

1903

Lincoln Neb. Mar 6th 1903

Ex Board met in 2nd Annual meeting
Members present Wolfe Taylor Crangle
& Dodge

Called to order by chairman J H Wolfe

Prayer by Clerk M W Dodge

Bro John Taylor refusing to act on
the Board a vacancy was declared

Moved & Carried that Bro Wm Fuller
be appointed to fill the vacancy, Term
of office to continue until next
session of the GYM Aug 1905

Moved & Carried

That the next session of GYM
be held on Bro Wolfe's field

Moved & Carried

That we appropriate from the
permanent fund \$15.00 to the
Oakland Church to Feb. 2nd.

And \$25.00 to the Adams interest

Moved & Carried

That we release the Geneva
Church from the obligation of the
mortgage now held by us

Moved & Carried

That we substitute Special Stab work
for the calls for Home mission day &
Education day

M W Dodge Clerk

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Copy of resolutions passed at a business meeting of the board of trustees of the Centerville Church March 19th 1903

"Whereas during the last two years it has been impossible to raise sufficient funds to maintain preaching & that neither the present or the future presents any encouragement of ever being able to maintain our organization as a church and whereas the church building is in a dilapidated condition & fast going to decay so that at the present time it could not be used without a large outlay, for church purposes, Therefore Resolved that acting under the authority vested in us we do hereby turn over to the Neb Y.M.C. Board of Free Baptist the church building known as the Centerville Church situated in the South West corner of the So. W. Cor. of Sec. 31 Center precinct Cass Co. Neb. Together with the furniture belonging or in any wise appertaining thereto, hereby giving unto the said Board full power & authority to sell the said building and furniture belonging to the same and to apply the proceeds as in the judgment of the said Board may seem best for the advancement of the interests of our denomination in the state

Signed { B. F. Allen } Board of Trustees
Sarah C. Cassel
M. W. Walz

1903

Aug. 14th The executive Board of the Neb. Y. M. M. Met at the
Grand View Church Parsonage - members present -
Rev John H. Wolfe - chairman - Wm. F. Grangle - Treas -
Dea. A. A. Taylor - Bro Wm Fuller^{the} Clerk - Rev M. W. Dodge - absent -

Opened with Prayer by A. A. Taylor.

Motion and voted Wm Fuller act as clerk Pro Ym.

Chairman submitted his annual report and was accepted
by vote. Which is as follows

To the members of the Executive Board - And Delegates of the
Nebraska Yearly Meeting of Free Baptists - Greeting
1902 - 1903.

With gratitude to God for pasts leading and blessing - I come
once again with my annual report -

The year has been one of opportunity and also one full of
perplexing problems.

The, Centerville, Custer Co. and Thompson interests have demanded
the most careful and prayerful attention.

Since last Yearly Meeting Bro Willisford has come on the
field at Lincoln and with his characterized energy is
grappling with the problems there.

Sister Marks, whom God has called into the ministry, located
at Smithfield and God has wonderfully blessed her efforts.

The other churches will be reported by their respective
L. M. clerks.

After completing my 5th year as your chairman, I want to
restate, with stronger emphasis, that which I urged last year -
The almost impossibility of one man doing well the work as
local pastor and chairman. It will break any man down
if he is at all faithful.

Your chairman is not oblivious to the sympathy and hearty
cooperation extended to him by every member of churches
throughout the State so far as he knows. I could wish for
my success no greater cooperation than that which has
been given to me.

The first work needing attention was the seemingly open
door in Adams. I was called there to consult with Brother
Gurner and the Brethren as to the advisability of entering
that open door. It was decided that such a move was
wise. Nothing of permanence was done until after my return
to Grand View last fall.

In November I was urged so strongly by the Adams

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people, that regular services be held, that from that time to the present we have held meetings every two weeks in Walford's Hall with excellent attendance.

And on March 27th (with the help of Bros. Willisford, Dodge, and Branch a church was organized with eleven members, and a week later named the Copp Memorial Free Baptist Church.

A house of worship has been built and we have the evidence that every dollar will be paid on dedication day, Aug 23^d. A pastor will be located on this field. To better plan for the work in Kansas and Nebraska your chairman was invited to meet with the North Kansas G.M. in session at the Summit church.

We believe that much good will eventually come out of that meeting.

Our needs and opportunities are alike and there is no reason why we should not unite in carrying on the work for the West.

Not to unite as one G.M. but simply our forces.

By solicitation of the remaining members of the Centerville church, I made two trips to that place.

At the first meeting a legal meeting of the church was held to take action as to the prospects of continuing the organization. The following resolution was adopted: Resolved that the trustees be and are hereby instructed that if in their judgement after a full investigation of the conditions there is no prospect of reviving an interest in the church, that they turn over to the State Board the church building and furniture belonging to the same to be used by them as may seem to promote the interest of our denomination in the State.

Later the trustees met and voted that in their judgement there was no possibility of ever reviving the interest and thus voted that the property be turned over to the Board, and recommended that it be sold at public sale, which was done April 7th for \$111.25 which with the furniture was voted by the Board to the Adams Church.

I spent a little time in attendance at the Hastings L.M. held in Geneva April 25th at which time I sat on a council to examine Bro W. S. Rooker for primary licence.

Organization of
Copp Memorial
Free Baptist Church
Adams

Legal meeting of the
Centerville Church

Action Trustees
Centerville Church

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And was put on a council to examine by correspondence Sister Wilmetta Marks

The Northern Nebraska Y. M. being solicitous for a more permanent organization urged me to come to Bonsteel South Dakota. and meet with them in the annual meeting June 24-29.

An executive Board was elected similar to ours and the Y. M. with the Board is now incorporated.

It is the desire of all I believe, That all hindering causes to growth in our State be removed.

To advance as we might a few hindering things must be removed -

- 1st A lack of appreciation of the great work for us here in the West and the closed eyes to the many open doors
 - 2nd That of being ashamed of the name "Free Baptist" Thus many calling themselves simply "Baptists"
 - 3^d The decrease in liberality in proportion to the increase in wealth
 - 4th Failure to observe the "State Day" and an entire, in some cases, failure to raise the 25 ¢ per resident member asked by our Y. M.
- During the past year your chairman, in order to keep the West and its needs before our people outside of our State, has furnished weekly outlines for the Young Peoples topics and bi-weekly "headlights" in the Star which has created no small interest throughout the denomination.
- He has been called upon several times to furnish letters upon the "West and its needs" for their gatherings.

Summary

1	Railroad miles traveled	2100
2	Buggy and afoot miles, -	150
3	Sermons preached in State Work	11
4	Days given in actual field work	32
5	Baptized at Smithfield	8
6	Letters written	350
7	Expenses	
	1 For traveling	\$ 34.20
	2 Stamp & Stationery	8.60
	Total	\$ 42.80

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Bt up	\$ 42.80
8 collections on expenses	<u>28.80</u>
Balance paid by myself	14.00
Ald and by vote of Y. M. Rec. Co	<u>14.00</u>
	00.00

Recommendations

- 1st That a campaign be commenced immediately in the interest of the mid week prayer meeting.
- 2nd That the organization and building of the Copper Memorial Free Baptist Church in Adams receive the hearty sanction of this Board and Yearly Meeting.
- 3^d Notwithstanding the failure to make any appropriation by our General conference, I would strongly recommend that Kansas and Nebraska carry out the spirit, if not the letter, of the plans for "Cooperation".
- 4th More and more are we convinced that God has a great work for us in India through Bro and Sister H. R. Murphy.
Resolved that we pledge our hearty support to them for the coming year.
- 5th That we appropriate \$150 to our Lincoln church to be paid monthly beginning Sep 1st 1903 continuing 12 months.
- 6th That it be kept continually before the minds of our people that largely the life of our work depends upon the churches observing "State Day," and an other extra day, and the other three special days of our denomination.
- 7th That we pledge to raise 25¢ pr resident member, besides the offering on State Day, and that this be collected within six months from this yearly meeting.
- 8th That a thorough canvas be made to place the Morning Star or Free Baptist in every home of our people, and that our Sunday School literature be more widely used.

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- 9th That something be planned whereby the chairman have time and means to carry on the work the coming year.
- 10th That we make some definite provision for the Guster Co. and Thompson interest;
- 11th If possible, financially, that these recommendations with any others be printed in leaflet form for use in our Churches.
- 12th That all means possible be used to seek out and encourage young men and women for the Gospel Ministry, to supply the churches already organized, and to plant more.

Rev John H. Wolfe

Chairman Ex. Board
Neb. Y. M. Free Baptists

The time having arrived for Y. M. Conference to convene adjourned to meet at the call of Chair

Mr Guller

Clerk Bro Zern

Aug 15th

Saturday 8. A. M.

Ex. Board met in call session at the residence of J. J. Murphy near the Grand View church. All members present except Rev M. W. Dodge. Opened with prayer by Rev Wolfe.

Motion and voted the Treasurer continue to pay to the Lincoln Church $15\frac{2}{3}$ dollars per month until the 1st day of Jan 1904 - and after that $12\frac{1}{2}$ dollars per month for the balance of the year.

The statement of the finances as given by the Treasurer - Mr F. Grange are as follows

Received for State work during year	\$ 253.82
Expended " " " "	<u>153.13</u>
Balance on Hand	\$ 100.50

Received for Home 3 rd Y. M.	\$ 114.01
Expended	<u>112.29</u>
Balance on Hand	\$ 1.72 =
Total on Hand	\$ 102.22

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The following is report to Y. M. Conference for the advise of the Board in regard to putting an agent in field, or fields, at the present time
~~It is~~

It is the judgement of this Board that the agency work would be beneficial to the work in the state, or states.

But knowing the condition and feelings of our people at large that the agency is in disrepute.

And no sufficient guarantee of funds for such being in sight. We think it might be unwise to establish an agency at this time

Adjourned to meet at the call of
the Chairman

Wm Fuller Clerk
Pro Tem

Aug 15-1903

Saturday 11 A. M.

Eccl Board met in call session at the Grand View Church parsonage

Made up by members of the Board as follows

<u>Present</u> Rev	John H. Wolfe	time expires in	one year
"	Wm H. Brangle	" "	two yrs
"	A. A. Taylor	" "	two "
"	Wm Fuller	" "	three "
<u>Absent</u> Rev	M. W. Dodge	" "	one "

Proceeded to the election of officers of the Board which resulted as follows

Rev John H. Wolfe	Chairman - A. A. Taylor
Wm H. Brangle	Treasurer - B. A. Taylor
Wm Fuller	Clerk - E. A. Taylor

No other business appearing
adjourned by vote

Wm Fuller
Clerk

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Sep. 14th The Executive Board. of the Nebraska Y. M. of Free Baptists - met in call session. at the residence of Wm Fuller, near the Long Branch church in Johnson Co. Neb.

members of the Board present
Rev John H. Wolfe Chairman, Wm F. Brangle,
A. A. Gaylor and Wm Fuller.

opened with prayer by Rev Wolfe.
Whereas Rev M. W. Dodge having moved out of the State to Anson Kansas causing a vacancy in the Ex Board

Motion and Voted unanimous George S Root be appointed to fill said vacancy. term of office to continue until next session of the Y. M., Aug 1904

After an extended discussion in regard to putting a man in the field, over the churches in Nebraska and Kansas

Motion and Voted. that we as a Board favor the ^{list} Evangelist plan. which has been voted on favorably at two former Y. M's. and that we recommend some other man than Bro Wolfe be the Evangelist because we feel that physically he is not able to carry the work.

Motion and Voted Wm Fuller and Wm F. Brangle attend the Northern Kansas Y. M. to convene on the 30th of this month - for purposes not stated -

No other business appearing

Motion and Voted Adjourned and prayer by Wm F. Brangle

Wm Fuller Clerk

Call session of 6/14 Board

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Letter of Gratitude from Geneva Church

Geneva Neb., on the 5th day of Aug we received some papers from Bro J. H. Wolfe. Which to the church at Geneva was a source of joy, and relief. It meant a release of indebtedness on the church - For many years this debt hung like a pall over our church, and caused discouragements and trouble that can be understood only by those who have known by experience what it is to struggle with a debt against a weak church.

We have tried to be hopeful and look up through clouds as dark as midnight, and say it is God's work. we will not give it up.

And there has been times when we could not see a ray of hope. And that we must sacrifice all that we had paid, and what is very much dearer, our church home and our place as workers within in the religious life of the community.

But we are glad that our faith did not fail for the Y. M. E. Y. Board came to our relief in time to save the work.

Our gratitude cannot be expressed.

We will simply try to prove to them by our faithfulness that their efforts in our behalf have not been in vain.

We look forward with confidence to the time when we shall be able, not only to help ourselves, but to come to the relief of other churches struggling against discouragements.

And may God wonderfully bless our Yearly Meeting Board

And keep us all faithful unto the end,
in behalf of the First Free Baptist Church
in Geneva

Mrs M. M. Myers

Church Clerk

1903

Copy of Minutes. Centerville Church

The annual meeting of the Centerville Free Baptist Church was held at the church, on Sunday, March 7th 1903 at 1 o'clock P.m.

Called to order by the clerk, and on Motion Bro M. W. Walby was chosen moderator. Prayer was offered by Rev J. H. Wolfe. on Motion B. F. Allen was chosen clerk.

"The following business was transacted.
on Motion proceeded to the Election of Board of Trustees.

The following nominations was made.

B. F. Allen, M. W. Walby, and Sister W. H. H. Cassel,
Voted for separately and declared Elected Trustees for the
ensuing year. - Bro Albie Walby was nominated for Clerk

Voted for and declared Elected

on Motion the clerk was instructed to grant letters to all members in good standing who apply for them.

The question of turning over the church property to the State Board was taken up and discussed at length.

And the following Resolution presented.

Resolved. That the Trustees be and are hereby instructed that if in their judgement, after a full investigation of the conditions there is no prospect of reviving an interest in the Church that they turn over to the State Board the church building and the furniture belonging to the same to be used by them as may seem best to promote the interest of our denomination in the State.

Resolution adopted by a Six to one
Ays. B. F. Allen, W. Williams, W. H. H. Cassel
Albie Walby Sister W. H. H. Cassel and
M. W. Walby

Nays. John Hess -

on Motion Adjourned

B. F. Allen
Clerk