

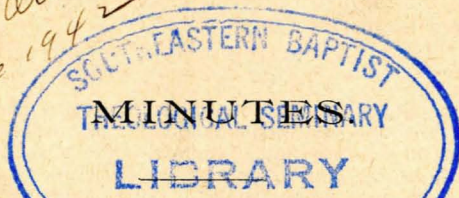
The American Baptist Historical Society

J. T. McArthur
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THE ALAPAHA RIVER PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION was held with the church at Providence, Ware county, Ga., from November the 2nd to the 4th, 1894.

The Introductory Sermon was delivered by Elder A. V. Simms, of Union Association, from Hebrews 11th chapter and 4th verse, viz: "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain," &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 D. B. Sheffield the body proceeded as follows:

First. Read letters from thirteen churches and enrolled delegates' names, and on motion, Elder Jas. A. Thornton was re-elected Moderator, and R. G. Oberry, Clerk, by acclamation.

Second. Read the Decorum and invited ministers of our faith and order to seats with us.

Third. Called for Petitionary Letters. None presented.

Fourth. Appointed brethren W. H. Bowen, W. G. Harris and C. W. Dedge, sr., with the delegates of this church, a committee on preaching and finance.

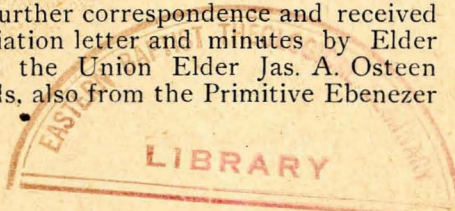
Fifth. Appointed Elder W. L. Harper and brethren S. L. Youmans and J. B. Mullis, with Moderator and Clerk, a committee on business.

Sixth. Called for correspondence, and received from the Union Association, Elder D. B. Sheffield. Appointed brother D. F. Cole to write the Corresponding Letter. After prayer by Elder W. L. Harper adjourned until Saturday morning at half past eight o'clock.

SATURDAY, November 3rd.

Met according to adjournment. After prayer by Elder J. C. Williams read letter from one church that did not reach us yesterday. Called the roll and renewed the invitation to ministers to seats with us.

Seventh. Called for further correspondence and received from New Beulah Association letter and minutes by Elder J. C. Williams, also from the Union Elder Jas. A. Osteen and brother D. J. Jeffords, also from the Primitive Ebenezer



a pack of minutes, also received Elder J. S. Baxley as a visiting minister from the Olive.

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

We, your Committee, have examined correspondence and find nothing that concerns this body, and recommend the same order of business as appears in our last year's minute. Removing the suspensions with our sister Associations, the Union, the Pulaski, the Upper Cannouchee and the Lower Cannouchee, and renewing the correspondence with the same.

Ninth. Called for the report of Committee on Preaching and Finane, to-wit :

We, your Committee, have received \$26.00 contribution and recommend the printing of 600 copies of our minutes this year, 400 for the use of the churches and the balance for correspondence, the Clerk to pay for same and have the balance of funds for service after paying all expenses.

Tenth. Called for marked letters and took up three, and agreed to hold the next session of this Association with the church at Mt. Pleasant, Ware county, Ga., one and one half miles east of Waycross, S. F. & W. R. R., on Friday before the first Sunday in November, 1895.

Eleventh. Appointed correspondence to sister Associations, as follows :

To the Indian River, to convene Friday before the first Sunday in February, 1895—Eld. Jas. A. Thornton and brother John Thomas.

To the New Beulah, to meet with Pleasant Grove church, Appling county, Ga., eight miles north of Sessoms, on S. A. L. R. R., and sixteen miles south of Hazlehurst, on E. T. V. & G. R. R., on Friday before the second Sunday in September, 1895—Brethren David McGaully, T. A. W. Little, B. W. James, J. C. Proctor, A. M. Dryden, J. W. Wainwright and J. T. Minshew.

To the Suwannee, to convene the fourth Sunday in September, 1895, eighteen miles north of Sanderson, on L. R. & N. R. R.—Elder W. L. Harper and brethren Jonathan Osteen, J. R. Dowling, J. R. Dickerson and Mathew Cowart.

To the Primitive Ebenezer, to convene Friday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1895—A pack of minutes.

To the Union, to convene Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1895—Elder Jas. A. Thornton, brethren J. R. Dickerson, J. T. Minshew, B. D. James, Jno. Osteen, W. T. James, Davis Thornton, R. G. Oberry, S. L. Youmans, A. M. Dryden, E. M. Cribb and D. F. Cole.

To the Upper Cannouchee, to convene Friday before the first Sunday in October, 1895—A pack of minutes.

To the Lower Cannouchee, to convene with Upper Lott's Creek church, eight miles west of Statesboro, Bulloch county, Ga.—Brethren J. W. Wesberry and John Thomas.

To the Primitive Pulaski, to convene Saturday before the

first Sunday in October, 1895, six miles west of Tifton, on B. & W. R. R.—Elder Jas. A. Thornton and brother S. L. Youmans.

Called for the Corresponding Letter, which was read and adopted. On motion the minute was read. After prayer by Elder D. B. Sheffield 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 Providence, Ware County, Ga., November the 2nd, 3rd and 4th, 1894, to the Several Associations With Whom She Corresponds, Sendeth Greeting:

DEAR BRETHREN IN THE LORD:—By the continued mercies of a covenant-keeping God, we have been blessed to hold another session of our body in peace. Our churches are all represented, and peace abounds. Our correspondence was not as full as desired, yet our poor hearts were made to rejoice at the good news of salvation by grace as set forth by your ministers. We solicit a continuance of your brotherly correspondence. We will next meet, if the Lord wills, with the church at Mt. Pleasant, Ware county, Ga., one and one half miles east of Waycross, S. F. & W. and B. & W. railroads, on Friday before the first Sunday in November, 1895, when and where we hope to meet with you again.

So finally, brethren, farewell.

ELDER JAS. A. THORNTON, Moderator.

R. G. OBERRY, Clerk.

ORDER OF PREACHING.

Friday, November 2nd, a. m., Elder A. V. Simms; evening services, Elders J. S. Baxley and J. A. Osteen. Saturday morning, Elders W. L. Harper, D. B. Sheffield and J. C. Williams. Sunday morning services, Elder J. S. Baxley. Closed by the Moderator.

ELDER JAS. A. THORNTON, Moderator.

R. G. OBERRY, Clerk.

NAMES OF MINISTERS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.

Elder James A. Thornton.....	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.....	Patterson.

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 reprovved 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 practices 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.

ABSTRACT OF PRINCIPLES SUBSCRIBED TO BY THIS
ASSOCIATION.

1. We believe in only one true and living God, and that there are three persons in the Godhead—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.	Rec'd by Baptism	Received by Letter	Confession of Faith	Restored	Dismissed by Letter	Expelled	Deaths	Total in Fellowship	Contributions	Annual Sabbath Meetings.
				2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1		
Mt. Pleasant	Ware	R. G. Oberry, Schlatterville	R. G. Oberry	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	24	\$ 1 80	2nd in October.
Elim	Coffee	W. R. Cole, Sessoms	C. W. Dedge, D. F. Cole	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	145	2 00	4th in September.
Antioch	Charlton	S. P. Howard, Folkston	A. M. Dryden	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	17	1 00	1st in April.
New Hope	Wayne	J. J. Blocker, Lulaton	B. D. James, J. W. Wainwright	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	23	1 50	3rd in August.
Big Creek	Wayne	J. B. Thornton, Ritch	W. G. Harris, I. L. Thornton	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	28	1 50	1st in October.
Rome	Ware	J. B. Mullis, Waresboro	J. B. Mullis, J. T. Minshe	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	37	2 35	4th in October.
New Prospect	Pierce	John Thomas, Patterson	John Thomas, J. R. Dowling	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	14	2 15	4th in April.
Bethlehem	Pierce	Davis Thornton, Patterson	W. L. Harper, J. C. Proctor	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	29	2 75	1st in May.
Rehobeth	Ware	J. A. Meeks, Bickley	H. Jordan, T. A. W. Little	1	1	6	5	12	1	1	51	2 00	1st in September.
Providence	Ware	J. R. Dickerson, Saussy	B. W. James, J. H. Miller	3	1	1	3	2	3	1	38	2 50	3rd in September.
Red Bluff	Clinch	Joseph Bailey, Pearson	M. Cowart, J. Osteen	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	24	1 50	2nd in September.
Ben James	Pierce	W. H. Bowen, Blackshear	S. L. Youmans, W. H. Bowen	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	41	2 50	3rd in May
Ramah	Pierce	George Hyres, Coffee	J. A. Thornton, G. Hyres	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	30	1 60	2nd in September.
Corinth	Wayne	H. R. McGaully, Odom	David McGaully, Wm. Bennett	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	1 00	3rd in October.