

MINUTES  
OF THE  
**CANOOCHIE ASSOCIATION,**

CONVENED AT

**DELOATCHE'S MEETING-HOUSE,**

BULLOCK COUNTY,

COMMENCED ON

SATURDAY, BEFORE THE 4TH LORD'S DAY

IN

SEPTEMBER, 1844.

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SAVANNAH:  
W. T. WILLIAMS.  
1844.

## MINUTES.

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1. THE Introductory Sermon was preached by Brother James R. Miller from the Fourth Chapter of Ephesians and Fifth Verse: "*One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism.*"

2. After a short intermission the Messengers from the different Churches convened in the Meeting House, and the Association was opened by singing and prayer by the Moderator.

3. Received and read letters from thirty-two Churches and minuted their state.

4. Proceeded to organize this body, and re-elected Brother Isaac Norris, Moderator, and John G. Williams, Clerk.

5. Received and read two petitionary letters desiring to join this Association, one from Fellowship, Emanuel County, and one from Fellowship, Bulloch County, and they were joyfully received by the Moderator, giving their Messengers the right hand of fellowship.

6. Invited Ministering Brethren of the same faith and order to a seat with us, to help us in our deliberations.

7. Appointed the following Brethren as a Committee to arrange the preaching during this Association, viz: Brethren E. Brannen, William Groover and S. Banks, with delegates of said church.

8. Appointed the following Brethren as a Committee to arrange the business of this Association, viz: Brethren Isaac Norris, Wm. S. Moore and James R. Miller.

9. Received the report of the Committee to arrange the Preaching during this Association, and reported as follows:— Brother Isaac Norris to preach on the Sabbath, followed by Brother A. Odom. Intermission of fifteen minutes, then Brother T. G. B. Law to preach, and closed by Brother C. Cobb.

10. Called on Brother A. Odom for the Circular Letter. It was read and received.

11. On motion, adjourned until Monday morning, 9 o'clock.

12. Sunday morning, met according to arrangement, and the Brethren came forward in the order of their names and preached to a large and orderly congregation, and we hope there was good done in the name of the Lord.

13. Monday morning, met according to adjournment, and the Association was opened by singing, and prayer by the Moderator.

14. The report of the Committee for arranging the business of the Association, was read and received.

15. Agreed to have eight General Meetings, and appointed the following Brethren as a Committee to arrange the same, viz: James R. Miller, N. Robert, A. Odom, S. Banks, and Wm. H. Green. First at Jones', Emanuel County, and at Salem, Liberty County, to commence Friday before the Fifth Lord's Day in September, 1844. Second at Antioch and Oakey Grove, Emanuel County, to commence Friday before the Fifth Lord's Day in December, 1844. Third at Bethesda, Jefferson County, and Lane's, Bulloch County, to commence Friday before the Fifth Lord's Day in March, 1845. Fourth at Wade's, Scriven County, and Elbethel, Emanuel County, to commence Friday before the Fifth Lord's Day in August, 1845.

16. Agreed to have the Constitution of this Association and the Articles of our Faith printed in her minutes.

17. Appointed our next Association to be held at Hines' Meeting House, Emanuel County, to commence Saturday before the Fourth Lord's Day in September, 1845, and Brother Isaac Norris to preach the Introductory Sermon. Brother C. Cobb his alternate.

18. Appointed Brother Tarlton Knight to write the next Circular Letter.

19. Agreed to have one thousand copies of these Minutes printed, and the Clerk to attend to the printing and distributing of the same.

20. Called for contributions.

21. *Resolved*, That we return our thanks to God, and this vicinity, for their kind and affectionate attention to us, during this Association. Then adjourned in order.

ISAAC NORRIS, *Moderator*,

JOHN G. WILLIAMS, *Clerk*.

CONSTITUTION  
OF THE  
CANOCCHIE ASSOCIATION.

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1. This Association shall (if they think proper) meet Annually as an Advisory Council.

2. This Association shall be composed of Messengers from the different Churches, so as for each Church to have two Members if they choose, and no more, and the Messengers' names shall be inserted in their letters.

3. This Association shall have power to make its own rules, to govern itself while in session, but none of its rules shall be binding in the Churches, for they are free and of right ought to be.

4. It shall be the duty of this Association to give their best advise in cases of difficulty, and to endeavor to keep up a union among the Churches, and arrange General Meetings.

5. This Association shall admit into its body any Church whom they find sound in faith and moral in practice. Also, if any Church in order wishes to withdraw from this body, she may at discretion, or on application. She shall have a letter of dismission.

6. As the love of money is the root of all evil and has produced so much distress among Christians, and we wishing to live in peace, therefore this Association shall not engage in, nor in any wise encourage any religious speculation called Missionary, or by any other name, under pretence of supporting the Gospel.

7. We, the Churches composing this Association, believing the Books of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, declare that we take the New Testament for the rule of our faith and practice, for we are not under the Law but under Grace.

ISAAC NORRIS, *Moderator*,

JOHN G. WILLIAMS, *Clerk*.

## ARTICLES OF FAITH.

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1st. We believe in One True and Living God, and that there are Three Persons in the Godhead, viz: The Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

2d. We believe in the fall of Man and his inability to recover himself.

3d. We believe Jesus Christ to be the Son of God. 1st Timothy, 2d and 5th Verses.

4th. We believe in particular Election, effectual calling of the Elect, and final perseverance of the Saints.

5th. We believe the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God.

6th. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are Sacraments of Jesus Christ, and that believers are the subjects of these ordinances, and that no man has a right to administer these ordinances but such as are regularly called and come under the imposition hands by a Presbytery.

7th. We believe that immersion is the Scripture mode of Baptism.

8th. We believe in a Final Judgment, in a Future state of Rewards and Punishments, and that of Eternal Duration.

ISAAC NORRIS, *Moderator,*

JOHN G. WILLIAMS, *Clerk.*

# STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

## Churches, Counties & Messengers' Names.

Ordained Ministers Names in

SMALL CAPITAL LETTERS.

	Rec'd by Baptism.	Rec'd by Letter.	Recommended.	Recommunicated.	Restored.	Dead.	Total.	Contributions.
Beard's Creek, Tattnall County, T. KNIGHT, R Thompson,	4	1	2	2			56	1 50
Lower Black Creek, Bryan Co. A. STUBBS, S. Banks,	7		1	1			55	1 00
Mill Creek, Bulloch County, W. S. MOORE, E. BRANNEN,	3	2		1	1		73	3 00
Hebron, Emanuel Co. J. Clifton, S. D. Lewis	1		1	1	1	2	37	1 00
Upper Lott's Creek, Bulloch County, J. Mer- cer, D. Blan,	3		1				41	1 06
Bethlehem, Laurens County,		1		1		2	18	50
Cedar Creek, Mount Horeb, Tattnall Co. F. Hollon, R. Yomans,			4	1	1	2	33	1 25
Watermelon Creek, Tattnall County, H Paget, C. Blount,	4	2	1				29	1 00
Gumbranch, Liberty County, C. Flowers, J. N. Mobley,	3	1	2				18	75
Lake, Bulloch Co. H. Bowen, J. Turner, Jones, Emanuel Co. W. B. MILLER, W Jones	1	3	2			1	19	1 00
Elem, Emanuel County, JAMES R. MILLER, John R. Miller,			1	1			21	1 25
Salem, Liberty County, T. G. B. LAW, M. Tippins,	11		1				24	75
Newhope, Emanuel County, S. STRANGE, R. Edenfield,	1		1				22	1 00
Hawhomoc, Emanuel Co. R. Boatright,		2					9	75
Antioch, Emanuel County, E. L. Cowart, A. Sutten,			2				15	1 00
Foxbay, Reedy Creek, Tattnall County, C. Anderson, J. Willis,		2		1		1	27	1 25
Providence, Emanuel County, A. ODOM, E RIVER,	4	4		1			55	1 50
Bethlehem, Bulloch County, S. Brannen, T. Alderman,		3	2				27	1 25
Oakey Grove, Emanuel Co. ISAAC NORRIS, Upper Black Creek, Bulloch County, Wm. GROOVER, A. Jones,	4	1	5	2	1	3	42	1 75
Nevils' Creek, Bulloch County, M. Wilson, N. ROBERTS,	1	1	1			1	41	1 00
Lower Lotts' Creek, Bulloch County, J. G. WILLIAMS, A. Parrish,		1	4	1			61	2 00
Elbethel, Emanuel County, Wm. Proctor,		2	2			2	11	50
Hines' Meeting House, Emanuel County, E. Trapnall,		3	2				19	1 00
Bethany, Washington Co. D. Heath, J. Page,	2			1			35	1 25
Lane's Meeting House, Bulloch Co. G. Ross, Canoochie, Emanuel County, C. COBB, M. Braddy,		3					13	1 00
			1	1			22	1 00
Wade's, Scriven Co. H. S. Creach, J. Wilson, Limestone, Washington Co. H. Tarlington,	1		1			2	29	1 75
Bethesda, Jefferson County, W. H. GREEN, A. Girtman,	2	4	3			1	41	1 50
		2	1	2			47	1 50
Deloatche's, Bulloch County, J. Deloatch, B. Bennett,	4						29	1 25
Fellowship, Emanuel Co. G. McKinzey,	5	1	5				8	50
Fellowship, Bulloch Co. J. Cone, J. Hall,							23	2 00
TOTAL,	61	41	44	15	5	18	1051	41 21

## CIRCULAR LETTER.

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*Dear Brethren in the Lord, composing the Canoochie Association and unto all who love our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, grace be to you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.*

The time has rolled round for you to expect a circular from us. We deem it expedient to call your attention to the all important word of God, contained in the 6th Chapter of John, at the 67th and 68th verses : Then said Jesus unto the twelve, will ye also go away ? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord to whom shall we go ? thou hast the words of eternal life. This same Jesus came into the world to do his Father's will. John, 6th Chapter and 40th verse. And this is the will of him that sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day, and these came not of themselves. John, 6th Chapter, and 44th verse. No man can come to me except the Father which hath sent me draw him, though many came to him not in spirit. John, 6th Chapter, and 26th verse, Ye seek me not because ye saw the miracle, but because ye did eat of the loaves and were filled ; and now you may see from thousand other Scriptures that many followed him for the perishing wants of this world, such as honor or the lucre of gain ; these seeing and hearing him believe not, John, 6th Chapter, and 36th verse. But I said unto you that ye also have seen me and believe not. It is evident these could not come to him while they sought honor one of another, not the honor that came from God only. Well might it be said that if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins, notwithstanding they were called disciples. John, 6th Chapter, and 64th, 65th and 66th verses. But there are some of you that believe not, for Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not and who should betray him. Therefore said I unto you that no man can come unto me except it were given unto him of my Father. From that time many of his disciples went back and walked no more with him. Then comes in our subject. Then said Jesus unto twelve, will ye also go away ? Then Simon Peter answered and said, Lord to whom shall we go ? thou hast the words of eternal life. It is evident that his words were the words of life. They are strength to the mind every way to him or her that have followed him in the regeneration. John, 6th Chapter. The words that I speak unto you they are spirit and they are life. It is evident that Peter had a prominent right to say thou hast the words of eternal life. He spoke for himself and all the rest, and said Lord to whom shall we go ? for Jesus said, John, 17th Chapter, and 8th verse, For I have given unto them the words

which thou gavest me, and they have received them, and now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. It is evident that Peter and his brethren had the love of God spread abroad in their hearts, for Jesus said in the 17th Chapter of John and 26th verse, and I have declared unto them thy name and will declare it that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them. So you may see that these were the sublime and mysterious, but great and glorious truths, which so offended the Jews, and occasioned such a falling off among the disciples. And this doctrine is opposed by some yet, but talk to them of morality, virtue, and good works, and they will hear you, but speak of grace, of the blood of Christ, of being taught of God, and drawn by the spirit, and then they cry enthusiasm, &c. But let us not be offended at this. It should confirm us in the belief of the truth, while many go back and follow Christ no more. Let us consider him as putting the solemn question to us, Will ye also go away? The question is the language of affection, it speaks the kindness of his loving heart.

But O my Brethren, how few live under the daily impression of the shortness of time and the length of eternity. Which is as much as to say how few are believers. Seek eternal life and where can we find it but in the Lord; to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. Shall we go to the heathen Philosophers? they are become vain, professing themselves to be wise they are fools in the matter of eternal life. Shall we go to the Scribes and Pharisees? They are blind leaders of the blind. Shall we go to Moses? He will send us back to Christ. Go to the world; no eternal life there. Every thing that relates to eternal life depends on Jesus. He has the words of eternal life. Eternal life is promised by Christ. What charming declarations in the Gospel of truth, and when the Gospel is accompanied with the power of the spirit, the dead hear the voice of the Son of God and live. The word of life is the seed of life in our souls. To whom then can we go with such views as these. We should cleave to the Lord with purpose and abhor the thoughts of apostacy from him.

And now Brethren, having given you a few weak hints on our subject, we must desist, and say to all that read our Circular, watch and pray continually, and guard against the seductions of the world and the bewitching pleasures of sin. And may the Lord God fulfil his gracious promise. I will put my fear in those hearts that they shall not depart from me, the true and only way to eternal life. *So Farewell.*