	Geo. Frederick.	Joseph Rice.	Lecanto.			
11	Leesburg.	Sumter.		7		7	1	4	52	G. J. Johnson.	J. H. Richards.	Leesburg.			
12	Midway.	Sumter.	11	7			2	1	37	W. J. Hughes.	E. H. Rennolds.	Orange Home.	4	45	E. H. Rennolds.
13	New Hope.	Marion.							41	W. B. Carson.	P. W. Whiteside.	Ocala.			
14	Ocklawaha Bridge.	Marion.	3	4	3	2			78	W. J. Hughes.	C. T. Henderson.	Grahamville.			
15	Pleasant Plain.	Marion.							30		J. H. Parramore.	Grahamville.			
16	Pine Level.	Sumter.	10	11	1	8	2	3	114	J. H. Curry.	J. C. Stapp.	Oxford.	8	60	O. S. Bogue.
17	Sardis.	Marion.	8	23					48	Joshua Perry.	K. B. Perry.	Oxford.			
18	Shady Grove.	Hernando.		1					17	Geo. Frederick.	James Priest.	Stage Pond.			
19	Sumterville.	Sumter.	2	8		2	1		26	F. DeCourcy.	T. W. Graham.	Sumterville.	6	61	A. H. Helvenston.
20	Union Level.	Marion.		3		1	3		52	J. B. Haralson.	J. J. Brown.	Heidtville.	3	35	S. W. Bayzer, L. L. Aiken.
21	Wildwood.	Sumter.	1	11	1				26	J. P. Smith.	G. W. Huntsman.	Wildwood.			
Total.			67	117	13	51	12	14	871				55	394	

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**In Memoriam.**

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ELDER WILLIAM JOHNSON,  
*Our Former Moderator.*

DEACON JAMES H. CHILES,  
*Of Leesburg Church.*

DEACON ISALAH FORT,  
*Of Harmony Church.*

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## SKETCH OF REV. WILLIAM JOHNSON.

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Rev. William Johnson was born in Barnwell District, South Carolina, January 9, 1803. His father died before his birth, and his mother died when he was 17 years of age, at which time he was bound apprentice to a trade in Augusta, Ga. Here he remained until nearly 21 years of age, when he had the first disagreement with his master, left him, and went back to the country. In 1823 he went to school a few months, which was nearly all the education he ever received.

Poor, young, and unlearned, he married, February 26, 1824, Miss Permelia Hamilton. The fruit of this marriage was twelve children, six of whom are living, and all of them worthy members of society. By his good management and industry, he accumulated a good estate. He removed to Florida in 1858. During the late war, he lost his wife, and married Mrs. Susan Edmonds, who lived but a short time. He married for his third wife Miss Georgiana Tyson, who survives him, with three (or four) children.

Elder Johnson was converted in 1829, and was baptized by Rev. Prescot Bush, and united with Darien Church, Barnwell District, but soon after united with Philippi Church, and was active in the constitution of Edisto Association. In 1835 he was ordained by William B. Johnson, D. D., Peter Galloway, John Landrum, and Joseph Morris. He was from that time active in the ministry till his removal to Florida, and was Moderator of the Edisto Association.

Removing to Florida, he at once took a high stand in the Santa Fe River and Alachua Associations, and was partly instrumental in forming the latter, and was its Moderator up to two years prior to his death, when too feeble to attend. He was instrumental in building up some churches, and was pastor at Pleasant Grove, Wacahoota, Micanopy, Eliam, Paran, Providence, and Ockwilla.

As a preacher, he was earnest, experimental, firmly fixed in his convictions, inclined to be controversial, but not strictly a sermonizer. Like many ministers of his day and the present day, he failed to teach regularly that part of the gospel that requires ministers to be supported, and hence his labors were poorly paid for. He traveled 3,000 miles one year, and received \$20 only. He loved the "doctrine of grace," and was often heard to say, "I was created by the power of God, have been preserved by his goodness, guided by his providence, and saved by his grace."

# Constitution of the Alachua Baptist Association.

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ARTICLE 1. This body shall be denominated the Alachua Baptist Association.

ART. 2. It shall be composed of such churches as hold the doctrine of human depravity, the atonement of Christ, election to eternal life, regeneration and perseverance of the saints, baptism by immersion of the person in water, administered to none but professed believers, and the Lord's Supper intended for those only who have been regularly admitted into the visible church.

ART. 3. We take the only living and true God, in three Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to be one God.

ART. 4. We take the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the only rule of faith and practice, both in the concerns of religion and the general affairs of life, and particularly for transacting the affairs of our churches.

ART. 5. We take the church of Christ to be a congregation of faithful persons, who live in fellowship, and have given themselves to the Lord and to one another in cordial agreement to observe holy discipline, in conformity with the requirements of the Scriptures.

ART. 6. We take Jesus Christ to be the Great Head of the Church, and the only one given; that the government under him is with the body, and is the privilege of each individual member; that spiritual discipline, with an eye single to the glory of God, must greatly conduce to the final prosperity and union of the churches.

ART. 7. In view of the increase of fraternal love, knowledge, usefulness, and efficiency which must accrue from an association of churches, in cordial union upon the principles of the Gospel, we have sought to be thus united, that by individual and collective action we may best subserve the great objects of the Redeemer's kingdom. And the concurrence of two-thirds will dissolve the connection.

ART. 8. This association shall have power to withdraw its connection from any church which shall act contrary to the teachings of the Holy Scripture.

ART. 9. New churches wishing to be admitted into this body shall petition by letters and messengers, and upon examination, if found orthodox and orderly, shall be admitted by receiving the right hand of fellowship of the Moderator.

ART. 10. No church shall have a right to more than two delegates unless she shall exceed one hundred in membership, and then she shall be entitled to one additional delegate for every fifty after the first hundred.

ART. 11. Every query sent to the association by any church in its union shall be read and put to vote by the Moderator, whether it shall be debated, and if there shall be a majority in favor it shall be taken up and debated, but if not it shall be withdrawn; provided, always, that those be first considered which affect the union of the churches.

ART. 12. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the observation of the association, unless withdrawn by the mover.

ART. 13. Every member who speaks shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator, and shall not be interrupted while he is speaking unless he depart from the subject.

ART. 14. No person shall speak more than three times upon one subject without permission of the body. The constitution of this body may be altered or amended by the concurrence of two-thirds of its members.

ART. 15. No member shall absent himself from the association without leave of the Moderator.

ART. 16. 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 communication may be preserved among the churches; fourthly, to give the churches the best advice they can in matters of difficulty and if communication should be broken between any of the sister churches to inquire into the cause, and use the best means to remove the difficulty; but if the breach cannot be healed, to withdraw 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.

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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.

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NOTE.—The constitution and by-laws published above were contained in the minutes of the session of 1854, which is the latest copy in the proceedings of the association at my command — CLERK.

## Articles of Faith.

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1. We believe in one only true and living God, and that there are three persons in the Godhead—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Is. xiv, 22, 23; v. 4, 6, 9. 1st Kings viii, 60. Joel ii, 27. Mark xxviii, 19. 2d Cor. xiii, 14. Is. xlviii, 16. John xiv, 16. Mark iii, 16, 17. John x, 20-30. Acts v, 3, 4.

2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice. 2d Tim. iii, 10. Acts i, 16. 1st Peter iv, 11. 1st Thess. ii, 13. Luke xi, 28. James i, 22. 1st Sam. 15. Deut. iv, 2, 22, 32. Prov. xxx, 8. Matt. xv, 9. Rev. xxii, 19. John xiv, 15.

3. We believe in eternal and particular election. Deut. vii, 6. Acts xxii, 14; xiii, 46; xv, 18. Matt. xxiv, 31. John x, 16; vi, 37; x, 27-29. Rom. viii, 29, 30; ix, 15. Eph. i, 4, 5, 11. 2d Thess. xiii, 14. 2d Tim. i, 9. Titus i, 1, 2. 1st Peter i, 12; ii, 9.

4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin. Gen. v, 3. Psalms li, 5. John iii, 6.

5. We believe in man's impotency, of his own free will and ability, to recover himself from the state he is in by nature. Jer. xiii, 23; xvii, 9. Rom. i, 28-31; viii, 7, 8. Psalms liii, 1. John vii, 7; iii, 3; vi, 4. Eph. iv, 18, 19. Gal. iii, 10, 11. Heb. x, 4.

6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Christ. Rom. viii, 1-25; x, 4; iii, 25, 26. Is. i, 11. Acts xiii, 38, 39. 1st Cor. i, 30. Gal. iii, 21-24; ii, 16. Phil. iii, 8-10.

7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, renewed, and sanctified by the Holy Spirit. Rom. viii, 29, 30; xi, 7. Acts xiii, 48. John x, 16-30-32. Eph. ii, 5-10. 2d Tim. i, 9. 2d Thess. ii, 13, 14.

8. We believe that the saints shall persevere in grace, and never finally fall away. John xvii, 9-23; x, 27-29. Rom. viii, 31-39. 1st Peter i, 4, 5.

9. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus, imposed upon his churches; that nothing is baptism except immersion; that believers are the only subjects of this ordinance, and that none but baptized believers are entitled to partake of the Lord's Supper. Matt. ii, 19. Mark xvi, 16; i, 5-9. 1st Cor. x, 16; xvi, 29. Acts ii, 38; viii, 36-39; x, 47; xvi, 2-4. Rom. vi, 3; v, 16. Col. ii, 12.

10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgment. 1st Cor. xv, 3-12, 20-25; iv, 5. Matt. xxv, 46. Heb. ix, 28.

11. We believe that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting, and the joys of the righteous will be eternal. Matt. xxv, 46; Dan. xii, 6. Mark ix, 45. John v, 38, 39; 2d Thess. i, 9.

12. We believe that no minister has the right to administer the ordinances only such as are called and have come under the hands of the Presbytery. Matt. xxviii, 16-20. Acts xiii, 2-5. 1st Tim. iv, 14; v, 22. 2d Tim. ii, 2. 2d John i, 9-11.

### OFFICERS.

Elder W. B. Hare, Moderator,	Sumterville.
Bro. E. H. Rennolds, Clerk,	Orange Home.
Bro. W. R. Matthews, Treasurer,	Leesburg.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Elder Frank DeCourcy, Chairman,	Brooksville.
Dr. E. C. Hood,	North Lake Weir.
J. Tom Perry,	Oxford.
P. L. Durisoe,	Grahamville.
E. H. Rennolds,	Orange Home.

### SUNDAY-SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

P. L. Durisoe,	Grahamville.
L. L. Aiken,	Heidtsville.
J. B. Law,	Brooksville.
F. M. Chles,	Leesburg.