

Minutes

of the

JOHN THOMAS
ASSOCIATION

of

Freewill Baptists

STATE OF VIRGINIA

THIRTIETH SESSION

Held With

Drill Chapel Church

DRILL, VA.

September 11-13, 1952

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Officers

Officers of the John Thomas Association of Freewill Baptists that were elected for the year 1952-1953:

J. C. RASNAKE, Cleveland, Va.	Moderator
MONROE HUBBARD, Wise, Va.	Assistant Moderator
EVERETT JOHNSON, Clinchco, Va.	Clerk
W. J. YATES, Omaha, Va.	Treasurer

Ordaining Councils

LETCHER COUNTY QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

ALBERT DINGUS, <i>Chairman</i>	Jenkins, Ky.
C. W. ISOM	Burdine, Ky.
L. D. MAHAN	Payne Gap, Ky.

NEW DURM QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

J. C. RASNAKE, <i>Chairman</i>	Cleveland, Va.
W. E. RASNAKE	Council, Va.
HARLEY DYE	Swords Creek, Va.

DICKENSON COUNTY QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

E. C. KISER, <i>Chairman</i>	Stratton, Va.
LONZO EDWARDS	Clinchco, Va.
C. E. REEDY	Millard, Va.

TRI-STATE QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

No report.

VISITING MINISTERS

ORVILLE O'QUINN, Council, Va.	Sandy Valley Association
ROY HYLTON, Honaker, Va.	Sandy Valley Association
EMORY COOK, Dante, Va.	Clinch Valley Association

Proceedings

The Thirtieth Annual Session of the John Thomas Association of Freewill Baptists convened with the Drill Chapel Church, Drill, Va., September 11-13, 1952.

Brother Harley Dye, pastor of Drill Chapel Church, gave the introductory message at 11:00 Thursday morning. Brother Dye read for the lesson the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah. Brother Monroe Hubbard called on for prayer. Brother Dye used for his text, "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye, through his poverty, might be rich,"

Brother Hubbard concluded the service.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION 2:00 P.M.

Conference was called together at 2:00 p.m. and opened with singing. The Clerk read for the lesson a part of the fourth chapter of Second Corinthians, beginning with the seventh verse and reading the remainder of the chapter. Brother Kyle Hubbard was called on for prayer.

The Clerk proceeded by enrolling delegates, ministers, visiting ministers and corresponding messengers from the various conferences and associations.

DELEGATE FROM LETCHER COUNTY CONFERENCE

Dallas Kelley

DELEGATES FROM DICKENSON COUNTY CONFERENCE

Mr. & Mrs. Barney Stanley Charlie Sexton
Mrs. Everett Johnson

DELEGATES FROM NEW DURM CONFERENCE

Mr. & Mrs. Will Whited	Mr. & Mrs. Cleve Dye	B. E. Dye
Mrs. Chester Whited	Mrs. Harley Dye	Seaton Helton
Ralph Rasnake	Walter Whited	Marion Lambert
Corbett Ray	Hattie Blankenship	

DELEGATES FROM TRI-STATE CONFERENCE

No Delegates

MINISTERS FROM LETCHER COUNTY CONFERENCE

Albert Dingus

Monroe Hubbard

MINISTERS FROM DICKENSON COUNTY CONFERENCE

Henry Smith

E. M. Rose

Everett Johnson

Alva Dingus

Lonzo Edwards

MINISTERS FROM NEW DURM CONFERENCE

Kyle Hubbard

Harley Dye

James Hall

J. C. Rasnake

Glenn Peck

The Clerk proceeded with business of the Association by electing a Moderator. By move and second the Association elected Brother J. C. Rasnake.

The Moderator, taking charge, asked for and received by the Association an assistant in the work, namely Brother Monroe Hubbard. He continued by electing a clerk and treasurer for the Association. By move and second Everett Johnson was retained as Clerk and W. J. Yates as treasurer.

The Association gave the Moderator power to appoint committees as needed to help with the work. He proceeded by appointing a committee to supply the pulpit during the Association.

Sister Chester Whited was appointed chairman of this committee, with Sister Harley Dye and Brother Ralph Rasnake as members.

The Association being organized, it was adjourned until 9:30 Friday morning.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON PREACHING SERVICE

The Committee selected Brothers Orville O'Quinn and Kyle Hubbard for this hour of service. Lesson read, third chapter of Romans. Prayer by Sister Harley Dye.

Text used: "All we, like sheep, have gone astray." (Part of the sixth verse of the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah.)

THURSDAY NIGHT PREACHING SERVICE 8:00 P.M.

The Committee appointed Brothers J. C. Rasnake and Edward Perkins for this hour of service. The reading for the lesson was the fourth chapter of St. John. Brother James Hall led in prayer. The text used in service was the twenty-ninth verse of the lesson read, "Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did; is not this the Christ?"

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION 9:30 A.M.

The conference opened with singing. The Moderator read for the lesson part of the tenth chapter of St. John. Prayer was by Brother Albert Dingus.

The Moderator continued with the work by calling for delegates, ministers, visiting ministers and corresponding messengers. After enrollment, the Moderator called for the minutes of last year which were read, passed and accepted by the conference. The Treasurer's report was read and accepted.

The call was given for letters from the various conferences. New Durm reported by letter which was read as follows:

Greetings, to the John Thomas Association of Freewill Baptists.

We, the Russell County, New Durm Conference, met with the Fullers Chapel Church and organized by electing Harley Dye as Moderator, Benton Miller, Assistant Moderator, and Faye Rasnake, Clerk. The following delegates were from their respective churches:

Fullers Chapel—Walter Whited, Ralph Rasnake, Corbett Ray.

Ephesus Church—Ella Dye, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Dye, Mr. and Mrs. Cleve Dye, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Whited, R. C. Pendleton, Mr. and Mrs. Racy Blankenship, Paul Osborne, Hue Coleman, Evans Johnson.

Drill Chapel—Seaton Helton, Mr. and Mrs. Bennie Perkins, Mr. and Mrs. B. E. Dye.

Mt. Zion Church—S. S. Hurd.

Hales Chapel—Mr. and Mrs. Ira Presley.

We have one new church, Fletcher Ridge Church, and its delegates are Dewey Nuckles, Earl Hess, Lyncous Ray, Brady Farmer, and Fines Farmer.

Our standing is as follows:

Number of Churches.....	8
Number of Members.....	377
Number of Ministers.....	19
Number of Sunday Schools.....	2

By order of New Durm Conference.

Harley Dye, *Moderator*
Benton Miller, *Assistant Moderator*
Faye Rasnake, *Clerk*

This letter was read, accepted and passed. Moderator called for next letter. Letcher County responded with a letter, as follows:

To the John Thomas Association when convened with the Drill Chapel Church, Drill, Va., September 11-14, 1952.

Greetings:

The Letcher County Conference met with the Stanley Freewill Baptist Church, Stanley, Va., August 25-26, 1952, and appointed the following delegates to the Association:

Aline Adkins	Lilly Dingus	Ollie Boyd
Luther Dingus	Ansil DePreist	Myrtle Kelley
Emma Goode	Sarah Potter	Brasha Puckett
Edna Bates	Dallis Kelley	A. J. Gray
Mollie Gray	T. D. Puckett	Bessie Terry
Eugene Adkins	Francis Depreist	Marie Thomas

Our standing is as follows:

Number of Churches	20
Number of Members	882
Number of Sunday Schools	19
Number on Roll	1756
Average Attendance	1450
Ordained Ministers	33
Value of Church Property	\$50,000

By order of Letcher County Conference while in regular session with the Stanley Church, Stanley, Va., August 25, 1952.

C. W. Isom, *Moderator*
Johnnie Sykes, *Clerk*

This letter was accepted, read and passed by the Association.

Moderator called for next letter. Dickenson County responded with a letter as follows:

To the John Thomas Association of Freewill Baptist when convened with Drill Chapel Church, Drill, Va.; began on the 11th of September and closed September 14, 1952.

We, the Dickenson County Quarterly Conference, met with the Valley View Church on Friday before the fourth Sunday in July, 1952, and organized by electing Rev. E. M. Rose, Moderator, Rev. C. E. Reedy, assistant moderator, and Clinton Lambert and Lloyd Hillman as clerks.

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

Clinchco—Mrs. Garland Mullins, Vernie Patton and Everett Smith.

Cold Spring—Mr. and Mrs. Carl Deel.

Counts Chapel—Slacy Viers, Walter Puckett.

Davis Chapel—Maurun Bevins, Nanila Davis, Prince Dotson.

Duncan Gap—Mr. and Mrs. Noah Hamilton.

Dyers Chapel—Bill Hall, Elmer Robinson, John Sutherland.

Fleming Town—Lee and Hie Mullins.

Fremont—Joe Johnson.

Ferby Chapel—Ada Dotson, Otis and Edna Sturgill, John Meade.

Georges Fork—Jessie and Edna Browning, Arnold and Virgie Kennedy.

Hill Ridge—Mr. and Mrs. Tilden Rose, Mr. and Mrs. Cleve Green, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Green.

Honey Camp—Clara and Tilda Smith.

Hubbard Chapel—Mr. and Mrs. Barnie Collins.

Lick Fork—Connie and Patsy Joe Browning, Helen Vanover, Janice Stanley, Eunice Mullins, Mr. and Mrs. Brack Powers.

Martins Chapel—Dallis Martin, Bernie Long.

Middle Branch—Cecil Silcox, Gather, Neal and Rassie Lambert, Snoda Sutherland.

Mill Creek—Elmer Kennedy, Delmer Farmer, Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Deel.

Mills Chapel—Glen Powers.

Pine Creek—Tandy Hall, Willie Newberry, Tennyson Haynes.

Pine Grove—Ora Salyers, Ornard Gouge.

Pippin—Absent.

Luther Chapel—Pearl Bise, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Carty, Gertrude Carty.

Pyles Memorial—John Riley, Flora Stallard.

Rachel—Samantha Mullins, Alta and Janis Mullins.

Rugsby—Present by letter.

Splash Dam—Ersel Ramey, Emery Hamons.

Tarpon—Gladis Holbrook, Dora Burchett, Alta Rose.

Yates—Absent.

Valley View—B. M. Lane, Mrs. John Kieth, Eula Yates, Bertha Stanley.

Our standing is as follows:

Number of Churches	29
Membership	1881
Number of Sunday Schools	21
Membership	1122
Youth League	2
Ordained Ministers	34
Licentiates	5

By order of the Dickenson County Quarterly Conference while in regular session with the Valley View Church, July 25-27, 1952.

Rev. E. M. Rose, *Moderator*

Rev. C. E. Reedy, *Assistant Moderator*

Clinton Lambert, Lloyd Hillman, *Clerks*

This letter was read, passed and accepted.

Tri-State Conference, being absent, their time was extended until Saturday.

Messengers who visited other Associations were asked for reports. Brother Monroe Hubbard reported on his visit to the Kentucky State Association. He found a hearty welcome among the people there and a great spirit abounding among the people of God. Brother Albert Dingus was happy to report that the Freewill Baptist Home at Louisa, Ky., was free of all indebtedness.

This report was accepted by the Association.

Next item was questioning the different Conferences as to the number of minutes needed. They reported as follows:

New Durm Conference	400
Letcher County Conference	525
Dickenson County Conference	775
Tri-State Conference	200
Extra	100
Total	2000

This finishing the work at this hour, the Conference adjourned until 2:00 p.m., Friday afternoon.

FRIDAY MORNING PREACHING SERVICE 11:00 A.M.

The Committee appointed Brothers Albert Dingus and Henry Smith for this hour of service. Brother Dingus read for

a lesson 15 verses of the twenty-third chapter of St. Luke, beginning with the twenty-eighth verse. Prayer was by Sister Everett Johnson.

Brother Dingus used for text, "And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the male-factors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left."

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION 2:00 P.M.

Conference opened with singing. The Moderator read for a lesson the twenty-fourth chapter of Matthew. Prayer was by Sister Mae Vanover.

Moderator called for unfinished business. Tri-State not being present, proceeded by appointing Messengers to different Associations.

KENTUCKY STATE ASSOCIATION

Convenes on Friday before the third Sunday in June, 1953.

Albert Dingus

Monroe Hubbard

CLINCH VALLEY ASSOCIATION

Convenes on Friday before the second Sunday in August, 1953.

James Hall

VIRGINIA STATE ASSOCIATION

Convenes with the Mt. Carmel Church on Friday before the third Sunday in June, 1953, at Woodway, Va.

E. M. Rose and Wife

Alva Dingus

Mrs. C. C. Lambert

Mrs. Roy Edwards

SANDY VALLEY ASSOCIATION

Convenes on Friday before the fourth Sunday in August, 1953.

Ralph Rasnake

Monroe Hubbard

Walter Whited

Corbett Ray

By move and second the Conference adjourned until 9:30 a.m., Saturday.

At this hour the Ministers' Conference was organized. By move and second the Conference voted to retain the same Moderator and Clerk for this work.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON PREACHING SERVICE 2:00 P.M.

Committee appointed Brothers Benton Miller and James Hall for this service. Brother Hall read a part of the twenty-fifth chapter of Matthew, beginning at the fourteenth verse. Prayer was by Sister Harley Dye.

FRIDAY NIGHT PREACHING SERVICE 7:30 P.M.

Brother Willie Compton and Monroe Hubbard were appointed for the night service. Prayer was by Brother Albert Dingus.

The text used was "The scepter shall not depart from Judea."

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION 9:30 A.M.

Conference opened with singing. Moderator continued by reading the fifteenth Psalm. Prayer was by Sister Everett Johnson.

Moderator called for any unfinished business. Letter was called for from the Tri-State Conference and, being absent, was tabled until the afternoon session. The executive board was not ready to report, and this was also tabled until the afternoon.

The privilege of messengers volunteering to visit other Associations was granted. This being finished, the Conference adjourned until 2:00 p.m. Saturday.

SATURDAY MORNING PREACHING SERVICE, 11:00 A.M.

The committee appointed Brothers Alva Dingus and E. M. Rose for the morning service. Brother Dingus read for a lesson the eleventh chapter of Hebrews. By request, Sister Harley Dye opened the service with prayer. Brother Dingus used for his text the thirteenth and fourteenth verses of lesson read.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION 2:00 P.M.

The Conference opened with singing. The Moderator omitted the scripture lesson and called for prayer by Brother Everett Johnson.

The Moderator called for the unfinished business of the Association. Tri-State not responding with delegates or letter, by a move and second of the Association they were voted to stand as of the last Association.

The executive board gave an oral report that Thursday be dropped from the Association and have three days for the work instead of the usual four days we now have. By move and second this was tabled until the next Association.

A written report was given the clerk which reads as follows: "We, the executive board of the Sandy Valley and John Thomas Association, agree that we should establish full fellowship between the said Associations. If any individuals have any differences, let them settle according to God's word. The clerk of the John Thomas Association to notify each church in the Sandy Valley Association and the New Durm Conference of these actions taken this 13th day of September, 1952."

Corbett Deel, John Thomas Association
E. P. Hess, Sandy Valley Association
Walter Whited, New Durm Conference

By a vote of the Association these reports were accepted.

Also, the next Association goes to the Burdine Church, Burdine, Ky.

This finishing the work of the John Thomas Association, it was regularly moved and seconded that it adjourn until Thursday before the second Sunday in September, 1953, unless called together by the Moderator, when it will convene with the Burdine Church, Burdine, Ky.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON PREACHING SERVICE 2:00 P.M.

The Committee appointed Brothers Roy Hylton, Clyde Reedy and Lonzo Edwards for this hour of service. Brother Hylton read for a lesson 32 verses of the first chapter of St. John. Prayer was by Mrs. Harley Dye.

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE, 7:30 P.M.

The Committee appointed Brothers Emory Estep, Jacob Margus, Glenn Peck and Harley Dye. Prayer was by Brother Arnold Smith. Lesson read was the tenth chapter of St. John.

The Sunday service was discontinued due to the funeral service of Sister Howard Bostic.

The Association wishes to thank the people in and around Drill, Va. for their kindness and fine spirit shown and extended to the people during this Association.

MINISTERS CONFERENCE WORK

Ministers' Conference already organized, Moderator continued by calling for letters from the various conferences. Letcher County responded with a letter as follows:

The Letcher County Ministers' Conference met with the Stanley Church on August 25th, 1952. The Conference was called together by the clerk. C. W. Isom was appointed Moderator. The following ministers' names were read and their characters passed as good:

Albert Dingus
J. P. Banks
James Wright
Johnnie Stoffer
Lonnie Hale
Everett Potter
Persey Elkins
Hilt Taylor
Monroe Hubbard
C. W. Isom
V. C. Manis

Ira Harvey
Joyce Milton
Clyde Huff
Roscoe McCloud
Wesley Thomas
Darvin Mullins
D. D. Moore
L. D. Mahan
Charlie Graham
Johnny Skeens
Ezra Johnson

Robert Madden
Forest Beverly
Hobart Spriggs
Emory Vanover
Ersel McPeaks
Bill Smith
Leo Good
John Akers
Donald Sexton
Frank Delph
Harold Miles

By order of the Letcher County Ministers' Conference while in regular session with the Stanley Church, Stanley, Va., August 25, 1952.

C. W. Isom, *Moderator*
Johnny Sykes, *Clerk*

This letter was passed and accepted by the Association.

Letter from Dickenson County was received next. It was as follows:

We, the Dickenson County Ministers' Conference, met with the Valley View Church on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in July and organized by electing Rev. E. M. Rose, Moderator, and Lloyd Hillman and Clinton Lambert as Clerks.

The following Ministers were present:

W. R. Bise
S. P. Davis
Kermit Deel
Asa Hughes
Walter Hughes
Willard Kiser
Quinton Kieth
Lonzo Edwards

Casper Lane
Rit Large
Monroe Mullins
C. E. Reedy
E. M. Rose
Maston Rose
Josh Rose
Cecil Ramey

Henry Smith
Fred Taylor
Alva Dingus
James Wright
Bill Harrison
Hie Mullins
Lee Mullins

The following Ministers were absent:

Ervin Hall
Emory Estep
E. C. Kiser
Vernon Kiser
Everett Johnson
David Kennedy

George Mooney
Goble Rose
Troy Robinson
Luther Taylor
Alex Tompkins

Emory Vanover
Talt Wolford
Leonard Hicks
Chas. T. Dutton
Ivan Reedy

All ministers were called and passed upon as a whole. By a move and second the characters of the ministers were passed as good. B. L. Grizzle and Bill Willis were dropped for violating the by-laws of Ministers' Conference, Article No. 5.

By order of the Dickenson County Ministers' Conference while in regular session with Valley View Church, Clintwood, Va., on July 26, 1952.

Rev. E. M. Rose, *Moderator*

Clinton Lambert, Lloyd Hillman, *Clerks*

This letter was accepted and passed by Association.

Letter from New Durm Ministers' Conference was as follows:

We, the New Durm Ministers' Conference met with the Fuller's Chapel Church, August 9, 1952 and organized by electing Harley Dye as Moderator and Faye Rasnake as Clerk. There were 11 ordained ministers present and seven absent. Their names were called and each one was voted on and their characters passed as good.

They are as follows:

E. R. Rasnake	Benton Miller	James Hall
Harley Dye	Elmer Hess	Howard Bostic
Edward Perkins	Mose Nappier	Kyle Hubbard
Gonian Kelley	M. P. Ball	Henry Ball
Charlie Keen	J. C. Rasnake	Glenn Peck
Lee Wilson	Homer Wilson	Dolphus Cook

By order of the New Durm Conference while in regular session with the Fuller's Chapel Church, August 9, 1952.

Harley Dye, *Moderator*

Faye Rasnake, *Clerk*

This letter was accepted and passed by the Association.

The Tri-State letter from the Ministers' Conference was tabled as of last year, not being present.

This finishing the work of the Ministers' Conference, it was regularly moved and seconded that it adjourn until Saturday before the second Sunday in September unless called together by the Moderator, when it will convene with the Burdine Church, Burdine, Ky.

Ministers' Report

MARTIN BALL

Churches Pastored	1
Sermons Preached	56
Conversions Witnessed	26
Number Baptized	8
Burials Attended	9
Memorials Held	10
Prayer Services Held	18
Miles Traveled	2000
Amount Received	\$60.00

EVERETTE RASNAKE

Churches Pastored	1
Sermons Preached	40
Conversions Witnessed	4
Burials Attended	6
Memorials Held	4
Miles Traveled	500
Amount Received	\$52.00

R. S. BALL

Sermons Preached	6
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EVERETT POTTER

Churches Pastored	1
Sermons Preached	48
Revivals Held	1
Conversions Witnessed	6
Number Baptized	1
Burials Attended	3
Memorials Held	2
Prayer Services Held	28

HARLEY DYE

Churches Pastored	3
Sermons Preached	108
Conversions Witnessed	10
Number Baptized	5
Burials Attended	15
Memorials Held	8
Miles Traveled	1500
Amount Received	\$365.00

HOBERT SPRIGGS

Sermons Preached	68
Prayer Services Held	8
Funerals	11
Memorials Held	7
Number Baptized	7

D. D. MOORE

Churches Pastored	2
Sermons Preached	50
Funerals	5
Memorials Held	6
Number Baptized	3
Couples Married	2
Paid to Churches	\$25.00

DONALD SEXTON

Churches Pastored	2
Sermons Preached	approx. 150
Conversions Witnessed	several
Number Baptized	3
Burials Attended	several
Prayer Services Held	150
Sunday Schools Organized	1
Miles Traveled	4000
Amount Received	\$100.00

ALBERT DINGUS

Churches Pastored	2
Sermons Preached	50
Revivals Held	2
Conversions Witnessed	25
Number Baptized	10
Burials Attended	12
Memorials Held	several
Couples Married	4
Miles Traveled	1848

LEO GOOD

Sermons Preached	150
Prayer Services Held	60
Miles Traveled	600

LONNIE P. HALE

Churches Pastored	1
Sermons Preached	175
Revivals Held	1
Conversions Witnessed	1
Prayer Services Held	60
Miles Traveled	3000

ROBERT MADDEN

Churches Pastored	1
Sermons Preached	100
Revivals Held	1
Conversions Witnessed	8
Burials Attended	1
Churches Organized	2
Sunday Schools Organized	1
Miles Traveled	1000
Amount Received	\$75.00

JOHN SKEENS

Sermons Preached	140
Conversions Witnessed	17
Number Baptized	3
Burials Attended	4
Memorials Held	2
Prayer Services Held	35
Miles Traveled	800
Revivals Held	3

OBITUARIES

IN MEMORY OF CLARENCE O. BOYD

Clarence was the son of Acie and Josephine Boyd of Seco, Ky. He was born Nov. 7, 1903, and died Oct. 27, 1951. His stay on earth being 47 years, 11 months and 20 days.

Clarence was united in holy matrimony to Ollis Potter on May 21, 1925. To this union was born seven children: two boys have preceded him in death. He leaves to mourn his loss his wife, three boys and two girls: Philip Boyd of Hylton, Ky.; Wesley and James Lawrence at home; Laura Lee Childress of Hylton, Ky.; Lorene, at home; Jimmie, an adopted son; his father, four brothers, one sister, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Clarence found peace to his soul and united himself to the Freewill Baptist Church at Hamphill, Ky., in August, 1939. Later he moved his letter to the Hylton Chapel Church, where he was ordained as a Deacon and served in that capacity until death.

Potter's Funeral Home of West Liberty, Ky., officiated.

Submitted by: Everett Potter

IN MEMORY OF ALVIN POTTER

Alvin was born Nov. 13, 1911, at Hylton, Ky. He deceased this life on Sept. 2, 1951, at the St. Joseph Infirmary at Louisville, Ky. He was 39 years and 10 months old.

Alvin was the son of John Morgan and Spicy Potter of Hylton, Ky.

He lived the most of his life in the vicinity and was loved by most everybody who knew him. He wasn't a member of any church but he left a true confession that there was nothing between him and his Lord. He called on the Lord as long as he was conscious and he did say "I have it made."

We feel like Alvin has gone on home to meet his baby who has gone on before.

He is survived by his loving wife, Gladys, and three children: Gabel Dale, Kearie Ennis, and Avis June; his father and mother, and six sisters and five brothers: Lou Tucker, Burdine, Ky.; Ivory Potter, Praise, Ky.; Allison Potter, Spring Valley, Calif.; Myrtle, Yoka-Homa, Wash.; May Epling, Pound,

Va.; Maxie Salyers, Pound, Va.; Goldie Childress, Detroit, Mich.; Clement Potter, Jenkins, Ky.; Christine Potter, Detroit, Mich.; Reed Potter, Jenkins, Ky.; and Gordon Potter, Detroit, Mich.

Alvin also leaves to mourn his loss a host of friends and relatives. We feel like our loss is Heaven's gain.

Mr. H. D. Potter of the Potter's Funeral Home at West Liberty, Ky., was in charge of the funeral service.

Submitted by: Friends

IN MEMORY OF DELL JACKSON

He was born March 26, 1871 and departed this life January 10, 1952, making his stay on earth 82 years, 10 months, and nine days.

He professed faith in Christ 20 years ago and was baptized by J. C. Rasnake and was received in the membership of the Freewill Church until death.

He leaves his wife, Merda Jackson, and two children, Axley Jackson of Council, Va., and Hattie Ball of Honaker, Va. Also six grandchildren, two brothers, Lee Jackson of Honaker and Palent Jackson of Council, Va., and a host of other relatives and friends to mourn their loss. We feel that our loss is his eternal gain. The funeral was at his home, burial at the Compton Cemetery on January 13, 1952.

Written by his daughter, in love: Mrs. Axley Jackson

IN MEMORY OF ROSA SANDERS

Rosa Sanders, the daughter of Toby M. and Sara Harris, was born August 6, 1904, and departed this life December 11, 1951, making her stay on earth 47 years, 4 months and 5 days.

She was married to Larkin McGlothlin and to this union was born one son. Then she was married to Noah Ball; to this union was born three children, one boy and two girls. She has one grandchild.

Noah preceded her in death four years ago. She was married to Walker Sanders on January 10, 1947, and lived with him until her death.

She professed faith in Christ about 21 years ago and attached herself to the Methodist Church.

She leaves her father, six brothers, two sisters, five children, husband, one grandchild, and many relatives to mourn their loss.

Sleep on, dear mother, and take your rest; God called you home,
He thought it best.

A precious one from us is gone, a voice we loved is still.

A place in our home is vacant, that can never be filled.

But we can meet you some sweet day, where we will never have
to say goodbye.

IN MEMORY OF GRADY HARRIS

Grady was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Carson Harris. He was born Jan. 20, 1952, and died Jan. 31, 1952, making his stay here on earth 11 days. He leaves father, mother, four brothers, four sisters, and other relatives and friends to mourn their loss. But we feel that our loss is Heaven's gain.

Written by an aunt: Mrs. Ada Wilson

IN MEMORY OF J. R. RASNICK

J. R. was born on June 15, 1908 and died June 23, 1952, making his earthly stay 44 years and 8 days.

He married Hazel Fletcher on August 18, 1928. To this union was born five children, one of whom died in infancy. He leaves his wife, Hazel, and four children: Don, Doris, Wilma and Phyllis, all of Akron, Ohio; his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Rasnake of Cleveland, Va. Also eight brothers: Evert, James, Taulbee, Elbert, Howard, Roy (his twin), Walter and Ellis. Six sisters: Mrs. Emily Nelson, Mrs. Rosa Skeen, Mrs. Bertha Stevens, Mrs. Gladys Wilson, Miss Mary E. Rasnake, and Mrs. Eula McGuire. He also leaves a host of relatives and friends to mourn their loss. We feel that our loss is Heaven's gain.

Funeral services were held at the home of his father and mother with the Revs. Harley Dye, Howard Bostic, James Hall and Edward Perkins conducting the service. His remains were laid to rest in the Clinch Valley Memorial Cemetery at Richlands, Va.

He professed faith in Christ in January, 1951. He joined the church and was faithful until the end, singing "I Feel Like Traveling on," just before he died.

IN MEMORY OF LIZA MAE ROBINETTE BOSTIC

Born March 7, 1905; departed this life Sept. 11, 1952, age 47 years, 6 months and 4 days. She was married to Howard Bostic 29 years ago, and to this union was born 10 children—6 living and 4 dead. The 6 living children are: Lawrence, of Centerburg, Ohio; Ralph, of Centerburg, Ohio; Clarence, of Akron, Ohio; Anna Vee, of Swords Creek, Va.; J. P., of Swords Creek, Va., and John L., of Swords Creek, Va.

She has 2 grandchildren, and her father is still living; 6 brothers and 4 sisters. Her mother passed away many years ago.

She also leaves many relatives and friends to mourn their loss. She professed faith in Christ 7 years ago and joined the Freewill Baptist Church at Pine Creek 2 years later, and was a faithful member until death. She was a kind and loving wife—loved by her husband and children and everybody. We feel our loss is Heaven's gain. For this good woman to live was Christ, but to depart was far better.

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 Freewill Baptist ministers in reference to their Christian character, doctrine and ability to sustain a church. If the examination is satisfactory the applicants are organized into the church as follows: The Bible is presented as the only rule of faith and practice. The Church Covenant shall be adopted. A prayer of consecration offered. The hand of fellowship is given. Then officers are elected.

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

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

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,

RECEPTION OF MEMBERS (Continued)

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

4. When a minister of another denomination wishes to unite with the Freewill Baptist Church, he 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 orgnized 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.—1 Tim 2:5, 6; Heb. 2:9; St. John 3:16; Rev. 1:17; Acts 24:15; 1 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 2:2; 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 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. 7:8; 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.

