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**MINUTES**  
OF THE  
**THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL MEETING**  
OF THE  
**COLUMBIA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,**

*HELD BY APPOINTMENT*

WITH THE  
**CHURCH AT "ZOAR OF JEFFERSON,"**

JEFFERSON COUNTY, VA.,

August 22d and 23d,

1851.

SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST  
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UNITED STATES  
DISTRICT COURT

THIRTY SECOND ANNUAL MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF BANKERS

HELD AT NEW YORK CITY  
ON THE TWENTY SEVENTH DAY OF MARCH

1903

1903

RECORDED  
INDEXED

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OF THE

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OF THE

THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

MINUTES.

[Owing to the rain the Association did not convene until Friday.]

FRIDAY MORNING, *August 22, 1851.*

1. The Association met at Zoar of Jefferson, Jefferson County, Va., at 11 o'clock, A. M. Introductory Sermon by Elder A. H. BENNETT, from Matt. v. 14—*Ye are the light of the world.*
2. Brother Marders was called to the Chair, (in the absence of the Moderator of last year.) The business of the Association was opened by praise and prayer, when the letters of the Churches were read, and the Messengers' names enrolled as follows, viz :

CHURCHES.	LOCATED.	When Constit'd.	MESSENGERS.	PASTORS.	Days of Preaching	Baptized.	Rec'd by Letter.	Restored.	Dismiss'd	Excluded.	Dead.	Total.
Little River, -	Loudoun County,	1769	{ Benjamin Hixson, - Sanford Rogers, - James C. Green, - Willis Henderson, - Letter, - - - - -	L. MARDERS, -	1st	5	-	-	2	-	1	59
Back Lick, -	Fairfax County,	1791	{	-	2d	-	3	-	3	-	1	73
1st Washington,	District Columbia,	1802	{	STEPH'N P. HILL,	ev'ry	5	15	1	-	-	2	163
Alexandria, -	Alexandria County,		{	O. W. BRIGGS,	ev'ry	14	6	-	2	-	3	73
Grove, - -	Fauquier County,	1812	{ S. G. Embrey, - - Benjamin H. James, Letter, - - - - -	W. OWENS, -	2d	8	1	-	3	-	3	125
Rock Hill, -	Stafford County,	1812	{	W. OWENS, - -	3d	2	-	-	-	-	-	73
Zoar, - - -	Fauquier County,	1812	{ A. H. Bennett, - - Wm. T. Crittenden, Darnall A. Smith, - J. Carnall, - - - - L. Shumate, - - - -	A. H. BENNETT,	1st	1	-	-	-	-	-	164
Broad Run, -	Fauquier County,	1830	{	A. H. SPILLMAN,	2d	1	-	-	-	-	-	111
Fredericksburg,	Fredericksburg,	1825	{	S. SMITH, - - - -	ev'ry	13	16	7	21	-	18	596
Pleasant Vale,	Fauquier County,	1799	{ J. J. Ashby, - - - Hugh Rogers, - - - L. Manders, - - -	B. GRIMSLY, -	1st	4	-	-	2	-	3	61
Jerusalem, -	Fairfax County,	1840	{	L. MARDERS, -	3d	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Union, - -	Culpeper County,	1843	{ Robert J. Scisson, Richard Cole, - - Alexander Hall, - - Thomas Fredl, - - John L. Powell, - - George Keene, - - G. A. Bramble, - -	W. OWENS, - -	4th	11	3	-	3	-	1	107
2d Ebenezer, -	Loudoun County,	1842	{	H. W. DODGE,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34
Winchester, -	Frederick County,	1844	{ J. Baker, - - - - W. W. James, - - - Asa Marsteller, - - A. W. Hudspeth, - - J. D. Hudspeth, - - G. W. Harris, - - - Alfred Garrett, - - James McVeigh, - - J. T. James, - - - -	J. BAKER, - - -	3d	3	1	-	1	-	1	39
Zoar of Jefferson,	Jefferson County,		{	J. BAKER, - - -	4th	1	-	-	-	-	-	18
Pugh Town, -	Jefferson County,	1849	{	G. W. HARRIS,	4th	2	1	-	-	-	-	14
Warrenton, -	Fauquier County,	1849	{	C. GEORGE, - - -	3d	4	-	-	-	-	-	36
					74	46	8	37	24	20	1764	

3. Brother Marders was chosen Moderator.

Adjourned for one hour.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by brother Baker.

4. A committee, consisting of the Messengers of the Church with whom we have assembled, together with brother Baker the Pastor, were appointed to arrange the preaching during the meeting.

5. Messengers and communications were received from the following Associations, viz :

*Salem Union*—Brethren T. D. Herndon, F. Simpson and D. L. Hughes.

*Shiloh*—No communication.

*Baltimore*—Ditto.

*Albemarle*—Ditto.

*Dover*—Ditto.

*Rappahannock*—Ditto.

*Goshen*—Minutes.

*Maryland Union*—No communication.

6. Visiting brethren present, were cordially invited to seats with us; whereupon brethren Ryland and Shuck, took their seats.

7. Brother Smith having failed to furnish a Circular Letter, brethren Baker, Harris and Hall, were appointed to select a Circular, and have the same published with the present Minutes.

8. Brethren W. W. James, B. H. James and S. Rogers, were appointed a committee to audit the Treasurer's account.

9. Brethren Brown, Briggs, Hill, Marders and Baker, were appointed delegates to the General Association of Virginia.

10. A committee, consisting of brethren Powell, D. James, and the Clerk, to examine the Letters of the Churches.

11. *Resolved*, That the next Annual Meeting of the Association be held with the Church at Grove, Fauquier County, 15 miles West of Fal-mouth, upon the road leading to Lee's Springs.

12. Brother Baker to write the next Circular Letter.

13. Brother A. H. Spillman to preach the Introductory Sermon, brother Payne his alternate.

14. The following appointments were made to Corresponding Associations :

*Salem Union*—Brethren Harris, Baker, H. Rogers and J. J. Ashby, were appointed to attend.

*Goshen*—Brethren Bennett and Smith.

*Shiloh*—10 copies of the Minutes.

*Rappahannock*—10 do.

*Dover*—10 do.

*Maryland Union*—Brethren Brown, Briggs and Hill.

15. *Ordered*, That 1000 copies of our Minutes be published, and that

the Clerk superintend the printing and distribution, and that thirty dollars be appropriated for defraying the expense of the same.

16. *Ordered*, That the Clerk receive \$15 for his services.

17. *Resolved*, That the Clerk be requested to prepare an Abstract from the Letters of the Churches and publish the same with the Minutes.

18. The report of the committee to audit the Treasurer's account was received, viz:—

### The Columbia Baptist Association,

*With B. HIXSON, Treasurer:*

1850,			
August 24—	To cash paid the Clerk,	- - -	\$15.00
“	To do. for Minutes,	- - -	30.00
			<hr/>
		CR.	\$45.00
August 23—	By cash of the Committee,	- - -	43.12
			<hr/>
1851,	Balance due B. Hixon,	- - -	\$1.88
August—	By cash in full,	- - -	1.88

*Amount received from Churches the present year, viz:*

Little River, \$3; Back Lick, \$2; 1st Washington, \$5; Alexandria, \$5; Grove, \$3; Rock Hill, \$2; Zoar, \$3.25; Broad Run, \$4; Fredricksburg, \$5; Pleasant Vale, \$5; Jerusalem, \$2; Union, \$4; 2d Ebenezer \$8.50; Winchester, \$2; Zoar of Jefferson, \$1; Pugh Town, \$1.50; Warrenton, \$5; a friend, \$1—\$57.25.

W. W. JAMES, *Chairman.*

19. *Ordered*, That the balance in the hands of the Treasurer, after defraying the expenses of the Association, be paid over to the Treasurer of the Missionary Society of the Association.

20. *Resolved*, That it be a standing rule, that any brother being at any Association with which we correspond, whose name is recorded upon our minutes, be considered as a messenger from this Association to that body.

21. *Resolved unanimously*, That it be earnestly recommended to the churches and brethren to contribute liberally, according to the means which God has given them, to the support of missionary labors, both in our own and foreign countries.

Adjourned till to-morrow, half-past 9 o'clock, A. M. Prayer by brother Harris.

=====  
SATURDAY, August 23.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by the Moderator.

22. Brother Ryland was received as Corresponding Secretary of the Virginia Baptist Education Society.

23. Brother W. W. James was appointed to write the Corresponding Letter.

24. *Resolved unanimously*, That in witnessing the desecration of the Lord's Day, which prevails to so great an extent, the members of our Churches be requested to guard themselves with special watchfulness, and sacred care, against giving countenance to the evil by their example, and that the Pastors of the Churches be requested to bring the subject before their respective congregations at least once a year.

25. *Resolved, unanimously*, That the Churches be affectionately requested to send, in their letters to the Association, a full statement of their condition, whether prosperous or adverse, including the benevolent institutions to which they contribute; and also the number of Sabbath Schools, Teachers and Scholars, and the number of Books in their libraries.

26. *Resolved*, That the great principle which called into existence the American Foreign Bible Society, demands from all who love the pure and unadulterated word of God, unqualified veneration and vigorous support.

27. *Resolved*, That it be recommended to all the Churches in which there are as yet no Sabbath Schools, to institute such Sabbath Schools as soon as possible, and that members be requested to employ themselves as teachers.

28. *Whereas*, The Columbia College, founded by the liberality, and hallowed by the prayers of the united Baptists of the United States, has been eminently honored of God, in sending forth efficient ministers of the Gospel: and whereas, having outlived its protracted and distressing difficulties, it is now annually sending forth throughout our country, and especially into Virginia, most promising preachers of Christ, some of whom have been converted to God while enjoying the privileges of this institution of learning: Therefore

*Resolved*, That this Association commend the Columbian College to the pecuniary aid as well as to the prayers of the members of the Churches composing this body; and they also recommend it to the patronage of young men studying for the Gospel ministry, and of parents who desire to educate their sons for usefulness.

29. *Resolved*, That the Richmond College be recommended to the patronage of the Baptists composing this Association.

30. *Resolved unanimously*, That the thanks of this Association be presented to the brethren and friends of Zoar and vicinity, for the great kindness and hospitality with which we have been entertained during the meeting.

31. *Resolved*, That in view of the destitute condition of Back Lick Church, the sum of four dollars be appropriated monthly, to aid the Church in procuring the services of a Minister to preach monthly, and that the Treasurer of the Missionary Society be requested to pay the same out of any monies not otherwise appropriated, to brother Willis Henderson, for said purpose.

32. Brother Marders agrees, as heretofore, to preach for the Church at Back Lick during their destitution, every other month.

33. The Committee to examine the Letters of the Churches, having

performed that service, report, that they find it suggested in the letter of Pleasant Vale Church, that it be recommended to the Churches by the Association, that the members of the same should be less conformed to the world and more devoted to God and his cause; which suggestion was unanimously adopted by the Association.

Your Committee are happy to state, that the letters of the Churches indicate a noble spirit of benevolent enterprise, most of them contributing to the various benevolent purposes of the day, some of them very largely.

34. *Resolved*, That this Association recommend to all the Churches to procure Books from the Baptist publication Society, and establish Libraries in each, and encourage the members to read them, especially the young, and any member of the congregation.

### 35. THE STATE OF THE CHURCHES FROM THE LETTERS:

*Little River*—Feel grateful to the Giver of all good, for mercies and privileges received; but lament their having fallen short in their duty, yet trust in his sovereign mercy and grace, as his promises are sure and steadfast. They have had some intimations of divine favour by the addition of some to their number.

*Back Lick*—Solicits aid of the Association. They have had preaching generally once a month, and would be glad to have it in their power to inform us of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit among them.

*1st Washington*—They say “their former Pastor who so long and so faithfully ministered to us, having tendered his resignation, it was received, not without, we trust, a proper appreciation of, and gratitude for his long and valued services.” They have obtained the services of brother S. P. Hill, who settled among them the 1st of October last. They have repaired their house of worship, at the cost of \$1200, and the good hand of the Lord seems to be upon them, as they have had some interesting cases of conversion, and a general interest seems to be awakened in the congregation.

*Alexandria*—They say they are advancing under encouraging prospects. They use their united efforts in disseminating the light of the glorious Gospel. They contributed the sum of \$1200 or \$1500 to some of the benevolent objects of the day. They have a Sabbath School, prayer meeting, and other religious exercises during the week.

*Grove*—They say they are at peace, and brotherly love prevails among them—they have a monthly prayer meeting.

*Rock Hill*—They are repairing their house of worship, and lament that it is a cold and dull time with them. They desire an interest in the prayers of the Association.

*Zoar*—They say they have a monthly prayer meeting, and a Bible Society, and lament that no Missionary has been obtained to labour in the bounds of the Association—hope they are striving for the faith of the Gospel.

*Broad Run*—They say they are in peace, and have received some intimations of Divine favour. They are contributing to the spread of the Gospel. They entreat an interest in the prayers of their brethren.

*Fredericksburg*—They recur to the past with feelings mingled with gratitude and profound humility. They are in peace and harmony, and while they lament their inability to do more, yet, they have gone beyond their former contributions for benevolent purposes. They have a monthly concert of prayer for Missions, and a weekly prayer meeting. They have a flourishing Sunday School, consisting of 113 scholars and 28 teachers, and 212 volumes in their library.

*Pleasant Vale*—They have a Sabbath School of 20 scholars, and a weekly prayer meeting, and have contributed to the various institutions of benevolence, \$180.

*Union*—They are in the enjoyment of peace, and have a monthly prayer meeting, which they hope is doing much good.

*2d Ebenezer*—They have prayer meetings, and a union Sunday School of from 40 to 70 scholars; teachers 8 to 10, and contribute to Missionary purposes.

*Winchester*—They regret not having more preaching; have enjoyed some refreshing seasons in the house of God. They have a flourishing Sabbath School of 60 scholars and 10 teachers, with 100 volumes in the library.

*Zoar of Jefferson*—They say they are united in love and fellowship, and return thanks to the Author of all good for his many mercies towards them.

*Pugh Town*—Say they are a little flock, surrounded by adverse influences. They have a house of worship in process of being erected.

*Warrenton*—Say they are in peace as a Church, and have a weekly prayer meeting, and lament their luke-warmness.

Adjourned. Prayer by brother Baker.

L. MARDERS, *Moderator.*

A. H. BENNETT, *Clerk.*

## CIRCULAR LETTER.

### THE COLUMBIA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

*To the Churches composing the same—GREETING :*

BELOVED BRETHREN :

Very soon after the existence of Baptists on this continent, it was thought adviseable by them, for the several churches in different parts of our country to form themselves into what we call Associations, for the purpose of gaining information concerning the state of God's Zion, and, when solicited, to give advice; to the end that good understanding should be maintained, and, fellowship preserved. These are desirable objects closely connected with such a course of conduct as is calculated to *provoke to love and good works*. It has been the practice of Associations to send out with their minutes an address, in the form of a letter, to the several churches in their connexion. Various subjects have been attended to at different times. They have severally exercised their best abilities, hoping that impressions would be made on the minds of brethren, tending to the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom. It is somewhat difficult at the present day, to introduce a subject entirely new; yet we are unwilling to relinquish a practice which may still be useful.

On the present occasion, suffer us to call your attention to the exhortation, "*Neglect not the assembling of yourselves together, as the manner of some is.*" That it is the duty of Christians to meet together, and unite with each other in the worship of God, is so evident we will not attempt a proof of it; but there are duties connected with this, which may not have been thought of by brethren in general, in that relative sense in which they stand, according to the order of things. A church of Jesus Christ may be compared to a family, in which should exist a peculiar

freedom and intimacy, for the preservation of good order, and the interest of each member. For the greater convenience, and better opportunity of meeting together, the Baptists have, by Divine direction, formed themselves into little organized bodies, called churches; each of which constitutes an independent community, free from the control of all others, and accountable to Jesus Christ alone for her conduct. On this principle, which should never be abandoned in relation to the independence of each body, our churches have mutually agreed to maintain a friendly intercourse and Christian fellowship with each other, through the medium of Associations.

After these few remarks, suffer us to attend more immediately to the subject under consideration. Perhaps there is not a church in our connexion that has not a place where it meets to worship. But may not many churches be too negligent in this duty? And are not many members of churches unworthy of the Christian name, because of their almost entire neglect of it? Many attempts have been made to correct this error, and preserve that good order in the churches which is so desirable. But notwithstanding the exertions of brethren on this subject, connected with the many mercies we have enjoyed, we have reason to put up a lamentation, and say, *our leanness, our leanness!* Causes and their effects are inseparable. It is impossible that good can attend a neglect of duty; and it is equally impossible that evil should result from walking in the commandments and ordinances of the Lord. Why should not churches assemble together every first day of the week? There certainly can be no good reason assigned why they should not do so. If a blessing attended our meeting last first day, and we were happy in the society of each other while engaged in the worship of God, why not let it be known by our meeting next first day? But a difficulty exists here with many, which is almost insurmountable. The opportunity of *hearing preaching from home*, is preferable with many, to meeting *at home, where we shall have no preaching*. It is certainly the privilege of churches to consult their own interest, and so make their appointments, having an eye to the direction of the Lord; and when the time comes for the church to assemble together, it must be the duty of every member to be present, that has not a good excuse for not being there. Suffer us, brethren, to

give our opinion with regard to excuses offered to justify absence; such as going on a visit in the neighbourhood, or receiving visits from neighbours; and a variety of others, not less frivolous. These are excuses for absence which should never be countenanced by a church.

The advantages which must result from brethren meeting together and engaging in the worship of God, will prove to be of the highest consideration. It will be acknowledged, that fellowship enjoyed by the members of churches, is a singular happiness: and what is better calculated to secure this desirable object, than for brethren to prove to each other that they have real satisfaction in meeting often, for the exercise of their several gifts, in prayer, singing, exhortation, and conversation about what they hope God has done for their souls? By this means they will contract an intimacy and freedom with each other, which will be attended with a growth in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. This will inspire them with a greater desire to search the scriptures, and produce in them thoughtfulness on divine subjects. If these things should accompany brethren paying respect to the exhortation, ought they to ask for a stronger inducement? But there are many other advantages which would attend a compliance with this duty. The example would have a happy influence on many Christians. They would be more heavenly minded, more humble, and less devoted to the cares and fashions of this world. If there should be any gifts in the churches, promising peculiar usefulness, they will, by this means, be discovered. And is it not truly desirable that a church should possess gifts, that shall be exercised in the support of the Redeemer's cause?

Dear brethren, what is comparable to brethren dwelling together in unity! The oil upon Aaron's head, which ran down his beard, even to the skirts of his garment, though shedding a rich perfume, which was grateful to the sense, was not equal to the unity of the Spirit, in the bonds of peace. This is truly gratifying to the souls of God's people; and while they exercise sincerity in approving the things which are excellent, they ardently desire to pursue that course which will be profitable to Zion, and show forth the praise of God in the world. Could a reformation be effected, so as to make us more like this picture, we should then be much more like the primitive Christians than we are at present. In accom-

plishing so desirable an object, we must be in spirit more like our brethren who took the kingdom by violence. The world must be resisted, the flesh must be resisted, and the devil must be resisted; for they individually, and unitedly, are foes to the religion of our dear Redeemer; consequently they will make attempts to injure the possessors of it. And though the children of God cannot be destroyed by their enemies, or dispossessed of their eternal inheritance, yet they may suffer loss while in this enemy's land, should they turn out of the way marked out for them by the Captain of their salvation, and fail to have on, at all times, the whole armour of God; and especially to have ready at hand the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, and which is able, when skilfully used, to put to flight all our foes. If an acquaintance with the scriptures is so necessary to our enjoyment of the society of our brethren, and the gaining of the victory over our enemies—the pursuing of a course which will inspire us with a wish to be thus acquainted with the Bible, must include in it the assembling of ourselves together, that we may attend to the things pertaining to our Redeemer's kingdom.

Dear brethren, is there not reason to mourn on account of that barrenness of soul which is so perceivable amongst us? Have we not *forsaken*, in a degree, *the fountain of living waters*, and have we not drunk deep in the spirit of the world? which is similar to that of *hewing to ourselves cisterns, broken cisterns, which can hold no water*. Dear brethren, does not the present state of things call for a degree of energy of soul, which is not common amongst us? If we possess a desire that a change should take place for good, let us return to *the fountain of living waters*, and *enquire for the good old way*; and we shall be enabled to walk therein. Then shall we enjoy the light of His countenance, who is King in Zion, and His name shall be glorified in the assemblies of his saints on earth.

L. MARDERS, *Moderator*.

A. H. BENNETT, *Clerk*.

## CORRESPONDING LETTER.

DEAR BRETHREN :

In accordance with our usual custom, we address you this our annual corresponding letter. The present session has been characterized by peace and harmony. A spirit of devotion, and an ardent desire for the spread of the Gospel was manifested on the part of the delegates from the Churches, and we hope that an impetus has been given to the Baptist cause in this locality that will tell favourably in coming time. Our Minutes will show the amount of business transacted and the general state of the Churches. We expect soon to have two Missionaries labouring in the bounds of our Association.

Owing to a protracted spell of wet weather, only a part of the Churches were represented by delegates. But few Ministering Brethren were present.

Our next annual session will be held at Grove, Fauquier County, Virginia, commencing on Thursday preceding the fourth Lord's Day in August, 1852. Brethren, pray for us, that the Lord would revive his work, and that the next year may be signalized by a state of *spiritual* prosperity in all the Churches.

L. MARDERS, *Moderator.*

A. H. BENNETT, *Clerk.*

**NINTH ANNUAL MEETING**  
 OF THE  
**MISSIONARY SOCIETY**  
 OF THE  
**Columbia Baptist Association.**

SATURDAY MORNING, *August 23, 1851.*

The Missionary Society met at half-past 10 o'clock.

1. Brother Baker was called to the Chair, and William W. James, Secretary.
2. *Resolved*, That the Board of Managers appointed at the last annual meeting, report to the Society the result of their labors during the past year.
3. *Resolved*, That Brother H. Rogers be authorized to correspond with brother T. W. Green, in Pennsylvania, inviting him to visit the bounds of our Association, with a view to be employed.
4. *Resolved*, That the same Board of Managers be continued.

Contributions, per brother S. Rogers, from Little River,	\$9.00
Per brother Bennett, from Zoar, Fauquier,	9.00

The sum of eighteen dollars, the amount contributed, be paid to the Treasurer, brother Bayne, by brother Henderson.

Adjourned by prayer, by brother Shuck.

J. BAKER, *President.*

WM. W. JAMES, *Secretary.*

FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING

MISSISSIPPI SOCIETY

OF THE

Columbia Hospital Association

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS

The Board of Managers of the Columbia Hospital Association, organized at the first annual meeting of the Society, held at the Hotel... in the month of...

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