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→ SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION ←

OF THE

ST. MARY'S RIVER

Missionary Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

THOMASVILLE CHAPEL, DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA,

ON

DECEMBER 4TH, 5TH AND 6TH, 1885.

OFFICERS:

A. A. ANDREWS, *Moderator*.....Oakwell, Ga.
G. H. PEEPLES, *Clerk*.....Oakwell, Ga.
W. C. WILDS, *Treasurer*.....Crandall, Fla.

FERNANDINA, FLORIDA:

THE FLORIDA MIRROR STEAM PRINTING HOUSE.

1886.

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FIRST DAY.

FRIDAY, December 4th, 1885.

Elder A. A. Andrews preached the introductory sermon from Mathew, 16th Chapter, 18th verse—"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church: and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"—after which an intermission of ten minutes was given. The Moderator not being present on account of sickness in his family, the Association was called to order by the Clerk, and, after religious exercises, proceeded to business. On motion, Elder A. A. Andrews was elected Moderator *pro tem*. Letters from the churches were then called for, read and the names of the messengers duly enrolled, as follows:

From Thomasville Chapel—Elijah Higginbotham, A. E. Ogilvie, I. Geiger.

From Brandy Branch—Joseph M. Higginbotham, B. I. Higginbotham.

From New Providence—E. A. McWhorter, A. A. Andrews, J. A. Mills.

From Mount Olive—W. S. Braddock, J. H. Braddock, G. A. Pendarvis.

Petitionary letters were called for, when letters from Ruhamah Baptist Church, G. H. Peeples, J. B. Jones and U. B. Lewis as messengers, and from Live Oak Church, J. A. McIntosh and L. W. Simmons as messengers, were presented asking for membership in the Association, and, after being severally read, on motion, a committee was appointed to examine into the organization and constitution of said churches and requested to report as soon as possible. On motion, an

election was then held for officers of the Association for the ensuing year, which resulted in the choice of Elder A. A. Andrews as Moderator, G. H. Peoples as Clerk and W. C. Wilds as Treasurer. Visiting brethren were then invited to seats. Correspondence from sister associations called for, but none presented.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION.

The Committee on Organization and Constitution of Churches petitioning for Membership, after due examination into their organization and constitution, beg leave to report that Ruhamah Church be received; that we object to the reception of the Live Oak Church on the ground that some of the members in the constitution and organization had not been regularly dismissed from the church to which they belonged, and therefore could not unite in the constitution and organization of the church.

Respectfully submitted,

G. A. PENDARVIS, Chairman.

After a full discussion of the above report, and the matter of the Live Oak Church fully explained, it was held by the Association that when a church had ceased to meet, or perform any of the functions of a church, and members could not get letters of dismission, that it amounted to a virtual dissolution of the church, and that its members, where their Christian character was fully known and established, had the right, under the circumstances (as in this case), to enter into the organization of a new church. On motion, that part of the report of the committee in regard to Live Oak Church was not concurred in, and on motion both churches were received, the Moderator presenting the hand of fellowship in behalf of the Association.

Appointment of committees as follows:

On Letters and Queries—U. B. Lewis, B. L. Higginbotham, E. Higginbotham.

On Sunday Schools—G. A. Pendarvis, J. B. Jones, J. M. Higginbotham.

On Missions—J. M. Higginbotham, J. B. Jones, U. B. Lewis.

On Periodicals—J. B. Jones, A. E. Ogilvie, U. B. Lewis.

On State of Religion in the Churches—J. M. Higginbotham, I. Geiger, W. S. Braddock.

On Finance—J. M. Higginbotham, W. S. Braddock, B. L. Higginbotham.

On Nominations—L. W. Simmons, I. Geiger, U. B. Lewis.

On Religious Exercises—B. L. Higginbotham, J. M. Higginbotham.

The Committee on Religious Exercises were requested to report early to-morrow morning.

After singing and prayer, adjourned to meet on Saturday at 9 o'clock a. m.

SECOND DAY.

SATURDAY, December 5th, 1885.

The Association was called to order, and after singing and prayer by the Moderator, business was resumed.

The minutes of Friday were read and approved.

The Rev. L. C. Musick, of Missouri, and the Rev. G. W. Hall, of the Santa Fe Association of Florida, having arrived, were welcomed by the Moderator, invited to seats and requested to take part in the deliberations of the Association.

The Committee on Religious Exercises made the following report:

Elder G. W. Hall to preach at 3 p. m. to-day and Elder L. C. Musick to preach the Missionary Sermon at 11 o'clock Sunday.

The following queries were propounded to the Association for information:

1st. What shall a church do with a brother who signs a petition for the erection of a whisky shop in the community, and shall we fellowship a church which does not discipline such members?

2d. Are there any scriptural instructions for our guidance in the constitution of a Baptist Church?

The first of these were discussed by L. W. Simmons, L. C. Musick and G. W. Hall, after which the following resolutions were passed:

Resolved, 1. That it is the candid opinion of this Association, that it is the duty of any church to withdraw fellowship from any brother or brethren who sign a whisky petition.

2. That this Association will not hold fellowship with any church which will not discipline its members for signing whisky petitions, or in any way countenancing the sale of whisky.

On motion, a committee on temperance was appointed, consisting of L. W. Simmons, J. B. Jones and U. B. Lewis.

Reports of committees were called for and read, as follows:

ON LETTERS AND QUERIES:

Your Committee on Letters and Queries beg leave to report that no queries have been sent up to the Association by any of the churches and submitted to this committee. The Brandy Branch Church, in her letter, has complained that she did not receive any minutes of our last Association. Upon inquiry, your committee find that the minutes allotted to the church were sent, but lost on the way.

Respectfully submitted,

U. B. LEWIS,
B. E. HIGGINBOTHAM,
E. HIGGINBOTHAM.

Received and adopted.

ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Your Committee on Sunday Schools beg leave to report that three of our churches are earnestly engaged in this great and important department of church work. Your committee earnestly desires to see put forth a greater effort by all of our churches and brethren in this grand and glorious work of winning the young for Jesus.

Respectfully submitted,

G. A. PENDARVIS,
J. B. JONES,
J. M. HIGGINBOTHAM.

Received and adopted.

ON MISSIONS.

Your Committee on Missions are glad to note that there is a growing interest in the grand and glorious work of missions. There has been a regular missionary in the field, and other ministers of our Association are also actively employing their time as best they can under the circumstances. We are glad to note also that there have been regular monthly contributions by several of the churches.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. HIGGINBOTHAM,
J. B. JONES,
U. B. LEWIS.

Received and adopted.

ON PERIODICALS.

Your Committee on Periodicals and Religious Literature, after due deliberation, report that there are few who read any religious paper. We recommend, next to the Bible, the *Christian Index* and the *Florida Baptist Witness*.

Respectfully submitted,

J. B. JONES,
A. E. OGILVIE,
U. B. LEWIS.

Received and adopted.

ON STATE OF RELIGION IN THE CHURCHES.

Your committee beg leave to report that our churches are nearly all without pastors, but all have had an increase of from four to ten members. We believe there are in the bounds of our Association four Sunday-Schools, and while we have done much less than we feel that we ought to have done, we feel encouraged that our work is on the increase and we hope for much better times during the coming year. We would, therefore, recommend (in view of the great destitution in our bounds) to our churches that they each establish weekly prayer meetings for the glory of God and the salvation of precious souls.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. HIGGINBOTHAM,
I. GEIGER,
W. S. BRADDOCK.

Received and adopted.

ON FINANCE.

Your Committee on Finance beg leave to report that there is a slight improvement in benevolent contributions over last year, which are as follows:

For State missions, Ruhamah.....	5.77½
For State missions, Mount Olive.....	2.63
For State missions, New Providence.....	2.55
For home missions, Ruhamah.....	1.37½
For home missions, Mount Olive.....	2.63
For home missions, New Providence.....	2.45
For foreign missions, Ruhamah.....	1.85
For foreign missions, Mount Olive.....	2.63
For foreign missions, New Providence.....	1.00
For ministerial education, Ruhamah.....	4.40
For ministerial education, New Providence.....	21.95
For Ministerial and Widows' Fund, Mount Olive.....	4.00
For Sunday-schools, Ruhamah.....	5.17
For Sunday-schools, Thomasville Chapel.....	6.05
For Minute Fund, Thomasville Chapel.....	2.00
For Minute Fund, Mount Olive.....	3.00
For Minute Fund, Brandy Branch.....	1.00
For Minute Fund, Live Oak.....	2.00
For Minute Fund, Ruhamah.....
For Minute Fund, New Providence.....
For home church expenses, Mount Olive.....	50.00
For home church expenses, New Providence.....	42.75
For home church expenses, Ruhamah.....	75.00
For home church expenses, Thomasville Chapel.....	31.00

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. HIGGINBOTHAM,
W. S. BRADDOCK,
B. L. HIGGINBOTHAM.

Received and adopted.

ON NOMINATIONS.

Your Committee on Nominations beg leave to report that we recommend the next session of this body be held with Ruhamah Church, Camden county, Georgia, and that Rev. Theodore Davis preach the introductory sermon, A. A. Andrews, Alternate, and that Rev. G. W. Hall, of the Santa Fe Association, be requested to preach the missionary sermon, L. W. Simmons, Alternate.

Respectfully submitted,

L. W. SIMMONS,
U. B. LEWIS,
I. GEIGER.

Received and adopted.

ON TEMPERANCE.

Your committee, after much deliberation, reports as follows:

Is it right for men who profess and call themselves Christians to pray "lead us not into temptation" and then needlessly expose themselves to the influence of drinks which have tempted and ruined thousands? Is it right for men to ask God to "give us this day our daily bread" and then support a system that licenses men to destroy the good grain by converting it into body and soul destroying drink? Is it right to build churches, chapels and schools to help save the people and at the same time to license men and women to open shops in which liquors are sold, which will destroy the people? Is it right to license a man to sell drink which will make people drunk and then fine men and women for getting drunk? Is it right to license men to make paupers and criminals, widows and orphans, and then tax sales and virtuous people a high rate to keep them? Is it right to derive a revenue from a system that demoralizes and degrades the people? Is it right for the people to wish the temperance cause success and at the same time continue to drink and support the liquor traffic? Is it right for men and women who wish well to their country to stand aloof from the only certain cure for our national intemperance? Is it right for Sunday-school teachers to teach scholars to beware of the dangers of the public house with breath smelling of strong drink which comes from such places? Is it right for ministers of religion to preach against drunkenness while he continues to use the drink which alone produces it? Is it right to admit into Christian churches as members liquor sellers or persons in any way interested in the traffic, who, by their business, are constantly hindering the spread of the Gospel and leading professors of religion astray? Is it right to do wrong and expect wrong to produce right? No, brethren, no. We need never expect to be happy and prosperous while we remain indifferent to this great and important issue before us to-day. Let us come up, then, and do our duty, purge ourselves and purge our churches—move onward and upward in the good work committed to our care.

Respectfully submitted,

L. W. SIMMONS,
J. B. JONES,
U. B. LEWIS.

Received and adopted.

The hour of 3 o'clock having arrived, there was an intermission for a few minutes, when the Association re-assembled and listened to an interesting and instructive sermon from Rev. G. W. Hall.

Business being resumed, the following resolutions were offered and passed :

Resolved, That the word "three" in the third article of Rules of Decorum be stricken out and the word "four" substituted in its place.

Resolved, That this Association unite with the Florida Baptist State Convention at its next session, if the churches composing the Association do not object within the next month.

Resolved, That the thanks of this body be given the brethren and sisters of Thomasville Chapel, and the surrounding community, for their kind and generous hospitality in the entertainment of this Association and visitors.

Resolved, That a collection be taken up to-morrow (Sunday) after the missionary sermon.

After singing and prayer, adjourned to meet on Sunday morning at 9 o'clock.

THIRD DAY.

SUNDAY, December 6th, 1885.

Rev. G. W. Hall, at 10 o'clock, held a meeting for the children and preached an interesting sermon to them, after which, by appointment, the Rev. L. C. Musick preached the missionary sermon to a large and attentive congregation from 2d Corinthians, 8th Chapter and 9th verse, after which a hymn was sung and a collection taken up, amounting to \$11.30, for missionary purposes.

The Association adjourned to meet with Ruhamah Church, Camden county, Georgia, on Friday before the 4th Sunday in September, 1886, being the 24th day of the month.

After the parting hand had been given, a hymn sung and prayer and the benediction by the Moderator, the Association was closed in order.

A. A. ANDREWS, Moderator.

G. H. PEEPLES, Clerk.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

A. A. ANDREWS, *Moderator*.....Oakwell, Ga.
G. H. PEEPLES, *Clerk*.....Oakwell, Ga.
W. C. WILDS, *Treasurer*.....Crandall, Fla.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

G. A. MALLETTE.....King's Ferry, Fla.
THEODORE DAVIS.....King's Ferry, Fla.
G. A. PNDARVIS.....Tisonia, Fla.
L. W. SIMMONS.....St. Marys, Ga.

STATISTICS.

NAMES OF CHURCHES.	Membership.										Church Property.			
	Increase					Decrease					Number of meeting houses.	Seating capacity.	Value of meeting houses.	Total value of church property.
	When constituted.	Membership last year.	Baptism.	Letter.	Expence.	Restoration.	Exclusion.	Letter.	Death.	Present membership.				
Mount Olive.....	1878	38	4	2	4	1	1	1	43	1	150	\$125	\$230	
New Providence.....	1878	36	2	1	1	1	2	1	37	1	100	100	175	
Thomasville Chapel.....	1883	13	4	1	1	1	1	1	18	1	100	160	200	
Brandy Branch.....	1878	14	10	8	1	1	1	1	16	1	200	350	400	
Ruhamah.....	1894	22	10	8	1	1	1	1	40	1	200	350	400	
Live Oak.....	1895	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	1	125	200	250	
Ephesus (not represented)		21												
Hebron (dissolved)														
Mount Zion (virtually dissolved)														
Sharon (virtually dissolved)														
Totals.....		154	20	13	7	1	2	1	165	6	650	950	1255	

STATISTICS—CONTINUED.

NAMES OF SUPERINTENDENTS.	Number of scholars.	Officers and teachers.	Scholars enrolled.	Average attendance.	Teachers baptised.	No. of Sunday-school papers.	No. of months in session.	Scholars baptised.
J. S. Barr.....	1	7	30	30	3	12	1	
J. A. McIntosh.....	1	4	28	28	1	12	1	
Total.....	3	11	78	40	7	24	1	

CONTRIBUTIONS.

NAMES OF CHURCHES WITH THEIR SUNDAY-SCHOOLS.	Home church expenses.	Home Sunday-school expenses.	State missions.	Home missions.	Foreign missions.	Printing minutes.	Ministerial education.	Total.
New Providence.....	42 75	2 55	2 45	1 00	21 95		70 70	
Thomasville Ch'p'l	32 27				2 00		34 27	
By Sunday-school.		\$6 05					6 05	
Brandy Branch.....					1 00		1 00	
Ruhamah.....	75 00	5 77½	1 37½	1 85	4 40		88 40	
By Sunday-school.		5 17			2 00		5 17	
Live Oak.....					2 00		2 00	
Totals.....	\$200 02	\$11 22	\$10 95½	\$6 45½	5 48	8 00	\$272 48	