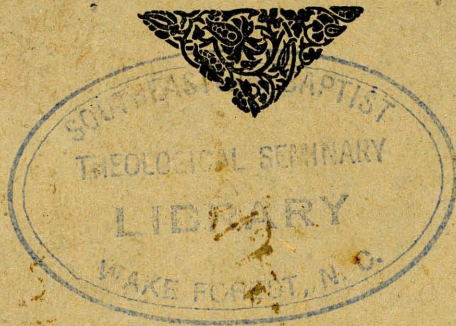


MINUTES of the Seventy-  
fifth Annual Session of the  
Alabama River Primitive  
Baptist Association

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Held with Mt. Pleasant  
Church, Bacon County,  
Georgia, Friday, Satur-  
day and Sunday, Nov-  
ember 2, 3 and 4, 1917



ELDER J. T. MINCHEW, Moderator  
J. P. MIKELL, Clerk



**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 75TH ANNUAL SESSION OF  
ALABAMA RIVER PRIMITIVE BAPTIST  
ASSOCIATION**

The introductory sermon was preached by Elder Wm. Holcombe of the Pulaski Association, from Isaiah 11th Chapter, 6th Verse.

After thirty minutes intermission, the delegates assembled in the house. The Association was called to order by the former Moderator. Prayer by Elder W. R. Rhoden of the Suwanee Association and proceed to business as follows:

1st. Read letters from eighteen churches, ministered their state, and enrolled delegates names.

2nd. Elected Elder J. T. Minchew Moderator, and J. P. Mikell clerk, by ballot.

3rd. Read the decorum and invited visiting ministers of our faith, order, and practice to seats with us.

4th. Appointed, Elder Wm. Hires, Brethern Lester Cole, B. J. Minchew, together with the messengers of this church a committee on finance and preaching.

5th. Appointed Brothers I. F. Robinson, Matthew Carter, J. B. Harris together with the Moderator and Clerk a committee on business.

6th. Called for correspondence from the Sister Associations and received from the Union a package of minutes by Elder B. L. Starling. From the Ochlocknee, a package of minutes by Elder J. W. Gardner. From the Suwanee a package of minutes by Elder W. R. Rhoden. From the Pulaski Elder Wm. Holcombe without minutes.

7th. Appointed Bro. J. O. Waters to write the corresponding letter.

8th. On motion adjourned until tomorrow 8:30 a. m.

**SECOND DAY, SATURDAY 8:30 A. M.**

Met according to adjournment, and after prayer by El-

der J. R. Dukes of the Suwanee, called the roll and proceeded as follows:

9th. Renewed the call for further correspondence from the Sister Associations and received correspondence and visitors as follows:

From the Oeklocknee Elder J. W. Gardner and Bro. L. Johnson.

From the Suwanee Elder W. R. Rhoden, Elder J. R. Dukes, Elder C. H. Fowler and Bro. C. M. Fowler.

From the Pulaski Elder J. T. Hill and Elder Wm. Holcomb.

From the Union, Elder B. L. Starling and Bro. J. D. Boykin.

10th. Called for the report of the business committee which was handed in, read and approved.

#### **REPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

We, your Committee on Business, have examined the correspondence and find nothing objectionable and recommend the same course of business as appears in last year's minutes.

We recommend that Brothers J. P. Mikell and J. O. Waters write the memorial letters on deceased ministers and deacons.

11th. Called for marked letters, and found two. On motion agreed to hold our next session with Ben James Church, Pierce County, Ga.

12th. Called for corresponding letter which was read and adopted.

#### **CORRESPONDING LETTER**

We the Alabama River Primitive Baptist Association, now in session with Mt. Pleasant Church, Bacon County, Ga., to the Associations with whom we correspond, sendeth greetings:

Beloved in the Lord through the kind and tender mercies of an all-wise God, we have been spared and blessed to

hold another session of our body in peace and love. Our churches are all represented, and all report peace and love. Your ministers came to us laden with the gladsome news of "Salvation by Grace", which causes us to rejoice and take courage; hoping that we may be enabled by "Grace Divine" to march onward and upward to the mark of the prize as it is in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Dear Brethren we desire a continuation of your love and correspondence. The next session of our body will be held, the Lord willing, with Ben James Church Pierce County, Ga., commencing on Friday before the First Sunday in November, 1918; six miles North East of Waycross, and three miles West of Homestead, both on A. C. L. R. R. when and where we hope to meet with you again. Until then, Dear Brethren farewell.

13th. Returned correspondence as follows: To the Suwanee to convene with Salem Church, Columbia County, Florida, on Saturday before the 4th Sunday in September, 1918, five miles Southwest of White Springs on the G. S. & F. R. R. six miles West of Welborn on the A. C. L. R. R. Brethren J. O. Waters, S. M. Bennett, S. F. Robinson, S. P. Wainwright, E. S. McGee, Randal Davis, A. M. Stewart, J. F. Knox and Elder J. A. Osteen. To the Union to be held with Spring Hill church four miles Northwest of Sparks, three miles West of Lenox both on the G. S. & F. R. R.: Brethren Matthew Carter, R. W. Bennett, E. E. Jones, W. H. Bowen and Elders B. A. Thornton and J. T. Minchew. To convene Saturday before the 3rd Sunday in October, 1918.

To the Ochlocknee to convene with Pleasant Grove Church, Colquitt County, three miles East of Moultrie: Elder B. A. Thornton, S. P. Wainwright, A. L. Brannen. To convene Saturday before the 4th Sunday in October 1918.

To the Pulaski to convene at Zion Hill church, Tift County, Georgia, four miles West of Chula on the G. S. & F. R. R. and five miles Northeast of Ty Ty on the A. C. L.

R. R., commencing on Saturday before the first Sunday in October, 1918: Brethren J. O. Waters, L. S. Guthrie, J. J. Henderson and Elders J. A. Osteen, Wm. Hires and J. T. Minchew.

14th. On motion called for the report of the committee on finance and preaching which was received and adopted.

### **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND PREACHING**

We your Committee on Preaching and Finance beg to make the following report: Received from the Churches \$75.25 and recommend that the clerk be paid \$30.00 for having minutes printed and distributed, and that he have 800 minutes printed for the churches and correspondence. Balance \$45.25 be used for bearing expense of corresponding Brethren.

15th. Read and received a letter and her messengers, from Corinth church, they having just arrived.

16th. On motion the minute was read and approved and the Association adjourned to our next time and place of meeting.

ELDER J. T. MINCHEW, Moderator.

J. P. MIKELL, Clerk.

Prayer by Elder J. W. Gardner of the Ochlocknee.

### **ORDER OF PREACHING**

Friday Morning—Introductory sermon by Elder W. M. Holcomb of the Pulaski.

Friday P. M.—Bro. L. Johnson of the Ochlocknee, followed by Elder G. H. Fowler of the Suwanee.

Saturday Morning—Elder B. L. Starling of the Union followed by Elder J. W. Gardner of the Ochlocknee.

Saturday P. M.—Elder J. R. Dukes of the Suwanee followed by Elder J. Hill of the Pulaski.

Sunday A. M.—Elder W. R. Rhoden of the Suwanee, followed by Elder L. M. Guthrie of the Union. Conclusion by the Moderator.

## MEMORIAM

Inasmuch as it has pleased God to remove from our midst since our last Association two of our dearly beloved Deacons, Bros. J. M. Warren and A. C. Warren.

Our great loss is felt by the Baptists of our country, we bow in humble submission to His holy will, and are made to realize that our loss is their eternal gain.

Bro. J. M. Warren was born in Emanuel County, Georgia, May 8th, 1849. He united with the Primitive Baptist church at Ben James, about 25 years ago. Was ordained as a deacon of Rome Church about five years ago, which office he served faithful to the end. He died in July, 1917, at his home in South Florida, where he had recently removed. Bro. A. C. Warren, a younger brother of Bro. J. M. Warren was born in Emanuel County, Georgia, February 23, 1854. He united with the Primitive Baptist at New Hope Church about 35 years ago; was ordained deacon of that Church about 32 years ago and was a faithful servant of that Church as long as he lived.

He departed this life September 3rd, 1916.

We humbly trust that the Lord will fill their absence in their humble homes, and in the church, with his royal presence. We pray God's blessings on their families, is our petition for Christ sake, Amen.

## DECORUM

1. This Association shall open and close with prayer.
2. Those members chosen by the churches of our union shall compose the Alabama River Primitive Baptist Association.
3. The members thus chosen shall produce letters from their respective churches certifying their appointment, together with number baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, expelled and total number in fellowship since our last session.
4. This Association shall not have power to lord it over God's heritage nor infringe on any of the internal rights of the churches.

5. The Association shall have a Moderator and Clerk, who shall be chosen by the members present.

6. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preserve order, to explain and put questions, and shall have the same right to speak as any other member, provided the chair be filled, but shall not vote unless the body shall be equally divided.

7. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a fair record of the proceedings of the Associations; the minutes shall be read and amended, if needful, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association adjourns:

8. Any church petitioning by letter and delegates for admission into 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 the Association, and no more.

10. Every query presented shall be fairly stated in writing and approved by a majority before being taken up.

11. Every motion made and seconded shall come under observation of the Association, unless it be withdrawn by the person who made it by, 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 depart from the subject.

13. No person shall speak more than three times of 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 debate or public speech, nor reflection cast upon the speaker.

15. When a case 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 the rules of this Asso-



ciation he shall be immediately reproved by the Moderator.

18. These rules shall be read at every Association previous to entering on business.

19. It shall be the duty of the Association to keep up a correspondence with other 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 sister churches to inquire into the cause of the breach and 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 until 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, theological school, either in themselves or any other person, or in any society that is now or maybe hereafter constitute under pretext of circulating the gospel of Christ, or any secret order, nor will it correspond with any association that supports, or is any of the above named societies.

#### **ABSTRACT OF PRINCIPLES SUBSCRIBED TO BY THE ASSOCIATION**

1. We believe in one only true and living God; that there are three in the Godhead—Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

2. We believe the scripture of the Old and New Testaments are the written 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 fallen state he is in by nature, by his own free will and ability.

6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only 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 the Saints shall persevere in grace and never finally fall away.

9. We believe that Baptism, the Lord's Supper and washing the Saint's feet are ordinances, and believe the only true mode of baptism is by immersion.

10. We believe that the punishment of the wicked shall 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 ordinance 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.

#### **CLERKS AND THEIR PAST OFFICES**

Antioch—J. W. Davidson, Winoker, Ga.

Ben James—W. H. Bowen, Blackshear, Ga.

Bethesda—A. L. Brannen, Jesup, Ga.

Big Creek—Geo. H. Mikell, Screven, Ga.

Corinth—W. D. Murry, Odum, Ga.

Damascus—Geo. Heyers, Coffee, Ga.

Elim—R. W. Cole, Nicholls, Ga.

Mars Hill—J. R. Carter, Hoboken, Ga.

Mt. Pleasant, (Bacon Co.)—A. F. McLane, Alma, Ga.

Mt. Pleasant, (Ware Co.)—J. W. Eunice, Waycross, Ga.

Mt. Zion—J. F. Knox, Blackshear, Ga.

New Hope—J. J. Blocker, Hickox, Ga.

Big Creek—Geo. H. Mikell, Screven, Ga.

Providence—B. M. James, Manor, Ga.

Ramah—S. R. Jordan, Rockingham, Ga.

Rehobeth—Walter Smith, Waresboro, Ga.

Rome—A. M. Boyett, Beach, Ga., Route 1.

Satilla—A. W. Moody, Screven, Ga.

J. P. Mikell, Waycross, Ga., Box 639, Clerk of the Association.

### **NAMES OF MINISTERS AND THEIR POSTOFFICES**

Elder J. T. Minchew, Waycross, Ga., R. F. D. No. 1.

Elder W. P. Nunez, Blackshear, Ga., R. F. D. No. 1.

Elder H. J. Griffis, Odum, Ga., R. F. D. No. 2.

Elder W. M. Hyers, Coffee, Ga.

Elder B. A. Thornton, Hickox, Ga.

Elder J. J. Hays, Surrency, Ga.

Elder W. D. Bryant, Rockingham, Ga., R. F. D. No. 3.

Elder T. J. Dilbon, Guisie, Ga.

Elder Banks Lewis, Alma, Ga.

Elder J. A. Osteen, Guisie, Ga.

Elder Simeon Thornton, Blackshear, Ga.

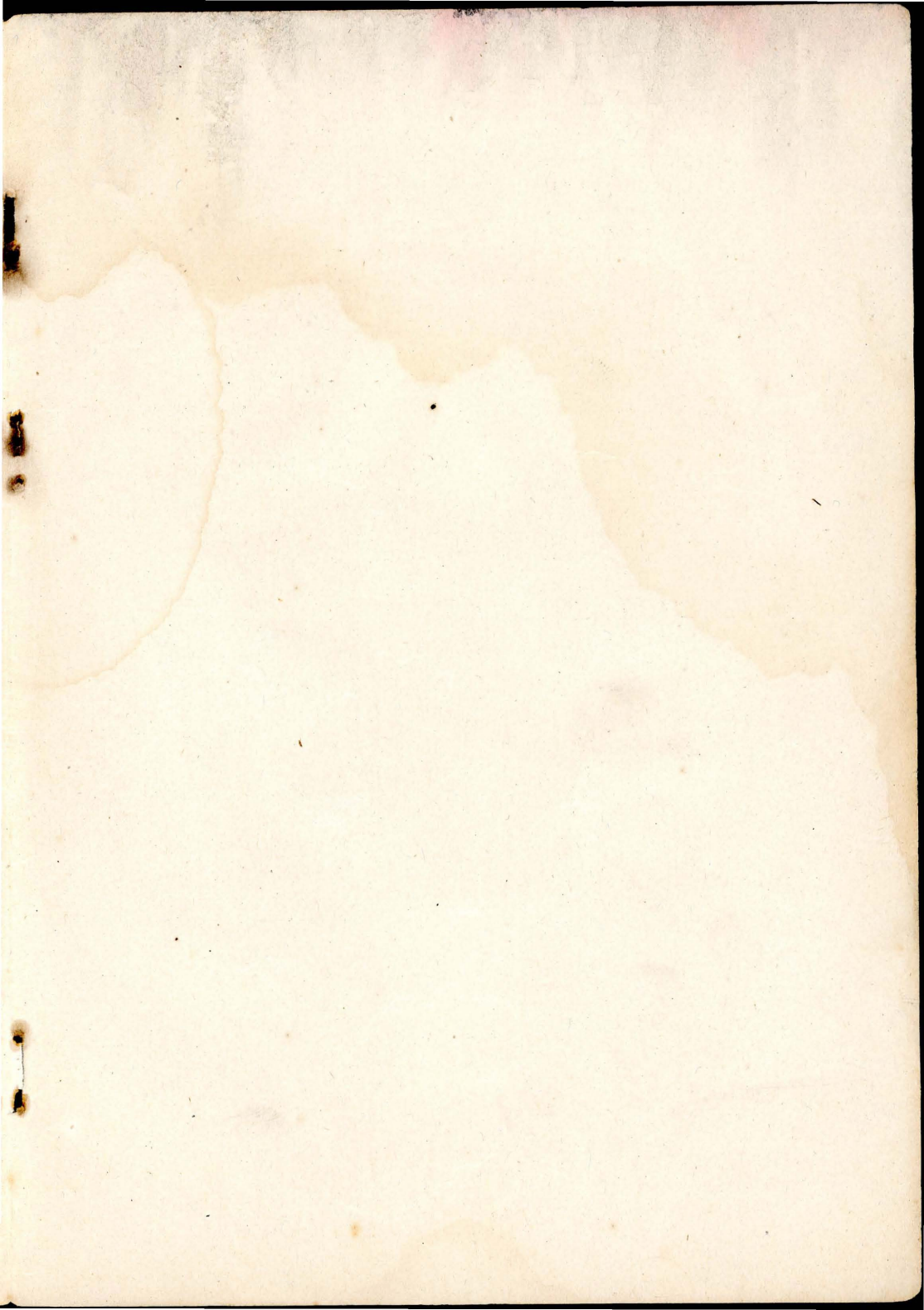
### **LICENTIATES**

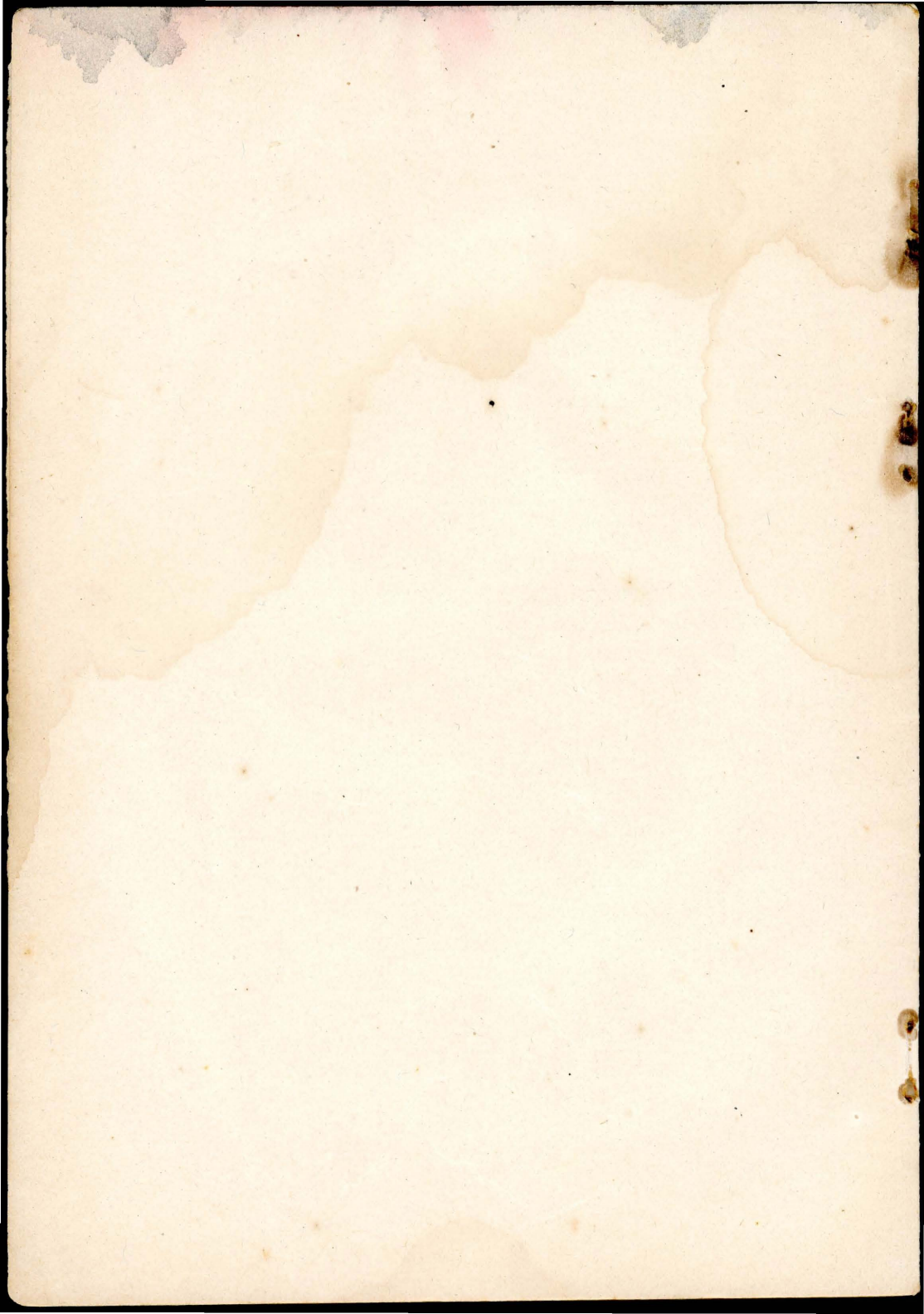
S. W. Lyens, Hickox, Ga.

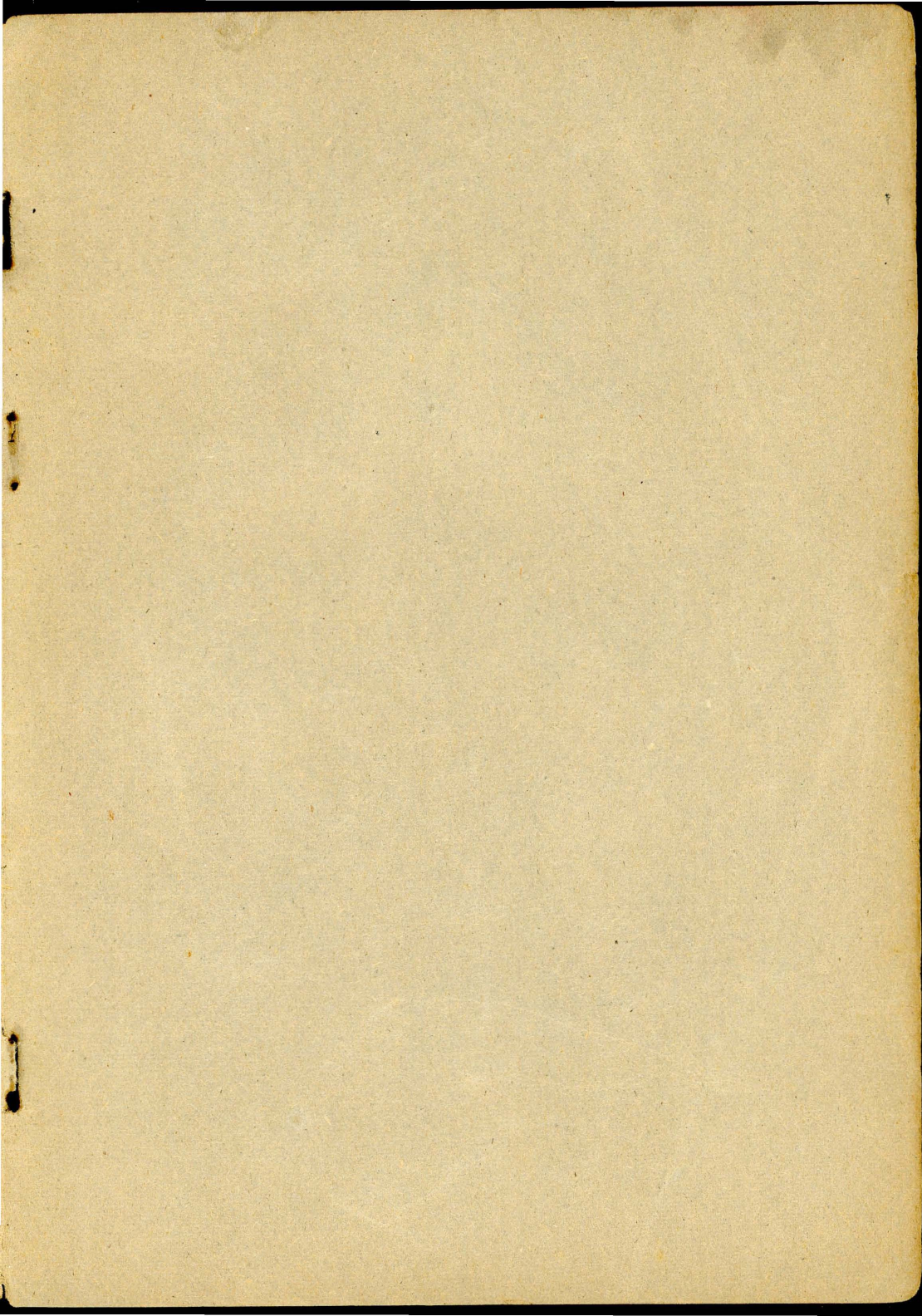
Aubery Thomas, Offerman, Ga.

J. P. Mikell, Waycross, Ga., P. O. Box 639.

Churches	Counties	Messengers	Pastors 1917	Baptized	Received by Letter	Restored	Confession of Faith	Dismissed by Letter	Expelled	Dead	Total Number	Contributed	Sabbath of Annual Meeting	
Antioch .....	Charlton	S. P. Wainwright, J. W. Davidson..	B. A. Thornton ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	\$ 1.00	1	April
Ben James .....	Pierce	W. H. Bowen, J. O. Waters .....	J. A. Osteen .....	5	0	3	0	1	4	3	53	6.00	3	May
Bethesda .....	Wayne	A. L. Brannen, C. Edenfield .....	W. D. Bryant .....	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	3.00	3	July
Bethlehem .....	Pierce	John Moody, J. S. Thornton .....	J. T. Minchew .....	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	25	6.25	1	May
Big Creek .....	Wayne	R. W. Bennett, Hansel Tire .....	W. D. Bryant .....	8	0	2	0	1	1	1	64	6.00	1	Oct.
Corinth .....	Wayne	J. D. Murry, J. R. Westberry .....	Wm. Hires .....	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	10	2.00	3	Oct.
Damascus .....	Pierce	Wm. Hires, R. Bonham .....	W. D. Bryant .....	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	13	4.00	4	Aug.
Elin .....	Coffee	John Roberts, Lester Cole .....	J. C. Hewett .....	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	48	5.00	3	Sept.
Mars Hill .....	Pierce	Matthew Carter, G. P. Warren .....	J. A. Osteen .....	2	1	1	0	5	0	0	25	3.00	1	Mar.
Mt. Pleasant ..	Bacon	J. A. Osteen, A. M. Stewart .....	J. A. Osteen .....	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	46	7.00	2	Oct.
Mt. Pleasant ..	Ware	J. P. Mikell, J. W. Eunice .....	J. C. Hewett .....	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	39	3.20	4	May
Mt. Zion .....	Pierce	Randall Davis, E. S. McGee .....	J. T. Minchew .....	0	2	1	1	2	1	0	33	4.50	2	Apr.
New Hope .....	Wayne	Ivev Dowling, E. E. Jones .....	B. A. Thornton ..	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	44	3.65	3	Apr.
New Prospect ..	Pierce	Matthew Robinson, J. B. Harris .....	B. A. Thornton ..	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	26	3.15	4	Apr.
Providence .....	Ware	E. M. Cribb .....	J. C. Hewett .....	0	4	1	0	3	1	0	23	1.50	2	Oct.
Ramah .....	Pierce	I. F. Robinson, S. R. Jordan .....	W. D. Bryant .....	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	51	6.00	2	Sept.
Rehobeth .....	Ware	George Gilliard, B. J. Minchew .....	J. C. Hewett .....	0	1	0	0	1	0	6	33	3.00	1	Sept.
Rome .....	Ware	J. T. Minchew, J. J. Henderson .....	J. T. Minchew .....	0	0	0	0	0	2	29	5.00	4	Oct.	
Satilla .....	Wayne	A. Waldron, Ransom Robinson .....	Wm. Hires .....	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	13	2.00	2	July
Totals .....				25	16	9	2	17	12	13	603	\$75 25		







$$\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ \hline 16 \\ \hline 17 \\ \hline 16 \\ 11 \\ \hline 2777 \\ 388 \\ 388 \\ 885 \end{array}$$

*Levellin*