

MINUTES

—OF THE—

Twenty-Second Annual Session

OF THE

BLACK CREEK

Primitive Baptist Association,

HELD AT

Contentnea Meeting, House

WILSON COUNTY, N. C.

**October 22nd, 23rd and 24th.**

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Wilson, N. C.,  
Landmark Steam Printing House,  
1897.

## PROCEEDINGS.

1st. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder J. B. Bass, from Matthew 5:6.

2nd. After a short intermission the messengers from the several churches assembled and the Association was opened with praise and prayer by Elder J. A. Burch, after which the Association proceeded to business. On motion Elder P. D. Gold was chosen moderator, O. L. Yelverton, Clerk and Elder J. F. Farmer Assistant Clerk.

3rd. On motion Visiting brethren and messengers from sister associations were invited to seats.

4th. Elders T. C. Hart and J. M. Harriss were appointed to occupy the stand to-day. Elder Hart preached from 111th Psalm. Elder Harriss from Hebrews, 10th chapter.

5th. Brethren J. T. Hooks and J. B. Smith were appointed a committee of finance.

6th. Letters were called for and read from 13 churches.

7th. Petitionary letters called for; none presented.

8th. Called for corresponding letters and messengers from sister Associations.

From Contentnea—Elders T. C. Hart, and W. B. Williams as messengers. J. W. Moore, Hyman Pate, visitors.

From Little River—Brethren A. F. Whitley, J. W. Talton, G. W. Johnston as messengers, brethren Boyett and Whitley as visitors.

From White Oak—Elder Isaac Jones as messenger and letter.

From Kehukee—Brethren I. W. Bass, J. M. Howell, Elder G. D. Robinson and H. D. Jenkins as messengers and brother W. C. Trevathan, visitor.

From Seven Mile—Elder B. Wood and Jonas Rieves as messengers.

From Country Line—Elders J. M. Harriss, J. A. Burch as messengers and Minutes.

From Mill Branch—Minutes.

From Baltimore—Minutes.

From Eno—Minutes.

From Warwick—Minutes.

From Delaware—Minutes.

From Delaware River—Minutes.

From Mayo—Minutes.

From Staunton River—Minutes and J. C. Shellhorse visitor.

From Abbotts Creek Union—Minutes.

9th. Appointed our next annual session to convene with the church at Creech's Johnston county, to commence on Friday before the 4th Sunday in October, 1898 at 11 o'clock. Elder P. D. Gold to preach the introductory sermon, Elder William Woodard alternate.

10th. The following brethren were appointed messengers to sister Associations with whom we correspond.

To Contentnea—brethren Thomas Clark, J. T. Hooks, J. B. Smith and I. S. Smith.

To Kehukee—G. W. Boswell, J. T. Rentfrow.

To Little River—brethren J. B. Smith Jonas Pittman, J. T. Hooks, William Boykin and J. T. Gurley.

To Country Line—brethren I. S. Smith, J. T. Hooks, O. L. Yelverton and Elder P. D. Gold.

To White Oak—brethren Thomas Clark and Elder P. D. Gold.

To Seven Miles—brethren G. W. Boswell, I. S. Smith and J. T. Gurley.

To Eno—brethren J. B. Smith, G. J. Yelverton and O. L. Yelverton.

To Mill Branch—Minutes.

To Baltimore—Minutes.

To Delaware—Minutes.

To Delaware River—Minutes.

To Warwick—Minutes.

To Abbotts Creek Union—Minutes.

11th. The Association adjourned until Saturday morning 10 o'clock.  
SATURDAY MORNING, October 23rd, 1897.

12th. The Association was opened with praise and prayer by Elder W. B. Williams.

On motion Elders W. B. Williams, G. D. Robinson, B. Wood and Isaac Jones were appointed to occupy the stand to-day. Elder Williams preached from John 7-24; Elder Robinson preached from Heb. 4:16; Elder B. Wood preached from Eph. 2nd 1-9; Elder Jones preached from Timothy 4: 1-2.

13th. The names of messengers were called and the absentees marked with a \* in the Statistical Table.

14th. The messengers appointed to visit sister Associations were called upon most of whom made satisfactory reports. Those who failed to attend were kindly excused by the Association.

15th. The committee on finance was called for, and made the following reports:

Received from the churches .....	\$48.35
EXPENDITURES.	
Allowed Clerk for services.....	6.00
Printing and postage of Minutes.....	17.00
Given to aid in defraying expenses of visiting ministers .....	25.35
Total.....	\$ 48.35 48.35

Report received and committee discharged.

16th. Agreed that the Constitution and rules of Decorum be appended to these minutes.

17th. Agreed that the Association recommend to the churches composing the same, that no one be ordained to the ministry of the Word

unless some church request his ordination at her pastor, or the church of which he is a member be willing to have him as her pastor, and if she has none she actually choose him as such.

18th. Our Clerk was directed to have 1200 copies of these minutes printed and distributed among the churches and Associations with whom we correspond, record one copy in our records and that he be allowed \$6.

19th. The Clerk read the proceedings of the Association, after which it adjourned to meet again at the time place appointed for the next session with praise by the Moderator.

P. D. GOLD, Moderator.

O. L. YELVERTON, Clerk.

ELDER J. F. FARMER, Assistant Clerk.

SUNDAY MORNING, Oct. 24th, 1897.

Services were opened by Elder J. A. Burch preaching from John 18-35, following by Elder Isaac Jones preaching from Zec. 13:7. Services were then closed with praise by the Moderator.

The preaching was with great power and much enjoyed by the hearers.

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### RULES OF DECORUM.

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1st. This Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

2nd. The Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present

3rd. Only one person shall speak at a time, who shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator when he is about to make his speech.

4th. The person thus speaking shall not be interrupted in his speech by any, except the Moderator, till he is done speaking.

5th. He shall strictly adhere to the subject, and in no wise reflect on the person who spoke before him so as to make remarks on his slips, failings or imperfections, but shall fairly state the case and matter as nearly as he can so as to convey his light and ideas.

6th. No person shall abruptly break off or absent himself from the Association without liberty obtained from it.

7th. No person shall rise or speak more than three times on one subject without liberty from the Association.

8th. No member of this Association shall have the liberty of laughing during the sitting of the same, nor whispering in the time of a public speech.

9th. No member of this Association shall address another in any term or appellation than that of brother.

10th. The Moderator shall not interrupt any member or prohibit him from speaking until he gives his light upon the subject, if so he violates the Rules of this Decorum.

11th. The names of the several members of this Association shall be enrolled by the Clerk as often as the Association requires.

12th. The Moderator shall be the last person who shall speak to the subject, who may give his opinion if he chooses before he puts the matter to a vote, but shall not vote himself unless the Association be equally divided.

13th. Any member who shall willingly and knowingly break any of these rules shall be reprov'd by the Association as they may think proper.

## CONSTITUTION.

From a long series of experiences, we the churches of Christ, being regularly baptized on a profession of our faith in Christ, and being convinced of the necessity of the constitution of churches in order to perpetuate a union and communion among us, and maintain a correspondence with each other in our union, propose to maintain and keep the order and rules of our Association according to the following plan or form of government.

Article 1. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union, and duly sent to represent them in the Association, and who shall be members whom they judge best qualified for that purpose, and producing letters from their respective churches, certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to seats, provided they shall not violate the rules laid down in this Constitution.

Art. 2. In the letters from the different churches shall be expressed their number in fellowship, those baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excluded and deceased since the last Association.

Art. 3. The members thus chosen and convened, shall have no power to lord it, over God's heritage, nor shall they have any ecclesiastical power over the churches, nor shall they infringe upon any of the internal rights of any of the churches in the union.

Art. 4. The Association, when convened, shall be governed by a regular and proper decorum.

Art. 5. The Association shall have a moderator and clerk, who shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

Art. 6. New churches may be admitted into this union, upon their petition by letters and messenger, and if found upon examination to be orthodox and orderly, shall be admitted and manifested by the moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

Art. 7. Each church in the union shall be entitled to representation in the Association not to exceed three of its members.

Art. 8. Every query presented by any member of the Association shall be twice read, and if there be a majority for its being debated, shall be taken into consideration and debated, but if there be a majority against it, it shall be withdrawn.

Art. 9. Every motion made and seconded shall be considered by the Association except when withdrawn by the member whomade it.

Art. 10. The Association shall endeavor to furnish the churches with the minutes of this Association, and the best way or method for effecting that purpose shall be at the discretion of the Association.

Art. 11. We think it absolutely necessary that we should have an Associational fund for defraying the expenses of the same, for the raising and supporting of which we think it is the duty of each church in the union to contribute such sums voluntarily as they shall think proper, and send by the hands of their messengers to this Association, and the money thus received by the association shall be deposited in the hands of the treasurer, who shall be accountable to the Association for all money received by him, and pay out the same according to the direction of the Association.

Art. 12. The minutes of this association, when printed, shall be regularly filed by him in a book kept for the use of the association. He shall endeavor to have said book present at each association.

Art. 13. The minutes of this association shall be read and corrected, if need be, and signed by the moderator and clerk before the association adjourns.

Art. 14. Amendments to this plan or form of government may be made any time, by a majority of the union, when they may deem it necessary.

Art. 15. The association shall have power first, to provide for the general union of the churches; second, to preserve inviolably a chain of communication among the churches; third, to give the churches all necessary advice in matters of church difficulty; fourth, to inquire into the cause why the churches fail to represent themselves at any time in the association; fifth, to appropriate the money contributed by the churches for an associational fund for any purpose strictly connected with the association; sixth, to appoint any member or members by and with their consent to transact any business which they may deem it necessary; seventh, to withdraw from any church in this union which shall violate the rules of this association, or deviate from the orthodox principles of religion; eighth, to admit any orderly minister of our order to a seat in the association; ninth, to adjourn to meet at any future time or place they may think most convenient to the churches in the union.

Art. 16. We will not hold in our churches any person who is in the practice of visiting the Masonic Lodges, or who on any occasion conforms to their customs or parades, nor will we countenance any such individual who may reside or come among us in the character of a preacher.

Art. 17. We will not countenance any preacher who shall travel within the bounds of the association establishing societies for the collection of money, or who may be himself collecting money to support any institution whatever. We will not fellowship any members of Missionary, Bible, Tract, or Sunday School Union societies, nor advocates of Theological Schools, nor any person who does fellowship them: nor will we hold any such in our church.

### OBITUARY.

This earnest and decisive man was born in Wayne Co. N. C., Jan. 1st 1835, was of Quaker parentage, and of that persuasion, holding the conditional system of salvation for years. He married a daughter of brother Hardy Yelverton—a faithful Baptist, who survives him. One child only, a daughter, is left alive beside.

He was baptized in the church at Memorial, Wayne Co., N. C. Sat. before the first Sunday in Oct 1874 by the writer of this obituary, who also assisted in his ordination to the gospel ministry, April 9th, 1877. He served as clerk of his church a short while.

He fell asleep in Jesus April the 10th 1897. His funeral was preached before an immense audience by Elder J. S. Woodard.

He was for years the useful moderator of the Black Creek Association. In early life he was a Mason of note. His principles and convictions were such that whatever his hand found to do he did it with his might. Hence he was an efficient and earnest Mason.

Being a man of clear and quick mind; of deep intuition, and of clear, honest convictions, he was of decisive character, but also prudent. He held no half-way convictions, but was disposed to probe deep into a subject, and ascertain the truth. He was also fearless, manly and vigorous in defending or following his convictions. He was an ardent, courageous friend of the right, and a great lover of gospel peace, and of that good behaviour that leads to it. Men that love the right and perform it are not troublers in Israel, nor disturbers of the peace. One that knew brother Edgerton doubted not where to find him, nor feared that he would turn his back on the foe in the day of battle. Very lovely wast thou my brother Jonathan, in the defense of the right, and bold in thy onslaughts against the wrong; and thy love for the Prince, King David, was wonderful passing the love of woman.

In all the relations of life he was gentle, kind and faithful. How kind as a husband, tender as a father, cheerful and faithful as brother, obliging and useful as a neighbor, and citizen, solicitous and laboring as a pastor.

I was pastor of the church he joined before and at the time of his baptism. His knowledge of the scripture and gift in religious conversation was very remarkable before his baptism. I felt before he was received into the church that he would be a gospel preacher. He could not hide his gift. When I went to one of the meetings there and visited his hospitable home he told me that a certain scripture was burdening him. On my inquiry what scripture, he said it was the case of the one talent being hid, and that he was fearful that he was that character. Thus he felt small as the one talent man, and was warned also. It seemed to me then that he could not much longer withhold, nor did he, but soon he came before the church and was received.

His wife told me in his last sickness that she knew before he began to preach that he must. For, said she, one day in vision I was at the church amid a large congregation, and he rose up and took a seat in front of the stand, the humblest looking man she ever saw, and the Lord Jesus said, I have gone up from this lower world, but he must preach my gospel among men.

He soon entered on his public ministry with great earnestness and much ability. His gift in all the scriptures as a teacher and expounder was rich and precious. I have never heard any man deeper and richer in tracing out and setting forth the spiritual meaning of the types and symbols under the law, and showing their glory in the gospel. What is wrapped up to most minds under the curtains of the tabernacle of the wilderness, was so revealed to him in the veil rent and open that he wondrously brought out things new and old, and showed them on the housetop in the noon day light of the gospel.

He also exhorted the brethren to good living and peace. No stain was found on his garments. Beautiful were his feet, and bright the armor he wore to the end of his faithful life.

How I loved him no words can tell. His churches loved him too, and they were prosperous showing the good fruit of his faithful labor. I visited him twice in his last sickness. He was solicitous only about the welfare of the church. He dreaded confusion. Let us remember his noble example keeping himself pure, his lovely counsel telling his good brethren to take good heed to their conduct, also the wonderful theme of his preaching—Jesus Christ and him crucified.

His end was peaceful. He has gone home. How we miss him here below. May the Lord bless his widow and child, and remember us all in mercy.

P. D. GOLD.

*Names of Ministers Belonging to this Association and their Post-Office Addresses.*

Ministers.	Post-Office.	County and State.
Elder P D Gold . . . . .	Wilson . . . . .	Wilson County, N. C.
Elder Wm Woodard . . . . .	Wilson . . . . .	Wilson County, "
Elder J S Woodard . . . . .	Wilson . . . . .	Wilson County, "
Elder J F Farmer . . . . .	Wilson . . . . .	Wilson County, "
Elder J B Bass . . . . .	Wilson . . . . .	Wilson County, "
Brother Bennett Bullock . . . . .	Connor . . . . .	Wilson County, "
Brother J T Pittman . . . . .	Wilson . . . . .	Wilson County, "
Brother Thomas Clark . . . . .	Fremont . . . . .	Wayne County, "
Brother I S Smith . . . . .	Walter . . . . .	Wayne County, "

*Names of Churches and Pastors with their Post Office Addresses:*

Churches.	Pastors.	Post Offices.	Quarterly Meetings.
Aycock's . . . . .	Wm Woodard . . . . .	Wilson, N. C.	4th Sunday in Sept.
Beulah . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	3rd " " "
Upper Black Creek	J B Bass . . . . .	Wilson, N. C.	4th " " Sept.
Contentnea . . . . .	Wm Woodard . . . . .	Wilson, "	3rd Sunday " Oct.
Creeches . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	1st Sunday " Aug.
Cross Roads . . . . .	J W Gardner . . . . .	Goldsboro, N. C.	4th " " Sept.
Dudley . . . . .	J S Woodard . . . . .	Wilson, "	1st " " Aug.
Goldsboro . . . . .	Wm Woodard . . . . .	Wilson, "	1st " " June
Healthy Plains . . . . .	Wm Woodard . . . . .	Wilson, "	2nd " " Aug.
Memorial . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	1st " " Oct.
New Chapel . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	2nd " " Sept.
Scott's . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	1st " " Oct.
Toisnot . . . . .	P D Gold . . . . .	Wilson, N. C.	4th " " Aug.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

Churches.	Post-Office.	Counties.	NAMES OF MESSENGERS.	Baptized	Rec. by letter	Dism'd by let'r.	Excluded.	Restored.	Deceased.	Fellowship.	Contribution.	
Aycock's.....	Fremont.....	Wayne.....	J. A. Davis, Thomas Clark, O. L. Yelverton.....	2	1	1		2	4	103	\$5.00	
Beulah.....	Selma.....	Johnston.....	Jonas Pittman, A. B. Atkinson, Ephriam Pittman.....	11	7	1		1	2	93	2.50	
Contentnea.....	Wilson.....	Wilson.....	G. W. Boswell, J. T. Rentrow, J. M. Burnette.....				1		2	85	3.00	
Greeches.....	Ermit.....	Johnston.....	Stephen Peele, J. R. Hare, J. N. Stancell.....				1			28	1.50	
Cross Roads.....	Princeeton.....	Johnston.....	R. W. Edmundson, J. T. Bridgers.....				1		1	29	2.50	
Dudley.....	Dudley.....	Wayne.....	Letter.....	1			1		1	23	1.50	
Goldsboro.....	Goldsboro.....	Wayne.....	W. H. Pate, H. F. Pate.....	3					1	14	1.50	
Healthy Plains.....	Connor.....	Wilson.....	J. B. Smith, W. M. Boykin, J. A. Thompson.....	8	1		1	1	1	31	3.85	
Memorial.....	Fremont.....	Wayne.....	W. R. Hooks, J. T. Hooks, W. T. Hales, C. Atkinson Alt.....						2	85	8.00	
New Chapel.....	Walter.....	Wayne.....	I. S. Smith, J. T. Gurley, G. J. Yelverton.....						2	39	5.00	
Scott's.....	Lucama.....	Wilson.....	W. T. Rose, Jonas Lamm, Thomas Lamm.....	9	2	1			1	13	1.50	
Upper Black Creek	Black Creek.....	Wilson.....	Jethro Ferrell, Eli Ferrell, A. J. Price.....	8						85	2.50	
Toisnot.....	Wilson.....	Wilson.....	J. T. Farmer, Theoph. Barnes, P. D. Gold.....							5	8.00	
			Total.....	42	3	12	4		4	23	804	48.35