

MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

—UNION—

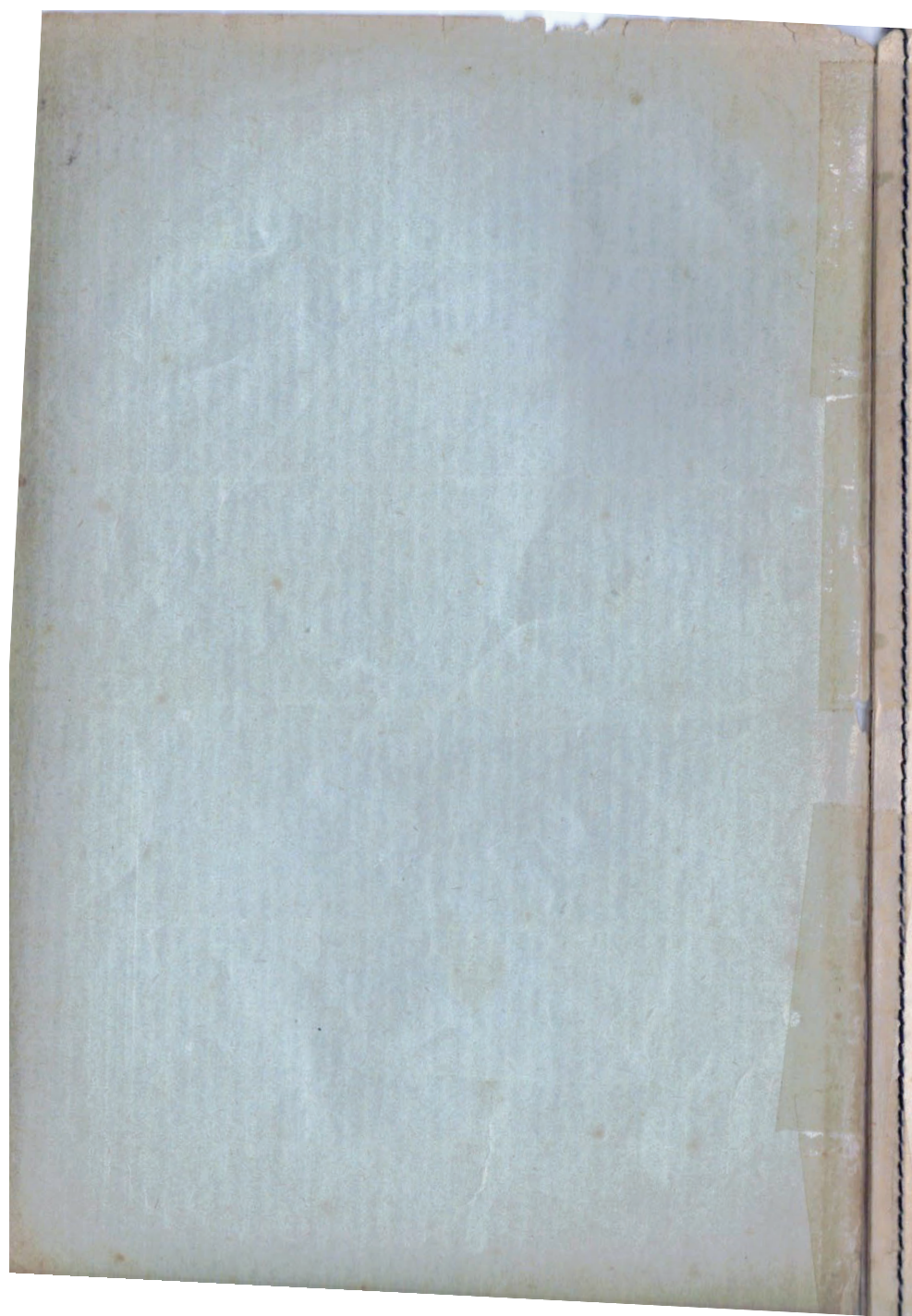
Freewill : Baptist : Association,

HELD WITH

New Home Church, Cocke County, Tenn.,

On Thursday, Friday and Saturday, August 6th, 7th and 8th, 1896.

ROGERSVILLE, TENN.,
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1896.



PROCEEDINGS.

According to previous appointment, Union Association met with the New Home Church, in Cocke county, Tenn., in its twenty-fourth annual session, August 6th, 1896, at 11 o'clock a. m. Introductory sermon by Rev. W. S. Barton, text, Titus 1:1. Closing prayer by R. C. Fry. Adjourned until 2 o'clock p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

AUGUST 6TH, 1896, 2 P. M.

Met according to appointment, devotions conducted by Rev. W. B. Woolsey. Officers being absent, the Association was organized by electing Rev. J. W. Lucas, Moderator, and Rev. R. C. Fry, Clerk pro tem. It was found upon call of the roll, that the following ministers and delegates were present:

MINISTERS—W. B. Woolsey, J. W. Lucas, W. S. Barton, D. D. Blanton, C. G. Gentry, Wm. Skeene, J. L. Case, R. C. Fry, S. W. Jones.

DELEGATES—H. F. Dykes, Jos. K. Solver, Wm. Phelps, John Justus, Wm. Kesterson, A. J. Kesterson, W. T. Livingston, Wm. Turner, J. J. Greene, C. S. Brady, F. M. White, Robt. Fox, J. F. Rollins, Wm. Simpson, B. F. Parker, John Ellenburg, A. J. Cross, Thomas Holt, Thomas Reece, Thomas Childs, F. R. Robinson.

Last year's order of business was adopted.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES.

On Temperance—Rev. J. L. Case, B. F. Parker.
On Literature—John Justus, Wm. Phelps, H. F. Dykes.
On Obituaries—C. G. Gentry, J. J. Greene, Thomas Livingston.
On Finance—Wm. Skeene, John Justus.
On Education—Revs. R. C. Fry, S. W. Jones, and Bro. John Justus.
On Next Session—J. K. Solver, Wm. Simpson, A. J. Cross.
On Sunday Schools—W. S. Barton, Robert Fox, A. J. Kesterson.
On Pulpit Supply—Rev. W. S. Jones, J. J. Greene, Wm. Turner.

The following churches were represented:

Bethany—Letter.
Bear Creek—Letter and delegate.
Beech Hill—None.
Bradshaw's—None.
Bell's Chapel—None.
Chesnut Hill—Letter.
Cedar Creek—Letter and delegate.
Holston Chapel—None.
Liberty—None.

Midway—Letter and delegate.
 Marble Hill—None.
 New Home—Letter and delegate.
 New Cross—None.
 Pleasant Point—Letter and delegate.
 Pine Grove—None.
 Simpson's Chapel—Letter and delegate.
 Tunnell Hill—Letter and delegate.
 Woolsey College—Letter.
 On motion, adjourned until Friday, August 7th, 8 o'clock a. m.

SECOND DAY.

FRIDAY MORNING, AUGUST 7th, 1896.

Devotions for 30 minutes, conducted by Rev. D. D. Blanton. Business was resumed by considering the condition of Holston Chapel church, which resulted in the dropping of that church from our roll.

Petitions from the following new churches were presented, viz:

Mountain Grove, and Brown's Chapel, Hawkins county, Tenn.; and Ambro, Grainger county, Tenn. Petitions referred to a committee consisting of J. W. Lucas, R. C. Fry and W. S. Barton.

Committee finds, upon investigation, the churches were regularly organized as Freewill Baptist churches, and orthodox in doctrine, and upon the recommendation of said committee, the churches were received and ordered enrolled and delegates seated.

Petitions for next session from Bethany and Cedar Creek referred to committee on next session.

Petition from Pleasant Point for ordination of Wm. Rollins, referred back to church. (See Minutes of 1874 and 1875).

Moderator called for reports. Committee on pulpit supply reported as follows: Friday, 11 a. m., Rev. Wm. Skeene will preach; Friday, 4:30 p. m., D. D. Blanton; Saturday, 11 a. m., W. S. Jones; Saturday, 4:30 p. m., R. C. Fry; Saturday, 7 p. m., C. G. Gentry; Sunday, 11 a. m., J. W. Lucas and Communion services conducted by Revs. W. B. Woolsey and J. L. Case. A motion to adjourn for 11 a. m. preaching and to stand adjourned until 2 p. m.

Sermon by Wm. Skeene; Text, Revelations 17, followed by Wm. Rollins; benediction by Wm. Skeene.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7TH, 1896, 2 P. M.

Met according to adjournment, after song, "Jesus Lover of My Soul" was sung by all, devotions were conducted by father Woolsey, and were much enjoyed by all present. Business was resumed by the reception from Grassy Creek Church of a petition for the restoration of C. L. Ledbetter to the ministry. Referred to a committee consisting of Revs. R. C. Fry and W. B. Woolsey.

REPORT:—"We find from satisfactory evidence furnished that Brother C. L. Ledbetter was unjustly censured and recommend his restoration."

On motion, carried that petition be granted and C. L. Ledbetter be restored.

Moderator ordered church letters read, of which we find the following to be a brief summary. Most of the churches have regular pastors and preaching by pastor twice each month, nearly all have Sunday Schools and some have weekly Prayer Meetings. There were but few revivals held among our churches during the year and as a result we failed to have as many additions to our churches as we otherwise might have had, but we are glad to note and feel to thank God that there is a feeling of good fellowship throughout the entire Association and that while the growth has been slow it has been steadily going onward and upward and we note with pleasure the addition of three live, new churches to our body; for full particulars and statistics see table of statistics.

RESOLUTIONS.

Recognizing the fact that no church can accomplish the good it ought to without the use of all the means of grace, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we urge all our churches to maintain Sunday Schools and weekly prayer meetings, that now have them, and we recommend and urge all churches that have no such organizations to see that they be organized at the earliest possible time.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES.

TEMPERANCE.

We the committee on temperance do submit the following: We are glad that the Freewill Baptists as a factor in the religious world have always held high grounds on the subject of temperance, and in keeping with this position we would earnestly urge the necessity of pushing the temperance question to the front by all means at our command and would urge all our ministers and members to abstain from this great evil which leads to such great misery and shame, and we recommend our ministers to preach more on this evil.

J. L. CASE, Chairman,

LITERATURE

We recommend to our people a more constant and prayerful reading of the Bible and a more general use of our church publications. We appreciate the personal zeal and sacrifice of Rev. J. H. Jenkins, of Phoenix, Ala., to furnish a Southern F. B. paper and we urge pastors and people to subscribe for the Harvest Gleaner and make it the paper we so much need.

J. W. LUCAS, Chairman.

OBITUARIES.

Brethren, it is with sorrow that we are called to submit the following as evidence that the great enemy has invaded our ranks and called several of our brethren and sisters from their labors to that rest that awaits the good, and we humbly bow in submission to the Divine Master's will, saying, 'Dear Lord, thy will be done.'

Mrs. Mary Rader, wife of John Rader, died Sept. 8th, 1895. Sister Rader professed faith in Christ when quite young and joined the Freewill Baptist Church at Blue Springs, Tenn., was baptized by Rev. A. B. Lowe, and when she died, was a member of Midway Church.

Mrs. Elizabeth J. Lemon, died Dec. 26th, 1895, aged nearly 58 years. She professed religion in 1887, joined Midway Church, was baptized by Rev. A. H. Burgess. She lived a consistent christian life.

Mrs. Rena Pack, died Dec. 26th, 1895; aged about 26 years. She professed religion and became a candidate for baptism in Midway Church, in 1889, but was never baptized.

Miss Eliza C. McCamy, daughter of Jackson and S. J. McCamy and grand daughter of Rev. Wm. Blazer, died March 28th, 1896, aged about 21 years, she professed religion in 1888 and was baptized by her grandfather and became a member of Bethany church of which she lived a consistent, zealous, member and Sunday School worker until death came and released her from her labors of love and mercy. "Sleep on dear one, we deplore your loss; but our loss we feel sure is your eternal gain.

Rev. James Dykes, of Simpson Chapel, was converted in 1832, became a member of the Freewill Baptist Church in 1848, was an ordained minister for nearly 60 years. In Jan., 1896, he died as he lived, rejoicing in the love of God. He was 88 years old.

FINANCE.

We submit the following as our report on finance. Money now in hand including part of public collection, \$10.54, with some unpaid pledges from Brethren.

NOTE FROM CLERK.—Have since collected on pledges 80 cents, making a total of \$11.35.

EDUCATION.

The following is submitted as our report: We rejoice at the stand taken by our brethren North of the Ohio, on the subject of education and are proud of the position they occupy among the learned of the land. But we deplore the evident lack among our Southern brethren of a proper appreciation of this important factor in securing best results from the amount of labor put forth by the church. We must educate, and may avail ourselves of the splendid opportunities offered by our State for obtaining the rudiments of an education, and for the further advancement along this line, we do earnestly recommend the splendid opportunities offered by our worthy and beloved brother, J. W. Lucas, at Midway, Tenn. Brethren of Union Association, we urge it upon you to see to it that you give this school your hearty support, and let us co-operate with Bro. Lucas in his effort to establish a Southern F. B. School where our boys and girls may be trained under our own auspices to fight the battles of life and the F. B. cause. The school at Midway is not now a F. B. school. Therefore the following is submitted as supplementary to the above.

A PROPOSITION FROM REV. J. W. LUCAS AS TO F. B. SCHOOL.

I propose to raise \$5,000 for a Freewill Baptist school at Midway, or some other point on the main line of railroad on the following conditions: Ten dollars shall constitute a share and be entitled to one vote in the management of the property. No part of the amount subscribed shall be collected until \$5,000 has been subscribed, then not more than one-fourth of stock shall be called for at one time.

When subscriptions have been secured and first fourth paid in, those who have paid in stock, shall name officers and managers of the funds and locate the school, &c., of this amount \$1,000 is expected of Union Association. We recommend the above to the careful consideration of our people and ask them to act wisely in their own interest by acting at once. Submitted.

R. C. Fry.

On motion, adjourned for preaching and to stand adjourned until Saturday, Aug. 8th, 8:00 a. m. Prayer by Rev. C. G. Gentry. 4:30 p. m., sermon by Rev. D. D. Blanton; Text, Matt., 5-10.

THIRD DAY.

SATURDAY MORNING, AUGUST 8TH, 1893.

At eight o'clock the Association resumed business by devotional services, conducted by Rev. Wm. B. Woolsey, at close of which the Moderator in the chair, business was resumed by the reception of the following resolutions from J. W. Lucas.

RESOLVED, That Union Association is in hearty sympathy with all reasonable efforts to bring about union among all Freewill Baptist, and that this body elect a representative to the General Conference of Freewill Baptists beginning Oct., 7th, 1896, in Nashville, Tenn., with instructions not to attend the same, if it becomes evident before Oct. 7th, that said Conference will not be general and representative.

Resolution carried and Rev. R. C. Fry was elected as our representative with instructions as above.

Resolution offered; R. C. Fry: Whereas, there is a lack of co-operation among the churches of Union Association and that feeling of love and fellowship is wanting that we feel ought to exist among the churches, and

WHEREAS, We believe this state of affairs might be changed in part at least, by having our churches gather in some kind of Union meeting quarterly, for work, instructions and worship. Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we recommend to the churches of Union Association that they have a meeting, embracing each fifth Sunday, of churches, so located as to be as convenient as possible to each other and to be known as the "5th Sunday Union Meeting," and be composed of all officers, laity and pastors who may care to attend for instruction and work. These meetings may properly discuss such questions as would pertain to the spiritual growth and development of the churches, and lay plans for work so that we might the better harmonize our efforts and successfully prosecute the mission work of Union Association to the

glory of God and the promotion of the Freewill Baptist cause. Each union to have such regulations for its government and work as shall embody the spirit of this resolution and not be repugnant to the faith and polity of the association. We further suggest that the following churches be embodied together in such unions:

- 1ST. Bethany, Simpson's Chapel, Grassy Creek, Lucas' Chapel and Liberty.
- 2ND. Bell's Chapel, New Cross, Woolsey College, Pine Grove, Marble Hill and Cedar Creek.
- 3RD. Brown's Chapel, Tunnel Hill, Chestnut Hill, Bradshaw's Chapel and Beech Grove.
- 4TH. Bear Creek, Clear Creek, New Home, Pleasant Point and Midway.
- 5TH. Cedar Brook, Ambro and such other churches of our faith as may be near enough to join that union.

On motion, unanimously carried. For the information of churches desiring one of its members licensed or ordained to the Ministry, first, when a church has obtained satisfactory evidence that one of its members is called to the work of the ministry and when such member is of good moral character and of good report both within and without and of such religious zeal as to make him an aggressive worker for the Lord, then church may, with its pastor, call a church conference and shall examine him as to his piety, his knowledge of the Bible, &c., and if found satisfactory, may grant such brother license to exercise his gifts for twelve months, which may be renewed if desired, from year to year, or if the brother has been zealous in the work of a licentiate and his morals are such as to bring no reproach to the church nor the ministry, the church may by vote when conference assembles, call a presbytery consisting of three or more regular ordained ministers in good standing, to ordain the licentiate to the full work of the ministry. The church calling such presbytery shall in connection with the call, submit a written recommendation as to morals, zeal, &c., and shall set forth in unequivocal terms, their unanimous willingness, signed by the pastor presiding and the church clerk, their willingness to receive the brother they desire ordained as pastor of their church.

When the presbytery shall meet they shall examine the candidate carefully as to his knowledge of the Bible and his knowledge of our theology as published by our publishing house at Boston, Mass., and as to his general literary qualifications, upon finding the above sufficient to secure reasonable success, they shall, upon obtaining further evidence of his good morals, zealousness and his orthodoxy to our faith, ordain him to the work of our ministry, each member of the presbytery signing his name to the certificate of ordination. On the call for ministerial character, all passed as good until we reached the name of Rev. S. W. Jones, when a motion was carried for a recess until 2:00 p. m.

Eleven o'clock a. m., sermon by Rev. S. W. Jones; text, Gen. 2-23.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8TH, 1896.

Moderator in the chair, business resumed by taking up ministerial character, the name of Rev. S. W. Jones was called and morals passed, but was rejected on the grounds of heterodoxy on the subject of the free moral agency of man. By unanimous vote his name was ordered to be dropped from the roll of ministers. It was voted that next session be held with Bethany Church, Greene Co., Tenn., 12 miles north of Chuckey City, 2 miles east of Jeraldstown; to begin on Thursday before the 2nd Sunday in Aug., 1897. Introductory sermon to be preached by Wm. Skeen, Thursday at 11:00 a. m., August, 1897. The following is a brief statement of the fundamental doctrines of our faith, in the form of questions asked and answers given by Father Wm. B. Woolsey.

QUESTION 1ST. Do you believe that God wills and man shall?

ANSWER. No.

Q. 2.—Do you believe that man is a free moral agent?

A.—Yes.

Q. 3.—Do you believe that man forfeits his free agency by becoming a christian?

A.—The Bible does not so teach me.

Q. 4.—Do you believe that a christian may fall, or make shipwreck of his faith and be lost?

A.—The Bible so teaches.

Q. 5.—Are the statements you make Orthodox Freewill Baptist doctrine?

A.—They most certainly are.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS —To the church at New Home and the friends of the community who have so kindly and hospitably entertained this association during our stay among them we vote our most sincere thanks.

On motion, carried; that this association adjourn to meet with Bethany church on Thursday before the 2nd Sunday in August, 1897. Sermon at 7:00 p. m., by R. C. Fry. Text, 2nd Kings 5-12. Sunday 10:30, sermon by J. W. Lucas. Song "When The Mists Have Cleared Away," and parting hand. Benediction.

R. C. FRY, Clerk, Pro Tem.
Milburnton, Tenn.

J. W. LUCAS, Moderator,
Midway, Tenn.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	P. O. ADDRESS.	Added by Baptism.	Added by Letter.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Died.	Restored.	Total Number.	No. in S. School.	Cash For Minutes.	Paid Pastor.
Bethany	A. H. Burgess	J. Armstrong	Jerdontown, Tenn.	3	1	1				149	50	\$0.57	\$25.50
Ambro	C. G. Gentry	D. F. Nell	Ambro	3	1	1				123	23	1.00	40.00
Beech Hill	No Report	W. V. Ball	Greeneville							43			
Bradshaw's	No Pastor	Thos. Reese	Warrensburg							33	63	41	7.40
Brant Creek	W. S. Barton	G. A. Madan	Nashville	4	10					22		45	22.00
Brent Chapel	W. S. Barton	R. C. Cornett	Yellow Stone	3	1					18		1.00	30.00
Chestnut Hill	No Pastor	R. S. Cogburn	Cedar Creek	1	1					56		1.00	30.00
Cedar Creek	Wm. Skeene	J. K. Solver	Jarmaine	6	1					12		46	15.00
Clear Creek	No Report	H. F. Dykes	Stacy							41		65	41.00
Grassy Creek	W. S. Barton	N. L. Peck, Jr.	Midway	12	1					102	67	1.25	41.00
Liberty	H. F. Dykes	J. A. Jones	Van Hill							11	61	2.10	45.00
Marble Hill	No Report	R. A. Brady	Driskill	1						34		56	56
Mountain View	W. S. Barton	W. R. Gray	Newport	3						60	56	80	25
New Cross	No Pastor	R. A. Johnson	Woodsey College	3						45	25	34	34
Pleasant Point	Wm. Clendennin	J. R. Simpson	Manney Top	4	1					41		85	8.50
Piney Grove	R. C. Burgess	J. O. Tunnell	Slide	5						25		25	25
Shiloh	W. S. Barton		Woodsey College							1096			
Tunnel Hill	Wm. B. Woolsey												
Woodsey College													
Total.												\$10.10	

