

# MINUTES

OF THE

## CANOOCHIE ASSOCIATION,

CONVENED AT

UPPER LOTT'S CREEK, BULLOCH COUNTY,

COMMENCED ON

SATURDAY, BEFORE THE FOURTH LORD'S DAY

IN

SEPTEMBER, 1843.



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Savannah:  
W. T. WILLIAMS.  
1843.

## MINUTES.

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1. THE Introductory Sermon was preached by Brother John G. Williams, from the tenth Chapter of Saint John, and twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth Verses : “ *My Sheep heard my voice and I know them, and they follow me ; and I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish.* ”
2. After a short intermission the Messengers from the different Churches convened in the Meeting House, and the Association was opened by singing and prayer by the Moderator.
3. Received and read letters from thirty Churches and minut-ed their state.
4. Proceeded to organize this body, and re-elected Brother Isaac Norris, Moderator, and John G. Williams, Clerk.
5. Received and read three petitionary letters, desiring to join this Association, one from South Salem Church, Liberty County, one from Antioch, Emanuel County, and one from Gum Branch, Liberty County and they were joyfully received by the Moderator, giving their Messengers the right hand of fellowship.
6. Invited Ministering Brethren of the same faith and order to a seat with us, to help us in our deliberations.
7. Appointed the following Brethren as a Committee to arrange the preaching during this Association, viz : N. Jones, Wm. Smith, and J. Clifton, with delegates of said Church.
8. Appointed the following Brethren as a Committee to arrange the business of this Association, viz : Isaac Norris, James R. Miller and W. S. Moore.
9. Received the report of the Committee to arrange the Preaching during this Association, and reported as follows :— Brother Isaac Norris to preach on the Sabbath, followed by Brother A. Odom. Intermission of fifteen minutes, then Brother James R. Miller to preach, and closed by Brother W. S. Moore.
10. On motion, adjourned until Monday morning, 9 o'clock.
11. Sunday morning, met according to arrangement, and the Brethren came forward in the order of their names and preached to a large and orderly congregation, and we hope their was good done in the name of the Lord.
12. Monday morning, met according to adjournment, and the Association was opened by Singing, and Prayer by the Moderator.

13. Received a petition from the Middle Association, desiring a correspondence with us, and the same was taken in consideration, and agreed that we, the Canoochie Association, cannot correspond with them unless they declare a non correspondence with the Missionary Associations, so called.

14. The report of the Committee for arranging the business of the Association was read and received.

15. Called on Brother James R. Miller for the Circular Letter. It was read and received.

16. A petition from Upper Black Creek Church requesting the Association to have printed in her Minutes, the Constitution of said Association, and also to add to the sixth Article the washing of the Saints' feet, and it was agreed to.

17. Agreed to have eight General Meetings.

18. Appointed the following Brethren as a Committee to arrange General Meetings, viz : R. Donaldson, James R. Miller and N. Jones. First at Lower Black Creek, Bryan County, and at the Lake, Bulloch County, to commence on Friday before the fifth Lord's Day in October, 1843. Second, at Upper Black Creek, Bulloch County, and at Newhope, Emanuel County, to commence on Friday before the fifth Lord's Day in December, 1843. Third, at Hebron, Emanuel County, and at Foxbay Reedy Creek, Tattnall County, to commence on Friday before the fifth Lord's Day in March, 1844. Fourth, at Bethlehem, Bulloch County, and at Canoochie, Emanuel County, to commence on Friday before the fifth Lord's Day in June, 1844.

19. Appointed our next Association to be held at Deloatche's Meeting House, Bulloch County, to commence on Saturday before the fourth Lord's Day in September, 1844, and Brother James R. Miller to preach the introductory Sermon, and in case of failure, Brother A. Odom.

20. Appointed Brother A. Odom to write the next Circular Letter.

21. Agreed to have 1000 copies of these Minutes printed, and the Clerk to attend to the printing and distributing of the same.

22. Called for contributions.

23. *Resolved*, That we return our thanks to God, and this vicinity, for their kind and affectionate attention to us, during this Association. Then adjourned in order.

ISAAC NORRIS, *Moderator*.

JOHN G. WILLIAMS, *Clerk*.



CONSTITUTION  
OF THE  
CANOOCHIE ASSOCIATION.

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1. This Association shall (if they think proper) meet Annually as an Advisory Council.

2. This Association shall be composed of Messengers from the different Churches, so as for each Church to have two Members if they choose, and no more, and the Messengers' names shall be inserted in their letter.

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

4. It shall be the duty of this Association to give their best advice in cases of difficulty, and to endeavor to keep up a union among the Churches, and arrange General Meetings.

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

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

7. We, the Churches composing this Association, believing the Books of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, declare that we take the New Testament for the rule of our faith and practice, for we are not under the Law but under Grace.

JORDAN SMITH, *Moderator.*

JOHN WISE, *Clerk.*

# STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

Churches, Counties & Messengers' Names	Red'd by Baptism	Rec'd by Letter	Recommended	Excommunicated	Restored	Dead	Total	Contributions.
Ordained Ministers Names in SMALL CAPITAL LETTERS.								
Licensed Preachers' Names in <i>Italic Letters</i>								
Lane's Meeting House, Bulloch County,							10	1 50
Upper Black Creek, Bulloch County, Wm. Groover, N. Jones,	4	3	6	2	1		51	2 00
Hawhamoc, Emanuel Co. E. Coleman,							7	75
Beard's Creek, Tattnall County, I. Knight, R. Thompson,	6	1	1			1	55	1 50
Elbethel, Emanuel County, J. H. Cowart, William Proctor,		2	1				13	50
Wade's Meeting House, Scriven County, J. Burk J. Morgan,	1					2	32	1 37
Watermellon Creek, Tattnall County, J. Anderson, D. Lin.			2	1		1	24	75
L. Black Creek, Bulloch Co. N. Dugger,	1	1			1		50	1 00
Lake Meeting House, Bulloch County, A. Waters, H. Bowen,			2	1			19	1 00
Nevils Creek, Bulloch County, N. Roberts, W. Hendricks,	3	2	1				40	1 00
Hine's Meeting House, Emanuel County, William Bishop,	1	1	8			1	17	1 00
Upper Lou's Creek, Bulloch County, M. Donaldson, J. Mercer,			1	1			40	1 00
Bethesda, Jefferson County, W. H. Green, A. Gertman,	2	2	5	1		2	48	1 50
Oakey Grove, Emanuel County, I. Norris, Wm. Norris,	1	4	4			1	27	1 00
Lime-Stone, Washington County, William Smith, L. Harrison,	6					1	39	1 50
Canoochie, Emanuel County, C. Cobb, J. Grimes,	1		8				24	1 00
Hebron, Emanuel County, R. Donaldson, J. Clifton,			2				42	1 00
Lower Lott's Creek, Bulloch County, J. G. Williams, F. Brannen,	2	2	4		2		65	2 56
Mill Creek, Bulloch County, W. S. Moore, R. Williams,	1	2	5	3			67	3 00
DeLoatch's Meeting House, Bulloch Co. W. DeLoatch, J. DeLoatch,		1	3			1	27	1 25
Jones' Meeting House Emanuel County, W. B. Miller, W. Jones,			2	2		1	23	25
Bethlehem, Bulloch County, S. Brannen, F. Linear,		2	2	1			27	1 00
Bethlehem, Laurens Co. G. Rials,			9	1	1		21	50
Antioch, Emanuel County, T. C. Deacle, W. A. Fricbet,	1	2				1	13	1 00
Providence, Emanuel Co. A. Odum,							48	1 50
Foxbay Reedy Creek, Tattnall County, S. Fiendly, J. Willis,	1	1	3				27	1 25
Betany, Washington County, M. Outlaw, D. Heath,	4	3	1				34	1 25
Mount Horeb, Cedar Creek, Tattnall County, F. Holon, S. Canida,				1		3	38	1 25
Mount Gilead, Washington County,			1				17	1 00
Elcin, Emanuel Co. James R. Miller, John R. Miller,	1		3				24	1 00
Newhope, Emanuel County, S. Strange, R. Edenfield,		1	4	3	1		22	1 00
South Salem, Liberty County, W. Rustin, Z. L. Boggs,							14	1 00
Gum Branch, Liberty Co. J. Mobley,							16	50
TOTAL,	139	34	74	8	6	10	1021	39 68

ISAAC NORRIS, Moderator.

JOHN G. WILLIAMS, Clerk.

## CIRCULAR LETTER.

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To the Elect Lady and her children whom I love in the truth, grace, mercy and truth be multiplied to all the Churches composing the Canoochie Association, and unto all who love our Lord in sincerity.

*Dear Brethren in the Lord :*

The revolving wheel of time has rolled the season round according to our former custom, that we should address you by way of a Circular; and feeling under obligation to you as well as to the Great Head of the Church, and knowing that this will have to come before the eyes of a gazing and admiring world, I desire to write in the most obvious and praying manner—being under the Divine influence of the blessed spirit of God as I hope. The subject of prayer was introduced to my mind, which is in its nature the most amiable and delightful subject that our minds could be engaged in; for it is the main-spring and only promotion of religion. No life, no light, no joyous feeling, no progress in religion, nor growth in grace without prayer. For prayer was appointed to convey the blessings that God has desired to give to his needy helpless and dependent creatures, who could not approach unto him in any other way, but through and by the humble attitude of prayer. Through faith the glorious telescope, we view as darkly the shining face of Him that taketh away our reproach, and remits our sins. Prayer is simply the desire of the heart, is breathed into the soul by the interceding spirit of God, and makes the darkened clouds of unbelief withdraw, and gives exercise to faith and hope. Let us think for a moment of the hours spent in prayer by our benevolent Lord and Master, particularly for his dear children. In John the 17th Chapter and 9 Verse we hear him praying thus: "I pray for them, I pray not for the world, but for them that thou hast given me, for they are thine." We also hear him saying to Peter, "Satan has desired to have thee that he might sift thee as wheat, but I have prayed the father for thee, that thy faith fail not."

O the affectionate regard that moved in the bosom of the Saviour of mankind, to take upon himself the responsibility to make our peace-calling and election sure, while his labors of love and



works of piety blended with the warmest affection towards his father and his dear children, come up before the blessed throne of God as holy incense, and moved upon the eternal mind of his father, reconciled him to his dear children, to open the book, to unloose the seals thereof, and to cause a pure river of water of life to spring forth from his throne as a living stream of free salvation, flowing forth in our souls, which brings life, light and immortality to view. So now we can say from an experimental knowledge in the language of the Scriptures, Come, for all things are now ready. Ask and ye shall receive; seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you

O the delightful promises that are left on record for the confirmation of God's dear children. But when we come to think on the nature of God, that as the Heavens are higher than the earth, so are his ways higher than our ways, which constrains us to say with the Apostle, that we know not how to pray as we ought. But blessed be God who giveth us the victory, the spirit itself maketh intercession for us, with groaning which cannot be uttered. It is God who prepares our hearts within us and gives us the answer of the tongue which enables us to cry Abba Father. To acknowledge him as God over all blessed forevermore. So then let us lift up holy hands unto him without wrath and doubting; praying with and for one another, that we may become helpers together in Christ's glorious and delightful kingdom.

The Minister should pray for the Church and the Church for the Minister, for all things are sanctified by the word of God and prayer. Notice the Apostle's engagement for the Church at Phillippi, in Philippians, 1st Chapter, 3d Verse, saying "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you." 4th Verse, "Always in every prayer of mine for you, all making request with joy." And also in the 9th Verse, "And this I pray that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment." These with many other passages too tedious to mention, go to show forth that the Apostle's engagement was for the prosperity of Zion—the prosperity of the Church of Christ—the pillar and ground of the truth. And not only the Apostles, but all those who receive the command in soul, to go forth and cry aloud and spare not, to hold not their peace day nor night. When all nature is hushed in midnight silence, many hours are spent in prayer and supplication by the Minister for the prosperity of Zion. Perhaps while returning home from his flock to his forsaken wife and dear little

babes, with the tears of contrition rolling down his cheeks, saying within his soul, Lord who has believed our report, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? Encouragement, well done thou good and faithful servant, though ye may have to go forth in sorrow, ye shall return with rejoicing bearing your sheaves, and enter into the joys of thy Lord.

We now go forth to show that the Church should pray for the Minister; see second Thessalonians, 3d Chapter, 1st Verse. "Finally, Brethren pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified even as it is with you." He desired that others should become partakers of the saving benefits of the grace of God that flows through the Gospel, and is applied to the soul by the spirit of God, in the belief of the truth. Also, in the 5th Chapter and 25th Verse, of first Thessalonians, he says, "Brethren pray for us," believing that the ear of the Lord is ever open to the cry of the righteous, and that the main spring of a Minister's activity in opening and illustrating the hidden mysteries of the Gospel, depends in some degree upon the prayers made for him by the Church. For notice in Colossians, 4th Chapter, 2d and 3d Verses, "Continue in prayer and watch in the same with thanksgiving." While praying also for us that God would open unto us a door of utterance to speak the mystery of Christ. So then Brethren let us pray without ceasing, and in every thing give thanks to God, and forever praise his name for the wonderful work of salvation.

A word to the Minister. Feed the flock of Christ, taking the overlooking thereof, not by constraint, but willingly, not of filthy lucre, but of a ready mind.

A word to the Churches. Consider your Ministers' bonds as being bound with him; giving that which is just and equal to your servants, if ye receive of them spiritual things think it no great thing if they reap of your carnal things.

We close by saying thus, Our Father is the Lord. He lives and in him let us trust and search his blessed word. In every opening leaf we find some pleasant thing, that speaks of Heaven and happiness, and of our blessed King. *Farewell.*