

DERWOOD YATES
ROUTE 2, BOX 135
COEBURN, VA. 24230

MINUTES
OF THE
SECOND ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
JOHN THOMAS ASSOCIATION
HELD WITH
Dale Ridge Church

WISE COUNTY, VA.
Septembr 11-14, 1924.

AYDEN, N. C.
FREE WILL BAPTIST PRINTING CO.
1924

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PROCEEDINGS.

The John Thomas Yearly Meeting met with Dale's Ridge church, on Thursday before the second Sunday in September 1924. The introductory sermon was preached by R. A. Carter. Text: Romans 1:24, 25.

1. Conference was opened by W. R. Bise, Clerk.

2. Enrollment of delegates of Wise County Quarterly Meeting as follows: Emmet Day, E. J. Kilgore, Rosa Dickenson, Mary Johnson, and Sallie Stallard.

Dickenson County Quarterly Meeting.—E. R. Powers and N. H. Stanley.

3. Election of officers as follows: W. R. Stallard, Moderator; W. R. Bise, Clerk, John Shadrick, Treasurer.

4. Enrollment of Ministers.—Present: R. A. Carter, C. K. Counts, C. H. Johnson, W. R. Stallard, S. M. McFall, W. R. Bise, T. J. Davenport, E. A. Reedy, John Shoop.

5. Appointment of Committees were as follows:

Business Committee.—C. K. Counts, S. M. McFall, E. A. Reedy.

Supply of Pulpit.—A. H. Hill, Ada Jones, Ellen Osborne.

Next Session.—N. H. Stanley, W. B. Galloway, R. A. Carter.

Sunday School.—W. R. Bise, R. A. Carter, C. H. Johnson.

Moved and carried that each pastor write the obituaries of the deceased in their pastoral work.

Moved and carried that we adjourn till 8.30 Friday morning. Preaching at 8 P. M., by S. M. McFall and T. J. Davenport. Text: Proverbs 13:15.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION.

Met as per adjournment. Reading by W. R. Stallard. Prayer by Grandma Johnson. We then took up the work of the Yearly Meeting.

Wise County Quarterly Meeting.—Character passed, letter and delegates received.

Dickenson County Quarterly Meeting.—Character passed, letter and delegates received.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Committee on Next Session.

The committee reports that the next session will be held with West Norton church, beginning on Thursday before the Second Sunday in September 1925.

N. H. STANLEY,
W. B. GALLOWAY,
R. A. CARTER,

Committee.

Moved and carried that we adjourn till 2:30. Preaching at 11 o'clock by W. R. Stallard and W. R. Bise. Text: Hab. 3:4.

FRIDAY EVENING SESSION.

Met according to adjournment. Reading by W. R. Stallard. Prayer by J. M. Shoop.

Report of Business Committee.

No. 1. That the Dickenson County Quarterly Meeting reconsider their act of the last Quarterly Meeting relative to their financial system, as they are obligated to this Yearly Meeting for their part of its expenses.

No. 2. We recommend that S. M. McFall explain to this body the meaning of the church covenant in regard to sinful amusements.

No. 3. That this body annul the adoption of the Morning Star Treatise.

Moved and carried that we empower our clerk to investigate the cost of our minutes per 1,000 and 500 to see the difference.

Moved and carried that we draw on our treasury for minutes \$45.00, and that the committee settle with the treasurer.

C. K. COUNTS,
E. A. REEDY,
S. M. McFALL,
Committee.

Report of Sunday School Committee.

We, your Sunday School Committee recommend that we stand by the resolution in our minutes.

W. R. BISE, Chairman.

Moved and carried that we adjourn till Thursday before the Second Sunday in September 1925. Preaching at 8 o'clock by C. K. Counts and C. H. Johnson. Text: Rev. 21:9.

SATURDAY—MINISTERS' CONFERENCE.

Reports and characters passed. Preaching at 11 A. M., by J. M. Shoop and J. M. Hays. Text: 2 Timothy 4:1. Preaching 8 P. M., by Della Salyer and E. A. Reedy. Text: 11 Cor. 5:1.

Sunday, preaching by H. V. Johnson and Leonard Fields. Text: John 3:17.

Moved and carried that we appoint a committee to amend the By-Laws

C. K. COUNTS,
S. M. McFALL,
E. A. REEDY,
Committee.

Dickenson County.—Character of Ministers passed upon.

E. A. Reedy, W. R. Bise, character passed upon as good.

The following with no reports, their characters were passed: W. F. Bahurst, J. G. Kennady, H. F. Kennady, W. J. Keith, D. L. Smith, A. F. Hughes. Reading by W. R. Stallard. Prayer by S. M. McFall.

Ordaining Council.—E. A. Reedy, D.; W. R. Bise, C. K. Counts, W.; S. M. McFall, H. V. Johnson.

Evangelist Elected.—W. R. Stallard.

Moved and carried that we allow our clerks to write a report, T. J. Davenport and J. M. Shoop.

Moved and seconded that we elect W. R. Stallard, Moderator; and W. R. Bise, Clerk.

Wise County Quarterly Meeting.—W. R. Stallard, S. M. McFall, H. V. Johnston, J. M. Hays, J. M. Sheets, J. M. Shoop, C. K. Counts, C. H. Johnston, Leonard Fields, T. J. Davenport, Della Salyer, R. A. Counts, Robert Powers, A. J. Sexton, N. F. Malone, C. C. Wright, Clay Osborne, Jake Welch, J. M. Green, Henry Mills, I. N. Mills, Reny Wilson.

Dickenson Quarterly Meeting.—E. A. Reedy, J. G. Kennaday, F. T. Kennaday, D. L. Smith, W. J. Keith, W. T. Robertson, W. R. Bise, A. F. Hughes. All the ministers having no report their character was passed as good.

Wise County Quarterly Meeting.—This Quarterly Meeting reports 11 churches, 579 members, value of church property \$7,550, \$53.21 donated to Home Missions, \$423.13 for pastoral work. Received one new church into the Quarterly Meeting, nine Sunday Schools, 18 ministers. One church dropped.

W. R. STALLARD, Moderator.

H. V. JOHNSTON, Clerk.

Dickenson Quarterly Meeting.

We, the Dickenson Quarterly Meeting met with Hamilton Chapel on Friday before the fourth Sunday in July 1924. We took up the character of our churches and found them in peace and love. Our standing is as follows: Six churches, 240 members, the value of our church property is \$3,000.00. We send our beloved brethren to represent us in our Yearly Meeting: E. R. Powers, T. E. Bise, N. H. Stanley, Charley Head, D. L. Smith, Trig Dotson, Walter Kenedy, W. R. Bise, Moderator, and T. E. Bise, Clerk.

BY-LAWS OF MINISTERS' CONFERENCE.

1. There shall be a Ministers' Conference held annually in connection with the Yearly Meeting.

2. The object of the Ministerial Conference is to discuss points of doctrine, and examine the Christian character of the ministers.

3. Every minister in the John Thomas Yearly Meeting is required to attach themselves to the Ministers' Conference and must be governed by the rules and regulations of the Ministers' Conference.

4. Every Minister belonging to the conference is required to report themselves to the conference annually, either in person or by letter or both.

5. Any minister failing to report for two years in succession without a reasonable excuse shall be reprimanded, and if they still disregard this requirement, they may be dismissed from the conference.

6. Any minister moving to another Yearly Meeting shall take a letter of dismission and commendation so that they may properly unite themselves to the Yearly Meeting where they move.

Obituary of W. D. Brooks.

W.D. Brooks was born August 8, 1858 and was united to Ibbie Kenedy, September 19, 1889. Unto them were born eight children, six boys and two girls, of which six are living. Brother Brooks departed this life October 15, 1923. Professed faith in Christ about 20 years ago. He united with the Free Will Baptist church and lived a faithful Christian until death. On his death bed he was able to give his children good advice. He was 65 years old. May God's richest blessings rest upon his aged and afflicted wife. We pray that all his children may meet him in heaven where there will be joys and pleasures for evermore.

Written by one who will ever love him and his family.

S.

Chas. H. Ritchie.

Brother Chas. H. Ritchie was born July 17, 1850. Professed faith in Christ about 25 years ago. He joined the Free Will Baptist church, was baptized and lived a devoted Christian life until death, December 16, 1923. He was married three times. Has two children still living and a dear companion to mourn his loss. He was married to C. A. Roland September 18, 1890. He was 73 years old. His life was full of trouble, yet he lived a life of faith, fully trusting in God. May we ever live a life that will please God and finally meet him.

Martha E. Shoop.

Martha E. Shoop was born in Washington county, Va., October 13, 1856. She was raised in Scott county, Va. Died May 29, 1924. Was joined to her husband, J. M. Shoop, in the state of matrimony October 16, 1872, and remained with him until death. She was happily converted in the year 1878. She united with the Missionary Baptist church and remained in that church till 1892. Then she reunited with the Free Will Baptist and remained with them until death. She was a woman of great resolution and energy. Was ambitious for Christianity and manual labor. Was the mother of 13 children and raised eleven of them to manhood and womanhood. She never lost many of her work hours. She often said that she was not laying up treasure here on earth but in heaven. Said that she was not looking after the things of this world but looking for a brighter day and that she wanted a home in heaven. And when her last day had come and God had no more for her to do here, God sent the messenger of death and called her soul out of this old worn out house to a building of God not made with hands, but eternal in the heavens. And when her last moment had come while lying in her husband's arms, her poor old soul went up to God who gave it, to remain till Christ comes in his power and great glory to make new again her remains that sleep in the tomb. I thank God for the testimony of my dear mother.

Written by her daughter, Mrs. J. W. Dickenson.

Bettie E. Dickenson.

Bettie E. Dickenson was born in Wise County, Va., October 7, 1852,

died June 6, 1923. Was born and raised in Wise county Va. She was united in matrimony to John Dickenson in the year 1872. She remained with him till the year 1884 when he died leaving her to mourn his absence, also leaving her with five children to raise. She was poor but ambitious to serve God and to raise her children, but her greatest desire was to serve God. She professed faith in God at the age of twelve years and remained a faithful Christian until death. She seemed to love to serve God above all else. She loved her children and succeeded in bringing them up in honor. Her health was poor for several years but she trusted in God and bore her afflictions with great patience and prayed God to let her live to see her children come to womanhood and manhood. God honored her prayer. And when her appointed time came to die God called her to Himself. She resigned all to him and her spirit took its flight to its eternal home. Her body rests in the tomb awaiting the time when Christ shall come when the grave shall give back its dead alive.

MRS. REBECCA J. DICKENSON.

Johnny C. Wilson.

Sister Johnny C. Wilson was born October 20, 1872, died November 20, 1923. She was raised in Scott county, Va., and died in Wise county, Va. She professed faith in Christ at the age of 15. She never united with any church, neither was she baptized until the year 1922. She then united with the Free Will Baptist church and was baptized. She lived a faithful Christian until her death. She was faithful in all her earthly duties and enjoyed her religion. She was seized by disease and suffered about a year. She was patient through all her illness. She trusted in God and waited for the summons to come. She said she was ready to go when the king of terrors came and death was sitting around her. She laid everything by and took her flight to the mansions on high where there will be no more pain nor death.

Written by Mrs. Rebecca J. Dickenson.

MINISTERIAL REPORTS.

REPORT OF W. R. STALLARD.—For the past year, helped to organize one church, preached 129 sermons, conducted five burial services, travelled 628 miles, organized one Sunday School, one prayer meeting baptized 13 members, witnessed 32 conversions, received 24 members into the churches, labored in five revivals, ordained one minister, received by gifts and donations \$213.63, married five couples.

REPORT OF E. A. REEDY.—To the John Thomas Yearly Meeting to convene with Dail's Ridge on Thursday before the 2nd Sunday in September 1924. I wish to make the following report. I have pastored three churches, attended four burials, preached 95 sermons, visited a number of homes in affliction, received \$128.00.

REPORT OF W. R. BISE.—I preached about 30 sermons, was assistant pastor of one church, organized one Sunday School, superintended one Sunday school, gave \$20.00 for the expense of the denomination.

Wilford, Va.

REPORT OF MRS. DELLA SALYER.—Travelled 357 miles, preached 32 sermons, preached three funerals, witnessed 11 conversions, received \$20.08.
Dorchester, Va.

REPORT OF C. H. JOHNSTON.—Baptized 6, married one couple, preached about 10 sermons.

REPORT OF R. A. POWERS.—Dear Brethren in Christ:—As I am unable to meet with you brethren at Dale Ridge in person, I will write a few lines as I want my character and friendship passed on in the Free Will Baptist church. I feel from my physical strength that my work is almost done in this life, but the way is bright before me, and like the good old prophet of old, I have fought a good fight and am ready to be offered up. So I want this letter read aloud in church, requesting each and every one of you to remember me in your prayers, asking our Father to give me strength to stand in the pulpit again for his cause. I am sorry that I can not be present, but I will ask God to be with you all. And may the saving grace of our Lord and Saviour be with you all throughout this world and at last take us all home to heaven, where we will never know a sorrow but all will be peace and joy.

R. A. POWERS.

REPORT OF J. M. HAYES.—Preached 51 sermons, had 35 conversions, baptized one, helped organize one church, received \$41.00, conducted four funeral services.

S. M. Fall, Coeburn, Va., makes no report. He kept none.

REPORT OF J. H. SHEETS.—Pastored Esserville church, have preached 63 sermons, held two revivals, attended two funeral services, married three couples, preached three funerals, travelled 380 miles, pastored one church, organized one Sunday school.

REPORT OF H. V. JOHNSON.—Preached 94 sermons, held three revivals, worked in two revivals, witnessed 28 conversions, baptized three, received 17 into the church, preached seven funerals, pastored one church, travelled 642 miles, received \$20.13, donated \$16.50 for church building.

Dorchester, Va.

REPORT OF C. K. COUNTS.—Preached 22 sermons, travelled 150 miles, conducted two burials, married five couples.

Coeburn, Va.

REPORT OF RENA WILSON.—Preached 50 sermons, pastored one church, preached two funerals, worked in one revival, witnessed four conversions, travelled 355 miles, received \$33.35.

Drill, Va.

REPORT OF R. A. CARTER.—Preached 72 sermons, held two revivals, attended five funerals, and one memorial service, married eight couples.

Glamorgan, Va.

REPORT OF J. F. WELCH.—I have tried to preach about 30 sermons, travelled about 250 miles, labored in two revivals, witnessed from 10 to 15 conversions, helped to baptize four, assisted in two funeral services, conducted some prayer services, spent \$5.00 to \$10.00, and received nothing.
Coeburn, Va.

BY-LAWS MOTIONS, ETC., OF JOHN THOMAS YEARLY MEETING.

1. A conference shall be annually held.
2. No conference shall be held with less than three ordained ministers, and four delegates belonging to this Yearly Meeting.
3. Officers of this Yearly Meeting shall be, moderator, clerk and treasurer, who shall be elected annually.
4. At the opening of each conference, the clerk's book shall be presented, and the proceedings of last conference read.
5. The object of the Annual Conference shall be to promote Christ's Kingdom among men by means in strict conformity to the Holy Scriptures.
6. These conferences shall be composed of the ministers who are members of the Quarterly Meetings belonging to the body, and of delegates from these Quarterly meetings, each Quarterly meeting being entitled to as many delegates as each conference shall think proper.
7. The delegates from each Quarterly meeting shall bear to the conference a letter certifying their appointment, showing the condition and statistics of the Quarterly meeting, and giving a statement of all funds raised during the year for denominational or other benevolent purposes.
8. This conference may at each regular meeting, elect as many boards or standing committees as may be necessary in carrying out its benevolent purposes. These shall keep a record of their proceedings and make a report at each regular meeting of the conference.
9. Any Quarterly meeting desiring to become a member of this body shall present her petition at a regular session of the conference, through delegates appointed for that purpose. If she be received, the moderator shall extend to her delegates the hand of fellowship.
10. The conference may extend to visiting brethren all the privileges of the body, save that of voting.
11. This constitution may be amended at any regular session by vote of four-fifths of the members present of the conference in session.
12. If any member in the judgment of the conference, shall show anger in his discussion on any subject, he shall forfeit his seat in that conference.
13. No member of the general conference shall be at liberty to withdraw without leave of the moderator.
14. The conference shall always adjourn by vote.
15. There shall annually be a committee of finance chosen to settle with the treasurer and report to conference.
16. Conference shall always open and adjourn by prayer and praise of God.
17. A motion must be made by one member, seconded by another, and afterwards stated by the moderator, before it is debated. A motion shall be reduced to writing by the mover at the demand of any one member.
18. All resolutions shall be submitted in writing.

19. A motion or resolution may be withdrawn at any time before a decision or amendment by the conference.

20. Any motion or resolution containing more than one distinct proposition shall be devised, provided the call for a division be sustained by the majority.

21. When a member speaks or offers a motion he should rise and respectfully address the moderator, confine himself to the question under consideration, and avoid all personality or unkind or disrespectful language.

22. When two or more members rise to speak at the same time the Moderator shall decide who is entitled to the floor.

23. While a member is speaking no one shall interrupt him except to call him to order, ask leave to explain or make explanation. The one allowed to explain, shall confine himself strictly to an actual misunderstanding of language which may need explanation.

24. No member shall speak more than twice, or longer than fifteen minutes at each time, on any question without leave of the Moderator, which leave shall be granted without debate.

25. All committees may be named by the Moderator, by request of the conference.

26. The member first named on a committee shall be its chairman to call the committee together, but after it is convened the committee may elect its own chairman and secretary.

27. Voting shall be done by standing up when a vote is close, or when it becomes necessary to count the affirmative and negative, and in special cases by ballot.

28. The Moderator, in case of a tie, may cast the deciding vote.

29. All members should vote on one side or the other, unless excused by the Moderator.

30. No motion, discussion, or other business, shall be admitted while the vote is being taken.

31. The minutes of the conference shall be signed by the Moderator and the clerk.

W. R. Stallard, Chairman.

CHURCH COVENANT.

Having been brought, as we believe, by the divine grace to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and Preserver, we do now solemnly and joyfully covenant and agree, by God's help, to walk together in brotherly love.

We, therefore, enter into covenant as members of this church and as Christians, that we will watch over each other in love, sharing together each other's joys and sorrows; that we will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, nor omit the great duty of prayer for ourselves and others; that by divine assistance we will endeavor to bring up those under our care in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; that in all things we will strive to exemplify our profession by a corresponding practice, to abstain from all sinful conformity to the world, to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in all our deportment; that we will abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage; that we will sustain the worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrine of the church; that we will contribute cheerfully, according to our ability, to the support of the ministry, the expense of the church, the relief of the poor and the general spread of the Gospel.

In keeping this solemn Covenant may we ever enjoy the blessings and presence of the Great Head of the Church.

