

Minutes

of the

JOHN THOMAS
ASSOCIATION

of

Freewill Baptists

STATE OF VIRGINIA

TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Held With

Ephesus Church

SWORDS CREEK, VA.

September 8-11, 1949

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Officers

Officers of the John Thomas Association of Freewill Baptists, which convened with the Ephesus Church at Swords Creek, Va. September 8-11, 1949:

W. R. BISE, Millard, Va. _____ *Moderator*
J. C. RASNAKE, Cleveland, Va., Rt. 2, Box 176—
_____ *Assistant Moderator*
EVERETT JOHNSON, Clinchco, Va., Box 138 _____ *Clerk*
TED BISE, Millard, Va. _____ *Treasurer*

Ordaining Councils

DICKENSON COUNTY QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

E. C. Kiser, *Chairman* _____ Stratton, Va.
W. R. Bise _____ Millard, Va.
Emory Vanover _____ Clintwood, Va.

LETCHER COUNTY QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

Albert Dingus, *Chairman* _____ Jenkins, Ky.
C. W. Isom _____ Burdine, Ky.
L. D. Mahan _____ Payne Gap, Ky.

NEW DRUM QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

J. C. Rasnake, *Chairman*, Box 176, Rt. 2 _____ Cleveland, Va.
W. E. Rasnake _____ Council, Va.
Harly Dye _____ Swords Creek, Va.

Enrollment

MINISTERS

Harley Dye	Henry Smith	Vernon Kiser
C. E. Reedy	M. P. Ball	L. D. Mahan
Lonzo Edwards	Fred Taylor	Howard Bostic
J. C. Rasnake	Alva Dingus	Asa Hughes
W. R. Bise	Mose Napier	Everett Potter

VISITING MINISTERS

Wyth White _____ Curtis Arney _____ Emory Cook _____

CORRESPONDING MESSENGERS

E. J. Kilgore _____ Southwest Va. Association
Emory Cook _____ Clinch Valley Association

Proceedings

The Twenty-seventh Annual Session of the John Thomas Association of Freewill Baptists was held with the Ephesus Church, Swords Creek, Va., September 8-11, 1949.

Introductory message was delivered by the pastors of the Ephesus Church, Bros. J. C. Rasnake and Harley Dye. Bro. Rasnake reading for lesson ten verses of the 11th chapter of Hebrews. Prayer by Bro. Bise. Bro. Rasnake using for text, "For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." This was a wonderful message and the witness of the Spirit was great among the children of God. We too are traveling to that same city that Abraham was talking about, and when we begin to meditate upon these things, there is a great rejoicing among the children of God.

THURSDAY EVENING SESSION 2:00 P.M.

Conference opened with singing. Clerk having charge of conference, read for lesson seventeen verses of the 5th chapter of Ephesians. Prayer by Bro. C. E. Reedy. Clerk declared conference open for such lawful business that might come before it. The first item was enrolling of delegates, ministers, visiting ministers and corresponding messengers.

DELEGATES FROM NEW DRUM QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

Walter Whited	Paul Hess	Ella Dye
M. F. Hess	W. D. Whited	Ellen Dye
E. R. Rasnake	Ella Whited	Cleve Dye
Milburn Hess	Daisy McGlothlin	Lillie Sykes

DELEGATES FROM DICKENSON COUNTY QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

N. H. Stanley	Gladys Holbrook	Mrs. E. A. Reedy
N. B. Lambert	Tom Martin	Mrs. E. Johnson
Birk Ratliff	George Lambert	Gaines Lambert
Emory Estep	Charlie Lambert	Charlie Sexton
Harrison Deel	Martha Ann Sauls	Hattie Reece

After this work was finished clerk continued by electing moderator for the conference. By move and second Bro. Bise was elected moderator and Bro. J. C. Rasnake Assistant Moderator. Moderator, taking charge, continued by electing of clerk and treasurer for association. By move and second it was voted to retain Everett Johnson as clerk and Ted Bise as

treasurer. Moderator was given power to appoint such committees as needed for association. Pulpit Committee was appointed as follows:

Walter Whited, *Chairman*

Will Whited

Paul Hess

Committee appointed Bros. C. E. Reedy and Asa Hughes for the evening service. Conference adjourned until 9:30 Friday morning.

THURSDAY EVENING PREACHING SERVICE 2:30 P.M.

Bro. Reedy reading for lesson 3rd chapter of Matthew. Prayer by Bro. Alva Dingus. Bro. Reedy using for text, "The Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand." Service concluded by Bro. Hughes. This was a wonderful message.

THURSDAY NIGHT PREACHING SERVICE 7:30 P.M.

Committee appointed Bros. Alva Dingus and Mose Napier for this hour. Prayer by Bro. Wyth White and Sister Everett Johnson. Bro. Dingus omitting reading of lesson, and using for a text, "Prayer."

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION 9:30 A.M.

Conference opened with singing. Moderator reading for a lesson five verses of the 5th chapter of 1st John. Prayer by Bro. Martin Ball.

Moderator having charge called for any such lawful business that might come before Association. Continued by enrolling of delegates, ministers, visiting ministers and corresponding messengers. Next was entering in upon the work of the various Quarterly Conferences. New Drum Conference responding with a letter as follows:

To the John Thomas Association of Freewill Baptists.

Greetings:

We, the Russell County New Drum Quarterly Conference, met with Mt. Zion Church on the 12th through 14th of August, 1949, and appointed the following delegates to attend the Association.

Ruth Dye
Leonard Dye
Kyle Thompson
Eura Thompson
Dave Owens
S. S. Hurd
Eula Samples
Eula McQuire

Elbert Rasnake
Ellen Dye
Mrs. Willard Ball
Mr. & Mrs. Grover Sykes
Mr. & Mrs. W. D. Whited
Daisy McGlothin
Mr. & Mrs. Cleve Dye

M. F. Hess
Alta Rasnake
Guss Hess
Lula Hess
Milburn Hess
Ralph Rasnake
Walter Whited
Alice Ball

Our standing is as follows:

Number of Churches	7
Number of Members	209
Number of Sunday Schools	3
Number of Ordained Ministers	13

Done by order of New Drum Quarterly Conference.

J. C. Rasnake.....*Moderator*

Faye Rasnake.....*Clerk*

This letter was read, passed and accepted to be recorded in the minutes.

Next was calling for letter from Dickenson County Quarterly Conference. They responded with a letter as follows:

The Dickenson County Quarterly Conference

To the John Thomas Association of Freewill Baptists when convened with the Ephesus Church at Swords Creek, Va., September 8-11, 1949.

We, the Dickenson County Quarterly Conference met with the Martin's Chapel Church on Friday before the fourth Sunday in July, 1949, and organized by electing W. R. Bise Moderator, Clyde Reedy, Assistant Moderator, N. H. Stanley and Clinton Lambert as clerks.

The following delegates were from their respective churches and were delegates to the Association.

1. Clinchco Church—J. E. Perry, Kelly Sloan, Rosa Meade, Verna Patton and Munsey Mullins.
2. Counts Chapel.....Kelsey Edwards and Fay Rose.
3. Cold Spring.....Minnie Rasnake and Agnus Johnson.
4. Davis Chapel.....Not represented.
5. Duncan Gap—Noah and Ralph Hamilton, and Irvin Hall.
6. Dyers Chapel—Thelma Sutherland, H. L. Kiser, J. E. Morgan and R. J. Lambert.
7. Fleming Town.....Present by letter.
8. Ferby Church.....Edna Sturgill and John Meade.
9. Georges Fork.....Not represented.
10. Honey Camp.....Bro. and Sister James Rose.
11. Hill Ridge Church.....Hattie Reece and Emory Estep.
12. Hubbard Chapel.....Not represented.
13. Lick Fork.....E. W. Stanley.
14. Martins Chapel—Tom and Dallis Martin, and Arlin Rose.

15. Middle Branch—Minnie Phillips, Jane Silcox, Simon Sutherland and Gaines Lambert.
16. Mill Creek—Harrison Deel, Martha Ann Sauls and Mary Kaylor.
17. Pine Creek Church..... Present by letter.
18. Pine Grove—Sister O. A. Kiser, Bro. and Sister Hubbard Hamilton.
19. Pippin Chapel..... Dewey Salyers
20. Pewther Chapel—Myrtle Gilliam, Beulah McCowan, Helen and Ethel Reedy.
21. Rachels Chapel—Gene Compton, Harold Keith and I. S. Gilliam.
22. Rugby Church—Bro. and Sister Emory Dingus, and Claude Martin.
23. Splashdam Church..... James Reed
24. Tarpon Church—Gladys Holbrook, Charlie Sexton, Vernon Taylor and Birk Ratliff.
25. Union Light..... Present by letter.
26. Yates Chapel..... Albert Cochran and Nadine Dotson.
27. Valley View—Flora Keith, Leota Reece, Bryson Stanley.

Our standing is as follows:

Number of churches.....	27
Number of members.....	1473
Number of Sunday Schools.....	18
Number on roll in Sunday School.....	1249
Average attendance in Sunday School.....	926
Number ordained ministers.....	30
Number Licentiates.....	1
Value of Church property.....	\$31,300.00

Done by order of The Dickenson County Quarterly Conference while in regular session with the Martins Chapel Church, July 22-24, 1949.

W. R. Bise..... Moderator
 C. E. Reedy..... Ass't Moderator
 N. H. Stanley, Clinton Lambert..... Clerks

This letter was read, passed and accepted by Association.

Letcher County's letter, being absent, was carried over until Friday evening session.

Moderator called for letter from corresponding messengers. Clinch Valley responding. It was as follows:

To the John Thomas Association of Freewill Baptists when convened with the Ephesus Church at Swords Creek, Va., September 8-11, 1949.

We send Bro. Emory Cook as corresponding messenger, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your deliberations.

Our standing is as follows:

Number Quarterly Conferences.....	3
Number of churches.....	14
Number of members.....	865
Number of Sunday Schools.....	10
Number of ordained ministers.....	22
Value of Church property.....	\$25,000.00

Our next Association will convene with Sabras Chapel, Scott County, near Fort Blackmore, Va., on Friday before the second Sunday in August 1950. Please send us a large delegation.

Done by order of the Clinch Valley Association while in regular session with the Pendleton Church, Fort Blackmore, Va., August 12-14, 1949.

Walter Glover.....	Moderator
James Boatright.....	Ass't Moderator
L. E. Sexton.....	Clerk

Sister Gladys Holbrook gave us a report from the Clinch Valley Association, reporting that she found a hearty welcome among the people of that place. And we too enjoyed very much having Bro. Cook with us in our Association.

The next item was appointing of corresponding messengers to various Associations. They were as follows:

CLINCH VALLEY ASSOCIATION

J. C. Rasnake Harley Dye Lonzo Edwards Alva Dingus

SOUTH WEST VA. ASSOCIATION

Vernon Kiser	L. D. Mahan	Lonzo Edwards	Everett Johnson
J. C. Rasnake	Henry Smith	E. Potter	& Wife
	Alva Dingus	Harley Dye	Fred Taylor

Committee appointed Wyth White and Henry Smith for the 11 o'clock service. By move and second conference adjourned until 1:30 P.M. Friday.

PREACHING SERVICE 11:00 P.M.

Opened with singing. Preaching by Wyth White, Fred Taylor and Henry Smith. Bro. White reading for a lesson 22 verses of 15th chapter of 1st Cor. Prayer by Lonzo Edwards. Bro. White using for text, "If in this life only we have hope, we would be of all men most miserable."

FRIDAY EVENING SESSION 1:30 P.M.

Conference opened with singing. Moderator having charge of conference read for lesson the 46th-49th verse of 23rd chapter of St. Luke. Prayer by Wesley Edwards. Moderator having charge of conference declared it open for such lawful business that might come before the Association.

Calling for letter from Letcher County Conference, being absent, it was voted for the clerk to put their letters in the minutes when received.

Next item was questioning of Quarterly Conference for their quota of minutes. Due to the increase of membership in the churches it was needful to increase the number of minutes.

They were as follows:

New Drum Quarterly Conference.....	325
Dickenson County Quarterly Conference.....	675
Letcher County Quarterly Conference.....	500
Total	1500

Clerk was given power to draw on treasury of Association to pay for minutes. Next was appointing of ordaining councils for the different Quarterly Conferences. These will be on the first page of minutes.

Clerk was given permission to read a letter from Bro. Hubbard who is in Indiana at the present time, also to read a note from Bro. Ezra Johnson who is at Oak Ridge, Tenn. We wish to thank these Brethren for their thoughtfulness in their Association's work, and in writing us. May God richly bless. Clerk was instructed to write each one of these Brethren a letter from the Association.

The John Thomas Association of Freewill Baptists will convene with the Burdine Church, Burdine, Ky.

This bringing to a close the work of the John Thomas Association, by move and second this Association stands adjourned until Thursday before the second Sunday in September, 1950, unless called together by the Moderator or his assistant.

FRIDAY EVENING SERVICE 2:30 P.M.

Committee appointed Lonzo Edwards, Emory Cook and Vernon Kiser to preach at the evening service. Lonzo reading

from the 29th through and including the 51st verse of the 6th chapter of John. Prayers by Sister Reedy and Sister Johnson. Text, "I am the bread of Life." There was a great rejoicing among the children at this hour.

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE 7:30 P.M.

Committee appointed W. R. Bise, M. P. Ball and Vernon Kiser for this hour. Bro. Bise reading for a lesson seven verses of 55th chapter of Isaiah. Prayer by Fred Taylor. Text, "Hear and your soul shall live."

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION 9:30 A.M.

Conference opened with singing. Lesson being omitted, moderator called for prayer by J. C. Rasnake. Clerk taking charge organized Ministers conference by electing W. R. Bise Moderator and J. C. Rasnake as Assistant Moderator, and retaining Everett Johnson as clerk. Moderator taking charge called for letters from the different ministers conferences. Dickenson county responding with the following letter:

DICKENSON COUNTY MINISTERS CONFERENCE

We the Dickenson County Ministers Conference met with the Martin's Chapel Church on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in July and organized by electing W. R. Bise as moderator, C. E. Reedy as Assistant Moderator, and N. H. Stanley and Clinton Lambert as clerks.

The following ministers were present:

W. R. Bise	Henry Smith	Asa Hughes
George Moony	Vernon Kiser	J. W. Rose
Maston Rose	Kermit Deel	E. C. Kiser
Quentin Keith	Irvin Hall	Luther Taylor
Lonzo Edwards	C. E. Reedy	Emory Vanover
S. P. Davis	Alex Tompkins	E. M. Rose
Monroe Mullins	Fred Taylor	

The following ministers were absent:

D. L. Coleman	Eddie Rose	Floyd Hill
Willard Kiser	A. N. Kiser	Creed Stanley
Walter Hughes	Floyd Cantrill	W. R. Johnson
J. E. Cox	Troy Robinson	Bill Willis
	Willard Martin	

All ministers names were called and passed upon as a whole. By move and second the characters of the ministers were passed as good. Willard Martin's name was legally dropped from the ministers conference as he had received his letter from the Dickenson County Ministers Conference and placed it with the Wise County Ministers Conference. Clerk receiving letter from that body stating that the above steps were taken.

Alex Tompkins asked for his letter of dismissal and that for no other purpose than to place his letter with the Letcher County Ministers Conference.

This letter was granted by the Dickenson County Ministers Conference and clerk writing same.

Done by order of the Dickenson County Ministers Conference while in regular session with the Martin's Chapel Church on July 23rd, 1949.

W. R. Bise.....Moderator

C. E. Reedy.....Assistant Moderator

N. H. Stanley & Clinton Lambert....Clerks

This letter was read, passed and accepted by Association.

The New Drum Ministers Conference met with Mt. Zion Church Aug. 13, 1949, and organized by electing J. C. Rasnake Moderator and Grover Sykes as clerk. There were 7 ordained ministers present. Their names were called and each one voted upon. Their characters were passed as good. There were 6 ministers absent. Their characters were also passed as good. Ministers names are as follows:

J. C. Rasnake

Harley Dye

Mose Napier

Gonian Kelly

M. P. Ball

Elmer Hess

W. E. Rasnake

Lee Wilson

Howard Bostic

Homer Wilson

R. S. Ball

Henry Ball

Dolphus Cook

The ordaining council and executive committee cancelled the rights of C. E. Spencer, E. E. Edwards and C. E. Church's credentials.

Ordaining council, J. C. Rasnake, W. E. Rasnake and Harley Dye.

J. C. Rasnake.....Moderator

Grover Sykes.....Clerk

Bro. Alva Dingus gave an oral report from Letcher County Conferences. This report was received by Association. Next item was reading of letter from Southwest Va. Association. This letter was received by Association. It was as follows:

Greetings:

To the John Thomas Association of F.W.B. when convened with The Pole Church, Swords Creek, Va., Sept. 8-11, 1949.

We have chosen the following brothers and sisters as messengers who we pray may sit with you in your Godly work.

E. J. Kilgore

Rev. C. G. Turner

Goldia Kiser

Jackie Culbertson

Our standing is as follows:

State of religion.....	Good	Number Woman's Aux.....	9
Number of churches.....	35	Membership.....	161
Membership.....	2022	Number youth leagues.....	10
Number Sunday Schools.....	33	Membership.....	339
Membership.....	2817	Ordained ministers.....	45
		Licentiates.....	7

Our next Association will convene with the Mt. Carmel Church, Woodway, Virginia, in Lee County, beginning on Friday before the third Sunday in May, 1950, 10:00 A.M., E.S.T. Please send a large delegation.

Done by order of The Southwest Va. Association of F.W.B. while in session with the Oak Grove Church, Big Stone Gap, Va., May 13-15, 1949.

Rev. Mack Butler: Dungannon, Va.....	Moderator
Rev. W. B. Galloway: Big Stone Gap, Va.....	Ass't Moderator
Rev. Paul Harry Miller: Big Stone Gap, Va.....	Clerk
Bro. Leslie G. Ketron, Herald, Va.....	Ass't Clerk
Bro. E. J. Kilgore: Coeburn Va.....	Treasurer

This letter was accepted and passed upon.

This bringing to a close the work of the ministers conference it was adjourned until Saturday before the second Sunday in September, 1950, unless called together by the moderator or his assistant or both. This conference will convene with the Burdine Church, at Burdine, Ky. The Ministers Conference was closed with prayer by Bro. E. J. Kilgore, Coeburn, Va.

PREACHING SERVICE SATURDAY MORNING 11:00 A.M.

Committee appointed Curtis Arney and Elmer Hess for the morning service. Bro. Arney reading for lesson the first chapter of Romans. Prayer by Lonzo Edwards. Text, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

PREACHING SERVICE SATURDAY EVENING 1:30 P.M.

For this hour Elmer Hess, Lonzo Edwards and Howard Bostic were appointed to bring the message at this hour. Lonzo reading for lesson, beginning with the 13th verse and reading through and including the 54th verse of 24th chapter of St. Luke.

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE 7:30 P.M.

Opening song: "On the Sunny Side Today." Preaching by Bros. J. C. Rasnake, Harley Dye and Bro. Richardson. The 7th chapter of Judges. Using for text 15th of lesson read. Closing song, "I'd Rather Be An Old Time Christian."

SUNDAY SERVICE 11:00 P.M.

Opening song: "I'm Not Ashamed." Preaching by Bros. Hess, Hubbard and Bostic. Closing song, "Marching on the Way." Benediction by Clinton Robinette.

We wish to thank all the people in and around Swords Creek for their kindness shown during the Association and the care given the people. Also appreciate very much Bro. Carl Witt and his singers being with us.

The Letcher County Conference as follows:

To the John Thomas Association

Greetings:

The Letcher County Conference met with the Taylors Chapel Church from the 27th to the 28th of August, 1949, and appointed the following delegates to the Association.

Raymond Lawson	John Hickman	Hilt Taylor
Mildred Lawson	Lena McPeaks	Oma Brown
Joe Toth	Alice Wynn	Mary Combs
Bernard Caldwell	Sarah Potter	Spisy Moore
Vera Hickman	Bonnie Prichard	Mart Bolling
Oda Thompkins	Johnnie Steffie	Lester Able
Warn Thompkins	Betty Elkins	C. C. Tackett
Kathern Mayhan	Clara Roberts	Munsie Isom
Arvill Mullins		Clifton Hess

Our standing is as follows:

Number of churches	14
Number of members	714
Number of Sunday Schools	14
Number on roll in Sunday School	1500
Average attendance in Sunday School	1100
Number ordained ministers	29
Value of church property	\$35,000.00

Albert Dingus Moderator
Johnny Sykes Clerk

The Letcher County Ministers Conference met with the Taylor's Chapel on September 27, 1949 and organized by elect-

ing Albert Dingus, Moderator and Johnny Sykes, Clerk. The following ministers were voted upon and their character passed as good:

Albert Dingus	L. D. Mayhan	Hubert Hill
A. L. Dingus	Ersel McPeaks	W. M. Elkins
Monroe Hubbard	F. M. Rose	V. C. Morris
C. W. Isom	James Rose	Charlie Graham
Clyde Huff	D. D. Moore	Ezra Johnson
C. C. Flannry	Joe Banks	Everett Potter
Robert Madden	John Akers	Persey Elkins
Henry Don Vest	Roscoe McCloud	Forrest Beverly
	Frank Delph	

Licentiate Ministers

Bobby Dingus	Hilt Taylor	Wesley Thomas	H. L. Cook
		Albert Dingus	Moderator
		Johnny Sykes	Clerk

Ministers' Reports

D. L. COLEMAN

Churches pastored	1
Sermons preached	90
Revivals held	1
Professions witnessed	29
Number baptised	19
Additions to church	21
Burials attended	3
Miles traveled	650
Memorials held	1
Money received	\$186.00

KERMIT DEEL

Sermons preached	25
Professions witnessed	2
Funerals held	2
Miles traveled	3000
Money received	\$15.00
Prayer services held	8
Memorials held	3

C. E. REEDY

Sermons preached	125
Churches pastored	3
Revivals held	1
Professions witnessed	35
Number baptized	18
Additions to church	15
Memorials held	5

VERNON KISER

Sermons preached	105
Revivals held	3
Professions witnessed	65
Number baptised	25
Funerals held	7
Miles traveled	10,000
Money received	\$225.00
Prayer services held	15
Memorials held	8

HENRY SMITH

Sermons preached	75
Churches pastored	3
Professions witnessed	30
Number baptised	2
Additions to church	16
Funerals held	15
Miles traveled	300
Money received	\$75.00
Prayer services held	7
Memorials held	8

GONIAN KELLY

Churches pastored	1
Sermons preached	25
Conversions witnessed	3
Memorials held	9
Money received	\$2.20

W. E. RASNAKE

Churches pastored	1
Sermons preached	79
Conversions witnessed	20
Number baptised	9
Burials attended	6
Memorials held	8
Prayer services held	5
Miles traveled	400
Money received	\$11.75

M. P. BALL

Churches pastored	1
Sermons preached	65
Conversions witnessed	17
Burials attended	11
Memorials held	8
Prayer services held	26
Miles traveled	175

J. C. RASNAKE

Churches pastored	2
Sermons preached	66
Revivals held	3
Conversions witnessed	56
Number baptised	5
Burials attended	7
Memorials held	8
Couples married	2
Miles traveled	960
Money received	\$349.70

HOWARD BOSTIC

Churches pastored	1
Sermons preached	125
Revivals held	6
Conversions witnessed	140
Number baptised	108
Burials attended	8
Memorials held	5
Prayer services held	10
Churches organized	1
Miles traveled	500
Money received	\$207.76

HARLEY DYE

Churches pastored	4
Sermons preached	215
Revivals held	5

Conversions witnessed	130
Number baptised	120
Burials attended	14
Memorials held	5
Prayer services held	6
Sunday Schools organized	1
Miles traveled	2000
Money received	\$224.76

LONZO EDWARDS

Churches pastored	3
Sermons preached	200
Revivals held	7
Conversions witnessed	80
Number baptised	35
Burials attended	5
Memorials held	2
Prayer services held	1
Churches organized	2
Sunday Schools organized	3
Miles traveled	2000
Money received	\$88.80

CLYDE HUFF

Churches pastored	2
Sermons preached	150
Revivals held	3
Conversions witnessed	75
Number baptised	20
Burials attended	5
Memorials held	2
Sunday Schools organized	1
Couples married	2
Miles traveled	600
Amount received	\$300.00

EZRA JOHNSON

Churches pastored	1
Sermons preached	74
Conversions witnessed	68
Number baptised	29
Burials attended	2
Memorials held	1
Prayer services held	52
Churches organized	1
Sunday Schools organized	1
Couples married	2
Miles traveled	1800
Money received	\$196.50

ROBERT MADDEN

Churches pastored	2
Sermons preached	100
Revivals held	4
Conversions witnessed	35
Number baptised	15
Burials attended	3
Memorials held	4
Prayer services held	52
Churches organized	2
Sunday Schools organized	2

Miles traveled	1500
Amount received	\$50.00

EVERETT POTTER

Sermons preached	60
Revivals held	1
Conversions witnessed	10
Number baptised	1
Burials attended	4
Memorials held	7
Prayer services held	25

OBITUARIES

OBITUARY OF ALOLA A. BALL

Daughter of J. F. and Rebecca A. Duty. She was born Nov. 15, 1869, and about the age of 18 she was born Spiritually and joined the Primitive Baptist Church, was baptised by Rev. J. H. Duty. She lived a devoted Christian life for several years, until some of them began to preach that there wasn't any Hell. She couldn't endorse that doctrine and went to the Missionary Baptist Church. A little later she and her husband joined themselves to the Freewill Baptist Church, and lived a devoted Christian life until May 13, 1949, when the Death Angel transferred her from this world to the Spirit land to live with Christ and all the redeemed, making her stay on earth 79 years and lacking 2 days of 6 months.

At the age of 20 years she was married to R. S. Ball and to this union was born 12 children. One departed this life in infancy and the Lord blessed us to raise the 11 to be men and women, and we also raised a granddaughter. Alola was a kind wife and mother.

She was a kind and obliging neighbor and was loved by all she came in contact with. She was a great help to her husband in his ministerial work. She leaves to mourn her passing her husband, six boys, four girls and a host of great-grandchildren, grandchildren and friends. We feel assured that our loss has been Heaven's gain.

Written by her husband, R. S. Ball

IN MEMORY OF BEN JACKSON

Ben Jackson, son of Joseph Jackson and Louisa Dotson Jackson, deceased December 11, 1948, age 69. He was converted and baptized by the Rev. James Thornbery. He backslid from the form of the Missionary Doctrine. On September 14, 1943 he was very sick and sent for the writer to come see him. I went and preached the word of Jesus to him. He

said, "I know that Jesus has pardoned me for all my sins and that I am going to Heaven by faith in God, and I want my membership with the Freewill Baptist." He was given the hand of fellowship and on December 11, 1948 Ben fell asleep in Christ by a heart ailment to await the resurrection of all things.

L. Dodge Coleman

IN MEMORY OF SISTER NELLIE HURLEY HUNT

Sister Nellie Hurley was born February 20, 1915. She was married to Jessie Hunt about April 7, 1932. To this union eleven children were born, which survive her as orphans. She deceased February 10, 1949, age 34. She confessed a hope in Christ and was baptized by L. Dodge Coleman, a Freewill Baptist Minister on September 20, 1930, and by information given by her Father, Walter Hurley, and my precious brother, in the ministerial work, she lived her married life a true Christian and left her husband, children and many Christian friends to mourn her death. The writer saw with his eyes the day he and Brother Claude Conn attended Sister Nellie's funeral, four little babies left on bottles without a mother to nourish and care for them. A word to her husband and children: Mother has gone to Jesus, press on, repent and live by Faith in God, or you will never see mother in the sweet by and by.

Your Pastor, L. DODGE COLEMAN

IN MEMORY OF ELI HURLEY

Brother Eli C. Hurley was the son of James R. Hurley and Matildia Jane Coleman Hurley. Deceased April 8, 1949, age 66 years. He was converted and baptized by the Christian Baptist and when the Freewill Baptist Church at Paw Paw, Kentucky was erecting this building Eli was a donater of \$100 on it, to raise up a standard for the people, and after the church

was dedicated to God on November 18, 1947, he asked for fellowship with the Freewill Baptist and was received and given the right hand of fellowship. On April 5, 1949, he said to the writer: "I am in peace with God and am waiting to see Jesus in the sweet by and by." He went to his long home April 8, 1949.

His Uncle and Pastor,
L. Dodge Coleman

IN MEMORY OF HERMON HILL

Hermon Hill was born January 25th, 1933 and departed this life May 16, 1949, making his stay on earth 16 years, 3 months and 22 days. He leaves to mourn his loss his father, Lee Hill; mother, Gusta Hill, 4 sisters and grandfather, and host of friends and relatives. He professed a hope in Christ during the month of March. He attended every service that he was able. He told his friends the only time he was satisfied was when he was in the service of the Lord.

IN MEMORY OF ISAAC J. PRESELY

Isaac J. Presely, son of Nancy and Carrol Presely, was born March 10, 1883 and departed this life July 25, 1948. He was married to Mary M. Lester and to this union was born 13 children. His wife and four children have preceded him to the Great Beyond. He told some of his friends if he had to die he wasn't afraid but that his soul would be saved. He leaves to mourn his loss nine children, one brother, one sister and a host of friends. Trusting that his testimony he left will give our hearts a greater desire to make our run successful where separation never comes.

Sleep on, dear uncle, and take your rest,
God called you to be with the blest;
May we meet on the other shore,
Meet there to part no more.
When we lay our burdens down,
And go home to wear a crown;
There I hope to shake your hand
And live together in Glory Land.

By his niece, Mrs. Alta M. Rasnake

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.

THE ORGANIZATION OF A CHURCH

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

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.

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.

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.

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 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.

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. M. McFALL
D. L. SMITH
ARTHUR CASTEEL
J. C. RASNAKE
W. R. STALLARD

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 the 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. 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 Meeting; 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.

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. 1 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 draw-eth sinners home to God.—St. John 16:7, 8; Acts 2:2; 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 impress 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. 7:8; 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 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 the 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.

