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**MINUTES OF THE FIRST ANNUAL
SESSION**

**Mississippi State Association
OF
Free Will Baptists**



Convened with Lovewell Church
Greene County, Mississippi
Oct. 15-16, 1942



Next session to convene with Antioch Church, 3 miles
south of Toccopola, Miss., on November
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THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

The Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptists met in its first annual Session with Lovewell Church in Greene County on Oct. 15-16, 1942. The Association assembled by singing "What a friend we have in Jesus" led by Rev. George Lee. Devotional conducted by Bro. W. A. Mason using as a basis the 12th Chapter of Hebrews, prayer by Rev. G. M. Pearson. Welcome address given by pastor Rev. Pearson, response by L. E. Duncan. Songs were led by Rev. D. W. Jones and Bro. W. G. Prude.

The moderator, Rev. M. L. Hollis, took stand and called for letters and delegates. The following churches were represented by both letter and delegation: East Tupelo, W. G. Prude and L. E. Duncan. Union Hill, E. F. Harris. Gauley, Jack Parker, Mrs. Clyde Goodson, Rev. and Mrs. George C. Lee. Antioch, M. L. Morris. Pleasant Grove Grover Price and J. D. Stepp. Springdale, G. L. Dulin, Jodie Starnes, Revs. J. H. Fondren and E. A. Lewis. Pine Grove, W. A. and Mrs. Mason, Luther Rigney. Lee's Chapel, Greene Co., A. W. Stephens, Mrs. Nannie Courtney and Mrs. Thelma Griffin. Lovewell: Brooks Little, A. L. Burges and Cloricio Walley. Smith's Chapel: Christine Bazor, Ida Dunnom and Armenda Phillips. Thompson's Creek: W. P. Mills and William Langley. Corinth: C. Henderson, H. B. Boils, Parion Brewer. Lee's Chapel, Wayne Co.: Steve and W. P. Lee. Churches represented by letter only: Pearce's Chapel, and Beech Springs. Represented by pastor and funds: Columbus.

Letters received and delegates seated after which the moderator declared the association duly opened for the transaction of business.

The first business to be disposed of was the election of officers for the ensuing year. Bro. Prude's move that the same officers be retained was duly seconded and carried. Officers as follows: M. L. Hollis, Moderator, G. M. Pearson, assistant Moderator; G. C. Lee, Clerk, J. C. Roberts, assistant clerk and L. E. Duncan, treasurer.

Rev. D. W. Jones was seated as a corresponding delegate from the Little Brown Creek Association. Bro. Jones led in the singing of "I'll Live On" after which the business session was adjourned for preaching. Rev. Lee preached from Proverbs 23:10, "Remove not the old landmark."

Dismissed for lunch by Rev. Jones.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

After a short song service Rev. D. U. Bishop conducted devotions by reading from Isaiah 53rd Chapter, Bro. Fondren led the prayer.

Business session was resumed and the following committees were

appointed by moderator: Resolution: W. G. Prude, W. A. Mason and A. L. Burges. Christian Education and Literature: L. E. Duncan, Mrs. Clyde Goodson and George Walley. Home Missions: Rev. G. M. Pearson, Rev. J. M. Haas and A. W. Stephens. Auditing: Rev. G. E. Lee, Rev. W. H. Fondren and Leither Walley.

Report of Northeast Miss. Association was given by clerk.

Here is our annual report of progress and work for the past associational year inclusive, which was reported at our last session which convened with Gauley Church on Sept. 24-25, 1942. We had 15 churches represented, 12 by letter and delegates and 3 by letter.

Total membership	2091	Pastors	\$ 2101.04
League enrollment	295	Total expenditures	4424.50
S. S. Enrollment	665	Value of church	
Ladies Aid enrollment	31	property	28,625.00
Associational funds	\$ 18.25	Lost by letter	16
Superannuation	12.00	Deceased	14
Foreign Missions	11.25	Excluded	50
Education	207.57	Rec'd by letter.....	36
Amt. sent to association.....	166.41	By Baptism	133
Benevolences	102.68	Value of parsonage	\$1500.00
Incidentals	662.14	Paid for Home Missions...	166.15
Buildings & Repairs	797.12	9 Sunday schools, 5 Leagues,	
Evangelists	714.81	8 ordained ministers, 2 licensed	
		ministers.	

George C. Lee, clerk

Report of Zion Rest Association by clerk:

We submit annual report of Zion Rest Association as given at last session which convened with Lovewell Church, 1942:

Number of churches	7	Paid pastors	\$467.40
Membership	377	Evangelists	190.25
Received by letter	15	Amt. in Associational	
Restored	4	treasury	36.10
By Baptism	37	Sunday schools	4
Deceased	6	S. S. enrollment	260
Ordained ministers	6	S. S. Teachers	16
Licensed ministers	1	Brooks Little, clerk	
		Richton, Miss.	

Recess was taken at this time.

Called together by singing, prayer led by Rev. J. M. Haas.

Resolution Commtitee report:

1st. Resolved that we begin now for an Orphanage in Mississippi, by appointing an Orphanage Board, same to organize and make a report, to this body, of its plans so that they may be acted upon.

2nd. Resolved that meeting date of this Association be held on Thursday and Friday before the third Sunday in November of each year instead of date defined in constitution.

3rd. Resolved that next session be held with Antioch Church in Pontotoc county.

4th. Resolved that we show our appreciation to our officers for services rendered by giving the moderator \$5.00, clerk \$10.00 and treasurer \$5.00.

5th. That we extend to Lovewell Church and community our sincere thanks and appreciation for the courteous and capable entertainment during this session. May God's richest blessings ever be theirs to enjoy.

Committee

The above report was unanimously adopted and the Orphanage Board appointed as follows: M. L. Hollis, W. G. Prude, L. E. Duncan, G. C. Lee and G. M. Pearson.

Mississippi State Free Will Orphanage Board organized Oct. 16, 1942 by electing the following officers: M. L. Hollis, chairman, L. E. Duncan secretary and W. G. Prude, treasurer. The following recommendations were presented to the Association, by the board, and were unanimously adopted:

1st. That each church keep an Orphanage Bank before the people at all services for offerings and that a special offering be taken once each month for same. These funds to be mailed to treasurer quarterly so that he can make a written report and forward to F. W. Papers for publication.

2nd. That there be added to the Board two other members, we suggest that Bro. W. A. Mason and Bro. C. R. Hollis be designated as same

3rd. That Board be empowered to purchase and establish this institution and that the actual expenses incurred by same be paid from treasury of said board.

4th. That the subscription for public funds be taken care of by or through this board.

M. L. Hollis, chairman

The body went on record as to their interest in this move by subscribing the amount of \$705.00 and giving a freewill offering of \$27.50. A subscription list will be published from time to time in the church papers.

HOME MISSION REPORT

We ask that the churches comprising this association support in full the program of the National Home Mission Board.

2nd. We ask that each church take a freewill offering as often as they see fit for State Home Mission work. Funds to be brought to each meeting of the association, or mailed to treasurer.

3rd. We urge the necessity of State Mission work and ask that a Gospel tent be purchased and an evangelist be placed in the field as soon as funds are available.

Committee

Assignment to homes was made and adjournment of business session until Friday morning

THURSDAY EVENING SESSION

A fine program of gospel songs was led by the various leaders present and the Greene County singers rendered some fine special numbers. Rev. M. L. Hollis preached from Rev. 5th chapter using as a subject, "The Seven Seals." Many were moved to seek a closer walk with Jesus as evidenced by their coming to the altar at the close of the service.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Devotions directed by Rev. W. H. Fondren, using Psalms 153, opened the 2nd days session. Prayer by Rev. Pearson.

Moderator called house to order. A vote was taken on a resolution to change the 12th article of the Constitution to read as follows, "The association shall hold its sessions annually on Thursday and Friday before the third Sunday in November. It was adopted.

Report Of Committee on Christian Education and Literature:

We recommend that our people support our National Program on Education as enthusiastically as possible, and that we observe November of each year as Christian Education month by taking an offering for same. Funds to be forwarded to treasurer for transmission to National treasurer and records to be kept by State treasurer for yearly auditing.

We recommend that our people support our denominational publications, namely: The Free Will Baptist, Free Will Baptist Gem and Free Will Baptist Landmark.

We urge that our people use Free Will Baptist literature in Sunday schools and League. That we furnish our homes with clean and wholesome literature for reading by our young people. We also stress a systematic study of God's Word. "Study to show thyself approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Committee.

Report of Auditing Committee:

We have checked receipt and disbursement of finance and find the amount of \$28.00 was paid into the treasury between April 16th and October 15th, 1942, and the amount of \$27.72 paid out, leaving a balance of \$0.72 brought from last session. Collected during this session \$72.75. Total on hand \$73.47.

Committee

The following named delegates were appointed to National Association which meets in Nashville, Tenn., on Tuesday after the second Sunday in July 1943: Jack Parker, W. A. Mason, W. G. Prude, L. E. Duncan and A. W. Stephens.

National Association dues to be paid from treasury.

W. A. Mason was retained as a member of Executive Board.

After a few minutes recess Rev. J. M. Haas filled the stand and preached an inspiring sermon using as a subject, "Let Us Remember."

Association was closed to meet with Antioch Church 3 miles south of Toccopola, Miss., on Thursday before third Sunday in November 1943 at 10:00 o'clock a. m.

Ministers of State Association and their addresses: Ordained:

Rev. M. L. Hollis	Red Bay, Ala.
Rev. George C. Lee	Calhoun City, Miss.
Rev. J. M. Haas	Tupelo, Miss.
Rev. W. H. Fondren	Denmark, Miss.
Rev. E. A. Lewis	Denmark, Miss.
Rev. M. R. Allen	Smithville, Miss.
Rev. Oliver Wages	Houlka, Miss.
Rev. G. M. Pearson	Laurel, Miss.
Rev. G. W. Walley	Richton, Miss.
Rev. Wilmer Brewer	Richton, Miss.
Rev. James Norvell	Waynesboro, Miss.
Rev. J. W. Walters,	Laurel, Miss.
Rev. D. U. Bishop	Laurel, Miss.
Rev. Wiley Holifield	Laurel, Miss.

Licensed:

M. E. Walley	Richton, Miss.
L. E. Winter	Toccopola, Miss.
Elton Coleman	Toccopola, Miss.

Report of Treasurer:

Total paid into treasurer during first session and up to beginning of 2nd session.....\$28.00

Paid out as follows:

Minutes, May 1942.....	\$14.00
National Dues, July 1942.....	10.00
Programs, October 1, 1942.....	2.50
Postage	0.78
Total expenditures.....	<u>\$27.28</u>

Balance on Hand Oct. 14, 1942.....\$0.72

Received from churches at this session:

East Tupelo	8.00
Gauley	2.50
Lee's Chapel, Greene County.....	5.50
Lovewell	3.25
Pine Grove	3.00
Smith's Chapel	3.00
Union Hill	5.00
Corinth	2.10
Springdale	2.50
Pleasant Grove.....	2.50
Pearce Chapel	3.00
Beech Springs	6.25
Antioch	2.00
Thompson's Creek	2.75
Columbus	8.40
Priceville	5.00
Damascus	3.00
Bethlehem	4.00
Lee's Chapel, Wayne County.....	1.30
Rev. D. W. Jones.....	1.00

Total to October 17, 1942.....\$74.77

Paid to Association officers 10/16/42.....\$20.00

Balance on hand October 17, 1942 \$54.77

L. E. Duncan, Treas.

Subscribers to Mississippi State F. W. B. Orphanage fund which was started only a few days past at the State Association. We appreciate very much the interest that is being shown and we pray that our people will give this worthy cause their wholehearted support.

From Richton, Miss.		A. W. Stephens	11.00
Arthur Brewer	\$10.00	From Denmark, Miss.	
Mrs. J. A. Walley	10.00	Jodie Starnes	10.00
Criss Brewer	25.00	W. H. Fondren	5.00
J. K. Walley	25.00	D. W. Jones, Corinth,	
Mrs. Bryant Walley	5.00	Miss.	10.00
Mrs. W. I. Walley	5.00	E. F. Harris, Mooreville,	
G. W. Walley	10.00	Miss.	25.00
A. L. Burges	10.00	J. D. Stepp, Thaxton,	
George Brewer	10.00	Miss.	10.00
Allen Walley	10.00	From Tupelo, Miss.	
Grady Burges	10.00	J. M. Haas	100.00
Lonnie Wall	10.00	W. G. Prude	25.00
W. E. Walley	5.00	L. E. Duncan	25.00
Leathal Walley	10.00	J. T. Alexander	10.00
Albert Walley	5.00	R. L. Winders	25.00
Lee Walley	5.00	Claude Roberts	25.00
M. L. Hollis, Red Bay,		Chester Bedford	25.00
Ala.	100.00	Lucille Winders	15.00
From Bucatunna, Miss.		W. O. Knight	15.00
W. A. Mason	50.00	Mrs. Murphy, Dorsey,	
Mrs. W. A. Mason	10.00	Miss.	5.00
Sally Patrick	5.00	Nan Post	10.00
Luther Rigney	15.00	Opal Bailey	10.00
Mrs. L. Rigney	5.00	Mildred Christian	10.00
From Calhoun City, Miss.		George Powell	10.00
George C. Lee	10.00	Wilma Stone	10.00
Jack Parker	25.00	Sybil Bailey	10.00
Mrs. Clyde Goodson	5.00	Geraldine Shumpert	10.00
From Waynesboro, Miss.		W. C. Rays	10.00
H. B. Boils	10.00	Mattie Long	10.00
Mrs. Robert Mills	10.00	Lillian Carson	10.00
Ghatman Henderson	10.00	Mac Pope	10.00
J. P. Brewer	10.00	Mrs. Mac Pope	5.00
Robert Mills	5.00	Arthur Bailey	10.00
Dan Jordan	5.00	Mrs. Earl Evans	10.00
From Laurel, Miss.		Lawrence Parrish	10.00
G. M. Pearson	25.00	Hazel Bedford	5.00
D. U. Bishop	10.00	Eloise Bedford	1.00

Dick Davidson	10.00	B. G. Enlow	10.00
Annie B. Davidson	10.00	Pauline Murphy	25.00
Hattie Clifford	5.00	Hollis Murphy,	
Lizzie McAdams,		Mantachie	25.00
Huntsville, Texas	5.00	Roy Brown	20.00
From Toccopola, Miss.		Viva Mae Franks	15.00
L. E. Winter	5.00	Sarah Franks	10.00
L. Q. Daniel	5.00	Alta Comer	15.00
Zone Waugh	5.00	Dee Bean	10.00
Bud Tutor	5.00	G. D. Comer	10.00
Lud & Nola Bevill	5.00	Mary L. Bean	10.00
Robert Strube & Wife	10.00	Velora Brown	5.00
W. F. Bevill	5.00	Irene Cooley	5.00
Ivy Daniel	5.00	J. K. Brown	5.00
Earl Winter	1.00	E. H. Farris	5.00
Al. Winter	1.00	M. E. Strawberry	2.00
Mrs. Sullivan	1.00		
From Dorsey, Miss.		From Smithville, Miss.	
John Brown	15.00	F. R. Brook	5.00
Roy Comer	25.00	Jim Moore	1.00
O .C. Franks	5.00	J. D. Cole	1.00

L. E. Duncan, Sec'y., Tupelo, Miss.

CONSTITUTION OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

PREAMBLE: The Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptists is designed to consolidate the efforts of the different associations of the state; to harmonize the work; to unify the sentiment of the common cause of the Redeemer; and by a fraternal interchange of views among their members, to promote the cause of the denomination and stimulate a growth in grace and in the knowledge of gospel truth.

Article 1—Name

This body shall be known henceforth as The Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptists.

Article 2—Purpose.

The object of this association shall be to more thoroughly unify the work of the various associations of Mississippi and to devise and execute measures for the extension of Christ's kingdom in connection with the various associations comprising this organization.

Article 3—Membership.

This association shall be composed of the various associations of the above named state when joined to this association in duly constituted ways.

Article 4—Delegation.

Each association shall be allowed three delegates, to the annual meeting of the state association, from each of their respective, local churches. Each ordained minister, in good standing in his respective churches and association, shall have the same privilege as a duly elected delegate.

Article 5—Discipline.

The State Association shall have the right to settle any question of discipline, doctrine or usage that may properly come before it from time to time from any of the Associations composing the said State Association, or act upon any appeal that may be made by any of the associations belonging to the State Association; said appeal shall have been written and signed by the Association making the appeal, then forwarded by mail or in person to the State Association. The State Association shall not usurp any of the powers of the local associations or any church within any association.

Article 6—Officers.

The officers of the association shall consist of a Moderator an assistant Moderator, a Clerk, an assistant Clerk and a Treasurer, each of whom shall be nominated from the floor at each regular meeting. Election shall be determined by a majority of those present and voting. All officers shall hold office until their successor is elected and installed.

Article 7—Executive Board. Sec. 1.

The Executive Board shall be composed of seven members, three of whom shall be the moderator, the clerk and the treasurer of the State Association and four which shall be elected from the floor of the association, the terms to run from one to four years for the first four elected, then one member to be elected every year.

Section 2. Duties of Executive Board: 1st. To act for the association in matters that demand consideration between the regular annual sessions of the association. 2nd. To fill vacancies in the association that may occur by death, resignation or otherwise between regular sessions of the Association. 3rd. To make written reports of its work to the next regular session of the association.

Article 8—Boards and Committees.

The association shall have as many Boards and Committees as it thinks necessary to carry out the program it may determine to promote in connection with the National Association.

Article 9—Finance.

Annual dues shall be in the amount of FIVE CENTS per member for each member in the respective churches of each local association.

Article 10—Legal representation.

Each delegation to the State Association shall be required to present its credentials, together with a report of the work from the body they represent, to a duly elected Credential Committee.

Article 11—Parliamentary Laws.

The members of this association shall be governed by the standard parliamentary rules and usages of deliberative bodies.

Article 12—Meetings.

The association shall hold its regular meetings annually on Thursday and Friday before the third Sunday in November. Special meetings may be called by the Executive Board in case of extreme necessity provided the clerk of each local association has been advised at least 15 days prior to such meetings. Fifteen legal delegates shall constitute a quorum for the special meeting of the association.

Article 13—

This Constitution may be amended at any regular session of the State Association by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided the change is recommended in writing on the day before the vote is taken.

CHURCH LETTER TO STATE ASSOCIATION

We, the Free Will Baptists of _____ Church in, or near _____ send greetings to _____ Annual session of The Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptists, when convened with _____ Church on Thursday and Friday before the third Sunday in November 194_____. We send as delegates to represent us in your Honorable Body the following named Brothers and Sisters in Christ _____

Praying that all you may do may be for the furtherance of God's Kingdom here on earth.

CHURCH STATISTICS: Number of members received since last session _____; Number members lost since last session _____; Total membership _____.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Value of Church property \$ _____; Value of Parsonage \$ _____; Indebtedness on Church Property \$ _____; Indebtedness on Parsonage \$ _____; Paid Pastor \$ _____; Paid Evangelist \$ _____; Paid on buildings and or repairs \$ _____; Paid for Missions \$ _____; Education \$ _____; Benevolences \$ _____; Incidentals \$ _____; Total Expenditures \$ _____; We are sending \$ _____ for State Association Funds.

AUXILIARY WORK: Sunday School Enrollment _____; League Enrollment _____; Ladies Aid Enrollment _____; Remarks: _____

This done in Church Conference on _____ 194_____.

Moderator _____ Address _____

Clerk _____ Address _____

Countersigned by officers of local association of which we are a member.

Moderator _____ Address _____

Clerk _____ Address _____