

MINUTES
OF THE
TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION
OF THE
AFRICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
OF
NOVA SCOTIA.

Held with the 1st African Baptist Church, at Hammond
Plains, on Saturday, Monday, Tuesday and Wed-
nesday 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sept'r, 1877.

TOGETHER WITH THE

Circular Letter.

HALIFAX:
NOVA SCOTIA PRINTING COMPANY.
1877.

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MINUTES.

FIRST SESSION.

Hammond Plains, N. S.,
September 1st, 1877.

THE AFRICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION assembled on Sept. 1st, 1877, at 3 o'clock, P. M., in the 24th Annual Session.

The Council having convened it was resolved that the Rev. James Thomas, Pastor of the said Church, take the Chair.

The meeting being properly opened, the Chairman stated in consequence of the absence of the Secretary it would be necessary for them to elect one *pro tem*. which was done. Mr. John W. Skerrit being present was elected to the office.

Religious Services were conducted by the Chairman, and commenced with Singing and Prayer; after which a practical address was delivered by him from Romans XII. At the close of which the list of Delegates was prepared and read as follows:

CHURCHES—AND LIST OF DELEGATES.

Halifax—Rev. James Thomas, and A. Bailey, Deacons C. F. Biddle, R. Simons, and Joseph Flint, Bros. Wm. Johnson, and P. E. McKerrrow.
Preston, 1st—Rev. Geo. Carvery, Deacon John Brooks, and Bro. W. Carvery.
Hammond Plains 1st—Licentiate, D. Goffigan, A. Emmerson, D. Anderson, and Deacon William Wilson.
Preston 3rd—(*New Road Settlement*) Licen., Jas. Downey.
Digby Joggins—Rev. James Wilmot.
Beech Hill—Rev. A. Bailey, Deacon Joseph Hamilton.
Campbell Road—Deacons, James Brown and Wm. Howe.
Dartmouth—Not represented.
Cornwallis—“ “
Falmouth—“ “
Horton—Rev. James Thomas.

After the list of Delegates was prepared the following Officers were elected :—

CHAIRMAN.....	REV. JAMES THOMAS, (re-elected.)
“ —ASSISTANT.....	REV. GEO. CARVERY “
SECRETARY.....	BRO. P. E. MCKERROW “
TREASURER.....	DEA. CHAS. F. BIDDLE “

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The following were appointed a Committee of Arrangements :
Revs. James Thomas, Geo Carvery, and A. Bailey ; Bros. John
A. Smith, (Licentiate); Deacon John Brooks ; David Anderson.

The Committee on being appointed retired for a few moments
and resolved that a collection be taken at the close of each
meeting during the present association for mission purposes.
They also recommended that Bro. Wm. Carvery subsequent to
the preaching of the introductory sermon on Monday be ordained
Deacon for Preston 1st Church, he having been made choice
of by that branch.

Moved by Bro. (Dea.) Wilson, seconded by Bro. D. Anderson,
that Bro. James Carvery take a seat in council with us—the
motion being put to the meeting was carried unanimously.

Moved by Bro. (Licen.) Goffigan that all delegates absenting
themselves from any of the business meetings after the roll being
called shall be fined ten cents. (Passed.)

The appointments for the ensuing Sabbath, were as follows :
Rev. Geo. Carvery to preach at 11 a. m. Funeral Sermon of
Bro. Henry Bailey, and Sister C. Manigo, by Rev. Jas. Thomas,
at 3 p. m. By Rev. Jas. Wilmot at 7 p. m. The various ap-
pointments having been made the Session then adjourned with
Singing and Prayer by Rev. Geo. Carvery, to meet again on
Monday 3rd, at 10 a. m.

FUNDAY SERVICES.

11 a. m. preaching by Rev. Geo. Carvery from *Acts VIII.*
chap. verse 38, "*and they went down both into the water,*" followed
by Rev. Jas. Wilmot.

At the close of the sermon the Rev. James Thomas, accom-
panied by Revs. James Wilmot, Geo. Carvery, and A. Bailey,
assisted by the Deacons of the Church, who had the candidate
in charge, proceeded in solemn procession from the Church to
the Baptismal Waters. surrounded by a large concourse of eager
spectators to witness the Blessed example that was laid by our
Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, in the River of Jordan.

Afternoon—3 p. m. Services, preaching by Rev. Jas. Thomas,
and followed by the Rev. Wallace Lucas, from *Hosea XIII* chap.
1st clause of the 14th verse ; "*I will ransom them from the
power of the grave,*" "*I will redeem them from death ;*" from
which the Funeral Sermon of the late Bro. Henry Bailey, and
Sister Manigo was preached.

Evening Service, 7 p. m. preaching by Rev. James Wilmot, from St. John's Gospel, X chap., first clause of the 9th verse, "*I am the Door*," followed by the Rev. G. Carvery, Bros. John A. Smith, James Downey, (Licen.) and other Ministering Brethren.

SECOND SESSION.

Monday, Forenoon, Sept. 3rd, 1877, 10 a. m.

Commenced with Singing and Prayer, by the Rev. George Carvery.

The Roll of Delegates was called when all the Brethren that were present answered to their various names and resumed their seats.

The minutes of the previous session were read, and with some slight corrections were approved by a vote.

Moved by (Deans.) C. F. Biddle, seconded by (Dea.) Jos. Flint, that there be a committee chosen to examine Letters, (Passed.) Committee chosen, Bros. (Dea.) C. F. Biddle, (Dea.) R. Simons, and Bro. A. Emmerson.

Moved by Bro. (Dea.) C. F. Biddle, seconded by Rev. A. Bailey, that Bro. A. Emmerson, assist the Secretary in reading letters. (Passed.)

The Committee adjourned and examined the various letters after which they returned, when the Chairman of the Committee reported that they had performed the work enjoined on them, and that he had very great pleasure in expressing his feelings in the very neat and simple form of expression in the way in which several of the letters were written. Bro. John A. Smith, (Licen.) from Cornwallis, being present arose and gave quite a lengthy account of his mission during the year, showing up much destitution among the people, even in districts where there were scores of so-called christians, yet were many who had not known anything relative to the plan of Salvation.

Several others spoke on the same topic in touching terms, in which they showed that the want of Funds was one of the principle features of not more work being done. After which the Chairman stated that the hour had arrived that we should bring our business to a close.

Religious Services then commenced with singing and Prayer, by Rev. Jas. Wilmot, who had been chosen to preach the introductory sermon.

The Rev. James Thomas then read from the 33rd chap. of Ezekeil.

After singing the first hymn, the Rev. Wallace Lucas offered a very feeling prayer.

The second hymn was then sung, when the Rev. Jas. Wilmot selected from the chapter that had been read, the first clause of the second verse, "*Son of Man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them,*" 3rd verse, "*If when He seeth the sword come upon the land he blow the Trumpet, and warn the people.*" In which he showed the necessity of watching for the Sword, and to listen to the Trumpeters, for they do not always blow in vain, he also portrayed the desolation of Egypt, for their disobedience, and Israel for their back-slidings. At the close of the sermon the Chairman of the association called upon the Rev. Bro. Spencer of St. Margarets Bay, who offered up a very eloquent prayer in behalf of the association.

After which the council of ministering Brethren and Deacons were called together by the Chairman, who informed them that it became his duty to perform the Ordination Ceremonies on Bro. Wm. Carvery, who had been chosen by the 1st Preston Church to be a Deacon, which was done by the laying on of hands by the presbytery, when a short prayer was offered up by the Chairman, the benediction was announced, in which the forenoon session closed.

The Report of the Examining Committee was adopted by vote.

THIRD SESSION.

Monday Afternoon, 3 p. m.

Meeting called to order by the Chairman.

Prayer was offered by Deacon Hamilton after which the minutes of the previous session was read and approved. Reading of letters was next resumed.

Resolved, that whereas many of the Churches in connection with this association having failed to send their annual letter, thereby preventing us from knowing their actual spiritual condition, as well as withholding their pecuniary aid for mission purposes.

Be it therefore resolved that the Secretary put himself into immediate communication with them, whereby true fellowship may be continued.

- Resolved, that Rev. James Thomas write the Circular Letter.
- “ That the Rev. Alex. Bailey, preach the introductory Sermon, and Rev. G. Carvery his alternate.
- “ That the Secretary attend to the printing of the Minutes.
- “ That we procure 250 copies of the minutes.

Voted that the sum of Twenty Dollars be the amount for stationery, mail matter and for the printing of the minutes, and postage, &c. The session then adjourned with singing and prayer by Rev. James Thomas, Chairman.

Religious Services at 7 p. m., prayer by Rev. James Wilmot, preaching by Bro. John A. Smith, from XI chap. of St. John's Gospel, the middle and last clause of the 11th verse, “ *Our friend Lazarus sleepeth,*” “ *But I go, that I may awake him out of sleep,*” followed by Rev. Jas. Wilmot, Bro. Jas. Downie, (Licen.) Bros. Robert Smith, Alfred Jenkins, and P. E. McKerrow.

Tuesday Forenoon, 10 a. m.

Session opened with singing and prayer by Bro. J. Hamilton, the minutes was read and approved. The Chairman opened a discussion relative to the Ten Cent Tax, when he read from page seven of last year's minutes a resolution that was passed un-animously. He also expressed his regret that many of the Churches did not contribute as their delegates had promised.

Bro. A. Emmerson of Hammond Plains Church, spoke up in rather encouraging terms of the continuance of the same, although they had not kept sacred the law, yet he was fully persuaded that had the matter not been misinterpreted, they would have contributed the amount in full. The Secretary, Bro. P. E. McKerrow, stated that he could not see how any of the delegates that were at the last association could at all make any mistake when the matter was so fully ventilated. Bro. (Dea.) Brooks arose and endorsed the sentiments of the Secretary in a few appropriate words, in which he trusted and hoped that all Churches would continue, and those who had not should commence.

The business of the association having ended, Rev. A. Bailey moved, and Bro. (Dea.) Simons sec. that the members and congregation of the Hammond Plains Church, have a vote of thanks for the urbane manner in which they treated the delegates to the association, previous to the motion being put, the Secretary, Bro. P. E. McKerrow, complimented the people of Hammond

Plains relative to the neatness and cleanliness of their little chapel, also impressed on them the necessity of taking every advantage of education which was now the great password of nations.

Showing that it was the want of learning that kept our forefathers in slavery, and for it to-day we are suffering, but he hoped that the day would soon dawn when the cloud of prejudice that now hangs over the descendants of "Africa," in this province particularly, will soon be dispersed when we will be able to breathe a clearer atmosphere than we now do. The condition of the people of colour in this province he said, was deplorable, none worse throughout the Dominion, for although our votes are sought both in parliamentary and civic elections, yet no recompense do we receive, but have to put up with the meanest of school houses that the province can afford, which deserves the greatest censure from the educated world.

The motion been put passed unanimously, moved and carried that the meeting adjourn. Closed with prayer, by Bro. D. Goffigan, (Licen.)

Tuesday Afternoon, 3 p. m.

Meeting opened with prayer by the Chairman.

When he informed the delegates and brethren that the business was now fully over, and nothing now remained but for him to make his annual appointments, which was done as follows;—

Rev. James Wilmot, to visit Falmouth, Horton and Cornwallis, on his way home, if possible.

Rev. A. Bailey, to make one visit to Falmouth, Horton and Cornwallis.

Rev. Geo. Carvery, to visit Horton, Falmouth, Cornwallis and once to Campbell Road,

Bro. Daniel Goffigan, (Licen.) to visit Campbell Road Church twice, and Beech Hill once.

Bro. John A. Smith, (Lien.) to continue his visits to Falmouth, Horton and Cornwallis.

Bro. R. Simons, (Dea.) to Dartmouth once, and Campbell Road twice.

Bro. Jos. Flint, (Dea.) Beech Hill once and Dartmouth twice.

Bro. Alfred Jenkins, Campbell Road twice, Beech Hill once, and Halifax once.

Bro. Robert Smith, (New Road) Preston and Dartmouth once,
Campbell Road once.

Bro. David Anderson, Halifax once, Beech Hill and Campbell Road once,

Bro. Wm. B. Thomas, Hammond Plains twice.

Bro. P. E. McKerrow, Preston (1st,) and New Road Settlement once.

Meeting adjourned with prayer from Bro. Wm. B. Thomas.

A collection to be taken in each place for the defraying of travelling expenses.

Tuesday Evening, 7 p. m.

Opened by singing and prayer by Rev. Wilmot.

Preaching by Rev. A. Bailey, from Matthew VI. Chap., 19th and 20th verses, "*Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt,*" "*But lay up for yourselves, Treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt,*" followed by Revs. Wilmot and Carvery, Bros. Goffigan and Jones, after which the Chairman delivered a charge to Bro. Manigo, who was chosen as a counsellor for Hammond Plains Church, the charge having been given which was very imposing, the brethren then united hands, when the Chairman delivered his valedictory and Rev. Geo. Carvery offered up the closing prayer, when the association closed to meet with the Beech Hill Church the first Saturday in September, 1878, (D.V.)

JAMES THOMAS, CHAIRMAN.

P. E. MCKERROW, SECRETARY.

African Baptist Association.

CHAIRMAN.....REV. JAMES THOMAS.
 SECRETARY.....PETER E. MCKERROW,

Ministers, Licentiates, Deacons, Counsellors, &c.:

- Halifax.*—Rev. James Thomas, Pastor; C. F. Biddle, R. Simons, and Jos. Flint, Deacons; D. Gross, W. Johnson and P. E. McKerrrow, Counsellors; E. Jacobs, Clerk; F. David, Doorkeeper.
- Hammond Plains.*—Rev. James Thomas, Pastor; D. Goffigan Licentiate; G. David and Wm. Wilson, Deacons; D. Anderson, F. David and J. Manigo, Counsellors; A. Emmerson, Clerk; J. Gigg, Doorkeeper.
- Preston (1st).*—Rev. George Carvery, Pastor; J. Brooks, G. Tyler, and Wm. Carvery, Deacons; G. Dare, R. Kempt, Counsellors; J. Evans, Clerk.
- Preston (3rd).—New Road Settlement.*—James Downey, Licen.; J. Smith, Deacon; J. Smith, Senr. Counsellor.
- Dartmouth.*—Rev. James Thomas, Pastor; James Cassidy, Counsellor.
- Digby Joggings.*—Rev. Jas. Wilmot, Pastor; P. Butler, Deacon; Wm. Harris, Counsellor.
- Beech Hill.*—Rev. A. Bailey, Pastor; Jos. Hamilton Deacon; R. Hamilton Counsellor.
- Campbell Road.*—J. Brown, Deacon; Wm. Howe, Counsellor.
- Horton.*—Dennis Doleman, Deacon.
- Cornwallis.*—J. A. Smith, Licentiate; D. Taylor and J. Landsay, Deacons; T. Powell, Counsellor.
- Falmouth.*—Benjamin Gray, Deacon.
- Bear River.*—Rev. James Wilmot, Pastor; P. Butler, Deacon.
- Bridgetown.*—Not heard from.
- Yarmouth.*—“ “ “
- Liverpool.*—“ “ “
- Rev. J. R. Walls, Missionary.

Sabbath School in Connection with Churches.:

- HALIFAX.**—*Superintendent*—Charles F. Biddle; *Assistant, and Bible Class Teacher*—P. E. McKerrrow; *Female Teachers*—Margaret Thomson, Annie Joseph, Louisa Bailey, R. C. Thomas; *Secretary and Librarian*—Thomas McDonald.
- HAMMOND PLAINS.**—*Superintendent*—J. W. Skerrett; *Male Teacher*—A. Emmerson; *Female Teachers*—
- PRESTON (FIRST).**—*Superintendent*—Rev. Geo. Carvery; *Male Teacher*—Jos. Evans; *Female Teachers*—Emelia Turner, Susan Murphy, Mary Evans.
- PRESTON (THIRD).**—*Superintendent*—James Downey; *Male Teacher*—
Female Teacher—Eliza Downey.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

To the Churches composing the African Baptist Association.

DEAR BRETHREN,—

Through the unlimited mercies of a kind and indulgent Heavenly Parent we have been spared to meet each other face to face, at our annual gatherings, and a real blessed time we had. The Brethren of Hammond Plains who have prided themselves with the next best Church of the Association, had it neatly painted and thoroughly cleansed, which created much admiration from the strangers who had flocked from the city, and neighbouring districts; and as we expect, some to worship, others to mock and criticize. But such was the case at the time of our Blessed Lord and Saviour, and so will it be to the end of time. But Brethren, let us use the words of the Apostle to the Gentiles.

We, who were at one time far off, are made nigh by the Blood of Christ; for he is our peace and so being "Justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood," we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Now dear Brethren the year that has just passed has not been one of much spiritual growth to us, as regards new members; yet we must be thankful to our Heavenly Father, for his continued kindness and undeserved attention that we receive from time to time. Then let us copy the example of one of the most patient of God's anointed. This venerable patriarch, in the early part of his life was the greatest of all men in the East. His possessions were large, his family was numerous and flourishing, his own character was fair and blameless. Yet this person it pleased God to visit with extraordinary reverses of fortune. He was robbed of his whole substance, his sons and daughters all perished, and he himself fallen from his high estate,—Childless and reduced to poverty, and smitten with sore diseases.

In distress so appalling, what was the temper of this good man? Fully persuaded that all blessings come from God, who has a right to withhold or distribute them, as he sees best. He then piously exclaims, "Blessed be the name of the Lord!"

Now let us with *Job*, rejoice in the Lord, for withholding at this season as our strong belief is, that He will abundantly apportion in His own appointed time. Shall we then get weary when we ask for Blessings and receive them not? No, but continue in praising Him in the highest, praise Him on earth as He is praised and glorified in Heaven above. This my Brethren has been my christian experience to know how to thank my God for all things great or small and to you children of the Most High, I do recommend Him.

Behold nature as it is! the timid grass comes peeping forth from neglected corners and roadsides, the climbing vine puts out tendrils and prepares to creep a little higher on the naked wall, and alongside where the sweet face of mother earth is blinded with structures of brick and stone, we cannot be unconscious of the fact that a mighty change is going on in the world of nature, when "the time of singing is come." We feel it in the air, we see it in the sunshine, we hear it in the salutations with which men meet each other every morning. "*Oh! that men would praise the Lord for his wondrous works to the children of men.*"

And if desirous of seeing more of the goodness of God, we must one and all learn to give more than we now do in supporting and building up a Mission Fund, whereby we might be enabled to send more labourers in the field, and God will crown our labours with success, when precious and immortal souls will be added to the church of the living God.

We are living in a most important age of our World's History. How melancholy the condition, and how ominous of evil the attitude of earth's nations. Warlike powers confront each other and the blood of their embattled hosts is shed in torrents! Strange is it also, that an all but universal cry for regeneration among the nations that Love Honour and Pride, should be made simultaneously for the Holy Ghost to achieve for the professing Church a mighty spiritual revival.

But we have a reason to believe that a mighty Breath of the Divine Spirit is now passing over the earth. The Church of the living God, scattered throughout the different denominations, has been feeling its influence, and the result of His gracious presence and quickening power is appearing in greatly increased and religious activity, and zeal, for the conversion of precious souls. This, dear brethren, is a matter for thankfulness to Almighty God, and in conclusion, let us not employ that "Precious Blood" so sparingly in our pleadings for revival, but let us urge it as our only, and our constant plea, and prove God herewith, whether he will not open to us the windows of Heaven. and pour us out a blessing, "*That there shall not be room enough to receive it.*"—Mat. iii, 10. If then dear reader into whose

hands this leaf of the tree of life may fall, you feel yourself to be a poor, vile unholy sinner, if a Backslider, whose feet have wandered from the Lord, in whose soul the spirit of prayer has declined, and yet still feel some secret longing to return, and dare not, because so vile, so unholy, so backsliding, yet you may return, having boldness to enter into the holiest by the Blood of Jesus. Come ! for the Blood of Jesus pleads ; return, for the Blood of Jesus gives you welcome, and under its droppings you shall be cleansed. And lastly let us learn to say thy will be done on earth as it is done in Heaven.



STATISTICS
Of the African Baptist Association.

NAME OF CHURCH.	Baptized.	Received.	By Exp.	By Letter.	Removed.	Expelled.	Died.	Total.
Halifax	1					3	4	170
Hammond Plains.....	1	1			1	2	1	80
Preston (1st).....	2	2						30
" (2rd).....								16
Digby Joggins		1						13
Beech Hill.....								13
Horton.....								10
Cornwallis.....								24
Falmouth.....								10
Campbell Road.....					1		2	4
Dartmouth.....								4
Bear River.....								8
Weymouth.....								8
Yarmouth.....								
Liverpool.....								
Bridgetown.....								
Total.....								390

1877—Financial Account of the African Baptist Association—1877.

1876.		1876.	
Cash Balance from date.....	\$8 73	To Cash per Stationery and balance for minutes.....	\$3 42
Halfax Church with Letter.....	10 00	" paid Chairman's Travelling Expenses.....	6 00
" Home Mission.....	3 24	" Rev. James Willnot.....	6 00
Hammond Plains.....	5 13	" George Carvery.....	3 00
Preston Ist.....	4 75	" Bro. John A. Smith.....	3 00
" Home Mission.....	2 00	" John Brooks.....	1 00
3rd, New Road Settlement.....	0 70	" C. F. Biddle.....	1 00
Beech Hill.....	3 25	" Rev. A. Bailey.....	1 00
" Home Mission.....	1 32	" Bro. John Hamilton.....	0 50
Horton Church.....	2 00	" Secretary.....	6 00
Campbell Road.....	1 00	" Printing Minutes, Postage & Stationery.....	20 00
Digby Joggins.....	1 30	" A. Emmerson.....	0 50
Fines collected from Delegates.....	2 59	Cash Balance.....	4 40
Collection from all sources.....	9 81		
	\$55 82		\$55 82