

MINUTES

OF THE

Second Annual Session

OF THE

Mallet's Creek Association,

WHEN CONVENED WITH

Flower Hill Freewill Baptist Church,

HILLSBORO, LAWRENCE CO., ALA.,

Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, July 30, 31,
August 1 and 2, 1891.

Rev. Carter Watkins, Moderator,
Rev. Isaac Mays, Ass't Moderator,
Rev. J. M. Watkins, Treasurer,
Rev. Alfred Kelley, Clerk,

Hillsboro, Ala.
Hillsboro, Ala.
Hillsboro, Ala.
Hillsboro, Ala.

Messenger Print.
Owensville, Indiana.

MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION.

The second annual session of the Colored Freewill Baptist Association met with the Flower Hill Freewill Baptist church, four miles north of Hillsboro, Ala., on Thursday, July 30, 1891.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. J. M. Watkins, who selected for his text Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 2:20—"are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets," etc. Sang hymn on page 197—"My Shepherd will Supply my Need," etc. After his well argued discourse, Rev. G. McIntosh came forward and made remarks on the same subject. It was a well preached text, on the stability and firmness of the members of Christ's Church. Prayer was then offered by Rev. I. E. Holt.

Recess five minutes.

Recess having expired, the members of the Association reassembled. The moderator, being at his post of duty, called the meeting to order. He then arose and charged the members of the Association how they should act, telling them to not forget their duty of respect and love for each other. He also charged them to enter into business with marked attention, and for each member to do his utmost to have the business carried on in a nice, quiet manner, and according to rules of order. After thus cautioning, he announced the house ready for business. Rev. I. Mays, the assistant moderator came forward and took his seat.

The Constitution and By-laws were called for, which were read by the clerk.

Names of delegates were then enrolled: C. Watkins, J. M. Watkins, I. Mays, Wm. Murphy, A. Watkins, J. C. Watkins,

W. W. Washington, T. Kelly, G. McIntosh, J. D. Watkins, A. Kelly, J. Kelly, B. Corder, L. M. Washington, A. S. Kelly, I. E. Holt, A. Holt, R. B. Watkins.

By ballot, committees were appointed as follows:

Devotional Committee—Brothers R. B. Watkins, A. Holt and L. M. Washington.

On Finance—Bros. J. C. Watkins, Wm. Murphy and T. Kelly.

On Preaching—Brothers Wm. Murphy, T. Kelly and W. W. Washington.

On Examining Credentials for Membership in the Association—Bros. J. C. Watkins, J. M. Watkins, J. D. Watkins and G. McIntosh.

Standing Committee on Printing, Education, Sabbath-school, Temperance, Ministry, Mission, Correspondence, and Morals—Brothers I. E. Holt, J. M. Watkins, A. Watkins, I. Mays and C. Watkins.

It was unanimously agreed that our visiting brethren be allowed to take part in the discussion of our topics.

Bro. R. B. Watkins moved that we hear the Committee on Credentials, which reported as follows:

We, your Committee on Credentials, beg leave to report the following: We have carefully examined the applicants for membership in this Association, who, upon being examined, were found orthodox and worthy of connection with us. Name of church, St. Mark; pastor, I. E. Holt; deacons, Amos Holt and Clinton Malone.

Bro. L. M. Washington moved that St. Mark church be received, which was carried. After the right hand of fellowship was given, a consecrating prayer was offered by Brother Wm. Murphy, who asked God's blessing on said church, and that He might strengthen it in its infancy, and that it might look to Him for aid and support. Brothers I. E. Holt and Amos Holt, who were sent to represent said church, were then enrolled.

Rev. J. M. Watkins moved that we hear the Committee on Preaching, which reported as follows:

We, your Committee, have appointed the following brethren to preach the evening and night sermons: Rev. I. Mays at 2:30 o'clock, P. M., and Rev. I. E. Holt at 8 o'clock, P. M.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock, P. M. Benediction by the moderator.

Afternoon Session, July 30, 1891.

The appointed hour having arrived, attention was called by hymn and prayer. The moderator read, for our admonition, the 2nd chapter of Paul's Letter to the Romans, which was very instructive.

After devotional exercises, Rev. I. Mays, who was appointed to preach at 2:30, was at his post of duty, and stepped forward and sang hymn No. 650—"That Awful Day will Surely Come," etc. For a text he chose St. John 14:6—"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth and the life." He made some stirring remarks concerning the "way" to the Father, and how to get there. After his well argued discourse, Rev. C. G. Stewart, a visiting brother, was called upon to pray, who invoked God's blessing on the congregation.

Adjourned until 8 P. M. Benediction by the moderator.

Night Session, July 30.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Singing by the congregation, and prayer by Bro. A. Holt. The moderator read Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, 10th chapter.

Rev. I. E. Holt, being at his post, selected for his text 1 Cor. 10:12—"Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." This text was wisely explained. He showed us the requirements for getting to heaven, and the difficulties lying between us and heaven, and how to shun them. After this well preached sermon, prayer was offered, and the benediction pronounced by the moderator. Adjourned, to meet at 8 A. M. on the following day.

Morning Session, July 31.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. The hour of 8 o'clock having arrived, notice was given by Brother Wm. Murphy singing; being followed in a prayer by Brother L. M. Washington, whose prayer was soul-reviving. The moderator, being in his chair, read for our instruction the 2nd of Proverbs, which is worthy to be kept in memory. He then announced the house ready for business.

The minutes of the previous day were called for, and after being read and corrected, were adopted.

Rev. I. E. Holt offered the following resolution: Whereas, there seems to be some misunderstanding about the proper

hours for meeting and adjourning, resolved that a committee be appointed to arrange said hours. It was agreed to. Bro. J. Kelly moved that we hear the Committee on Meeting and Adjournment. The Committee reported as follows:

To give time to go through with our business, we have arranged the meeting as follows. Resolved, that this council meet at 8 o'clock A. M.; recess at 11 A. M.; adjourn at 4 P. M. At night, meet at 8 P. M., and adjourn at will. Adopted. Committee: Bros. J. C. Watkins, J. D. Watkins and T. Kelly.

Recess five minutes.

Recess having expired, the moderator called the house to order.

A request was handed in from Flower Hill church, that Rev. J. M. Watkins should be examined by the Committee on Ordination, for eldership, and if found qualified, to be granted license.

Bro. T. Kelly moved that we hear the time designated by the Committee to ordain Rev. J. M. Watkins.

We, your Committee on Ordination, have set apart the hour of 7:30, Saturday night, to examine Rev. J. M. Watkins for elder's credentials. Report was agreeable.

Resolved, that each minister shall bring his written report to each annual meeting, of all his allotted work in the ministry.—G. McIntosh. Resolution adopted.

A motion then prevailed that we hear the Committee on Preaching.

We, your Committee on preaching, have arranged preaching as follows: Rev. A. Watkins at 2 P. M., and Rev. A. Kelly at 8 to-night.

A motion to adjourn for dinner. Benediction by moderator.

Afternoon Session, July 31.

Pursuant to adjournment, the congregation reassembled. Singing by the moderator; then a very reviving prayer by one of our visiting brethren, Sev. B. C. Britton, who asked the Father to aid us by pouring out His divine blessing upon us,

Rev. A. Watkins, who was appointed to preach at 2 o'clock, was at his place. He sang hymn No. 656—"Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove," etc. He chose for his text Matt. 25:-

13—"Watch, therefore; for ye know not the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh." He clearly showed the importance of a Christian being on his guard, and the carefulness it requires to get to heaven.

After the sermon, we had singing by the moderator and prayer by Rev. I. E. Holt. Adjourned until 8 o'clock. Benediction by the moderator.

The hour having come, we were in our places. Devotional Exercises were conducted by Bros. L. M. Washington and R. B. Watkins. The moderator read the 10th chapter of Romans. Prayer by Rev. G. McIntosh.

Rev. A. Keily, being introduced, sang, and chose for his text St. John 5:25 "The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God," etc. The text was beautifully explained to his hearers. Rev. S. Tilman made brief remarks after him. A hymn by Bro. Wm. Murphy, and prayer by Brother R. B. Watkins.

Adjourned until to-morrow morning at 8 o'clock. Benediction by the moderator.

Morning Session, August 1.

We met pursuant to adjournment. The moderator called the meeting to order. Prayer offered by Rev. J. D. Watkins.

Minutes of the previous day were called for, which were read and adopted.

A resolution was offered by Rev. I. E. Holt: Whereas the St. Mark church came out from the Missionary Baptists, resolved that the cause be shown in the ectype of these minutes. Adopted.

Rev. I. Mays moved that we hear the various topics that are to be discussed by the brethren; which was agreeable.

1. What is faith? and its importance, by Rev. I. Mays, which was nicely explained.

2. What is religion? and the requirements to obtain it, by Rev. J. M. Watkins, which was beautifully analyzed.

3. What is conversion? by Rev. G. McIntosh, which was beautifully discussed.

4. What should be the morals and character of a minister of the Gospel, by Rev. A. Watkins, which was very nicely elucidated.

5. Should a man educate himself to preach the Gospel? and why? by Rev. I. E. Holt, which was wisely explained.

A motion was made by Rev. J. M. Watkins that our annual meeting convene twice a year; which was carried. A committee was then appointed to set apart the times for the two annual meetings.

Bro. A. S. Kelly moved that we hear the committee on the arrangement of the two meetings; which was carried.

We, your Committee on the Annual Meetings, beg leave to report. We have arranged the meetings as follows: Our District meeting shall convene on Friday before the third Sunday in May, 1892, with St. Mark church, Athens, Ala. Rev. C. Watkins shall preach the introductory sermon; Rev. J. M. Watkins his alternate. The next Association shall convene on Wednesday before the first Sunday in August, 1892, with the Flower Hill church, Hillsboro, Ala. Rev. I. E. Holt shall preach the introductory sermon, Rev. I. Mays his alternate. Committee: Bros. Amos Holt, J. C. Watkins, Wm. Murphy, J. M. Watkins, I. Mays and I. E. Holt.

A motion was then made that the report of the committee be received, which was carried.

Offered by Bro. J. D. Watkins: Resolved that each church shall pay the fare of the delegates, going to and returning from each annual meeting

Bro. W. W. Washington offered a resolution that the Sabbath-school shall be represented at each association, and convene one day before the Association. Carried.

By Bro. J. C. Watkins: Resolved that we transact our business in the first, and also in the last half of the day; preaching to commence at 2 o'clock, at night. Adopted.

A resolution by Brother L. M. Washington that we take up a collection each day of our meeting. Carried.

Resolved that the moderator and clerk shall be paid a dollar per day each for their services during each term of the meeting; which was also carried.

Recess five minutes.

The five minutes being ended, the moderator called attention to business.

A motion was carried that we hear the Committee on Preaching, which reported as follows:

We, your Committee on Preaching, have appointed the following brethren to preach: Rev. I. Mays at 2 o'clock P. M. and Rev. J. D. Watkins at 8 o'clock to-night.

We, your Committee on Education and General Business, beg leave to make the following resolutions, as our report:

Resolved, 1. That, whereas the Freewill Baptist church has good, pure and suitable literature, such as will elevate any religious people, we will, as Freewill Baptist preachers, press forward and put our literature in all our churches, and in the hands of all we may reach;

2. That each pastor shall exert to the utmost his ability to impress upon the minds of the young ministers the importance of educating themselves mentally, as well as spiritually, for the ministry;

3. That we purchase our periodicals and books from The Morning Star Publishing House, 457 Shawmut Ave., Boston, Mass.; such as you will find on the backs of these minutes. Received.

A motion to adjourn until 2 o'clock. Benediction.

Afternoon Session, August 1.

The hour of 2 having arrived, the congregation reassembled. The moderator called attention by singing. He then called on Bro. J. C. Watkins to pray, who sent up his prayer in behalf of dying sinners.

Rev. I. Mays, who was appointed to preach at 2 o'clock, was in his place. Having been introduced, he sang, and chose for his text Ps. 37:17—"The arms of the wicked shall be broken; but the Lord upholdeth the righteous." He nicely showed the power God giveth those who trust in him, and how those who fail to live righteous will be cut off. After the sermon, we had a good prayer by Rev. A. Watkins.

Minutes of to-day's work read and approved.

Adjourned until 7 P. M. Benediction by the moderator.

Night Session, August 1.

Pursuant to adjournment, we met in the house. Devotional exercises were conducted by Bros. B. Corder and A. S. Kelly.

Rev. J. M. Watkins was then ordained by the Committee on Ordination, at 7:30 o'clock. After singing by Bro. T. Kelly, we had a warm prayer by Bro. W. W. Washington.

The hour of 8 having arrived, Rev. J. D. Watkins was at his place. He sang a few verses, and chose for his text St. John 3:3—"Except a man be born again, he can not see the kingdom of God." His sermon was well anchored in faith and the power of the Spirit.

The Committee on Preaching appointed the following brethren to preach to-morrow: Rev. C. Watkins Sunday morning at 11 o'clock, and Rev. I. E. Holt Sunday afternoon 2 o'clock. After prayer, adjourned until Sunday morning. Benediction.

Sunday Morning Session, August 2.

Sunday morning at 10 o'clock we met in Sabbath-School, with well drilled classes, conducted by Brother J. C. Watkins. Their Biblical and Catechistical training was thorough, and the singing was nice. After the exercises ended we had a beautiful address by Rev. I. E. Holt, of Athens, Ala.

The hour for preaching having arrived, Sunday-school was dismissed and attention was again called Bro. J. C. Watkins singing. He called on Brother Wm. Murphy to pray, whose words were reviving.

Rev. C. Watkins, who was appointed to preach at 11 o'clock, chose for his text Matt. 19:17—"If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments." His discourse was well pictured out, and he beautifully retraced the stepping-stones that are needful in getting to heaven. At the close of his discourse, Bro. A. Byrd, a visiting brother, led in prayer, and his words were soul-searching.

Adjourned until 2 o'clock. Benediction by moderator.

Sunday Afternoon Session, August 2

The hour of 2 having come, Rev. I. E. Holt was at his post. After devotional exercises, he came forward, choosing for his text 2 Peter 3:9—"The Lord is not slack concerning his promises," etc. He nicely showed what the Lord requires of every individual in order for His promises to meet them in the time of trouble. It was a good sermon, and preached in the power of the Spirit. We then had a strong prayer by a visiting brother, Rev. C. G. Stewart.

WHEREAS, We have been so nicely cared for while in this deliberation working for the Master and the upbuilding of our people,

Resolved, That we tender a vote of thanks to the sisters and friends of this vicinity for the congenial and hospitable manner in which we have been treated. May the good Master ever pour out upon them His blessings, and may their fields always be fields of prosperity, and their homes full of sunshine and love. - Committee: I. E. Holt, A. Holt, J. C. Watkins, L. M. Washington, C. Watkins.

After a closing song by Rev. I. E. Holt, benediction by the moderator.

C. WATKINS, Moderator.

A. KELLY, Clerk.

Tabular Statement of the Churches for the Year 1891.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	POSTOFFICE.	Baptized	Rec'd on Confession	Dismissed	Restored	Died	Excluded	Day of Meeting	No. of Members
Flower Hill.....	Carter Watkins	Hillsboro, Ala.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	1,3	42
St. Mark.....	I. E. Holt.....	Athens, Ala.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,4	10

Cost of printing minutes, \$10.00.

Ectype.

WHEREAS, We believe in a free salvation, free will, free communion, and one baptism. And we further believe the gifts of God are free to all who call upon him by faith. Therefore, we felt that it was our duty to come out from the Primitive, or old school, Baptists, and rear up a Freewill Baptist church, as we do not believe that God made any one expressly for hell, as inculcated in the Primitive, or old school, Baptist churches. Therefore be it

Resolved That this branch of the Freewill Baptist shall be known as the Mallett's Creek Freewill Baptist association.

As St. Mark church, Athens, Ala., came out from the Mission Baptist on account of compulsory taxation, they believing that a member should pay according to his ableness. For this cause they came out under the head of Free Donation Baptists, and, finding our faith and thirs about the same, connected themselves with us, the Freewill Baptist. And we, as Freewill brethren, should be co workers in doing business for God.

WHEREAS, It takes unity to bring about power and success, unity of action, unity of heart, unity of mind, and unity of spirit. Therefore we should be strict to our various appointments and duties, working with a zeal of faith in God, the great head and manager of all mankind, therefore be it further

Resolved, That we exert the utmost of our ability in supporting, building and spreading the union, looking to God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost to be our aid and support. As we need ministers to go forth in this great work, and as they go they need a signature of their origin, therefore be it further

Resolved, That ministers that are examined and found duly qualified for the work shall receive credentials as a token of their power and right to the work. Be it

Resolved, That any minister that has received license of this association and becomes disorderly or unruly, and can not be governed by said association, his license shall be liable to cancellation.

Business of the Association.

SEC. 1. At each session, after the meeting is organized, the written reports and requests from the churches are received and read. New churches are received into membership when application is made and the examination is satisfactory. Candidates for the ministry are examined for license and ordination when requests are made by the churches. Councils are appointed as occasion requires. Ministers are appointed occasionally to visit and assist feeble churches. Resolutions on moral and religious subjects are frequently discussed and adopted.

2. It shall be the duty of the churches to call a meeting previous to the next sitting of the association to examine the church as to her standing, and to select delegates to attend the association, who, producing letters, shall be entitled to seats.

3. This association shall hold four days, transacting her business in the first three days, and the last day given to public worship only. This association shall sit with open doors, and any brother shall have the privilege to take part in its discussions, by obtaining permission of the association, but none, however, vote, except the delegates.

4. When a church in good standing requests a dismission, to unite with another association, or with another evangelical denomination, a letter of dismission and recommendation is given.

5. An association can not deprive a church of its independent form of government, nor its rights to discipline its own members, nor labor with individual members as such; but as the church is a member of the association, it has the right to labor with the church as a body, in case of unscriptural or disorderly walk, and may determine whether the church is worthy of its fellowship or not, and, if found not, may be excluded.

Confessions of Faith.

ART. 1. We believe that the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are given by inspiration of God.—2 Tim. 3:16. 2 Peter 1:20,21.

2. We believe that there is only one living and true God, the self-existent, author of all beings, infinite in all of His attributes.—1 Cor. 8:4,6. Jer. 10:10. Eph. 4:6. Gen. 2:1,5,7.

3. We believe there is one mediator between God and man, the Lord Jesus Christ, who in His character as a Savior, possessed a human nature which was truly man, and a divine nature which was truly God.—1 Tim. 2:5. Rom. 8:34. 1 Cor. 15:24.

4. We believe in the personality of the Holy Spirit, the reprover of the world and the comforter of the saints, who possesses all the attributes of God.—John 16:7,8. Acts 21:11. 1 Cor. 2:11.

5. We believe that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one God, the same in essence, power and glory. 1 John 5:7. 1 Tim. 3:16. John 1:1.

6. We believe the purposes of God are eternal and immutable; that He created all things for his own glory, and that his providence and govern-

ment are universal, wise and holy.—1 Tim. 1:17. Ps. 90:2. Mal. 3:6. Rev. 4:11. Col. 1:16.

7. We believe that man was created pure and upright, but by his own transgression our first parents fell from their original state of rectitude into a state of condemnation, and in consequence of their fall their posterity inherit propensities to evil, possess a carnal mind which is enmity against God; and that those propensities are strengthened by indulgence, and none who come to years of discretion can enjoy God's favor, or truly love God without regeneration, or a new heart, which is produced by divine agency.—Ecc. 7:29. Ps. 51:5. Job 15:14. John 3:3.

8. We believe that Christ by his sufferings and death has made an atonement for every individual of the human family without distinction of person, which atonement is as full and as free for every one, as for any one, and that through his atonement is the only way of salvation.—1 John 2:2. Heb. 2:9. 1 Tim. 2:6. Titus 2:11. Rev. 22:17. Isa. 45:22. Rom. 5:18.

9. We believe that no man can come unto Christ except the Father draw him by his spirit, and that no man can come unto the Father but by Christ; that the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the atonement of Christ are entirely of grace. "If I be lifted up will draw all men unto me, therefore by grace are ye saved."—John 6:44, 12:32. Eph. 2:6.

10. We believe that God wills the salvation of all men, that the gospel invites all, that the Holy Spirit enables all to accept salvation, and whosoever will may take the waters of life freely.—2 Pet. 3:9. Ezk. 18:23,32. 1 Tim. 2:4. Isa. 55:1. Rev. 22:17.

11. We believe that the will of man is free, irresistably controlled by no other power, it being a self-controlling power; that by the exercise of its faculty man yields to the motives which God places before him, seeks regenerating grace and secures eternal life, or rejects these motives and perishes.—Prov. 8:4, Phil. 1:29, Deut. 10:12, John 3:16.

12. We believe that repentance and active faith in Jesus Christ and his atonement must be exercised by all those who have committed actual sins, in order to secure to them the benefits of that atonement, the regenerating influence of God's grace and eternal life.—Luke 13:5, Gal. 3:26, Jas. 2:17.

13. We believe that only such Christian believers as persevere in a life of holiness unto the end will be eternally saved.—Matt. 24:13, Rev. 3:5,11,12, 2 Pet. 2:20,21,22, 1 Sam. 16:14, Rom. 11:21,22.

14. We believe that the Christian Sabbath is a divine institution, and should be observed by abstaining from all sinful amusement and secular business and devoted to the worship of God.—Jer. 17:21, Luke 23:56, Mark 2:28.

15. We believe that baptism, or the immersion of believers in water, and the sacrament of the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be perpetuated in the church and administered to all true believers.—Acts 8:38,39, Col. 2:12, 1 Cor. 11:23,26, Luke 22:19.

16. We believe in the second coming of Christ to judge the world, when the dead will be raised and the righteous received into eternal felicity and the wicked banished eternally from the presence of God into everlasting suffering.—Acts 17:31, 1 Cor. 15:24, Dan. 12:2, John 5:28,29.

Constitution and By-Laws.

ART. 1. Each session of this Association shall be called to order by the Moderator, or the Standing Clerk, in his absence.

2. Each session and adjourned sitting of this Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

3. Seven members shall be required to constitute a quorum to transact business of this Association.

4. After the opening of each session of this Association, a chairman shall be appointed, and a committee of not less than three persons shall be chosen to examine credentials for membership into the Association.

5. At each session of this Association, standing committees shall be appointed as follows: Printing, Education, Sabbath-school, Temperance, Ministry, Mission, Correspondence and Morals. All petitions and communications on particular subjects shall be referred to their appropriate committee. Special committees may be appointed at the pleasure of the Association.

6. This Association may hold correspondence, by messenger or otherwise, with other religious bodies, as it may deem advisable.

7. This Association shall sit with open doors, except when it may go into committee of the whole.

8. Any brother not a member of this Association may be allowed to take part in its discussions by obtaining permission of the Association.

9. It shall be the duty of the Standing Clerk, to furnish each session of the Association with a book of records, containing the work of the previous session.

10. The Association may commence and close its sessions at the time it shall determine at each session.

11. It shall be the duty of all the members of this Association to be present at the time appointed for each sitting, and any one wishing to retire while the Association is in sitting, shall first obtain leave of the Moderator.

12. No person shall absent himself from the Association during its session without first obtaining permission of the Association.

13. Every person wishing to speak in the Association, shall first address the Moderator.

14. No person shall be allowed to speak more than ten minutes at any one time, nor more than twice on any subject without leave of the Association.

15. No debate shall be allowed on any motion, except the same be submitted in writing and seconded by a member of the association.

16. No whispering shall be allowed during the sitting of the Association without leave of the Moderator, but all members shall pay strict attention to the business of the Association.

17. No person shall be allowed to nominate more than one member on any committee whatever, provided the brother nominated be elected.

18. The Constitution and By-Laws of this Association shall be read at each session near the commencement.

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457 SHAWMUT AVE., BOSTON, MASS.

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