

MINUTES

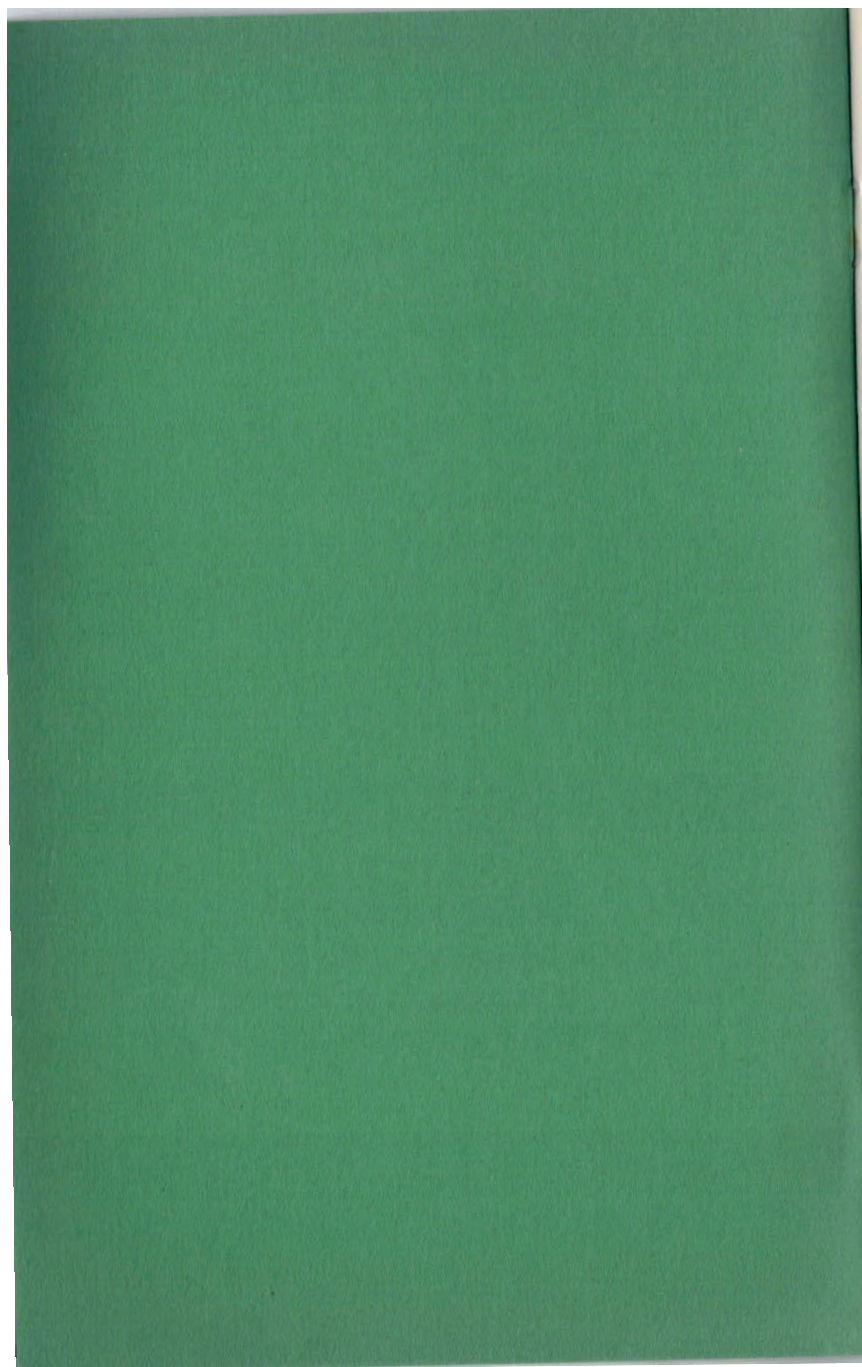
OF THE

Free-Will Baptist Union Association

Held with the Bear Creek Church,



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1883.



MINUTES

OF THE

Free-Will Baptist Union Association

Held with the Bear Creek Church,
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1883.

Introductory services, conducted by John M. Jackson and William B. Woolsey. Text—Mark 3, 35: "For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and my mother."

Prayer was offered by H. D. Low.

W. A. Headrick was elected Moderator, and William B. Woolsey, Clerk.

The following-named Brethren were present as Delegates: Noah Pack, H. D. Low, J. D. Fox, James A. Brown, R. D. Cogburn, J. M. Hays, I. H. Davis, I. M. Cline, Jonas Toby, T. Holt, W. H. Boly, J. E. Holden, James Spears.

Received one newly-organized Church, viz: Union, with fifteen members.

The following Committees were appointed, viz:

1. Committee of Arrangements—C. A. Brooks, J. D. Fox, J. E. Holden, William B. Woolsey and W. A. Headrick.
2. Committee on Religious Exercises—J. L. Case, I. M. Cline and James Toby.
3. Committee on Sabbath Schools—C. A. Brown, R. D. Cogburn and J. M. Hays.
4. Committee on Education—William B. Woolsey, J. E. Holden and W. A. Headrick.
5. Committee on Temperance—James A. Brown, J. D. Fox and C. A. Brooks.

Adjourned until 8 o'clock, A. M., September 7. Prayer by C. A. Brooks.

Friday Morning, September 7, 1883.

Met according to adjournment. Prayer by J. W. Livingston. Invited Brethren to seats, and Bro. J. W. Livingston took a seat with us.

6. Committee on Finance—R. D. Cogburn and J. D. Fox.

7. Committee on Next Session—H. D. Low and James Swatsyl.

R. D. Cogburn called for the Report of the Committee of Arrangements. Agreed to consider it, item by item.

Resolved, That we will proceed to the consideration of the best method of restoring the weak and unrepresented Churches of this Union Association, and hereby request as many of the Ministers as will volunteer to do so, to visit all such and hold a protracted meeting with each one, during the ensuing year, and report why they have not sent Delegates. And we advise such to call Pastors, and send Delegates to the next Association.

SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We, the undersigned Committee on Sabbath Schools, beg leave to submit the following:

Inasmuch as the Sabbath School cause in this country has always been attended with great disadvantages, and always will be, until the Christian world becomes deeply interested in the welfare of the rising generation, we desire to urge the paramount necessity of better Sabbath School training and that a higher knowledge of God must be attained by all the people. The minds of all our Church members and children should be stored with the teaching of the Bible. To fit our children for stations of honor in life and a seat in heaven, we earnestly request all persons friendly to the cause of Sabbath School Education, and especially the Ministers of our denomination, to use every effort in establishing Sabbath Schools among us. We therefore prayerfully ask every Free-Will Baptist Minister to preach at least one sermon during the year on the importance of Sabbath Schools. We ask the blessing of the Savior on all our efforts. "Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth."

C. A. Brooks,	}	Committee.
R. D. Cogburn,		
J. M. Hays,		

EDUCATION.

We, the undersigned Committee on Education, beg leave to submit the following:

First—In regard to Education. The Free-Will Baptists have hitherto been classed among those who ignore knowledge, intelligence, and education, and this is one efficient means of counteracting our influence over people of the highest type of

intelligence, but we have this to say, that the supposition is wrong. We believe that education is sanctioned by the Great Head of the Church, as may be seen by the following passages of Scripture: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." Hosea iv, 6; see also Isaiah v, 33, and various other passages of Scripture. "Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine." "Study to shew theyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 1 Timothy, iv, 13, and 2 Timothy, ii, 15, &c. We do unhesitatingly declare, that we endorse educational institutions, which have for their object the advancement of the best interests of Society and true Religion. And, to prove this, we point to the fact, that we have, at considerable expense, built a house for educational purposes, known as Woolsey College, situated in Greene county, Tennessee. A Circular of this institution is now before us, from which we make an extract:

"The School is located within easy walking distance of the Alleghany Mountains, at Woolsey College P. O., Greene county, Tennessee, about nine miles from Greeneville. The building is situated on an eminence, and overlooks a fertile valley. It is surrounded by a natural grove and is in the midst of scenery which is beautiful and romantic. On the College grounds, and only a few yards from the building, there is one of Nature's remarkable cave springs, in which the water is always cool and pure. In fact, the pure water and pure air, make this one of the healthiest places in the United States, a matter of some moment to parents in selecting a School to which to send their children."

The debt on the College has been recently reduced from \$1,500 to \$500, and we earnestly desire all persons who are favorably disposed to the cause of education to help us pay the remainder of the aforesaid debt. The institution is open for the admission of both sexes, and the School is in progress now. Tuition is very low, and varied, according to studies. The second term will open on the first day of January, 1884. Board, \$1.50 per week. Rooms to rent very low; 75 cents per month for two or three in one room.

Second—We also endorse the publications issued by the Free-Will Baptist Publication House, at Dover, N. H., including The Morning Star; the Free Baptist, at Minneapolis, Minnesota; and The Evening Star, at Bakersville, N. C., and we would like to have all our people, as well as others, patronize those publications, and the Woolsey College.

Signed,

Wm. B. Woolsey,
J. E. Holden,
W. A. Headrick,

} Committee.

TEMPERANCE.

We, the undersigned Committee on Temperance, beg leave to submit the following:

We most earnestly believe that a vast amount of the evils which the human family are heir to, are caused by the use of intoxicating drinks used as a beverage, and we hereby request all Christians who feel the weight of this evil, which is casting such a gloom over the minds of the youth of our land, to assist us in repelling such a foe, knowing, as we do, that such a foe can only be conquered by a united effort, and we urge upon our people to refrain from this evil; and, in case that one of our members be found tippling with ardent spirits, in any way, that they be dealt with by the Church to which such member belongs.

C. A. Brooks,	} Committee.
J. D. Fox,	
J. A. Brown,	

Voted, That we consider the propriety of uniting the Union, John Wheeler, &c., the American Tow River, and Clinch Valley Associations, into one Association; and that the Ministers be requested to lay this matter before the Churches, and report at our next Session. And we also request that this matter be laid before every Church of the above-named Associations, for their consideration.

HOME MISSIONS.

Number of days spent in Home Mission work, by W. A. Headrick and A. H. Burgess, 132; number of conversions, 83; number of accessions, 35; number of Baptisms, 14; amount received, \$55.98.

R. D. Cogburn, Chairman.

Voted, That the Home Mission Committee, this year, be increased to twenty-two members, with R. D. Cogburn as Chairman, as follows:

Midway—H. D. Low and Sarah Bean.

Mount Zion, No. 1—R. D. Cogburn and Vina Freshour.

Mount Zion, No. 2—J. A. Brown and Susannah Coats.

Mount Pleasant—John Borgan and Harriet Ellenburg.

Bear Creek—Joseph Brady and Lutetia Gillum.

Clear Creek—W. H. Boly and Elizabeth McCarny.

Union—James Spears and Caroline Gray.

Grassy Creek—J. D. Fox and Louiza Whitlock.

Liberty—J. A. Stanton and Mellie Stanton.

Bell's Chapel—William Johnson and Jennie Swatsyl.

Woolsey College—John D. Lovett and M. E. Lovett.

Adjourned until 3 o'clock, P.M. Prayer by W. V. Bell.

Friday, 3 o'clock, P. M.

Met agreeably to adjournment. Prayer by W. A. Headrick.
The Committee on Finance reported seven dollars in hand.
Invited P. M. Bewley to a seat, which he accepted.

Voted. To tender the sincere thanks of this Association to those families in the neighborhood for their generous entertainment and kind treatment of the several Delegates during their attendance of this session of the Association.

CORRESPONDENCE.

John Wheeler Association—W. A. Headrick, J. E. Holden and William B. Woolsey.

Tow River Association—J. E. Holden and William B. Woolsey.

American Association—J. M. Hays and W. V. Bell.

Clinch Valley Association—J. L. Case and J. D. Fox.

Adjourned to meet with Liberty Church, on Thursday before the second Sunday in September, 1884.

CONSTITUTION OF THE MINISTERS' CONFERENCE.

Article 1. This Conference shall be called The Union Free-Will Baptist Conference, and composed of the Ministers of the Free-Will Baptist Churches of Christ.

Art. 2. This Conference shall be composed of all the Ministers, ordained and licensed, now belonging within the bounds of the Union Association, who have signed their names and shall hereafter subscribe to this Instrument.

Art. 3. The stated annual session of this Conference shall commence on Saturday after the adjournment of the Association on Friday, each year, continuing until adjourned by the proper officer.

Art. 4. Called sessions may be held as often as may seem necessary, in the judgment of two or more of the Ministers composing this Conference.

Art. 5. The officers of this Conference shall be a Standing Clerk and a President.

Art. 6. The Clerk shall retain his office until he resigns, or another be chosen in his place.

Art. 7. The President shall preside at all the meetings of this Conference, during his administration, and issue notice for called sessions.

Art. 8. The President shall be elected annually.

Art. 9. All elections shall be by ballot.

Art. 10. The Clerk shall keep a minute record of all necessary proceedings of this Conference.

Art. 11. Each member belonging to this Conference shall contribute, at each annual session, ten cents, and, if more than one session is held yearly, five cents at each called session, to the Clerk for his expenses.

Art. 12. This Conference shall have power to discipline, and, if necessary, to exclude any one of its body, for heresy, or immoral conduct; and the decision of this body shall be final, so far as relates to his Ministerial relations to this Conference.

Art. 13. Five members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Art. 14. This Constitution may be altered or amended, at any annual meeting, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present; **Provided**, That such alteration or amendment shall have been proposed at the previous annual session, and approved by at least three-fourths of the members of the Conference.

BY-LAWS.

Article 1. Each session shall be called to order by the Clerk, and in his absence, by the oldest member present.

Art. 2. Each session and adjourned session shall be opened and closed by prayer.

Art. 3. Correspondence with other religious bodies may be held, if deemed advisable.

Art. 4. Conference may sit with open doors, except when it may go into Committee of the Whole.

Art. 5. Any person not a member may be allowed to take part in the deliberations of the body, by obtaining leave of the house.

Art. 6. The Clerk shall, at the opening of each session, read the Minutes of the previous session.

Art. 7. The time of opening and closing the daily sessions shall be determined by the body.

Art. 8. Every member of this body must be present at each sitting, unless granted leave of absence by the proper authority.

Art. 9. Any member wishing to speak shall first rise, and address the President.

Art. 10. Each speaker will be allowed to speak fifteen minutes, but not more than twice upon the same subject.

Art. 11. No whispering can be allowed during business hours.

Art. 12. Each member must pay strict attention to the business on hand.

Art. 13. No person will be allowed to nominate more than one person on a Committee, provided that that person be chosen.

Art. 14. All Committees shall serve until discharged by the presiding officer.

Art. 15. The presiding officer may take part in the discussions of the body by calling another person to the chair.

Art. 16. This Constitution and By-Laws shall be read at the opening of each annual and called session.

Art. 17. Continued absence from this body, or a total neglect of attending its sessions, shall constitute a cause for discipline for contempt of authority, unless the absentee is sick or unavoidably absent.

Art. 18. The presiding officer must not grant leave of absence, unless it is for a few minutes at a time, without a five-eighths vote of the body present.

Art. 19. Licensed Ministers are not entitled to vote on any question relating to the trial of an ordained Minister.

Art. 20. These By-Laws may be altered or amended at any session of this body, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

Signed,	W. A. Headrick,	Wm. B. Woolsey,
	A. F. Burgess,	J. S. Brown,
	Wm. Blazer,	J. F. Dewitt,
	J. L. Case,	C. A. Brooks,
	F. Dewitt,	J. D. Cox,
	J. E. Holden,	Wm. V. Bell,
	J. W. Lucas,	Jno. M. Jackson,
		Jas. Swasy,

Agreed: That each Minister keep a record of his labors.

Agreed: To let the former Clerk, namely, W. A. Headrick, retain last year's money on hand, for his services as Clerk. Sabbath preaching by J. W. Lucas and W. A. Headrick.

A TABULAR STATEMENT

NAMES of CHURCHES	PASTORS.	DELEGATES.	POST OFFICE ADDRESS.							
			Financial.	Total.	Died.	Excluded.	Disseminated by Letter.	Received by Letter.	Baptized.	
Midway, Ball's Chapel, Van Hill, Grassy Creek, Mount Zion No. 1, Mount Zion No. 2, Chunney Top, Liberty, Wooley College, Mount Pleasant, Bog Creek, Clear Creek, Union,	A. H. Burgess, J. A. Brown, A. H. Burgess, J. S. Brown, Wm. Blazer W. A. Headrick, A. H. Burgess, J. L. Case, C. A. Bonds, W. A. Headrick,	N. Pack, H. D. Low, J. D. Fox, R. D. Cogburn, J. M. Hays, J. S. Brown, Wm. B. Woolsey. I. H. Davis, I. M. Cline, Jonas Toby, T. Holt, H. H. Hix, J. E. Holden, J. Spears,	\$1.00 35 35 140 30 25 25 100 33 185 185 50 70	32 35 39 40 30 40 24 46 46 32 30 15 30	0 2 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 1	0 14 2 32 18 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	3 5 3 3 1 1 2 6 6 0 0 3 0 3	Midway, Greene county, Tennessee. Grenville, Greene county, Tennessee. Van Hill, Hawkins county, Tennessee. Margaret, Hawkins county, Tennessee. Cedar Creek, Greene county, Tennessee. Margaret, Hawkins county, Tennessee. Clear Creek, Greene county, Tennessee. Pilot Hill, Washington county, Tenn. Woolsey College, Greene county, Tenn. Cedar Creek, Greene county, Tenn. Conston, Cooke county, Tennessee. Warrensburg, Boone county, Tenn. Pattsville, Cocke county, Tennessee. Horse Creek, Greene county, Tenn.	

