

J. W. P. Hatcher

MINUTES

OF THE
TENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

MOUNTAIN UNION

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

MT. PLEASANT CHURCH, GRAYSON CO., VA.

On the 23d day of September, 1876.

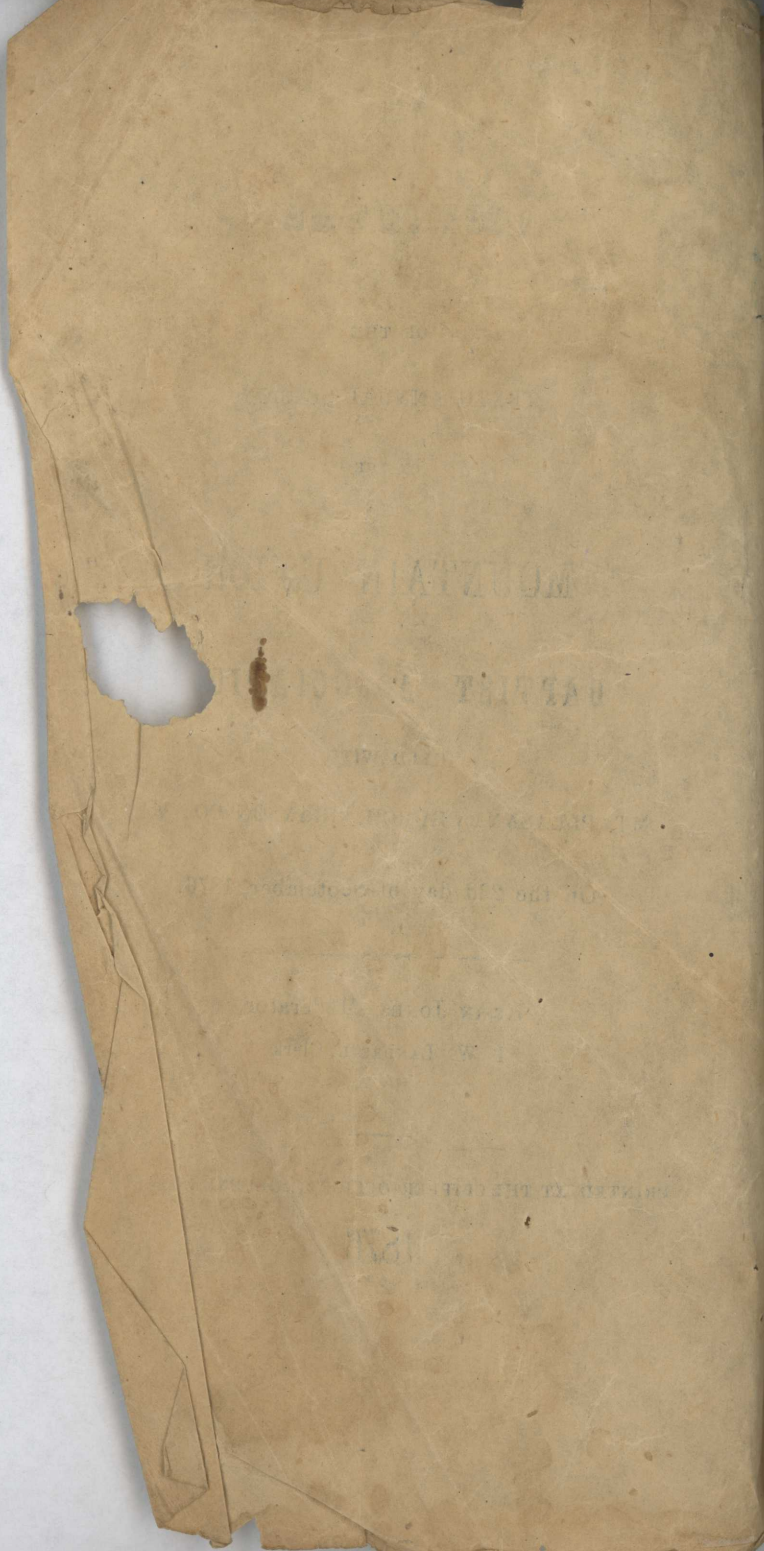
RESIN JONES, Moderator.

I. W. LANDRETH, Clerk.

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1876.

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MINUTES.

SATURDAY, September 23d, 1876.

According to the appointment of last year, Elder R. Jones preached the introductory sermon—Text, Rev. 6th chapter and 17th verse.

2. The Association was called together with singing and prayer by the Moderator.

3. Received letters from 13 churches, then called upon Elds W. J. Combs and Jos. Holbrook to act as tellers, who report R. Jones, Mod., I. W. Landreth, Clerk.

4. Called for newly constituted churches, when "Mt. Pleasant Chapel," situated in Ashe co., N. C., and "Big Springs," situated in Grayson co., Va., presented letters, the delegates receiving the right hand of fellowship. Also Baptist Chapel joined us by letter receiving the right hand of fellowship.

5. Invited correspondence when Elds W. J. Combs, C. Blevins, and Bro. Jos. Holbrook came forward with a letter intended minutes from the "Primitive Association" receiving the right hand of fellowship, aiding in council.

6. On motion, the Moderator is to make all the appointments during this session.

7. Appointed J. M. Brown, D. Perkins, and Poindexter Blevins, with the delegates of this Church, a committee on the ministry, who report for Sabbath, 1st, Elds T. J. Jones; 2d, W. J. Combs; 3d, J. Blevins; 4th, C. Blevins.

8. Appointed correspondence to sister Associations, viz: Elds F. B. Cheek, and A. Powers "Stony Fork;" J. K. Baldwin, Powers, R. Jones, R. Parsons, T. J. Jones, M. Church, J. Blevins, J. W. Kegley, B. W. Ashley, and I. W. Landreth to "Primitive."

9. Appointed W. J. Chapel, D. Perkins, T. J. Jones, A. Blevins, and J. M. Brown, committee of arrangements.

10. Committee of Finance appointed, viz.: P. Blevins, J. Fowlkes, and F. B. Cheek.

11. The brethren, viz: R. Jones, T. J. Jones, F. B. Cheek, W. J. Chapel, Wm. A. J. Fowlkes, A. Powers, and I. W. Landreth report they attended the Primitive Association, and was kindly received.

12. Appointed Elds I. W. Landreth and A. Powers to prepare a short Obituary of brother John A. Jones, deceased.

13. A committee to re-district this Association, viz: J. Blevins, R. Parsons, and T. J. Jones, who report, 1st District, Walnut Grove, New Salem, Big Springs, Rock Springs, Mt. Cary, Prathers Creek; 2d, School Creek, Mt. Pleasant, South Double Springs; 3d, Grassy Creek, Baptist Chapel, Mt. Pleasant Chapel, Silas Creek, Zion Hill, Union; 4th, Mt. Zion Grove, Three Fork, Three Top.

14. On motion, adjourned until 5 o'clock this evening—Prayer by W. J. Combs. Benediction by the Moderator.

EVENING SESSION.

1. At 5 o'clock the Association came to order with singing and prayer, by C. Blevins.

2. The cl'k called the roll, read the constitution, and rules of Decorum.

3. Received the report of the committee of arrangements and discharged them.

4. On motion, the Constitution is to be published this year.

5. Appointed a communion meeting at the Three Fork Church, the 4th Saturday in August, 1877—Thomas Jones, A. Powers, R. Parsons, and I. W. Landreth to attend.

6. The committee of Finance report \$19.65 from the churches; \$6.50 in the hands of the treasurer; allowing the Clerk \$5.00 for his services, balance to remain in the treasury.

7. This body having learned that Churchwell O. Davis is exchanging papers and trying to preach, claiming connection with the same, hereby warn all good Christian brethren that said C. O. Davis is excluded member from Shoal Creek church, and in no way worthy of recognition as a christian.

Resolved our next association to be held with Rock

ing church, Alleghany county, N. C., 9 miles east of Sparta,

beginning on Friday before the 4th Lord's Day in September, 1877.—Eld. A. Powers to preach the Introductory Sermon,

B. Cheek, Alternate.

This body recommends to the brethren the following periodicals: "Baptist"—The "Biblical Recorder" and "Baptist Review" as papers worthy of patronage by every Baptist within our bounds.

On motion, this body, through Elder J. K. Baldwin do hereby

do hereby Groves Church dissolved her constitution by mutual

do hereby return their thanks to the brethren and friends of the same community for their kind hospitality to us during our session.

13. On motion, the Clerk is to have 700 copies of these minutes printed and distribute them as usual.

14. Adjourned to time and place appointed. Prayer by the Moderator, and benediction by the same.

I. W. LANDRETH, Clerk.

RESIN JONES, Mod'r.

SABBATH.

1st Sermon, Eld. T. J. Jones, text, Isaiah, 55th chapter and 6th verse, "Seek ye the Lord," &c.; 2d Sermon, Eld. W. J. Combs, text, Luke, 9th chapter and 60th verse, "Jesus said unto him," &c.; 3d Sermon, Eld. J. Blevins, Acts, 5th chapter and 29th verse,

"We ought to obey God." 4th, C. Blevins closed with an exhortation, thus passed the Association in love and harmony, hoping that peace may continue to remain among us while life lasts, and that all of us may meet in Heaven.

CLERK.

CONSTITUTION.

Art. 1. This association shall be known by the name of the Mountain Union Baptist Association, and shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our Union, and duly sent to represent in the Association. Who on producing letters from their respective churches certifying their appointment shall be entitled to their seats. Each church shall be entitled to three delegates, in their letters is to be expressed their number in full fellowship, baptized, received by letter, application, dismissed by letter, excluded and dead since last association.

2. The number thus chosen and convened shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage nor shall they have any classic power over the churches nor shall they infringe any intean right over any church in her Union.

3. The association when convened shall be regulated by regular Decorum.

4. The association shall have a Moderator and Secretary who shall be chosen annually by a majority of the vote of the members present a majority of the churches being represented.

5. New Churches or any regular Baptist church of Jesus Christ of our faith and order in good standing either dismissed by letter from sister associations or by application by sending up letter and delegates shall be admitted into the Union.

6. Every church in the Union shall be entitled to representation in the association.

7. Every motion made and seconded shall come under consideration of the association except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

8. The Association shall endeavor to furnish the churches with the minutes of its proceedings, the best method for publishing this purpose shall be at the discretion of the association.

9. We think it necessary to have an associational fund to defray the expenses of the association, and it is the duty of every church in the Union to contribute such sums as they may see proper to the association and those moneys shall be kept in the hands of a treasurer who shall be accountable to the association for the same, and the association shall apply the money thus contributed to any purpose they may think proper.

10. There shall be an association book wherein the proceedings of the association shall be recorded by a secretary chosen by the association, who shall receive a reasonable salary for his services.

11. The minutes of the association shall be read and corrected if necessary and signed by the moderator and clerk, before the association adjourns.

12. Amendments to this form of government may be made at any time by a majority of the association, when they may deem it expedient by giving the churches twelve months notice.

13. The association shall act as an advisory council, and shall endeavor to preserve a general Union of the churches, and also to preserve a chain of communion among the churches, and give advice in matters of difficulty.

14. The association shall inquire into the cause if any church fails to represent at any time in the association.

15. The association shall have power to withdraw from any church in her Union that shall violate the rules of this constitution or deviate from the orthodox principles of the Gospel.

16. The association may correspond with sister associations, and invite any brother in the ministry in good standing, or that can bring a good recommendation of his standing who may be of good faith and order—to a seat in the association who may be present at any time of its sitting.

17. The association shall have power to adjourn to any future time if the present may think proper.

18. The avolent institutions of the day shall be no bar nor hindrance to fellowship but all shall be free to sustain or not sustain the same as they may choose.

OBITUARY.

WHEREAS, the Great Creator in his allwise providence seen fit to remove from among us, our much beloved brother, John A. Jones, who was one of the leading members of this body.— Bro. Jones was born April 23d, 1813, and died May 17th, 1876, at the age of 63 years and 24 days. He embraced religion in his 25th year, and was immersed in the likeness of Jesus. He lived a consistent baptist nearly 38 years, when he was attacked with fever, which terminated in death. He was kind, charitable and Christian hearted brother, supporting the gospel ministry by contributing to the poor and needy. He served as Deacon and Church clerk a number of years. He raised a large and respectable family, leaving them to weep over the loss of husband and father. This body feels the loss of Brother Jones, believing our loss is his great gain. His pastor visited him before his death, sang and prayed with him, found him in his right mind and strong in the christian faith saying, "I am willing for God's will to be done with me." He counseled his family in his dying moments, bids this world adieu, surrendering soul and body into the hands of our Great Creator. Weep not widow, weep not children, weep not brethren, we all shall meet again at the Resurrection Morn.

