

SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY LIBRARY
Wake Forest, North Carolina

MINUTES

OF THE

BROWN CREEK BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ROCKY RIVER M. H. ANSON CO., N. C., }
October 7th, 1864. }

The Brown Creek Baptist Association, pursuant to its last adjournment, met with the church at this place in its tenth annual session.

Elder B. S. Reeder preached the introductory sermon, from John 1: 1—"In the beginning was the Word."

After a short recess, Elder S. Head, the Moderator of the last session, called the Association to order. Prayer offered by the same.

On motion, Elder A. L. Stough was appointed reading clerk.

The letters from the churches were read, and a quorum being present the clerk read the minutes of the last session. Then Elder A. L. Stough was declared elected Moderator, acting as elders—then Elder A. L. Stough was declared elected Moderator, and V. T. Cheers re-elected clerk.

The letter from the Mt. Moriah church was read and entered as it appears in the statistical table.

Messengers from corresponding Associations were requested to present themselves, and affectionately invited to participate in our deliberations.

The following were reported: Elder A. E. Bennett from the Pee Dee Association.

Ministering brethren present, not members of this body, were invited to take seats with us; whereupon the following brethren reported themselves, viz:

From Pee Dee Association—Elder John Davis. B. Creek Association—Elder S. P. Morton.

Messengers to corresponding Associations were then called on to report. Elder S. J. Fincher reported his attendance at the Pee Dee Association. All the rest of the above present reported non-attendance.

The Moderator proceeded to designate the following committees:

On Arrangement—S. Head, S. J. Fincher and J. Austin.

On Requests and Queries—V. T. Cheers, J. Bivens and J. T. Marsh.

On Finance—T. Redfern, C. Gaddy and S. Lee.

On Religious Exercises—the pastor and deacons of this church.

On motion, adjourned to meet at 9 1-2 o'clock to-morrow morning. Prayer by Elder S. P. Morton.

SATURDAY MORNING, October 8, 1864.

At the hour appointed, the Moderator took the chair. After a hymn had been sung, Elder N. B. Cobb led in prayer.

The minutes of the previous day were then read and approved.

The committee of Arrangements reported. The report was adopted.

Visiting ministers were requested to report themselves, and affectionately

copy of minutes of the Brown Creek Baptist Association

invited to participate in our deliberations, whereupon Elder N. B. Cobb, Sup. Army Colportage of N. C., reported himself.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Elder N. B. Cobb be afforded an opportunity to present the claims of Army Missions to-morrow immediately after the Missionary sermon.

Missionary's report called for; he begged farther indulgence which, on motion, was granted.

A letter was presented from a church recently constituted at Concord, N. C., seeking admission into this body. After satisfactory statements were made, on motion, the church was unanimously received.

Bro. K. C. Timmons' report as Sabbath School Agent was read, and several addresses were made by various brethren. On motion the report was laid on the table.

Elder A. L. Stough rendered several reasons for not acting as Sabbath School agent, and on motion he was excused.

The Committee on Requests and Queries begged farther indulgence which on motion was granted.

Report on Periodicals called for; the writer having failed to present it, consequently no report on the above subject appears in the minutes.

Report on Ministerial support, prepared by D. A. Covington, was read, and after some very appropriate remarks by Elder N. B. Cobb the report was adopted and ordered to be printed as follows:

TO THE DELEGATES AND BRETHREN COMPOSING THE BROWN CREEK ASSOCIATION TO MEET AT ROCKY RIVER CHURCH, on Friday next:

matters have called for the pressure of meeting business and my individual abiding interest in the welfare of our Association, and trust it may be my privilege to be with you at the next session of your body, and there to enjoy the social greetings and brotherly intercourse which heretofore has afforded me so much pleasure.

Brethren, I tender to you my christian love, and humbly ask you to remember me in your prayers. I sincerely desire you may be blessed in your deliberations, that you may have a harmonious and prosperous meeting, that God be with you to guide, direct and bless you.

I was appointed at the last session of our body to write on Ministerial Support. I have not done so, yet I feel the matter much at heart. It certainly deserves from the churches their serious consideration, and their earnest co-operation. Our ministers, those who labor in the vineyard of Christ, those who those who feed to us the bread of eternal life, should be cared for and supported better than we are doing. We are too remiss in this particular. Our preachers are not paid enough. We do not give them enough to enable them to eat and feel, and live like independent men. We are far from our duty in this respect. I sincerely hope a reformation will commence in our churches in reference to this matter and begin now. Let each church determine, in calling a preacher that he will support him, and let them do it liberally. Is it not our duty? Examine the Scriptures, see what God says, learn your duty and perform it. The Scriptures abound with evidences of our duty in this respect (although I have not time or space to quote them,) then let us perform it, for how can the love of God dwell in our hearts, if we see our brother, especially him who has charge of our church, needing the good things which we possess if we withhold them? Brethren, I have no doubt we will be held accountable before God for the way we perform our duty in this particular. I am impressed that it is our duty to get up a permanent fund in our Association for the relief and support of our superannuated preachers, those who have worn themselves out in the cause of Christ. Shall we, after they become worn down and unable to labor in the pulpit, too feeble to lay hold of the plow-handles, shall we withdraw our aid and support? Surely not. I hope not, and yet it is so. Brethren, let it no longer be said of us that it is so. Get up some system, start some plan and lay the foundation for a building in which the fathers of Israel in our Association may find shelter for

their frail bodies and rest for their weary limbs, after they have worn themselves out in their ministerial labors.

For that object, should you agree to work with me, put me down for the present \$100.

Report on Religious Worship every Sabbath of each church, prepared by Elder S. J. Fincher, was read and adopted as follows:

To be satisfied with less than this, or to suppose that preaching every fourth or second Sabbath, is often enough, is practically to impeach the Divine wisdom. God has set apart every Sabbath for religious worship; what God hath joined together, let no man put asunder. The primitive churches, we are told, met on every Lord's day. Who will dare to pronounce the weekly provisions of spiritual food, which the Lord has appointed, superfluous and unnecessary? We believe it is utterly impossible for a church to be in a vigorous and flourishing condition with her sanctuary closed and her pulpit silent half or three fourths of the Sabbaths.

I tremble to think if our churches, for the last thirty years, had enjoyed the regular ordinances of worship every Sabbath. Many, very many would have embraced the Lord, who are now in the "gall of bitterness and in the bonds of iniquity," or beyond the reach of mercy. On whose skirts will their blood be found? Of whom will their souls be required? Great guilt exists somewhere.

Let us do our duty in this respect, then the Lord will forthwith send prosperity. This is of more importance to us as a people than all worldly good. For what are riches and parade, and costly dwellings for a day compared with the image of God, with an eternal heaven, with unfading crowns of glory?

On motion, agreed that we adjourn to hear Elder N. B. Cobb preach at the arena.

SATURDAY, 1 o'clock P. M.

The Association resumed its business. After a hymn had been sung, Elder S. J. Fincher led in prayer.

The letters from Mt. Olive, Faulk's and Meadow Branch churches were read, and entered as they appear in the statistical table.

Elders John Broadaway and C. C. Foreman from the Pee Dee Association appeared and were received as visiting brethren.

Report on Army Mission, prepared by Elder S. Head, was read and ordered to be printed as follows:

The subject of missions is dear to every true lover of Zion. Like the great apostle to the gentiles, when he has occupied the regions immediately around him, he has a burning desire to carry the glad tidings into regions beyond.

But especially dear to us is the work of Army Missions. Here we are called upon to send the gospel to our own sons, husbands, fathers and brothers, who are deprived in many instances of both the printed and preached word. The destitution of chaplains in our army is very great. In Gen. Lee's army there are over 100 regiments without chaplains; and amongst them, more than seventy regiments and battalions in the C. S. army from this State, there are only nine Baptist chaplains, and the salaries of all those who have families are supplemented by the Board of Missions at Goldsboro. So our soldiers are almost wholly dependent upon our missionaries for what preaching they hear.

Since the 1st of November last, the N. C. Baptist Board of Missions have sent out to the army 83 missionaries and co-operators and distributed gratis about 25,000 Bibles and Testaments, 15,000 hymn books and very many pages of tracts. Our missionaries and chaplains all report most encouraging success wherever they have labored; and yet this Association has done but very little since its last session to aid in this important work, and it is sad to know that many of the churches have failed to send up any contribution whatever to this object.

We should bestir ourselves to greater diligence in this important work, souls are perishing daily in our defence and a righteous God asks of each of us as he did of Cain, "What hast thou done, the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground." We are responsible for the salvation of those men to the extent of our influence and our means to save their souls from death. If they perish in our defence, and their souls are lost, can we say we have used every means in our power to save them from everlasting destruction?

After some stirring and feeling remarks by Elder N. B. Cobb, it was resolved that the brethren and friends present be invited to assist in supplying the N. C. soldiers with the written and preached word, when the following amounts were contributed:

Uriah Staton, \$500 00; V. T. Cheers, 100 00; S. Lee, 55 00; J. T. Marsh, 55 00; L. H. Alsobrook, 55 00; A. L. Stough, 50 00; J. F. McLure, 50 00; S. Head, 50 00; T. Redfearn, 50 00; Mrs. John Broadway, 50 00; S. J. Fincher, 25 00; John Bivens, 25 00; J. J. Austin, 25 00; Mrs. D. A. Covington, 10 00; J. W. Davis, 10 00; C. T. Brooks, 5 00; J. C. Morgan, 5 00; J. J. Hastey, 5 00; C. Gaddy, 5 00; J. Q. Griffin, 5 00; Mrs. Ellen Mask, 5 00; Mrs. Lucy High, 3 00; J. K. Griffin, 3 00; Mrs. S. A. Trull, 2 00; W. M. Brantley 2 00; Thos. Avett, 1 00; Jas. Hill, 1 00; Noah Helms, 1 00; Jno. Martin, 1 00; Mrs. Catharine Lee, 1 00; Mrs. Martha Broadway 1 00; Mrs. S. Turner, 1 00. Whole amount \$1157 00.

On motion, the following brethren are appointed to write reports for the next Association on the following subjects:

On Periodicals—A. L. Stough.

On Ministerial Support—S. J. Fincher.

On Army Missions—J. F. McLure.

On Religious Training of the Young—S. Head.

On Domestic Missions—B. S. Reader.

On Sabbath Schools—V. T. Cheers.

The following brethren were appointed to attend Corresponding Associations:

Welch Neck—Elders S. Head, S. J. Fincher and brother L. H. Alsobrook.

Moriah—Elders A. L. Stough, J. F. McLure and S. Head.

King's Mountain—Elders J. F. McLure and A. L. Stough.

Broad River—Elders S. Head, J. F. McLure.

Yadkin—Elders A. L. Stough and J. F. McLure.

On motion, it was ordered that the Sabbath collection be appropriated to Army Mission.

On motion, Elder S. P. Morton was appointed to preach the Introductory sermon, and Elder S. J. Fincher his Alternate.

Elder A. L. Stough to preach the Missionary sermon, and S. Head his Alternate.

The Association then adjourned to meet Monday morning at 8 1-2 o'clock. Benediction by the Moderator.

LORD'S DAY, OCTOBER 9th, 1864.

At 12 o'clock the annual Missionary sermon was delivered by Elder A. L. Stough, agreeably to the appointment of the last Association, from Romans 1: 16. After a warm address the following persons pledged to raise the following sums for Army Mission during the ensuing year:

A. L. Stough, \$500 00; S. J. Fincher, 500 00; J. T. Marsh, 100 00; Mrs. L. E. Crump, 30 00; Miss Mary A. Covington, 50 00; Miss Bennett, 50 00.

After which a collection was taken up for Army Mission amounting to \$227.

After a recess of one hour, the congregation again assembled and Elder S. J. Fincher preached from Rev. 13: 20. At the close of the sermon several presented themselves as penitents.

Owing to the cold weather, the congregation was not so large as is usual on such occasions, and consequently the collection was not as large as it would have been.

MONDAY, 8 1/4 O'CLOCK A. M.

The Association met at the appointed hour. Prayer by Elder S. J. Fincher. The minutes of Saturday were read, and the roll called.

The Missionary's report called for and read, and after remarks made by various brethren, was on motion, adopted, and ordered to be printed as follows:

It is with mingled feelings of pleasure and sorrow that I make this, my annual report, of the missionary operations in which, under your control, I have been engaged during the last Associational year. Through the loving kindness of God I have been enabled faithfully to attend the Concord Mission, with the exception of two months. I was then prevented from attending by the prevalence of the small pox in that region. The Lord has been pleased to abundantly bless the ministerial labors dispensed at that place. A deep, abiding interest in the success of our cause has been very manifest during the year. Many have been smitten under the influence of the preached word. Many have enquired the way to Zion. Many have professed faith in Christ, and many willing converts have followed Christ in the ordinance of baptism. We have been enabled to constitute a church of 23 members with an encouraging prospect of an unlimited number yet flocking to the Baptist ranks. I tell you, brethren, the pure word of God's truth is winning its way at that place. Every act of religious worship seems to fasten itself upon their minds and consciences.

I have seen many old pious Pedobaptists weep at the baptismal scene, and afterwards declare their belief that it was the right way. A deep devotional spirit at all times seems to move in the hearts of all this people. Unsheltered by the convenience of a house of worship, in the open air old men and women and children for nine days and nights attended to the ministrations of the word. Our congregations are large.

I baptized 25 during the past year. But brethren, death has not been idle; some of those youthful converts have fallen victims to his ravages on the field of battle. For this I sorrow, but not as those who have no hope.

J. F. McLURE, Missionary.

On motion, for satisfactory reasons given, Elder A. L. Stough was excused for not preaching at South Bethany as Missionary.

On motion, *Resolved*, That we earnestly urge upon the members of our churches to subscribe to and promote the circulation of the *Biblical Recorder*.

The report on Requests and Queries was read and adopted as follows:

The committee on Requests and Queries respectfully report—

1st. We find upon examining the letters from the churches composing this body a request or petition for the next meeting of this body to be held with the Elizabeth church. Also from the same church a request for this body to appoint an efficient Sabbath School Agent.

2nd. We also find in the letter from the Concord church an appeal to assist them in procuring a pastor during the ensuing year.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

V. T. CHEARS, Chm'n.

On motion, it was *Resolved*, That the next meeting of this body be held with the Elizabeth church, Chesterfield District, S. C., commencing on Friday before the second Sabbath in October, 1835.

On motion, Bro. L. H. Alsbrook, T. Redfearn and John Bivens were appointed to procure a Sabbath School agent for this body.

In order to sustain our Missionary another year, the delegates present were

requested to say what amount they would pledge their respective churches for. The following amounts were severally pledged:

Mt. Olive, \$25; Monroe, 50; Faulk's, 10; Rocky River, 20; Philadelphia, 25; Mineral Spring, 20; Waxhaw, 20; Pleasant Valley, 50; Olive Branch, 25; Deep Creek, 25; Elizabeth, 50.

On motion, the churches are recommended to collect the amounts pledged as practical and forward the same to the Treasurer in order to enable him to pay the missionary punctually for his services.

Resolved, That the warm-hearted hospitality, and the very kind attentions that have been shown us during our session by the brethren and friends of this community, demand and have hereby tendered our heart-felt thanks.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the churches composing this Association be recommended to observe Friday before the 1st Sabbath in April and September in humiliation, fasting and prayer.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the churches of this Association be recommended not to allow any of their members to hold a letter of dismission more than twelve months.

On motion, *Resolved*. That Brethren D. A. Covington, T. Redfearn and John Bivens are hereby appointed a committee to devise some plan for the support of super-annated ministers.

On motion, the Treasurer was ordered to pay Elder J. F. McLure one hundred and forty-four dollars for Missionary services rendered.

On motion, *Resolved*. That we will make an exertion in the respective churches to which we belong to raise money to supply the soldiers with religious reading.

On motion, *Resolved*. That the thanks of this body are due and hereby tendered to our Moderator and Clerk for the able and dignified manner in which they have performed their duty.

Ordered that 400 copies of our minutes be published and 100 of the same for the benefit of our brethren in the army, and that the Clerk superintend the printing and distribution of the same, and be allowed \$50 00 as compensation for his services.

The committee on Finance reported. The report was adopted as follows:

T. REDFEARN, Treasurer,

To BROWN CREEK ASSOCIATION, Dr.

Oct. 10th, 1864.	To amount in hand,	\$ 62 78
	To contributions from the churches,	136 15
	To pledges paid for last year,	328 88
	To Army Missions from Elizabeth,	43 50
	To " " " Deep Creek,	23 00
	To " " " Olive Branch,	116 80
	For Hospitals from Waxhaw,	11 00
	Army Missions collected last Saturday,	1157 00
	Collection on Sabbath,	227 00
		<hr/>
		\$2106 06

CREDITS.

Oct. 10th, 1864.	By cash paid Elder N. B. Cobb,	\$1384 00
	" " " J. F. McLure,	144 00
	" " " V. T. Chears,	25 00
		<hr/>
		\$1553 00
	Balance in hand,	553 06
		<hr/>
		\$2106 06

We, your committee, have examined the above account and find it correct.

C. GADDY,
S. LEE,
T. REDFEARN.

A motion for adjournment was made and carried.

Prayer was offered by the Moderator, after which all united in a song of praise, during which the fraternal hand was given, and all seemed to feel a solemn, yet delightful tenderness of soul.

The Moderator then declared the Association adjourned, to meet in its next annual session with the Elizabeth church, on Friday before the second Sabbath in October, 1865.

V. T. CHEARS, Clerk.

A. L. STOUGH, Moderator.

REMARKS.

Thus closed the tenth annual meeting of the Association, and although it was not so largely attended as some previous meetings owing to few men at home, yet it was a pleasant and harmonious one. The reports from the churches show some degree of prosperity and progress, especially in the way of Sabbath Schools and contributions to benevolent objects. Much zeal was manifested in all the various operations in which we are engaged. But let us try and double our diligence in the work of the Lord during the ensuing Association year so that we may record still more gratifying intelligence of activity and prosperity within our several churches.



NAMES OF CHURCHES, PASTORS, CLERKS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	POST OFFICES.
Mt. Olive,.....	E. C. Morton,....	H. Grady,.....	White Store, N. C.
Monroe,.....	W. H. Jordan,....	B. Cheers,.....	Monroe, "
Faulk's,.....	J. W. Davis,....	Wm. Collins,....	Beaver Dam, "
Meadow Branch,...	L. Bennett,.....	H. Bivens,.....	Richardson's Creek "
Rocky River,....	S. P. Morton,....	Jas. Broadaway,...	Ansonville, "
Mineral Spring, ..	S. J. Fincher,....	S. Rushing,....	White Store, "
Shiloh,.....	E. F. Reeder,....	J. W. Benton,....	Monroe, "
Cross Roads,....	B. F. Reeder,....	Thos. Griffin,....	Monroe, "
Mt. Moriah,.....	W. F. Brasington,...	K. C. Timmons,...	Hornsboro', S. C.
Philadelphia,....	S. Head,.....	V. T. Cheers,....	Lane's Creek, N. C.
Charlotte,.....	R. H. Griffith,....	L. H. Smith,....	Charlotte, "
Waxhaw,.....	J. C. Croxton,....	T. J. M. Yarbrow,...	Cureton's Store, S. C.
Pleasant Valley, ..	A. L. Stough,....	John Ross,.....	Pleasant Valley, "
Olive Branch,....	E. L. Davis,....	J. E. W. Smith,...	Olive Branch, N. C.
Deep Creek,.....	S. J. Fincher,....	J. T. Marsh,....	Deep Creek, "
Elizabeth,.....	S. Head,.....	Joel Baker,.....	Mt. Croghan, S. C.
Bethel,.....	S. J. Fincher,....	S. Parker,.....	Poplar Hill, N. C.
Concord,.....	J. F. McLure,....	S. J. Lindsey,....	Concord, "

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	Baptized.	Received by letter.	Restored.	Dismissed.	Deceased.	Excluded.	Total.	For Minutes.
Mt. Olive,.....	Townley Redfearn, J. C. Morgan, I. Bivens,.....		2		1			155	\$10 00
Monroe,.....	J. F. McLure, W. J. Willoughby*,.....	2			4	1		40	6 00
Faulk's,.....	Asa Faulks*, Wm. Collins*, Wm. Newsom*,.....	12	3	1	3	3		51	8 50
Meadow Branch,.....	J. Q. Griffin, J. Hasty, J. Perry*,.....	15	4	2	1	2		188	12 40
Rocky River,.....	Thomas Avett, J. Martin, S. Lee,.....	12				1		92	10 00
Mineral Spring,.....	S. J. Fincher, [no letter],.....								
Shiloh,.....	Noah Helms, J. Secrest, James Hill,.....	10			2		1	54	15 00
Cross Roads,.....	Thomas Griffin*,.....	2						10	1 00
Mt. Moriah,.....	Thos. Lowrey*, L. H. Alsobrook, K. C. Timmons,.....					2	3	85	3 50
Philadelphia,.....	V. T. Cheers, J. P. Gathings*, C. P. Harrell*,.....	1				1	1	61	5 50
Charlotte,.....	W. Boyd*, W. F. Windle*, L. H. Smith*,.....	35	6		10		2	143	25 00
Waxhaw,.....	J. J. Godfrey, Wm. Godfrey, Coleman Austin*,.....	4			4	1		80	6 00
Pleasant Valley,.....	A. L. Stough, John Ross*, Jesse Harriss*,.....	13	13					40	10 00
Olive Branch,.....	J. K. Griffin, J. J. Austin, J. E. W. Smith*,.....					1		42	8 00
Deep Creek,.....	J. T. Marsh, C. Gaddy, B. Teal,.....	28	5		3	1	1	103	10 00
Elizabeth,.....	S. Head, A. Woodward*, W. M. Brantley*,.....	10	6			1		76	10 25
Bothel,.....	No delegates,.....	4	5					33	8 00
Concord,.....	No delegates,.....	25						38	15 00

*Absent.

SUMMARY.

Churches,.....	13	Dismissed by letter,.....	24
Delegates present,.....	23	Excluded,.....	10
Pastors,.....	14	Dead,.....	16
Added by baptism,.....	171	Total,.....	1186
Added by letter,.....	44	Nett gain during the past year,.....	168
Restored,.....	3		