

512

MINUTES

of the

JOHN THOMAS ASSOCIATION

of

Freewill Baptist

Eighteenth Session

Held at

Valley View Church
Clintwood, Virginia

September 5 - 8, 1940



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1940

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The next session will be held with the Burdine Church, Burdine, Ky.
beginning Thursday before the 2nd Sunday in September 1941.

Rev. MONROE HUBBARD, Moderator
Rev. E. C. KISER, Clerk
CARL SAULS, Treasurer

PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH, 11:00 A. M.

Introductory sermon: Rev. J. C. Rasnake. Lesson read 14th Chapter St. John. Prayer by J. W. Dingus. Text 6th verse Chapter read. Closed by a song.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH, 2:00 P. M.

E. C. Kiser, Clerk, having charge of same, declared conference open for the transaction of such business as may come before it.

The first item of business was the nomination of a moderator.

Rev. Monroe Hubbard was elected moderator. Rev. W. R. Bise was elected assistant moderator and assumed the duties of their office by taking the chair, and proceeding with the election of a Clerk and Treasurer.

E. C. Kiser was re-elected Clerk by acclamation. Carl Sauls was re-elected Treasurer by acclamation.

It was voted by acclamation to give the moderator power to appoint all committees.

ENROLLMENT OF DELEGATES

LETCHER COUNTY, KENTUCKY

Johnny Sykes	W. R. Byrd	Lester Able
Sam Privett	Maggie Bevins	Paul Sweeton
Lena McPeck	Mollie Bentley	Eliza Mahan
Charlie Cowdill	Lola Caudill	R. J. Mullins
Thomas Hamilton	Emily Hamilton	Ran Bentley
Johnnie Stofer	Ruby Stofer	Sanford Swindle
Virgie Swindle		

DICKENSON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

I. S. Gilliam	Pearl McFalls	Flora Keith
Florance Hughes	U. S. G. Meade	Charlie Meade
Lelia Salyers	R. C. Powers	Lola Dotson
F. P. Sutherland	Vena Rudder	Maxie Phillips
J. C. Rose	Bessie Rose	O. A. Kiser
Mrs. O. A. Kiser	Eva Smith	S. P. Reedy
C. W. Willis	Carl Sauls	Connie Browning
Menroe Mullins	R. J. Lambert	N. B. Lambert
S. P. Mullins	Mollie Hill	Mavis Cook
Corbette Deel	Snoda Sutherland	John Yates
N. B. Counts	Cora Tompkins	

NEW DURM BUCHANAN COUNTY

M. F. Hess	Walter Whited	Genny Whited
Guss Hess	Lula Hess	Mary A. Rasnake
Alta Rasnake	Jeneva Vance	Lucy Rasnake

ENROLLMENT OF MINISTERS PRESENT

LETCHER COUNTY, KENTUCKY

Monroe Hubbard	J. W. Dingus	L. D. Mahan
Albert Dingus	D. D. Moore	C. W. Isom
James G. Wright		

DICKENSON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

B. C. Lane	Asa Hughes	W. R. Bise
E. C. Kiser	E. A. Reedy	E. M. Rose

S. P. Davis
George Mooney
T. M. Dotson
D. L. Smith
W. R. Johnson
Henry Smith

Monroe Mullens
Thurston Meade
G. W. Horne
Josh Rose
Dock Kilgore
Emory Vanover

Alden Carico
Vernon Kiser
C. W. Noles
Floyd Hill
D. W. Hawkins
Willard Martin

NEW DURM BUCHANAN COUNTY

J. C. Rasnake

Martin Ball

VISITING MINISTERS

Riley Caldwell
W. T. Large
W. M. Remines
M. M. Reynolds

Ben Powers
L. H. Winchell
J. E. Dickenson
J. L. Meade

Paul Shepherd
H. T. Davis
S. M. McFalls
Major Arrowood

The following appointments were made by Moderator:

PULPIT COMMITTEE

Johny Sykes

E. R. Powers

I. S. Gilliam

COMMITTEE ON NEXT SESSION

J. W. Dingus

Asa Hughes

B. C. Lane

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

W. R. Eise

W. R. Byrd

Asa Hughes

By move and second this conference stands adjourned until Friday, Sept. 6th 9:30 A. M. Preaching Thursday 3:00 P. M. by Martin Ball. Lesson read 3rd Chapter St. Matthew. Prayer by E. C. Kiser. Text 23rd verse of 6th Chapter Romans.

Thursday Night 7:30

Preaching by Monroe Hubbard and B. C. Lane. Lesson read 10th Chapter Hebrews. Prayer by Henry Smith. Text 7th and 9th verses of Chapter read. Closed by a song.

Friday, Sept. 6th, Morning Session 9:30

Conference opened by a song. Lesson read by moderator. 5th Chapter Romans, Prayer by Riley Caldwell. Moderator calls for Quarterly Meeting reports. Letcher County, and Dickenson County.

LETCHER COUNTY QUARTERLY MEETING REPORT

To the John Thomas Freewill Baptist Association to convene with the Valley View Church from the 5th to 8th of Sept., 1940.

Letcher County Quarterly Meeting met with the Pyane Gap Church from the 25th to 28th of August, 1940. Greetings:

We have appointed the following delegates to represent us in the Association:

Fannie Spriggs
Mrs. Luther Strouth
Johnny Sykes
Mrs. T. N. Hamilton
Mr. C. O. Caudill
Mrs. Stanford Swindle
Richard Ruker
Mrs. D. D. Moore
Golda Flannery

Lige Bartley
Paul Sweeten
Sam Privett
Edna Johnson
Mr. Stanford Swindle
Johnny Staffer
James King
Mrs. Ersal McPeeks

W. R. Byrd
Lester Able
Lee Hamby
Mrs. C. O. Caudill
Duran Bentley
Bill Codwell
Maggie Bevins
Nora Banks

We have eight churches with a membership of 566. 24 ordained ministers and six licentates. Value of church property \$1,500. We have four Sunday Schools average attendance of 300. We desire the prayers of God's people that we might have more next year for the upbuilding of God's Kingdom.

Albert Dingus, Moderator
Clyde C. Flannery, Clerk

DICKENSON COUNTY QUARTERLY MEETING REPORT

To the Eighteenth Annual Session of the John Thomas, Freewill Baptist Association, to be held with the Valley View Church, to begin on Thursday before the second Sunday in September, 1940.

We the Dickenson County Quarterly Meeting met with the Nealy Ridge Church on Friday before the 4th Sunday in July, 1940.

The following delegates were appointed to represent us in the Association:

Monroe Hale, Carl Sauls, I. S. Gilliam, Movis Cook, Maxie Arrington, J. M. Green, Gable Rose, Lola Dotson, Welford Hill, Connie Browning, Fal McFalls, N. B. Counts, Fred Green, Charlie Meade, Lila Salyers, R. C. Powers, Maxie Phillips, John Keith, U. S. G. Meade, Bettie Lambert, Parker Wright, Florance Hughes, Flora Keith, J. C. Rose, Bessie Rose, John Yates, Ora Salyers, Vina Rudder, Opal Salyers Phebia, Kiser, Ava Rose, Lonnie Rose, Corbette Deil, S. P. Reedy, Claud Williams, W. M. Beverley, C. W. Milles, Lonna Mullens, Florance Mullins, Alex Thompson, George Hubbert.

Our standing is as follows:

20 churches with a membership of 1100 all in Christian fellowship and love. Value of church property \$10,000. 9 Sunday schools with 656 on roll. Average attendance 512.

36 ordained ministers and one licentate. Done and signed by order of the Quarterly Meeting.

W. R. Bise, Moderator

N. H. Stanley, Clerk

Clenton Lambert, Asst. Clerk

NEW DURM QUARTERLY MEETING REPORT

Cleveland Virginia, August 9, 1940. To the John Thomas Freewill Baptist Association, to convene with the Valley View Church, September 5th to 8th, 1940, Greetings:

We the New Durm Quarterly Meeting now in session do appoint our beloved Brethren and Sisters to represent us in your Association:

M. F. Hess, Walter Whited, Genny Whited, Guss Hess, Lula Hess, Mary A. Rasnake, Alta Rasnake, Jeneva Vance, Lucy Rasnake.

Our standing is as follows: We have two churches with a membership of 120. Eight ordained ministers. Value of church property \$2,500.00. We have \$17.00 in treasury. We are all in good standing. Please grant our delegates seats in your conference.

J. C. Rasnake, Moderator, Council, Va.

Bertha Stevens, Clerk, Cleveland, Va.

By a move and second these reports were received and passed as good. Conference adjourned until 2:30 P. M. Preaching Friday 11 A. M. by E. M. Rose and Albert Dingus. Lesson read 7th Chapter Matthew. Text 21st verse, Chapter read. Prayer by Asa Hughes.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION 2:30

Conference opened by a song. Lesson read by moderator 17th Chapter St. John. Prayer by E. J. Kilgore.

Moderator calls for reports from business committee.

We the business committee recommend to have 500 forms of Minister's Reports printed. By move and second this was accepted by the conference.

Committee on next session reported that the next session of the John Thomas Freewill Baptist Association will convene with the Burdine Church, Burdine, Ky. beginning September 11, 12, 13 and 14, 1941.

Moderator appoints ordaining council for Letcher County, Kentucky:

Albert Dingus

C. W. Isom

J. W. Dingus

Dickenson County:

W. R. Bise

B. C. Lane

E. C. Kiser

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

With a move and second the New Durm Quarterly Meeting was put before the house. By vote were received and given the right hand of fellowship.

Number of Minutes for Letcher County 400. Number of Minutes for Dickenson County and New Durm 900.

Corresponding messengers to the Southwest Virginia Association to convene with Mary's Chapel, Coeburn, Va. May 8, 9, 10, 11, 1941.

1. S. Gilliam, E. M. Rose, Vernon Kiser, N. H. Stanley, S. P. Davis.

This conference stands adjourned until 2 P. M. Saturday. Minister's Conference begins Saturday, 9 A. M.

Precaching service 3 P. M. by B. R. Powers. Lesson 2nd Chapter Titus. Text 11, 12 verses. Prayer by E. A. Reedy. Closed with prayer by Mary Powers.

Precaching at 7:30 P. M. by L. H. Wenchell and Riley Coldwell. Lesson read 12th Chapter Ecclesiastic. Text 14th verse. Prayer by Modell Dingus.

SATURDAY MORNING 9:30

Conference opened by song. Lesson read by moderator, 21st Chapter Revelations. Prayer by Mollie Hill. Moderator calls for Minister's Reports. By move and second the reports were received and passed as good.

REPORT OF LETCHER COUNTY MINISTER'S CONFERENCE

Letcher County Minister's Conference met with the Pyane Gap Church, August 24, 1940. Organized by electing Albert Dingus Moderator and Clyde C. Flannery Clerk. The following ministers were present:

Joe Banks	Porter Brewer	Jimmie Collier
Albert Dingus	C. C. Flannery	W. M. Gardner
C. W. Isom	Monroe Hubbard	L. D. Mahan
Ersel McPeck	Duncan Powers	Hobart Spriggs
Luther Strouth	Marion Strunk	D. D. Moore
J. I. Terry		

The following ministers were absent:

H. H. Blackburn	J. W. Dingus	Mack Gardner
W. K. King	Leonard Powers	M. F. Rose
F. R. Trusley	James Wright	E. P. Gipson
Worley Baldwin	Jessie Hale	Richard Lee
Jimmie Martin		

We have 24 ordained ministers and six licentates. Character and doctrine passed as good.

Albert Dingus, Moderator
Clyde C. Flannery, Clerk.

REPORT OF DICKENSON COUNTY MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

Dickenson County Minister's Conference met with the Nealy Ridge Church on Saturday before the 4th Sunday in July 1940. Organized by electing W. R. Bise moderator and N. H. Stanley Clerk.

We have 36 ordained ministers and one licentates. The names of all the ministers were called and voted on separately. By a move and second, character of each minister passed as good except W. T. Bise and Floyd Cantrell who had failed to report in person or by letter in two years.

This conference appointed E. C. Kiser, William Marton and Carl Sauls as a committee to go and see the two Brothers and make their report at the next conference. There being no other business before this conference, by move and second this conference stands adjourned until Saturday before the 4th Sunday in July 1941.

W. R. Bise, Moderator
N. H. Stanley, Clerk
Clinton Lambert, Asst. Clerk

REPORT OF NEW DURM MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

New Durm Ministers' Conference met with the Clinchview Church, August 10, 1940. Organized by electing J. C. Rasnake moderator and Bertha Stevens Clerk.

Ministers present as follows: J. C. Rasnake, M. P. Ball, Rhoda Dye, Holland Dye, H. H. Ball, W. E. Rasnake.

Ministers absent as follows: R. S. Ball, J. P. Wilson.

We have eight ordained ministers. Closely examined their character, find them all in good standing.

J. C. Rasnake, Moderator

Bertha Stevens, Clerk

Minister's Conference adjourned until Saturday, September 13, 1941. To convene with Burdine Church, Burdine, Ky.

Preaching service, Saturday 11 A. M. by E. A. Reedy and Dock Kilgore. Prayer by Modell Dingus. Lesson read 8th Chapter Romans. Text, same chapter.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Conference opened by Moderator. Lesson read 6th chapter Hebrews. Prayer by D. D. Moore.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Article 1. Resolution that each minister have his report ready and hand to the clerk of Minister's Conference at the last Quarterly Meeting before the Association.

Article 2. We the Business Committee ask that each member of the John Thomas Freewill Baptist Association donate 50c each year to their church treasurer, this to be kept separate and apart from the regular treasurer, and to be turned over to the Quarterly Meeting treasurer to be used as an emergency fund as needed.

Article 3. That this Conference submit the emergency fund to each Quarterly Meeting according to its own protection, we advise the executive committee to handle this fund to the best advantage until the next Quarterly Meeting.

Article 4. Moved and seconded that each church send \$2.00 per year to Quarterly Meetings in July and August. We the executive committee make rule to pay the clerk \$10.00 yearly for his services out of Quarterly Meeting funds.

J. C. Rasnake was elected to serve as an evangelist for the ensuing year.

This conference adjourned until Thursday before the second Sunday in September 1941. Preaching service Saturday, 3 P. M.

C. W. Isom and M. M. Reynolds. Lesson read 9th Chapter Hebrews. Prayer by Mrs. Bernard Caldwell. Text: "What Is The Sign of Thy Coming."

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE, 7:30

J. C. Rasnake and E. C. Kiser. Lesson read, 3rd Chapter St. John. Prayer by Henry Smith. Text 14th verse same chapter read. Closed by a song.

Sunday 11 O'clock Service

Memorial service conducted by Asa Hughes, Emory Vanover, Earl Mullins, Casper Lane, and Steward McFalls. Prayer by Steward McFalls. Text, Rev. 1-10 Spirit and Voice. First song, "I Live On."

MINISTERS' REPORTS

RHODA DYE, Jewel, Ridge, Va.—I haven't kept any written report, but I have been in service most every Saturday night and Sunday. I have helped in some burial services, and helped preach several funerals, witnessed some conversions. Pray for me, your sister in Christ.

H. H. BALL, Davenport, Va.—I have preached 47 sermons, helped in 2 revivals, attended 4 burials, witnessed several conversions, traveled about 325 miles, received nothing from the church.

M. P. BALL, Davenport, Va.—I have pastored 1 church, preached 51 sermons, attended 7 burial services, received 1 member to church, witnessed several conversions, prayer service in 5 sick homes, married 2 couples, traveled about 175 miles, spent \$3.50 for traveling expenses, received nothing. Your Brother in Christ, pray for me.

J. C. RASNAKE, Council, Va.—I have pastored 2 churches, preached 90 sermons, held 2 revivals, witnessed 40 conversions, received 22 members to fellowship to the church, baptized 23, helped in 6 memorials, preached 10 funerals, traveled 645 miles, paid for traveling expenses \$8.40, received as donations \$147.45.

A. H. DYE, Jewel Ridge, Va.—I haven't kept any written report, but I have been in service most ever Saturday night and Sunday. I have helped in some burial services and helped preach several funerals, witnessed some conversions, assistant pastor 1 church. Your Brother in Christ. Pray for me.

J. I. TERRY, McRoberts, Ky.—I have preached about 37 sermons, held 13 prayer meetings, attended 3 conferences, have traveled about 150 miles, helped baptize 10, witnessed 26 conversions. I earnestly desire the prayer of all Gods children that I may do more in the future than I have in the past.

MONROE HUBBARD, Jenkins, Ky.—Dear Brothers in Christ, I wish to present the following report: I have preached 123 times in the past 12 months, conducted 21 funerals, called in 4 memorials, pastored 1 church, helped ordain 4 young ministers, baptized several, just don't know how many, traveled 3000 miles, spent about \$200.00 for the cause of the Gospel. Received nothing. Your humble Brother in Christ.

JOE BANKS, McRoberts, Ky.—I have preached 75 sermons, attended 80 prayer meetings, baptised 10, pastored 1 church, witnessed 30 conversions, married 2 couples and attended 4 conferences.

C. W. ISOM, Burdine, Ky.—I have preached 85 sermons, preached 5 memorial services, traveled 992 miles, witnessed 12 conversions, baptized 2, married 2 couples, attended 3 funerals, preached 3 funerals, and pastored 4 churches.

HOBERT SPRIGGS, Helier, Ky.—I have pastored 1 church, organized 1 Sunday School, preached 85 sermons, conducted 4 burial services and held about 50 prayer meetings. I need the prayers of those I love to guide me to the realms above, that I may ever be a servant of my Lord.

D. D. MOORE, McRoberts, Ky.—I have preached 84 sermons, conducted 18 prayer meetings, 7 funerals, helped in 2 revivals, witnessed 41 conversions, baptised 19 and traveled 1120 miles, all to the glory of God. Pray for me that I may continue the good work of the Lord.

LUTHER STROUTH, Helier, Ky.—I have preached 50 sermons, conducted several prayer services, and visited the sick as opportunity permitted. Read Revelations 3-9. Brethren, pray for me.

C. C. FLANNERY, Dunham, Ky.—I have preached about 25 sermons, attended about 50 prayer meetings, baptised 3 or 4 and married two couples. I have completed the 4th year of high school, traveled one and a half months selling Bibles, I attended the National Free Will Baptist Association, I visited 1 christian camp, Camp Nathanael, Hazard, Ky., I have been clerk of the Letcher County Quarterly Conference for the past year. I have been substitute teacher of the Adult Sunday School class at Dunham, Ky., I am glad to report I have preached in both Methodist and Missionary Baptist churches during the past year. I am planning to attend Berea College this year, and I covet the prayers of God's people.

DUNCAN POWERS, Wise, Va.—Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I have preached 52 sermons, held one memorial and four burial services, helped in 1 revival, witnessed 18 conversions and held 7 prayer services. Brothers pray for me that I may do more in the future than I have in the past.

ALBERT DINGUS, Burdine, Ky.—I have preached 75 sermons, pastored 4 churches, helped in several revivals, witnessed several conversions and attended several burial services. Your Brother in Christ.

VERNON KISER, Tom's Creek, Va.—Dear Brethren, I have kept an accurate report of my work. Though I'll give it the best I can. I have helped in 5 revivals, witnessed several conversions, baptized several, served in several funeral and memorials and several prayer services, I have done the best I could. Pray for me.

W. R. BISE, Millard, Va.—From June 30, 1939 to July 1, 1940. Pastored 3

churches, preached about 60 sermons, traveled about 500 miles, helped baptize 6.

W. T. BISE, I have preached 2 sermons, and counseled with many persons.

WILLARD MARTON, Neady Ridge, Va.—Assistant Evangelist, have visited 12 churches, assistant pastor of 3 churches, helped in three revivals, visited 3 quarterly meetings, held several services in private homes, attended 5 funerals or more, helped in 6 memorials helped baptize 6. Haven't kept no account of how many sermons preached. I desire your prayers.

E. C. KISER, Stratton, Va.—Evangelist, have visited 12 churches, pastored 1 church, assistant 2 churches, helped in 3 revivals, visited 3 quarterly meetings, attended several prayer services, helped preach 5 funerals or more, helped in 6 memorials, helped baptize 9, haven't kept account of how many sermons preached. Pray for me.

OBITUARIES

GENE PERRY

Born June 16, 1922, died November 17, 1939. Making her stay on earth 17 years, 5 months, 1 day. She was dearly loved by all who knew her, she was ill for two years before God called her away. We dearly loved her, but Jesus loved her best. Her mother and father sitting by her bedside, she says to them: Jesus says I can rest tonight, He has given me the light, and tells me to let my light shine on the shore.

She says I have been in Heaven, I see Jesus He has long hair. Her sister and other girls standing around her bed having bobbed hair, she says to them: you should have long hair, then began to talk of relief. If you want good relief, go to Heaven, that's where I got mine. She begged all to make their start for Heaven today. A few minutes before she died she sang this: "Make Your Start Today, For Jesus Is The Way." No choir could have sang any prettier. She looked up and said, I see Jesus coming after me. I am ready to go. She tried to show Jesus to us, who were by her bedside, she told us to read our Bibles and said: mother, I am going to Heaven and you are coming too.

She was converted about 2 months before she died. She says I haven't been started long but I'm going to Heaven. Mother you have been on the way a long time, don't never turn back. I see a bed of flowers and there are people in it large and small as infants. Written by her mother.

Rosetta Perry, Hellier, Ky.

ORPHA BAKER

I will attempt to write the obituary of a very dear friend and sister in Christ. She was born November 15, 1887, died May 12, 1940, making her stay on earth 52 years, 6 months, 27 days. She was married to Fletcher Baker about the year of 1907. To this union was born 9 children, two of them died in infancy. Orpha leaves a father, husband, 7 children, 5 grandchildren and some half brothers and sisters, and a host of friends to mourn her loss. We feel our loss is Heaven's gain, she had many sorrows and troubles in this life, but she bore them with great patience. She joined the Freewill Baptist church about 15 years before her death, lived a consecrated Christian life until the end. Oh how we do miss her in the church, she had been afflicted for 2 years, not able to go to church much, when she could she always filled her place. I want to say to husband and children, if you want to see mother again, prepare to meet God. Written by a friend and sister in Christ.

Ransie Meade

DORA COLLINS

With a sad heart I try to write the obituary of our loving sister. She was born March 3, 1896, died August 7, 1940. Daughter of William and Polly Rutherford. Married to Walker Collins in 1913. To this union was born 13 children, 10 boys and 3 girls. 10 children are still living, 3 proceeded her to the grave. She was converted in June 1938 and was baptised with her husband, joined the Freewill Baptist church.

She was Deaconess of the Hubbard Hollow church. She was a loving wife and mother. She leaves to mourn her loss, husband, 10 children, 3 sisters, 2 brothers, and a host of friends. We feel like she's shouting around that shining throne of God. I want to say to the children, if you want to see mother again, you must make mother's God your God. Written by Bonnie Collins, Madgie Collins, and her husband.

SOLOMON O. MEADE

With a sad heart I will write an obituary of my dear father. He was born November 23, 1854, died August 24, 1940, making his stay on earth 85 years, 9 months, 1 day. He was united in marriage to Louisa Couch January 18, 1876. To this union was born 12 children; 5 of them have gone on before, 4 died in infancy. Father had many sorrows in life. I think his greatest tragedy was when the news came his son Houston was slain on the battlefield in France. His first wife was called away December 8, 1908. He was married to Martha Stallard April 1913. To this union was born 2 boys, they seemed to be the joy of his old age. He leaves a loving wife, one brother, 98 years old, 9 children, 60 grandchildren, 98 great grandchildren, 3 great, great grand children and a host of friends and relatives to mourn his loss. We feel our loss is Heaven's gain. He was very patient in his suffering. He didn't want to get well, he wanted to go home, and would often say wonder why God keeps me here. He will be missed in the home, in the church and by all who knew him. We don't see how we can live without him, I don't know how long he had been a christian. He did live a faithful christian life until death called him away. We loved him so dear, but the Angels loved him better, they sweetly called him to yonders shining shore. The golden gate was open, a gentle voice said come and with a farewell unspoken, he calmly entered home. May we all concentrate our lives to God that we may be an undivided family around the throne. This is my prayer. Written by daughter

Ransie Meade

MRS. LOU SUTHERLAND

Wife of Noah Sutherland, Stratton, Va. She was born May 12, 1887, died April 19, 1940, making her stay on earth 52 years, 11 months, and 7 days. She leaves to mourn her loss, husband, four children, 2 girls and 2 boys; 6 brothers and 2 sisters, a host of relatives and friends. But we feel our loss is Heaven's gain. She was a member of the Freewill Baptist Church at Middle Branch. She confessed Christ to be her savior April 1938. Was baptized a few weeks later. She was a loving and devoted mother to her children. She spent several months in bed, and bore her sickness in patience, even in the agony of death, she said she was going to Heaven. She would sing "Will The Circle Be Unbroken." Oh how we do miss her. But I hope to meet her where there will be no pain nor death.

Written by a niece—Mrs. E. C. Kiser

THE ORGANIZATION OF A CHURCH

1. When any number of believers desire to be organized into a Freewill Baptist church, they are examined by one or more regular Free Will Baptist ministers in reference to their Christian character, doctrine and ability to sustain a church. If the examination is satisfactory the applicants are organized into the church as follows: The Bible is presented as the only rule of faith and practice. The Church Covenant shall be adopted. A prayer of consecration offered. The hand of fellowship is given. Then officers are elected.

2. There shall be male members enough to fill the public offices in the church, in order that a regular discipline may be kept up.

3. After being thus constituted they shall be at liberty, out of the number of regularly ordained ministers, to choose a pastor who shall preside over them.

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.

MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH

Each church meets as often as practicable for the public worship of God.

The times of celebrating the Lord's Supper, washing feet, and of business meetings are arranged by each local church to suit its own convenience.

Each church is required to observe the ordinances. Foot washing follows the Lord's Supper.

Conference or business meetings are opened and closed with suitable devotional exercises. The pastor acts as moderator of the business meetings of the church. In the absence of the pastor the church may meet when necessary and attend to ordinary business; but no member is excluded in the absence of the pastor.

OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

The officers of a church are a Board of Trustees, Clerk, Treasurer, Deacons and Deaconesses, Finance Committee, and Pastor.

Board of Trustees—The duty of the trustees shall be to hold title to all property, either in fee or gift, and to maintain all rights to same, to convey said property in the discretion of a four-fifths majority of those present at a regular quarterly meeting, being announced at said church three months prior to said meeting.

Clerk—It is the duty of the clerk to keep a church book and in it record the Church Covenant, the names of the members, and all the proceedings of the church, in the exercise of its discipline and management of its temporal affairs. He also signs all the letters and other communications made by authority of the church.

Treasurer—The Treasurer shall be entrusted with the funds of the church, and it shall be his duty to keep a regular account of all the money received, and from whom, and make a report of the same annually to the church, or oftener if necessary, which funds shall be drawn on the treasurer only by the order of the church.

Deacons—The deacons are elected for life or during good behavior. They should be men distinguished among their brethren for piety and benevolence. Before entering upon the duties of their office they are ordered by the pastor or other regular minister, ordination consisting of charge, laying on of hands and prayer. It is their duty to serve at the Lord's table, to distribute of the bounty of the church among its needy members, to visit the sick, to assist the pastor in promoting order in attendance upon the church, and to conduct religious meetings in the absence of the pastor.

Deaconesses—They assist the deacons and the finance committee, in visiting the sick, in collecting funds and distributing among the needy members, and enforcing proper discipline among female members.

Finance Committee—These have the general management of the finances of the church, subject to the church's control.

Pastor—Each church elects its own pastor out of the regular ordained ministers,

upon such terms as may be agreed upon between the parties themselves. It is the pastor's duty faithfully to preach the Word, to have the general superintendence of the church, to be himself an example to the flock, to visit the members, especially the sick, as he has the opportunity, and to do all within his power to promote the religious interest of the church which he serves, and to advance the cause of Christ among men.

RECEPTION OF MEMBERS

Any person who gives evidence of a change of heart, professes faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and has been immersed by a proper administrator, church covenant read, explained and accepted is received to membership by a vote of the church.

From other churches immersed persons are received by letter. No one against whom any valid objection is made is received to membership. When any member objects to the reception of an applicant, the matter is deferred until the church can ascertain the nature of the objection. If, in the opinion of the church, the objection is not a valid one, the applicant may be received. Excluded members are received again only when they confess their errors and give evidence of repentance. Persons excluded from other churches are not received, unless it be made evident that they were excluded upon unjustifiable grounds. The hand of fellowship is extended to all who are received into the membership of the church.

DISMISSION OF MEMBERS

Only members in good standing are dismissed from the church, and these for no other reason than to unite with some other church. Such members receive letters of honorable dismission and commendation, but are under the watch care of the same church until they are received into some other. A withdrawal without such letter of commendation is equivalent to excommunication, and treated as such by the church.

ORGANIZATION OF A QUARTERLY MEETING

Two or more churches wishing to organize a Quarterly Meeting, shall appoint three delegates for that purpose and request of an adjoining Quarterly meeting a council of not less than five members and one ordained minister which will meet with the delegates and proceed.

1. To examine the delegates respecting the Christian character and doctrines of their respective churches, and the reason for such an organization as desired.

2. The right hand of fellowship and consecrating prayer.

3. The election of a moderator, clerk, and treasurer, and then proceed with such business as may come before it.

4. Delegates are elected to some Yearly Meeting or Association of the Freewill Baptists, and instructed for membership in such body.

YEARLY MEETING CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

We, the members of the Free Will Baptist Church, in order to form a more perfect union and promote Christ's kingdom, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the John Thomas Yearly Meeting.

Article 1. This Yearly Meeting shall be called the John Thomas Yearly Meeting, and shall be composed of such regularly organized and well disciplined Free Will Baptist Quarterly Meetings, conveniently located, as may embody themselves under the Constitution.

Art. 2. The Conference of this Yearly Meeting shall be composed of ministers and delegates who are members of the Quarterly meetings, each Quarterly Meeting being entitled to three delegates from each church.

Art. 3. The officers of this Yearly Meeting shall be a clerk, treasurer, and moderator, and shall be chosen at every session of the Yearly Meeting, with such assistant as may be found necessary.

Art. 4. Any well organized and well regulated Free Will Baptist Quarterly Meeting, composed of such churches as conform to the usages and adopt the doctrines of

the Free Will Baptist denominations, as published in the minutes of the John Thomas Yearly Meeting, and are in favor of the benevolent enterprises of the denomination, may at any time, on application, by vote of this Yearly Meeting, become a member thereof.

Art. 5. This Yearly Meeting shall have power to discipline the Quarterly Meetings of which it is composed, and to exclude them for disorderly work if their labor proves unsuccessful.

Art. 6. The session of this Yearly Meeting shall convene on Thursday before the 2nd Sunday in September, at which time it shall be the duty of the Quarterly Meetings of which the Yearly Meeting is composed to represent themselves by delegates, and report their standing, prospects and statistics by letter; at which time the Yearly Meeting shall act on such questions and topics as may be referred to it by its respective Quarterly Meetings, and transact such other business not repugnant to this Constitution, nor the usages of the denomination, as in its judgment may promote the cause of Christ and the interest of the churches and Quarterly Meetings within the limits of the Yearly Meeting.

Art. 7. This Yearly Meeting shall have power to adopt any regulation or by-laws, not inconsistent with the Constitution, which may be deemed essential to the further regulations of its sessions.

Art. 8. This Conference shall not recognize any minister or delegate unless they comply with the constitution and by-laws thereof.

Art. 9. Each Quarterly Meeting shall send into the Yearly Meeting treasurer its pro rata part of funds, that are necessary to take care of the Yearly Meeting.

Art. 10. This Constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of four-fifths of the ministers and delegates present at any session, notice of such intended alteration having been given and recorded at the next previous session.

BY-LAWS

1. No conference shall be held with less than three ordained ministers and four delegates belonging to this Yearly Meeting.

2. At the opening of each conference, the clerk's books shall be presented and the proceedings of last conference read.

3. 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 quarterly meeting of the conference.

4. The conference may extend to visiting brethren all the privileges of the body, save that of voting.

5. 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.

6. No member of the general conference shall be at liberty to withdraw without leave of the moderator.

7. The conference shall always adjourn by vote.

8. There shall annually be a committee of finance chosen to settle with the treasurer and report to conference.

9. Conference shall always open and adjourn by prayer and praise of God.

10. 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 or at the demand of any one member.

11. All resolutions shall be submitted in writing.

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

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

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

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

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

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

18. All committees may be named by the moderator, by request of the conference.

19. 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.

20. 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.

21. The moderator, in case of a tie, may cast the deciding vote.

22. All members should vote on one side or the other, unless excused by the moderator.

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

24. The minutes of the conference shall be signed by the moderator and the clerk.

25. Each Quarterly Meeting shall ask its respective churches to deal with its members when necessary, according to Matthew 18:15, 17.

26. After members accept the Bible as their rule of faith and practice, then the right hand of fellowship shall be given, which is the door into the church.

27. If the minority of a Quarterly Meeting be grieved over the ruling of the majority, they have the right to appeal to the Yearly Meeting, and its decision shall be final.

28. No minister shall have a vote in the conference unless he is a member in good standing with his church and conference.

E. A. Reedy, S. M. McFall, D. E. Smith, Arthur Casteel, J. C. Rasnake, W. R. Stallard

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. All ministers in the John Thomas Yearly Meeting are required to attach themselves to the Ministers' Conference and must be governed by the rules and regulations of the Ministers' Conference.

4. All ministers belonging to the Conference are required to report themselves to the Conference annually, either in person or by letter or both.

5. All ministers 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. All ministers 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.

THE MINISTRY

1. No member of our connection shall be at liberty to take upon himself the public ministry of the Word, unless he feels divinely called, and make report of the same to the church to which he belongs, and if the church shall be satisfied with his qualifications, and call of such person, then she may grant said person the liberty to exercise his or her gifts by exhortation, for twelve months.

2. If they prove satisfactory to the church, they shall be recommended to the Quarterly Meeting, if satisfactory to same, may license said applicants or recom-

mend them to the Ordaining Council, and shall be ordained if proven satisfactory to the Council.

3. The Ordaining Council must be appointed by the Yearly Meeting. Three ordained ministers from each Quarterly Meeting shall serve for a period of twelve months. Any three may transact the business of examining the applicants for ordination.

4. When a minister of another denomination wishes to unite with the Free Will Baptist Church, he or she must first join this church. Then the proceedings are the same as with licentiates.

5. Any ministers leaving the Free Will Baptist Church and desiring to be reinstated, shall be dealt with as though they had never belonged to the church.

6. If a minister becomes disorderly, or preaches a doctrine contrary to the Free Will Baptist faith, the minister may at once be called to question by the church offended. They must be given a fair and impartial trial, by evidence mainly by the Free Will Baptist members; if the charges shall be sustained, they shall be dealt with as follows:

The churches have the exclusive right to deal with the ministers under their care.

If the charges are against a licentiate, it must be reported to the Quarterly Meeting, and their decision shall be final.

If the charges are against an ordained minister, then the Quarterly Meeting shall report to, or call the ordaining council together, and they shall try the case, and their decision shall be final.

7. Any ordained minister of the Free Will Baptists may serve the church in the absence of the pastor, in every Gospel order required of him by the church.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe that there is but one living, true and eternal God the Father, of whom are all things from everlasting to everlasting glorious and immutable in all His attributes. I Cor. 8:6; Isa. 40:28.

2. We believe that there is one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, the only begotten Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary, whom God freely sent into this world, because of the great love wherewith He loved the world; and Christ as freely gave Himself a ransom for all, tasting death for every man; who was buried and rose again the third day, and ascended into heaven, from whence we look for Him the second time in the clouds of heaven at the last day to judge both the quick and dead.—I Tim. 2:5, 6; Heb. 2:9; St. John 3:16; Rev. 1:17; Acts 24:15; I John 2:2.

3. We believe that there is one Holy Ghost, the precious gift of the Father, through his dear Son, unto the world, who quickeneth and draweth sinners home to God.—St. John 16:7, 8; Acts 2:3; Eph. 2:1; Eph. 4:4-6.

4. We believe in the beginning God made man upright, and placed him in a state of glory without the least mixture of misery, from which he voluntarily, by transgression, fell, and by means brought on himself a miserable and mortal state subject to death.—Gen. 2:17; 3:19.

5. We believe that God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance and the knowledge of truth, that they might be saved; for which end Christ hath commanded the Gospel to be preached among all nations and to every creature.—Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; John 3:15-17; I Tim. 2:4.

6. We believe that no man shall suffer in hell for want of a Christ who died for him, but as the Scripture has said for denying the Lord that bought them; because they believed not in the name of the only begotten Son of God. Unbelief, therefore, being the cause why the just and righteous God of heaven will condemn the children of men, it follows against all argument that all men, at one time or other, are found in such capacity as that through the grace of God they may be eternally saved.—Acts 17:30; Mark 6:6; Heb. 3:10; I John 5:1, 10.

7. We believe that all people reaching the years of accountability must be born again. Then by trusting His promises and keeping His commandments until the

end of life, we shall be saved.—II Tim. 4:7.

8. We believe the whole Scriptures are infallably true and that they are the only rules of faith and practice.—II Tim. 3:16, 17.

9. We believe in the doctrine of General Provision made of God in Christ, for the benefit of all mankind, who repent and believe the Gospel.—Luke 14:16-20; Matt. 28:19, 20; Luke 13:3-5; Acts 3:19; Mark 1:15.

10. We believe that sinners are drawn to God the Father by the Holy Ghost, through Christ His Son, and that the Holy Ghost offers His divine aid to all the human family; so as they all might be happy, would they give place to His divine teachings; whereas, such who do not receive the divine impressions of His Holy Spirit, shall, at a future day, own their condemnation just and charge themselves with their own damnation, for willfully rejecting the offers of sovereign grace.—Matt. 11:27; St. John 6:45, 65; Ps. 1:1; Tit. 2:11, 12; Jer. 22:29.

11. We believe that men, not considered simply as men, but ungodly men, were of old ordained to condemnation, considered such who turn the grace of God into lasciviousness, denying the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ who bought them, and therefore, shall bring upon themselves swift destruction; but we observe that they, and such the Apostle saith because they receive not the love of the truth, that they might be saved, therefore, the indignation and wrath of God is upon every soul of man that doeth evil, living and dying therein; for here is no respect of persons with God.—Jude 1:14; II Peter 2:1; II Thess. 2:11; Rom. 2:19-11.

12. We believe that all children dying in infancy, having not actually transgressed against the law of God, in their own persons, are only subject to the first death, which was brought on them by the fall of the first Adam, and that none of them dying in that state shall suffer punishment in hell by the guilt of Adam's sin, for "of such is the kingdom of God"—I Cor. 15:22; Matt. 18:2-5; Mark 9:36, 37; Matt. 19-14.

13. We believe that good works are the fruits of saving faith, and that, in the use of the means of grace, and not out of the use of those means, eternal life is promised to men.—Rev. 22:14, 15; Isa. 1:19, 20; Matt. 7:8; Jer. 6:16; Luke 13:34, 35.

14. We believe that no man has any warrant in the Holy Scriptures for justification before God through his own works, power or ability, which he has in and of himself, only as he by grace is made able to come to God through Jesus Christ; believing the righteousness of Jesus Christ to be imputed to all Believers for their eternal acceptance with God.—Rom. 4:24; Acts 8:20, 21.

15. We believe that all things are foreseen in the wisdom of God, so that God knoweth whatsoever can or cannot come to pass upon all supposed conditions; yet not as having decreed any person to everlasting life, out of respect of mere choice further than He hath appointed the godly unto life, and the ungodly who die in sin, unto death.—Heb. 4:13; Prov. 8:22-31; Matt. 25:31-46.

16. We believe as touching Gospel ordinances, in believers' baptism, laying on of hands, receiving of the sacrament in bread and wine, washing the saints' feet, anointing the sick with oil in the name of the Lord, fasting, prayer, singing praise of God, and the public ministry of the Word, with every institution of the Lord we shall find in the New Testament.—Mark 16:15-16; Acts 8:17; Acts 19:6; Luke 22:19, 20; John 13:5-7; Jas. 5:14.

17. We believe the Gospel mode of baptism is by immersion, and that believers are the only subjects for baptism.—Matt. 3:16; Mark 1:9, 10; Acts 2:38, 39; Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12.

18. We believe in a general resurrection of the dead and a final judgment at the last day.—John 5:28, 29; II Cor. 5:10.

19. We believe the happiness of the righteous is eternal and the torments of the wicked are endless.—Matt. 25:46.

