

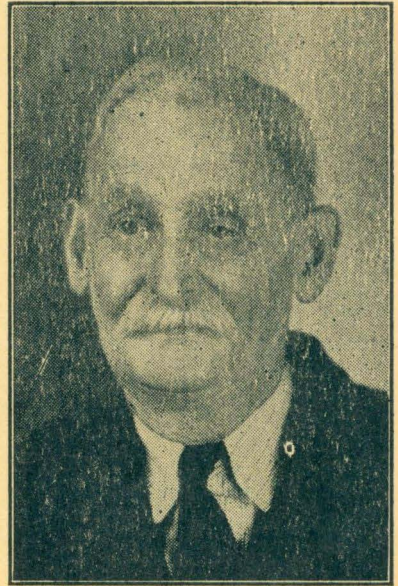
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MINUTES
OF THE
JOHN THOMAS ASSOCIATION
OF
FREEWILL BAPTIST
TWENTY FOURTH SESSION
HELD WITH
EPHESUS CHURCH
SWORDS CREEK, VA.
SEPTEMBER 5th TO 8th 1946

IN MEMORY OF



Rev. E. A. Reedy
Millard Va



Rev. William Robert Stallard
Coeburn, Va.

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

St. John 11, 25.

PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1946

Introductory message was delivered by J. C. Rasnake. Reading for lesson 6 verses of 2nd Chapter of Daniel. Prayer by Sister Bagsby.

THURSDAY EVENING SESSION 2 P.M.

Conference called together with singing. Clerk having charge of Conference, reading for lesson the first 12 verses of 3rd Chapter of Acts. Prayer by Monroe Hubbard. Clerk continuing by reading Minutes of last session. Same standing approved as read. Clerk proceeded by declaring Conference open for any business that might come before it. The first item was enrollment of delegates, ministers, visiting ministers, and corresponding messengers. They were as follows:

M. F. Hess
Walter Whited
Will Robinett
Ellen Dye

L. M. Spencer
Jane Reedy
Dallas Martin
Mrs. Everett Johnson

Ray Vance
W. E. Rasnake
Henry Ball
Everett Rasnake

New Durm
Sarah Nelson
Cleve Deel
Ella Dye
Arbutus Rasnake

Dickenson County
Ruby Anderson
Lyla Salyers
Victoria Powers

MINISTERS

New Durm

J. C. Rasnake
Mose Napier
M. P. Ball

Naomi Whited
Mary Rasnake
Harley Dye
E. R. Rasnake

Ivan Reedy
Mrs. E. A. Reedy
Mollie Hill
Joyce Reedy

Gonian Kelley
C. E. Church
Lee Wilson
C. E. Spencer

Mrs. Counts,—Licentiate

Letcher County
Monroe Hubbard

Dickenson County

W. R. Bise

Clyde Reedy

VISITING MINISTERS

Orville O'Quinn

The next item of business was electing of Moderator. By move and second W. R. Bise was elected Moderator and Monroe Hubbard as Assistant.

Moderator taking charge, proceeded with the electing of Clerk and Treasurer. By move and second, it was voted to retain same clerk, and Ted Bise as treasurer.

The next item was Conference, giving Moderator power to appoint the following Committees:

PULPIT

Walter Whited, Chair., Will Robinette, Cleve Dye

COMMITTEE ON NEXT SESSION

Monroe Hubbard, Chair., Everett Johnson, Harley Dye

This bringing Thursday's session to a close, it was moved and seconded by the Conference, that same stand adjourned 'til 9:30 A.M., Friday morning.

PREACHING, THURSDAY EVENING, 3:00 O'CLOCK

Committee appointed Gonian Kelly and Everett Rasnake for this hour, reading for lesson 1st Psalm. Prayer by Everett Rasnake. Text, 1st verse of lesson read.

PREACHING, THURSDAY NIGHT, 8:00 O'CLOCK

Committee appointed Monroe Hubbard and W. R. Bise for this hour. W. R. Bise reading for lesson, beginning with the 31st verse of 7th Chpt. of St. John, reading rest of Chapter. Prayer by Roy Vance. Text: "If Any Man Thirst, Let Him Come Unto Me and Drink."

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION 9:30 A.M.

Conference opened with singing: Moderator reading for lesson the first 13 verses of 4th Chapter of St. Luke. Prayer by Clyde Church. Moderator then continued with business of conference by calling for letters from respective Quarterly Meetings.

They Responded As Follows: New Durm Q.M.

To the John Thomas Association: We the New Durm Conference, our standing is as follows:

Members	Churches	S. Schools
204	7	2
Ministers		Average Attend.
11		62

CLYDE CHURCH, Clerk.

By move and second, this letter was passed and excepted by conference.

Dickenson Co. Q.M.

To the John Thomas Association which will convene with the Ephenis Church from the 5th to 8th of September, 1946.

The Dickenson Co. Quarterly Meeting met with the Pippin's Chapel Church on Friday before the 4th Sunday in July, 1946

The following delegates were from these respective churches:

Charly's Chapel—Ben Adkins, Medford Lane.

Clinchco Church—Mrs. Everett Johnson, Deacon Everett Johnson.

Cold Springs Church—Brownlow Guzz.

Count's Chapel—Lee Green, Walter Puckette, Deacon Goble Rose.

Duncan Gap—Mr. and Mrs. Maxie Hamilton, Maxie Hall.

Fleming Town—Absent.

Ferby Church—C. H. Meade, John Meade.

George's Fork—Absent.

Hamilton Chapel—U. S. G. Meade, Clayton Meade.

Honey Camp—Volley Rose, Deacon Jim Rose.

Hubbards Chapel—R. C. Ring.

Lick Fork—Nell Hughes, Draxie Trivette, Wilford and Mattie Stanley.

Martin's Chapel—L. M. Spencer, Arlin Rose, Della Martin.

Middle Branch—Ruth Viers, Dorothy Austin, Hilda Fletcher, Myrtle Sutherland, Deacons George Lambert, Palmer Sutherland.

Mill Creek—Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Kennedy, Ruby Anderson, Deacons Charlie Lambert, Carl Sauls.

Philidelphia—Lanzie Mullins, Mr. and Mrs. Holiday McFall.

Pine Grove—Mr. and Mrs. Worley Salyers, Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Arnold.

Pippin's Chapel—Albert Pippin, Ingle Bright.

Peuther's Chapel—Mincey Bise, Ocie Carty, Pearl Bise, Ivan Reedy, W. J. Yates, Deacon Corbette Deel.

Rachel's Chapel—Frances Dotson, Joan Compton, Maxie Keith.

Rugsby—Lila Salyers, Victoria Powers, Mollie Hill, Deacon Ben Kennedy.

Tarpon—Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Rakes, Mildred Holbrooks, Lillian Brice.

Union Light—Present by letter.

Valley View—Ida Rose, Agnus Vanover, Susie Davis, Theodosia Davenport.

Davis Chapel—

Our standing is as follows: No. of Churches 25, No. of Members 1266; Sunday Schools 15; No. on Roll 894; Average Attendance 207; No. of Licentiates 3; Value of Church Property \$22,100.

W. R. BISE, Moderator
CLINTON LAMBERT, Clerk
N. H. STANLEY, Clerk.

This letter was accepted and passed upon by Conference, Moderator then calling for next letter.

Letcher Co. Q. M.

Letter from Letcher County Quarterly Meeting to the John Thomas Association:
Greetings: We, the Letcher County Conference met with the Payne Gap Church, from the 24th to the 25th of August, 1946, and appointed the following delegates to the Association:

Lonnie Greene
Opal Collier
Edna Johnson
Marie Delaney
Ballard Delaney
Kate West
Helen Haynes
Melvin Killen
Ruba Steffie
Johnny Steffie

John Blevins
John Akers
Bannie Blevins
Flora Lowe
Rasie Elswick
Linda Caldwell
Alpha Troil
Maggie Collier
Maydell Gardener

Churches

7

Membership

440

Sunday Schools

5

Ordained Ministers

28

Average Attendance

385

We have donated to the Orphans Home at Louisa, Ky., \$750.35. Done by order of Letcher County Conference.

ALBERT DINGUS, Moderator
JOHNNY SYKES, Clerk.

Ministers Conference was organized by retaining same Clerk and Moderator. Conference was adjourned 'til 2:00 P.M.

FRIDAY MORNING PREACHING SERVICE 11:00 A.M.

Committee appointing Orville O'Quinn and Clyde Reedy for this hour. Prayer by Steve Dye. Using for text 33rd verse of 6th Chapter of Matthew.

FRIDAY EVENING SESSION 2:30 P.M.

Conference colled to gether by singing: Opened with Prayer by Orville O'Quinn. Lesson read 12 verses of 10th Chapter of 2nd Corinthians. Moderator calling for such business that might be brought before the Conference. It was decided by different Quarterly Meetings to have the following number of Minutes printed:

Dickenson County	450
New Durm	200
Letcher County	250

By move and seconded by the Conference the Clerk was empowered to draw on Trea., for Minutes. Next was reports from other Associations that were visited by our corresponding messengers, Everett Johnson, reporting on visits with the Southwest Virginia Association, which convened with the Davis Chapel, at Ramsey, Va. Next was the appointing of corresponding messengers to the following Associations:

Kentucky State Association—Monroe Hubbard, C. E. Church, J. C. Rasnake. This Association convenes at Paintsville, Ky., on Friday before 3rd Sunday in June, 1947.

Southwest Virginia Association—Mr. and Mrs. Everett Johnson, Mrs. E. A. Reedy. This Association convenes with the South Side Church at Norton, Va., on Friday before the 3rd Sunday in May.

Clinch Valley Association—W. R. Bise, Everett Johnson. This Association meets on Friday before the 2nd Sunday in August. Conference voted to retain some executive board. This bringing to close the work of the John Thomas Association, conference adjourned 'til Thursday before 2nd Sunday in September, 1947, when it will reconvene with the Payne Gap Church, Jenkins, Ky. Ministers Conference adjourned 'til 9:30 A.M. Saturday morning.

FRIDAY EVENING PREACHING SERVICE 3:00 P.M.

Committee appointing Mose Napier and Clyde Church for this hour of service. Beginning at the 2nd verse and reading through the 6th verse of 7th Chapter of Judes. Prayer by Mose Napier.

FRIDAY NIGHT PREACHING SERVICE 8:00 P.M.

Committee appointing Alva Dingus and Perry Herndon for this hour. By request, Mollie Hill opened with prayer. Using for text part of the 10th verse of 4th chapter of Zechariah. "For Who Hath Despised the Day of Small Things?"

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION 9:30 A.M.

Opened with singing, proceeding with Ministers Conference. Moderator reading for lesson 1st Psalm. Prayer by E. E. Edwards. Moderator declaring Conference open for any business that might come before it. First item was calling for letters from respective Minister's Conference. Dickenson County Minister's Conference was as follows:

We, the Dickenson County Minister's Conference, met with the Pippin's Chapel Church, Saturday before the fourth Sunday in July, 1946, and organized by electing W. R. Bise, Moderator, and N. H. Stanley and Clinton Lambert as Clerk's. The following Ministers were voted on in good standing:

W. R. Bise	Willard Kiser	Manral Mullins
Creed Stanley	Willard Martin	George Mooney
E. M. Rose	Asa Hughes	Floyd Cantrell
S. P. Davis	D. L. Coleman	Alex Tompkins
Bill Willis	W. R. Johnson	Troy Robinson
H. N. Smith	C. E. Reedy	Josh Rose
Floyd Hill	J. E. Cox	Maston Rose
D. L. Smith	E. C. Kiser	Walter Hughes
Eddie Rose		Luther Taylor

By request John St. Claire was dropped from roll as he had moved to a distant state and taken up fellowship there. By move and seconded this Conference adjourned 'til Saturday before the 4th Sunday in July, 1946, unless called together by the Moderator.

W. R. BISE, Moderator
CLINTON LAMBERT, Clerk
N. H. STANLEY, Clerk.

This letter was accepted and passed by Association. Next was letter from New Durm Ministers Conference.

We, the New Durm Conference, met with the Mt. Zion Church and organized by electing J. C. Rasnake, Moderator, and Clyde Church as Clerk. The following ministers character was passed upon as in good standing:

Seaman Ball	J. C. Rasnake	C. E. Spencer
H. N. Ball	W. E. Rasnake	Garian Kelly
Clyde Church	E. E. Edwards	M. P. Ball

Ministers names were read in a group and their character passed as good.

J. C. RASNAKE, Moderator
CLYDE CHURCH, Clerk.

This letter was accepted and passed upon by Association. Next was letter from Letcher County Ministers Conference:

The Letcher County Ministers Conference convened with the Payne Gap Church August 24, 1946. Albert Dingus was elected Moderator and Johnny Sykes, Clerk. The character of the following ministers was passed as good:

Robert Modden	J. J. Terry	Everett Potter
A. L. Dingus	W. M. Elkins	Ezra Johnson
Ersel McPeak	L. D. Mahan	Marvin Strunk
C. W. Isom	Monroe Hubbard	James Wright
C. C. Flannery	Albert Dingus	F. M. Rose
Porter Brewer	Joe Banks	Emory Vanover
Charlie Graham	John Akers	V. C. Manis
Jimmie Martin	Clyde Huff	

ALBERT DINGUS, Moderator
JOHNNY SYKES, Clerk.

This letter was accepted in the Association. This bringing to close, the work of the Ministers Conference, same adjourned by move and seconded 'til Saturday before 2nd Sunday in September, 1947, unless called together by Moderator, when it will reconvene with the Payne Gap Church, Jenkins, Ky.

SATURDAY MORNING PREACHING SERVICE

Opened with singing. Clyde Reedy and E. E. Edwards preaching at this hour. Reading for lesson 1st 14 verses of 18th Chapter of Genises. Prayer by Arthur Cos-tel. Text Genises, 18:14.

SATURDAY EVENING PREACHING SERVICES 3:00 P.M.

Preaching by E. C. Kiser and C. E. Spencer. Reading for lesson 4 verses of 61st Psalm. Text, "The Rock".

SATURDAY NIGHT PREACHING SERVICE 8:00 P.M.

Preaching by Monroe Hubbard and J. C. Rasnake. Reading for lesson 2nd Chap-ter of Revelation. Prayer by C. E. Church.

YEARLY MEETING CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

We, the members of the Freewill Baptist Church, in order to form a more per-fect 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 Meet-ing, 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 min-isters 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 denomi-nation, 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 dele-gates, 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. The 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 to the Yearly Meeting, with their annual letters, funds equal to ten cents (10c) per member in said Quarterly Meet-ing; said funds to be used in meeting expenses of the Yearly Meeting.

Article 10. The 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 alterations having been given and recorded at the next previous session.

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-fifth 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 doctrine 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 treasury 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 ordained 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.

MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH

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 ordinance. 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.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having been brought, as we believe, by the divine grace to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Preserver, we do now solemnly and joyfully covenant and agree, by God's help, to walk 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 quit the great duty of prayer for ourselves and others; that by divine assistance we will endeavor to bring to 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, ordinance, 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.

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.

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 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 appealed 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 must first join this church. Then the proceedings are the same as with licentiates; which is as follows:

When he feels Divinely called he is given a license by Pastor of the Church to which he belongs. Then he is free to exercise his gift by exhortation for a period of twelve months. If proven satisfactory he is recommended to the Quarterly Meeting by said Church. Then from the Quarterly Meeting to the Ordaining Council. If proven satisfactory then he is ordained, otherwise he is granted a new license to exhort for twelve months more.

5. Any minister 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 licentiate, it must be reported to the Quarterly Meeting, 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.

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 consequence 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.

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 Meetings are requested 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. Any ministers failing to report for a period of two years, either in person or by letter, or both, shall automatically exclude himself 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 Meetings where they move.

ORGANIZATION OF 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.

BY-LAWS

1. No conference shall be held with less than three ordained ministers and four delegates belonging to the 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. Any 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. When 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 or 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 committees 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. H. McFALL
D. E. SMITH
ARTHUR CASTEEL
J. C. RASNAKE
W. R. STALLARD

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 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 quickened and draweth sinners home to God.—St. John 16:7, 8; Acts 2:4; 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 moral 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 24:27; 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 brought them; because they believed not in the name of the only begotten Son of God. Unbelief, therefore, being the cause why the just and the 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; John 5:1, 10.
7. We believe that all people reaching the years of accountability must be born again. Then by trusting His promise and keeping His commandments until the end of life, we shall be saved.—II Tim. 4:7.
8. We believe the whole Scriptures are infallibly 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 of 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 impressive of His Spirit, shall, at a future day, own their condemnation just and change themselves with their own damnation, for willfully rejecting the offers of sovereign grace.—Matt. 11:17; St. John 6:45, 65; Ps. 1:1; Tit. 2:11, 12; Jer. 12:29.
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 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 there is no respect of persons with God.—Jude 1:14; II Peter 2:1; II Thesa. 2:11; Rom. 2:10-21.
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. 7:3; 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 that 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 teaching 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 made 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.

OBITUARY OF GEORGE ESTEP

On January 13th, 1946, at 7:30 P.M., I, L. D. Coleman, was called to the home of George Estep, his request was for me to preach. Thee word, and at the close of this meeting, he said he had been praying and that he believed that Jesus Christ had pardoned and forgive him for all his sins, and he trusted and received Christ as his Saviour, and that he wanted to come and live with the children of God, and that he wanted me and Brother Claude Conn to baptize him as soon as the Doctor would let him go in the water, and the Union light Church of Freewill Baptist gave him the right hand of fellowship, as a member of same. I met and have known Brother Estep for the past sixty-five years and in my ministry work of 27 years, he always showed me friendship. His family has often saw him go and return home, but will never see him return here again. On January 25th, at the age of 79 years, George Estep deceased this life, and gone, where light is given to them that were in misery. My God bless all to live in fear of the Lord and to love and bless our brethren.

By L. D. COLEMAN.

OBITUARY OF MARTHA JANE KEEN

Martha Jane Keen, born at Raven, Tazewell County, Va., December 28th, 1913. Died at the Clinch Bailey Clinic Hospital, Richlands, Va., September 5th, 1946, being 32 years, 8 months, and 8 days of age. She has been in reclining health for seven years. and for the past year has been in the hospital most of the time. Martha Jane was the daughter of William and Beulah Plaster, her father having died over 23 years ago. She was married to Willie Daley Keen, August 6, 1933, and to this union, five children were born, two having died in infancy.

She is survived by her husband, Willie Daley Keen, three children, Billie K., Beulah Joyce and Thomas Wilburn, her mother, Beulah Plaster, three brothers, Blake C., William Bernard and Clifton H. Plaster, and a host of relatives and friends.

She joined the Freewill Baptist Church over six years ago, having been baptized by Rev. Perry Herndon and Rev. oJnas C. Rasnake, June 10, 1941, and has lived a con-
crated Christian life ever since. Martha Jane was loved by all who knew her and her death was a great shock to the entire community. She will be missed by the many friends she is leaving. Funeral services was held by Rev. Perry Herndon and Rev. Jonas C. Rasnake at the Ephesus Pole Cabin Church. Her remains was layed to rest in the Boyd Cemetery on Pine Creek.

OBITUARY OF J. W. WILSON

J. W. Wilson was born in Russell County, July 4, 1881, and departed this life December 25, 1945, making his stay on earth 64 years, 5 month, 21 days. He was the son of Jim and Margaret Wilson. He was united in marriage to Ora Bell Ball, June 15, 1900. To this union was born 14 children, 5 girls and 9 boys. One girl and one boy preceded him in death several years ago. He leaves his wife, 4 girls and 8 boys, his aged mother, 3 brothers, 1 sister, 30 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends to mourn his loss. But we feel like our loss is heaven's gain. He surrendered his life to Jesus Christ and was baptized in 1918 by C. E. Spencer and become a member of Freewill Baptist Church and lived a true and faithful Christian life. He was a faithful worker in the church. He was loved by every one and we feel sure in our hearts that he went home to heaven for we have often heard him say he was working him out a home in heaven. We can now hear his voice in prayer as he would say, "What a happy meeting when we all get home!" He is just sleeping a sleep of rest until Jesus awakens him. Sleep on father, that peaceful sleep of the blest. Your work is done in this world of sorrow exchanged for a world of the blessed.

Sleep on dear father and take thy rest,

God called you home for he knew best;

Your voice we loved so dear is stilled,

The vacant place in our home never can be filled.

Written by

HIS COMPANION AND CHILDREN.

James Rush Meade

It is with a sad and broken heart that I now write the obituary of James Rush Meade, born November 20, 1887 and departed May 27, 1946, age 59 years, 6 months, and 7 days. He was married to Rausie Meade and to this union were born 13 children, leaving 12 of them, a wife, 6 brothers, 1 sister, father, mother, and a host of friends to mourn his loss.

He was a devoted loving father and husband. He always treated his family kindly and admonished them to be good and treat everybody right. He told the boys before he left to be good boys, stay at home, take care of the family and to get along like brothers should.

He professed hope in Jesus and lived a devoted christian until death. He was always at church and Sunday school every Sunday, and we feel like sheep without a shepherd since the leader is gone.

"By their fruits you shall know them." No sermon, however complete, can give us a picture of his faithfulness or of his usefulness to the community as his life does. After all, word pictures occupy so much space, but we have only to look at the fruit he has borne to get an estimate of his Christlike character.

Not only does he so live in the hearts of his fellow-men and women, we can find an even purer esteem for him in the hearts and minds of all those children who sat under him in his Sunday School and were fed so liberally upon the pure word of God.

Sow in tears and ye shall reap in joy. He read and talked about the scriptures with profound humility. The abundance of his tears gave proof to the depth of thought and sincerity with which he spoke, and these tears, we hope will reward him with a rich harvest of joy in heaven.

Of course we can only go so far, We have bounds physically and mentally, but beyond our extremes, God operates, manages, and controls. In to the hands of this all-wise, all-powerful, and present-everywhere God, our brother has fallen. There he, with all the rest of humanity, will receive justice.

So family, relatives, and friends, we suffer the loss of, not only a good father and citizen, but the pillar of our church, the leader of our community, has been taken away in this man and where can we find such another? we who lived closest to him and associated most with him don't only miss him, we shall continue to mourn our great loss.

I want to ask all of God's people to pray for his family that they may live close to their father's teaching and take their burdens to the Lord who said he would help us to bear our burdens and never forsake us.

Written by Stafford and Foy E. Meade

OBITUARY OF DENVER WILSON

In sad but loving remembrance we attempt to write this obituary of little Denver Wilson, son of Lee and Hazel Wilson. He was born March 3, 1936, and departed this life May 6, 1945, making his stay on earth 9 years, 2 months, 3 days. He leaves to mourn his loss, father, mother, 2 brothers and 1 sister. Two infant brothers and one sister preceded him in death, two grandfathers, two grandmothers, aunts and uncles, and a host of relatives and friends left behind. He was a kind and umble child and loved by all who knew him and bore his sickness patiently. He said when he was operated on he was going home on Sunday, and Jesus whispered softly at the break of dawn and called him home to live with him forever more. He was taught to say his blessing at the table and to pray. He prayed in the field for his grandmother when she was sick. He led the prayer his brother followed and his father closed the prayer. When he was in the hospital he spoke of two mottos he knew, one was I will trust the hand that was nailed to the cross for me, and one was I don't want this worldly pleasure, all I want is a home in heaven. The song he loved to sing was "Shake Hands With Mother Again." 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 give our lives to God that we may be an undivided family around the throne

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 little Denver, sleep and rest,

God has called you, as he knew best.

Written by

HIS FATHER, MOTHER, AND RELATIVES.

OBITUARY OF BETTY SAMPLE

Betty Sample was born to Mr. and Mrs. Sam Sample on May 31, 1928. She passed away August 15, 1946. She made a profession of faith at the Bethany Baptist Church of Big A. Mt. a few years ago. She graduated from Honaker High School in the class of 1944, with honors. She leaves a father, mother, brother, and a host of relatives and friends to grieve her going.

OBITUARY OF ALICE LOU JACKSON

Alice Lou Jackson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Taylor, deceased.

She was born January 17, 1871, departed this life December 8, 1944, making her stay on earth 73 years, 10 months and 20 days. She was married to Charles Jackson at the age of 21 years. To this union was born 15 children, three boys and twelve girls. They are as follows: James Henry of Galion, Ohio; Amanda Reedy of Putnam; Janette Starnes of Honaker; Hobert Eli, deceased while an infant; Bertha Fletcher of Putnam; Maggie, deceased in infancy; Mytle Ryan of Raven; Leola Thompson of Jewell Ridge; Fred of Raven; Cora and Pearl, both deceased while infants; Bessie Richardson of Richlands; Edna Rasnake of Jewell Ridge; Evangeline Smith of Putnam; and Mary Sutherland of Putnam.

She leaves eleven children, forty-seven grandchildren, three great grandchildren, two brothers, one sister, and a host of relatives and friends to mourn their loss, but we feel that their loss is her eternal gain. She professed faith in Christ at the age of twenty years and united with the Methodist Church and lived with them until fifteen years ago when she and her husband united with the Freewill Baptist Church and lived with them a devoted Christian life until death. Her dying testimony was not to mourn over her that she was going to rest.

MINISTERS REPORT

Names and Address	Churches Pastored	Sermons Preached	Revivals Held	Conversions Witnessed	No. Baptised	Additions To Church	Burials Attended	Memorials Held	Prayer Services Held	Churches Organized	S. S. Organized	Couples Married	Miles Traveled	Total Amt. Recd. From All Sources
Monroe Hubbard Wise, Va.	2	150	3	53	0	24	10	4	40	0	0	0	1300	\$300.00
C. E. Reedy Millard, Va.	4	100	1	6	0	5	0	5	30	0	0	0	0	0
Creed Stanley Coeburn, Va.	No Figures Given													
L. D. Coleman Paw Paw, Ky.	1	56	1	3	0	1	5	6	12	0	0	0	140	\$54.00
E. E. Edwards Bristol, Va.	No Figures Given													
A. L. Dingus Steinman, Va.	No Figures Given													
C. E. Spencer Swords Creek, Va.	No Figures Given													
J. C. Rasnake Cleveland, Va.	4	128	2	48	31	10	4	7	0	0	0	0	1900	\$418.95
Ganion Kelly Cleveland, Va.	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
W. E. Rasnake Council, Va.	2	90	1	50	16	11	3	13	8	0	1	0	500	\$17.85
M. P. Ball Davenport, Va.	0	33	1	32	12	0	4	6	13	0	0	0	350	0
C. E. Church Swords Creek, Va.	1	75	3	27	16	19	4	3	0	1	0	4	1900	\$285.00
L. D. Mahan Payne Gap, Ky.	1	57	0	7	2	2		2	26	0	0	0	800	\$3.50
D. D. Moore McRoberts, Ky.	2	110	2	50	10	12	10	10	15	0	0	0	2000	\$10.00
Robert Madden	0	65	2	100	25		1	1					1000	\$20.00
Maston Rose Coeburn, Va.	3	70	3			0	4	6	20	0	1		1000	0

DICKENSON COUNTY CHURCH STATISTICS

	Right Hand Of Fellowship	Dismissed	Excluded	Died	Total Membership	Value Of Church Property	Q. M. Fund	Sunday School	No. Enrolled	Average S. S. Attendance	Emergency Fund	Orphanage Fund
Charlie Chapel	0	0	0	1	26	\$1,000	\$7.00	0	0	0	0	0
Clinchco	8	7	0	1	58	0	8.50	1	127	100	3.00	0
Cold Spring	1	0	0	0	21	0	8.00	1	22	19	5.50	0
Counts Chapel	10	0	3	0	57	1,000	15.00	1	50	35	40.50	87.50
Davis Chapel	0	0	0	0	13	0	2.00	0	0	0	0	0
Duncan Gap	0	0	0	1	26	0	7.00	1	47	25	8.50	0
Fleming Town	0	0	0	0	36	1,200	3.00	0	0	0	0	0
Ferby	2	0	0	1	22	0	4.00	1	50	40	9.15	0
Georges Fork	0	0	0	0	22	1,800	5.00	0	0	0	4.00	38.00
Hamilton Chapel	0	0	0	1	25	1,000	5.00	1	50	45	0	30.00
Honey Camp	1	0	0	0	44	0	4.00	0	0	0	1.00	0
Hubbards Chapel	16	0	0	0	115	0	6.50	0	0	0	0	0
Lick Fork	0	2	3	2	98	2,500	14.00	1	55	49	9.35	15.00
Middle Branch	0	1	1	0	81	1,000	13.00	0	0	0	0	57.00
Mill Creek	0	2	0	0	40	2,000	7.50	1	58	46	8.50	55.69
Martins Chapel	38	0	0	0	72	1,500	20.00	1	114	69	25.00	0
Pippins Chapel	2	0	0	0	12	2,000	4.00	1	42	35	6.50	0
Philadelphia	1	0	0	0	41	1,000	8.00	0	0	0	0	5.00
Pine Grove	2	5	0	0	38	800.	7.00	1	40	35	12.50	0
Pewthers Chapel	1	58	0	0	113	1,300	12.00	1	55	50	14.00	54.00
Rachels Chapel	1	0	0	0	17	0	4.50	0	0	0	4.00	0
Rugsby	7	1	0	0	110	1,000	10.00	1	47	38	14.00	32.30
Tarpon	2	4	3	0	53	1,500	8.00	1	37	31	11.50	45.00
Union Light	4	7	5	1	72	0	8.00	0	0	0	0	0
Valley View	8	1	0	0	114	1,500	8.00	1	100	85	14.00	63.32

OFFICERS OF THE JOHN THOMAS ASSOCIATION

For the year 1946 & 1947

W. R. Bise Moderator

Monroe Hubbard Asst. Moderator

Everet Johnson Clerk

Ted Bise Treasure

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Corbet Deel

Trig Smith

U. S. G. Meade

N. B. Lambert

George Browning

COMMITTEE ON NEXT SESSION

Monroe Hubbard Chairman

Everet Johnson

Harley Dye

ORDAINING COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1946 & 1947

Dickenson Co. Q. M.

E. C. Kiser Chairman W. R. Bise Alex Thompkins

Letcher Co. Q. M.

Albert Dingus Chairman C. W. Isom L. D. Mahan

New Durm Q. M.

J. C. Rasnake Chairman W. E. Rasnake C. E. Spencer

The next session will meet with the Payne Gap Church at
Jenkins, Ky. Beginning on Thursday before the second
Sunday in September 1947

