

**MINUTES**  
OF THE  
NINETEENTH SESSION  
OF THE  
**African Baptist Association**  
**OF NOVA SCOTIA:**

HELD WITH THE  
BEECH HILL CHURCH,  
Saturday, Monday and Tuesday,  
SEPTEMBER 28 & 30 AND OCTOBER 1, 1872.

TOGETHER WITH  
**THE CIRCULAR LETTER.**

Halifax, N. S.:

PRINTED BY JAS. C. BARRATT, 107, HOLLIS STREET.

1872.

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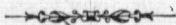
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## MINUTES.



### BEECH HILL.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1872.

OWING to the inclemency of the weather, the Ministers and Delegates were unable to arrive in time to open the session at the appointed hour, there not being a quorum. The Chairman made the following appointments for the Sabbath:—

That there be three services for divine worship: at 11 o'clock, A. M.; and at 3 o'clock and 7 o'clock, P. M.; and after the 11 o'clock, A. M., service, the rite of Baptism to be administered.

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### SUNDAY SERVICES.

11 O'CLOCK, A. M.

Preaching by the Rev. Meritt R. Freeman, from Saint John x. 25,—followed by brother Thomas Jones, Lic.; George Tayler, Deacon; and brother J. W. Ruhland.—Prayer by brother Gray. After which three willing converts were led into the little river adjoining the meeting-house, and baptized by the Rev. James Thomas.

3 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Preaching by brother George Carvery, from Saint John iv. 24. Followed by brother John Williamson, Lic., and James Jones.

7 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Preaching by brother Daniel Goffican, from 1st Corinthians xv. 58: followed by brethren J. W. Ruhland, J. R. Thomas, and George Brown, Lic.

MONDAY MORNING SESSION.

SEPTEMBER 30: 9 O'CLOCK, A. M.

Rev. Meritt R. Freeman read Psalm cxxii. and offered a fervent prayer that God would preside over all our deliberations. The Association was called to order by the Rev. James Thomas, Chairman.

Delegates present from the different churches:—

HALIFAX.—Rev. James Thomas (Chairman); Deacons Charles F. Biddle, Alexander Bailey; brethren George Brown, Lic., William Johnston, Richard Simons, Jas. Saunders.

HAMMOND PLAINS.—Brethren Thomas Jones, Lic., Daniel Goffican, Lic., David Anderson, Fredk. David, James Jones, Alexander Emerson.

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

PRESTON, FIRST.—Brethren George Tyler, Deacon; John Williamson, Lic.; George Deer.

DARTMOUTH.—

CAMPBELL ROAD.—Brother William Howe.

Deacon Alexander Bailey was chosen Moderator.

Rev. James Thomas re-elected Treasurer.

Brother J. R. Thomas re-elected Secretary.

*Voted*:—That the Minutes of the last session, as a whole, be confirmed.

*Voted*:—That all members present, in good standing with sister Churches, be invited to a seat in council with us.

The following Committees were then appointed:—

To EXAMINE LETTERS.—Deacons C. F. Biddle, George Tyler; brethren Alexander Emerson, William Howe, Jas. Jones, William Johnston.

To READ LETTERS.—Brethren J. R. Thomas, Alex. Emerson.  
Prayer by Deacon Bailey: Adjourned for ten minutes.

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

Rev. James Thomas preached the Introductory Sermon, Lecturing briefly from Psalm lxvii., ably admonishing us on the duty we owe to God, our neighbour and ourselves.  
Prayer by Rev. M. R. Freeman.

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## AFTERNOON SESSION.

2 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Prayer by brother Richard Simons.

The Committee to examine the letters reported "That after a careful perusal of the same would recommend that they be read; and as there was a request from two of the Churches for the Association to be held with them, your Committee, in consideration of the same, would submit their requests for your wise decision."

The letters from the different Churches having been read, the Secretary stated that in compliance with the resolution of the last annual session he had communicated with the leading members of the different Churches, and to date had not received any reply to the same, with the exception of the Bear River Church; the leading member of said Church had communicated to Rev. James Thomas, Chairman.

Moved by Deacon C. F. Biddle and seconded by Deacon George Tyler, and

*Resolved*:—That the letter from Deacon James Johnson of the Bear River Church, to the Rev. James Thomas, in reference to the standing of their Church, be entertained and acknowledged by this Association, and that the Secretary communicate the fact that we still hold and recognize them in connection with us.

Moved by brother J. R. Thomas and seconded by Rev. M. R. Freeman:

That the Association, by request of the Halifax Church, be held (D. V.) next year with said Church.

Moved in amendment by brother Thomas Jones, and seconded by brother Daniel Goffican:

That the Association be held (D. V.) next year, 1873, with the Hammond Plains Church.

The amendment being put was carried by a large majority. The Chairman then confirmed that the Association be held with that Church in accordance with the amendment past.

*Voted*:—That Rev. M. R. Freeman preach the Introductory Sermon, and that Rev. James Thomas be his alternate.

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

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

*Voted*:—That Rev. James Thomas write the Circular Letter, and that brother J. R. Thomas assist him in the performance of the same.

The Rev. Meritt R. Freeman was called to account for his mission during his absence from us, to which he responded verbally as follows:—

On leaving Halifax he went to Boston, U. S., thence returned to St. John, N. B., where, in Carlton he had organized a Church of five members; remained there for some time. From thence had a call further up the river, from friends residing at Hemsted Town, Queen's County, and after a short visit among them, succeeded in organizing a Church with twelve members; after which returned to the United States, returning from thence in time to meet the Association at Digby: but, on arriving there, learned that the place of meeting had been altered, and that of Hammond Plains substituted. From thence returned to New Brunswick, and have been labouring there among the people ever since; and in Queen's County succeeded in adding by baptism sixteen to the Church there. Also that he had ordained one minister and two deacons. That he had three Churches under his charge, with a total membership of forty-five. And as they are in the other province, would request that this Association concur in the formation and organization of an Association in the sister Province, to be known by the name of the "African Baptist Association of the Province of New Brunswick;" and would request that a Committee be appointed from this Association to take the matter into consideration.

On motion it was resolved that the Report be received.

A lengthy discussion then followed upon the Report.—It was moved by Deacon Biddle and seconded by Deacon Bailey:

That the several Churches which he had succeeded in organizing, should forward, by letter, a request to this Association, before we can take action as to the recognition of them as Churches seeking to be recognized as an associated body.

The discussion was laid over until a future session.

The following resolution, moved by the Rev. M. R. Free-

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man and seconded by brother Thomas Jones, was passed unanimously :

In consideration of the kindly and friendly manner in which we were entertained by the members and well-wishers of the Beech Hill Church, therefore

*Resolved* :—That the thanks of this Association be tendered to the members and friends of the said Church for their kind hospitality extended to the Ministers and Delegates from the various Churches.

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### EVENING SESSION.

7 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Finances settled satisfactorily.—(see Account.)

8 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Preaching by brother George Carvery, from Saint Matthew xxv. 4,—followed by several of the brethren. The meeting was kept up by singing and praising God until midnight; and truly we had a glorious time.

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### TUESDAY MORNING SESSION.

Met at 10 o'clock, A. M. Prayer by Deacon George Tyler.

Minutes of previous session read and approved.

The discussion in reference to the recognition of an A. B. Association in the Province of New Brunswick was resumed.

Rev. James Thomas, Chairman of the Association, entered at length upon the said questions, showing that it was inexpedient for us to recognize such a body: Whereas the travail to our sister Province is now so convenient, and the Churches so situated are thereby made *quite come-atable*; and further, should those Churches make application to us for recognition, we would investigate their case in a brotherly and Christian manner; and in his opinion saw no difficulty why they should not be received as Churches in connection with us. He also complained of the action of Rev. Meritt R. Freeman, in ordaining as a minister, brother Henry Haynes, without the co-operation of the Chairman of this Association, thereby violating the rules of ordination of this body. Whereupon the Rev. M. R. Freeman made an humble



acknowledgement of the same, clothing himself with the statement that it was a case of emergency, and unhesitatingly performed, and fervently and sincerely promised not to attempt the like again.

After some discussion the remarks of the Chairman were adopted, and the acknowledgement of Rev. Mr Freeman accepted; and the said brother, Henry Haynes, was requested to put in an appearance at our next Association, before his ordination can be confirmed by this body.

Intermission of ten minutes was requested and granted. Met pursuant to adjournment; and there being no further business to be brought before us, the whole Congregation then joined hand in hand as an emblem of their attachment one towards each other and their love towards God. The Chairman delivered a short and fervent address, the Doxology was sung, and prayer being offered up by the Chairman, we separated (D. v.) to meet with the Church at Hammond Plains on the last Saturday in September, 1873.

JAMES THOMAS, *Chairman.*

J. R. THOMAS, *Clerk.*

## STATISTICS.

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

CHURCHES.	Baptised.	Rec'd.	Removed	Exclud.	Died.	Total.
Halifax.....	3	2	4	5	1	127
Hammond Plains.....	...	1	...	2	2	78
Preston: 1st.....	...	...	...	...	...	22
"    3rd. No Letter.....	...	...	...	...	...	---
Dartmouth.....	...	...	...	...	...	11
Beech Hill.....	...	...	...	1	---	17
Campbell road.....	...	...	...	...	---	8
Horton. No Letter.....	...	...	...	...	---	---
Cornwallis ".....	...	...	...	...	---	---
Granville Mountain. No Letter....	...	...	...	...	---	---
Bear river: Membership not } } stated in letter	...	...	...	1	---	---
Digby Joggin " " ".....	...	...	...	...	---	---
Weymouth. No Letter.....	...	...	...	...	---	---
Yarmouth ".....	...	...	...	...	---	---
Liverpool ".....	...	...	...	...	---	---
	3	3	4	8	3	263

# FINANCIAL ACCOUNT.

Dr.		Cr.	
<i>The African Baptist Association of Nova Scotia in Account with the Treasurer.</i>			
Halifax, per letter . . . . .	\$15 00	By Cash paid Secretary . . . . .	\$ 6 00
Hammond Plains " . . . . .	4 40	"    Printing Minutes . . . . .	15 00
Preston, 1st . . . . .	4 00	"    Donation voted Chairman . . . . .	8 00
Beech Hill . . . . .	3 20	"    Expenses of Delegates . . . . .	3 50
Campbell Road . . . . .	1 25	"    Balance in Treasurer's hands . . . . .	2 69
Digby Joggin, per letter stamps . . . . .	45		
Sunday Collection . . . . .	6 89		
	\$35 19		\$35 19

E. O. E.

J. R. THOMAS, Secretary.

MINISTERS, LICENTIATES, DEACONS, COUNSELLORS, ETC.

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HALIFAX.—Rev. James Thomas, Chairman of the A. B. Association of Nova Scotia; John R. Thomas, Clerk of Association; Rev. Meritt R. Freeman, Travelling Missionary; Deacons—Charles F. Biddle, Alexander Bailey; Counsellors—Daniel Gross, George Brown; Door-keepers—John Sprigs, Thomas Taylor; Clerk—John R. Thomas.

HAMMOND PLAINS.—Rev. James Thomas; Licentiates—Thomas Jones, Daniel Goffican; Deacons—Gabriel David, William Wilson; Counsellors—David Anderson, 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 Johnson.

WEYMOUTH.— — — — —

DIGBY JOGGIN.—Licentiate—James Wilmot; Deacon—Peter Butler.

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.



### *TO THE CHURCHES COMPOSING THE AFRICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OF THE PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA.*

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN :—

Being appointed to write the Circular Letter of our Association, I had thoughts, for the benefit of our numerous readers, to answer a few questions. We have been asked: "How did you get along at your Association?" We say to our inquirers and others, that we had a special time at our annual gathering. The God of Israel seemed to shine on all our deliberations; our singing, praying, preaching and exhortations were full of power and demonstration of the Holy Ghost. Our business was done harmoniously and in order. The letters from the various Churches sympathized with us, and rejoiced to think that we have gotten the victory over those enemies who wished to destroy our first organization and foundation and build up a clandestine one. The letter from the Halifax Church cheered us much. It stated that four or five years past they owed a debt on their Church amounting to one thousand dollars; they were now able to state that through the strenuous exertions of their pastor, and vigilance and faithfulness of their working committee, the debt thereon was reduced to the small sum of fifteen dollars and a few cents, and all other expenses of the Church paid up. And allow me to state, that on Sabbath the 13th inst., the same being our general special monthly collection, the sum of Twenty-Five Dollars Thirty-Five cents (\$25.35) was collected. This will enable the Committee to pay off all dues and demands, and leave a balance in the funds.

We have been asked, time and again: "What was the



cause of your past four or five years' difficulty?" This is a hard question to answer. We can hardly tell: except it was for using discipline in accordance with the Word of God. Some time past we were under the painful duty of excluding from our body a few of its members, and instead of taking the blessed path of humiliation which leads to the feet of Jesus, shouldering their cross and following the meek and lowly Lamb of God, they chose the rough road of dissension and war, and went forth misleading many of God's innocent children. Suffice it to say, that on the 27th of last May, they met at the African Baptist Church in Halifax, with no legal document to show that they had a right to molest us, no Church Records, no Minutes of an Association acknowledged by the Westminster Association of London, G. B. and their right to claim such recognition; in fact they had nothing but their empty heads and bare hands—with the exception of a long list of names from Chebogue and the south wing of Preston, many of them children, and some long, long dead; and I was going to say they were all dead to the knowledge of doing business. After a few remarks from the learned Attorneys and the appointed Arbitrators concluded the proceedings for the simple creatures satisfaction, and the exposition of their ignorance, the requested vote showed an overwhelming majority to sustain their old foundation and code of laws with their present Pastor. At this decision prayers went up, shouts resounded, and those enemies disappeared. The praises of God were sung by the congregation. Prayer was offered up by the Pastor, thanking God that a long troublesome dispute was settled forever.

My dear brethren, that truly is over, let us pray for them and advise them to come back to their father's house, and not vainly strive to keep up a house without a foundation. I trust the day may not be far off when we shall be all one again.

We were much pleased to hear by letter from the old Deacon brother James Johnson, and most of the members of the Bear River Church, standing fast by their first or-

ganization. Also the letter from Digby was well worded and gladly received.

Dear Brethren, we want some faithful man to be regularly and lawfully set apart for the Western part of our Province. An eminent young man from Canada, well educated and full of the Holy Ghost has partly promised to spend a few months in this Province, if the Churches will give him up. But I am fearful that he will not be given up, as he is very useful at home. Let us therefore pray that God will send a man in due time.

We rejoice to see many of our old friends at Preston about returning home. And now, dear brethren, let us pray to the Almighty God, who is a strong tower to all them that put their trust in Him, to whom all things in Heaven and earth and under the earth do bow and obey, be now and evermore our defence, and make us know and feel that there is no other name under Heaven in whom and through whom we may receive health and salvation only through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: AMEN.

Written at Halifax, }  
 October 14th, 1872. }

Address of Chairman of the Association:—

REV. JAMES THOMAS,

Pastor of the A. B. Church,

HALIFAX, N. S.

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Address of Secretary of the Association:—

JOHN R. THOMAS,

OF THOMAS & Co.,

*Importers and Dealers in Hats, Caps and Furs.*

Corner of Barrington & Sackville-sts.,

HALIFAX, N. S.