

MINUTES

OF THE

SIXTY- SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Vernon Free Will

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

BELK CHURCH

OCTOBER 17, 18, 19, 1942

OFFICERS

J. S. Fredrick ----- Moderator

D. G. Jordan ----- Clerk

The next session of this Association will be held with Mt. Willing Church, Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1943. Rev. M. E. Carpenter to preach the Introductory Sermon. Rev. S. F. Lee, alternate.

PROCEEDINGS

SATURDAY A. M.

The 62nd annual session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association met with Belk Free Will Baptist Church on October 17, 18 and 19, 1942.

Services began with singing and prayers. Bro. Bill McDonald being in charge of the singing.

After some singing and prayers Rev. J. S. Fredrick read the 23rd Psalm and was in charge of a short devotional, after which Rev. E. W. Graves preached the introductory sermon, using for a text Numbers 11:4-6.

After the message the body was dismissed for dinner by Rev. A. L. Warren from the Jasper Association.

SATURDAY P. M.

1. After lunch the congregation was called together by Rev. E. W. Graves, present Moderator.

After song and prayer a move was made and carried to enter into the business of the Association.

The present Moderator E. W. Graves read the program for holding the Association, after which he appointed reading clerks to read the letters from the various churches, which were as follows: Bro. Fletcher Collins and Rev. J. S. Fredrick.

Letters of the various churches were called for and read as noted in statistical table.

A move was made and carried to seat the delegates from the various churches.

Delegates being seated a call for petitionary letters was made, none recieved.

Delegates being present from Depriest church, called for a letter of recommendation to the North East Miss., Associtaion.

Called for the election of officers, which were done by ballot; and Bro. J. M. Stokes, and Rev. J. L. Lavender from the Mt. Marriah Association were appointed to count the votes. Officers elected were as follows: Moderator, J. S. Fredrick; Assistant Moderator, S. F. Lee; Clerk, D. G. Jordan.

The newly elected Modcrator made some remarks of the honors bestowed upon him, then called for corresponding delegates from the different Associations, which were as follows: Jasper—Rev. A. L. Warren; Mt. Marriah—J. M. Stokes, J. L. Lavender, J. A. Hickman. From Missionary Baptist—Bro. Walker and Bro. Holliman.

The Moderator and Clerk extended to all corresponding delegates a hand shake of welcome.

The apointment of committees was as follows:

1. Document and Order of Business—S. F. Lee, Jim Chaffin, M. E. Carpenter, Jack McDanold, J. A. Robertsoon.

2. Deceased Members—W. M. Fields, R. W. Maddox, and V. C. May.

2. Temperance—Thomas Hankins, K. M. Randolph, Bessie Allen, Dennis McDaniel.

4. Literature—E. W. Graves, Charley Hollis, J. E. Hollis, Andrew Shelnut, Alvada Markham.

5. Querries and Resolutions—W. H. Clearman, Fletcher Collins, Virgil Crawford.

6. Credentials—John Taylor, Harvey Yerby, Clinton May, F. H. Ham, Verdo Dubose.

7. Finance—Cly May, Bedford Hester, Hiram McDonald.

8. Missions—Alice Maddox, Bill Glasgow, J. T. Williams, J. G. Belk.

For list of churches and delegates see statistical table.

Delegates were assigned to homes after which Rev. L. Q. Larwood made an interesting talk.

A move was made and carried to adjourn business till 9:00 A. M. Monday.

SATURDAY NIGHT

A good time was had by everyone in song, prayer and testimonial service.

At 8:15 A. L. Warren preached to a very attentive audience from St. John 6:66-68.

SUNDAY MORNING

A large crowd gathered Sunday morning for song and prayer service, after which Rev. M. E. Carpenter gave an interesting lecture on the Sunday School lesson (Growth in Christ), after which the Kelly children sang a song and Sister Kate Williams prayed a special prayer for our boys in U. S. service.

At 11:00 o'clock Rev. L. Q. Larwood preached a great message from Ezekiel 34 and Proverbs 29.

SUNDAY EVENING

After a good song and prayer service Rev. J. L. Lavender preached from St. John 14th chapter, subject (The Way).

SUNDAY NIGHT

With a well filled house Bro. Carpenter dericted some songs which were mixed with prayer, after which Rev. A. J. Lambert preached from Text: (A new name) Jerimiah 31:29, Isiah 62:1.

After some remarks by the Moderator as to who was worth to pertake of the emblems, the Lord's supper was commorated.

MONDAY MORNING

The Associatioon came together with song and prayer after which the roll of ministers and delegates was called.

The Moderator read the program for holding the Association and also the Constitution of the Association.

Moved and carried that the Clerk make a new list of delegates.

Moved and carried to omit reading Saturday's minutes.

The Association was dismissed for committees to arrange reports.

At 11:00 o'clock the body was called together by song and

prayer, which was followed with a very inspiring message brought by Rev. Bill Glasgow, from Luke 10:42. Subject: Love.

MONDAY EVENING

The Association assembled with singing and prayer, after which the Moderator called for report of committees.

REPORT ON DOCUMENT AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

We, your committee on Document and Order of Business, beg leave to submit the following report:

1. We recommend the former Order of Business..
2. We recommend that the next session of this Association be held with Liberty or Mt. Willing to be decided by the Association.
3. We recommend that the Clerk superintend the printing of the minutes of this session and that he have 350 copies printed.
4. We recommend that section 3 of 1941 be repealed and that it reads as follows: That the delegated body have the right to determine the place of holding the Association each year.
5. We recommend that Rev. M. E. Carpenter preach the introductory sermon at the next session and that Rev. S. F. Lee be his alternate.
6. We recommend that Rev. S. F. Lee be appointed as Evangelist of this Association.
7. We recommend that this delegate body act upon Article 11 in 1941 minute. Article 11 of 1941 repealed.
8. We recommend that the committee on Credentials have the same authority to investigate Deacons as Ministers.

Respectfully submitted,

S. F. Lee, Chairman.

Report received and committee discharged.

Report reread by sections and adopted as read.

Section 8 of the above report was rejected.

REPORT ON DECEASED MEMBERS

After a prayerful investigation we find that God in His devine wisdom saw fit to call from our midst the following:

From Springfield—Mrs. Charlie Gault, John Gault, Mrs. Susie Hollis, Mrs. Rosco Newell.

From Union Chapel—Rev. T. M. Lollar, Luther Robertson.

Liberty—R. N. Yerby.

Mt. Willing—Troy Davis, Mrs. J. M. Guin.

Fairview—Rev. J. H. Dill, Sister Ross Dill.

W.M. Fields, Chairman.

Report received and adopted and committee discharged.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE

We your committee on Temperance make the following report.

We are made to believe that Temperance is one of the greatest things known to mankind.

We recommend that all of God's people take a firm stand against the use of intoxicating drinks and that churches withdraw

from those who are intemperate.

Respectfully submitted,

Thos. J. Hankins, Chairman.

Report received and adopted and committee discharged.

REPORT ON LITERATURE

We, your committee on Literature wish to make the following report:

We recognize the great influence that reading matter has on the formation of character and upon our way of thinking, thus affecting our way of doing.

1. Therefore, we suggest in all sincerity that first of all we set the example before our family and our church as a faithful student of the Bible, that we may obey the admonition to study to show ourselves approved of God.

2. That we make a special effort to keep all unwholesome literature away from homes.

3. That for the home reading we recommend that each home be a subscriber to the Free Will Baptist and the Gem and for the children a good book of Bible stories.

4. That for church activities we advocate the use of our church Literature.

Respectfully submitted,

E. W. Graves, Chairman.

REPORT ON QUERRIES AND RESOLUTIONS

We, your committee on querries and resolutions beg to make the following report:

Inasmuch as want, misery and death doth abound in almost every land and their conditions was brought by Satan through greed and lust and our own boys are dying from said cause.

Therefore, be it resolved that this Association indorse and instruct its Ministers and members to set apart at least one day in this year for prayer to God to heal our land cause a just and honorable peace to be had.

Resolved that this Association extend to Belk Church and community a rising vote of thanks and appreciation for the fine hospitality and kindness shown us during our stay among them.

W. H. Clearman, Chairman.

REPORT ON CREDENTIALS

We, your committee on Ministeral Credentials make the following report:

After a careful investigation we find all our Ministers in good standing with churches and preaching the Bible, and warning the people of the dangers that confronts them.

Respectfully submitted,

J. L. Taylor, Chairman.

REPORT ON HOME MISSION

We, the committee on Home Missions wish to make the following report:

We find that under the circumstances there has been a great work on home missions this year, we are glad to report Rev. S. F.

Lee visited most of the churches in his years work.

We recommend that we retain a minister to have charge of this work and in order to do this have a fund for Home Missions work. We set aside the 3rd Sunday in April as Home Mission day this fund will be turned over to the appointed preacher. We find by investigation that we have contributed well to this work, but we recommend that much more be done the ensuing year.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Maddox, Chairman.

Folowing the report on Home Missions, Rev. S. F. Lee gave an interesting talk on his work in this field.

FINANCE REPORT

We, your committee on Finance submit the following report:

We have collected as minute funds \$45.58.

J. G. Taylor, Chairman.

A move was made and carried to grant a letter of dismissal to Depriest Church.

It was moved and carried to represent in the Alabama State Association with delegates and to send \$50.00 as minute funds, and that the Association pay part of the delegates expense, upon which the following were appointed as delegates to the State Association, Harvey Clearman, V. C. May, W. M. Fields.

The Moderator appointed the following as corresponding delegates to the Sister Association: To Jasper Association S. F. Lee, M. E. Carpenter; North East Miss., V. C. May, D. G. Jordan; Progressive, E. W. Graves, Bill Glasgow; Mt. Marriah, Harvey Yerby D. C. Hall, W. W. Barnes; State Line, J. S. Fredrick, S. F. Lee.

The Moderator appointed M. E. Carpenter, Jim Chaffin, and J. G. Taylor to decide where the next union meeting should be held. The committee sent it to Union Chapel. A public donation was taken for superanuation which amounted to \$15.00.

It was suggested that there be a memorial service in honor of our deceased. Rev. S. F. Lee preached a great memorial message.

A move was made and carried to drop Beaverton church from list.

Three being no other business there was a song and the parting hand shake had.

The Association was dismissed to meet with Mt. Willing Church, on Saturday before the 3rd Sunday in October, 1943.

PROGRAM FOR HOLDING ASSOCIATION

1. The Asociation shall be called to order and presided over by the officers elected at the close of the last session.
2. The Association shall be opened and closed with singing and prayer.
3. The Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by ballot just prior to the close of each session of the Association, by a majority vote of the delegates present.
4. The names of delegates from different churches shall be enrolled and called as often as necessary during the session.

5. A majority of the delegates shall rule in all cases, except in the reception of churches, then it should be unanimous.

6. The Moderator shall not be entitled to vote, except in case of a tie and then he shall cast the deciding vote. He shall be entitled to speak on any question, after others have spoken, provided he appoint someone to the chair while he is speaking.

7. Only one person shall speak at a time and he shall rise and address the Moderator and after recognition by the Moderator shall proceed.

8. No brother shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject under discussion or use words of personal reflection.

9. No person shall be allowed to speak more than twice on the same subject without the authority of the Association more than fifteen minutes.

10. No person shall laugh or talk during discussions.

11. No person shall absent himself from the Association without permission of the Moderator.

CONSTITUTION

1. The Association shall be known as the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association of Alabama, being composed of ministers, deacons and delegates from different churches forming the same. All having full power to vote on all questions which come before the Association. Each church being entitled to three delegates in addition to ministers and deacons.

2. This Body shall be considered an advisory council, having no authority over the internal affairs of the churches unless they depart from the Articles of Faith of this Association. This Association shall have authority over all ministers in the matter of doctrine, character, and etc. In case any minister in this Association depart from and teach doctrine not in keeping with the Articles of Faith of this Association, the same shall be dealt with by the Association as it may seem proper, according to the teachings of the Bible.

3. Each church of this Association shall be considered an advisory body and shall control its own internal affairs in matters of discipline, and etc. If any Brother feels impressed to preach the Gospel, the Church shall or may recommend such a Brother to the Association and upon examination of the Brother's qualifications, if in judgement of the Body, the Brother would be useful, they shall confer ordination, same being done at the Association by a legal Presbytery.

4. All questions of doctrine and general interest shall be settled by a majority vote of the Association, and the decision shall be final.

5. The officers of the Association shall be a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall be chosen at each session by a majority vote.

6. The Association shall meet annually at such time and place

as may be agreed upon at the previous session and shall not adjourn finally until all business matters are transacted.

7. Churches wishing to become members of this Association must adopt its Articles of Faith and conform to its usage.

8. We agree as church of this Association to use our best influence to promote the interest of all moral and benevolent institutions, such as temperance cause, Sabbath Schools, Missionary work, etc.

9. No member of this Association shall be eligible to serve as Moderator for more than two consecutive sessions unless no other member be competent to act in that capacity.

10. Any member of this Association who shall be guilty of circulating reports of any nature or aiding in the circulation of any report that is untrue on a brother minister that is calculated to injure his moral reputation and religious influence, the same shall be dealt with by this Association. Any minister of this Association who is known to be guilty of using intoxicating spirits by drinking as a beverage, which is calculated to destroy his influence and usefulness, the same shall be dealt with by this Association as it may deem proper, according to the teachings of the Bible.

11. The Association shall in all cases in the transaction of all business brought before it, be governed by a majority of all delegates present, and any church or delegates failing or refusing to do so is and shall be considered by the Association as being out of order. Each member is to be a party to the enforcement of same.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe there is one true and living God who is the ruler of Heaven and earth, self-existent Creator of all things, revealed under personal distinction of Father, Son and Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection and existing in distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

2. We believe the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is a treasure of Heavenly instructions; that it has God for its author, truth for its matter and salvation for its end; that it reveals principles upon which God will judge us and therefore is and shall remain to the end of the world the center of Christians Union, the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions will be tried.

3. We believe that man was created holy, under the law of his Maker, but from voluntary transgression fell from that holy state; in consequence of which all mankind is now deprived and unable of his own free will and ability to recover from the fallen state which he is in by nature.

4. We believe that God has not fixed the future state of mankind by an absolute and unconditional decree, but salvation is offered in the Gospel free to all and if sinners are lost forever, it will be their own fault.

5. We believe that Christ by His death and suffering made an

atonement for the sins of mankind in general and every individual in particular who believes in Him can partake of the Divine benefit.

6. We believe that true faith cannot proceed from the exercise of our natural faculties and powers, or from the force and operation of our own free will, since man, in consequence of his natural corruption is incapable of thinking or doing anything spiritually good.

7. We believe in the general application of the grace of God to fallen men sufficiently to enable him morally and actually to obey the requirement of the law of liberty (James 1:5), this the Act-saving Faith (John 1:9). However, none but those who believe in Christ will be saved thereby (Acts 17:32; Romans 2:19; John 3:9).

8. We believe in the free moral agency of man, by the grace of God before and after conversion; that he is under no invincible necessity by his Creator to act in any given way; that, if he lives after the flesh he shall die, but if he, through the spirit do motivate the deeds of the body, he shall live, and therefore man is always a proper subject of admonition and exhortation (Heb. 11:12-13; Romans 13:14; Mark 13:12; Ezekiel 18:24; Rev. 2nd and 8th chapters; Ezek. 33:13-28; I Tim. 4:1; Heb. 3:5; Cor. 1:12-24; I Peter 1:10).

9. We believe the visible Church of Christ is a congregation of believers, associated by covenant in the fellowship of the Gospel observing the ordinance of Christ, governed by His law and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its only proper officers are bishops, pastors and deacons whose qualifications and duties are defined in the epistles of Timothy and Titus.

10. We believe that Christian baptism is immersion in water in the name of Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and that believers are the proper subjects.

11. We believe the Lord's Supper is a perpetual obligation by which members of the church are to commemorate together, in the form of bread and wine, the dying love of Christ, preceded always by solemn self-examination.

12. We believe in open and free communion, and the churches of our Body are authorized, through their pastors, to invite all Christians of orthodox churches, who are in good standing in their respective churches, to commune with us at the Lord's table.

13. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and the general judgment; that the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal, upon the principles of grace and justice.

14. Concerning the washing of the Saint's feet as a Gospel ordinance, each member shall have the right to participate in such ordinance as he can best answer his own conscience to God, without criticism on the part of anyone.

MINUTES OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION

The West Alabama Sunday School Convention met with Union Chapel Church on May 31, 1942.

The Convention was called to order by E. W. Graves, the Moderator, after some singing and prayers, Bro. Harvey Yerby gave a splendid lecture on the Sunday School lesson, which dealt with the betrayal and crucifixion of Christ.

The Moderator gave a short talk on the purpose of the meeting, after which Miss Bertie Mae Franks made a great lecture on the subject: (A Spiritual Sunday School). In this lecture she drew a beautiful picture of the requisites of a Sunday School teacher, also the method of teaching different ages of children.

The Kelly children sang a quartet after which Superintendent G. S. Smith gave a lecture on "The Moral side of Life." In this lecture Mr. Smith pointed out how important fire side training and Sunday School teaching were upon the child to produce a good moral character, and Christian life.

SUNDAY P. M.

In the afternoon the following churches brought very good programs.

1. Belk composed of poems, songs and short play.
2. Springfield, Play on Sunday School class and pantamine.
3. Liberty, composed of poems and talk on the resurrection of Christ.
4. Union Chapel, Poems.
5. Depriest, represented but without program.

BUSINESS SESSION

Invitation for the next Sunday School Convention. Belk asked for it and received it.

Election of officers: E. W. Graves Moderator, D. G. Jordan, Clerk.

The next session will meet with Belk Church on the second 5th Sunday in 1943.

CLERK'S REPORT

Minute Funds -----	\$ 5.00
Balance on hand -----	15.00

Total -----	\$20.00
Printing Minutes -----	\$ 3.00
Paid Clerk -----	2.00

Total Expenses -----	\$15.00
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E. W. Graves -----	Moderator
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D. G. Jordan -----	Clerk
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Proceedings of the 5th Sunday meeting held at Springfield Church.

SATURDAY A. M.

Called to order by Moderator.

Song service by Bro. Carpenter. Prayer by Bro. Harvey Clearman.

Devotional led by Bro. William Glasgow

Sermon by E. W. Graves, subject, A God Built Church.

Noon.

SATURDAY EVENING

After song service Bro. Lavender led the prayer.

Letter caled from various Churches.

Letters were cereived and delegates seated from Union Chapel, Sisters Lucille Bradford Gertrude Woods and Bro. F. M. Collins; Springfield, Bros. Dempsey Langley, Murray Jordan, Sister Velma Brown; Depriest, Bro. C. E. and Isaiah Hollis; Mt. Harmony, Bro. and Sister J. M. Graham, Sister Miller.

Bro. Dewey Jordan and E. W. Graves were elected Moderator and Clerk, respectfully.

Motion carried that in the future all churches represent by letters as well as delegates.

Motion carried that the proceednig of this meeting be printed in the minutes of the regular session.

A lecture on the subject: The Value of the Church was given by Rev. Carpenter.

Sermon by Rev. J. L. Lavender, subject: The Church and Christ.

SATURDAY NIGHT

Song service by Bro. Fletcher Turman. Prayer by Sister Langley. Sermon by Rev. Caprenter, subject: The modern Church.

SUNDAY A. M.

After a fine song service and prayer by Bro. Gunnels, a fine lecture on the Sunday School Lesson was delivered by Bro. Carpenter.

A fine devotional service led by Bro. Fredrick was enjoyed by all.

An inspirational sermon was brought by Bro. Green of Columbus, subject: Thee Need of the Church.

Noon.

After song service and praycr by Bro. C. E. Hollis a short business session was had.

A program committee to arrange the program for next session was appointed, composed of Bros. Carpenter, Lavender and Graves.

Union Chapel was designated as the place for the 1943 session.

Motion carried that we endorse and place a bid for a Training Institute by the National Board of Education. A committee was appointed to work to that end.

A round table discussion was had on the subject, The Needs of the Various Churches represented.

Sermon by Rev. J. S. Fredrick, subject, Rallying to God's call.

Motion carried to adjourn to meet at Union Chapel on the 1st 5th Saturday and Sunday in 1943.

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES	PASTORS	CLERKS AND POSTOFFICES	NAMES OF DELEGATES	Received by Baptism	Received by Letter	Dismissed	Expelled	Deceased	No. of Members	Days of Meeting	Sunday School	Paid Pastor	Paid Helper	Minute Funds	Value of Church Property
Depriest ----		Charlie Hollis, Gattman, Miss.	Clayton Knight, Arthur Dowdle, Nettie Pogue ----	2	0	0		0	24			\$ 24.50	\$30.08	\$2.65	\$1357.34
Belk -----	M. L. Hollis ----	R. H. Yerby, Belk, Ala. -----	J. G. Taylor, J. G. Belk, Kilby Yerby -----	0	0	3		0	207	2	*	\$131.00	\$39.62	\$5.00	\$3000.00
Fairview ----	Grady Hudson ----	Willie Dee Cargile, Guin, Ala. -----	Robert Mion, Ina Mae Rainwater, Lilly B. Roberts	4	1			2	43	1	*	\$ 50.00	\$16.00		
Friendship -	M. E. Carpenter --	J. A. Robertson, Steens, Miss. --	Idell Wilson, Vestas Clark, Willie Green -----									\$106.29			\$3000.00
Liberty ----	Newt Wright ----	Chelsea Poore, Vernon ,Ala. --	Thomas Hankins, Bedford Hester, Kelcy Hankins .	11	6	2		1	175		*	\$145.00	\$66.50	\$3.00	
Mt. Harmony	J. L. Lavender --	O. C. Robertson, Millport, Ala. --	S. L. Cash, J. T. Johnson, Carl Wheeler -----	20	6	0			217	3	*	\$165.65	\$50.00	\$3.00	\$3000.00
Mt. Pleasant		Not Represented -----													
Mt. Willing -	J. S. Fredrick --	C. F. May, Guin, Ala. -----	Jim Chaffin, Clinton May, Andrew Shelnut ----	8	0	4	0	2		3	*	\$172.80	\$25.00	\$4.60	\$2500.00
Piney Grove	A. L. Warren ----	Ernest Roberts, Guin, Ala. ----	Alvada Markham, J. M. Chaffin, Claud Fuller --	8	7	0	0	0	90	2	*	\$ 65.00		\$2.00	
Springfield -	A. L. Warren ----	Dewey Jordan, Vernon, Ala. ----	Dennis McDaniel, Charlie Hollis, J. E. Hollis ----	24	4	0	0	4	297	1	*	\$182.10	\$50.00	\$3.00	\$2500.00
Union Chapel	M. E. Carpenter --	Hettie Maddox, Covin, Ala. ----	R. W. Maddox, Alice Maddox, Fletcher Collins ----	0	0	0	0	2	92	4	*	\$205.55		\$3.50	
Vernon -----	M. E. Carpenter --	Alta Mae Graham, Vernon, Ala. --	W. M. Field, V. C. May, Loyd Turner -----	6	3	1			68	1-3	*	\$120.00	\$50.00	\$3.00	\$5000.00

NAMES OF MINISTERS

Rev. C. A. Chaffin -----	Guin Alabama
Rev. J. W. Porter -----	Guin, Alabama
Rev. S. F. Lee -----	Guin, Alabama
Rev. J. S. Fredrick -----	Covin, Alabama
Rev. M. E. Carpenter -----	Vernon, Alabama
Rev. E. W. Graves -----	Vernon, Alabama

CLERK'S REPORT

Balance -----	\$10.00
Minute Funds at this Session -----	35.58

Total -----	45.58
State Association Fee -----	5.00
Paid Moderator -----	5.00
Paid Clerk -----	5.00
Mailing Expenses -----	2.00
Printing Minutes -----	22.00

Total Expenses -----	39.00
Balance on Hand -----	\$ 6.58