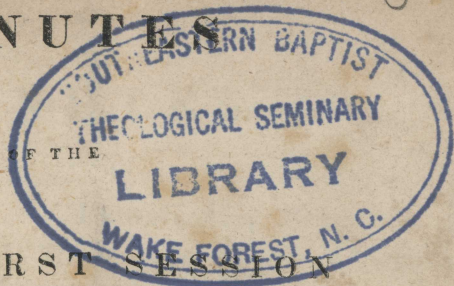


MINUTES



FIFTY-FIRST SESSION

OF THE

VIRGINIA PORTSMOUTH BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT

WESTERN BRANCH MEETING HOUSE,

NANSEMOND COUNTY,

May 21st, 22nd, 23d, and 24th, 1841.

PORTSMOUTH:
PRINTED AT THE OLD DOMINION OFFICE.
1841.



MINUTES.

FRIDAY, May 21st, 1841.

The Ministers and Messengers of the "Virginia Portsmouth Baptist Association" assembled, according to appointment, at the Western Branch Meeting House, Nansemond county. Elder J. Brainard Breed preached the Introductory Sermon, from 87th Psalm, 3d verse:—"Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God."

After a short recess, the body was called to order by the former Moderator, Brother Jas. C. Jordan. When a hymn of praise had been sung, Elder J. Hendren offered prayer.

A call of the Churches being made, the letters were presented, which exhibited the following delegation:

- Beaver Dam—Jacob K. Daughtrey, John Watkins.
- Black Creek—Benjamin Griffin, Eli Joiner.
- Black Water—George Norris, *Kedar Sorey.
- Brandon—*Joseph Turner, *Jesse Cartwright.
- Cumberland Street, Norfolk—Joseph B. Breed, T. D. Toy.
- Elam—*John N. Bain, *James Ellis.
- High Hills—Josiah C. Bailey, Irvan B. Mays.
- Hick's Ford—*John R. Chambliss, *James Allen.
- Hunting Quarter—Thomas B. Creath, *William B. Spain.
- Kempsville—John H. Whitehurst, Daniel Sherly.
- London Bridge—H. J. Chandler, Charles Brock.
- Market Street, Petersburg—Josiah P. Tustin, F. H. Robertson.
- Meherrin—*John Sykes, *Harris Powell.
- Millfield—John Fivash, Thomas Atkins.
- Mill-Swamp—Benjamin C. Bell, J. Holleman.
- Moore's Swamp, (originally Cypress Swamp)—Z. Harris, H. Hollsman.
- Muddy Creek—Jonathan A. Bonny.
- Newville—James L. Gwaltney, John W. Potts.
- North-West—Thomas J. Harrison, M. Sykes.
- Olive Branch—James Smith, John Edwards.
- Portsmouth—Thomas Hume, George Barrett.
- Pungo—*John A. Murden, John Harris.
- Rackoon Swamp—George Bailey, *James Peters.
- Salem—Jeremiah Hendren, J. Cooper.
- Shilo—*Willis Adkins, *Henry M. Daniel.
- Smithfield—James C. Jordan.
- South Quay—Simon Murphy, Isaac Lee.
- Suffolk—Putnam Owens, Wm. H. Holmes.
- Tucker's Swamp—Joshua Presson, Kena K. Chapman.
- Western Branch—J. V. Luke, Hugh H. Kelly.
- Norfolk First—Robert Gordon, James Belote.
- African, Petersburg—*James L. Walker.
- Gillfield, Petersburg—Charles E. Clarke.

Those marked thus * were absent.

The Association then proceeded to the election of officers—whereupon, Brother JAMES C. JORDAN was re-elected Moderator, and THOMAS HUME, Clerk.

On motion, Messengers from Corresponding Associations were invited to present themselves. The following Brethren were then reported, and cordially invited to participate in our deliberations :

Elder J. Harrell, from the Chowan, with a Corresponding Letter and Minutes.

Elder Joseph Walker, from the Dover.

Brother Charles King, from the Concord, with Minutes.

Brother George Cox, from the Middle District, with Minutes.

Ministering Brethren present, not delegated to this body, were invited to participate with us. Elders James Delk, Wm. Southwood, Eli Ball, General Agent of the General Association of Virginia, J. Teasdale, General Agent of the Baptist Publication and Sunday School Society of Virginia, John Johns, Henry Speight, and C. C. Gordon were announced as being present.

On motions, successively made, the following Committees were appointed :

Committee of Arrangements.—Elders Breeds, Gwaltney, and Hume.

Committee of Finance.—Brethren Griffin and Tucker.

Committee on Preaching.—Brethren Owens, Creath, Baily, Kelly, Carney, and Luke.

Elder J. B. Breed was appointed to write the Corresponding Letter.

On motion, the Constitution of the Association and Rules of Decorum were read.

Messengers to Corresponding Associations were called upon, and made Reports.

The Committee on Preaching not having had time to attend to their duties, Elder Eli Ball was requested by the Association to repair to the stand and preach to the Congregation.

On motion, a Committee consisting of Elders Hume and Breed, was appointed to prepare a plan of Contributions, to be recommended to the Churches, and inserted in the Minutes.

The Committee on Preaching reported the selection of Elders Chandler, Tustin, and Delk, to preach to-

morrow. The Report was received, and the Committee continued.

The Association then proceeded to fix upon the place of meeting for the next session, and, after some discussion, agreed upon the Market Street Church, Petersburg.

On motion, the body then adjourned to meet at nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Prayer, by Elder George Norris.

SATURDAY MORNING, *May 22nd.*

The Association met agreeable to adjournment. Prayer, by Elder James Delk.

The Roll was then called, and the Minutes of the preceding day were read.

The Committee of Arrangements presented a Report, which was received, and the Committee discharged.

The Association then proceeded in the order marked out by the foregoing Report.

“The Standing Committees” were called upon—

Elder J. B. Breed, from the Committee on Education presented the following Report, which was adopted:—

Your Committee, to whom was referred the subject of Education, beg leave to present the following Report. They have watched this subject with some degree of solicitude; for, in their opinion, it is one of the most important means of advancing the Redeemer's Kingdom. God has committed to the Church mind, and when this is cultivated and sanctified for the purpose of advancing the cause of Christ, we esteem it the most effectual means, under God, to reach modern infidelity and the prevailing scepticisms of these later times.

We are happy to say, that a good degree of interest has been manifested by the denomination at large throughout the State. This is evident from the measures which have been recently adopted respecting the Richmond College; and we hope this Association will not be among the last to lend the Trustees of that Institution a helping hand. While other denominations are rising and extending their influence through this channel, it becomes us to feel the power of their example, and put forth our own strength in this noble enterprise. What we have already done, has spoken to the interest of our denomination, with an argument, more persuasive than human language can portray.

Since the Baptists have lent their aid in establishing seminaries of learning, and assisting young men in obtaining an education for the Ministry, Error, in its multifarious forms, recoils before the Truth, and endeavours to conceal its hydra head.

While the denomination, as a whole, are making advances on this subject, your Committee cannot but lament, there is so much apathy within the bounds of our Association. We cannot but feel that much more might be done for this cause, than is now done. We have reason to hope there are young men whose

talents would be useful, and whose feelings would prompt them to devote themselves to the work of the Ministry, if suitable encouragement would be given them. They may need counsel, and they may need funds to procure a preparatory education. Wherever such persons may be found, we would inquire of that Church with which they are connected, could it not, by a little extra exertion, aid them for this purpose. If such there are, we would most earnestly appeal to them and say, let not the blood of souls be found on your garments, for lack of effort.

As every year shows to us, that the prejudices against this subject are diminishing, we hope the time is not far distant, when not a vestige of prejudice will be left. Yea, the history of the past, the effects of the present, and the prospects of the future, teach us that God has given to the Church intellect, which is to be used as his efficient instrument in the fulfilment of prophecy, "that the knowledge of the glory of God shall fill the whole earth, as the waters cover the sea."

Elder P. Owens, from the Committee on Temperance, presented the following Report:

Your Committee on Temperance have given the subject some consideration, and beg leave to present the following Report. We regret to have to say, that we have not been informed of the formation of any society, save one in Norfolk, for the promotion of Temperance, since your last session. We fear that the once active and zealous friends of this important cause, have become lukewarm—lost in a measure the interest they once felt, and grown weary in their efforts. Some Societies, formed years ago, have become inefficient for the want of more interest and perseverance; they do nothing, as Societies, in the way of holding meetings, and presenting the evils of Intemperance, and the advantages and blessings of Temperance, before the minds of the people. This is not as it should have been. Suitable and energetic efforts are necessary to the prosperity of this, as of every other good cause. The evils of Intemperance in some of our communities and Churches are still alarming and grievous. It is a fruitful source of sin and misery in the one, and of trouble and grief in the other. We believe that the present and eternal welfare of our fellow beings, and the peace and prosperity of our Churches, call loudly upon us to awake from our supineness, to zealous and persevering labor in opposing the progress of Intemperance. We think that the faithful efforts hitherto made to open the eyes of our Churches to this subject, have not been without their good effect. Most of our Churches, we are happy to say, begin to see and feel the evil, and are becoming more prompt and faithful in dealing with their members who are justly charged with intemperance.

Much remains, however, yet to be done. While there are some in our Churches who are deeply convinced of the evil of Intemperance, and, by precept and example, discountenance the daily use of intoxicating drink as a beverage,—there are many others who are not thus convinced, and whose practice and example encourage its daily use. We are of the opinion that, if the Resolution put at your last session, *viz*: "That this Association advise the Churches connected with this body, on receiving members into their fellowship, to admonish them to abandon the use of all intoxicating drinks as a beverage," were carried into effect, much would be done towards banishing the evil out of our Churches.

After interesting remarks from Brethren Ball, Owens, Delk, Griffin, Walker, Bonny, and Hume, the Report was adopted.

Elder W. Southwood, from the Committee on Foreign Missions, presented the following Report:

Your Committee beg very respectfully to report, that, so far as they have had

opportunity of collecting information, the Foreign Missionary field presents an aspect to the Church of Christ, at once most encouraging and overwhelming. Encouraging, inasmuch as the Ruler of the Universe has given success to armies which are restraining the cruelty, and humbling the pride, of heathen Princes; and affording protection, and even inviting and encouraging the Missionaries of the Cross to their holy and transforming labours: Overwhelming, when we contemplate the millions of our fellow creatures in China and Afghanistan, in Turkey and Egypt, (in addition to the countries where the servants of the Saviour are at present toiling with burdens under which they are sinking,—bearing the heat of the day, which is exhausting them;) now, by the mysterious providence of God, thrown upon the benevolent sympathies of Christians. The atmosphere of the Church is rent with the awful cry, “No man careth for my soul,” issuing from nations, till now, imprisoned within the walls of sin, and bound in chains of ignorance and superstition. The magnitude of our present obligations is overwhelming, but we may not shut our eyes to the prospect, nor close our ears to the cry. The prisoners must be brought forth, and, in the language of the Psalmist, we will *break off their bonds, and cast away their cords from them*. Never was such an effectual door opened to Missionary enterprise as at present, and we are bound by every consideration of benevolence and tenderness to help our dear brethren over the threshold of the door of Hope now opened in the valley of Achor, that they may proclaim to sinners, perishing for lack of knowledge, “Behold the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world!” Therefore,

Resolved, 1st, That it is our duty to send the Gospel of his grace to every heathen land, where, in his providence, God opens a door.

Resolved, 2d, That we believe the silver and the gold are the Lord’s, and in proportion as he may be pleased to intrust us with the means, so will we give to sustain the cause of Missions among the heathen.

After interesting addresses by Brethren Southwood and Tustin, the Report was adopted.

Elder J. L. Gwaltney presented the following Report from the Committee on Sabbath Schools:

Your Committee feel no hesitation in declaring, that none can justly doubt the great importance of well regulated Sabbath Schools. Many profess to have this conviction, but few, comparatively, make that effort which shows a deep impression of this feeling. Some self-denial is requisite for giving one’s self up to this work, especially, when we consider the temptations which surround us to spend the Sabbath, which indeed should be kept holy, in pursuits of an unholy and unsanctifying character. It is often said, that it is impracticable to keep up a Sabbath School in the country. With facts before us of a contrary character, we cannot admit this. The impracticability is not in the thing itself, but is produced by the criminal slothfulness and indifference of Christians. All that is necessary is, for some few, consistent, persevering individuals, to take hold of the Sabbath School, resolving to spare no pains, to omit no effort, and success will ensue to the highest degree. We regard the long established, but wretched practice, in our country churches, of monthly meetings, as being one of the greatest impediments to this work. In many sections, there are some two, or three, or four Churches contiguous, so much so, that our brethren can hear preaching almost every Sabbath, by riding a few miles. Hence, to gratify themselves thus, and to have an opportunity to visit at the same time among their friends, they are generally unwilling to engage in the Sabbath School, and prefer that their children, and their neighbors’ children, should grow up in ignorance of the Word of God, while they are permitted to roam over the fields, and through the woods, cultivating habits which can only be deeply pernicious to them. We affectionately submit the inquiry, whether there is not a kind of selfish, ease-loving spirit connected with this, which is unbecoming the Christian—and whether this practical disregard of the spiritual

interests of the rising generation, does not involve a high degree of unfaithfulness? We hope that this subject will obtain the serious consideration of our brethren, and that there will be speedy reformation.

The returns of the Schools we have are incomplete,—several Churches which are known to have Schools in operation, have made no mention of them in their letters. We have reports from eleven Schools, the aggregate statistics of which make out nineteen officers, eighty-six teachers, six hundred and ninety-six scholars, and fifteen hundred volumes in their libraries.

Your Committee would conclude by recommending the adoption of the following Resolutions:

Resolved, That, in the deliberate opinion of this Association, it is practicable to keep up Sabbath Schools generally in the country; and in order to become more successful, we would recommend the Churches to take the Schools under their supervision, appoint the officers and teachers, fill up vacancies, and see that the Schools are always furnished with suitable libraries.

Resolved, That, in order to facilitate the establishment and success of Sabbath Schools, as well as to promote the general interests of Religion, the Churches be, and they are hereby advised, to meet regularly every Lord's Day for the public worship of God.

Resolved, That the Virginia Baptist Sabbath School and Publication Society, are entitled to the confidence, prayers, and liberal support of the Churches, composing this Association.

Resolved, That the Churches be requested to communicate in their annual letters, the condition of their Schools, specifying the number of officers, teachers, and scholars, and any other items of interest.

The Association was pertinently addressed on the subject of the above Report by Elder J. Teasdale, after which it was adopted.

Elder William Southwood, from the Committee on Bible and Tract operations, made the following Report, which was adopted:

Your Committee are encouraged to hope, when reviewing the signs of the times, that the Bible is extending its influence, and that Societies, which have been formed for the diffusion of the Holy Scriptures, are increasing in zeal, and becoming more effective in their operations, both at home and abroad. But, though much has been done, and many have contributed to this noble enterprise, there are a sufficient number of members in our Churches to cover us with shame, and to fill us with alarm for the state of their hearts, who do not contribute any thing to the funds for carrying it forward. We often say, in reflecting upon this subject—*When shall we, who profess to take the Scriptures alone as the rule of our faith and practice, show that we glory in the truth, by our intimate acquaintance with the contents of the Bible, and by our zeal for its circulation?*

Upon this subject we suggest the following resolution:

Resolved, That it is our duty to extend the circulation of the Holy Scriptures among all classes of mankind, and in all the nations of the world; and that indifference in this cause bespeaks a low estimate of the truths which they combine, and a very imperfect impression of those truths upon the heart.

On the subject of Tracts, it may be observed, that they are circulated in great numbers, but it is to be feared they are but very little read. Calculated, as many Tracts are, to be of great advantage in communicating Evangelical truth, we take the liberty to recommend, to those who feel a pleasure in distributing them, that they would occasionally read one of them to their neighbors, and endeavor to use the occasion to introduce references to the Scriptures, religious conversation, and prayer.

All of which is most respectfully submitted.

W. SOUTHWOOD.

Elder Thomas Hume, from the Central Committee, presented the following Report, which was adopted :

The destitution of Ministers within our bounds is distressingly great.— Many Churches are partially supplied, some scarcely ever hear the voice of the preacher, while neighborhood, after neighborhood, can be found without a church, without a meeting-house; without any means of salvation.

It has been painful to your Committee to contemplate these things. While they have made such a survey, they have asked, where can we find ministerial laborers, who can be induced or constrained to enter this field, and sow the seed of truth. Our solicitude has been in vain, we have corresponded with ministering brethren, we have turned hither and thither, we have talked, we have wept, we have prayed over the destitution and desolation which abounds. During the past year we have found it impossible to obtain missionaries, and of necessity matters have continued as they were. We have had various conjectures because of the frustration of our wishes and efforts. Can it be that God has a controversy with us? If so, why? Perhaps it is because his command to pray, (and consequently to labor,) that more laborers may enter the harvest, has been neglected by us. Perhaps, in this connection, it may be charged upon us, that our Churches have neglected to seek out and encourage gifts among them, to impart to them counsel, and aid them to repair to our Seminary, or some institution of learning, and become workmen that need not to be ashamed. Perhaps, it is because some of our own ministering brethren, instead of going out and preaching the Word in season and out of season, and supplying our destitution, are rather immersed, covered up in worldly concerns, such as farming, merchandizing, &c., thrusting up their heads therefrom a little while on the Sabbath, and then sinking down with probably too much of delight and complacency, into perplexing, unsanctifying, and secular engagements, notwithstanding the apostolic injunction "Give thyself wholly to these things," is ringing in their ears. Perhaps, it is because our Churches love that it should be so, that their ministers should be with them in hot pursuit after the world; thus countenancing their worldliness, and releasing them from their duty to support them as their pastors. These *may* be the reasons of our condition, in connection with the subject before us; if they are not, whatever it may be traced to, we are in circumstances, demanding careful, prayerful inquiry before the Lord.

We would suggest whether something cannot be done to secure the services of some active brother, who shall travel through our whole Association, holding protracted meetings, spending three, four, or more days, with every Church—at the same time carrying with him books from our Depository to sell to the brethren—carrying forward every benevolent effort among the Churches which he may be encouraged to introduce among them, establishing Sabbath Schools, &c. Your Committee have wished to do so, but have been unable, and have hesitated to make decided efforts. Hesitated, because brethren, while they have cried, send a Minister among us, have in many instances *given* but little, and in some have given us nothing to *pay* the laborer. We will not, we dare not, in this state of things, take away some ministering brother from perhaps a comfortable situation, and bring him with his wife and children to settle down among us, to suffer, starve, and die. But if our brethren will come up and pledge themselves for this work, we think we can secure a man, and send him forth with our prayers to labor in the cause of our Master for the advancement of divine truth among us.

In accordance with the suggestion in the foregoing report, a subscription was taken up among the members of the Association, amounting to three hundred dollars.

The following is the Report of the Treasurer of the Central Committee:—

*Treasurer of the Central Committee in account with the
Portsmouth Association.*

To this sum received and paid over to General Association in
June, 1840, - - - - - \$295 58

Received for 1841 as follows:

Newville Church, - - - - -	\$10 00
Suffolk, - - - - -	15 37
Shoulders Hill, - - - - -	15 50
Moore Swamp, - - - - -	3 62
High Hills, - - - - -	6 67
Cumberland Street, Norfolk, - - - - -	12 00
Market Street, Petersburg, - - - - -	20 00
Portsmouth, - - - - -	18 25
Sappony, - - - - -	15 50
Collection at Association, - - - - -	37 00

\$153 91

The Committee on Preaching made a Report, announcing the selection of Elders Ball, Teasdale, and Hume, to preach to-morrow; the Report was received, and the Committee continued.

Elder Ball was requested to explain the objects of the General Association, to the congregation to-morrow morning; and it was ordered that the usual collection be taken up for the same. The Moderator announced the names of Brethren Kelly, Griffin, Luke, Robertson, McClenny, Butler, J. Ely, B. Ely, J. Lee, J. Simons, and Joshua Simons, as those who should attend as collectors.

Elder J. B. Breed presented the following resolution, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That we consider the Sunday School Treasury, published at fifty cents per year, and the Sunday School Gleaner, published at twenty-five cents per year, as important publications, diffusing necessary information to aid the teachers and benefit the children of our schools, and therefore recommend them to the patronage of our brethren generally.

Elder J. T. Gwaltney presented the following resolution, which was adopted:—

In view of the existing laws of the State in reference to our colored population, and regarding it to be our duty to afford them religious instruction,—and whereas, the two colored congregations in Petersburg, connected with us, are without a Minister, and cannot therefore, enjoy the privileges of religious worship; be it, therefore,

Resolved, That this Association appoint five brethren for the purpose of recommending a course to be adopted by the aforesaid congregations, in connection with the Market Street Church, for the regular maintenance of religious services among them; and said Committee are hereby directed to take immediate steps, in connection with the Central Committee, to procure a suitable Pastor or Minister for the above named congregation.

The following were appointed the Committee under the foregoing resolution—Brethren Gwaltney, Bailey, Creath, Clark, and Walker.

Elder T. Hume, from the Depository Committee, presented the following Report, which was adopted; and on the reading of which, remarks were made by several brethren, evincing their interest in this important effort:—

The Committee of the Book and Tract Depository beg leave to Report—Though the funds placed in the hands of your Committee at the last session, were hardly sufficient to commence a Depository according to your directions; yet, feeling the importance of the object, we immediately made arrangements to establish one in the town of Portsmouth. We felt assured that the attempt would give satisfactory proof of its practicability and desirableness. Our highest expectations have been realized; we have found a ready sale for the few books we have been able to procure; our brethren have, in some instances, shown their feeling of the importance of having their Sabbath Schools and families supplied with them. Thus far we have an increased conviction of the great importance of having a Depository well supplied with Sabbath School and other publications, which shall be accessible to our brethren, and the volumes from which shall be scattered throughout our bounds, diffusing their enlightening and sanctifying influence. Your Committee will not, on this occasion, argue the immense good which might be effected by the circulation of such books, as the Depository will be supplied with. We would rather urge upon our brethren the criminality they will be justly chargeable with in neglecting a means so eminently adapted to advance the interests of truth, and the salvation of sinners. The press is confessedly a mighty instrumentality, and, rightly used, it is calculated to exert an influence for good commensurate with any other means enjoyed in common by all. We wish to see a common interest felt in this matter; our ministering brethren may urge forward this object, and in doing so, will assuredly find it a valuable help in their work of preaching the Gospel; indeed, they may, by the circulation of Evangelical books, be preaching with a constancy, earnestness, and efficiency, beyond any other mode. Our brethren and sisters generally may be agents of good to the Churches with which they are connected, their families, and their neighbours. Shall we not, then, have the co-operation of all our brethren? Will they stand by and see an important effort like this fail through their indifference, or, if sustained, borne up by a few who have in reality no more responsibility than they? May we not safely predict that the enterprize and zeal of our brethren, but above all, their love to Jesus as his redeemed ones, and their compassion for souls, will not suffer an effort like this to lack their personal active aid?

Desirous to increase our funds so as to be able to secure a full assortment of books, we obtained in the month of March the services of Elder J. Teasdale, the General Agent of the Virginia Baptist S. S. and Book Society. We were incited to do this, from the hope that other advantages would result from his agency among the Churches—such as stirring up the brethren to the formation of Sabbath Schools, providing them with good libraries, &c. The weather, as is known, was unfavorable at the time for travelling; so much so, that his appointments in many instances failed, and in others the attendance of brethren was very small. We are satisfied, however, that his efforts were beneficial; and we doubt not that good results will be seen flowing from them.

It is very clear that, without capital to lay in a stock of books with, we can do nothing. If the books to any extent are obtained without money, it must be upon the credit of individuals, and consequently the enterprize would be abandoned, or fall into the hands of individuals, as their own, as a compensa-

tion for their risk, &c.; this, it is manifest, would be to a great degree a frustration of our wishes in regard to this matter.

We do not design to appeal to the spirit of selfishness, but we could urge considerations of an economical character, which should influence brethren at once to raise the necessary capital for this Depository. There is no doubt upon our own minds, that this effort may be carried on until it will, in process of time, afford us a revenue which may be expended in Missionary and other operations, within or without our bounds. You, as well as your Committee, are apprised of the fact, that the Methodist Society have a "Book Concern," which yields annually a vast amount to aid them in their extensive operations throughout the United States. Why may not the "Book Concern" of the Portsmouth Association be in proportion something of the same valuable character?

We say nothing more: having thus laid this matter before our brethren, we rely upon their piety and discrimination to prompt them to sustain an enterprise fraught with such blessings. All which is respectfully submitted.

The following is a statement of the receipts and expenditures of the Depository, including the moneys received at the present session:

Received at last Association from sundry Churches and individuals,		\$70 50
" for Books sold at Depository,		93 85
Elder J. Teasdale collected from London Bridge Church,	\$11 50	
Kempsville \$6 50—Sycamore Hill \$20 00	26 50	
Suffolk \$8 00—Tuckers Swamp \$3 94—Mill Swamp \$8 72	20 66	
		58 66
Received at the present session from Jonathan Bonny	\$2 50	
Black Creek \$3 50—Suffolk \$7 00—Z. Harris \$4 00	14 50	
Geo. Norriss \$5 00—Newville \$20 00—Isaac Lee \$1 00	26 00	
J. B. Mays (subscribed \$20 to be paid in four years)	5 00	
B. Griffin \$1 00—George Bailey \$3 00	4 00	
T. B. Creath (subscribed \$20 to be pd in four years)	5 00	
Frederick Tucker, for Sappony Church	26 25	
		83 25
		<hr/>
		\$306 26
By this amount of Books purchased at different times and		
in part paid for		
Paid sundry expenditures, freights, postages, &c.	\$246 64	
Paid Elder J. Teasdale his salary as Agent	4 87	
Paid J. Teasdale's travelling expenses	50 00	
	15 75	
		<hr/>
		\$317 26

This amount against the Depository
 It is to be borne in mind that of the Books purchased a considerable invoice is on hand, (having been recently received,) leaving thus an actual amount in favor of the Depository.

On motion,

The next session of this body was appointed to commence on Saturday, before the last Lord's Day in May next.

On motion,

Elder H. J. Chandler was appointed to preach the next Introductory Sermon; and Elder P. Owens, his alternate.

On motion, Elder W. Southwood, and Brethren W. Forbes and J. B. Mays, were appointed Delegates to the ensuing session of the General Association.

The Committee appointed to attend the Sabbath School Convention, held in August last, were called upon to report, and made a verbal statement; the amount of which was, that, from various causes, there was but a small attendance at the meeting, and little was done of much interest. The Report was received and the Committee discharged.

Elder J. B. Breed presented the Corresponding Letter, which he was appointed to prepare, which was adopted.

Elder J. L. Gwaltney presented the following resolution, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That this Association suggest to the Churches the propriety of amending the first article of the Constitution, so as to read "*white male members*,"—and request the expression of their wishes on this subject in their next annual letters.

Elder Robert Gordon presented the following resolution, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That each Minister of this Association be requested to hold a special meeting for the promotion of TEMPERANCE in his Church, or in each of his Churches, at as early a period as possible, and form TEMPERANCE SOCIETIES as far as practicable.

Brethren Hendren, Cooper, and Gordon, obtained leave of absence for the remainder of the session.

The Association then adjourned till Monday morning nine o'clock. Prayer by Elder T. Hume.

MONDAY MORNING, *May 24th*, 1841.

The Association met at the appointed hour. After joining in a song of praise, prayer for the continued blessing of Almighty God was offered by Elder John Teasdale.

The roll being called and the Minutes read, the body proceeded to business.

The Committee appointed to visit the London Bridge Church were called upon to report; and on further motion they were excused from doing so, and discharged.

On motion,

The Churches were requested in their letters to the

next session of this body, to insert the names of their Pastors, Deacons, and Clerks, with the Post Offices of each of these, and the stated times of meeting.

The Association then proceeded to appoint Corresponding Messengers, as follows:—

To the Accomac—Elders H. J. Chandler and P. Owens.

To the Dover—Elders Hume, Breed, and Tustin.

To the Chowan—Elders Daughtrey, Murfee, Norris, and Owens.

To the Concord—Elders Bailey, Creath, and Brother J. W. Potts.

To the Middle District—Elders Tustin, Creath, and Hume.

The Association then proceeded to appoint the “Standing Committees,” as follows:

On Foreign Missions—Elders Tustin and Bailey.

On Education—Elders Hume and Gwaltney.

On Temperance—Elders Murfee and Creath.

On Sunday Schools—Elders Bailey and Creath.

On Bible and Tract Operations—Elders Breed and Chandler.

Central Committee for the Management of Missionary operations within the bounds of this body—Elders Hume, Gwaltney, Hendren, and Breed.

On the Depository—Brethren Hume, Breed, Barrett, Brooks, Forbes, and Owens.

The Committee on Preaching reported the selection of Elders Walker, Ball, and Southwood for to-day. The Report was received and the Committee discharged.

The Finance Committee presented the following Report, which was adopted, and the Committee, after being ordered to pay the funds in their hands to the Treasurer, were discharged.

The Financial Committee beg leave to report, that they have examined the Treasurer's account, and find in his hands a balance of

-	-	\$27 75
Received from Churches the present session,	-	91 47

Total amount now in Treasurer's hands,	-	\$119 22
All which is respectfully submitted.		

BENJAMIN GRIFFIN,
FREDERICK TUCKER.

The following important document was read by Elder Eli Ball, and, on being presented to the Association, was adopted as the solemn opinion and pledge of each one voting for it:

Whereas the frequent use of ardent spirits as a beverage has caused in thousands occasional intoxication, and in hundreds of thousands of others confirmed drunkenness; and whereas the expense and crime occasioned thereby are spreading misery through families, churches, and communities generally; and whereas there is no remedy for these evils but in a total abstinence from all intoxicating liquors as a daily luxury; and whereas Christians are under the strongest obligations to give their own example in all good things; therefore

Resolved, That we will, for ourselves, abstain from all intoxicating drinks

as a beverage, and if we use them in any case, will use them only as a medicine.

Resolved, That we will use our influence henceforward to promote the cause of temperance in our families, churches, and neighborhoods.

Resolved, That the Committee on Temperance be instructed to employ a brother or brethren to visit every Church within this Association for the purpose of obtaining members to the temperance pledge, and for the purpose of promoting the temperance cause generally.

Elder T. Hume, from the Committee appointed to draw up a plan of contributions to be recommended to the Churches, presented the following, which was adopted:

Your Committee regard the failure of the Churches to raise funds for the different objects which have a claim upon them, to be owing, very much, to the want of systematic efforts. Among other consequences, we apprehend, that in a majority of our Churches, there are many members who never give any thing for the support of the gospel among them, or the spread of it throughout the earth. Many are not present at church meetings, when most generally subscriptions are made—and if collectors are appointed, acting in the usual mode, some, if not many members of the Church, are overlooked, and thus pecuniary contributions to the support of the gospel at home and abroad are confined to a few.

We present the following for the consideration of the Churches, with the hope that it will facilitate them in this important matter. We do not presume to consider this plan as perfect, perhaps it would be impossible to form one entirely suitable to all, yet it will help each Church to establish some arrangement among themselves, which they may regard effective.

A suitable book being provided, one which will last for years, and be preserved as a record from generation to generation, let the names of all the members of the Church be inserted, and let it be so ruled, that opposite each name there can be set down the amount which shall be subscribed for each object selected, after the following example:

Names of the Members of the Church.	For the Pastor's support.	S School of the Church.	G. Assn. or Itiner'y	For Bible Society.	Foreign Miss'ry Society.	Baptist Educa'n Society.	Assoc'n.	Depos'ty of the	Total am't.
A. B.	10 00	2 00	10 00	10 00	10 00	10 00	5 00	97 00	
C. D.	10 00	50	4 00	1 00	1 00	5 00	1 00	22 50	
E. F.	2 00	25	1 00	50	50	50	50	5 25	
G. H.	15 00	1 50	5 00	2 50	2 00	1 50	2 00	29 50	
	77 00	4 25	20 00	14 00	13 50	17 00	5 50	174 25	

It will be necessary, after giving the members who may be present at some regular meeting, an opportunity to subscribe according to the foregoing or some similar plan, to appoint collectors, who shall have distributed among them the names of members who have not subscribed, and having a paper or book ruled as above, to which every one shall be called upon to subscribe, selecting such objects as he may think proper, and giving what amount he may choose. The book above mentioned being lodged with the Treasurer of the Church, let the subscriptions thus obtained be reported to him and entered. Collectors of the amounts thus subscribed may be appointed, or if practicable the Treasurer may be the only collector. It will be proper for the Church to decide when the different subscriptions shall be paid—for example, the first to be paid quarterly, the next two in the first four months, and thus on through the whole list, having reference to that arrangement which will make the important part of *paying* the subscriptions the most easy to all.

We have particularized more than we should under other circumstances. The Committee hope that the Pastors and Deacons of the Churches will give this matter that attention which it demands.

All which is respectfully submitted.

Brother B. Griffin presented the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That this Association request the Churches composing this body to send up their candidates for ordination at our regular sessions, to be examined by a Committee appointed for the purpose, who upon such examination shall advise the Churches as to the expediency or in expediency of ordaining such.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That all the Ministers of the Association be requested to procure copies of Minutes of all the previous sessions of this body, for the purpose of making a connected record of its proceedings from its formation to the present period.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That T. Hume be appointed to edit, secure the printing of eighteen hundred copies of Minutes, and distribute the same, with an allowance of fifteen dollars for his services.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That T. Hume be requested to procure, at the expense of this body, a suitable book to record our entire proceedings, and that he be appointed the Recording Secretary, with an allowance of ten dollars per annum for his services.

On motion of Brother Charles E. Clarke, it was

Resolved, That the thanks of this body be returned to the brethren and friends of this neighborhood, for the kind and hospitable manner in which we have been received and treated by them.

On motion of Elder J. P. Tustin, it was unanimously

Resolved, That the thanks of this body be tendered to the Moderator for the energetic, faithful and satisfactory performance of the duties connected with his office.

The business of the Association being concluded, the minutes of the day were read and corrected, and a motion to adjourn was made and carried.

After a short season of religious exercises, this harmonious and important session was closed, the Moderator announcing that the Association stood adjourned to meet on the Saturday before the last Lord's day in May next, with the Market Street Church, Petersburg.

Signed by order of the Association,

JAMES C. JORDAN, *Moderator*.

Teste, T. HUME, *Clerk*.

A TABLE

Exhibiting the condition of the Churches, in regard to numbers, &c.

NAMES OF CHURCHES.	Baptised.	Received by Letter.	Restored.	Dismissed.	Expelled.	Deceased.	Gain.	Loss.	Aggregate.	For Assoc'n Fund.	For Itinerant or Missionary Fund.	For Depository.	For For. Missions.	For Bible Society.
Beaver Dam	7		3	4	10	1		5	157	3,00				5,00
Black Creek	29	1	1	2	3	2	24		171	2,00		3,50	3,00	3,00
Black Water	18	5				3	20		67	2,00				
Brandon	30	2	1		6	5	27		184	1,00				
Cumberland Street*	29	14	2	42	6	5		8	382	5,00	12,00		21,00	25,00
Elam	1				8	1		8	53	2,25				
High Hills*	6			6	1			1	150	3,35	6,67		25,00	20,00
Hicks' Ford	7	5			1	1	11		14	1,00				
Hunting Quarter	2	1					3		31	4,63				5,00
Kempsville*	15			2	2		11		91	2,00		6,50		
London Bridge*	45	1	2	4	3	2	39		132	3,00	11,50			
Market Street*	13	4	5	3	2	2	15		111	3,00	20,00		10,00	
Mcherrin	1	1			2	2			77	1,50				
Millfield	4	2			2	2	4		64	2,00				
Mill Swamp	3				3	4		4	293	3,00				
Moore's Swamp	2	2		1	3	5		5	113	1,50	3,62			
Muddy Creek					2	2		2	17	1,00				
Newville*	1	2			2	2	1		67	2,00	10,00	20,00		
North West	33	1		1	2	5	26		97	2,00				
Olive Branch	11	1	2				14		42	1,50				
Portsmouth*	40	8	1	6	5	5	33		404	5,00	16,75		139,00	25,00
Pungo*	25	1		3	4	2	17		124	2,00				
Raccoon Swamp				3	3	3		9	175	2,00				
Salem	4				1	1	3		52	2,00				
Sappony*	2				1	1		1	36	3,25	15,50	26,25	14,75	14,75
Shiloh	3	2		5	1			1	42	1,00				
Shoulder's Hill*	3	1		1	6	5		8	201	4,00	15,50	20,00	20,00	22,00
Smithfield*	3			1			2		29	2,00			10,00	10,00
South Quay	1				1	1		1	128	3,00				
Suffolk*	20	5		1	3	2	19		128	2,50	15,37	15,00		25,34
Tucker's Swamp	13	1	1	2	3	1	9		197	4,00		5,93		7,54
Western Branch	6				4	2			168	3,00				
African	20	6	14	4	20	12	4		1016					
Gillfield	9	4	10	5	13	10		5	873	5,00				
Norfolk First	27	39	5	2	7	4	58		257	2,00			20,00	20,00
	427	109	47	98	115	90	343	57	6093	87,48	117,41	108,68	262,75	182,63

The above table does not exhibit the whole amount of the contributions of the Churches, from the fact that the Letters were generally deficient on this subject. Those marked thus* are reported in general terms as having contributed to other objects, and in some instances very largely.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

DEAR BRETHREN—

It ever gives us pleasure to send you our salutation. We regret that the Messengers appointed to represent us the last year were unable to attend your meetings, but we can assure you that we feel a cordial sympathy with you, and hope the present year we shall have the pleasure of meeting you by delegation.

We have been favored with several Brethren from other Associations, who have added much interest to our present session. We were happy to see them, and it would ever give us pleasure to see a larger instead of a smaller number with us. Our present session has been attended with a large delegation from the different Churches. Union of spirit and brotherly love has characterized our proceedings. We consider the interchange of mind and religious feelings at these associational meetings, of great benefit to the cause of Christ, therefore we deem it of great importance to increase rather than diminish the days of its session. The intermingling of devotional exercises with the preaching of the gospel spreads a happy influence over the special business of the body, while it creates our personal piety.

Some of our Churches have been refreshed with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit during the past year. There has been an increase to the numbers of our communicants, and we trust the cause of the Redeemer is advancing among us.

Our next session will be held with the Market Street Church, in Petersburg, commencing on the Saturday before the last Sabbath in May, 1842, where we should be pleased to meet with your Messengers.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

JAMES C. JORDAN, *Moderator.*

Testes, THOS. HUME, *Clerk.*

BOOK AND TRACT DEPOSITORY.

Special attention is hereby called to the fact that the Depository of the Association which is located in Portsmouth, is well supplied with books for Sabbath Schools, and others of a religious character. All the Works issued by the American Baptist Publication Society, and all others which may be considered valuable to circulate, will always be kept on hand. Orders addressed to Elder T. Hume will be promptly attended to, and the books supplied on the very lowest terms.

As the correspondence for the Depository is very constant, it will be convenient to order for brethren, at any time they may wish,

The Religious Herald,	price \$2 50	per year.
The Christian Review,	" 3 00	" "
Sabbath School Treasury,	" 50	" "
Sabbath School Gleaner,	" 25	" "
The Baptist Record,	" 1 00	" "
Baptist Missionary Mag.,	" 1 00	" "

