

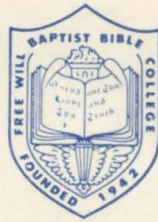
MINUTES
OF THE
JOHN THOMAS
ASSOCIATION

OF
Freewill Baptist
Nineteenth Session

HELD AT
Burdine Church
Burdine, Kentucky
September 11 - 14, 1941



CLINCHCO, VA
THE MORNING HERALD PRESS
1941



FREE WILL BAPTIST
BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented by

Mrs. E. O. Griffith

MINUTES
OF THE
JOHN THOMAS
ASSOCIATION

OF
Freewill Baptist

Nineteenth Session

HELD AT
Burdine Church
Burdine, Kentucky
September 11 - 14, 1941

The next session will be held with the Mill Creek Church, Tenno, Va.
beginning Thursday before the Second Sunday in September, 1942.

Rev. W. R. BISE, Moderator.
Rev. E. C. KISER, Clerk.
CARL SAULS. Treasurer.

PROCEEDINGS

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

Introductory sermon: Rev. C. W. Isom. Lesson read by Monroe Hubbard, 8th Chapter of Romans. Prayer by Linda Caldwell. Closed by a song.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2:30 P. M.

E. C. Kiser, Clerk, having charge of same, read lesson, 7th Chapter of Matthew. Prayer by Madell Dingus. Clerk now declares 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. W. R. Bise was elected Moderator. Rev. Mack Gardner was elected assistant Moderator, and these 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

Sam Privitte	M. F. Hess	Everett Potter
Lee Hamby	Pauline Byrd	Sarah Potter
Ira B. Hamby	Bennie Kennedy	U. S. G. Meade
Lester Abel	James Case	Luther Dingus
Cora Abel	D. L. Beverly	Jennie Whited
Onnolee Nash	Gladys Holbrook	C. H. Meade
Lura Vanover	Thurman Castle	Elsie Whited
Virgie Swindell	W. R. Byrd	Arvil Counts
N. B. Lambert	Mrs. J. W. Dingus	Lula Kennedy
Ruben Lambert	Pearl Bise	Vodney Case
R. J. Mullins	Lila Salyers	Harrison Deel
Walter Whited	Linda Caldwell	Connie Browning
Luther Taylor	Lara Keith	

ENROLLMENT OF MINISTERS PRESENT

W. R. Bise	Monroe Hubbard	J. I. Terry
Mack Gardner	J. C. Rasnake	John Sinclair
J. W. Dingus	Emory Vanover	L. D. Coleman
C. W. Isom	A. L. Dingus	W. K. King
Albert Dingus	E. M. Rose	
E. C. Kiser	D. L. Smith	

VISITING MINISTERS

Horton Davis	C. Z. Cavin	Scott Castle
F. S. Van Hoose	W. L. Hooper	D. L. Coleman

The following appointments were made by the Moderator:

PULPIT COMMITTEE

R. J. Mullins	U. S. G. Meade	W. C. Lambert
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BUSINESS COMMITTEE

C. W. Isom	Lester Abel	N. B. Lambert
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COMMITTEE ON NEXT SESSION

J. W. Dingus	N. H. Stanley	Ruben Lambert
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By move and second this conference stood adjourned until Friday, September 12th, 9:30 A. M. Preaching, Thursday, 3:00 P. M., by Rev. W. R. Bise and Mack

Gardner. Lesson read, 13th Chapter of Romans. Prayer by J. W. Dingus. Text: Second verse of the same chapter.

Thursday Night, 7:30

Precaching service, 7:30 P. M. Lesson read by E. C. Kiser, First Psalm. Prayer by Monroe Hubbard. Preaching by E. C. Kiser and E. C. Rasnake. Text: Daniel, Fifth Chapter, 27th Verse.

FRIDAY MORNING

Conference opened by a song. Lesson, Fourth Chapter of Corinthians, by Moderator W. R. Bise. Prayer by Emory Vanover. Moderator calls for Quarterly Meeting reports.

LETCHER COUNTY QUARTERLY MEETING REPORTS

To the John Thomas Freewill Baptist Association with Burdine Church from the 11th to the 14th of September, 1941. Greetings:

The Letcher County Quarterly Meeting met with Marchels Branch Church from the 23th to the 24th of August, 1941.

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

Evert Potter	Lee Hamby	Oma Gardner
Sarah Potter	Ira Hamby	Richard Rucker
Eliza Mayhew	Nellie Wright	Eibert Bailey
Melving Kellins	Loritta Flanagan	Vivian Mamies
Muncie Isom	Nina Thipps	C. O. Caudill
Lillie Isom	Ella Davis	Bernard Cawell
Stanford Swindal	Fannie Spriggs	Linda Cawell
Vergie Swindal	Mattie Chrildess	James Riley
Thurman Castle	Janell Strouth	Anna Lee Nash
Maydell Dingus	Margett Branham	Pauline Byard
W. R. Byrd	Lige Bartley	Lola Caudill
Sam Privett	Spicy Moo e	

We have seven churches with a membership of 497. Twenty-seven ordained ministers. Value of church property, \$1,500. We have four Sunday Schools, average attendance 300. Pray for us.

DICKENSON COUNTY QUARTERLY MEETING REPORT

To the Nineteenth Annual Association of the Freewill Baptist Church which will convene with the Burdine Church on the Thursday before the second Sunday in September, 1941.

Dickenson County Quarterly meeting met with the Fleming Town Church on the Friday before the Fourth Sunday in July, 1941. Appointed the following delegates to represent us in the Association:

Puther Chapel Church, Bee Kiser, Cecil Mullins, Pearl McFalls, Lois Kiser; Valley View Church, Rusel Fleming, Florie Keith, Lura Vanover, Bona Vanover; Rachel Chapel Church, I. S. Gilliam; Clinchco Church, Ernest Johnson, Osie Harison, Mae Jessie, Flora McCarty; George's Fork Church, D. L. Beverley; Middle Branch Church, Noah Lambert, Arvil Counts, Ritter Lambert, Mabel Counts; Rugsby Church, Lila Salyers; Pine Grove Church, Ora Salyers, Opel Salyers, Feebie Kiser; New Lights Church, Rolan Dotson, Gladys Justice; Neely Ridge Church, Willie Vest, Mrs. Orsie Counts; Fremont Church, Homer Barrett, S. P. Reedy, Casby Edwards; Tarpon Church, J. H. Wright, Gladys Holbrooks; Hamilton Chapel Church, U. S. G. Meade; Hubert Hollow Church, George M. Hubert; Charlie's Chapel Church, Vadna Case, James Case; Mill Creek Church, Harrison Deel, Mrs. Harrison Deel; Fleming Town Church, Linza Mullens, Florence Mullens, Polly Vanover; Lick Fork Church, Conna Browning, Emma Browning, Paul Vanover, Dorris Vanover; Camp Creek Church, Leonard Mullins, Tandy Hall, W. W. Noles; Duncan Gap Church, Monroe Hall, Add Hall; Philadelphia Church, W. M. Beverley, C. W. Willis; Honey Camp Church, Robert Rose, Josh W. Rose, Fallie Rose.

Our standing is as follows: Twenty-three churches, with a membership of 1,183; 38 ordained ministers, one under the watch care of the church; value of church property, \$18,700.00; eight Sunday Schools with 550 on roll, average attendance of

459. Done and signed by order of the Quarterly Meeting.

Rev. E. M. Rose, Moderator

Rev. W. R. Bise, Assistant Moderator

N. H. Stanley, Clerk

Clinton Lambert, Assistant Clerk

NEW DURM QUARTERLY MEETING REPORT

Cleveland, Virginia, August 9, 1941. To the John Thomas Freewill Baptist Association from the 11th to the 14th of September, 1941, Greetings:

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

I. F. Stephens

Mattie Hess

Jennie Whited

E. R. Rasnake

Grover Wilson

M. F. Hess

Walter Whited

Mary A. Rasnake

Letcher Musick

Guss Hess

Myrtle Rasnake

Our standing is as follows: We have three churches with a membership of 128; eight ordained ministers; one licensate; value of church property, \$2,500.00; we have \$20.32 in treasury. We are all in good standing. Please grant our delegates seats in your conference.

R. S. Ball, Moderator, Davenport, Va.

H. H. Ball, Clerk, Davenport, Va.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION, 2:30

Opened by a song. Second Chapter of First Peter read by Moderator W. R. Bise. Prayer by Alva Dingus.

Moderator calls for reports from business committee. After due consideration we want to recommend to the Association that we drop Thursday from our Association and only have three days instead of four. Let the Association from now on begin on Friday instead of Thursday.

C. W. Isom

Lester Abel

N. B. Lambert (Business Men)

This was tabled until next session.

COMMITTEE ON NEXT SESSION

We, the committee on next session, do agree to send next session to the Mill Creek Church.

J. W. Dingus

N. H. Stanley

Ruben Lambert

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

New Durm:

J. C. Rasnake

A. H. Dye

W. E. Rasnake

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Number of Minutes for Dickenson County, 700; New Durm, 200; and Letcher County, 300.

Corresponding messengers to the Southwest Virginia Association, to convene with ?????????:

E. M. Rose, D. L. Smith, Vernon Kiser.

Kentucky State Association, Louisa, Kentucky, the Thursday before the third Saturday in June, 1942:

Monroe Hubbard, Albert Dingus, Johnny Sykes.

Sandy Valley Association, the Thursday, before the fourth Sunday in August, 1942:

Willard Martin, E. C. Kiser, N. B. Lambert.

Conference adjourned until the Thursday before the second Sunday in September, 1942. Conference dismissed by Horton Davis.

Preaching, 3 P. M., by E. M. Rose and D. L. Smith. Lesson, Eighth Chapter of

Romans. Text: First Verse of Fifth Chapter of Romans. Prayer by Mary Powers.

NIGHT SERVICE 7:30

Lesson read by F. S. Van Hoose, Fourth Chapter of Second Timothy. Prayer by Scott Castle. Text, "Preach the Word," by F. S. Van Hoose and W. L. Hooper.

SATURDAY MORNING, 9:30

Conference opened by song. Ministers' Conference. Lesson read by Clerk. Prayer, E. A. Reedy. W. R. Bise elected for Moderator. E. C. Kiser elected for Clerk. Moderator calls for ministers' reports. By move and second the reports were received and passed good.

REPORT OF LETCHER COUNTY MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

Letcher County Ministers' Conference met with Marchels Branch Church, August 24, 1941. Organized by electing C. W. Isom Moderator and Johnny Sykes Clerk. The following ministers were present:

L. D. Mayhan	Joe Banks	W. K. King
Monroe Hubbard	Porter Brewer	Leonard Powers
Eseral McPeeks	Jimmie Collier	M. F. Rose
C. W. Isom	Albert Dingus	James Wright
J. W. Dngus	C. C. Flannery	Worley Baulding
D. D. Moore	Hobert Spiggs	E. P. Gipson
Luther Strouth	Marion Strunk	Jessie Hale
D. A. Powers	H. H. Blackburn	Richard Lee
J. I. Terry	Mack Gardner	Jimmie Martin

We have 27 ordained ministers. Character and doctrine passed as good.

C. W. Isom, Moderator

Johnny Sykes, Clerk

REPORT OF DICKENSON COUNTY MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

Dickenson County Ministers' Conference met with the Fleming Town Church on the Saturday before the fourth Sunday in July, 1941. Organized by electing E. M. Rose Moderator, W. R. Bise Assistant Moderator, N. H. Stanley Clerk, and Clinton Lambert Assistant Clerk.

We have 37 ordained ministers and one licentiate. The character of each minister was voted on and passed good except two. Dock Kilgore was dismissed. A committee was appointed to go and see Brother W. T. Bise and report to the next Quarterly Meeting.

There being no further business before this conference, by a move and second this conference stands adjourned until the Saturday before the fourth Sunday in July, 1942.

E. M. Rose, Moderator

W. R. Bise, Assistant Moderator

N. H. Stanley, Clerk

Clinton Lambert, Assistant Clerk

REPORT OF NEW DURM MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

New Durm Ministers' Conference met with Clinchview Church the Saturday before the second Sunday in August. Organized by electing R. S. Ball Moderator and H. H. Ball Clerk

We have eight ordained ministers and one licentiate. We called and voted on each minister separate. By move and second character of each ministers was passed as good. Conference adjourned until the Saturday before the second Sunday in August, 1942.

R. S. Ball, Moderator

H. H. Ball, Clerk

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

This conference appointed J. C. Rasnake evangelist, and A. H. Dye, assistant, over New Durm Conference; E. C. Kiser evangelist, and E. M. Rose, assistant, over Dickenson County, this closing this work.

This conference stands adjourned until the Saturday before the second Sunday

in September, 1942, which will convene with the Mill Creek Church, Tenso, Va.

11:00 A. M. SERVICE

Lesson read by C. Z. Cavin, 10th Chapter of St. Mark, beginning with the 17th verse, including the 27th. Prayer by E. J. Kilgore. Preaching text, 47th verse (same chapter), preaching by C. Z. Cavin and Scott Castle. Adjourned for dinner.

2:30 P. M. SERVICE

Preaching service. B. R. Powers read Eighth Chapter of Romans. Prayer by E. A. Reedy. Text, First Timothy, Second Chapter, First Verse. Concluded by Millard F. Van Hoose.

SATURDAY NIGHT, 7:30

Lesson read by J. C. Rasnake, 13th Chapter of First Corinthians. Prayer by C. C. Conley. Text, Daniel, Fifth Chapter, 27th Verse, "Thou Are Weighed In the Balance and Found Wanting." Concluded service, Albert Dingus.

SUNDAY MORNING, 11

Preaching by Oat Ellis, of Huntington, W. Va., and Albert Dingus. Prayer by Duran Hibbitts. Text, Romans, Sixth Chapter, 23rd Verse.

MINISTERS' REPORT 1941

D. A. Powers: Sermons preached, 72; revivals held, 2; conversions witnessed, 17; number baptized, 6; burials attended, 11; memorials held, 2; prayer services held, 18; total amount received from all sources, \$22.50.

E. C. Kiser: Churches pastored, 3; sermons preached, 75; revivals held, 1; conversions witnessed, 6; number baptized, 6; burials attended, 6; memorials held, 12; prayer services held, 35; couples married, 3; total amount received from all sources, \$10.00.

H. W. Smith: Sermons preached, 75; revivals held, 3; conversions witnessed, 15; number baptized, 23; burials attended, 7; memorials held, 10; prayer services held, 12; couples married, 6; total amount received from all sources, \$25.00.

John St. Clair: Churches Pastored, 1; revivals held, 1; conversions witnessed, 2; number baptized, 3; burials attended, 2; memorials held, 4; miles traveled, 150.

L. D. Coleman: Churches pastored, 1 home church; sermons preached, 73; conversions witnessed, 4; number baptized, 1; burials attended, 7; memorials held, 8; couples married, 254; miles traveled, 700; total amount received from all sources, for expenses \$17.85.

D. L. Smith: Sermons preached, 20; revivals held, 1; burials attended, 5; memorials held, 10; couples married, 1; miles traveled, 790; total amount received from all sources, \$2.50.

J. C. Rasnake: Churches pastored, 1; sermons preached, 125; revivals held, 2; conversions witnessed, 30; number baptized, 15; burials attended, 10; memorials held, 13; churches organized, 1; couples married, 2; miles traveled, 950; total amount received from all sources, \$75.00.

R. S. Ball: Sermons preached, 30; revivals held, 2; burials attended, 2; memorials held, 2; prayer services held, 14; couples married, 2; miles traveled, 50.

W. E. Rasnake: Churches pastored, 2; sermons preached, 53; conversions witnessed, 8; number baptized, 6; burials attended, 1; memorials held, 3; prayer services held, 1; miles traveled, 450.

Rhoda Dye: Sermons preached, 74; revivals held, 1; burials attended, 4; memorials held, 2; miles traveled, 2,000; total amount received from all sources, \$6.00.

A. H. Dye: Sermons preached, 71; revivals held, 1; burials attended, 4; memorials held, 2; miles traveled, 2,000; total amount received from all sources, \$6.00.

H. H. Ball: Churches pastored, 1; sermons preached, 58; conversions witnessed, 8; number baptized, 1; burials attended, 1; memorials held, 5; prayer services held, 1; miles traveled, 525.

W. K. King: To the yearly meeting at Burdine, Ky.: I want you all to pray for me that God will help me to do more for him the next year than I have in the past. Brethren, please pray for me, your Brother in Christ.

Mack Gardner: Sermons preached, 8; revivals held, 2; conversions witnessed, many; burials attended, 2; prayer services held, 2; couples married, 6; miles traveled, 100.

J. P. Banks: Churches pastored, 1; sermons preached, 100; conversions witnessed, 13; number baptized, 2; burials attended, 3; memorials held, 2; prayer services held, 25; couples married, 7; miles traveled, 350.

James Reedie: Sermons preached, 35; conversions witnessed, 35; number baptized, 15; burials attended, 10; prayer services held, 50.

D. D. Moore: Sermons preached, 60; conversions witnessed, 8; burials attended, 4; memorials held, 8; prayer services held, 10; miles traveled, 800.

Hobert Spriggs: Churches pastored, 1; sermons preached, 50; conversions witnessed, 4; number baptized, 1; burials attended, 4; memorials held, 4; prayer services held, 65; couples married, 3; miles traveled, about 200.

C. W. Ison: Churches pastored, 4; sermons preached, 85; conversions witnessed, 5; burials attended, 5; memorials held, 6; prayer services held, 6 or 8; couples married, 2; miles traveled, 685; total amount received from all sources, \$75.00.

Monroe Hubbard: Churches pastored, 1; sermons preached, 98; revivals held, 1; conversions witnessed, 25; number baptized, 10; burials attended, 25; memorials held, 6; prayer services held, about 50; couples married, about 50; miles traveled, 3,000.

J. W. Diagus: Assistant pastor, 1; sermons preached, 35; conversions witnessed, 31; burials attended, 3; memorials held, 2; prayer services held, 25; churches organized, 1; miles traveled, 1,075; total amount received from all sources, \$21.60.

O B I T U A T I E S

JOHN HENRY RAINES

Brother John Henry Raines, aged about 73 years. Confessed a hope in Christ, and was baptized by L. D. Coleman on the 21st day of August, 1927, and was given the right hand of fellowship by the Union Light Church of Freewill Baptists at Paw Paw, Ky. Brother Henry was a faithful member and was loved by all his brothers and sisters and was in good standing and fellowship when he departed this life on the 25th day of October, 1939.

His spirit has returned to God who gave it and his body is returning to the dust from whence it came, awaiting the restitution of all things. His spirit, soul and body will unite again at the call of Jehovah, the God of Abraham. God has shown man how to live and Brother Raines accepted Gods way. Friends sinners, prepare to meet God. Written by his brother in Christ.

L. D. Coleman, Paw Paw, Ky.

MARGARETTE ELIZABETH POWERS

With a sad heart I'll try to write this obituary of my dear Mother. She was born February 16, 1880, died February 13, 1929. Her stay on earth was 49 years.

She was the daughter of Lucile and Andia Yates, married Rev. C. A. Powers. To this union was born 14 children, 6 girls, 8 boys. Four preceded Mother to the grave. She left a companion and a host of friends to mourn her loss.

She professed a hope in Christ when 12 years old, lived a devoted life 37 years. She was a member of the Freewill Baptist Church at Rugsby.

She was ill three weeks. I asked her what hurt her. She said "Nothing, I have taken to my bed to die. I have got to leave you all next Sunday, and I want to sing and pray with my children until then." She did and held prayer herself and when Sunday came, she told us to leave the room. She wanted to talk to the Lord. She soon called us back into the room and said, "God has promised me I can live one more week." She called her children around her bed for prayer. We thought her mind was bad because she talked so much about people who had gone on. She tried to show me Jesus around her bed. I would say, I couldn't see Him, what hurts

you Mother? "Nothing, child, I can see the very courts of Heaven. I wish you were ready to go home with me." I tried to tell her she was at home, though she would smile at me and say, "My home is up yonder." She told me to go out to a little pine and look there. There wasn't any grass where she had prayed so much. She told me to go there and get ready to go with her.

She says, "I've let my light shine. Uncle Henry Smith is coming." We weren't looking for him. In a short time he came. When he came in, Mother said, "Kiss me with a holy kiss and rejoice." On Saturday, she called us around her bed in the morning. "I have to leave you all." Her request was for Henry Smith to talk over her and said Uncle Ruben Powers, and Hobert, her son, had brought her a crown and a golden pair of slippers. Ask her companion what he wanted her to tell Ruben. He said, "Tell him I'm coming." She kissed all of us and told us not to talk any more, she was going to rest. The next morning at 10 o'clock she left us.

We love her, yes we did, but the angels loved her more. They called her to that bright shining home. I feel I'm ready to meet Mother. Pray that the children that are not ready will prepare to meet Mother. Written by daughter and son-in-law.

Dellie and Monroe Hall

MRS. LITHA MARIE BOWMAN

Wife of Ernest Bowman, daughter of Bige and Jennie Bise. She was born May 31, 1909, died March 22, 1941, making her stay on earth 31 years, 9 months and 22 days. She was married to Ernest Bowman, March 24, 1933, at Clintwood, Va. They lived happily together in their little home at Stratton, Va., until death separated him. She was in Dante Hospital when the death angel called her away. An infant son was born to her March 11, 1941, Rodger Ernest Bowman. Its little form was stilled in death. It preceded Mother to the grave 11 days.

Litha Marie leaves to mourn her loss a loving companion, a dear Father and Mother, seven brothers, one sister, and a host of relatives and friends. She was dearly loved by all who knew her.

She was a member of the Freewill Baptist Church at Puther Chapel, was converted December, 1935, while Ben Powers was preaching in a revival meeting at Puther Chapel Church. She was baptized at McClure, Va., May 3, 1936, by Uncle Will Bise and Rev. Emory Reedy. She lived a faithful Christian life until death. How we miss her God only knows. Those smiles on her face and kind words she had for everyone. She is sleeping beneath the sod but her life still lives. We will remember the night she prayed in our little home. Her heart's desire was that her dear companion would be a Christian before it was too late; also her brothers and school children. I feel like our loss is heaven's gain. May we all prepare to meet God that we will see Litha Marie again where sad partings can't come. Written by a sister-in-law.

Mrs. Beatrice Kiser

REV. R. A. POWERS

Rev. R. A. Powers was born October 6, 1869, deceased this life October 18, 1935, making his stay on earth 66 years and 12 days. He professed Christ 40 years ago. He was the father of 14 children, 4 dead and 10 living. Four children and his wife preceded him to the tomb, leaving six boys and 4 girls living on earth. He had a host of friends and relatives who mourned his loss. He was called to preach October 28, 1915. He told his daughters and daughter-in-laws not to worry nor trouble over him. The day he died he dreamed that Brother Ruben told him to wait a minute till he got Hobart to sleep and he would put him over behind him. He said he was going to meet Liza. He told us all not to worry over him, that Jesus was welcoming him home.

CICERO MORGAN COX

Cicero Morgan Cox was born May 12, 1868. Aged 73 years, 3 weeks and 4 days. It is with a sad and aching heart that I'm attempting to write this obituary of a kind

and loving father who is missed so much. He leaves a wife and 8 children and a host of friends to mourn his loss. His loving cheerful face will be missed in our home. He went to church as long as he was able, then he had church (singing and preaching), in our home, as long as he lived. In his dying hour he told his children he wanted them to meet him in a better home, where there would be no pain or sorrow. All will be peace and joy.

He professed a hope in Christ and united with the Freewill Baptist Church September 11, 1938. He was baptized September 18, 1938, by Rev. C. W. Isom and Thurston Meade. He lived a faithful Christian life until death.

A loved one from us is gone

A voice we loved is still

A place is vacant in our home,

That never can be filled.

Sleep on, dear Dad, sleep and rest,

God has called you as he knew best.

Written by his daughter.

Priscilla Meade

GARNET LOUIS KELLEY

Garnet Louis Kelley, the infant son of Gonan Kelley and Fannie Kelley, was born December 7, 1940, died December 29, 1940.

He leaves Father and mother and 1 Brother. We all shared it loss is their eternal gain. They did all they knew to keep the little babe, but God knew best and took the little one to rest. Written by his aunt.

Silva Owens

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 Freewill 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 suits 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 into 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 one body.

YEARLY MEETING CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

We, the members of the Freewill 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 Freewill Baptist Quarterly Meetings, conveniently located, as may embody themselves under the Constitution.

Article 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.

Article 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.

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

Article 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

Article 6. The session of this Yearly Meeting shall convene on Thursday before the second 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.

Article 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.

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

Article 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.

Article 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 or 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 recommend 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 Freewill Baptist Church, he or she must first join this church. Then the proceedings are the

same as with licentiates.

5. Any ministers leaving the Freewill 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 Freewill 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 Freewill 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 licensiate, 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 Freewill 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. 2:19-21.

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.

