

The American Baptist Historical Society

J. L. McArthur
8 Feb 1942

24

MINUTES

— OF THE —

Fifty-Fourth Annual Session

— OF THE —

Alapaha River Primitive Baptist Association



— HELD WITH THE —

Church at Elyton, Coffee County, Georgia,

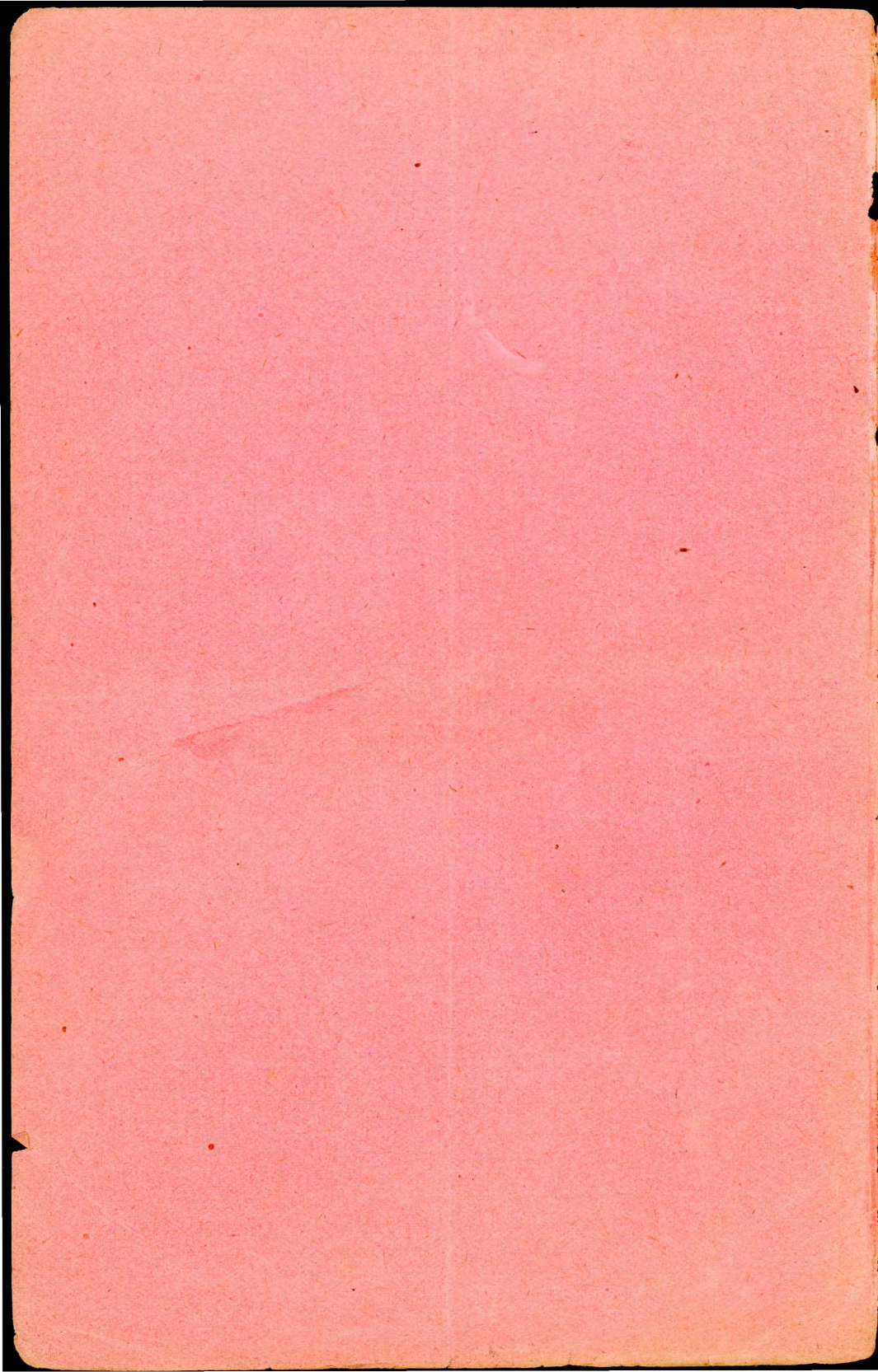
October 30th and 31st, and November 1st, 1896.

OFFICERS:

ELDER JAS. A. THORNTON,	- - - - -	Moderator.
R. G. O'BERRY,	- - - - -	Clerk.

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TROY, ALA.:
JOHN POST, PRINTER,
1896.



MINUTES.

THE ALAPAHA RIVER PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION was held with the church at Elvin, Coffee county, Ga., from October 30th to November 1st, 1896.

The Introductory Sermon was delivered by Elder M. Lightsey, of the Suwannee Association, from Genesis 15th chapter and 13th verse, viz: "And he said unto Abram," &c.

After a recess of thirty minutes the delegates assembled in the house, where the Association was called to order by the former Moderator. After prayer by Elder J. W. Loard the body proceeded as follows:

1. Read letters from fifteen churches and enrolled delegates' names, and on motion, Elder Jas. A. Thornton was re-elected Moderator, and R. G. Oberry, Clerk, by acclamation.
2. Read the Decorum and invited ministers of our faith and order to seats with us.
3. Called for Petitionary Letters. None presented.
4. Appointed Elder J. B. Mullis, Brethren J. R. Dickerson, Davis Thornton, with the delegates of this church, a Committee on Preaching and Finance.
5. Appointed Elder J. T. Minshew, Brethren J. R. Dowling, John Thomas, with the Moderator and Clerk, a Committee on Business.
6. Called for correspondence, and received from the New Beulah Association letter and minutes by Elders J. W. Loard, H. Hand, Brethren F. M. Loard, H. A. Loard, G. W. Sasser, also from the Union Elder J. A. Osteen, Bro. B. Morris. Appointed Bro. David McGauly to write the Corresponding Letter. After prayer by Elder Jas. A. Osteen adjourned until tomorrow morning at 8:30 o'clock.

SATURDAY, October 31st, 1896.

Met according to adjournment. After prayer by Elder J. S. Baxley, called the roll and renewed invitation to ministers to seats with us.

7. Called for further correspondence and received from the Suwannee Association letter and minutes by Elder M. Lightsey, also received Elder M. L. Riner, of the Upper Canoochee, Elder D. L. Hitchcock and Bro. J. H. Meeks, of the Ocmulgee, and Elder J. S. Baxley, of Olive Association, as visitors.

8. Called for report of Committee on Business, to-wit:

We, your Committee, have examined correspondence and find nothing objectionable in them, and recommend the same Order of Business as appears in our last year's minute.

9. Called for marked letters and took up three, and agreed that the next session of this Association be held with the church at Corinth, Wayne county, Ga., on Friday before the first Sunday in November, 1897.

10. Appointed correspondence to sister Associations as follows :

To New Beulah—To meet with Reedy Springs church, Laurens county, Ga., near Dexter, on D. & W. R. R., Friday before the second Sunday in September, 1897—Elders John Ellis, W. L. Harper.

To Union—To meet with the church at Pleasant, five miles from Seacel, on G. S. & F. R. R., Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1897—Elder J. B. Mullis, Brethren J. R. Dickerson, Davis Thornton, Matthew Cowart, D. J. Jeffords.

To Suwannee—To meet with the church at Prospect, Hamilton county, Fla., ten miles east of Genoa and eighteen miles north-east of Jasper, G. S. & F. R. R., Saturday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1897—Elders H. J. Markee, W. L. Harper, Jas. A. Thornton, Bro. David McGauly.

To Primitive Ebenezer—A package of minutes.

To Lower Canoochee —To meet with the church at Upper Black Creek, Friday before the second Sunday in October, 1897—Elder John Ellis, Brethren W. B. Byrd, J. C. Proctor, J. L. Turner.

To Primitive Pulaski—To meet with the church at Ty Ty, first Sunday in October, 1897—Elder Jas. A. Thornton, Bro. B. D. James.

To Upper Canoochee—To meet with the church at Mt. Zion, Emanuel county, Ga., Friday before the first Sunday in October, 1897—Elder John Ellis, Bro. J. M. Warren.

To Mt. Enon—To meet Friday before the second Sunday in November, 1896—Bro. F. A. Boyett.

11. Called for report of Committee on Preaching and Finance, to-wit :

We, your Committee, beg leave to make the following report: We have received \$25.00, and recommend the printing of 650 copies of our minutes this year, 450 for the churches and balance for correspondence, the Clerk to pay for the same and have the balance of the funds for his services after paying all expenses.

12. Called for the Corresponding Letter, which was read and adopted. On motion the minute was read. After admonition by the Moderator and prayer by Elder D. L. Hitchcock the body adjourned to the next time and place.

ELDER JAS. A. THORNTON, Moderator.

R. G. OBERRY, Clerk.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The Alapaha River Primitive Baptist Association, in session with the church at Elvin, Coffee county, Ga., October 30th and 31st, and November 1st, 1896, to the several Associations with whom she corresponds—Sendeth Greeting :

DEAR BRETHREN IN THE LORD:—By the continued mercies of our God we have again been blessed to hold another session of our body in peace. Our churches are all represented and peace seems to abound. Our correspondence was not as full as desired ; yet our poor hearts were made to rejoice at the sweet messages of love borne to us through your ministers. We desire a continuance of your brotherly correspondence. We will next meet, if the Lord wills, with the church at Corinth, Wayne county, Ga., three and one-half miles from Odom, on the E. T. V. & G. R. R., on Friday before the first Sunday in November, 1897, when and where we hope to meet with you again. Till then, farewell.

ELDER JAS. A. THORNTON, Moderator.

R. G. OBERRY, Clerk.

ORDER OF PREACHING.

- Friday morning—Elder M. Lightsey, of Suwannee Association.
- Friday evening—Elder M. L. Riner, of Upper Canoochee, Elder H. Hand, of New Beulah.
- Saturday morning—Elder J. W. Loard, of New Beulah, Elder Jas. A. Osteen, of the Union.
- Saturday evening—Elder D. L. Hitchcock, of Ocmulgee, Elder M. Lightsy, of Suwannee.
- Sunday morning—Elder J. S. Baxley, of the Olive, Elder W. W. Riner, of Upper Canoochee. Closed by the Moderator.

ELDER JAS. A. THORNTON, Moderator.

R. G. OBERRY, Clerk.

NAMES OF MINISTERS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.

Elder Jas. A. Thornton.....	Elsie	Elder J. T. Minshew.....	Elsie
“ Jesse Tyre.....	Hillyard	“ John Donaldson.....	Patterson
“ A. L. R. Avant....	Patterson	“ John Moody.....	Screven
“ Simeon Thornton...	Screven	“ J. W. Hogarth...	Blackshear
“ John Ellis.....	Sessoms	“ W. L. Harper....	Waycross
“ H. J. J. Markee.....	Ritch	“ J. B. Mullis.....	Wareboro
	Elder J. C. Williams.....		Tanner

LICENTIATE.

S. W. Lynes..... Nahunta.

DECORUM.

1. This Association shall open and close with prayer.
2. Those members chosen by the churches of our union shall compose the Alapaha River Primitive Baptist Association.
3. The members thus chosen shall furnish letters from their respective churches certifying their appointments, together with their number baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, expelled, dead and total number in fellowship, since our last session.
4. This Association shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, or infringe upon any of the internal rights of the churches.
5. This Association shall have a Moderator and a Clerk, who shall be chosen by the members present.
6. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to keep order, to explain and put questions. He shall have the same right of speech as any other member, provided the chair be filled, but shall not vote unless the body be equally divided.
7. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a fair record of the proceedings of the Association. Minutes taken shall be read, and amended if needed, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association adjourns.
8. Any new church petitioning by letter and delegates for admission in this Association shall be, if found orthodox and orderly, received by the Moderator extending the right hand of fellowship to her delegates.
9. Each church shall have the right to send two delegates to this Association, and no more.
10. Every query presented shall be fully stated in writing and approved by a majority before taken up.
11. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the observation of the Association, unless withdrawn by the person who made it, with the consent of the Association.
12. Every person who speaks in debate shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator in an orderly manner, and shall not be interrupted while speaking, unless he departs from the subject.
13. No person shall speak more than three times on the same subject, and shall not continue his speech more than ten minutes at a time, without leave of the Association.
14. There shall be no talking or whispering in time of a public speech, or reflection cast upon the speaker.
15. When a question is decided by vote, there shall be no more debating on the subject.
16. No member shall absent himself from the Association without leave of the Association.
17. If any member shall break any of the rules of this Association he shall be immediately reprov'd by the Moderator.
18. These rules shall be read to every Association previous to entering on business.
19. To keep up a correspondence with sister Associations of the same faith and order, that a chain of connection may be preserved among the churches.
20. To give the best advice they can in matters of difficulty; and if the union be broken between any of the churches, to inquire into the cause of the breach, and to use their best endeavors to remove the difficulty; but, if the breach cannot be healed, to withdraw from any church which they judge unsound in faith or immoral in practice, till they be reclaimed.

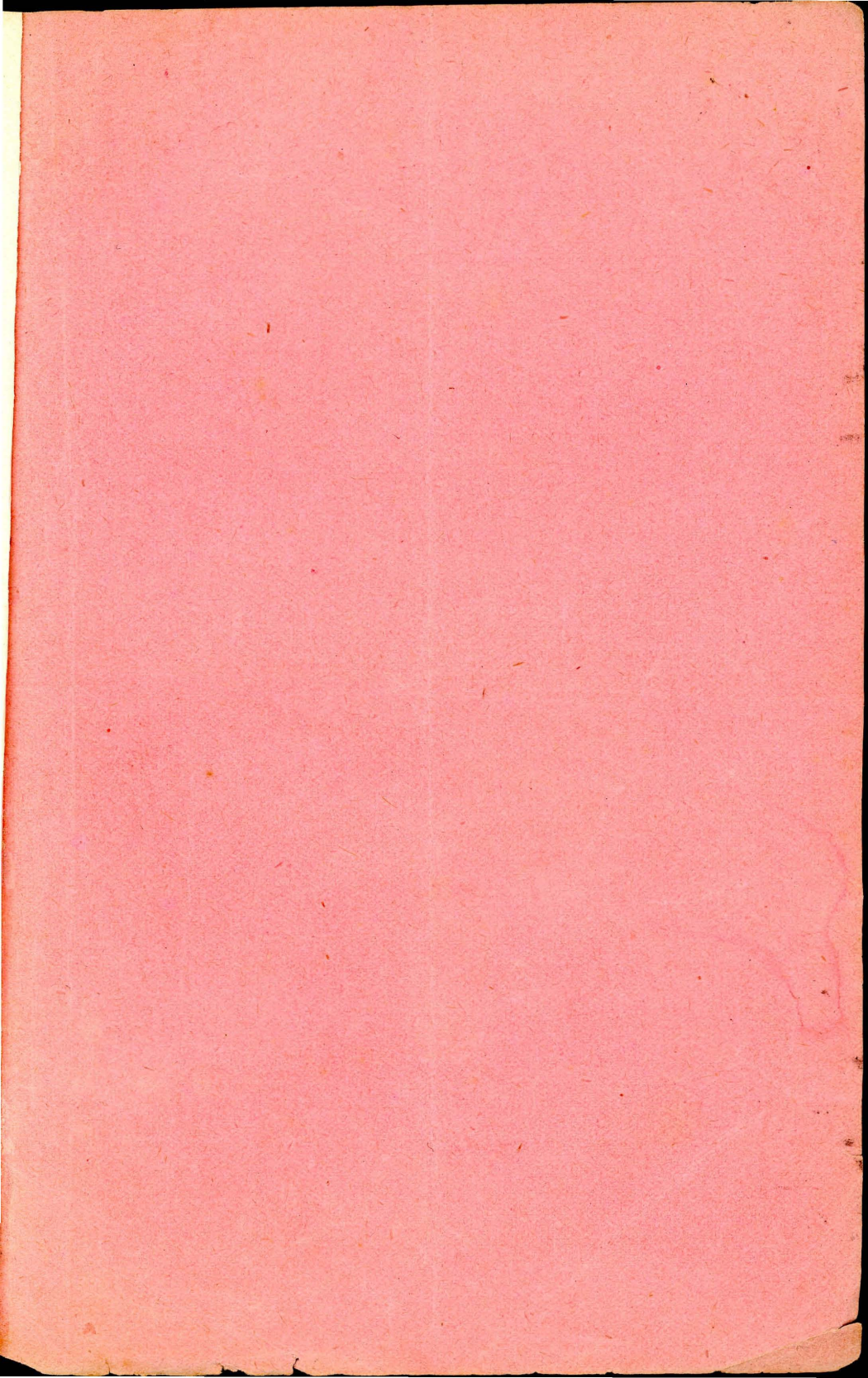
21. To invite any of the ministers to assistance, if necessary.
 22. It shall be the duty of this Association to provide for the general union of the churches, and not hold them in union that support any modern Missionary, Bible, or Sunday School Union Society, or Theological School, either in themselves or any other person, or is in any society that is now or may be hereafter constituted under the pretext of circulating the Gospel of Christ, or any Secret Society, nor will she correspond with any Association that supports or is in any of the above named societies.
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Abstract of Principles Subscribed to by this Association.

1. We believe in one true and living God, and that there are three persons in the God-head—Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
2. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.
3. We believe in the doctrine of eternal and particular election.
4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.
5. We believe in man's impotency to recover himself from the state he is in by nature, of his own free will and ability.
6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God by the imputed righteousness of Christ.
7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Ghost.
8. We believe that saints shall persevere in grace and never finally fall away.
9. We believe that baptism, the Lord's supper, and washing the saints' feet, are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that the true method of baptism is immersion.
10. We believe that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting, and the joys of the righteous shall be eternal.
11. We believe that no man has the right to the administration of the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's supper, except such as are regularly called and come under the hands of the presbytery.
12. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgment.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	COUNTIES.	CLERKS AND POST OFFICES.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	Baptized	Received by Letter	On Confession of Faith	Restored	Dismissed by Letter	Excluded	Deceased	Total Membership	Contributions	Annual Sabbath Meeting.
Mt. Pleasant	Ware	R. G. Oberry, Schlatterville	R. G. Oberry, F. A. Boyett	1	1						126	\$ 1 40	2nd in October.
Elim	Coffee	W. R. Cole, Sessoms	John Ellis, John Roberts	4	3	1	3	4	1	55	1 90	4th in September.	
Antioch	Charlton	S. P. Howard, Folkston	Henry Wainright					1	1	14	1 00	1st in April.	
New Hope	Wayne	J. J. Blocker, Lulaton	B. D. James, A. J. Petty	1		1		1	1	127	2 00	3rd in April.	
Big Creek	Wayne	W. B. Byrd, Ritch	H. J. J. Markee, W. B. Byrd			1		4	2	26	1 50	1st in October.	
Rome	Ware	S. H. Thornton, Elsie	J. B. Mullis, J. T. Minshew	1				1		30	1 90	4th in October.	
New Prospect	Pierce	John Thomas, Patterson	John Thomas, J. R. Dowling			2				12	1 40	4th in April.	
Bethlehem	Pierce	Davis Thornton, Patterson	Davis Thornton, J. C. Proctor	3	4					34	2 25	1st in May.	
Rehobeth	Ware	J. A. Meeks, Bickley	R. W. Taylor, Elias Moon			1		3		45	1 50	1st in September.	
Providence	Ware	J. R. Dickerson, Saury	J. R. Dickerson, B. W. James	3	3			1	2	40	2 50	3rd in September.	
Red Bluff	Clinch	Joseph Bailey, Pearson	Matthew Cowart, D. J. Jeffords		4		2			120	1 50	2nd in August.	
Ben James	Pierce	W. H. Bowen, Blackshear	W. H. Bowen, G. C. James	4				4		341	2 50	3rd in May.	
Ramah	Pierce	George Hyres, Coffee	Jas. A. Thornton, J. F. Sweat	3				1		34	1 65	2nd in September.	
Corinth	Wayne	H. R. McGaully, Odom	David McGaully, H. R. Bennett							14	1 00	3rd in October.	
Pleasant Grove	Appling	Timothy Bland, Tanner	T. Bland, W. G. Stewart	4	2			2		22	1 00	3rd in August.	



Not Pleasant

J. McQuinn
Catharine Thomas
of Warrington