

MINUTES

OF THE

COUNTRY-LINE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST

ASSOCIATION.

HELD WITH THE

CHURCH AT GILLIAM'S,

ALAMANCE COUNTY, N. C.

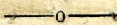
August 16th, 17th and 18th, 1884.

DANVILLE, V. A.:

THOS. H. AVERETT, BOOKSELLER AND PRINTER.

1884.

PROCEEDINGS.



1st. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder Jas. S. Dameron, from 2nd Corinthians, 1 : 12.

2nd. The Association convened and after prayer by Elder P. D. Gold, proceeded to business.

3d. Rules of Decorum were read.

4th. The letters from the several churches were read and their standing minuted in the statistical table.

5th. Correspondents were invited to take seats with us, whereupon the following were received :

From Contentnea—Elders J. A. Williams, (B. C. Pitt and T. C. Hart, visitors.)

From Kehukee—Elders J. E. Adams, B. Greenwood, W. A. Ross, (H. Peal, visitor.)

From Little River—Elder J. B. Parker, Brethren S. Woodall, E. Stuart, (G. W. Johnston, A. J. Tullington, visitors.)

From Black Creek—(Elder P. D. Gold, visitor,) Bro. D. A. Scott.

From White Oak—Elders I. Jones, B. Wooten, (L. H. Hardy, visitor.)

From Mayo—Elders F. J. Stone, L. I. Bodenhamer, J. Griggs, (John H. Neal, visitor.)

From Abbott's Creek—Wm. Cox.

From Pigg River—(S. Minter, visitor.)

From New River—Elder P. G. Lester.

6th. Elder A. N. Hall was chosen Moderator.

7th. Elders J. A. Burch, James H. Hall, John Harris, with the Moderator and Clerk were chosen as a committee of arrangements, and Brethren T. J. Motley and C. J. Terry as a Committee of Finance.

8th. Elders P. G. Lester, H. Peal, L. H. Hardy and B. H. Wooten preached in the afternoon.

9th. Adjourned till Monday morning at nine o'clock.

SUNDAY MORNING, 10 O'CLOCK.

- 10th. Elder B. Greenwood preached from James 2 : 26.
 Elder L. I. Bodenhamer closed morning services from Acts 27: 25.
 Elder P. D. Lester preached in the afternoon from Col., 3:3.
 Elder P. G. Gold was appointed to preach, but he was too sick to
 comply, and Isaac Jones preached at 4 o'clock.
 Elder J. B. Parker dismissed the congregation.
 Elders Jos. E. Adams and J. A. Williams preached at night.

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MONDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK.

- 11th. The Association met according to adjournment, and after
 prayer by Elder L. I. Bodenhamer, proceeded to business.
 12th. The Committees of Arrangements and Finance reported ; their
 reports were received and they were discharged.
 13th. Messengers appointed last year to visit sister associations and
 section meetings generally attended, and those who did not were ex-
 cused.
 14th. Messengers were appointed to visit sister associations—
 To Mayo : Elders A. N. Hall, J. M. Harris, D. R. Moore, Y. I.
 Chandler, Jas. A. Burch, and Brethren J. H. Hall, T. J. Motley.
 To Kehukee : Elder A. Blalock.
 To Little River : Elders James S. Dameron, F. L. Oakley, Jas. A.
 Burch, D. R. Moore.
 To Contentnea : Elder James S. Dameron.
 To Staunton River : Elders D. R. Moore, Jas. S. Dameron, Jas. A.
 Burch, J. M. Harris, Y. I. Chandler.
 To White Oak : Elders Y. I. Chandler, D. R. Moore, Brother Eli
 Buckner.
 To Abbott's Creek : Elders Jas. A. Burch, F. L. Oakley.
 To Pigg River : Elder J. M. Harris.
 To Black Creek : Elders J. M. Harris, Y. I. Chandler, D. R. Moore.
 15th. Agreed to send files of Minutes to Upatoie, Fisher's River,
 Smith River, New River and Mill Branch Association.
 16th. Elders Jas. A. Burch, Y. I. Chandler and F. L. Oakley were
 appointed to attend a section-meeting at Harmony, commencing on Fri-
 day before 2nd Sunday in April, 1885, and Elders A. N. Hall, A. Bla-
 lock and J. A. Burch to attend another at Lick Fork, commencing on
 Friday before 1st Sunday in April, 1885.
 17th. The circular-letter prepared by Elder Y. I. Chandler was read
 and adopted.

Brother J. C. Hudgins was appointed to write a circular-letter for next year.

18th. The Presbytery appointed last year to attend to the call of the church at Eno, organized churches at Durham and Mill Grove, composed exclusively of colored members and ordained to the work of the ministry Brother Luke Webb, a member of said colored church; also the same Presbytery attended to the call of the church at Mt. Lebanon, and set apart to the work of the ministry Brother T. Y. Monk.

19th. A Presbytery, composed of Elders A. N. Hall, D. R. Moore, and A. Blalock, was appointed to attend to the call of the church at Camp Creek, to examine, and, if expedient, to set apart to the work of the ministry Brother J. C. Hudgins; also the same Presbytery was chosen to attend to the call of the church at Flat River, to examine, and, if expedient, to set apart to the work of the ministry Brother Joseph P. Tingen.

20th. Elder Y. I. Chandler did not examine the state of the church at Mill, and Elders James S. Dameron, D. R. Moore and A. N. Hall were appointed to inquire into the condition of said church, and report to our next Association.

21st. The Finance Committee reported as

Received from the Churches.....	\$27.50
Already in hands of Clerk.....	25.80
Total.....	\$53.30

EXPENDITURES.

Clerk's Fee.....	\$10.00
Paid Travelling Expenses of Visiting Ministers.....	10.00
Printing and Mailing 1300 Copies of these Minutes....	15.45
Balance in hands of Clerk.....	17.85
Total.....	\$53.30

22d. Agreed that our next Association be held with the Church at Tar River, in Granville County, N. C., about nine miles south-west from Oxford, commencing on Saturday before 3d Sunday in August, 1885, and that Elder A. N. Hall preach the introductory sermon; Elder Jas. A. Burch his alternate.

23d. Elders F. J. Stone, W. A. Ross and B. C. Pitt preached after nine o'clock.

ANDREW N. HALL, MODERATOR.

JAMES S. DAMERON, Clerk.

C. A. HOWARD, Assistant Clerk.

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CIRCULAR LETTER.

DEAR BRETHREN—As it is our custom to annex to our minutes an epistle of love treating upon some subject that pertains to the Zion of our God, and as the welfare and happiness of the Church depends to a great extent on the proper execution of the bishop's office, we will offer a few thoughts on that subject.

Paul, the great Apostle of the Gentiles, says: "This is a true saying, if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work." (1st Tim. 3: 1). "A true saying in Scripture is a truth delivered by the Head of the Church and constantly affirmed by those who have the ministry of the Word." (Titus 3: 8). "The desire for the office of a bishop is a scriptural desire implanted in the heart by the grace of God, and quite different from a fleshly desire for the name of a preacher. The office or work of a bishop, then, is to feed the flock of God over which the Holy Ghost hath made them overseers, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind." (1st Peter 5: 2; Acts 20:28). "Also to comfort and build up, to strengthen the weak hands and confirm the feeble knees; to preach the word, reprove, rebuke, and exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine." (Issiah 35; 3-4; 2nd Tim. 4: 2). Therefore those whom God calls and separates unto the Gospel of his Son are affectionately desirous for the welfare, comfort and edification of the Lord's people; while at the same time they are made sensible of their insufficiency for the work, and the many afflictions, persecutions and hardships that attend the preaching of the Gospel; hence they are loth to embark in the noble work, and, like Jonah, try to get away from the presence of the Lord, but are made willing in the day of God's power to proclaim that salvation is of the Lord. (Jonah 2: 9). And these things serve as a balance against self-will, pride and presumption, and those who feel these things are not apt to trouble the Church by pressing their own ordination, but submit themselves to the will of the Church; and though he be the greatest, he is the minister and servant of the Church. (Math. 20: 26). He is to be an ensample to the flock; a bishop then must be blameless as the steward of God. (Titus 1: 7). The husband of one wife, not having more than one at a time; vigilant, watchful, taking heed to himself and the flock, lest the enemy get an advantage and scatter the sheep; sober—that is serious, grave; not given to foolish talking and jesting, which are not convenient; of good behavior; in all things showing himself a pattern of good works; given to hospitality; apt to teach—that is ready and qualified by having the spirit of love and of power, and of a sound mind to teach all things that are commanded (2nd Tim. 1: 7); not given to wine, but temperate in all things; no striker; not

quick to resent an injury or take revenge ; but when smitten on one cheek, to turn the other also ; not greedy of filthy lucre ; not preaching and begging for money nor the applause of men ; neither entangling himself with the affairs of this world to the neglect of the gift that is in him ; but patient, waiting on the Lord, being content with such things as they have ; not a brawler ; not noisy and quarrelsome, engaging in vain jangling and contentions about words to no profit ; not covetous : not lusting after that which belongs to others, but fulfilling the royal law, "As ye would that men should do to you do ye even so to them." Ruling his own house well by good example, good precepts, wise counsel and proper correction, having his children in subjection with all gravity ; not ruling by mere force, but by love, kindness, attention, and example, so as to make himself the centre of attraction in the family ; for if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the Church of God ; not a novice, a new beginner, lest he be lifted up with pride and fall into the condemnation of the devil. He must have a good report of them without—a report of honesty, soberness and morality. Thus we see the office of a bishop is a good work and requires a good man to fill it ; therefore we should lay hands suddenly on no man, but prove all things, and hold fast that which is good. No man should be set apart to this office until it is manifest that these qualifications have been wrought in him by the Holy Ghost ; and churches that need an under-shepherd should always pray the Lord of the harvest to give them one after his own heart, who will be a blessing and not a curse ; and then, dear brethren, let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in word and doctrine. Esteem them highly in love for their work's sake and supply their temporal necessities, so that they may give themselves wholly to the work. (1st Tim. 5:17 :) that God in all things may be glorified. Now the God of peace that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Y. I. CHANDLER.