

ROBESON BAPTISTS IN THEIR ANNUAL SESSION

Thirty-fourth Meeting of This Association Was a Fine One.

HELD FORTH THREE DAYS AT ST. PAULS.

Interesting and Impressive From Start to Finish—Seed Sown For a Splendid Harvest—Able Addresses.

(By W. R. Surles.)

St. Pauls, N. C., Nov. 4.—The thirty-fourth annual session of the Robeson Baptist Association convened with the church at St. Pauls Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Nov. 1, 2, and 3. At 11 o'clock the introductory sermon was delivered by Rev. J. L. Jenkins, pastor of Parkton Baptist church from the text, "That in all things He has preeminence." Col. 1.18. Rev. Mr. Jenkins discussed His preeminence, first as it relates to redemp-

tion, and second, His preeminence with reference to the church. The following points were emphasized:

"The purpose of every sermon is to present Jesus Christ. The church of Jesus Christ is the custodian of his gospel. The sole object of the church and the supreme object of the church is to save souls. If Christ is ever made preeminent in our church, we must make Him preeminent in our lives as ministers, deacons, teachers, laborers, etc."

The sermon was masterful and produced a profound impression on the entire audience.

The association was then called to order by L. R. Vasser, the moderator. The roll of 52 churches was called and 40 responded.

Permanent organization was then effected by the re-election of L. R. Vasser for moderator and Dr. R. T. Allen secretary.

After the adoption of the order of business, Revs. J. R. Miller and A. T. Howell were welcomed as new pas-

tors in this association. Rev. A. T. Howell (in his own original way), "in behalf of the saints and sinners of this community", welcomed everybody and said: "Do as you please—if you please to do right."

Dinner hour was announced after which all repaired to the grove for dinner, and such a dinner, ham and chicken, pork and potatoes, pies and pudding, pickles and cake, everything to appease the appetite of the inner man; the good sisters even served hot coffee; everybody had a feast and there was that warm, genial brotherly feeling that made you feel "It was good to be there."

Afternoon Session.

After prayer, led by Rev. W. S. Cobb, the report on "The Biblical Recorder", was submitted by Rev. J. R. Miller, in which he asserted that "Every true North Carolina Baptist should take it. That 'Achievements cannot be written', that 'The building up of our churches and schools owes it largely to the Recorder', that 'It is time to learn that a subscription to the Recorder is an investment, rather than money spent', and 'That he who does without it is poorer thereby.' He further urged that a day be set apart to be known as 'Recorder Day' and that all the pastors urge their members to subscribe for The Recorder."

This report was further discussed by Dr. C. J. Thompson, who said in part:

"The power of religious liberty is the greatest in the world. Nations are what they are largely by their religious beliefs and religious writings. Russellism grows not because of its safety, but because of its literature. What we need is strength of our young people. Men and women are not interested in what they do not know."

"We stand," said he, "for an open Bible, and separation of church and state."

At the conclusion, 18 pastors signified their willingness to observe "Recorder Day" in their churches.

Next came the report on education by Prof. R. E. Sentelle, who said "the Baptist in North Carolina had 14 high schools and three colleges," that "prayer and efficiency were their standards."

This report was discussed by Dr. W. L. Poteat, President of Wake Forest, and he kept the audience spell-bound. He asked the pastor to go home, study Luke 4:18 and preach therefrom a sermon to their people.

The report on Foreign Missions was submitted by Dr. Alexander Miller, in which he asked for \$55,000 from this state. He said that "We have 156 missionaries ready and willing to go to foreign fields, but only 15 can go for lack of funds. Christianity has become popular with non-Christian nations," and that the "Mikado of Japan contributed \$25,000. The spirit of missions originates in heaven and the spirit of selfishness originates in man."

Night session.—This period was occupied by a sermon by Rev. Walter N. Johnson. Subject, "The Second Revival." Text from Acts 4:31-32. Acts 4th chapter revival in all our churches was thought to be a prime necessity.

Thursday.—The morning session was partly taken up in the discussion of "Old Ministers' Relief," by Rev. A. T. Howell. He said that "Baptist ministers are poorest paid of any other laborers" and urged that we take care of our worn-out preachers take care of our worn-out preachers who have spent their lives toiling in the service of the Master.

Report on Sunday Schools was prepared by Stephen McIntyre, Esq. In the absence of Mr. McIntyre the report was read by Dr. R. T. Allen. Perhaps the most distinctive feature of Thursday's session was the presentation of diplomas by Rev. J. D. Moore, of Raleigh, N. C., to the twelve graduating teachers from Back Swamp Sunday School. Back Swamp is a country church and the graduation of these teachers demonstrated the fact that country teachers without college training can equip themselves for usefulness by taking advantage of the opportunities offered by the teacher training course.

Following the graduation of teachers came the report on State Missions by Rev. J. M. Fleming and discussed by Dr. Snyder, of Fayetteville.

Thursday Afternoon.

An interesting report on Home Missions was submitted by Rev. J. J. Scott. Next, the report on the Orphanage, by Rev. R. N. Cashwell, and discussed by Archibald Johnson, editor of Charity and Children. All who know Archibald Johnson know there is none other like him. He is a witty Scotchman and a true friend to the Thomasville Orphanage. You laugh when you hear him, when you are not crying. He says they have 500 children at Thomasville and their greatest need is to increase the current fund. He is proud of Lumberton church and Sunday School and says that Lumberton Baptist church contributes more money to the Orphanage than any other church in the round world. What an enviable reputation!

Thursday night.—Sermon by Rev. S. F. Conrad. "Justification by Faith," Hebrew 11:17.

Friday.

Friday's session was occupied by report on B. Y. P. U. by Rev. J. D. Moore; Laymen's Movement, by J. S. Butler; Woman's Work, by Rev. W. R. Davis, and Condition of the Churches, by Rev. C. L. Greaves. All these discussions were interesting and helpful.

Two new churches were added to the Association during the session. These were West Lumberton and North Lumberton.

The Robeson Baptist Association

now has 54 churches with 7,339 members; 54 Sunday schools, with 457 officers and teachers and 6,297 scholars.

The Association contributed this year for:

State Missions,	\$2,182.47
Home Missions,	1,459.17
Foreign Missions,	2,741.22
Sunday School Missions, ..	102.34
Orphanage,	2,876.80
Christian Education,	795.86
Ministers' Relief,	186.31

She has about 18 active ministers serving in this Association. She has 29 Woman's Missionary Societies, 5 Y. W. A., 3 Royal Ambassadors and 37 Sunbeam Bands. The Woman's Missionary Society alone contributed this year \$1,809.55.

D. B. Lancaster and Revs. W. R. Davis and B. M. Townsend were elected delegates to the Baptist State Convention, and Rev. C. L. Greaves was elected delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention at New Orleans. After passing a resolution of appreciation to the good people of St. Pauls for their kind hospitality during the session the Association adjourned to meet with the church at Proctorsville, N. C., Wednesday, Thursday and Friday before the first Sunday in Nov., 1917.

Many notable visitors were in attendance at the Association. We noticed Prof. L. B. Olive, of Delway School and our good friend President Hobgood, of Oxford College. The people of St. Pauls did themselves proud in the manner in which they entertained the vast number of delegates and visitors. The various denominations joined with the Baptists in their effort of entertainment and it is generally conceded that the thirty-fourth session was one of the best ever held.

But what else could you expect of St. Pauls? It is a progressive town, about 7 years old, has 22 stores, 3 churches and chapel, 2 cotton mills and about 1,500 people.

CAPTAIN ASA BURRISS,
A Man You Can Swear By—True to Every Trust.
(By W. C. Galloway.)

Your issue or the 1st instant announced the fact that Capt. Asa Burriess, assistant foreman of the City Fire Department, will act as guide to the captain of the fisheries schooner, "Grampus," when she comes here next week to begin her investigations of the fish banks off the coast and off Cape Fear bar. Mr. E. H. Freeman, a member of the fisheries commission, went before the City Council and requested the appointment of Capt. Burriess, and the Council readily complied with the request. Mr. Freeman anticipated taking the trip on the "Grampus" himself, but found it impossible to go, and therefore very gladly recommended Capt. Asa Burriess. Individually, I rejoice at the appointment, and without his knowledge or consent I am taking the liberty, through this avenue, of introducing the Wilmington public to Capt. Asa Burriess.

Let me say a better or a happier selection for the work in hand could not possibly have been made. I am not aware just how Asa Burriess won the office of captain, but there is one thing I do know—he is eminently entitled to it. He is moulded after the pattern of "Little Giffin of Tennessee," in worth and solidity of character. Alice Cary sings: "True worth is in being, not seeming; In doing, each day that goes by. Some little good—not in the dreaming Of great things to do by and by. For whatever men say in blindness And spite of the fancies of youth, There's nothing so royal as kindness, And nothing so kingly as truth." One of the nobilities of Asa Burriess is his kindness, and he is gifted in telling the truth. He wears the white flower of an upright life. He knew the good and the power of "Little Brown Hands" in his youth, and he feels now a just pride in the fact that they have been a great factor in his success in life. They, assuredly, can do many things dexterously and well. He may not be familiar with the following anonymous lines, but he is a living and growing example of their truth:

Those who toil bravely are strongest, The humble and poor become great; And from those brown-handed children Shall grow mighty rulers of State.

"The pen of the author and statesman, The noble and wise of our land— The sword and the chisel, and palette, Shall be held in the little brown hand."

Asa Burriess is a busy man, too busy to devote much time to books. Had the opportunities offered, he would have risen to distinction in them. The cares of a growing and largely afflicted family have pressed heavily upon him, but instead of complaining he is sweet-tempered, and is glad that he is able through his fertile brain and strong right arm to cater to their wants and comfort. He is not of the whining sort, does not abuse his unlucky stars; on the contrary, he is happy in his home and at his work, and knows how to make the long days grow short. He keeps the sunshine in his soul all through the year; it is not that the year brings no trials; it does. They serve, however, only to refine him. "An honest man is the noblest work of God," Asa Burriess is honest. There is no little petty meanness

about him. He is faithful and trustworthy. Whatever he promises he will do, and he will not promise more than he can see his way to perform.

When night comes, if he is not on duty at the fire boat, he is at home with his wife and children, and he believes thoroughly in the sanctity of home. There is many a man wearing finer clothes than he does, who is not nearly so competent and not half so righteous.

He is not averse to long and honorable descent, but has sense enough to discern the false from the true, and knows that Cain, one of the "F. F. V.s.," as it were, killed half of the young men of his time. Asa Burriess believes in an incorruptible manhood—that real

"Life is a dreamland glorified, What more was paradise?" He's an Adam Bede—more than good old honest Ham in David Copperfield, and he loves the sea like Ham. He is purer and greater than a thousand Starborts with all their culture and finery on the principle of Tennyson—

"A simple maiden in her flower Is worth a hundred coats of arms." Well, that is Asa Burriess, the man, and the half has not been told. Let me say a few words about his special

fitness for the work assigned him on the "Grampus," ere I make this off-hand pencil sketch too long.

Asa Burriess knows all about boats—big ones and little ones. He is a boat-builder of no mean skill himself, and he can build two boats faster than the ordinary man in the business can one. With steam and gas engines he loves to while away the happy hours. He is a fine hand to have around on the water, fresh or salt, when danger is brewing, for he doesn't know how to show the cowfeathers—he hasn't got any. He can take a rope and tie any kind of a knot in it, no matter how intricate, in an infinitesimally short time—not a bad accomplishment in a boat. He knows all about fish nets, is a master hand in making any kind, and the celerity of his work is a bit phenomenal—and he is not in the fish net business either. He is familiar with all manner of fish lines for all sorts of fishing—neither is he in the fish business. He knows the Cape Fear river from Black creek to the bar—is familiar with the ocean, and the ocean bed from Lockwood's Folly to Morehead City. Knows intimately all the fish in the waters hereabout and in the sea by sight and by name. And if a fish does not want to be caught

he better not fool around Asa Burriess. There may be a few on the "Grampus" who can use the king's English with a little more elegance and eloquence than Captain Asa, but in calm or storm there will not be a young squib or a wise old fisherman or one who is quicker and wiser to take advantage of conditions as they arise.

To be plain and to the point, and to shorten up this pleasant task, Asa Burriess knows wonderfully well a lot of sense packed away ready for use above his twinkling and pretty blue eyes.

Here's my hand, Captain Asa, for a big time and a profitable one to yourself, your county and your country.

ANIMALS CAUSING TROUBLE.

London, Nov. 4.—In a letter home, A. G. Ross, who is a member of the British Royal Engineers in German East Africa, says:

"The giraffes are causing more trouble to the telegraph than any other animals, as they go about at night, run into the wires, and down they come with the wires."

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