

MINUTES  
OF THE  
EIGHTEENTH SESSION  
OF THE  
AFRICAN  
Baptist Association,  
OF NOVA SCOTIA:

HELD WITH THE  
Hammond Plains Church,  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, & MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1871.

TOGETHER WITH  
THE CIRCULAR LETTER.

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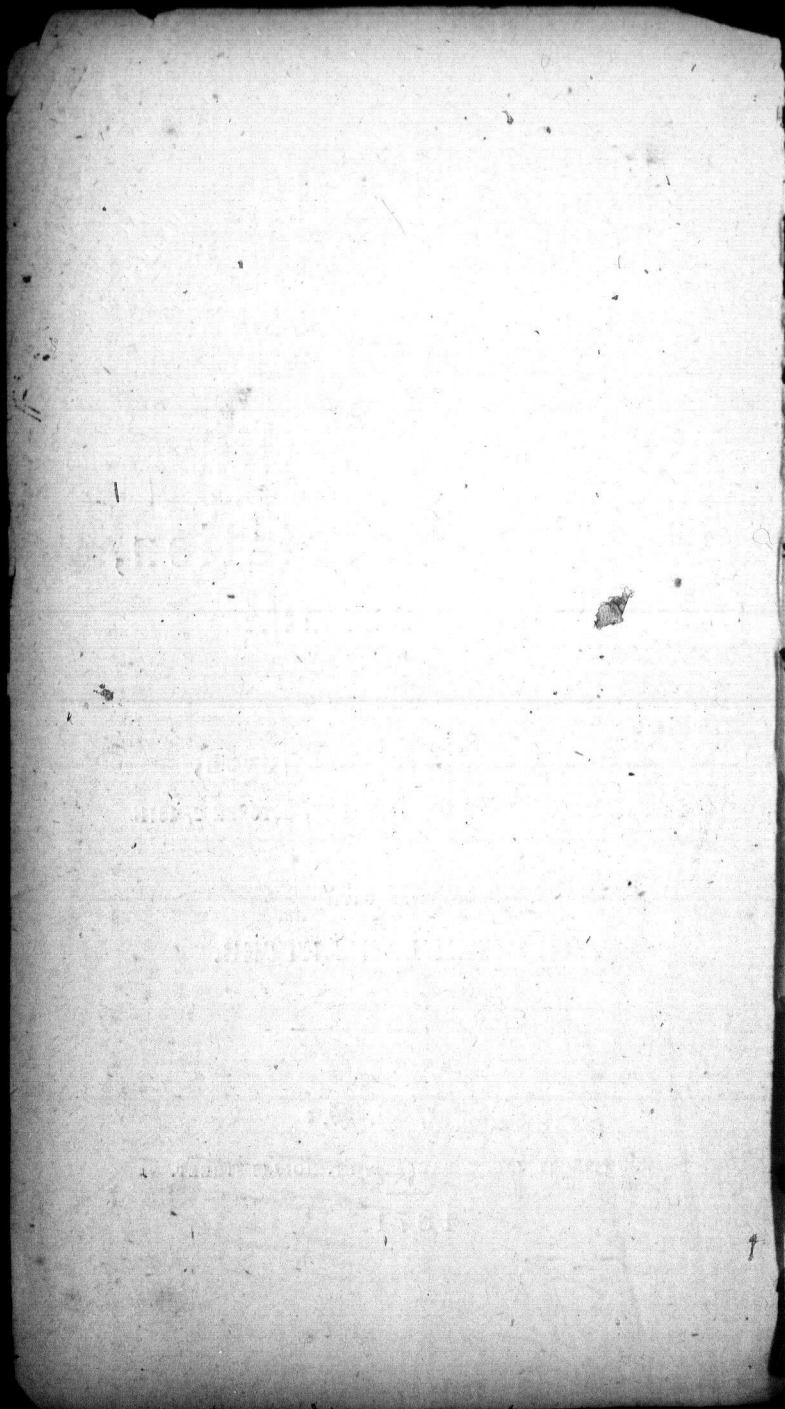
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1871.

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## MINUTES.

HAMMOND PLAINS,

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1871.

THE Eighteenth Session of the AFRICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION met with the Church at Hammond Plains, and was called to order by the Chairman, at 3 o'clock, P. M. After singing prayer was offered by brother Thomas Jones. The Rev. James Thomas read the 5th chapter first Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Thessalonians and lectured briefly from the same.

Delegates present from the different churches:—

HALIFAX.—Rev. James Thomas (Chairman); Deacon C. F. Biddle; Brethren George Brown, William Johnston, James Saunders, Richard Simons, J. R. Thomas.

HAMMOND PLAINS.—Brethren Thomas Jones, G. David, William Wilson, Frederick David, Stephen Manigo, Alexander Emerson.

BEECH HILL.—Deacon Alexander Bailey; Brethren J. Hamilton, Robert Hamilton.

PRESTON, FIRST.—Deacon George Tyler; Brethren John Williamson, John E. Thomas.

DARTMOUTH.—Brother James Saunders (sub).

CAMPBELL ROAD.—Brother William Howe.

Deacon George Tyler was elected Moderator.

Rev. James Thomas re-elected Treasurer.

Brother J. R. Thomas re-elected Secretary.

The following appointments were then made for the Sabbath:—

That there be a Prayer Meeting at 10 o'clock, A. M.; at 11 o'clock, A. M., preaching by brother John Williamson; at 3 o'clock, P. M., preaching by brother John E. Thomas; at 7 o'clock, P. M., preaching by brother J. R. Thomas.

Voted:—That all meetings be opened and closed by prayer. Adjourned. Prayer by brother George Tyler.

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## SUNDAY SERVICES.

11 O'CLOCK, A. M.

Preaching by brother John Williamson from Joshua x. 8: "And the Lord said unto Joshua, fear them not; for I have delivered them into thine hand; there shall not a man of them stand before thee." Followed by brother George Brown.

3 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Preaching by brother John E. Thomas from Isaiah liii. 5: "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." Followed by brethren Wallace Locus and Henry Bailey.

7 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Preaching by brother J. R. Thomas from the second epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Thessalonians, 4th chap. part of the 4th verse: "The glorious Gospel of Christ." Followed by brother Alexander Bailey.

## MONDAY MORNING SESSION,

OCTOBER 2nd, 9 O'CLOCK, A. M.

Prayer by brother Richard Simons.

Minutes of last session read and approved.

*Voted*:—That brother Deal Wiley take a seat in Council with us.

*Voted*:—That all members of sister churches take a seat in Council with us.

The following Committees were then appointed:—

To EXAMINE LETTERS.—Deacons C. F. Biddle, Alexander Bailey; brethren John E. Thomas, William Johnston, James Saunders, William Howe.

To READ LETTERS.—Brethren Alexander Emerson and J. R. Thomas.

Prayer by brother Wiley. Adjourned for ten minutes.

HALF-PAST 11 O'CLOCK, A. M.

Rev. James Thomas preached the Introductory Sermon from Isaiah xxi. 8: "And he cried, a Lion: my Lord, I

stand continually upon the watch-tower in the day time, and I am set in my ward whole nights."

Prayer by brother Thomas Jones. Adjourned.

*AFTERNOON SESSION,*

2 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Prayer by brother D. Anderson.

Minutes of the previous session read and confirmed.

The Committee on examining letters beg to report, that after careful examination they recommend that the same be read; and they further recommend that the Association be held with the Beech Hill Church next year: A. D. 1872.

The letters from the various Churches having been read, and many of the Churches failing to report themselves, and the Committee appointed to visit them last year having failed to perform that duty, it was

*Resolved*:—That the said Committee be dissolved; and that the Secretary of the Association communicate by letter to the leading members of, said Churches.

The Committee appointed to wait on the Rev. George R. Neal beg to state that they thought it not advisable to do so, owing to said brother having connected himself with the Rev. Smither's body, the same being clandestine, and at variance with our body,

*Resolved*:—That their report be received; and that the said George R. Neal be excluded from our Association.

The Delegates to the Central Baptist Association being called upon to report their proceedings, the Rev. James Thomas responded to the call, and briefly stated that our application was warmly received, and that there was a Committee appointed to investigate the reasons why we wished to unite with them. He also expressed his gratification to the members of the Pereaux and other Churches in the same vicinity for the kind and hospitable manner in which himself and Deacon were entertained. On motion of brother Johnston, seconded by brother Emerson, the same was unanimously received and adopted.

*Voted*:—That the Rev. James Thomas write the Circular Letter.

*Voted* :—That our next Association be held with the Church at Beech Hill.

*Voted* :—That the Rev. James Thomas preach the Introductory Sermon, and that the Rev. J. Edward Jackson be his alternate.

On motion of Deacon Alexander Bailey, seconded by brother John Williamson, it was unanimously adopted ;

That, *Whereas*, we are perfectly satisfied with our much esteemed brother and Pastor the Rev. James Thomas, and brother Thomas Jones, in the discharge of their duties as Trustees of the Halifax African Baptist Church, Cornwallis Street, therefore

*Resolved* :—That they be re-appointed to act as heretofore.

*Voted* :—That brother J. R. Thomas superintend the printing of the Minutes.

*Resolved* :—That a vote of thanks be tendered to the members and friends of the Hammond Plains Church for their kind hospitality extended to the Ministers and Delegates from the various Churches.

*Voted* :—That our Yearly Counsel Meeting be held with the Halifax Church, Cornwallis Street, on the second Monday of September in each year.

Prayer by brother Tyler. Adjourned.

7 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Preaching by brother Daniel Goffican from Psalm cxxvi. 1, 2 : followed by Deacon Bailey and others. After which the whole Congregation united hands and the Doxology was sung. Prayer was offered up by the Rev. James Thomas. Thus closed our public meetings.

*TUESDAY MORNING, 3rd OCTOBER.*

The Delegates from the different Churches in whole composing the Finance Committee, assembled at the residence of brother Alexander Emerson.

Finances settled satisfactorily.

*Resolved* :—That a vote of thanks be tendered to the Chairman ; and as an appreciation of his valuable services we donate him with the small sum of ten dollars.

*Voted* :—That we present our brother J. R. Thomas with a Silver-Plated Inkstand, to cost five dollars, as a small token of our respect towards him for his valuable services rendered this

Association for the past thirteen years, during which time he has occupied the position of Secretary.

Considerable discussion ensued in reference to raising funds for Home Missionary purposes; and, on motion of brother William Johnston, seconded by brother John Williamson, it was unanimously

*Resolved*:—That each Church make an effort to raise the same by weekly allowance, and hand over to the Treasurer, every three months, all such collections, taking his receipt for the same.

*Voted*:—That 250 copies of the Minutes be procured, and that 25 copies be reserved for the use of the Association.

There being no further business before us, we separated to meet on the last Saturday in September, 1872, with the Beech Hill Church.

## STATISTICS.

### STATE OF THE CHURCHES. INCREASE AND DECREASE.

CHURCHES.	Baptized.	Received.	Removed.	Excluded.	Died.	Total.
Halifax	3	-	3	3	2	133
Hammond Plains	-	-	-	-	-	81
Preston, 1st: Those holding under their former organization	-	-	-	-	-	22
Preston, 3rd: New Road. No letter.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dartmouth	-	-	-	-	-	11
Beech Hill	-	-	-	-	-	18
Campbell Road	-	-	-	-	-	8
Horton	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cornwallis	-	-	-	-	-	-
Granville Mountain	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bear River	-	-	-	-	-	-
Digby Joggin	-	-	-	-	-	-
Weymouth	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yarmouth	-	-	-	-	-	-
Liverpool	-	-	-	-	-	-
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# FINANCIAL ACCOUNT.

<i>Dr.</i>	<i>Cr.</i>
<i>The African Baptist Association of Nova Scotia, in Account with the Treasurer,</i>	
Halifax Church	\$17 60
Hammond Plains	6 51
Preston, First	3 25
Beech Hill	3 09
Campbell Road	1 20
Dartmouth	60
Sabbath Collection	5 79
	\$38 04
	By Donation voted to Chairman
	" Printing Minutes, etc.
	" Secretary's Fee
	" Amount for Inkstand, voted to Secretary
	" Expenses of Delegates
	" Bal. in Treasurer's hands
	\$10 00
	15 00
	6 00
	5 00
	1 50
	0 54
	\$38 04

E. O. E.

J. R. THOMAS, Secretary.



Ministers, Licentiates, Deacons, Counsellors, etc.

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HALIFAX.—Rev. James Thomas; Rev. Merrit R. Freeman, Travelling Missionary; Deacons—Charles F. Biddle, Alexander Bailey; Counsellors—Daniel Gross, George Brown; Doorkeepers—John Sprigs, Thomas Taylor; Clerk—John R. Thomas.

HAMMOND PLAINS.—Rev. James Thomas; Licentiates—Thomas Jones, Daniel Goffican; Deacons—Gabriel David, William Wilson; Counsellors—Stephen Manigo, Frederick David; Clerk—Alexander Emerson; Doorkeeper—Abram Johnston.

PRESTON, FIRST.—Licentiates—George Brown, John Williamson, John E. Thomas; Deacons—James Slawter, George Tyler; Counsellor—John Williamson; Clerk—George Dare.

PRESTON, THIRD.—Deacon—William Smith; Licentiate—James Downing; Counsellor—James Smith.

DARTMOUTH.—Rev. James Thomas; Deacon—John Gerry.

CAMPBELL ROAD.—Deacon—Benjamin Fletcher; Counsellor—William Howe.

BEECH HILL.—Rev. James Thomas; Deacon—Alexander Bailey; Counsellor—Robert Hamilton.

HORTON.—Deacons—Daniel Doleman, Dennis Doleman.

CORNWALLIS.—Deacon—Daniel Taylor; Counsellor—John Smith.

GRANVILLE MOUNTAIN.—Deacon—Edward Dixon.

BEAR RIVER.—Deacon—James Johnston.

WEYMOUTH.—

YARMOUTH.—Rev. James E. Jackson; Deacons—Silas Chandler, James Crawford; Counsellor—David Dize.

LIVERPOOL.—Deacon—John Fells; Counsellors—James Wade, Robert Ely.

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SABBATH SCHOOL IN CONNECTION WITH THE HALIFAX CHURCH.—Superintendent—Charles F. Biddle. Male Teachers—Peter E. McKerrow, J. R. Thomas, William Johnston. Female Teachers—Miss Thompson, Miss Thomas, Mrs John F. Brown, Miss Anne Barrett.

## CIRCULAR LETTER.



THE CIRCULAR LETTER TO THE AFRICAN  
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, CONVENEED AT HAM-  
MOND PLAINS, SEPTEMBER 30, 1871.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN:—

BEING chosen to write the Circular Letter for this Association I intend giving you a brief account of my travels during the past year, and a few of the particulars which have come under my notice.

First: The Churches of my charge, or which I am Pastor over, are, chiefly, Halifax, Hammond Plains, Beech Hill, and Dartmouth. The most of my labors are in the city, and in fact, when I leave my pulpit must be supplied. This is readily done, as most ministers are encouraged to preach to a well filled house. This we have no call to complain of: our congregation is large; our collections are good, enabling us to meet all present expenses and leave something to place in the funds. But, brethren, while we rejoice at a well filled house, etc., we lament that there are so few conversions, while we hear the Lord say, "to-day is the day of salvation."

And again, brethren, we are called to lament the loss of our late and much esteemed brother William Barrett. Our brother was converted while a young man, a slave, in Virginia, United States. But God made a way for his escape, and in the year 1820 he was safely landed in Halifax. He appreciated the freedom of man very much, and was ever found thanking God for his great deliverance; and fervently prayed that the day might not be far off when all his brethren would be emancipated. He lived to see the same verified, in which he greatly rejoiced, also to hear of some of his near and dear friends and many of his acquaintances.

But, my brethren, although our brother was converted while a young man, and all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance fervently believed that he was a good man and ought to be united with the church and show to the world that he was on the Lord's side, our brother lacked faith in himself. But

Israel's God is awake ; and in 1855 awoke our brother Barrett that he lost sight of self, which gave him great faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who never left him to his last moments. Our brother was baptized by the late Rev. Richard Preston. It was not long before the church saw his usefulness, and he was chosen Deacor, ordained by brother Preston assisted by the writer, which place he filled till his death. Our brother was a good living man, an every-day Christian. The church will miss him ; the poor will miss him ; the country at large misses him. I cannot bring to my recollection that our brother was ever hindered one whole week from filling his place in the church of God. Rain, snow, sleet, cold, storms, calm and sunshine, he was there ; and many of you with the writer will ever remember the large tears that used to fall down his venerable cheeks during divine service. He would often say to me, I hope the Lord will not keep me on a bed of sickness long when he is about to take me home. This request was granted. On the last Sabbath that he was here, during the absence of the writer, he addressed the church and congregation from the first Psalm. On Monday he called to see me ; Tuesday he did the same, apparently in perfectly good health ; on Wednesday he sent for me. We talked together, we prayed together ; he was in much pain, but told me it would soon be over, that the Lord his Master had sent for him and he was going home. Repeating the words : " I love Jesus, I love the Church, I love you, my Pastor, I love you, I love you even down to death." And when his fellow Deacon called to see him, he charged him to be faithful to his trust : " I leave you, but attend to your duty—take care of the Church of God ;" and so continued until Friday evening, talking about his Lord, the Church and Heaven, and about meeting again where we would part no more. And when deprived of speech, his hands would be pointed upwards, and he would smile, and the sweet tears would roll down his cheeks. On Saturday afternoon he slept with Jesus. His funeral sermon was preached by the writer from Genesis v. 24 : " And Enoch walked with God ; and he was not, for God took him." Our brother was in the 72nd year of his age, and left a wife and six children, and a large number of relatives to mourn with us his loss. But our loss has been his eternal gain.

Dear brethren, we have much to rejoice over. The Church at Halifax stands true to her first organization and rules, with the exception of one male and two or three females : let us pray for them ; there are very few churches without some

troublesome members.—In the Church at Hammond Plains not one was found to waver, and I have often thought that this church would be the hardest for me to give up: but I have not given them up; and it is not likely that they will soon give up their old Pastor.—The little Church at Beech Hill, with her beautiful Baptismal Jordan shining through her windows, is equally strong.—The little Church at Dartmouth, I am sorry to say, is in a divided state. This, I believe, is for want of being looked after. A child will not thrive and grow when half fed and poorly clad; and some children want more care than others.

A number of the brethren and sisters in Preston sent a letter to the Association, stating that they were in a divided state, and praying that I would take the oversight of them once more.—The majority of the members at Campbell Road addressed the Association by letter, praying that we would not cast them off, but allow them to continue with our body; and I verily believe that the majority of the members of the little Churches throughout the Province are of the same mind, were I to judge from letters received for me to visit them, and from short visits that I have made the past year.

Dear Brethren, the first day of March last, by special request, I left my home, *en route* for St. John, N. B. I remained in Annapolis one night and part of one day. I had strong solicitations to stop and preach for my people: but my appointment was ahead; and on the second day of March I crossed the Bay of Fundy with a light heart. I could see my way before me as clear as the water of the great Bay. That night I was safely in St. John, and spent a happy time with the Churches there. On the first day of April I left St. John for Digby, and while the steam paddles slowly moved our little bark off from the wharf I could see the wave of the hats and the unfurling of the handkerchiefs to the air, emblematic of love and attachment to the departed.

The same day I arrived at Digby, and proceeded immediately to the Joggin, and found most of my friends from their homes, attending the funeral of a young man, and brother Wilmot, one of our Licentiate Preachers, conducting the service. Thus I found him in the path of duty.

There being a good time there, and hearing that brother Gates was going to baptize, the next morning, at nine o'clock, it being Sunday, I at once concluded with my friends to go to

the baptism. While at the water side, I had an introduction to the minister, who invited me to take part in the services with him, which I did, and continued with him all that day, the next and the following evenings. Truly we had a precious time.— On Wednesday morning, amidst strong solicitations to remain longer with the friends, I proceeded homewards, as I was then two weeks over the time granted by the churches of my charge. But, my brethren, I can assure you I felt a strong desire to visit all the Churches to Yarmouth, and from thence to Liverpool; and I am quite satisfied my visits would have been as cold water to thirsty souls. But come home, come home, in every letter the last two weeks sounded in my ears, until God brought me safe home to my Churches and family, with my heart overwhelmed with joy and sorrow—joy to think God had prospered my journey, and sorrow that time would not allow me to visit more of the friends. I trust the time may not be far off when I shall be able to do so. I found everything going on harmoniously at home: we rejoiced together when we met. Yet the spirit of travel had not left me; I thought of our brethren in the United States and throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion of Canada.

Ought there not be a union of all God's people? sounded in my ears—and still sounds loudly! Yes: whatever this poor sinful nature may say, God loves his children to dwell together in union. I hope I shall ever cherish this grand truth. This love of union led me to the Central Association, accompanied by my deacon, Bailey, where we were gladly received and made welcome. We had a precious season there. We felt His Spirit fall on us as dew on the mown grass. Oh, my brethren, how those gatherings help to bind God's children closer and closer together. On my return home I found our Churches in Horton and Cornwallis much in need of faithful labor. Lord send them help, should be our prayers.

Dear brethren, the spirit of travel was still on me, and I had thoughts of omitting our own Association and going to the Western Association at Nictaux. But my people could not bear the idea of giving up their annual gathering which convened the same time. And truly we had a happy time at Hammond Plains, while doing business relative to the glory and kingdom of God. Precious seed sown there, that must spring up and bring forth fruit; and were we to judge by monies received for missionary purposes, we would say it was the best Association since Father Preston organized us.

My letter is already too lengthy. I was in hopes that some younger man and smarter with the pen would have been chosen to write this letter. I thank God we have them in our body—I pray He will send more.

I am happy to state that all our business was done with open doors to the public, and the meetings were well attended.

Dear brethren: live soberly and honestly with all mankind, shun all appearance of evil, dwell together in love, pray without ceasing, quench not the Spirit; and the God of heaven and the whole earth will bless you in soul and body. All is his; and he will take care of his faithful children: AMEN.

JAMES THOMAS.