

The Alabama Baptist Convention was organized in October 1823 with the stated purpose of promoting foreign and domestic missions and to educate young men who were called to the ministry. This same purpose led pro-missions churches throughout Alabama to organize pro-missions associations including our own. Some areas originally had “United Baptist Churches” which included both Primitive and pro-missions groups, but by the late 1830’s these began to split and form separate churches.

The first of the missionary associations to include churches in Dekalb County was organized in 1842. Until 1844 it was called Liberty Association and then it was changed to Cherokee Baptist Association because four other associations in Alabama were named “Liberty”. Cherokee was chosen because most of the area had been Cherokee territory until December 29, 1835.

Because the association, its churches and the State Convention maintained a strong mission’s emphasis the number of churches increased rapidly. With the increase in the number of churches the ones in some of the counties began to form more local associations. By 1904 the majority of the churches were in Dekalb County and the name Cherokee Baptist Association was now easily confused with the Cherokee County Missionary Baptist Association so it was moved that the name be changed to the Dekalb County Baptist Association and it was approved the following year.