

MINUTES

—OF THE—

THIRD ANNUAL SESSION

—OF THE—

Martin Free-Will Baptist Association

—CONVENED WITH—

Live Oak Church, Baker County, Ga.,

ON OCTOBER 22nd AND 23rd. 1869.

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MINUTES.

The Association met according to adjournment.

The introductory was delivered by Rev. J. W. Sauls, from Acts v. 22.

Called for Corresponding Letters, which were deposited. Appointed Bros. H. Eley and W. T. Saxon to read said letters.

Organized by electing Rev. J. W. Saule Moderator and W. T. Saxon Clerk. Rev. W. B. Lane was called to assist the Moderator.

Invited visiting brethren to seats.

Called for correspondence from sister Associations, when Rev. D. J. Apperson was received without letter and fellowship extended.

Called for Petitionary Letters and received none.

On motion of Rev. W. B. Lane it was determined to enforce the decorum in regard to brethren absenting themselves.

The following committees were appointed:

On Preaching—N. H. Saunders, R. B. Saxon, R. C. Gregory, T. R. Mims and A. J. Roberts.

On Finance—C. C. Martin, W. A. McDonald and G. T. Wiley.

On Ministerial Character—J. W. Brown, S. W. Walton, N. H. Saunders, A. J. Roberts and S. Paul.

On State of the Churches—J. L. Adams, R. B. Saxon, J. D. H. Saunders, J. Lewis and W. H. Drinkwaters.

On Temperance—W. J. Kelly, W. W. Mills and T. R. Mims.

On Sabbath-Schools—W. B. Lane, J. I. Hill and C. C. Martin.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PREACHING.

We, your committee, beg leave to make the following report: Rev. J. I. Hill to preach tonight at 7 o'clock; S. Eley to close. Rev. J. L. Adams tomorrow at 9 o'clock; G. W. Stovall to close. Rev. D. J. Apperson at 11 o'clock; G. T. Wiley to close. Rev. W. B. Lane at 3 o'clock; J. M. Murdock to close. Rev. C. C. Martin at 7 o'clock at night; Rev. Moore to close.

Evening session closed with prayer by Rev. G. T. Embry.

Adjourned until Wednesday morning at 9 o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, 9 A. M.

The body met according to adjournment. Prayer by J. M. Murdock.

On motion the names of delegates are to be inserted in the minutes.

Called the roll of delegates, viz.:

Live Oak—J. D. H. Saunders, N. H. Saunders and R. C. Tucker.

White Pond—Jacob Lewis.

Union—Represented by pastor.

Macedonia—J. A. Rooks, W. F. Gray, W. R. Houston, W. L. Pool.

New Salem—W. T. Smith.

Pleasant Grove—Sidney Paul and W. H. Drinkwaters.

Traveler's Rest—G. W. Mercer and T. J. Rhodes.

Open Pond—H. G. Minter.

Bethlehem—J. W. Brown and J. M. Murdock.

Pleasant Springs—R. B. Saxon and W. T. Saxon.

Pine Grove—E. B. Lynn and W. J. Barber.

Enterprise—T. R. Mims.

Gregory's Chapel—R. C. Gregory, J. A. McMurphey, W. J. Kelly.

New Prospect—W. W. Mills and H. Eley.

Friendship—A. M. Rooks.

New Hope—By Proxy.

Pleasant Hill—S. S. Sauls and A. R. Jernigan.

Cedar Spring—J. L. Martin.

Bellview—J. L. Adams.

Patmos—J. B. Griffin and S. W. Waller.

New Enterprise—W. S. Roberson and T. H. Williams.

Corinth—S. D. Miller and E. A. Drake.

Called for Circular Letters. Received none.

Called for Correspondence to sister Associations. On motion the Moderator appointed delegates to correspond with sister Associations, as follows: Rev. W. B. Lane and G. T. Wiley to State Line Association; Rev. S. Eley and J. I. Hill to correspond with Southeastern Association; Rev. C. C. Martin and J. W. Sauls to correspond with Chattahoochee Association.

Called for Report of Committees.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We, your committee, beg leave to make the following report:

We find the Sabbath School interest on the increase and we urge the Members of the Association to improve every opportunity in forwarding this good work.

We will hold a Sabbath School convention at Bellview Church on Thursday before the first Sabbath in September next and request all Sabbath Schools to send representatives to this convention.

On motion the report was received and adopted.

ON STATE OF THE MINISTERS.

We, your committee, beg leave to report as follows:

We find our ministers to be in good standing.

J. L. MARTIN, Chairman.

On motion the report is received and adopted.

ON TEMPERANCE.

We, your committee, beg leave to make the following report:

We find intemperance on the decrease to some extent.

On motion the report is received and adopted.

ON STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

We, your committee, beg leave to make the following report:

We find all the churches, except Enterprise, in good condition, it being somewhat confused.

J. LEWIS, Chairman.

On motion the report is received and adopted.

On motion Enterprise Church was received on the strength of the Report of her corresponding letter.

ON FINANCE.

We, your committee, beg leave to make the following report:

Amount sent for Minutes.....	\$30.00
Public Collection.....	3.00

Total.....	\$33.00
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Respectfully submitted,

W. A. McDONALD, Chairman.

On motion the report is received and adopted.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

On motion by Rev. W. G. Stovall to endorse the movement of

Southern Unity as set forth by A. D. Williams, the subject was discussed and finally rejected.

On motion the report of Bro. J. Cheshire on the subject of Home Missions was read and adopted and a vote of thanks was extended Bro. Cheshire for his contribution to that cause.

On motion the subject of Home Missions was then taken up and after discussion was finally dropped indefinitely.

Resolved, First—That the Articles of Faith of the Chattahoochee Association be incorporated in the minutes.

On motion Rev. W. A. McDonald was appointed to write the next circular letter.

Resolved, Second—That the Union meeting for the First District be held with Travellers Rest Church, Baker county, Ga., commencing Friday night before the Fifth Sunday in June next. Rev. J. W. Sauls to preach the introductory. Rev. J. L. Adams, alternate.

Resolved, Third—That the Union meeting for the Second District be held with Pine Grove Church, Decatur county, Ga., commencing Friday night before the Third Sunday in July next. Rev. S. Ely to preach the introductory.

Resolved, Fourth—That the next session of this Association convene with New Prospect Church, Calhoun county, Ga., on Tuesday before the Fourth Sunday in September next, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

Adjourned till 2 o'clock.

The body met according to adjournment. Prayer by Rev. W. A. McDonald.

Resolved, Fifth—That Rev. S. Ely preach the introductory sermon at the next annual session; Rev. W. B. Lane, alternate.

Resolved, Sixth—That the clerk receive ten dollars for his services.

Resolved, Seventh—That we have five hundred copies of Minutes printed.

Resolved, Eighth—That the thanks of this body be tendered the members of Live Oak Church, their friends and community, for the unbounded hospitality dispensed by them during the session.

The parting hand was taken.

Prayer by Rev. S. Ely.

J. W. SAULS, MODERATOR.

W. T. SAXON, CLERK.

DECORUM OF THE ASSOCIATION.

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Call for corresponding letters and enrollment of the names of Delegates.
3. Organize by electing Moderator and Clerk.
4. Call for Petitionary letters.
5. Call for correspondence from Sister Associations.
6. Appoint committees.
7. Call for circular letter.
8. Appoint correspondents to Sister Associations.
9. Read corresponding letters.
10. Hear report of committees.
11. Miscellaneous Business.

OBITUARIES.

Martha J. Smith was born Nov. 21st, 1843, and died April 14th, 1889. She was a consistent, faithful member of the New Salem Free-Will Baptist Church for about 25 years. She leaves a loving husband and dear old mother and many friends to mourn their loss. She is gone to receive the crown of glory.

Departed this life May 3rd, 1889, Harriet Elizabeth Smith, in the 18th year of her age. She was a consistent member of the Free-Will Baptist Church at New Salem, Miller county, Ga. She was faithful to every Christian duty, loved by all who knew her and loved all. Death claimed her, leaving a Christian father and mother behind to mourn. Gathered from among the beautiful flowers of earth and transplanted in heaven—it is our loss, but her eternal gain.

Napoleon Cleaveland departed this life July 12th, 1889. He was born Nov. 6th, 1859. He died in the thirtieth year of his age, having lived a consistent member of the Free Will Baptist Church at Macedonia for eight years. For nearly a year he was an extreme sufferer from cancer, being first seated in his left eye, then over his whole face. At times he suffered excruciating pain until a few weeks before his death, when he seemed at perfect ease. Yet in his misery he complained not at the will of his Heavenly Father, but waited patiently for the end, when his spirit should take its flight to the Father who gave it. Wife, children, mother and brethren should all feel assured that he has made his peace, calling and election sure, for this was his testimony.

PASTOR.

Bro. Joseph T. Maury was born Feb. 7th, 1854; died Oct. 8th, 1888. Bro. Maury was a faithful, worthy member of the Free Will Baptist Church at Pleasant Springs, Calhoun county, Ga. He left a loving Christian wife and many friends to mourn their loss, while he "rests in the home of the blest. "A sleep in Jesus, blessed sleep, from which none ever wake to weep."

Departed this life August 12th, 1888, Sister Dubbie Griffin, in the seventeenth year of her age. Her many Christian graces, added to that sweet, gentle disposition, made her an exemplar in piety. This loving flower, plucked from the decaying things of earth, is transplanted in the never-fading bower of heaven.

"One by one earth's ties are broken;
As we see our love decay,
And the hopes so fondly cherished,
Brighten but to pass away.
One by one our hopes grow brighter
As we near the shining shore,
For we know across the river
Wait the loved ones gone before."

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

ARTICLE 1. We believe the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a treasure of heavenly institution; that it has God for its author, Salvation for its end, and Truth, without mixture of error, for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us, and therefore it shall remain with us to the end of time the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard to which all human conduct and opinions should conform.

ART. 2. That there is but one true and living God, whose name is Jehovah, the maker and ruler of Heaven and Earth, inexpressibly glorious in holiness, worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love, revealed in the personal distinction of Father, Son and Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

ART. 3. That man was created in a state of holiness under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state, in consequence of which men are now sinners, not by constraint but by choice, being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, wholly given to the gratification of the world, satan and their own sinful passions, and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

ART. 4. That the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace through the mediatorial office of the Son of God, who took upon himself our nature, yet without sin, honored the law by his personal obedience, and made atonement for sin by his death. Being risen from the dead he is now in Heaven, and, uniting in his wonderful person the tender sympathy with divine perfection, in every way qualified to be a suitable, compassionate and all sufficient Savior.

ART. 5. That the great gospel blessing, which Christ of fulness bestows on such as believe on him, is justification; that justification consists in the pardon of sin, and promise of eternal life upon principles of righteousness, that it is bestowed not in consideration of anything which we have done, but solely through his own righteousness and atonement, and that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God.

ART. 6. That the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to receive them by a cordial and obedient faith, and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner upon earth but his own voluntary refusal to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ, which refusal will subject him to an aggravated condemnation.

ART. 7. That in order to be saved, we must be regenerated or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind, and is effected in a manner above our comprehension, by the power of the Holy Spirit, producing voluntary obedience to the gospel, and that its proper evidence is found in the holy fruits which we bring forth to God.

ART. 8. That election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's goodness, being infinitely wise, holy, unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, prayer, praise, trust, God and an active imitation of his free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance, and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves, demands and deserves our utmost diligence.

ART. 9. That persevering attachment of true believers in Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that special providence watches over their welfare and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

ART. 10. That the law of God is the eternal, unchangeable rule of his government, that it is holy, just and good and that the inability which the scriptures ascribe to fallen man to fulfill its precepts arises entirely from their love of sin, to deliver them from which, and to restore them, through a mediator, to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one design of the gospel and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

ART. 11. That the first day of the week is the Lord's day; that it should be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and recreation by the direct observance of all the means of grace—both private and public—and by preparation for that rest which remains for the people of God.

ART. 12. That civil government is of divine appointment for the interest and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for conscientiously.

tially; honored and obeyed in all things, not contrary to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Lord of the conscience and the prince of the kings of the earth.

ART. 11. That there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only are justified by faith in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the spirit of God, as are truly righteous in his esteem, while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in his sight wicked and under the curse, and this distinction holds among men, both in life and after death.

ART. 14. That the end of this world is approaching, when Christ will descend from Heaven and raise the dead from their graves to final retribution; that a solemn preparation will then take place, the righteous being all judged to everlasting happiness, and the wicked to endless punishment; and this judgment will fix, forever, the final state of man in Heaven or hell on principles of righteousness.

NOTE.—That the public may not be mistaken in regard to the above articles, we think proper to state that they are not designed as a creed or rule to be set up as a test of church fellowship, but merely as a declaration of our private opinions and should be referred to only as such. For we hold that to set up a creed or rule as a test of church fellowship is wholly repugnant to the word of God, an assumption of authority upon the part of the church, and an acknowledgement of another head of the church, when we are taught in the word of God that Christ is the supreme head of the church and the only law giver. Therefore we hold that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the word of God, and the only infalible rule of faith and practice, that every man has the right to his opinions and an equal right to express them in any way that is not in violation of the word of God, or the rights of his fellow man.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	POST OFFICES.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.									
				Baptised.	Rec. on Conf.	Rec. by letter.	Restored.	Dis. by letter.	Excluded.	Decensed.	Total.	Paid for Minutes.	Sabbath of Meeting.
First Church	Baker	W. A. McDonald	N. H. Sanders	Minisville, Ga.	J. D. H. Sanders	N. H. Sanders	R. C. Tucker	3			51	1 75	2
White Pond	Early	W. H. Lane	Jacob Lewis	Danascus	Jacob Lewis				3		24	75	3
Second	Early	W. B. Lane	J. A. Cannon	Sowhatchee	Rev. W. B. Lane			6			49	2 00	4
New Salem	Miller	J. J. Hill	W. J. Farmer	Cobbit	W. T. Smith			5	1		22	1 00	2
Macelopia	Early	W. A. McDonald	R. Richardson	Danascus	J. A. Rooks	W. F. Gray	W. R. Houston	11	14	1	138	2 00	1
Macelopia	Early	W. A. McDonald	W. S. Hadden	Shelham	Sidney Paul	W. H. Drinkwaters		1	2		142	1 75	1
Travelers Rest	Baker	W. A. McDonald	R. H. Muzgrove	Newton	W. W. Mercer	T. J. Rhodes		3	1		84	1 10	3
Open Pond	Early	W. B. Lane	R. C. Minter	Echolet	H. G. Minter						42	2 00	2
Bethlehem	Randolph	J. W. Sauls	E. O. Melton	Shelham	J. W. Brown	J. M. Murdock					44	2 00	4
Pleasant Springs	Calhoun	J. W. Sauls	W. T. Saxon	Cuthbert	R. B. Saxon	W. T. Saxon			1	2	45	1 25	2
Stone Grove	Decatur	J. A. McClellan	Chas. Clarke	Steam Mill	E. B. Lynn	W. J. Barber					52	1 00	3
Stone Grove	Early	W. C. Stovall	T. R. Mims	Blakely	T. R. Mims				9		72	1 00	3
New Prospect	Calhoun	S. E. Key	H. F. Key	Lawson	W. W. Mills	H. F. Key					23	1 00	1
Friendship	Miller	J. F. Hall	T. M. Bowen	Mayhaw	A. M. Hooks				5		70	1 00	4
Gregory's Chapel	Calhoun	W. C. Stovall	Wm. J. Kelley	Porters Mill	R. C. Gregory	J. A. McMurphy	W. J. Kelley	15	20		35	2 10	2
Green Enterprise	Decatur	S. E. Key	F. W. Williams	Rock Pond	W. S. Robinson	T. W. Williams			1	2	32	1 00	2
Greenbush	Decatur	S. E. Key	J. E. Howard		S. P. Miller	F. A. Drake			1	7	100	2 15	4
Green Spring	Early	S. E. Key	T. M. Moseley	Cedar Spring	J. I. Martin				1		62	1 50	3
New Hope	Early	S. E. Key	T. M. Moseley		W. F. Key				1		40	75	2
Mountain Hill	Randolph	J. C. Martin	J. A. Roberts		S. S. Sauls	A. R. Jerriegan			1	1	98	1 00	4
Bellevue	Early	J. J. Hill	C. W. Cleveland	Britt	J. L. Adams				1	1	101	1 00	3
Bellevue	Early	J. W. Sauls	H. F. Walters	Midford	J. E. Griffin	S. W. Warren			1		10	1 00	3
Bellevue	Early	J. W. Sauls	H. F. Walters	Midford	J. E. Griffin	S. W. Warren			1		10	1 00	3

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Ordained Ministers.

Rev. C. C. Martin, Cuthbert, Randolph county, Ga.
Rev. W. A. McDonald, Damascus, Early county, Ga.
Rev. J. B. McCallers, Cedar Spring, Early county, Ga.
Rev. W. B. Lape, Sowhatchee, Early county, Ga.
Rev. J. L. Hill, Cedar Spring, Early county, Ga.
Rev. G. T. Wiley, Sowhatchee, Early county, Ga.
Rev. Samuel Eley, Sowhatchee, Early county, Ga.
Rev. J. W. Sauls, Shelburn, Randolph county, Ga.
Rev. W. G. Stovall, Damascus, Early county, Ga.
Rev. G. T. Embry, Morgan, Calhoun county, Ga.
Rev. D. P. McDonald.

Licentiates.

S. A. McLendon, Cedar Spring, Early county, Ga.
J. E. Brown, Shelburn, Randolph county, Ga.
M. McGroves, Newton, Baker county, Ga.
B. C. Minter, Ecotell, Early county, Ga.
J. L. Adams, Coleritt, Miller county, Ga.