



## MINUTES

Of the Fourteenth Annual Session of the Ohoopie Primitive Baptist Association, held with the Church of Providence, Johnson county, Ga., October the 10th, 11th, and 12th, 1879.

1st. The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. Henry Meeks from the 8rd chapter and 26th verse of Gallations. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

2nd. After an intermission of thirty minutes the delegation from the several churches convened in the house, and the Association was opened by singing and prayer.

3rd. Received and read letters from ten churches and minuted their state.

4th. Proceeded to organize this body by electing Elder Spencer Meeks Moderator and A. J. Braddy Clerk.

5th. We invited ministering brethren of the same faith and order to seats with us, to help us in our deliberations.

6th. Called for petitionary letters and received two: one from Hamilton Hill, Montgomery county, Ga., by the hands of John Graham and James I. Founten, who were cordially received by the Association, the Moderator extending the right hand of fellowship to said delegates. Also one from Mount Olive, Johnson county, Ga., by the hands of J. J. Jackson, and James Wilson, who were cordially received by the Association, the Moderator extending the right hand of fellowship to said delegates.

7th. Appointed committee on preaching as follows:

A. W. ATKINSON, HENRY MEEKS, JAS. I. WIGGINS,  
JOSEPH N. SMITH, D. L. WARNACK.

Who made the following report—

Saturday morning, 10 o'clock.—Jordan Norris to preach, followed by James Townsen. Thirty minutes intermission. T. W. Dean closed by C. T. Smith.

8th. Appointed business committee, and adjourned until Saturday morning, 10 o'clock.



SATURDAY MORNING, 10 o'clock.

- 1st. The Association met and was opened by singing and prayer.
- 2d. Called the roll, read the decorum, and proceeded to business.

## REPORT OF BUSINESS COMMITTEE.

3d. We, your committee, beg leave to make this our report to your honor. After hearing the letter read from our several churches, we are made to rejoice to know that God has so blessed our Association; that not one of our ministers has been taken away from us by death, and only three deaths in our association. We also glad to find that our association has been strengthened by two new churches. We are sorry to hear of so much coldness in the churches. We also ask your honorable body to give us a general meeting during the next Association year, to come off on some 5th Sunday, Friday and Saturday before, with delegates from all of our churches, to visit the same; and also if you give us the meeting, that you will take steps to the appointment of some one to preach the opening sermon at the meeting. As we find no other business that claims our attention, we close this, our report, by saying that we hope that the God of all grace may sustain the association, together with all of its members.

## COMMITTEE:

T. W. DEAN, HENRY MEEKS, J. G. SMITH.

4th. Called on the Rev. Henry Meeks for circular letter, which was read and received.

5th. Appointed a general meeting to convene with the church at Silver Leaf, Laurens county, Ga., commencing on Friday before the 5th Sunday in 1880, to be represented by letter and delegation.

6th. Appointed the Rev. C. T. Smith to preach the opening sermon at the said general meeting.

7th. Appointed our next association to be held with the church at Reedy Springs, Johnson county, Ga., commencing on Friday before the second Sunday in October, 1880.

8th. Appointed the Rev T W Dean to preach the next introductory sermon, and C T Smith his alternate.

9th. Appointed the Rev C T Smith to write the next circular letter, and John G Smith his alternate.

## SUNDAY MORNING.

10th Order of preaching Sunday morning 10 o'clock, the Rev C T Smith to preach, followed by Elder S Meeks. Thirty minutes intermission. J W Clements, closed by John Thomas.

11th. On motion for adjournment, the Minutes of the Association was read, received and assigned.

SPENCER MEEKS, Moderator. A J BRADY, Clerk.

12th. Appointed the Clerk of this Association to write our sincere thanks to the vicinity of this association.

13th. The Association closed by singing and prayer.

SPENCER MEEKS, Moderator, A J BRADY, Clerk.



14th. Dear Brethren and Sisters and the good and kind-hearted people that surrounds our sister Church, Providence: We are at a loss to find language to express our love to you for your kind and loving benevolence to us during this association; believing that David's God is your God [the God of eternal glory. For I was a hungered and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger and ye took me in: inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord. Then, brethren and sisters and friends, who surrounds us at Providence Church during this Association, our thanks and love to you are inexpressible; your love to us seems free, your charitable acts has many witnesses, which are long to be remembered by our loving and honorable body of delegates, whose faces we love. And our beloved preachers and brethren, whose faces were so familiar and prints in their foreheads and palms in their hands. And these are they which come out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the lamb. Then farewell, may the God of Heaven bless you all and the vicinity of Providence Church, and the surrounding vicinity, with all His blessings, both spiritual and temporal, and save you all in His kingdom, is the prayers of you unworthy

A. J. BRADDY.

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### ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe in only one true and living God, and that there are three in the Godhead, viz: The Father, Son and 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.
3. We believe in the fall of Adam and the imputation of his sin, to his posterity; in the corruption of human nature, and the impotency of man to recover himself by his own free will and ability.
4. We believe in the everlasting love of Christ to his people, and the eternal election of a definite number of the human race to grace and glory, and that there was a covenant of grace, or redemption made between the Father and Son before the world began, in which their salvation is secure, and that they in particular are redeemed.
5. We believe sinners are justified in the sight of God, only by the righteousness of Christ imputed to them.
6. We believe that all those who were chosen in Christ will be effectually called, regenerated, converted, sanctified and supported by the spirit and power of God, so that they shall persevere in grace, and not one of them be finally lost.



7. We believe that good works are the fruits of faith, and follow after justification, and that they justify us in the sight of men and angels, and are evidences of our gracious state.

8. We believe that there will be a resurrection of the dead, and a general judgment, and that the happiness of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

9. We believe that the visible church is a congregation of faithful persons, who have gained christian fellowship with each other and have given themselves up to the Lord and to one another and have agreed to keep up a godly discipline agreeable to the rules of the Gospel.

10. We believe that water baptism, the Lord's supper and the washing of the saints feet are ordinances of the Lord and are to be continued till his second coming.

11. We believe that true believers in Jesus Christ are the only subjects of baptism and that dipping is the mode.

12. We believe that none but regular baptized church members have a right to communion at the Lord's table.

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### **Decorum of the Ochopee Association.**

1. The Association shall open and close with prayer.

2. Those members who are regular chosen by the churches in our union, shall compose the Ochopee primitive Baptist Association. The members thus chosen shall produce letters from their respective churches certifying their appointment together with their number in fellowship, with those received by baptism, by letter, by faith dismissed, excommunicated, restored and died since last Association.

3. This Association shall have a Moderator and Clerk, who shall be chosen by the members of the present and shall hold their office until the next election.

4. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preserve order, explain and put questions, and he may have the same right of speech as another member, provided the chair be filled, but shall not vote except the body be equally divided.

5. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a fair record of all the proceedings of this Association, and the minute taken shall be read and amended if necessary and signed by the Clerk and Moderator.

6. Any church applying by letter and Delegates for admittance, which upon examination is found orthodox and orderly, shall be received by the Association and manifested by the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship to its Delegates.

7. Each church shall have the right to send two delegates to the Association and no more.

8. Every query presented to the Association shall be from church authority.



9. Every motion seconded shall claim the action of the Association, unless withdrawn by the person who made it, and with consent of the Association.

10. Every person who speaks in debate shall rise from his seat, and address the Moderator, and shall not be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject.

11. No person shall speak more than three times on the same subject without leave of the Association.

12. There shall be no talking or whispering in time of a public speech, nor reflections cast upon the speaker.

13. Whenever a case is decided by vote there shall be no more debating on the subject.

14. No member shall absent himself from the Association without permission from the Moderator.

15. It is the duty of this Association to provide for the general union of sister churches, give her best advice in difficult matters, and if the union be broken between any of the churches to inquire into the cause. If the breach cannot be healed to withdraw from any church or churches, that they be deemed unsound in faith or immoral in practice, until they be reclaimed.

16. This Association recommends the churches of her body to receive members from Missionary churches by faith, but if any member wishes to be baptized, to grant them their request.

17. If any church of our union and order wishes to withdraw she can do so by making application, and she shall have a letter of dismission.

18. To keep up a correspondence with other Associations of the same Faith and Order that a chain of connection may be preserved among the churches.

19. To invite Ministers of our Faith and Order to seats with us.

20. If any member break these rules he shall be immediately reproved by the Moderator.

21. These rules shall be read at every Association previous to entering on business.

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#### CONSTITUTION OF THE OHIOPIE ASSOCIATION

1. This Association shall, if they think proper, meet annually as an advisory council.

2. This Association shall be composed of messengers from the several churches, so that each church may have two Messengers, if they choose, and no more, and the messenger's names shall be inserted in their letters.

3. This Association shall have power to make its own rules to govern itself, but none of the rules to be binding on the churches, for they are free and of right and ought to be.

4. It shall be the duty of this Association to give her best advice in cases of difficulty, and endeavor to keep up a union among the churches composing the body.



5. This Association shall admit into its body any church which they shall find sound in faith and moral practice. Also if any church in order wishes to withdraw from this body, she may, at her discretion on application, have a letter of dismission.

6. As the love of money is the root of all evil, and has produced so much distress among Christians, we wishing to live in peace, therefore this Association shall not engage in, nor in any way encourage any religious speculation called missionary or by any other name, under pretense of supporting the Gospel.

7. We, the churches composing this Association, believing the books of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God; declare we take the New Testament for the rule of our faith and practice, for we are not under the Law but under Grace.

C. T. SMITH, Moderator.

A. J. BRADY, Clerk.

## Circular Letter.

To the Brethren and Sisters of the Ohioopie Primitive Baptist Association, and the Church of Christ that's scattered abroad:— The time has arrived when doubtless you will expect something in the form of a Circular Letter.

To the word and testimony: 1st Timothy, 4th chap., 6th verse. If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shall be a good minister of Jesus Christ, and so now the spirit speaketh expressly that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. Is this that time? Surely it is, for they are crying lo here, and lo there. Christ said believe them not, neither go after them. Preach the word— Jesus Christ and Him crucified for the remissions of sin. Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world; hereby know ye the spirit of God; every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, is of God. Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God, and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. Dear brethren and sisters in Lord, when the Lord caused the light to shine out of darkness, and the light of God's holy spirit shone into our hearts, which gave us the light and knowledge of the love, truth and mercy of Jesus Christ, who formed the hope of glory within our hearts. The love of God leadeth men into repentance, and a godly sorrow worketh repentance. Dear brethren and sisters, when Jesus Christ reveals himself to a sin burdened soul in the removal of the mighty weight of sin and condemnation, which had caused you to mourn and lament your sin fixed condition; we are then enabled by a mighty touch of God's holy spirit to say blessed be God forever: then we can say, was there ever love like this. Well, love hides a multitude of



7  
 faults. Brethren, let me beg of you, to live in peace one with another, always esteeming each other better than yourself; love each other. He that saith he loves God and hateth his brother, is a liar and the truth abideth not in him, because God is love, and His love actuates the hearts of all His children. Brethren, I beg of you to let your walks be conformed to the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Apostles, who have bestowed such love upon us, that we might be called the son of God, not for any of our good works; but God commendeth his love towards us in that while we were sinners Christ died for us. Rom. 5th chap., 8th verse, for if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life, and not our good works, for works follow after justification. So farewell, Brethren; if I never on this earth meet you again, I hope to meet you on fair Canaan's shore, where we will never part any more.

Brethren and Sisters, I beg of you to stand fast in the faith of the Son of God. May the God who rules and super-rules the heavens above and the earth beneath, Bless us all in our own souls with the kind influences of His holy spirit. Amen.

Your obedient servant,

HENRY MEEKS.

### **Names of Ordained Ministers of the Ochoope Primitive Association with their Postoffices**

Spencer Meeks, Wrightsville, Johnson county, Ga.  
 C. T. Smith.  
 T. W. Dean, New Cool Springs, Wilkerson county, Ga.  
 Jordan Norris, Bartow, Jefferson county, Ga.  
 Henry Meeks, Marysville, Johnson county, Ga.  
 J. W. Clements, Dublin, Laurens county, Ga.  
 D. Spivey  
 B. G. Fortner, Battle Ground, Johnson county, Ga.  
 Joel Anderson, " " " "  
 John Thomas, Dublin, Laurens county, Ga.  
 J. Walker, Marysville, Johnson county, Ga.  
 Eli Warnack, Dublin, Laurens county, Ga.

### **NAMES OF LICENSED MINISTERS OF THE OHOOPPE PRIMITIVE ASSOCIATION WITH THEIR POSTOFFICES**

D. L. Meeks, Wrightsville, Johnson county, Ga.  
 George Watson, Battleground, Johnson county, Ga.  
 James Townsen,  
 J. J. Bush, Dublin, Laurens county, Ga.  
 J. N. Smith, Johnson county, Ga.  
 William Palmer, Wrightsville, Johnson county, Ga.  
 J. Clements, Dublin, Laurens county, Ga.  
 B. F. Barfield, " " "  
 D. S. Spivey, " " "

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# State of the Churches, with their Pastors and Messengers.

CHURCHES.	Pastors.	COUNTIES & STATE.	MESSENGERS.	By Confession or faith.	Baptised.	Recd by Letter.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excommunicated.	Restored.	Dead.	Total.	Contribution.	Sabbaths of yearly meetings
Providence, . . . . .		Johnson	H. Meek & J. N. Smith . . . . .	0 5 0	0 1 0	0 1 0	1 43	100	1st in Sept				
Silver Leaf Spring, . . . . .		Laurens	D. L. Wainack, Mannan Thomas . . . . .	3 12 2	3 3 3	75	200	4th in Sep					
Pathes, . . . . .	Joel Anderson & others	Emanuel	J. Hooks, W. G. Thigpen . . . . .	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 9	52	24 in Sept					
Philadelphia, . . . . .	B. G. Fortner	Johnson	Eld. S. Meeks A. J. Braddy . . . . .	1 0 0	6 1 1	57	200	3rd in Sept					
Mount Zion, . . . . .	John Thomas	Johnson	Benjamin Dent, J. Norris . . . . .	1 0 0	3 1 0	100	1st in Sept						
Mount Pleasant, . . . . .	J. Norris	Johnson	J. I. Wiggins, J. F. Davis . . . . .	0 3 4	0 0 0	129	150	2d in July					
Mount Holand, . . . . .	B. G. Fortner, J. Anderson	Johnson	J. P. Mixon, J. Anderson . . . . .	1 2 0	0 0 0	22	50	2d in August					
Reedy Springs, . . . . .	B. G. Fortner & J. Thomas	Wilkinson	J. G. Smith, W. D. Smith . . . . .	0 0 0	0 1 0	0 16	50	3rd in August ]					
New Cool Springs, . . . . .	C. T. Smith	Emanuel	C. T. Smith, T. W. Dean . . . . .	0 0 0	1 2 0	0 32	100						
New Hope, . . . . .	J. Norris	Montgomery	A. W. Atkinson, W. J. Davis . . . . .	0 0 2	0 1 0	1 6	75						
Hamiltons Hill, . . . . .		Johnson	John Graham, J. I. Fountain . . . . .	0 0 0	0 0 0	10	100						
Mount Olive, . . . . .	B. G. Fortner & others		J. J. Jackson, James Willson . . . . .			50	2nd in July						
Total . . . . .				6 30 11	13	6 33	295	1225					