**OZIAS CHURCH** FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1962

# THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS CONVENED WITH

OF

LITTLE RIVER ASSOCIATION

OF THE

FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION

MINUTES

**OF THE** 

# WHITE HALL CHURCH SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1962

AND

Rev. Everett Williams, Moderator......Pearson, Ga. Rev. Marvin Hartsfield, Asst. Moderator ... Norman Park, Ga. Bro. W. N. Wilson, Clerk ..... Pearson, Ga. Sister J. C. Arnold, Asst. Clerk..... Rt. 2, Waycross, Ga.

Next Session to convene with Pine Level Church, on Friday and Corinth Church, on Saturday before the Third Sunday in October, 1963.

### CHURCH CONFERENCE

- 1. Prayer (unless divine service has been concluded and generally then).
- 2. Invite visiting brethren to seats.
- 3. Open the doors for reception of members, and read over minutes of last conference.
- 4. Call for absentees.
- 5. For acknowledgements.
- 6. For reference of deferred business.
- 7. For matters of dealing which are in order to come before the church.
- 8. For miscellaneous business.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1. The body of each session shall be opened and closed with prayer.
- Call for church letters and have them read, and names of ministers and delegates enrolled.
- 3. Call for petitionary letters.
- 4. Invite visiting brethren to seats with us.
- 5. Call for corresponding Messengers.
- Appoint Committees; (a) Preaching; (b) Resolution; (c) Finance; (d) Card of Thanks; For the Session; Appoint Church to bring report on (a) Auxiliaries and Literature; (b) Temperance; (c) Christian Education (d) Missions; For next session.
   Unfinished business.
- 8. Report of Committees.
- 9. Miscellaneous business.
- 10. Elect a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer by ballot.
- 11. Adjournment.

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

C.M. Chafin, Sr., Norman Park, Ga	Exp.	1963
M.M. Franks, Tifton, Ga	Exp.	1964
W.M. Wilson, Jr., Pearson, Ga	•	
J.B. Rice, Valdosta, Ga	-	
		1967

# ORDAINING COUNCIL

Rev. Everett Williams, Chairman 1963 Rev. W.R. Hullett Rev. Riley Giddens Rev. Lamar Parrish 1964 1965 1966 Rev. M.T. Goff — 1967

#### PROCEEDINGS

The Fifty-sixth annual session of the Little River Association of the Original Free Will Baptist convened with Ozias Free Will Baptist Church in Atkinson County, Pearson, Georgia on October 19th and White Hall Free Will Baptist Church in Ware County, Waycross, Georgia on October 20th 1962.

Services were opened by congregational singing. A most inspiring and challenging devotional was given by Rev. Emmett McDuffie. His scripture was taken from Hosea 14:1. He used the theme for the day "Return To God's Way." He stressed how badly we need to turn , back to God, and how important unity is between churches and associations. Then he gave the challenge of reaping the harvest.

The Clerk called the session to order, after which he turned the business over to the moderator, Rev. L.E. Sheffield, who in turn called the roll of Churches and Ministers. Each church answered by turning in their church letter to the association. Mrs. Riley Giddens and Mrs. Frank Dean were appointed to read the church letters. There was a move, seconded and carried to receive the letters as read and seat the delegates present and those who may come in later.

The Moderator called for petitionary letters. Received none.

Visitors then were recognized. We had several. It was announced that White Hall Free Will Baptist Church is in full fellowship with the Little River Association. The letter had previously been received. Corresponding messengers were recognized as follows: J.R. Davidson from Union Association; Mrs. Emmett McDuffie from Ga. Union Association; Rev. George Lee from Albany Church. Billey Melvin was recognized as member of the Executive Committee of the National Association.

Move, seconded, and carried that the moderator appoint necessary committees.

They were appointed as follows: Resolutions, Bro. Everette Williams, Chairman, Bro. J.C. Arnold, and Bro. M.T. Goff; Finance, Rev. Marvin Hartsfield, Bro. M.M. Franks and Bro. Jeff Giddens; Nominations, Rev. Riley Giddens, Bro. Fred Baker, Bro. Alonso Moore; Card of Thanks, Lamar Parrish. Churches appointed to bring reports to the 1963 session were as follows: AUXILIARY AND LITERATURE, 1st Church, Valdosta; TEMPERENCE, Pine Level Church; CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, Friendship Church; MISSIONS, SunnySide Church; COMMITTEE ON STANDING OF CHURCHES AND MINISTERS, Carson Parrish Chairman, Johnny Taft, Clayton Flippo. CARD OR THANKS, Eddie Williams.

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Bro. Riley Giddens led the congregation in a hymn, "Must Jesus Bear The Cross Alone?" The morning message was brought by Bro. Everett Williams who used the associational theme for the day with coming from the 14th Chapter of Hosea and also the 4th Chapter of Timothy. He gave a wonderful message from God. The moderator gave a few remarks after which he opened the doors of the church for reception of members. The pastor of the church gave welcome and made announcements about lunch. Bro. J.R. Davidson dismissed the group by leading in prayer and also offering thanks for the lunch.

#### FRIDAY AFTERNOON

After everyone enjoying sweet fellowship and a delicious lunch served by the host church, Ozias, services were opened by congregational singing led by Brother Emmett McDuffie. The devotional thought was given by Brother Marvin Hartsfield who also used the theme. "Turning Back To God" to point out to the Association the very importance of it.

The moderator then welcomed Bro. Billey Melvin, Sec. and Treas. of the National Association. He gave a most interesting and challenging report in that the National Association had one of the best years this year that they have had since it started. He gave four reasons why we need the National Association. (1) Fellowship – fellowship with each other. (2) Leadership – such as training programs of the churches etc. (3) Missions – reaching into other places or places where we do not have churches. (4) Unity – united together – working together for Jesus and our people. United We Stand, Together We Fall. He also said we have a fast growing National Association. We now have a large building program underway at the college along with a lot of other progress.

Move, seconded, and carried that we receive the report of the Ordaining Council. (See Report).

Brother J.R. Davidson was ask to speak in behalf of the State Association. He commented on the connection between the State and National Association.

Move, seconded, and carried that we receive the report of the Resolutions Committee and release the committee taking up each item seperately for adoption. All three items of the resolutions committee report were adopted. (See Report).

Move, seconded, and carried to accept the report of the Finance Committee and release committee. (See Reports). Move, seconded, and carried to adjourn until 9:00 o'clock Saturday morning at White Hall Free Will Baptist Church in Waycross, Georgia.

#### SATURDAY MORNING

The morning session was opened with congregational singing led by Bro. Riley Giddens. Prayer by Bro. J.B. Rice. The moderator's message was given by Bro. L.E. Sheffield using the text of the day 1 Kings 18:30. The theme "Jehovah versus Baal." Bro. E.C. Morris spoke on the Denominational Events. He read II Timothy 3: 1-3.

We, then heard a report from the Georgia State promotional Secretary, Rev. Mance Cason. He stated that the Little River Association has paid \$989.17 to the Unified Program alone. Designated funds came to \$1,195.03 making a total of \$2,184.20 for the Little River Association. This means that we gave \$115.37 more to the Unified Program than we gave last year. Six churches reached the honor roll stage, which means they increased in giving over the previous year. They were: Cool Springs, Corinth, Friendship, 1st Hahira, Pine Level, and 1st Valdosta. The one church reaching the grand honor roll, which means they met their quota per capita member or more, was Ozias Church.

Moderator called for corresponding messengers and we received Bro. L.C. Johnson, representing the Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee. The moderator gave him a welcoming handshake. Bro. and Sister E.C. Morris were recognized as visitors. Bro. Billey Melvin was also present from the National Association. Bro. George Lee from Albany Church. Brother and Sister J.R. Davidson from State Association. The Clerk then read article 7 of the Constitution in which the Prominating Committee had recommended be changed. There was a move and seconded that this be changed to read "of the Little River Association" instead of "of the Free Will Baptist Denomination." After a lengthy discussion the vote was cast 22 for the change and 26 against the change. The move was NOT CARRIED.

Two delegates to the State Association was appointed as follows: Brother Ira Pittman, and Brother W.N. Wilson.

Move, seconded, and carried that Brother Housing Douglas be granted his resignation from the Executive Committee, because of his ill health and Clerk send him a Card of Thanks for his faithful years of service.

The Nominating Committee gave their report and there was a

#### LITTLE RIVER ASSOCIATION

move, seconded, and carried to accept their report. We then preceded to elect the following officers: Moderator, Brother Everett Williams, Assistant Moderator, Brother Marvin Hartsfield, Clerk, Brother W.N. Wilson, Assistant Clerk, Mrs. J.C. Arnold.

Reverned M.T. Goff was elected to serve on the Ordaining Council in the expired term of Brother L. E. Sheffield. 5 years. Rev. Everett Williams was elected to serve in the unexpired term of Brother Richard H. Sample for one year. Brother J.C. Arnold was appointed to serve on the Executive Committee to replace Brother H.R. Douglas.

Move, seconded, and carried to accept Brother L.E. Sheffield's resignation as representive from Little River Association to State Mission Board. Brother Marvin Hartsfield was nominated and elected to serve the unexpired term.

Move, seconded, and carried that this moderator, Brother Everett Williams serve as Nominating Committee at State Convention in case there are vancancies to be filled.

The following were appointed from each church to promote and receive commodities and cash offerings for Camp Mount Bethel. Pine Level, Brother J.P. Perry; Corinth, Sister C.K. Causey; Zion Hill, Sister J.C. Arnold; SunnySide, Brother Eddie Williams; Cool Springs, Rev. Ralph Chaffin; Friendship, Sister Elizabeth Giddens.; Ozias, Sister Frank Dean; 1st Valdosta, Brother Johnny Pittman; 1st Hahira, Sister Grady Flippo; Oak Grove, Sister Shirley Banks; 1st Tifton, Sister Clayton Flippo; White Hall, Sister Betty Stewart. Brother Riley Giddens led in congregational singing. Brother Everett Williams offered prayer, after which Brother L.E. Sheffield brought the morning message reading | Kings 18:30-41.

Welcome was given by the host church, White Hall and announcements about lunch. Mrs. Fannie Mizell invited everyone to stay for the District Woman's Auxiliary Convention after lunch.

#### SATURDAY AFTERNOON

After a most inspiring and wonderful Woman's Auxiliary Meeting, we heard a report from the Ordaining Council. Brother A.D. Dean and Brother W.H. Daughtry were ordained. It was a most inspiring service and a blessing to the entire association.

Move, seconded, and carried to adjourn this session of the Association with a song and extend to two who were ordained the right hand of Christian fellowship. We were dismissed in prayer.

Commy ....

### CHURCHES AND DELEGATES

TIFTON – Brother Clayton Flippo

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- ZION HILL Brother Isborn Mercer, Brother N.L. Davis, Mrs. J. C. Arnold.
- COOL SPRINGS Walter Weeks, Juanita Weeks, J. C. Weeks,
- Tom Chafin, C.M. Chafin, Jr., N.C. Brannon, O.L. Roberts, and Marie Roberts.
- 1st VALDOSTA Sister Riley Giddens, Sister Clay Jones, (Friday) and on Saturday Brother Ira Pittman, Brother J.B. Rice, Sister Riley Giddens, and Sister Letha Hayes.
- OZIAS Brother Riley Cowart, Brother C.H. Arnold, Brother W. N. Wilson, Sister Mary Wilson, Sister Iona Dean, Sister C.H. Arnold, Sister Louise Hamilton, Brother Fred Baker.

FRIENDSHIP - Brother Jeff Giddens, Brother Clem Giddens.

OAK GROVE – Sister Beulah Smith, Sister Bessie Moncrie, Willene Hunter, Carroll Hunter, Nellie Jo Franks.

SUNNY SIDE — Brother Johnny Taft, Brother Eddie Williams, Sister Margaret Williams, Sister Annie Douglas.

CORINTH — Sister M.M. Franks, Sister J.W. Franks, Sister Martha Hullett, Sister Diane Franks, Sister C.K. Causey, Sister Shirley Hullett.

PINE LEVEL — Brother and Sister Tom Carlton, Brother J.C. Hartsfield, Brother and Sister N.T. Brooks, Brother D. Paulk, Brother J.M. Hartsfield.

1st HAHIRA — Brother Carson E. Parrish

WHITEHALL — Brother Alfonso Moore, Sister Lucy Moore, Wane Moore.

#### CHURCHES AND AUXILIARIES

CHURCHES	In Sunday School	In League	Woman's Auxiliary
Cool Springs	60		0
Corinth			7
	15		
First Valdosta	a		
Oak Grove.			
Ozias			
Pine Level	60		
Friendship		0	
-			

Zion Hill	55	00	
White Hall	70	.00	

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

RESOLUTIONS; (1) We recommend that no one serve as moderator, or on ordaining council or no other executive committee until he has been a member of this Association for at least two (2) full years. (2) We also recommend that we use three on the ordaining council instead of five.

(3) We also recommend that the licening of a Minister be restored back to his home church.

#### REV. EVERETT WILLIAMS, CHAIRMAN

#### COMMITTEE ON STATE OF CHURCHES AND CHARACTER OF MINISTERS

We have had no complaints on either of the churches or character of ministers. Except Shady Grove Church and it has ceased holding services. The rest are all in good standing as far as we know.

> Tom Carlton, Chairman Mrs. Willene Hunter Mrs. J.C. Arnold

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

We, the finance committee find contributions from all churches. We recommend that the clerk be paid \$25.00 and the moderator be paid \$10.00 and that we have minutes printed as needed.

We notice that some churches failed to pay the amount as set by the Association, which is (25¢) per member. Also the Union meetings are supposed to send (5¢) per member to the Association. We still recommend that as a body of churches we do this for the on going of Christ.

NC/CIDTC

RECEIPIS	
Balance in Treasurer	\$ 9.12
Total from 12 Churches and 2 Unions	209.00
Total	\$218.12
DISBURSEMENTS	
Paid to Clerk	\$ 25.00
Paid to Moderator	10.00
Paid to State and National	25.00
Total	. \$ 60.00
Total Receipts	\$218.12
Disbursements	
Balance in Treasure	. \$158.12

#### AUXILIARY AND LITERATURE

We, your committee on Auxiliary and Literature do submit the following report. We recommend that all our Sunday Schools. Leagues, Woman's Auxiliaries, Master's Men, and Youth Organizations use our own Free Will Baptist Literature. We believe that we have good Christian men and women who are working hard to prepare this literature for us and we do whole heartily recommend it. We also suggest that our people be regular daily Bible readers and pray daily for the ones suggested in our League quarterly - this way we will all be praying for the same cause each day. We urge all our churches in the Little River Association to begin the new Associational year with all the different Auxiliaries of our denomination. The different phases of work are so greatly needed. II Timothy 2:15 "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

CORINTH CHURCH

#### TEMPERANCE

We, your committee on Temperance, offer the following: To Strive for a Clean mind, a Healthy Body, and love one for the other. To abstain from evil. To help our fellow To do a good deed each day, and to always do God's Will.

May God bless and keep us safe.

WHITE HALL CHURCH

#### MISSIONS

The Church has a mission to do. You and I, as members of the Church of Christ, have a mission to do. As we act as individuals toward the mission of God, so will the mission of the Church grow. Let us work daily in our lives that the mission of the Church will always grow and not fail.

COOL SPRINGS CHURCH

#### **REPORT OF APPRECIATION**

We, the 56th session of the Little River Association sincerely appreciate the great Love and Hospitality shown us during this session at both the Ozias and White Hall Churches. May God richly bless you all.

EDDIE WILLIAMS

# REPORT OF THE ORDAINING COUNCIL OF THE LITTLE RIVER ASSOCIATION OF ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST

The Ordaining Council met at the 1st, Free Will Baptist Church of Hahira, Georgia on September 29, 1962 at 6:00 P.M. For the purpose of examining any one that any Church of The Little River Association desired to have come before the Council.

The Council recommended that the License of Rev. E.W. Patillo be renewed, and that Brother Charles Williams, Brother George H. Spradley and Brother Ralph Chafin be granted A License to Preach for one year.

Rev. William H. Daughtry was approved by the Council to be
Ordained to the Gospel Ministry at the meeting of the Association.
Members of the Council that was present was as follows: Rev. L.
E. Sheffield, Rev. Riley Giddens and Rev. W.R. Hullett.

We adjourned to meet at the 1st Church of Tifton, Georgia on

October 12, 1962 at 8:00 P.M.

No meeting was held at Tifton Church as only two of the members of the Council was present and no business could come before the Council.

The Council was reconvened at the Association and at this meeting the Rev. A.D. Green was approved to be Ordained at this session of the Association.

If approved by the Association the following will be Ordained at this session of The Little River Association. Rev. A.D. Green, and Rev. William H. Daughtry.

Praying that the actions of this Council has been in the will of Christ, and will meet the approval of this Association, that the Gospel of Christ may be Preached, we remain the humble servants of this Association and the Lord Jesus Christ.

> Rev. L.E. Sheffield, Chairman Rev. Lamar Parrish Riley Giddens

#### FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION

#### ASSOCIATION

Pine Level.....Friday 1963 Corinth.....Saturday 1963 Zion Hill.....Friday 1964 Sunny Side....Saturday 1964 Oak Grove.....Friday 1965 Cool Springs...Saturday 1965 Friendship.....Friday 1966 White Hall.....Saturday 1966 Valdosta .....Friday 1967 Tifton .....Saturday 1967 Hahira .....Friday 1968 Shady Grove ....Saturday 1968 Ozias .....Friday 1969 Pine Level ....Saturday 1969

#### MINUTES OF LITTLE RIVER SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION MAY 5, 1962

The Little River Sunday School Convention met May 5, 1962, at 10:00 A.M. with The First Free Will Baptist Church of Valdosta, Georgia.

Opening Song: "Leaning on The Everlasting Arm."

Prayer: Rev. Mance Cason.

The Convention session was opened by the President. The Roll of the churches was called, and eight churches were represented. Rev. Richard Sample and Rev. Mance Cason read the letters from the churches. Reports were approved and delegates seated.

Committees were appointed as follows: FINANCE COMMITTEE: Rev. Richard Sample, Chairman; Sister Elizabeth Giddens, Brother M.S. Johnson. NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Rev. Riley Giddens, Chairman; Rev. Marvin Hartsfield, and Sister Grady Flippo. Sister Myrtice Giddens gave a very challenging talk on the subject, "The Place of the Sunday School in Evangelism," using for scripture Matthew 19:20. She brought out some of the opportunities the Sunday School has in reaching the lost.

Brother J.B. Rice led the singing of hymn, "Whosoever Meaneth Me."

Prayer: Rev. Marvin Hartsfield.

Special Singing: Oak Grove Church Sunday School.

The Convention message was brought by Rev. Richard Sample. The subject was "The Place of the Pastor in Sunday School Evangelism." He brought out three ways a pastor can and should do to evangelize: teach, practice, and lead his people in soul winning.

At this time we recessed for lunch.

Brother J.B. Rice made a report on his work as the Sunday School Field Worker.

The afternoon session opened with a song.

Prayer: Rev. Riley Giddens.

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President's Message was brought by Rev. L.E. Sheffield who used for his text Matthew 28:16–20.

Rev. Marvin Hartsfield spoke on the subject: "The Place of the Sunday School in personal Evangelism." He brought out the fact that personal work is not just for the pastor and Sunday School teachers to do, but each one can do personal soul winning.

Special Singing: Friendship Church Sunday School.

"The Place of the Sunday School in Reaching The Lost," was the subject of Sister Willie Williams, using scripture from Luke. This message was very enlightening and should make us realize where we fail.

Business Session:

Song: "Beulah Land."

The minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

Old Business: None.

### THE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTED AS FOLLOWS:

In Treasury		\$ 8.00
Received Today		
Total on Hand		
Minutes at Association		\$10.00
State Convention		\$ 5.00
Clark	5	

Clerk	
Field Representative\$ 5.00	
Total Disbursed	•
Balance in Treasury\$13.00	
THE FINANCE COMMITTEE	
WAS RELEASED	

The NOMINATING COMMITTEE reported as follows: Brother Frank Dean, President; Brother Marvin Hartsfield, Vice-President; Mrs. Shirley Banks, Secretary-Treasurer; Mrs. J.B. Rice, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer; Field Worker, Brother J.B. Rice. The NOMI-NATING COMMITTEE was released. Rev. and Mrs. L.E. Sheffield turned in their resignation as President and Secretary-Treasurer, respectively.

New Business: The President extended his thanks and appreciation to each of the fellow officers for their cooperation. A suggestion was made that after two years in office no officer be reelected. A move was made and seconded, and carried to this effect; however, after a period of time they can be elected again to an office. Friendship and Whitehall invited the Convention to convene with them next year. A vote was taken with Friendship being the place for the meeting.

Delegates to the State Convention on June 9th were appointed as follows: Brother Carson Parrish, J.B. Rice, and M.S. Johnson. The State Convention will be held at Camp Mount Bethel. Dues \$ 5.00.

Sister Elizabeth Giddens was appointed Publicity Chairman. PROGRAM COMMITTEE appointed: Brother J.B. Rice, Chairman; Sister Shirley Banks, and Brother Frank Dean.

The following officers were elected by aclamation, and Rev. Mance Cason presided in the installation:

President: Brother Frank Dean

Vice-President: Rev. Marvin Hartsfield

Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. Shirley Banks

Assistant Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. J.B. Rice

Field Worker: Brother J.B. Rice

A vote of thanks was given to the host church for their hospitality. After prayer by Brother J.B. Rice, the session was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, MRS.L.E.SHEFFIELD

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#### Secretary-Treasurer

#### GOVERNMENT AND ORDINANCES

1. We believe that a gospel church, or Church of Christ, is a congregations of Christians constituted and governed according to the rules laid down in the New Testament.

2. That these rules require churches to preserve the form of government and ordinances of the first Christian churches and to be composed of baptised believers in Christ.

3. That the visible church is the aggregate or whole number of gospel churches, and that the invisible church is composed of the redeemed now in heaven and such Christians on earth as are not attached to the visble church according to gospel rules.

4. That the establishment of a central catholic government over the visible church, or any part thereof, is a device of earthly ambition, repungent to the Word of God, subservient to the churches and dangerous to the liberty of man.

5. That gospel churches are the only ecclesiastical bodies or tribunals authorized by the Scriptures; and that each church has the unrestricted right to administer its own government without supervision or interference, being under Christ essentially, independent and absolute, and if this right be surrendered to superintending jurisdiction by delegates or otherwise, the assembly ceases to be a Gospel church.

6. That churches may, nevertheless, we suppose, meet by delegates,

form an association and declare the terms upon which they will keep up the correspondence; but that the right and authority of churches being inalienable, or in no way compromised or hindered by entering into an association, and therefore an association has no authority over churches or individuals, their only power being to transact business which does not pertain to churches in their ecclesiastical capacity, to promote natural intercourses, and a concentration of voluntary effort; and to give that advice to churches which might equal authority given by an individual.

7. That the authority of the churches is designated for the perpetuation of the true religion of the Cospel, and the preservation of true and orderly bodies of Christians on earth, that is fully sufficient for the purpose intended, but that does not extend to persons, property or the conscience of men in any manner whatsoever.

8. That the only requisites to church membership are faith in Christ and obedience to the Gospel, that faith in Christ necessarily exists in connection with the belief in the fundamental truths of Christianity, and that to prescribe any other requisite of such membership is an assumption of authority on the part of the church and a departure from the Gospel plan.

9. That the officers of a church are elders and deacons; that the elders are called bishops or pastors and all of the elders are equal in rank though they may perform different functions — since some may be bishops or pastors of particular churches, while others may be simple elders, having no pastorial charge.

10. That the authority of a minister of the Gospel extends to teaching, exhortation and rebuke, but no further, that he cannot perform any acts that belong to the authority of the Church such as the reception of members into the church compact, or the expulsion of offenders, that as a member of the church, he is not more than any other member, and if he is guilty of transgression he is to be brought to trial before his brethren and convicted or acquitted in the same manner as if he were a private person, yet we think it prudent to call in advisory help especially if the minister is to be tried upon a charge of heresy.

11. That Christian Baptism is the immersion of the believer in water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

12. That the Lord's Supper and washing of the Saint's feet are ordinances to be observed in the church until the Lord comes.

13. That Elders and Deacons must be set apart in their office or ordination by the imposition of the hands of the presbytery and prayer, without which they are not authorized to administer the ordinances pertaining to their respective offices.

14. No lisentiate shall be ordained until called in care of one or more churches.

#### **CHURCH DECORUM**

1. The church may choose a pastor annually two conferences before the end of the Associational year; or if they prefer it, may choose a pastor for an idefinite length of time to continue from year to year, as long as he may deem it proper to keep up the connection.

2. When it becomes necessary, a pastor may be chosen at any other time; but if the choice be made at a special conference the time must be appointed at monthly meeting of the church.

3. The pastor shall be Moderator of the church, but when he is absent or does not sit as moderator being present, some suitable brother shall be appointed to sit in his place.

4. There shall be two or more deacons in the church, whose duty it shall be to superintend the collection and disbursement of all contributions made by the Church for the pastor etc., and to distribute the bread and wine in the administration of the Lord's Supper.

5. The Deacons shall take notice of such members as refuse or neglect to partake of the Lord's Supper and endeavor to ascertain the cause that the same may be laid before the church conference if necessary.

6. Some suitable member shall be appointed Clerk and it shall be his duty to do all the recording and writing pertaining to the business of the church, and to preserve a file of the minutes of the Association.

7. When a Clerk is appointed, all books, minutes, etc., belonging to the Clerk, shall be immediately delivered to him by his predecessor. Also, it shall be the duty of the church clerk to revise the church roll at least once a year. It shall be the duty of the pastor to instruct the deacons and clerks of their churches in regard to money for minutes.

8. The church shall hold a two-day's monthly meeting embracing Saturday and the Lord's Day following, the first of which shall be the regular time of conference.

9. It shall be the duty of every member, male or female, to attend each conference meeting, if they can, for on that day the pastor is expected to instruct the church in a certain manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on doctrine, discipline and the rules of holy living.

10. Any male member who shall fail to attend three successive conferences, and any member whatever of the church according to the Covenant (Article 5) shall be cited to appear in conference and answer for his neglect. But thechurch may exempt members from the rule if necessary.

11. Conferences shall be opened and conducted as follows: (1) Prayer

unless divine services has just been concluded, and generally then. (2) Invite visiting brethren to seats. (3) Open the door for reception of members. (4) Call forabsentees. (5) For acknowledgements. (6) Reference of deferred business. (7) For matters of dealing which are in order to come before the church. (8) For miscellaneous business.

12. Visiting brethren, as helpers called in from sister churches, shall speak and made motions or seconds, but not allowed to vote.

13. An orderly member of the Baptist church who does not hold this church in fellowship may be received into the church without a letter when it is apparent that his Christian character is unimpeachable and that he has applied for a letter and could not obtain it because he desired to join this or some sister church. All other persons must join by letter or by baptism.

14. No member shall be received without the unanimous consent of the members present, but unreasonable objections shall not be valid, unless withdrawn, the members who made them shall be liable to be taken under dealings with the church.

15. When the Moderator calls for absentees the Clerk shall inform the church what male members have been absent from three successive\_confer-

ences, and the Moderator shall appoint some brother or brethren to cite each of them to the next conference.

16. No member shall be expelled unless he has been cited verbally or in writing to attend the trial, provided his residence be known to the church.

17. When a witness, not a member of the church, is introduced he shall be examined until the question has been put to the church, Will you hear the testimony of the witness?

18. The evidence in every case or dealing and acknowledgement shall be recorded in the church book.

19. Members dismissed from the church by letter who becomes disorderly or continue to hold their letter without good reason shall be cited to conference to answer for their misconduct.

20. Expelled members shall be restored to fellowship on their petition if their walk since expulsion has convinced the church that they have sincerely repented for their former evil.

21. A vote shall not be tken upon questions without a move and a second and on all important questions the vote shall be taken by rising to the feet.

22. No motion shall be made while a move and second is before the

conference,

23. It shall be considered disorderly for any member to absent himself from conference when an important question is to be decided; but a member, upon receipt, may be exempted by the church from voting on either side in peculiar cases.

24. No member shall leave the house during conference without a sufficient cause, not engage in conversation or whispering without being subject to be called by the Moderator.

25. All discussions in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feeling; those who speak must rist to their feet and address the Moderator, and keep the point in the debate.

26. No one shall speak more than three times on the same question without permission from the Moderator nor shall the remarks of anyone be unreasonably long.

27. When the Moderator speaks he must designate some brother to act in his stead.

28. No one shall be interupted while speaking unless it can be to call the speaker to order.

29. It shall be the duty of each church to attend to the administration of the Lord's Supper and washing of the Saint's feet at least once a year.

30. Members not in good standing should not commune, but the administration should not be deferred on account of any ordinary matter of dealing.

31. Public fasting, humiliation and prayer shall be observed on proper occasions.

32. No licentiate shall be ordained until called in care of one or more churches.

33. This Decorum may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership present at any two consecutive monthly conferences.

#### CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covant.

We promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicatingbeverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations to reverence to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship; and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

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We will not forsake the assemblying of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of it's poor, and all it's benevolent work.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep unity of the Spirit" in the bonds of peace, to be careful of one another's hapiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and, as far as we are able, promote the success of the Church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme, counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society, constantly rpaying and toiling that the Kingdon of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven. To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday schools and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### DECORUM

1. At the meeting of each session of the Association the officers of the preceeding session shall preside until the successors shall be known.

2. At each session and previous to proceeding to business the names of the ministers and delegates shall be called.

3. At the close of each session the entire proceedings shall be read for correction and approval.

4. Any person wishing to speak shall rise and address the Moderator. He shall confine himself to the question under consideration and avoid personalities.

5. No person shall speak more than twice on any subject without permission from the body.

6. No motion shall be withdrawn after its discussion.

7. When a question is under discussion no motion or proposition shall

be received except to adjourn, to lay on the table, to amend or postpone indefinitely, which several motions shall be preferred in the order in which they are stated.

8. Nominations shall be made by the Moderator of the Association or whoever he may appoint.

9. After a motion has been decided any member having voted in the affirmative may move for a reconsideration.

10. No member shall absent himself during the session without permission from the presiding officer, and none shall take final leave.

11. The Association has a right to decide what matter shall be admitted to its consideration.

12. This Decorum may be amended at any session of the Association by a majority vote.

13. No church shall license any minister coming from any other denomination until he has been examined by the Ordaining Council and received credentials bearing their approoval. 14. Any church that shall tolerate Unknown Tongues in their church shall be regarded as encouraging heresy, and shall be dealt with for such. Also any church, or pastor allowing preaching of such that is, sinless perfection, as a second work of grace, to occupy their pulpit, shall be dealt with for encouraging heresy.

#### CONSTITUTION

Article I. This Association shall be called the Little River Association of Original Free Will Baptist and shall be composed of such regularly organized and well-discoplined Free Will Baptist quarterly meetings and churches as may embody themselves under this constitution.

Article 2. Section 1. This yearly meeting or association shall be composed of: (1) the general officers of this association; (2) delegates from each quarterly meeting; (3) the ministers, both ordained and licensed, belonging thereto; (4) legal delegates from the churches composing the same.

Section 2. Churches sending delegates to this association shall be allowed one delegate for each ten members or fraction thereof and each quarterly meeting shall be allowed one delegate for each 300 members or fraction thereof.

Article 3. The sessions of this association shall be held on the stated date agreed and voted upon by the association, at which time it shall be the duty of the quarterly meeting and churches of which this association is composed to represent themselves by letter and delegates, and report their standing and statisticsusin g the unifor report blank as required by this association. Article 4. Each church in the association shall be considered an advisory body and shall control its own internal affairs having unrestricted right

to administer its own government without suspension or interference, being under Christ essentially independent and absolute.

Article 5. This body shall be considered an advisory council whose duty is to meet annually as such places as may be agreed upon at the previous session and not to adjourn formally until all business is settled and while there it shall be its duty to examine all questions of general interest to the association and to use their best influence to promote a christian and benevolent means and institutions such as education, Sabbath Schools, Leagues, Missionary Work, etc.

Article 6. The officers of this association shall be Moderator, an Assistant Moderator, a Clerk-Treasurer, and an Assistant Clerk-Treasurer, each of whom shall be elected at the close of each regular session.

Article 7. Churches wishing to become members of this association must conform to the practices and adopt the doctrines of the Free Will Baptist denomination, as published in the Treatise of their faith.

Article 8. This association shall have power to adopt any regulations or by-laws, not inconsistant with this constitution, which may be deemed essential to the further regulation of its sessions. Article 9. Each church composing this association should send 25c per capita member and each quarterly meeting 5c per capita member for associational expenses.

Article 10. This association shall maintained an ordaining council whose functions shall be governed as follows: (1) It shall be the duty of this council to examine each person for whom ordination is requested as to his moral, spiritual, educational qualifications, and his willingness to cooperate with the functions of this association.

Article 11. This constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of the association at any regular session; notice of such intended alteration having been given in writing, and recorded at a previous business session.

#### **ARTICLES OF FAITH**

First, 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 are all things, the only begotten Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary, whom God freely sent into the 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 burried 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 quick and dead--1 Tim. 2-5, 6; Heb. 2:9; St. John 8; Acts 2:4; Eph. 3:1; Eph. 4:4-6.

3. We believe that there is one Holy Ghost, the precious gift of the Father through His dear Son, unto the world, who quickeneth and draweth sinners home to God.—St. John 16:7-8; Acts 2:4; Eph. 3:1; 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 that means, brought on himself a miserable and mortal state subject to death.—Gen. 2:17 — 3:19.

5. We believe that God is not willing that any should perish; but that all should come to repentence and the knowledge of truth, that they might be saved; for which in Christ hath commanded the gospel to be preaching among all nations and to every creature.—Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; John 3:15-17; 1 Tim. 2:4.

6. We believe that no man shall suffer in hell for want of 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 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; 1 John 5:10.

7. We believe the while Scriptures are infallible true and that they are the only rules of faith and practice.—11 Tim. 3:16-17.

8. We believe in the doctrine of General Provision made of God in Christ, for the benefit of all mankind, who repent and believe in the gospel.— Luke 14:16-20; Matt. 28:19-20; Luke 13:3-5; Luke 24:47; Acts 3:19; Mark 1.15.

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

10. We believe that man, not considered, simply as men, but ungodly men, were of old ordained to condemnation, considered such who turn the grace of God into lasciviousness, denying the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ, who brought 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 1:4; 11 Peter 2:1; 11 Thes. 2:11-12; Rom. 2:9-11.

11. We believe that all children dying in infancy, having not actually transgressed against the law of God, in their own person, are only subject to the first death, which was brought on them by the fall of the first Adam, and not that any 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."—1 Cor. 15:22; Matt. 18:25; Mark 3:36-37; Matt. 18-25; Matt. 19:13.

12. We believe that good works are the fruits of a 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.—Rom. 22:14-15; Isa. 1:19-20; Matt. 7:8; Jer. 6:16; Luke 13:34-35.

13. We believe that none has any warrant in the Holy Scriptures for jurisdiction before God through his own works, power of ability which he has in and of himself only as be 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.

14. 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 death or

#### FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION

everylasting life, out of respect or mere choice, further than He hath appointed the godly unto life and the ungodly, who die in sin unto death.—Heb. 4:13; Prov. 8:22-31; Matt. 25:31-46.

15. We believe as touching gospel ordinances, to believers, baptism, laying on the hands, receiving of the sacrament in bread and wine, washing the saint's feet, annointing the sick with oil in the name of the Lord, fasting, prayer singing praise to 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, 17; Jas 5:14.

16. We believe the Gospel mode of Baptism is by immersion, and that the believers are the only subjects for baptism.—Matt 3:16; Mark 1:9-10; Acts 3:19, 21; Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12.

17. We believe in a general resurrection of the dead and a final judgment at the last day.—John 5:28-29; 11 Cor. 5:10.

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

### DECEASED MINISTERS

Rev. Tharpe Baily1911	Rev. M.F. Cason
Rev. J.J. Davis	Rev. H.J. Griffis 1939
Rev. C. Leon Starling1919	Rev. W.R. Cato
Rev. J.B. Griffin1926	Rev. J.C. Arnold1942
Rev. H.J. Cowart	Rev. J.R. Weeks 1947
Rev. Morgan Cannon1926	Rev. Loucian Cowart
Rev. A. Eunice	Rev. J.D. Little
Rev. B.O. Brown	Rev. W.A. Pope
Rev. Seborn B	owen1960

# CORRESPONDING MESSENGERS

 MINISTERS AND POST OFFICE

#### LIBERTY

Cool Springs	2nd,	5th Sunday 1963
Tifton		
Corinth	4th,	5th Sunday 1963

## **RUTH KINNON**

Friendship	1st,	5th S	unday	1963
Oak Grove	2nd,	5th S	unday	1963
Ozias	3rd,	5th S	unday	1963
Zion Hill	4th,	5th S	unday	1963
Orange Grove	1st,	5th S	unday	1964
First Valdosta	2nd,	5th S	unday	1964
Sunny Side	3rd,	5th S	unday	1964
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#### LICENSED MINISTERS

#### MINISTERS PRESENT

Rev. Riley Giddens, Rev. E.C. Morris, Rev. Everett Williams, Rev. L.E. Sheffield, Rev. Lamar Parrish, Rev. Mance R. Cason, Rev. J. R. Davidson, Rev. W.R. Hullett, Rev. Emmett Mc Duffie, Rev. M.T. Goff, Rev. Marvin Hartsfield, Rev. A.D. Green, Rev. L.C. Johnson.

#### VISITORS PRESENT

Rev.	Mance Cason	. State Promotional Department
	& Mrs. J.R. Davidson	
Rev.	Billey Melvin	National Association
	George Lee, Pastor	
	& Mrs. E.C. Morris	
	L.C. Johnson	

# **OBITUARIES**

ALICE N. KINON — It is with deep sorrow and much regret that we report to you the death of our dearly beloved sister and grandmother, Sister Alice N. Kinon who departed this life November 12, 1961.

She was a very devoted Christian, a good worker in her church and home. She is missed by all who knew her. Sister Kinon Connected with our Church in 1907.

We feel that our loss is heaven's gain. Although she leaves behind to mourn our loss, a devoted husband, a daughter, and four grandchildren.

> W.H. Daughtry, Moderator Sister Dolorce Sowell, Church Clerk (A Grand-daughter)

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GEORGE COWART — It is with deep sorrow that we report the death of Brother George Cowart, who departed this life June 20, 1962. Brother George was a man who loved his church very much and helped carry on the up building of his church. We trust our loss is heaven's gain.

W.M. Wilson, Clerk Ozias Church

ELIZA COWART — It is with deep sorrow that Sister Eliza Cowart departed this life from us. She was a beloved old sister and we hope that she has gone to be with the Lord forever where there will be no more sickness or sorrow, but all will be glory forever more.

> Mrs. Annie Davis, Clerk White Hall Church

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#### FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION

#### FORMS

FORMS FOR LICENSE

#### **CHURCH LETTER**

\_\_\_\_\_ Free Will Baptist Church of Christ

This the \_\_\_\_\_, A.D., 19\_\_\_\_\_

This is to certify that \_\_\_\_\_

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is a member of the above named church in good standing and is hereby at his or her request dismissed from us. Done by order of the church in confedence. This letter will be void after six months.

\_\_\_\_\_Moderator \_\_\_\_\_\_Church Clerk

# LITTLE RIVER ASSOCIATION

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PETITIONARY LETTER FROM A CHURCH TO AN ASSOCIATION

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Free Will Baptist Church of Christ This the \_\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_, A.D., 19\_\_\_\_\_ To the \_\_\_\_\_\_ Free Will Baptist Association sendeth greetings: We constitute a Free Will Baptist Church by Elder \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_\_ members. We have adopted the Articles of Faith, Covenant and Decorum of the Free Will Baptist Church. We are at peace. We have called as pastor, Elder \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ We send as our delegates, Brethren \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

We do humbly petition \_\_\_\_\_\_ Free Will Baptist Association for membership in the same. We send for minutes \$\_\_\_\_\_\_. Hoping our humble petition will be granted, we are your brethren in Christ.

\_\_\_\_\_ Moderator

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Church Clerk

#### HOW TO ORGANIZE A CHURCH

When any number of converts, not less than five, desire to constitute a church, the following order should be observed: (A) The officiating minister shall inquire into the Christian character and ability of the members to sustain the church. This being satisfactory. (B) The minister shall then read Articles of Faith, and finding they have obeyed and adopted the same, (C) He shall then read the Church Covenant, while the congregation joins in singing a suitable hymn. (D) He shall have the members to extend to each other the right hand of fellowship. (E) He shall then offer a prayer of consecration. (F) He shall then declare the body organized.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business shall be as follows: (1) The election of a Clerk. (2) The election of Deacons. (3) The election of a Treasurer. (4) The election of a Pastor. (5) The selection of a name. (6) The selection of a day\_of\_worship. (7) Adjournment.

# STATISTICAL TABLE

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	CHURCHES	PASTORS	CLERK AND POSTOFFICE	Sundays of Meetings	ed by L	by Con	ed	Received by Baptism	L 🔨		Paid for Minutes	Value of Church Property	Improvements	Paid for Evangelistic	Total Members	Paid to Unified Program
	Pine Level	Marvin Hartsfield	J. P. Perry Rt. 2, Norman Park, Ga.	2-4	0	0	5	0	1	\$235.50	15.00	4,000	204.61	97.28	86	35.27
	Corinth	W. R. Hullett	Mrs. J. W. Franks Rt. 4 Box, 137, Tifton, Ga.	Full	3	0	0	2	2	\$961.56	16.75	5,000	62.13	100.00	67	111.24
·	Zion Hill	W. H. Daughtry	Mrs. Doloree Sowell Manor, Ga.	1-3	0	0	0	0	0	\$240.00	12.00	1 <i>5</i> ,000	1,120.00	112.00	39	12.00
	Sunny Side	Emmitt McDuffie	Audie J. Williams Rt. 1, Pearson, Ga.	2-4	2	0	0	0	2	1,097.98	20.00	4,000	98.78	120.00	53	40.00
	Cool Springs	W. L. Purvis	C. M. Chafin, Jr. Rt. 1, Norman Park, Ga.	Full	2	0	2	4	0	1,250.00	20.00	6,000	669.00	353.55	109	.00
•	Friendship	W. H. Daughtry	Mrs. Billy Gene Ross Rt. 4, Waycross, Ga.	2-4	5	0	0	0	4	289,72	6.00	3,000	237.50	108.37	24	53.06
·	Ozias	Ronald Howland	W. M. Wilson, Sr. Rt. 2, Pearson, Ga.	Full	0	0	0	0	5	2,958.00	24.25	10,000	.00	200.00	97	458.29
	Valdosta	Riley Giddens	James B. Rice, Jr. 1506 Iola Dr. Valdosta,Ga.	Full	0	0	0	2	2	2,175.00	20.00	10,000	2,662.	60.00	77	120.00
	Hahira	Marvin Hartsfield	Mrs. Jewell Parrish 704 Floyd St., Valdosta, Ga.	1-3	0	0	0	5	0	300.00	15.00	8,000		51.00	55	30.00
	Oak Grove	Donald Franks	Mrs. Willene Hunter Stockton, Ga.	2-4	2	0	0	0	2	260,40	.10,00	5,000	27.01	89.00	28	.00
	Tifton	A. D. Green	Troy Long, 209–1/2 N.Cen. Tifton, Ga.	Full	5	0	0	0	0	221.03	5.00	5,000	23.59	50.00	27	77.64
	White Hall	Everett Williams	Mrs. Annie Davis 1033 Albany Ave., Waycross	Full	2	0	0	3	6	562,57	10.00	5,000	562.57	50,00	123	.00