

Minutes

OF THE

SEVENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

OCHLOCKNEE ASSOCIATION

OLD LINE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS.

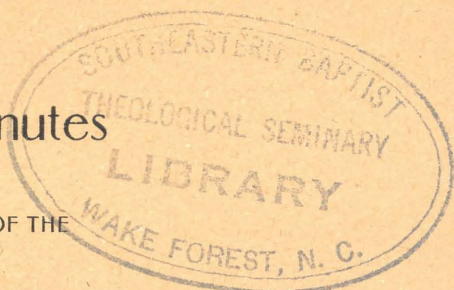
HELD WITH

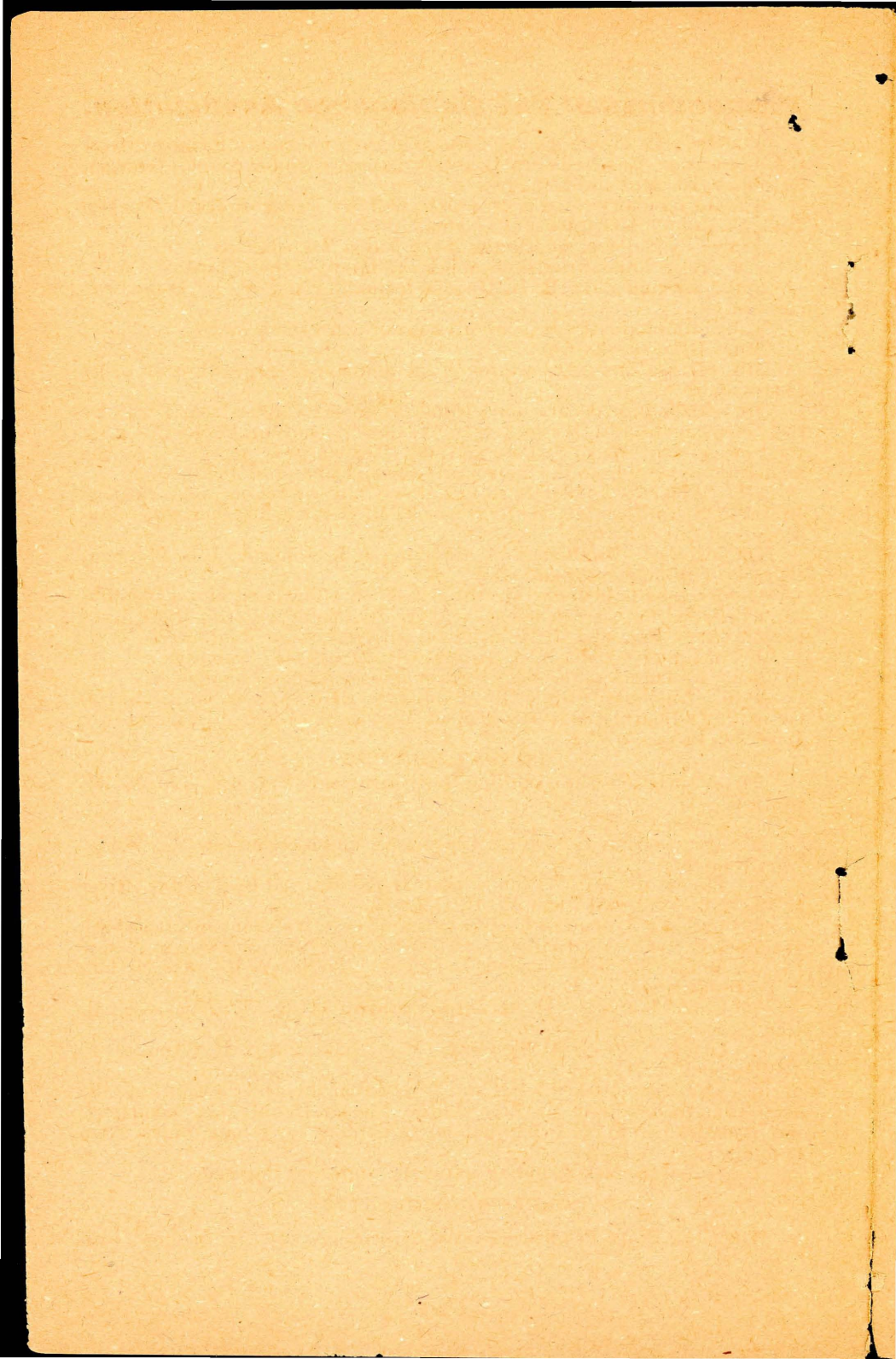
LIVE OAK CHURCH,

Colquitt County, Georgia,

OCTOBER 22nd, 23rd, and 24th, 1904.

ELDER E. R. RHODEN, Moderator,
W. E. HUNNEWELL, Clerk.





Proceedings of The Ochlocknee Association.

The Seventy-Eighth Annual Session of the Ochlocknee Primitive Baptist Association convened with Live Oak church, Colquitt county, Georgia, October 22nd, 23rd and 24th, 1904.

The introductory sermon was delivered by Elder Richard Tucker, Text, St. John 5th chapter and 1st verse.

Prayer by Elder A. A. Knight of the Union Association.

1st. Read letters from 8 churches and minuted their state.

2nd. Elected Elder R. H. Rhoden moderator and W. E. Hunnewell clerk.

3rd. Adopted last year's minutes as our course of business.

4th. Read the decorum.

5th. Invited visiting brethren in the ministry of our faith and order to seats with us.

6th. Called for pensionary letters. Received a letter from Ty Ty by their messengers, Eld. R. Tucker, S. W. Crum; also from Rocky Creek by their messengers, W. Z. Stripling, W. M. Walters; was receive by the moderator extending to the messengers the right hand of fellowship.

7th. Appointed committees as follows, on preaching and finance: Brethren N. E. Chastine, M. R. Horn, F. M. Renfroe together with messengers of this church.

On business: Brethren T. A. Redding, J. D. Johnson, J. S. Norman, together with moderator and clerk.

On deceased ministers: Brethren J. W. Stallings and Moses Blanton.

8. Called for correspondence and received from the Flint River Association: A. P. Fain and R. H. Alligood with a package of minutes.

From Union: Elder A. A. Knight with a package of minutes.

9th. Called for petitionary correspondence; none presented.

10th. Appointed Bro. J. W. Stallings to write corresponding letter. On motion adjourned until 8:30 o'clock Monday morning. Prayer by Bro. J. W. Stallings.

MONDAY MORNING.

The Association met according to adjournment. Prayer by Eld. W. H. Godwin.

1. Called the roll.

2. Renewed the call for correspondence and received R. J. Wilder from Flint River.

3. Renewed the invitation to visitors and received from Flint River J. W. Williamson and Elder W. H. Godwin.

4. Called for report of business committee: We your committee have examined corresponding minutes and find nothing objectionable in them.

5. Returned correspondence as follows: To San Pedro Association, J. D. Johnson and W. E. Hunnewell.

To Flint River, Bro. H. M. Jordan, Elders T. N. Williams, E. R. Rhoden and Bro. M. M. Blanton.

To Union, Elder W. S. Stripling, R. A. Luke and B. H. Sirmans, J. J. Giles and M. M. Blanton.

6. Called for marked letter and agreed that the next session of the association be held with Mt. Zion church, Thomas County, Ga., commencing Saturday before the fourth Sunday in October 1905, four miles from Coolidge on A. & B. Ry.

7. Called for corresponding letter and approved the same.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The Ochlocknee Primitive Baptist Association now in session with

Live Oak church, Colquitt County, Ga., to the sister associations with whom she corresponds, sendeth greetings dear and much beloved brethren and sisters in the Lord. We have had a good meeting and we feel that the Lord has made manifest his holy and lovely presence among us. The preaching has been good and the brethren and sisters have been lovely. The next session of our body will be held with Mt. Zion church about four miles northwest of Coolidge on the A. & B. Ry. where and when we hope to meet you again. Farewell, dear brethren, till we meet.

W. E. HUNNEWELL, Clerk.

E. R. RHODEN, Moderator.

8. General meeting to be as follows: First district, first fifth Sunday in 1905 at Bethsaida church, Colquitt County, Ga.

Second district, second fifth Sunday in 1905 at Harmony church, Brooks County, Ga.

9th. Called for circular letter, read and approved the same.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

Dear brethren and sisters: Having been appointed at the last session of our association to write the circular letter for this session, I will offer you a few thoughts on Matthew 18-3. And said, Verily, I say unto you, except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven (church). We notice that they are spoken of as "little" children. The little child is entirely helpless—dependent for knowledge and power as well as for food and raiment, and after being converted they realize that in themselves they are destitute. And this truth of being little none ever realize until they are converted. This brings them into fellowship with the household of faith, and their experience then is like that of Abraham who was called out of the land of his nativity to dwell in a land that the Lord would shew him of. His obedience was the evidence of his conversion, and made manifest his faith in God. And when he was commanded of God he as a little child, having no will of his own, above that of the will of the Father, offered up his only begotten son. This was a full and complete manifestation of the love and power of God over the will and power of man, by which God is glorified and the hope given to man confirmed. And as Abraham did not withhold his beloved son, but offered him upon the altar, it stood as evidence of love and power representing the love and power of God in sending his only begotten Son into the world to suffer and die, that he might redeem us from all iniquity and through him to have eternal life. And for our comfort and instruction, he says, "Fear not little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." That kingdom that is not meat and drink, but righteousness, joy and peace in the Holy Ghost, taking us vile sinners from the wives of nature and placing us in his kingdom, and bestows on us such love that we are called the sons of God. And then dear brethren and sisters, we know that we are poor helpless sinners, unworthy of the least of God's mercies, unable of our selves to do anything acceptable with God. Then we see that the work of our conversion, by which we are to enter into this kingdom is the work of grace through faith, by which ye are kept ready to be revealed at the last time. Hence the work of our eternal salvation. Our love for God, our hope in Jesus, our love and fellowship for his church is all the result of God's love for us. Hence ye are all children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. And to you it is given to know the things that pertain to the kingdom of God, and as such we are commanded to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we have been called, which is only our reasonable duty, remembering that it is plainly taught in God's word that "If ye live after the flesh ye shall die. But if ye through the spirit mortify

the deeds of the body ye shall live." Now dear brethren, this together with many other portions of Scripture, as well as our experience, teaches us that we should "Strive to enter in at the straight gate." And to this end may the Lord enable us to live.

10. Appointed Eld. W. Z. Stripling to write next circular letter and G. W. Crum alternate.

11. Called for report of finance committee and received from the churches \$26 55. We your committee recommend the printing of 600 copies of minutes, 400 for the churches, the balance for corresponding purposes. The clerk to receive \$20.00 for his services and the remainder to be distributed unto the visiting ministers.

12. On motion this Association rescinds the act of endorsing the McDonald faction of Pulaski Association. Prayer by Eld. R. A. Luke of the Union Association.

13. Adjourned to meet at Mt. Zion church Thomas county, Ga., Saturday before the fourth Sunday in October 1905.

Resolved, That we tender our heartfelt thanks to the brethren and sisters of Live Oak church and the kind friends of the vicinity for their kindness, attention and care of us during our stay among them, and pray that God may abundantly bless them, both spiritually and temporally according to his tender mercy.

ORDER OF PREACHING.

Introductory sermon was delivered by Eld. Richard Tucker of Rocky Creek church. Text, St. John 5th chapter and 40th verse, followed by Eld. W. H. Godwin of the Flint River Association. Saturday evening, Eld. W. Z. Stripling of Ty Ty church. Sunday morning, Eld. A. A. Knight of the Union Association, followed by Eld. R. A. Luke of the Flint River Association. Sunday evening, B o J. W. Williamson, followed by Eld. W. H. Godwin, both of the Flint River Association. Monday morning, Eld. W. Z. Stripling of Ty Ty church. Closed by the moderator.

ADDRESS OF MINISTERS.

Elder E. R. Rhoden, Moultrie, Colquitt county, Ga.; Eld. D. N. Williams, Sigsbee, Colquitt county, Ga.; Eld. M. J. Alderman, Hempstead, Colquitt county, Ga.; Eld. W. Z. Stripling, Worth county, Ga. LICENCIATES:—A. J. Aikins, Tallokas, Brooks county, Ga.; J. W. Stallings, Barwick, Brooks county.

Bro. F. M. Renfroe was requested to write notice of the death of Eld. J. F. McCann, which was as follows:

We, in the close of our Association, received the news that our former moderator, Eld. J. F. McCann, is dead. Since the beginning of our Association when we first learned of the critical illness of our beloved brother, we have been shrouded with sadness. Still we waited on in hope of his recovery, and when the sad news of his death came there was a gloom of sadness that overshadowed us that one could see imprinted on the faces of all. Many tears trickled down the cheeks of those who so loved and esteemed him. With our heartfelt sorrow, we implore the God of Israel, the God that he so loved and contended for, to visit his family and friends in this their hour of bereavement, and to comfort them in their sorrow, and by his gentle kindness and tender mercies enable them to say, Thy will be done. By request of this Association we spread this on our minutes.

Rules of Decorum.

1. This Association shall open and close with prayer.
2. The members who are regularly chosen by the churches in our Union shall compose the Ochlocknee Primitive Baptist Association, two-thirds of which form a decorum.
3. Members chosen shall produce letters from their respective churches certifying their appointment, together with their number in fellowship, those received by experience and baptism and otherwise, dismissed, excommunicated restored and dead since our last Association.
4. This Association shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor infringe on the internal rights of any church.
5. This Association shall have a Moderator and Clerk, who shall be chosen of the members present.
6. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preserve order, explain and put questions; he shall have the same right of speech as another member provided the chair shall be filled, but shall not vote except the body be equally divided.
7. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a fair record of the proceedings of the Association, and the minutes taken shall be read and amended, if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association rises. The Clerk shall also keep a file of the minutes to be presented at each Association, and shall take charge of the Association fund and pay out any sum on the order of the Association, and shall be accountable for all money deposited in the hands of the Association.
8. Any church applying by letter and delegates for admittance, which, upon examination, if found orthodox and orderly, shall be received by the Association and manifested by the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship to its delegates.
9. Every church shall have a right to send two delegates to the Association, and no more.
10. Every motion made and seconded shall claim the action of the Association, except when withdrawn by the person who made it, with the consent of the Association.
11. Every person who speaks must rise from his seat and address the Moderator, and shall not be interrupted when speaking except when he departs from the subject.
12. No person shall speak more than three times on the same subject without leave of the Association.
13. There shall be no talking or whispering in time of public speech nor reflections cast on the speaker.
14. Whenever a case is decided by a vote, there shall be no more debate on the subject.
15. No person shall absent himself from the Association without leave of the Moderator.
16. The Association is in favor of preaching the gospel, the circulation of the Scriptures and the advantages of education, and recommends temperance and morality in general but to her members in particular; no withstanding she is opposed to all modern institutions of men, such as Missionery, Bible tract and Sunday-School Union Societies, together with Baptist State conventions and Theological schools and such like, because their connection with the church of God is unauthorized by the Scriptures. As such we cannot fellowship them, or admit to our church privileges any person who is therewith connected in anywise, believing all such to be speculative in their nature and fruitful sources for corrupting the church. In relation to Free Masonry, we recommend to our brethren who may already be attached to that fraternity to immediately withdraw therefrom; and when brethren leave the church and join that fraternity, they are not

such as follow after the things that make for peace and things wherewith one may edify another. Rom. 14-19. And as such, unless they manifest a suitable repentance, and immediately withdraw therefrom, and make suitable acknowledgements, shall be rejected from the fellowship of the church.

17. We recommend to the churches composing this body to receive members who went off with the Missionary and all other Baptists at the time of their separation from us, provided they bring satisfactory evidence of a legal baptism with a suitable confession of faith, and not otherwise in disorder, and not to receive any who have been baptized by them since said separation only by experience and baptism.

18. This Association holds the right that if the union be broken between any of the churches and the breach cannot be healed, to withdraw from them that may be deemed unsound in faith or immoral in practice until they be removed.

19. To invite visiting brethren from sister Associations, and ministers of our faith and order, to seats with us.

20. To keep a correspondence with other Associations of the same faith and order, so that a chain of communication may be preserved throughout the denomination.

21. If any member shall break the rules of this decorum, he shall be re-proved by the Moderator.

22. The rules shall be read at every association prior to entering on business.

23. The rules of this Decorum may be altered or amended at any time by a majority of three-fourths of the Association.

ELDER E. R. RHODEN, Moderator.

W. E. HUNNEWELL, Clerk.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe in one only true and living God, and that there are three in the Godhead, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

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.

2. We believe in the doctrine of eternal and particular election.

4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

5. We believe in man's impotency to recover himself from the state he is in by nature, of his own free will and ability.

6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, only by the imputed righteousness of Christ.

7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

8. We believe that the saints shall persevere in grace and not finally fall away.

9. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper and washing the saints' feet are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only subjects of these ordinances, and the only true baptism is by immersion.

10. We believe that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting, and the joys of righteousness shall be eternal.

11. We believe that no minister has the right to the administration of the ordinance, only such as are regularly called and come under the imposition of the presbytery.

12. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgment.

ELDER E. R. RHODEN, Moderator.

W. E. HUNNEWELL, Clerk.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

| CHURCHES. | COUNTIES. | POSTOFFICE | MESSENGERS. | Annual Meeting—Sun | Contributions | Number of Fellowships | Deceased | Excluded | Dismissed by Letter | Restored | Confession of Faith | Received by Letter | Baptized |
|----------------|-----------|------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------------|----------|----------|---------------------|----------|---------------------|--------------------|----------|
| Sardis | Colquitt | Hempstead | B. H. Sirmans, J. I. Baker | 4th Sept | \$5.00 | 45 | | | | | | | |
| Pleasant Hill | Colquitt | Moultrie | E. R. Rhoden, M. M. Blanton | 3rd June | 2.00 | 16 | | | | | | 1 | |
| Bethel | Brooks | Tallockas | Able Ingram, J. A. Whipple | 1st Sept | | 34 | | | | | | 3 | |
| Harmony | Brooks | Barwick | F. M. Renfro, J. W. Stallings | 4th Aug | 2.50 | 49 | 1 | | 1 | | | 9 | |
| Bethsaida | Colquitt | Moultrie | M. R. Horn, F. M. Jordan | 3rd Sept | 3.35 | 51 | | 2 | | 4 | | | 2 |
| Live Oak | Colquitt | Moultrie | Eld. D. N. Williams, J. J. Giles | 1st Aug | 1.50 | 34 | 1 | | | | | 1 | |
| Mt. Zion | Thomas | Chastain | G. A. Redding, W. A. Chastine | 1st Oct | 1.50 | 24 | 1 | | | | | | |
| Rocky Creek | Worth | | Eld. R. Tucker, S. W. Crum | 3rd Sept | 2.20 | 27 | | 1 | 1 | | | | 4 |
| Ty Ty | Worth | | W. B. Stripling, Wm. Walters | 2nd Sept | 2.00 | 25 | 1 | | 2 | | | | 8 |
| Bethlehem | Brooks | Quitman | J. D. Johnson, W. E. Hunnewell | 2nd Oct | 2.00 | 37 | | | 1 | 1 | | 3 | 1 |
| Pleasant Grove | Colquitt | Moultrie | N. E. Chastain, J. S. Norman | 2nd Sept | 3.00 | 62 | | 2 | | | | | 1 |

