

MINUTES  
OF THE  
Thirteenth Annual Session  
OF THE  
STATE LINE  
Freewill Baptist Association.

—CONVENED WITH—  
*Prospect Church,*  
*Henry County, Ala., October 5th, 6th & 7th, 1899.*

OFFICERS:

*Eld. D. L. CHANDLER, Moderator.*  
*JEFFERSON D. STEPHENS, Clerk.*  
*Rev. G. L. LOVE, Treasurer.*

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

*Calvin Dykes, R. G. Hatcher, G. W. Cherry, J. M.*  
*Chance, W. Clark.*

The next Session of this Association will convene with  
Freewill's Rest Church, Jackson County, Florida,  
on Thursday, at 11 o'clock, before the Second  
Sunday in October, A. D. 1900. Located  
about 3 miles North-east of Delwood.

DOTHAN, ALA.  
DOTHAN HOME JOURNAL,  
1900.



## PROCEEDINGS.

Pursuant to adjournment, the Fourteenth Annual Session of the State Line Freewill Baptist Association convened with Prospect church, Henry county, Alabama, on Thursday before the second Sunday in October, A. D. 1899.

Rev. D. L. Chandler was nominated to preach the introductory service, but owing to the inclemency of the weather, the body failed to assemble at 11 o'clock, the time set apart.

### THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

According to announcement, the body assembled in the church and joined the Moderator in singing the hymn, "O, for a heart to praise my God," after which we humbled ourselves in Divine supplications with Rev. Sam. Ely.

The house was then called to order by the former Moderator, after which business was dispatched in the following order, viz.:

1. Letters from the various churches were called for, handed in and read by Rev. Calvin Dykes and Bro. H. G. Green, and their state minuted:

The churches and delegates were then enrolled as follows:

1. Ardilla—C. R. Cobb.
2. Howard Grove—W. T. Rhodes, W. L. Rhodes, John Bowen, E. R. Williams.
3. Rocky Grove—Oliver Ducker.
4. Freewill's Rest—H. G. Green, Thomas Bery.
5. Springfield—M. Nall, J. F. Nowell.
6. Hickory Grove—J. T. Stephens, R. G. Hatcher, J. W. Rodgers, T. J. Simes, J. M. Robinson.
7. Silver Run.—W. T. Riley.
8. Spring Hill—F. M. Robinson, A. Z. Culbreth.
9. Zion—E. P. Mercer.
10. New Pilgrim—J. F. Thomas.
11. Union Springs—Charley Gates.
12. Friendship—John Marlo.
13. Antioch—A. M. Ganey.
14. New Hope, (Dale Co.)—W. P. Benefield.
15. Pilcher Pond—W. B. Adkins.
16. Prospect—A. J. Cherry, S. Cherry, M. G. Howell, Curtis Hays.

17. New Harmony—A. J. Granger, Benj. Sellers, J. J. Granger.

18. Macedonia—W. B. Blalock.

19. Pleasant Hill—S. Johnson, J. T. Wood.

On motion of Rev. Calvin Dykes the churches were received with the amendment that those churches which have less than twenty-five members are to have but one delegate.

On motion, deferred the election of officers until Friday morning.

Sang a portion of the hymn, "Am I a soldier of the cross," after which Rev. C. C. Martin rendered prayer. The body was dismissed to meet Friday morning at 8:30 o'clock.

#### FRIDAY MORNING SESSION.

According to previous arrangements, the body re-assembled in the church, and was called to order by the former Moderator, by singing, "Blest be the tie," after which we humbled in Divine supplication with the Moderator.

The Moderator invited visiting brethren to seats with us.

Renewed the call for letters from the churches that were not handed in yesterday.

Received two, viz.: Prospect and Friendship, and Bro. Blalock represented Macedonia by proxy.

After which the body was permanently organized by electing Eld. D. L. Chandler, Moderator, and Jefferson D. Stephens, Clerk.

The Moderator after complimenting the body, called for Petitionary Letters. Received none.

Called the roll to ascertain vacancies.

On motion of Bro. C. A. Mercer, those that are absent their names are not to appear in the minutes.

On motion of Bro. J. M. Robinson, Bro. John Hatcher was substituted to fill a vacancy in the delegation from Freewill's Rest church.

The various committees were then appointed as follows, viz.:

On Divine Services—Brethren S. Cherry, C. R. Cobb, Rufus Williams, M. Nall.

On Temperance—Brethren G. W. Cherry, Calvin Dykes, H. G. Green, G. S. Stanton.

On Nominations—Brethren R. G. Hatcher, W. L. Rhodes, J. W. Nichols.

On Finance—Brethren J. W. Rodgers, A. C. Mercer, C.

L. Hayes, S. Cherry.

On Missions—Brethren Sam Ely, G. W. Cherry, R. G. Hatcher, Calvin Dykes, W. H. Baker.

On Documents—Brethren J. M. Robinson, John Hatcher, Charley Gates, J. F. Nowell.

On Education—Brethren Calvin Dykes, G. S. Stanton, J. T. Stephens, J. I. Hatcher.

On Sabbath Schools—Brethren H. G. Green, A. Z. Culbreth, W. T. Riley.

On Obituaries—Brethren J. T. Stephens, J. D. Marlo, Oliver Ducker.

On Suggestions—Brethren Calvin Dykes, R. G. Hatcher, J. F. Thomas, C. C. Martin, T. J. Simes.

On motion, J. M. Robinson read the Decorum of the Association.

Called for correspondents from Sister Associations.

Received three from the Martin Association, viz.:

Rev. C. C. Martin, Rev. Sam. Ely and Bro. Hamp Ely.

On motion they were received.

From independent churches, two, viz.: Rev. G. S. Stanton and Bro. W. H. Baker.

On motion they were received.

The body then sang hymn, "Come we that love the Lord," while extending them the right hand of fellowship, seating them with us, first by the Moderator, followed by the body. After which we humbled in Divine supplications with Rev. C. C. Martin.

Called for report on Divine Services.

State of Ala., Henry Co.,

Oct. 6 and 7, 1899.

To the Fourteenth Annual Session of the State Line Freewill Baptist Association, now assembled with Prospect church:

We, your committee on Divine Services, beg leave to submit the following report, to-wit:

Divine services by Bro. Ely at 11 o'clock, followed by Bro. G. S. Stanton.

Afternoon services at three o'clock by Bro. Baker, followed by Bro. J. I. Hatcher.

Saturday morning at 9:30, Divine services by Bro. G. L. Love, followed by Bro. A. C. Mercer.

Services at 11 o'clock by Bro. C. C. Martin, followed by Bro. Chandler.

Afternoon services at 3 o'clock, by Bro. G. S. Stanton, followed by Bro. Calvin Dykes.

S. CHERRY, Chmn. Com.

On motion of Rev. Calvin Dykes, the body adjourned at 11 a. m. for preaching.

Appointed Correspondents to Sister Associations.

The following brethren were either appointed or volunteered:

To the Martin Association—Revs. J. I. Hatcher and H. G. Wiggins.

To the Chattahoochee Association—On motion of Rev. G. W. Cherry, correspond by letter.

To the Southeastern Association—Rev. H. G. Wiggins, Rev. G. L. Love and Eld. D. L. Chandler.

To the annual Meeting of the Independent Churches—Bro. J. D. Marlo, Bro. N. Whittle and Rev. Calvin Dykes.

After which the body was dismissed for preaching and refreshments until 2 p. m.

#### FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

Re-assembled in the church and joined the Moderator in singing hymn, "How firm a foundation."

Business was then dispatched in the following order, viz:

Renewed the call for Petitionary Letters, and received one from Pilcher Pond.

The body then sang hymn "How sweet the name of Jesus sounds" while extending to the delegation the right of the fellowship.

Called for report on Temperance.

We find that intemperance is a fearful evil that has invaded our land and home. And is continually bringing to ruin the rich and the poor, the learned, and the ignorant. Now while our State is using all of its power to subdue this great evil, let us as christians do all we can to drive this great evil from our land and beautiful homes, so that the young men of our land will rise to a higher sphere of christian life.

The statistics show that \$1,000,000,000 are spent in the United States for intoxicant drinks in one year. Oh! that this money could be spent to erect school houses and churches and for charitable purposes.

There is another evil that is impairing the health of the human family: That is tobacco. Such as chewing and smok-



ing cigars and cigarettes. We should train our children to shun this evil. There is \$4,000,000 spent yearly for tobacco, cigars and cigarettes, and so little for charitable purposes.

G. W. CHERRY Chairman Committee.

On motion, the report was received and adopted, and the committee discharged.

On Nominations.

State of Ala., Henry County,

Oct. 6th, 1899.

To the Fourteenth Annual Session of the State Line Freewill Baptist Association, now assembled with Prospect Church;

We, your committee on nomination, beg leave to submit the following report, to-wit:

□ We find that there are two churches calling for the next session of this body. We recommend the next session of this body to convene with Freewill's Rest church, on Thursday before the second Sunday in October, 1900.

We also nominate Bro. G. L. Love to preach the introductory sermon, and Bro. G. W. Cherry to follow.

We also nominate Bro. Calvin Dykes to write the circular letter.

Respectfully submitted.

R. G. HATCHER chairman committee.

On motion, the report was received and adopted, and the committee discharged.

On Finance.

State of Ala., Henry County,

Oct. 6th, 1899.

To the Fourteenth Annual Session of the State Line Freewill Baptist Association, now assembled with Prospect Church:

We, your committee on Finance, beg leave to submit the following report, to-wit:

Received for minutes.....	\$15.90
Received for Associational Purposes.....	12.35
Received for Missions.....	.25

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Total.....\$28.50

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. RODGERS, chairman committee.

On motion, the report was received and the committee discharged.

On Missions.

On motion, the report was received but not adopted.

At this juncture the Moderator appointed Rev. W. P. Benefield to close preaching services after Rev. W. H. Baker at 3 p. m.

On Education.

State of Ala., Henry County

Oct. 6th, 1899.

To the fourteenth Annual Session of the State Line Freewill Baptist Association, now assembled with Prospect Church:

We, your committee on Education, beg leave to submit the following report, to-wit:

We believe that education is of vital importance to the advancement of prosperity and future happiness. Why? Because God's word is in our hands and is simple, plain and pointed; and without we are able to read it we are not able to know the will of God concerning the welfare of our immortal souls. And it is our duty as fathers and mothers to use all the efforts in our power to educate our children that they may know the will of God concerning them. The word teaches us to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

May we all be more energetic in this one vital question of education.

Respectfully submitted.

CALVIN DYKES, chairman committee.

On motion, the report was received and adopted, and the committee discharged.

On Sabbath Schools.

State of Ala., Henry County

Oct. 6th, 1899.

To the Fourteenth Annual Session of the State Line Freewill Baptist Association, now assembled with Prospect Church:

We, your committee on Sabbath Schools, beg leave to submit the following report, to-wit:

We learn that there has been five Sundays Schools during the year. We the committee beg leave to say that we suggest that our Pastors do insist that our churches go to work now to establish in each church a Sunday School, because we are to bring our children up to know the commandments of our Lord, and to keep them.

We suggest that we use Freewill Baptist Literature instead of Union.

H. G. GREEN, chairman committee.

On motion, the report was received and adopted, and the committee discharged.

On Obituaries.

State of Ala.. Henry County

Oct. 6th, 1899.

To the Fourteenth Annual Session of the State Line Freewill Baptist Association, now assembled with Prospect Church:

We, your committee on Obituaries, beg leave to submit the following report, to-wit:

We find seven deaths since our last session of this Association, and we recommend that their obituaries appear in our minutes.

J. T. STEPHENS, chairman committee.

On motion, the report was received and adopted, and the committee discharged.

On Documents.

State of Ala., Henry County,

Oct. 6th, 1899.

To the Fourteenth Annual Session of the State Line Freewill Baptist Association, now assembled with Prospect church:

We, your committee on Documents, beg leave to submit the following report, to-wit:

We ask the Association to let the same literature stand as it is. We also recommend that our churches use the "Manley's choice Hymn Book," published by the "Baptist Book Concern Louisville Ky."

We, also recommend that our clerk have nothing published that is tabled or lost by the body.

We, also recommend that our printing come up in better style, as we hear complaints about the work.

We, also recommend that the constitution and Decorum be published.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. ROBINSON, chairman committee.

On motion, the report was received and adopted, and the committee discharged.

On Suggestions.



State of Ala., Henry County,  
Oct. 6th, 1899.

To the Fourteenth Annual Session of the State Line Freewill Baptist Association, now assembled with Prospect Church:

We, your committee on suggestions, beg leave to submit the following report, to-wit:

We suggest that this Association formulate some plan to unite our Sister Associations with us in establishing a printing press in our midst, which will be of more importance in writing of our brethren than any other thing we can fall upon. Also it will enable us all to understand the Freewill Doctrine and principles and practices more than any other thing.

We suggest that the proceedings of the General Association be printed in our minutes.

We suggest that this body try to raise a capital to send a Missionary in the field as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

CALVIN DYKES, Chairman Committee.

On motion, the report was received and adopted, and the committee discharged.

Renewed the call for Letters from the churches, and received one from Pleasant Hill Church.

On motion, of Rev. G. W. Cherry, that we lay the adopting of the Letter over until to-morrow morning.

Renewed the call for Correspondents from Sister Associations, and received two from the South Eastern Association, to-wit: Rev. W. J. Mims and Bro. M. A. Arnold, who were duly seated in our body.

Miscellaneous.

On motion, of Rev. G. W. Cherry, adjourned until Saturday morning at 8:30.

#### SATURDAY MORNING SESSION.

According to previous arrangement, the body re-assembled in the church and joined the Moderator in singing hymn, "O, sing to me of heaven," after which we humbled with the Moderator in Divine supplications.

Renewed the call for Letters from the churches, and received one from Antioch.

On motion received by seating one delegate.

On motion of Bro. J. I. Hatcher, the letter from Pleasant

Hill church was received and the delegates seated, but their withdrawal to be considered later.

Called for Treasurer's Report.

Report as follows, to-wit:

Total amount in hand in 1898.....	\$14.65
Received for minutes.....	14.00
Received for Associational purposes.....	10.45
Received for Missions.....	10.40

Total amount in hand.....	\$49.50
Paid for printing minutes.....	16.00
Paid clerk for his services.....	10.00
Total amount paid out.....	26.00
Balance in hand of 1899.....	23.50

G. L. LOVE Treasurer.

On motion, the report was received.

Called for ministers, reports.

On motion, of Rev. A. C. Mercer, that the reports appear in our minutes.

Dear Brethren, I have preached 29 sermons as best I could. I have served no church this year.

Respectfully submitted.

A. C. MERCER, L. M.

Have been pastor of a church; preached 43 sermons; married one couple; miles traveled unknown. Received by confession 1; Baptized 2.

J. B. MILLS.

Served 2 Churches; preached 50 sermons; superintended one burial service; married 5 couples.

J. I. HATCHER.

Served 3 churches; traveled 576 miles; preached 84 sermons; received by baptism 11; received by confession 2; received by letter 2; married 5 couples.

Respectfully submitted.

CALVIN DYKES.

I have traveled during the last Associational year 1262 miles. I have preached 58 sermons; baptized 3; received by confession into the church 2; married 2 couples, and served one church.

J. B. KERNS.

During the past Associational year I have preached 34 sermons as best I could and closed several sermons; Superintended a Sunday School about 4 months; organized one

church; baptised 8; received by confession of faith 11; by letter 2; conducted one burial service.

May the Lord bless all of our labors for good.

Rev. J. A. ROBINSON.

Called for the Circular Letter.

Read, and, on motion, was to be published in our minutes.

Called for the minutes of the "Union Convention." Read, and, on motion of Rev. G. W. Cherry, received and is to be published.

On motion, of Rev. G. W. Cherry, the minutes was re-read.

On motion, of Rev. G. S. Stanton, vacated for preaching and refreshments until 1:30 p. m.

#### SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

According to previous arrangements the body re-assembled in the church and joined the Moderator in singing 2 verses of hymn, "When I can read my title clear," after which the Moderator called for pledges that were made at the last session.

On motion, the question of Missions was tabled for the remainder of the session.

The question of those churches that wished to withdraw and organize an Association known as the "West Choctawatchee Association" was again considered and it was decided by rising vote that their request be not granted.

On motion, of Rev. G. W. Cherry, that the clerk send minutes to Pleasant Hill church, although they failed to send funds to the Association.

On motion, of Rev. G. W. Cherry, that we send delegates to the "Union Convention" which is to be held at Howard Grove.

On motion, of J. W. Rodgers, that the Moderator appoint the delegation. Whereupon the Moderator appointed the following brethren to compose said delegation, to-wit:

Jefferson D. Stephens, Calvin Dykes, H. G. Wiggins, J. I. Hatcher, J. B. Kerns, J. W. Rodgers, and G. W. Cherry.

On motion, of Rev. G. W. Cherry, that the Moderator use his own discretion in appointing an Executive Committee. The Moderator then appointed, to compose the Executive Committee, the following brethren, to-wit:



Calvin Dykes, R. G. Hatcher, G. W. Cherry, W. Clark, and J. M. Chance.

On motion, of Rev. G. W. Cherry, that we pay our clerk ten dollars.

On motion, of Rev. G. W. Cherry, that we patronize the "Dothan Home Journal" in the publication of our minutes.

On motion, of C. R. Cobb, that we have five hundred Associational Letters printed.

On motion, of G. W. Cherry, that the names of Rev. B. B. Hollis and Rev. J. M. Whiddon be erased from the list of Ordained and Licensed Ministers.

On motion, of Rev. G. W. Cherry, that the name of Rev. W. S. Cook be reinstated in the list of ordained ministers.

On motion, of J. W. Rodgers, that the form of the Associational Letter be published as drawn up.

We wish to tender our grateful appreciation to the people of Prospect Church and Dothan for their kind hospitality shown us during our stay with them in the capacity of an annual association.

Clerk.

On motion, of Bro. J. M. Robinson, adjourned, and will meet with Freewill's Rest church, Jackson county, Fla., on Thursday at 11:00 a. m. before the second Sunday in October, A. D. 1900.

JEFFERSON D. STEPHENS,

Clerk.

ELD. D. L. CHANDLER,

Moderator.

#### CIRCULAR LETTER.

#### REASONS WHY I AM A FREEWILL.

1. Freewill.—God in the beginning created man an upright, responsible being, and gave him commandment by which he should live and be governed. It was optionary with him whether he obeyed or disobeyed the Divine Law, from the simple fact that God gave a commandment with a qualifying clause, that man should be punished if he should fail to comply with it, implied that the subject of that command could conform, or not as he chose to remain in favor with his creator or incur his displeasure; otherwise our destiny was prearranged, which would relieve us of any responsibility, an assumption too vague to receive credence. For if Adam and his posterity were denied the favor to decide whether they prefer a blissful retreat in the Paradise of God,

or a condemned abode with the base spirit that forget God, there would be no "Freewill" in the question but simply predestination, as some believe.

But there is a gentle, yet an unmistakable listing prevailing the sacred pages that relieve us of any such impression and invites us to a throne of grace. Therefore we must conclude that we are material factors in the saving, or losing of our souls, for "He willeth the death of none" but "whosoever will may come"

2. Free Salvation.—It is true that God once had a chosen people; a peculiar people, nevertheless they obtained this favor through obedience to the word of God.

We are to strive to enter in at the beautiful gate that leads, not only to the inner court, but to a resting place from all labors with the Son of the most High God. The word says "Come unto me all ye that weary and are heavy laden and I will give you rest," and when Christ said "all" he did not mean just a specified few elected from the foundation of the world, but you and me, and every individual that comes to recognize right from wrong. And unless we approach Christ in humiliation, obtain regeneration, and continue therein we shall be denied the heirship with Christ Jesus.

Salvation is free because Christ died for all; it is free because God created one man, died for the sin he committed, and we being the posterity of that man inherit his fallen state; likewise we have peace with God being reconciled to him by the blood of His only Son.

3. Baptism.—We believe Baptism by immersion is the mode that Christ set as an example for us to follow.

Christ said ye must be borned of the water and we place full credence in what he said and taught. Therefore stand for what Christ said do, nevertheless others may speak to the contrary

4. Free Commission.—While it is called Free Commission it does not imply that we invite those whom Christ does not know in the pardon of their sins, but all who are christians have a right to the table of the Lord Jesus Christ. We cannot, with implicit propriety, invite sinners to eat the Lord's body, but let a man examine himself and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup. Therefore free because man judges himself, whether he is worthy to receive the tokens of his Lord and Master. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily eateth and drinketh damnation unto his

own soul, not discerning the Lord's body. Then the burden is not on the church or any one except the one that is to partake.

Many object to this and question its propriety. They seem to base their judgment on man's opinion rather than on the divine word of Christ, who said "If I wash thee not thou hast no part with me." We cannot do half a thing and call it well done, neither can we serve Christ by profession, it must be by real acts prompted by a clean heart, and this will make us an heir of God and a joint heir of the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### OBITUARIES.

State of Ala., Henry County, )  
At Spring Hill. )

We are pained to chronicle the death of our beloved Sister Gennie Bevel who departed this life May 24th, A. D. 1899:

Her age not known.

She lived a most devoted christian for several years. She leaves a husband and three little children and a host of relatives and friends to mourn her departure. Peace be unto her sleeping dust, may she sleep throughout eternity and rest upon the arms of her dear loving Savior.

State of Ala., Henry County, )  
At Spring Hill. )

We are pained to chronicle the death of Bro. J. J. Bullock, who departed this life March 19th, A. D. 1898. Was borned June 3rd, 1833. He lived a most devoted member for several years. He leaves a wife, 6 children and a host of grand-children and friends to mourn his departure. Peace be unto his sleeping dust.

Servant of God, well done,  
Rest from thy loved employ;  
The battle fought, the victory won  
Enter Thy Master's joy.

The toils of life are past .  
Pain and labor cease  
Life's long warfare closed at last  
His soul is found in peace.



### STATISTICS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

The State Line Freewill Baptist Association was organized at Howard Grove Church, November 20th, 1886.

Year.	Moderator.	Clerk.	Church.	No.
1886.	D. L. Chandler.	Calvin Dykes.	Howard Grove.	449
1887.	D. L. Chandler.	Calvin Dykes.	Beulah.	577
1888.	R. M. Gray.	Calvin Dykes.	Macedonia.	403
1889.	R. M. Gray.	Calvin Dykes.	Friendship.	516
1890.	R. M. Gray.	Calvin Dykes.	Lovewood.	443
1891.	R. M. Gray.	Calvin Dykes.	Prospect.	339
1892.	R. M. Gray.	Calvin Dykes.	Silver Run.	444
1893.	D. L. Chandler.	J. D. Stephens.	Hickory Grove.	450
1894.	R. M. Gray.	J. D. Stephens.	Spring Hill.	422
1895.	D. L. Chandler.	J. D. Stephens.	Pittman Creek.	503
1896.	Calvin Dykes.	J. D. Stephens.	Howard Grove.	568
1897.	D. L. Chandler.	J. D. Stephens.	New Hope.	653
1898.	D. L. Chandler.	J. D. Stephens.	Rocky Grove.	633
1899.	D. L. Chandler.	J. D. Stephens.	Prospect.	671

### LIST OF ORDAINED MINISTERS AND POST OFFICES.

1. R. M. Gray, Geneva county, Alabama.
2. D. L. Chandler, Pansey, Henry county, Alabama.
3. Calvin Dykes, Ashford, Henry county, Alabama.
4. J. I. Hatcher, Bascom, Jackson county, Florida.
5. G. L. Love, Howard, Henry county, Alabama.
6. W. S. Cook, Pansey, Henry county, Alabama.
7. J. D. Sowell, Eunola, Geneva county, Alabama.
8. J. B. Mills, Dothan, Henry county, Alabama.
9. G. W. Cherry, Dothan, Henry county, Alabama.
10. W. W. Tremontana, Eunola, Alabama.
11. Jordon Murdock, Ashford, Henry county, Ala.
12. C. M. Whittle, Highbluff, Geneva county, Ala.
13. J. A. Robinson, Crosby's Henry county, Ala.
14. H. G. Wiggins, Dothan, Henry county, Alabama.
15. J. D. Berry, Eunola, Geneva county, Alabama.
16. Elbert J. Davis, Izagone, Holmes county, Alabama.
17. Jasper C. Thomas, Clio, Barber county, Alabama.
18. J. B. Kearns, Dothan, Henry county, Alabama.
19. W. J. Murdock, Ashford, Henry county, Ala.

### LICENTIATE.

1. F. M. Swails, Hartford, Geneva county, Alabama.
2. S. Hunter, Columbia, Alabama.

3. W. P. Benefield, Art, Dale county, Alabama.
4. A. C. Mercer, Gordon, Henry county, Alabama.
5. W. P. Benefield, Peach, Dale county, Alabama.
6. R. S. Hunter, not known.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Organize.
2. Call for letters from the different churches.
3. Elect Moderator and Clerk.
4. Invite visiting brethern to seats with us.
5. Call for petitionary letters.
6. Appoint Committees.
7. Call the roll and read the decorum.
8. Call for correspondents from sister Associations.
9. Appoint correspondents to sister Associations.
10. Call for report of Committees.
11. Call for circular letter.
12. Call for Treasurer's report.
13. Call for miscellaneous business.
14. Adjournment.

#### CONSTITUTION.

The Constitution of the Association is as follows.

Article I. This Association shall be composed of delegates annually sent from the churches based in it.

Article II. The delegates from each church shall bear a letter signed by the clerk of the church certifying the appointment, to which shall be subjoined a table stating the members baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excluded, died within the last Associational year, the total membership and ordained and licensed ministers, the name of the church and pastor, and the time of their monthly meeting and the name of their nearest postoffice.

Article III. Any church wishing to become a member of this body must bring a letter of dismission from some other orderly Association, or if it be a newly constituted body, it must send by delegation, a letter stating the name of the minister, by whom it was constituted and if it is found to be sound, it shall be received.

Article IV. Each church shall be entitled to two delegates for the first twenty-five members, and then one delegate for the fractional part of twenty-five.

Article V. It is expected that the churches composing this body will send delegates and contributions for minutes

every session, and that no church will withdraw from the Association without assigning a reason for the intended withdrawal.

Article VI. The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator and Clerk. The Moderator shall preside over the body and enforce the rules of the Constitution and Decorum but shall not be allowed to vote except in case of a tie, on any matter.

Article VII. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to minute the proceedings of the body in session, and to superintend the publication of the same, and to do such other writing pertaining to the business of the body.

Article VIII. The Clerk shall, also, preserve a file of the Minutes of the Association, which he shall deliver to his successor when he goes out of office.

Article IX. The Association shall meet annually, according to adjournment, and shall have power to transact all business pertaining to the general good of this body.

Article X. The Constitution and, also, the Decorum of the Association may be altered or amended during any session of the body by a vote of two-thirds of the delegates present.

#### DECORUM OF THE ASSOCIATION.

Article 1. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside over the deliberations of the body in session, preserve order, submit motions, or other matters. He may have the same right of speech as any other member, provided the chair be occupied, but is not allowed to vote except the body be equally divided, in which case he shall cast the deciding vote.

Article 2. The Treasurer shall keep a correct account of all the money coming into his hands, and the matter in which it is disbursed. He shall only pay out money upon the order of the Association of all funds received and disbursed by him, showing the balance if any on hand.

Article 3. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the notice of the body, unless withdrawn.

Article 4. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

Article 5. The Moderator and Clerk shall be elected by ballot annually.

Article 6. Only one person shall be allowed to speak at



same time, and said speaker shall first address the Moderator, and shall not be interrupted while speaking, except by the Moderator.

Article 7. The names of the delegates shall be enrolled and called as often as the body may deem proper.

Article 8. The moderator shall not interrupt the speaker while speaking, unless he departs from the subject in debate.

Article 9. All officers shall be elected by ballot, except the Executive Committee. It shall be appointed.

Article 10. If newly constituted churches, or others desire to be admitted into this union, they must petition by delegates and letters, and if found on examination to be orthodox and orderly they shall be received by the Association, and such reception shall be manifested by giving the right hand of fellowship.

Article 11. The pastors of each church shall have power to form a Presbytery and ordain deacons for the church, also to examine preachers who may apply for such, also to examine ordained ministers who make application to our order, and if found sound, shall be set apart in rank, but not to be re-ordained.

Article 12. We, therefore, resolve that no church nor minister shall be received into this Association that refuse to comply with the ordinance that is given us in the gospel, this decorum may be altered or amended as the body may see proper.

#### CHURCH DECORUM.

1. The church may choose a pastor annually, at the last regular conference in the Associational year, or, if they prefer it, may choose a pastor for an indefinite length of time to continue from year to year, so 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 a monthly meeting of the church.

3. The pastor shall be the 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 collections and dis-

bursements of all contributions made by the church for the pastor, etc., and to distribute the bread and the wine in the administration of the Lord's Supper.

5. The deacons shall also 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, in conference, if necessary.

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

7. When a new Clerk is appointed, all the books, minutes, etc., belonging to the Clerk, shall be immediately delivered to him by his predecessor.

8. When the church deems it necessary, a committee of not less than three male members, well acquainted with the business, shall be appointed, whose business it shall be to give advice to brethren who apply to them relative to cases of dealing, etc., with the church.

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

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

11. Any male member who shall fail to attend three successive conferences, and any member whatever, who may be generally remiss in attending the meetings of the church, according to the covenant, Article 10, shall be cited to appear in conference and answer for his neglect, but the church may exempt members from this rule, if necessary.

12. Conferences, after prayer or divine services, shall be opened and conducted as follows: 1. Inviting visiting brethren to seats with us. 2. Open the door of the church for the reception of members. 3. Call for the reading of the minutes of the last conference. 4. Call for absentees. 5. For acknowledgments. 6. For references or deferred Business. 7. For new matters of dealing which is to come before the body. 8. For miscellaneous business.

13. Visiting brethren, as also helps called in from sister churches, shall be allowed to speak or make motions or sec-

onds, but not allowed to vote.

14. An orderly member of the Baptist church, which does not hold this church in fellowship may be received into the church without a letter, when it is made 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 person must join by letter or baptism.

15. No member shall be received without the unanimous consent of the members present; but unreasonable objection shall not be valid, and unless withdrawn, the member who make them shall be liable to be taken under dealing by the church.

16. When the moderator calls for absentees, the clerk shall inform the church what members have been absent from three successive conferences and the moderator shall appoint some brother or brethren to see each of them to the next conference.

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

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

19. The evidence in every case of dealing and acknowledgement shall be minuted in the church book.

20. Members dismissed from the church by letter who become disorderly, or continue to hold their letters without a good reason, shall be cited to conference to answer for their conduct.

21. Expelled members may be restored to fellowship on their petition, if their walk since expulsion has convinced the church that they have sincerely repented of their former evil conduct.

22. A vote shall not be taken upon any question without a move and second, and in all important questions the vote shall be taken by rising to the feet.

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

24. 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 his own request may be



exempted by the church from voting on either side in peculiar cases.

25. No member shall leave the house during conference without sufficient cause, nor engage in conversation nor whisper, without being subject to being called to order by the moderator.

26. All discussions in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feeling. Those who speak must arise to their feet and address the moderator, and keep to the point in debate.

27. No one shall speak more than three times on the same motion without permission from the moderator, nor shall the remarks of any one be unreasonably long.

28. When the moderator speaks in debate, he must nominate some other moderator in his stead.

29. No one shall be interrupted while speaking, unless it is necessary to call him to order.

30. It shall be the rule of the church to attend to the administration of the Lord's Supper at least four times a year, and the expenses are to be paid by the church.

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

32. Feet washing shall be attended to as the church sees proper.

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

34. The decorum may be altered or amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any two successive monthly conferences.

#### ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1st. Of God:—We believe that there is one and only one living and true God, infinite in all his attributes, the Creator, Preserver and Governor of the Universe, revealed to us in the Scriptures as the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, 1st. ch, Tim 17th v; Isaiah 45 ch. 22 v. St. John 17 ch. 3rd v. St. John 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

2nd. The Holy Scriptures:—We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by inspiration of God and are binding on all as our infallible rule of faith and practice. 2nd Tim. 3rd ch. 16th v. Romans 15th ch. 4th v. 4th ch. 23. 44 vrs. Peter 1st ch. 21st v.

3rd. Of Christ:—We believe He is God manifest in the flesh, being in his divine nature true God in human nature, true man, uniting the person of the Messiah and Mediator for the redemption of the world. Luke 2nd ch. 4th to 12th vs. inclusive, Matt. 1st ch. 18, 19, 20 and 21 vs.

4th. Of the Holy Spirit:—We believe that He is the third person in the Holy Trinity and possesses all personal divine attributes, being the Reprover, Comforter and Sanctifier. St. John 14th ch. 25th v., 15th ch. 26th v., 16th ch. 7th 15th verse inclusive.

5th. Of Salvation:—That the blessing of salvation are made free to all by the gospel, that it is the immediate duty of all to receive it by cordial and obedient faith, and that nothing prevents the salvation of any so long as the Spirit continues to strive with them, but their own voluntary refusal to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ. Rom. 1st ch. 16th vs. Phil. 2nd ch. 12th v. Heb. 2 ch 3rd v.

6th. The Fall of Man:—We believe that man was created sinless but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation, all his posterity inherited this fallen nature, and all that come to years of accountability will sin and come short of the Glory of God, except that they receive salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. Gen. 3rd ch. 6th vs. 1st ch. 26th vs. 5th ch. 1st vs. 9th ch. 6th vs. Cor. 11th ch. 7th vs., Roman 3rd ch. 28th vs., Mark 16pt ch. 16th v., Acts 10th ch. 43 vs.

7th. The Atonement:—We believe that Christ in his great compassion offered himself as sacrifice in our stead, therefore God desires the salvation of all and the Gospel invites all and whosoever will may come and partake of the Word of life freely. 1st Cor. 1st ch. 7th vs., Eph. 5th ch. 2nd v., Heb. 2nd ch. 9th vs., 26th vs., Rom. 5th ch. 15th vs., Rev. 22nd ch 17th vs.

8th. Of Election:—We believe that God has not fixed the future state of man by any unconstitutional degree, delivered from the beginning to save all who comply with the terms of salvation. John 8th ch. 31st v., Luke 11th ch. 28th vs. Acts 10th ch. 35th vs. Deut. 11th ch. 26th, 27th and 28th.

9th. On Perseverance:—We believe that none will be finally saved but those who through grace, persevere in holiness to the end. John 8th ch. 31st vs. Tim. 1st ch. 19th vs., 2nd Peter 2nd ch. 21 and 22nd verses.

10th. Gospel Ordinances:—We believe that baptism or the burial of believers in water and the Lord's supper and the washing of the Saints feet are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel of universal salvation and to be observed by all true believers. Reference for Baptism John 3rd ch. 5th vs. Rom. 6th ch. 4th vs. Reference for the Lord's Supper. Matt. 26th ch. 26th and 27th vs. Reference for washing the Saint's feet, John 13th ch. 5th to 17th vs.

11th. The Lord's Supper:— We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by our Savior as a commemorative ordinance, that the bread and wine represent His body and blood that it was instituted for Christians and that all Christians should unite in performing the sacred service regardless of name, denomination or distinction. Gal. 6th ch. 4th vs. Matt. 7th ch. 10th vs. Rom. 4th ch. 3rd and 4th vs.

12th. Of The Resurrection:— We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgement, and when the resurrection takes place, the soul and body will re-unite and form an immortal being that the righteous will be received into everlasting happiness, and the wicked will be driven to everlasting darkness, where they will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. John 5th ch. 28th and 29th vs., Acts 24th ch. 15th vs. Isaih 28th ch 17th vs. Heb. 9th ch. 27th verse.





# Statistics of the State Line Freewill Baptist Association.--1899.

CHURCHES AND COUNTIES.	NAMES OF DELEGATES	PASTORS	CLERKS AND POST OFFICES	Baptized.	Received by Letter.	Dismissed by Letter.	Recl. on Confession	Restored.	Died.	Excluded.	Days of Meeting.	No. of Members.	Paid for Minutes.	For Assn. Purposes	For Missions.
✓Hickory Grove, Jackson Co. Fla	J T Stephens, R G Hatcher J W Rodgers, T J Simes, J M Robinson	Sam Ely	Jeff D Stephens, Bascom, Fla	4	2						4th	77	\$1 50	\$1.50	
✓Howard Grove, Henry Co., Ala.	W T Rhodes, ER Williams John Bowen W L Rhodes	Calvin Dykes	J L Sellers, Ashford, Ala.		2	3		1	1	6	4th	137	1 50	1.50	
✓Prospect, Henry Co., Ala,	A J Cherry, S. Cherry, M G Howell, Curtis Hayes	Calvin Dykes	W W Clark, Dothan, Ala.	11		1			2		3'd	88	1 50	1.50	
✓Spring Hill, Henry Co. Ala.	F M Robinson, AZ Culbreth	J I Hatcher	A Z Culbreth, Gordon, Ala						1		1st	36	75	.75	
✓Silver Run, Henry Co., Ala	W T Riley	W J Murdock	W T Riley, Pansey, Ala							8	3'd	19	50	.20	
✓Rocky Grove, Jackson Co. Fla.	Oliver Ducker	J I Hatcher	Oliver Ducker, Bascom, Fla			3					2'd	48	1 00	.40	
✓Freewill's Rest, Jackson Co., Fla	H G Green, Thos. Berry	Sam Ely	H G Green, Dellwood, Fla	7			10		1		1 3'd	38	1 50	.50	
✓Springfield, Henry Co., Ala	M Nall, J F Nowell	D L Chandler	M Hall, Ashford, Ala	1	1	3	2			1	1 3'd	31	1 10	1.00	
✓Union Springs, Henry Co., Ala	Chas. Gates	D L Chandler	W B Lock, Columbia, Ala	2			1	1			2'd	34	1 00	1.00	
✓New Harmony, Henry Co., Ala	A J Granger Benj. Sellers	J M Murdock	A J Granger, Granger, Ala	2	2		2				2'd	29	50	.50	
✓Antioch, Holmes Co., Fla	A M Granger	J D Sowell	A M Granger, Pitts, Fla	1			4				4th	13	75	.50	25
✓Ardilla, Henry Co., Ala	C R Cobb	G W Cherry	E R Cobb, Ardilla, Ala								1st	8	50	.25	
✓New Pilgrtm, Henry Co., Ala	J F Thomas	Calvin Dykes	E J Thomas, Oats, Ala	1		4	3				1st	18	75	.75	
✓Zion, Henry Co., Ala	EP Mercer	J B Mills	E B Kirkland, Ardilla, Ala									13	25	.25	
✓New Hope, Dale Co., Ala	W P Benefield	J B Kerns	W P Benefield, Peach, Ala	1		4	2				3'd	15	50	.50	
✓Friendship, Geneva Co., Ala	John Marlo	C M Whittle	J Hatcher, Highfalls, Ala		3						1st	28	1 00	.20	
✓Pilcher Pond, Jackson Co., Fla	W B Adkins	J A Robinson	W B Adkins, Marianna, Fla	8	3		11				3'd	21	1 00	.75	
✓Macedonia, Coffee Co., Ala	Bro. Blalock	W W Tremontana	R E Blalock, Everett, Ala					2	1		1st	8	35	.15	
✓Pleasant Hill, Coffee Co. Ala.	S Johnson, J T Wood	W W Tremontana	J T Wood, Rodney, Ala												
Total				38	11	22	35	4	6	16		671	15 95	12 00	25

## *Work of the Union Convention held at Dothan, Ala., Nov. 19th, 1898.*

Pursuant to adjournment the First Annual Session of the "Union Freewill Baptist Convention" convened with Prospect Church, Henry county, Ala., on Saturday 11 o'clock, before the third Sunday in November, A. D. 1898.

Introductory services directed by Rev. Thomas Gilly, from Romans 6 ch. and 23 vs.

After introductory exercises, the delegation vacated about two hours for noon and refreshments.

### **SATURDAY, AFTERNOON SESSION.**

According to announcement the delegation re-assembled at the church and were temporarily organized by electing Bro. B. F. Pate, temporary moderator and Jefferson D. Stephens, temporary clerk.

Called for the delegation from the State Line Association.

Present, two, to wit:—Rev. G. W. Cherry and Jefferson D. Stephens.

Called for the delegation from the South Eastern Association.

Present, two, to-wit:—Rev. Thomas Gilly and Bro. B. F. Pate.

On motion, of Jefferson D. Stephens, the delegations were received.

On motion, of Rev. Thomas Gilly, the temporary organization was made permanent.

On motion, of Rev. G. W. Cherry, that this body be known as the "Union Freewill Baptist Convention."

On motion, of Rev. Thomas Gilly, the Convention resolved itself into a committee of the whole for the purpose of discussing and drawing up resolutions and articles of government for the Convention.

Jefferson D. Stephens was moderator of the committee of the whole.

On motion, of Rev. Thomas Gilly, that we adopt the constitution and resolutions as drawn up by the committee, which were as follows, to wit:

### OBJECT OF THE CONVENTION.

1st. To establish and operate plans for church extension.

2nd. To secure, co-operative work, to promote such denominational enterprises, as we are too weak to carry on as single Associations.

3rd. To labor for the union of all Liberal Baptists.

### CONSTITUTION.

1st. The general principals of Free Will, free Salvation, free Communion, and Immersion, shall form the doctrinal basis of union with this body. Each constituent Association shall have right to the formation of its own creed and the administration of its own internal affairs.

2nd. The necessary expenses of the Convention shall be met by funds brought up for that purpose.

3rd. The several Associations, or Conferences, forming this body, as well as those with whom it may form future compact, shall be composed of whites only.

4th. It will be the duty of the State Convention to lend its strength and aid to the support of all benevolent enterprises of the denomination.

5th. The Convention shall have the right to withdraw from any Association unsound in faith or disorderly in practice.

6th. Associations shall be entitled to one delegate for every one hundred members, or majority fraction thereof.

And each church of the respective associations comprising this Convention shall be entitled to one delegate each.

7th. The Association shall send a letter to the Convention giving their general condition; a full statistical report of the previous year's work; the name and post office of the Moderator and Clerk, and the names and post offices of all ordained ministers of the Association.

8th. The officers of the Convention shall be entitled to seats in the Convention as ex-officio members.

9th. The Convention shall meet annually at such place as may be agreed upon, and when assembled shall organize and elect officers after manner of associational organization, shall arrange its own programme of business as far as possible observing the order of business of the association, and the members shall maintain due christian deportment, as enjoined by the decorum of the church and the association.



10th. This Constitution may be altered, or amended, or abridged, at any session of the convention by a majority of votes.

#### CHANGES RECOMMENDED.

The Convention recommends:

1st. That the word "appointed" in Art. 6 of the Church Decorum be discontinued, and the word "elected" be used in its place.

2nd. That the word "appointed" in Art. 7 of the Church Decorum be discontinued and the word "elected" be used in its place.

3rd. That Art. 31 of the Church Decorum be changed to read as follows: "As to Communion, 'Let a man examine himself and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup.'"

On motion of Rev. Thomas Gilley, Rev. G. W. Cherry was elected treasurer of the convention.

On motion of Rev. Thomas Gilly, Rev. G. W. Cherry is to preach the introductory sermon at the next Convention, followed by Rev. Calvin Dykes.

On motion of Rev. Thomas Gilly, adjourned, and will meet with Howard Grove church on Saturday before the 3rd Sunday in November, A. D. 1899, located 3 miles east of Cottonwood, on Campbellton and Gordon road.

B. F. PATE, Moderator.

JEFFERSON D. STEPHENS, Clerk.