

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

SOUTH FLORIDA

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

CHURCH AT SHILOH,

OCTOBER 20 AND 22, 1883.

OFFICERS.

L.	J.	SIMMONS,	Moderate	or.									CORK,	FLA
J.	M.	HAYMAN,	Clerk										BARTOW,	FLA
C.	L.	WILDER,	Treasurer									*	CORK,	FLA

ATLANTA, GEORGIA:

JAS. P. HARRISON & CO., PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS.

1883

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MINUTES

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The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder J. K. Hayman from a part of the third verse of the Epistle of Jude—Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. After which an intermission of one hour and a half was taken for refreshments; at the expiration of which time the delegates from the churches of this Association assembled in the church house, when the former Moderator, Elder L. I. Simpane called the Association to order. After singling a hour tion assembled in the church house, when the former Moderator, Elder L. J. Simmons, called the Association to order. After singing a hymn, prayer was made by Elder E. J. Hull. Letters from the churches were then handed in and delegates names enrolled.

Petitionary letters were called for when the delegates from the following named churches handed up their letters, to wit:

Beulah church, near Fort Meade in Polk county and Hebron church in Hernando county, also, Midway church in Hillsborough county. They having been found in order, were received as members of this body and the hand of fellowship was extended to them by the Moderator.

On motion, waived the rule to elect Moderator and Clerk by ballot and elect them by acclamation, when Elder L. J. Simmons was re-elected Moderator, and Elder J. H. Hayman re-elected Clerk.

Visiting brethren were then invited to seats with us, when Elder W. F. Norris, of the Manatee Association accepted, also Elder W. W. Bostic, of the Mercer Association of Georgia.

the Mercer Association of Georgia.

The Moderator appointed as a committee to arrange for the preaching Brethren J. R. McDonald and J. M. Duffle, with the delegates from Shi

loh Church.

Correspondents were called for when Elders E. J. Hull, T. J. Spark man and W. F. Norris were received as corresponding Messengers from the Manatee Association. Also a corresponding letter was received from the Wekiva Association.

On motion, the Moderator and Clerk were requested to appoint other committees that might be necessary and hand to the chairman of each a

list of their names to-morrow morning.

The committees appointed were:
On Temperance.—G. W. Beardon, S. J. Hancock, and J. E. Haralson
On Finance.—J. C. Blount, D. J. Craft, and W. S. Bugg.
On Letters and Documents.—A. F. Randall, W. S. Knight and R. N.

On Publications.—T. H. Judson. J. R. McDonald and S. Walden.

Resolved, That the Committee on Book Fund be and they are hereby

requested to report to report to this body Monday morning.

The Committee on Preaching arranged that as Elder T. J. Sparkman had preached this afternoon in the Methodist church house that Elman had preached this afternoon in the Methodist church house that Elder Norris preach in the Baptist church house to night, and Elder W. W. Bostic preach in the Baptist church house to-morrow at eleven o'clock a. m., and Elder A. F. Randall to preach in the Methodist church house at the same hour.

Adjourned till Monday morning at nine o'oclock.

Prayer by Elder W. W. Bostic.

The everyises on the Sabbath were well attended by a large concourse.

The exercises on the Sabbath were well attended by a large concourse of people. Elder W. W. Bostic preached in the Baptist church house

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at the hour of eleven, a. m. and Elder A. F. Randall preached at the same hour at the Methodist church house and at the close of the services at each house, collections for missions were taken up, amounting in the aggregate to fifty-seven dollars and sixty cents (\$57 60).

The services in the afternoon were held at the Baptist church, conducted by A. F. Randall, Evangel ist from St. Louis, Mo. who discoursed

eloquently and to the Satisfaction of many, upon the distinctive characteristic of our Association, the Missionary Baptist.

The Association met Monday morning pursuant to adjournment, and after singing a hymn and prayer by Brother Beardon, proceeded to call the roll and correct the list of names. The Moderator then appointed a Committee on Sabbath Schools, to wit:

A. F. Randall, S. Walden and G. W. Beardon.

Resolved, That this Association do deeply sympathize with our beloved Brother, Rev. C. S. Reynolds at Clear Water church, in the loss of his wife by death, and we pray that God will give him grace according to his day and trial

The Committees on Letters and Documents reported as follows, to-wit: Your Committee on Letters and Documents ask leave to say that our hearts are made glad in view of the general prospect of the Baptist cause in our Association as indicated by the letters, but we feel, in view of the incoming immigration, our position is a critical one of unceasing demand upon us and consequent responsibilities, therefore:

Resolved. That we urge our churches to greater diligence in the use of laudable means, for the moulding of the hearts and minds of the communities, such as the circulation of Baptist literature—papers, books and tracts. That the churches arrange for more frequent meetings, if possible, once in every two weeks, and that every church have a Sunday-

We recommend that the query sent up be disposed of at the discretion of this body.

Respectfully submitted. A. F. RANDALL, Chairman.

THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS

Reports, that as our country is flooded with a great deal of spurious literature, we do most respectfully urge the members of our churches not to subscribe for, nor read any publication, the position of which is not well defined. We respectfully urge a more thorough study of the Holy Scriptures, the great source of religious knowledge; and as helps, our leading denominational papers, and for our Sunday-schools to use those helps so liberally furnished by the American Baptist Publication Society, as well as the Sunday-school paper, "Kind Words."

Respectfully submitted.

J. R. McDonald, Chairman.

J. R. McDonald, Chairman.

THE COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE

Wou'd respectfully report that, whereas, there is a disposition on the part of some of the members of some of our churches, while visiting the towns and villages of our country, to purchase and drink intoxicating liquors as a beverage; and believing it to be one of the greatest evils in the land, we would recommend our churches to a more united effort in putting down this king of evils, and if need be, to enforce strict disci-pline against such evil practices. Respectfully submitted. G. W. BEARDEN, Chairman.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ask leave to report that we have paid our Sunday-school missionary, Brother T. J. Sparkman, the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars, as per agreement, by our Association. We have no other missionary in the field, therefore we have no other business to report. We recommend the

employment of some suitable minister to indoctrinate those churches that have already been organized in the destitute portions of this Association.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

R. N. PLYANT, Chairman. On motion, resolved that the thanks of this body are due, and hereby tendered to our Executive Committee, for serving us so long and efficiently in that capacity. The said Executive Committee was then discharged.

MISSIONARY'S REPORT.

To the South Florida Association : DEAR BRETHERN: Having been employed by you, in co-operation with the Manatee Association and the American Baptist Publication Society, as Sunday-school missionary and colporteur, I present to you the following report of the work done during the year: Miles traveled, 3405; faming report of the work done during the year: Miles traveled, 3405; families visited, 1003; sermons preached, 138; addresses made, 79; prayer meeting held, 21; churches constituted, 2; Sunday-schools organized, 14; Sunday-schools aided by donations, 19; books sold, 1576; books given away, 213; periodicals ordered, 898; pages of tracts distributed, 19,450; Bibles sold, 97; Bibles given away, 157; testaments sold, 107; testaments given away, 479; total books sold and given away, 1789; total bibles and testaments sold and given away, 840; value of sales, \$790.30; value of grants, \$151.30. Received from your Executive Committee, for the American Baptist Publication Society, \$150, and from other sources, \$125. Total collected for the society, \$275.

Respectfully submitted.

T. J. Sparkman, Chairman.
On motion, the following resolutions offered by Elder A. F. Randall,

were unanimously adopted, to-wit:

Resolved, That the churches composing this Association do hereby express our appreciation of the work of the American Baptist Publication Society, in the bounds of this Association. That we are grateful for the liberal contributions of books, tracts, etc., and view the work of Brother T. J. Sparkman as a special providence, in the organization of Sundayschools and the circulation of Baptist literature, especially our distinctive

Resolved, further, That as our churches, and the communities within our associational limits, are in great need of the above named literature, that we make liberal contributions to this society, and most heartily desire that Rrother Sparkman continue his labors, and we will in every way give encouragement.

A. F. RANDALL.

QUERY SENT UP FROM COUNTY LINE CHURCH.—Is it right to receive into fellowship Anti-Missionary Baptists upon their baptism? to which this Association answers no.

COMMITTEE ON BOOK FUND

Reports the amount in hands of Elder J. J. Robertson,		8 60 19	61
October 22d, 1877.	\$1	88	26
Amount paid for publishing manuscript to J. M. Hayman	\$	84 23	70 00
control of the last of an electrical description of the first terms of		07	70
In the hands of J. J. Robertson	.\$	8 37 34	61
	1000	4200	4

Amount.....\$ 80 56 Balance due this Association by the Manatee Association 5 80 T. H. JAUDON, Chairman.

The Moderator then appointed the following named brethren as an Executive Committee for one year, to-wit: J. C. Blount, Chairman; W. S. Knight, E. G. Wilder, J. W. Jackson, and D. J. Craft

Whereas, it has come to the knowledge of this Association that a sister church has received into her fellowship, expelled members of another church, which procedure is contrary to the advice of this body: Be it therefore Resolved, the churches of this Association should not pursue such inconsistent measures.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS.

Whereas, our Methodist brethren have allowed us the use of their church house for preaching purposes during this meeting, therefore, Resolved,

that we tender them our thanks for their courtesy towards us.

The obituary of our departed brother, Elder A. Wilson, was read before the Association, and ordered to be published in this issue of our Minutes, and the Clerk instructed to furnish the widow of our deceased brother with a copy.

THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Would respectfully report the amount sent up from the Collected during this meeting, Eld. A. F. Randall, Evan	churches \$ 75	83
Tampa Collected for missionary purposes	25	75 45
Total	\$138	03

D. J. CRAFT, Committee.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

To amount on hand at last Association	129 28
To am't rec'd from our Missionary and Union Meeting at Bethel	42 80
To amount received from our Union Meeting at Turkey Creek :	22 36
To amount received from of Union Meeting at Thenotassa	41.40
To amount received from our Union Meeting at Pleasant Hill	19.70
To amount received by Subscription	6.00

Total.....\$261 54

DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid to Clerk for services and Minutes	\$42 00
Paid by order of Association to State Board	
Paid by order of association to Home Missions	
Paid to T. J. Sparkman for American Bap. Pub. Society	
Paid to T. J. Sparkman for American Bap. Pub. Society	
Paid Board of Foreign Missions	15 30-\$144 20
	-

Balance on hand....... 17 34

Respectfully submitted.

T. W. WILDER, Treasurer.

Brother T. W. Wilder expressed the wish to be excused from further duties as Treasurer of this Association. On motion, he was excused and discharged from the same, and the thanks of this body are tendered to him for the faithful discharge of his duties for so long a time.

The Association then proceeded to the election of Treasurer, which resulted in the choice of Brother C. L. Wilder.

On motion, it is ordered that the Treasurer pay to the order of Elder A.

F. Randall, twenty-five dollars and seventy-five cents.

The Moderator appointed a committee to make arrangements for a place for the next meeting of this Association, to wit:

J. M. Duffie, T. H. Jaudon, J. R. McDonald, W. S. Knight, and to

which was added by general request, L. J. Simmons.

Ordered that six hundred copies of the Minutes of this session be printed and that the Clerk distribute them and that he draw upon the Treasurer for a sufficient amount to defray the expense. Also ordered that the Clerk have fifteen dollars for his services this term.

Appointed corresponding messengers to the Manatee Association as follows, to wit:

Elders L. J. Simmons, T. H. Jaudon and Brother Walter McDonald. The thanks of the Association are due and are hereby tendered to Shiloh church and vicinity for hospitality to us during this term. Read and approved Minutes.

Adjourned to meet with the Hopewell church, near the Aalfia post office, Hillsborough county, according to the arrangements of the committee appointed for that purpose, on Saturday preceding the third Sunay in October, 1884.

J. M. HAYMAN, Clerk.

L. J. SIMMONS, Moderator. day in October, 1884.

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APPENDIX.

J. M. Putheis, H. Jandon, J. R. McDonald, W. & Kriight, while he as added by general request, L. J. Simmonso, Cridered that excluded copies of the Minutes of this session.

IN MEMORIAM.

It has become our painful duty to announce to the public, the death of our esteemed and faithful brother and co-worker in the Master's cause Elder Alderman Wilson, of Manatee county, Florida; which sad event took place on the sixth day of last February, at the residence of Mr. Brewer, of Polk county, Florida.

Brother Wilson had just recovered, or partially recovered from a severe attack of measles, which prostrated him for several days, and was going

to fill a routine of appointments, when the Lord in his wisdom saw fit to suddenly call him from the scene of his labors. Having preached on Sunday at Mr. Guy's, he was making his way to another appointment, when reaching the place of Mr. Brewer on Sunday night, he was suddenly taken ill, and expired Monday night.

He leaves an aged wife, six children, and a host of brethren and friends

He leaves an aged wife, six children, and a host of brethren and friends to mourn his loss. His remains were carried near Bartow, in Polk county, where he was interred with due Masonic honors by the members of Bartow Lodge. There he is peacefully sleeping, awaiting the final resurrection of the just. Bro. Wilson was truly a remarkable, if not a highly distinguished man, and deserves more from our pen than a mere notice of his decease. Born in Scriven county, Ga., in the year 1821, and was reared in the sparsely settled districts, where opportunities for being educated were exceedingly rare, he grew from boyhood to manhood without those advantages of educational training that are so essentially necessary to prepare one for getting along in the world. But notwithstanding he had none of these opportunities in early life, a kind Providence endued him with a wonderful amount-of native talent, and with such an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, that in after years his influsuch an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, that in after years his influence was felt wherever he went, and his memory will be cherished for many succeeding generations. Being nothing more than what was thought, a common uneducated youth, he attracted no attention in early life, and indeed he lived in comparative obscurity until 1857. He joined the Hard Shell Baptist church in 1842. What moved him to do this, we never ascertained. Perhaps it was because he had never examined the doctrines of that denomination, and knew but little of its peculiar tenets. doctrines of that denomination, and knew but little of its peculiar tenets. We know that many years ago, he expressed a decidedly strong aversion to fatalistic views, and it is probable that obtaining a full knowledge of those doctrines led him to sever his relations with that church, which took place in 1857. During the year 1842, he asked and was accepted in marriage by Arena Jordan, of Thomas county, Ga. In the year 1857 he attached himself to the Missionary Baptist church in Columbia county, Fla. Here was the beginning of his career in public life. Fla. Here was the beginning of his career in public life. He soon gave evidence of his deep piety, and developed such an aptitude to teach, that the church determined to utilize him, and accordingly licensed him to preach. The zeal and efficiency with which he discharged his duties, soon won for him the admiration and confidence of the church and the people generally.

He removed from Columbia to Polk county, Florida, in 1861, and after He removed from Columbia to Polk county, Florida, in 1861, and after having given full proof of his entire devotion to the cause of Christ, he was, at the instance of the Baptist church, at Bethel, called to ordination, which took place in 1862; Elder J. M. Hayman leading. From that time until his death, he was a constant, humble and efficient worker, never ceasing, everlasting, always ready with a willing heart to labor in his Master's vineyard, casting his lot with the people of South Florida when the country was very sparsely settled, and when society in many places was almost in an unorganized condition. Many were the long rides, hardships, privations and exposures he endured in endeavoring to disseminate religious knowledge, and establish churches in the broad field of labor which he took upon himself. But amid all the disadvantages under which he labored, he evinced that Christian fortitude, patience and cheerfulness so characteristic of the true and earnest believer in Christ. No midsummer sun shone too fiereely, nor tropic gales raved too madly to defulness so characteristic of the true and earnest believer in Christ. No midsummer sun shone too fiercely, nor tropic gales raved too madly to deter him from prosecuting his ministerial duties, notwithstanding he had no remuneration for his services, further than the happy satisfaction of seeing his Master's cause grow and prosper under his care. It was the happy lot of the writer to receive the ordinance of baptism from his hands in 1866, and we are proud to say, we received our first instructions in the ministry from his lips. As has been previously stated, Brother Wilson was very imperfectly educated, consequently he was not prepared for those high and scientific processes of reasoning that belong to more educated minds; but for natural depth of thought, and power of analysis he was the peer of any man that we have ever seen. His sermons educated minds; but for natural depth of thought, and power of analysis, he was the peer of any man that we have ever seen. His sermons were chiefly practical, abounding with earnest exhortations to practical piety. His language was plain, simple and chaste, and his manner earnest and persuasive. There was no effort at rhetorical ornament in any of his preaching, but his words were well chosen, and spoken in an effective manner. Preaching the gospel seemed to constitute his chief delight, and no obstacle was so great, nor privation so severe as to prevent him from carrying out this cherished object of his life. One of the most remarkable features of his general character was the unabating good cheer that he maintained under afflicting circumstances. We have seen him in that he maintained under afflicting circumstances. We have seen him in all the diversified situations and vicissitudes of life, and amid all the hardships, bereavements and financial straits to which he was subject, he bore himself with that uniform cheerfulness and submission that showed entire resignation to the will of God.

Brother Wilson was a man of unusually strong faith. But few Christians are blessed with the amount of faith which he possessed, and in this lay the secret of his strength and success as a minister. True, he had talents which commanded the respect and admiration of his hearers, and such kind, persuasive manners as are sure to win; yet the constant and abiding faith in our Saviour which he continually manifested, was more convincing than all else combined. We have often longed for faith as strong as his, and for that meek and calm snbmission to the providence of God that constituted the chief beauty of his life.

As a thinker, Brother Wilson was deep and original, as a preacher, he was earnest and practical, as a controversialist, he was able, witty and courteous, as a husband, kind and affectionate, as a father, he was fond and indulgent and as a friend he was ever generous and faithful. In every and indulgent and as a friend he was ever generous and faithful. In every relation of life, he appeared to advantage and when called to a position in the church, he was sure to fill it well. In private and social intercourse, Brother Wilson was very talkative, being singularly gifted in conversational powers, but while he discoursed on religious topics (which was usually the case) with marked ability, yet he adopted that easy method of expression that makes one feel at ease in his presence and ready to join in the conversation. There was an entire absence of that conventionality and air of superiority that some like to thrust between themselves and such as they consider their inferiors. He was perfectly open to the approach of all, he was esteemed and honored by all. We could easily fill pages of the Index in recounting the deeds and extolling the virtues of our departed brother, but knowing that a vast number of people know and appreciate him as we do, we feel that such would be superfluous, and as we are satisfied that a simple recital of some of his meritorious, actions combined with the heart-felt veneration of multitudes of sorrowing friends is the most appropriate eulogium that can be said to his memory.

multitudes of sorrowing friends is the most appropriate eulogium that can be paid to his memory.

As will be seen by the dates, Brother Wilson was getting along in years, but possessing a fine physical constitution, his looks showed hin, to be about a middle aged man and it seemed that his death was premature. Fully confiding in his superior ability to combat against disease, doubtlessly prompted him to venture out before he was well of the measles, and the exposure thus encountered was obviously the cause of his sudden death. He is gone—no words we can speak in his praise are sufficient to bring him back to the embrace of his loved ones. But while he has passed beyond the dark river, his example, his many kind actions still live in the hearts of all who know him. The name of the just is never forgotter, the deeds of the upright in heart are truly imperishable, and while the warning voice is hushed forever, the remembrance of his intrinsic worth, like the fragrance of bruised flowers, still linger to influence the lives of those that are left behind. We tender our sincere sympathies to his bereaved family in their deep affliction and trust that while they keenly feel their bereavement, they may submissively acquiesce in this dispensation of the Divine Providence.

J. W. Hendry.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

DELESS. Baptized. Rectored. Expelled. Dismissed. Dend. Cain. Contributions. M. M	since 1882 Hancock
	Not represented J. Button, S. J. M. Hayman, G. W. Beardon, R. W. Pylant. Not represented J. M. Jeston, Not represented J. W. Jackson, Not represented Not rep
PASTORS	W. W. Bostic. W. T. Gordon. G. W. Barrden. G. W. Barrden. C. S. Reyroldis. R. T. Caddin. R. F. E. Bell. M. F. Wood. R. N. Pylant. R. R. Bell. W. W. Bostic. T. H. Jaudon. A. A. Keith. R. E. Bell. R. F. Randon. T. H. Jaudon. A. R. Reith. R. E. Bell. R. E. Bell. R. E. Bell. R. F. Randon. T. H. Jaudon. A. R. Reith. R. E. Rell. R. E. Rell. R. E. Rell. R. F. Randon. T. T. T. A. Reith. R. E. Rell. R. E. Rell. R. E. Rell. R. F. Randon. T. T. T. A. Reith. R. E. Rell. R. F. Randon. T. T. T. A. Reith. R. E. Rell. R. T. Caddin.
COUNTIES.	Hernando Polk. Hernando Hillsborough Polk. Hillsborough Hillsborough Hillsborough Hillsborough Hillsborough Hillsborough Hillsborough Hernando
CHURCHES.	1. Anclote 2. Bethel. 3. Bethel. 4. Rethany 4. Sethany 4. Sethany 6. Clear Water 7. County kine 8. Double Brach 11. Gapway 11. Hopewell 12. Key Weil 13. Hopewell 14. Key Weil 15. Key Weil 16. Keysville 17. Mount Glive 18. New Zion 19. New Salem 20. Oak Grove 21. Providence 22. Sprind 24. Sprind 24. Sprind 25. Skr. mile Pond 26. Sprind 27. Therrottansas 27. Therrottansas 28. Turkey Greek 29. Tampa 21. Mount Enon 21. Mount Enon



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