

MINUTES
—OF THE—
TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL
SESSION

OF THE
CAVE SPRING
ASSOCIATION

OF THE
FREEWILL
BAPTIST CHURCHES

HELD WITH
Cotton Creek Church
August 21, 22, 23 and 24, 1914

T. J. DUNKIN, Moderator

N. COMBS, Assistant Moderator

J. P. McCULLOUGH, Clerk

H. T. FREY, Assistant Clerk

J. P. McCULLOUGH, Clerk
H. T. FREY, Asst. Clerk.

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FRIDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 21, 1914

Cave Spring Association of Freewill Baptist churches met with Cotton Creek church. Was called together by singing by congregation.

Prayer offered by Elder N. Combs. Introductory sermon preached by Elder N. Combs, and Elder Milo Stanley. After which the conference was called to order by Elder N. Combs, he being the oldest minister present.

Motion carried that Elder N. Combs act as chairman of the meeting.

The chairman appointed a committee to examine credentials. Elder T. J. Dunkin, Bro. J. J. Sitton and Elder J. R. W. Harbinson were appointed.

Committee reports thirteen delegates and ministers present.

Motion carried to proceed to organize, with what delegates were present.

Elder T. J. Dunkin was elected moderator.

Motion carried that moderator appoint a committee on pulpit affiliation. Bros. J. W. Hall, Jessie Hall and H. T. Frey were appointed.

Motion carried to adjourn until 8:30 a. m., August 22.

Prayer by Bro. A. W. Wetzel.

At 8 o'clock p. m. the body was called together by singing. Prayer by Elder W. C. Norman. Preaching by Elder Milo Stanley. Text: 26th chapter, 19th verse of Acts.

SATURDAY MORNING, AUGUST 22, 1914

Met pursuant to adjournment. Called together by singing and spent thirty minutes in prayer and testimonials. At 8:30 business taken up. Letters from churches called for and letters presented and read as follows:

Oak Grove church—Delegates: Bros. A. G. Bonds and Abner Rhoads.

Smyrna church—Delegate: Bro. J. P. McCullough.

Mill Creek church—Delegates: Bros. J. S. Whitehead and J. J. Sitton

Cave Spring church—Delegates: Bros. Ruben Pierce, John Murry and S. A. Rhoads.

Piney church—Delegates: Bros. Will Combs and Henry Proctor.

Cotton Creek church—Delegates: Bros. H. T. Frey, D. E. Jenkins. Bro. Jessie Hall, alternate.

Motion carried to empower Bros. M. Evans and S. P. Scott as delegates from Bluff Spring church.

Bethany church—Delegates: Bros. A. W. Wetzel and W. H. Williams. Bro. Cletis Brewer, alternate.

Pleasant Hill church—Delegates: I. W. Freeman, G. W. Kelly and W. R. Christian.

Walnut Grove church—Delegates: Bros. J. W. Brewer and R. Doran.

Letter from quarterly conference received and read as follows:

State of Missouri, County of Oregon. May 16, 1914.
To Your Honorable Body:

The Cave Spring Association of Freewill Baptist church of Christ, when convened with Cotton Creek church.

We, the third quarterly conference of Freewill Baptists send greeting.

Dear Brethren:—We are endeavoring to keep the unity of faith in the bonds of peace and love. We pray you accept our letter and receive our delegates in your council and we in duty bound will ever pray. Delegates chosen—Bros. N. Combs, W. P. Stogsdill, J. R. W. Harkinson, Milo Stanley, Drue Bonds and Bro. George Kelly.

Number of churches, 15.

Our statistical table shows our number in full fellowship; total, 424 Sabbath schools in some churches good.

Mill Creek reports a good Sabbath school.

Cave Spring, Cotton Creek and other churches, a good interest in union Sabbath school.

General state of religion fair, but we pray God it may be better.

Committee on printing—Bros. J. P. McCullough, Wid Johnson and H. T. Frey.

H. T. FREY, Clerk.

On motion letters were received as read. A song was sung and the right hand of fellowship extended to the delegates and visiting brethren.

On motion we invited visiting brethren to seats of council as advisory members with us.

A resolution on temperance was presented and read as follows: Believing temperance and attendant vices to be one of the greatest obstacles in the way of progress of the church and nation, also a serious menace to the development of Christian character, we as Freewill Baptists, commend ourselves to the principles of prohibition and pledge our eternal vigilance to the removal of this curse from our fair land.

Question on change of name of this association taken up and the following adopted:

MOTION—In order that we as churches and members of Cave Spring Association of Freewill Baptists may become better informed on the new alignment of Baptist churches that has, and is now, taking place. It is now moved that Elder J. K. W. Harbison be appointed corresponding-secretary for Cave Spring Association of Freewill Baptist that same secretary be requested to open correspondence with the corresponding secretary for the General Conference of Freewill Baptist.

Also with the following bodies of Freewill Baptist in Missouri, to see if co-operation can be agreed on in regard as to whether it is best to remain as we are, or to enter the union with the Baptist churches of the North, to-wit:

The Western Missouri Freewill Baptist yearly meeting. The Northwestern Missouri Freewill Baptist yearly meeting: The Northeastern Missouri Freewill Baptist Association: The Southwestern Missouri Freewill Baptist yearly meeting. And especially with the Southeastern Missouri Freewill Baptist yearly meeting, that this association bear the expense of stationery and postage in such correspondence; That Elders T. J. Dunkin, H. C. Cruse and N. Combs be appointed on advisory committee with power to call to their assistance at any time part or all of the ordained or licensed preachers and deacons if they wish to confer with the corresponding secretary on any point he may deem concerning such correspondence. And that such corresponding secretary report in writing at the next meeting of this association.

Resolution of respect to Elder David Johnson, deceased, were read and adopted as follows:

Words can scarcely express the loss to Cave Spring Association of Freewill Baptist by the death of Brother Elder David Johnson, that occurred on January 15, 1914. Elder David Johnson, 27 years ago, helped to organize this association and had worked faithfully in the cause of the Lord and in the interest of this association until called home. As a man Brother Johnson was a high type of a Christian gentleman, he was companionable and ever ready to help and to encourage. As a Christian he was loyal to his Savior and devoted to his service, word and church. His love for his brethren and for lost men and women ever burned in his heart with a heavenly glow. As a friend and neighbor no man ever had one truer or more ready to help. As a husband and father he was kind, thoughtful and devoted and love made his a happy family. As a citizen he

was a good man, he was always found in the front rank and ready to push every reform that tended to the betterment of the community. He believed in a clean citizenship and exemplified it by living a clean life. As a minister of the Gospel he loved his calling; he was deeply conscious that God had called him to a great work, and had conferred on him the highest commission ever given to man. He believed in his call from Heaven and he put forth the greatest effort of his life to magnify and honor this sacred trust and shunned not to declare the whole council of God. His faith, love, consecration and earnestness made him a power in the pulpit and out. He lived to serve, and his death closed the actions of a good preacher and man of God.

We love him more and appreciate him higher since God has called a halt that his servant may be properly seen and his worth and work might be duly appreciated.

Brother Johnson did his work nobly and well and rests from his labors in the eternal home where there is no more partings, tears, sorrows, and disappointments. To him the welcome plaudit of the Master has been given: Well done thou good and faithful servant. Enter then into the joy of thy Lord.

In his death we have lost a forceful preacher, pastor, true friend and brother. Therefore, be it resolved that we reassert our faith in the wisdom and goodness of God, and in all things, pertaining to his Kingdom, and further while we grieve and mourn the loss of our beloved brother, yet we bow in humble and loving submission unto him that doeth all things well. Further be it resolved that we as an association feel most keenly and deeply grieved over our loss, yet we realize that the heaviest blow has fallen upon his beloved home, therefore, we extend to the wife and children of the deceased our deepest sympathy and pray that God may sustain them in this trying hour. Our words may fail to convey to them our feelings and wishes but by our actions may we bring them to realize that in Cave Spring Association of Freewill Baptist they have a friend. Be it further resolved that a copy of these resolutions be presented to the family, and a copy be entered on the minutes of the Association.

Resolution on printing establishment for Sunday school literature as follows:

Resolved that as the printing establishment of the Freewill Baptist denomination has been consolidated with the American Baptist Publishing Society at 1701 Chestnut street, Philadelphia, Penn. And as such publishing society is now operated by both Baptist and Freewill Baptist official

co-operation that we as the Cave Spring Freewill Baptist Association recommend to the churches composing said association to make their application for all Sunday school literature to the said American Baptist Publishing Society at 1701 Chestnut street, Philadelphia, Penn.

Bro. J. J. Sitton makes his report as treasurer as follows:

Treasurer's settlement with Cave Spring Association of Freewill Baptist church:

AUGUST, 1914

Cash received 1912 from Association	\$6.70
1913 cash of Bluff City church	1.50
1913 cash of Walnut Grove church	1.70
Total receipts	\$9.90

Turned over to Bro. H. T. Frey to apply on printing 1913 minutes--\$3.20

Balance due Association \$6.70

— Respectfully submitted this date above written,

J. J. SITTON, Treasurer.

Motion carried to receive Bro. J. J. Sitton's report as treasurer and that he be retained as treasurer.

Report of committee on printing read as follows: Amount received from churches at last association, \$14.05. Paid out for printing minutes, \$10.00; for minister's certificates, \$1.00; postage and stationery, 39 cents; balance on hand August 21, 1914, \$2.66. Report-received.

Motion carried to adjourn until 2:30 p. m. A song by the body. Prayer by Elder T. J. Dunkin.

11 a. m.—Body came together. Preaching by Elder J. R. W. Harbinson; followed by James McGeehe. Text, Malaci 3-8.

2:30 p. m.—Social services by all Christians.

3 p. m.—Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by the moderator.

Motion carried to take up a collection for our corresponding secretary, J. R. W. Harbinson for postage and stationery. Amount donated \$2.75

On motion Bros. John Wheeler, Reuben Pierce and A. G. Bonds were appoint a committee to examine the standing of our ministers.

Report of above committee as follows:

We find all of our ministers worthy of yearly certificates as to morals and character, but some have failed to report at conference and were left out until they make satisfactory report to conference.

Report of ministers—Bros. Combs, McGeehe, John Combs and T. J. Dunkin made verbal reports.

Other ministers report in writing as follows:

MINISTER'S REPORT

Report of J. R. W. Harbison, Ordained Minister:

To Cave Spring Association of Freewill Baptist Churches, for the year 1914. The undersigned respectfully reports that he has, during the past year, stood as pastor for two churches. That in addition to acting as pastor, has preached at other places 36 sermons; has traveled 300 miles; has witnessed 23 conversions; has baptised 5 persons; has received into the churches 6 members; has assisted in organizing no new churches; has received pay to the amount of \$6.57; has married no couples.

Respectfully submitted,

J. R. W. HARBISON.

MINISTER'S REPORT

Report of W. C. Norman, Ordained Minister:

To Cave Spring Association of Freewill Baptist Churches, for the year 1914. The undersigned respectfully reports that he has, during the past year, stood as pastor of one church. That in addition to acting as pastor, has preached at other places 21 sermons; has traveled— miles; has received into the churches 12 members; has assisted in organizing one new church; has received pay to the amount of \$1; has married no couples.

Respectfully submitted,

W. C. NORMON.

MINISTER'S REPORT

Report of H. C. Crase, Ordained Minister:

To Cave Spring Association of Freewill Baptist Churches, for the year 1914. The undersigned respectfully reports that he has, during the year, stood as pastor for 5 churches. That in addition to acting as pastor; he has preached at other places 40 sermons; has traveled 1000 miles; has witnessed 4 conversions; has baptised no persons; has received into the churches one member; has assisted in organizing no new church; has received pay to the amount of \$50.50: viz. Oak Grove \$35.00, Mill Creek \$12.00, Piney \$2.50.

Respectfully submitted,

H. C. CRASE.

MINISTER'S REPORT

Report of Milo Stanley, Ordained Minister:

To Cave Spring Association of Freewill Baptist Churches, for the year 1914. The undersigned respectfully reports that he has, during the past year, stood as pastor of one church. That in addition to acting as pastor, has preached at other places 35 sermons; has traveled 475 miles; has witnessed 6 conversions; has baptised no persons; has received into the churches no members; has assisted in organizing no new churches; has received pay to the amount of \$6.80; has married no couples.

Respectfully submitted,

MILO STANLEY.

MINISTER'S REPORT

Report of W. P. Stogsdill, Ordained Minister:

To Cave Spring Association of Freewill Baptist Churches, for the year 1914. The undersigned respectfully reports that he has, during the past year, stood as pastor of one church. That in addition to acting as pastor, has preached at other places 39 sermons; has traveled 458 miles; has witnessed 25 conversions; has baptised 3 persons; has received into the churches 13 members; has assisted in organizing 1 new church; has received pay to the amount of \$10.00; has married no couples.

Respectfully submitted,

W. P. STOGSDILL.

MINISTER'S REPORT

Report of N. Combs, Ordained Minister:

To Cave Spring Association of Freewill Baptists Churches, for the year 1914. The undersigned respectfully reports that he has, during the past year, stood as pastor for 3 churches. That in addition to acting as pastor, has preached at other places 25 sermons; has traveled 400 miles; has witnessed 14 conversions; has baptised 3 persons; has received into the churches 6 members; has assisted in organizing no new churches; has received pay to the amount of \$32.00; has married 2 couples.

Respectfully submitted,

N. COMBS.

Motion carried to adjourn until 8 o'clock a. m., August 24th. Singing by the body. Prayer by Elder Milo Stanley.

8 p. m. August 22—Preaching by Elder G. W. Putnam.

10 a. m.—August 23—Sunday school conducted by Bro. Ed Jenkins.

11 a. m.—Preaching by Elder H. C. Crase. Text, Deuteronomy, 2nd chapter and 8th verse.

2:30 p. m.—Preaching by Elder T. J. Dunkin, followed by Brother Ward.

5 p. m.—Communion services and foot washing partaken by the body.

August 24, 8:30 a. m.—Met pursuant to adjournment. Social services conducted by Elder J. R. W. Harbinson, followed by song by the body. Called together by the moderator. Prayer by the moderator. Business taken up.

Report of committee appointed to see about printing minutes read as follows: We your committee on printing find that the South-Missourian-Democrat office will print our minutes on the same terms as last year. Gardner Office Supply Co., Springfield, Mo., offers to print 5000 copies with covers, 10 or 12 page book size 6x9 inches, for \$21.60.

A. T. Frey, Wm. Johnson and J. P. McCullough, committee.

Report received and committee retained.

Motion carried that the moderator appoint the following committees:

Committee on ministry—W. C. Norman, Milo Stanley, Wm. Johnson.

Committee on mission—N. Combs, W. P. Stogsdill and J. W. Hall.

Committee on moral reform—John Combs, W. Brewer and J. P. McCullough.

Committee on peace—J. D. Wheeler, J. A. Barton and Henry Proctor.

Committee on state of religion—H. C. Crase, G. W. Putnam and S. A. Rhoads.

Committee on observance of the Sabbath—J. M. McGeehe, J. J. Sitton and W. C. Norman.

Committee on doctrine and state of denomination—the same known as committee on correspondence.

Motion carried to adjourn until 2:30 p. m. Prayer by Rev. W. P. Stogsdill.

11 a. m.—Preaching by W. R. Stogsdill, followed by Bro. John Combs. Text, Luke 15-4.

2:30 p. m.—Committee met pursuant to adjournment. Song by the body. Prayer by Rev. W. C. Norman.

Motion carried to suspend the social services and go into business. Business suggested by letters taken up.

Motion carried for the moderator to appoint a committee to examine and ordain Bro. L. S. Brewer to the work of the ministry if he is found worthy of the calling, and report at the next quarterly conference. Committee is Elders H. C. Crase, Milo Stanley and W. C. Norman.

Motion made and carried to hold our next association with Smyrna church, beginning on Friday at 4 o'clock p. m., before the fourth Sunday in August, 1915. Elder N. Combs elected to preach the introductory sermon, J. R. W. Harbinson alternate.

Motion carried that Bros. H. T. Frey and J. P. McCullough superintend the printing of the minutes and that they be empowered to draw on the treasurer for such amount as they may need or to the amount in his hands.

Motion carried that the assessment on the churches be made the same as last year—one dollar for churches with less than twenty members and \$1.50 for churches with more than twenty members.

Moderator inquires if any churches are not represented and why they are not represented, and find several churches not represented. Cause unknown, unless it is through neglect or for the want of preaching.

Question: Are these churches needing ministerial labor and how can it be supplied? Answer: By putting on an evangelist.

Question: Shall we put out an evangelist? On motion Wm. Johnson was given permission to make a talk on putting out an evangelist. Talks also were made by Elders J. R. W. Harbinson and N. Combs and Bro. Abner Rhoads.

Motion carried that this body endorse Bro. J. R. W. Harbinson as an evangelist for the next three months and the churches are requested to co-operate with him and give him all the support they can, both spiritual and temporal, and pray that the Lord may bless his labors and get those churches in working order again.

Motion carried that we return our heartfelt thanks to the good people of this vicinity for their kindness and hospitality toward us during our stay with them. May the Lord bless them both spiritual and temporal.

Our first quarterly meeting will convene with Mill Creek church at Myrtle, Mo., on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in November, 1914.

Motion carried to adjourn until the time and place before mentioned. Singing by the body. Prayer by Elder N. Combs.

BY LAWS

ARTICLE 1—Each session of this conference shall be called to order by the standing clerk when present and in his absence by the member having seniority of years.

ARTICLE 2—Each session and adjourned sitting of the conference shall be opened and closed by prayer.

ARTICLE 3—Twenty members shall be required to constitute a quor-

um to transact any business of this conference. But any less number may adjourn from time to time.

ARTICLE 4—After the opening of each session of this conference a chairman shall be appointed and a committee of not less than three persons shall be chosen to examine credentials for membership in the conference. After the report of this committee and enrollment of members, the conference shall proceed to the election of a moderator, and to the transaction of other business.

ARTICLE 5—At each session of this conference, standing committees shall be appointed on such subjects as the following: "Printing establishments," "Ministry," "Slavery," "Missions," "Moral Reform," "Popery," "Peace," "Church Polity," "Petitions and Requests," "State of Religion," "Observance of the Sabbath," "Doctrine," and "State of Denomination." All petitions and committees on particular subjects shall be referred to appropriate committees. Special committees may be appointed at the pleasure of the conference.

ARTICLE 6—This conference may hold correspondence by message or otherwise, with other religious bodies, as it may deem advisable.

ARTICLE 7—This conference shall sit with open doors, except when it may go into committee of the whole.

ARTICLE 8—Any person not a member of this conference may be allowed to take part in its discussions by obtaining permission of the conference.

ARTICLE 9—It shall be the duty of the standing clerk to furnish each session of the conference with a book of records containing the doings of its previous session.

ARTICLE 10—The conference may determine the time when its daily sessions shall commence and close.

ARTICLE 11—It shall be the duty of the members of this conference to be present at the time appointed for each daily session, and anyone wishing to retire shall first obtain leave of the moderator.

ARTICLE 12—No member shall absent himself from conference during its sessions, without first obtaining permission from the conference.

ARTICLE 13—Every member wishing to speak in conference shall first address the moderator.

ARTICLE 14—No person shall be allowed to speak more than ten minutes at any one time nor more than twice on any one subject without leave of conference.

ARTICLE 15—No debate shall be allowed on any motion, except the

same be submitted in writing and seconded by a member of the conference.

ARTICLE 16—No whispering shall be allowed in conference without leave of the moderator, but all members shall pay strict attention to the business of the conference.

ARTICLE 17—No person shall be allowed to nominate more than one member of any committee provided the brother nominated be elected.

ARTICLE 18—The yeas and nays may be taken on any question before the conference by request of one-fifth of the members present.

ARTICLE 19—The constitution and by-laws of this conference shall be read at each session, near its commencement.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

THE BIBLE—The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by inspiration of God, and are infalable rule of faith and practice.

GOD—There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver and Righteous Governor of the universe, and in Scriptures as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, yet as one God, infinitely wise and good whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore and obey.

CHRIST—Christ is God manifest in the flesh, in his divine nature truly God in his human nature truly man. The mediator between God and Man, once crucified he is now risen and glorified and is our ever present Savior and Lord.

THE HOLY SPIRIT—The Scriptures assign the Holy Spirit all attributes of God. He is the reprover, comforter, guide and sanctifier of men

THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD—God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts of grace, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of man requires.

THE SINFULNESS OF MAN—Man was created innocent but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity therefore inherit a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability sin, and become guilty before God.

THE WORK OF CHRIST—The Son of God by his incarnation, life suffering, death and resurrection affected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.

THE TERMS OF SALVATION—The conditions of salvation are: 1st, Repentance or sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it. 2nd, Faith or the unreserved committal of one's sale to Christ as Savior and Lord with

purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the domination of sin and becomes a child of God. 3rd, Continuance in faith and obedience until death.

ELECTION—God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become his elect.

FREEDOM OF THE WILL—The human will is free and self controlled, having power to yield to the influences of the truth and the Spirit, or to resist them and perish.

SALVATION FREE—God desires the salvation of all, the gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whosoever will may come and take the water of life freely.

PÉRSEVERANCE—All believers in Christ, who through Grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, have promise of salvation.

GOSPEL ORDINANCES—Baptism, or the emersion of believers in water, and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel, of universal obligation, and to be administered to all true believers.

THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH—The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements, for rest, worship, holy works and activities; and for personal communion with God.

RESURRECTION, JÚDGMÉNT AND FINAL RETRIBUTION—The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life and they that have done ill unto the resurrection of judgment; then the wicked will "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God by faith in Christ and adopted the word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant. We promise by his grace to love and obey him in all things, to avoid all appearances of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions and social worship; and by self denial, faith and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ." We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work. We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring and as far as we are able promote the success of the church and of the Gospel. We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme, counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society; constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come and his will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for promotion of the educational and denominational enterprises, the support of the missions, the success of Sabbath schools, the evangelistic effort of the salvation of souls and the conversion of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ.