

**MINUTES**  
OF THE  
**Forty-Fourth Annual Session**  
OF THE  
**West Florida Liberty Free**  
**Will Baptist Association**

HELD WITH  
**St. John's Church**

TWO MILES SOUTH OF BONIFAY, FLA.

OCTOBER 13th and 14th, 1932

— OFFICERS —

BRO. G. W. OWENS ..... Moderator  
J. T. BIRGE ..... Clerk and Treasurer

— EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE —

Rev. A. L. Pate, Chairman ..... Bonifay, Fla.  
T. D. Owens ..... Chipley, Fla.  
Bennett Cook ..... Bonifay, Fla.  
C. C. Martin ..... Blountstown, Fla.  
A. J. Pitts ..... Bonifay, Fla.

The next Session will convene with Cowart's Creek Church, 6 miles southeast of Dothan, Ala., Thursday before the Third Sunday in October, 1933. Rev. A. B. Nelson will preach the introductory. The next Union Meeting goes to Mt. Glory Church, in Gadsden County, near Quincy, Fla. Rev. A. L. Pate to preach the introductory, on Saturday before the Second Sunday in August, 1933.

# PROCEEDINGS

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## THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

The Association met in regular order. Rev. C. I. Wells preached the introductory, at 11 o'clock.

Scripture Lesson, 1st chapter of James.

Dismissed one hour for noon.

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## THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

House called to order by Moderator.

Scripture Lesson, 7th Chapter Mathew.

Prayer by Bro. G. W. Owens.

Called for letters from various Churches and enrollment of delegates, as follows:

Noma Church—Calvin Birge, Nonie Birge and J. W. Barefoot.

St. John's Church—N. E. Chestnut, A. B. Cook, Jim Strickland, Bob Waltisinhm, J. W. Nelson and George Cook.

Piney Grove Church—T. D. Owens, Beatrice Owens, W. E. Owens, Annie Lee Ward, J. A. Johnson and Madie Golden.

Cowart's Creek Church—J. C. Fowler, Jim Deal, M. C. Dixon, Arch Barfield and W. G. Silcox.

New Harmony Church—Roy Hughes, J. D. Hughes, Herbert Hughes and Alto Barkley.

Liberty Church—J. E. Cook and W. B. Martin.

Blountstown Church—W. J. Starry, Sister R. L. Pendarvis, Sister J. W. Causey, W. A. Ray and Martin Poak.

Poplar Head Church—A. F. Squires, A. J. Pitts and Hubert Long.

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Spring Hill Church—E. C. Anderson and wife and J. L. Smith.

Mt. Glory Church—J. W. Powell, J. A. Taylor, Robert Thursby and Ethel Taylor.

St. Paul Church—J. C. Clemons, Julie Clemons, C. C. Clemons and Missie Clemons.

Pleasant Hill Church—Henry Mears, Alvin Burch and Martie Mears.

The Association being duly organized, went into an election of a Moderator and a Clerk. Bro. G. W. Owens was elected Moderator and J. T. Birge as Clerk and Treasurer.

A call for Petitionary Letters. None were received.

Called for Correspondents from Sisterly Associations. The following were received:

Salem—K. V. Shoots, Ardell Cook and Rev. J. C. Eldridge.

State Line Association—J. N. Barnes, a student of Zion Bible School.

South Carolina Convention—Rev. T. B. Mellette, a Teacher of Zion Bible School.

Midway Association of Georgia—Luther Norris, a student of Zion Bible School.

Appointment of committees were made as follows:

Committee on Divine Services—A. B. Cook, A. S. Squires and J. L. Smith.

Committee on Resolutions—J. H. Chestnut, chairman; Henry Mears, J. D. Owens, C. C. Clemons and W. A. Ray.

Temperance Committee—W. M. Duncan, J. D. Strickland, Jack Pitts and Bob Waltisinhame.

Committee on Education—T. B. Mellette, chairman; J. O. Cook, C. C. Martin and Clarence Clemmons.

Committee on Obituary—Sister R. J. Pendarvis, Sister Mollie Anderson and Beatrice Owens.

Committee on Nominations—J. E. Sims, J. W. Powell, J. H. Barkley and J. A. Taylor.

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Committee on Sunday Schools—J. E. Sims, chairman; K. V. Shoots, Sister May Cook, Lille Mae Yoh and J. N. Barnes.

Committee on Finance—Mada Golden, chairman; Annie Lee Ward and Julie Clemmons.

Report of Committee on Divine Services: Rev. T. B. Mellette to Preach at 7:30 p. m., and Rev. K. V. Shoots at 11 a. m., Friday.

Closed in Order, until 7:30.

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### THURSDAY NIGHT SESSION

Bro. T. B. Melette Preached at 7:30. Lesson text, 1st King's 17:13.

Closed in Order until 8:30 Friday morning.

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### FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

House called to order by the Moderator.

Scripture Lesson, 3rd chapter of James.

Prayer by Rev. C. C. Martin.

Renewed the call for Petitionary Letters, received as follows:

New Hope Church was received. Delegates, W. C. Burton, D. C. McGrady and O. E. Forsyth.

Mill Spring Church — H. M. Darby.

Renewed the call for correspondents. None.

Committee on Ministers and Churches—W. H. Shores, H. W. Darby, D. C. McGrady, R. T. Thursby and J. A. Johnson.

Called for report of committees:

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## REPORT OF COMMITTEES

### COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

Committee on Resolutions was read and received, as follows: First section was tabled.



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Second section was received and read as follows:  
"That we hold an annual meeting to discuss or explain the different points of doctoring. We also urge that this meeting be held on the Fifth Sunday and that all Pastors and Deacons attend when it possible and all others who will.

We recommend that Article 21 be removed from the Decorum and the Resolution be substituted in its place. We recommend that the Decorum be printed annually, together with the Articles of Faith, in the minutes of the Association.

### COMMITTEE ON AUXILIARIES

We find that the Churches are in better working condition, which have Leagues, Sunday Schools and Ladies Aides. These are the great arms of the Church and should be put into more churches. We notice that the Churches are in better spiritual condition and have had more additions to them.

We find that out of 16 Churches, we have 6 Sunday Schools, with 294 scholars; 3 Leagues, with 165 pupils, and 2 Aides with 26 members.

We earnestly ask the Preachers and Deacons to encourage this work in the Churches, for they do not get along very well without some encouragement.

11 o'clock, sermon by K. V. Shoops. Prayer by Bro. Norris. Scripture Lesson Romans 10th chapter 14: 15.

Dismissed one hour for noon.

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### FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

House called to order by the Moderator. Prayer by Bro. Martin.

Correspondents appointed to Sisterly Associations as follows:

To Salem—Henry Mears and G. W. Owens.

To Midway—C. I. Wells and J. L. Anderson.

To Union Hill—C. I. Wells and J. W. Barefoot.

## COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND PUBLICATIONS

Report of committee on Education and Publications, as follows:

We, the committee, ask to make the following report. First, we realize the need of trained Church workers and the conditions of our institutions. We recommend a more definite stand for Christian Education and Literary training.

Second, we recommend Zion Bible School as a fundamental Bible institution, also, we pray that our people give Zion Bible School their moral support.

Third, we endorse, for study and practice, the greatest and disceptin of the General Conference of original Free Will Baptists. Also, church members be careful as to kind of books purchased from book salesmen and kind of literature purchased for home reading.

Relative to Sunday School and League literature, we find our publication at Ayden, N. C., orthodox and fundamental in Biblical knowledge and truth.

## COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE

We beg to make the following report.

1st. We believe, that intemperance is destructive of the usefulness of man as a servant of God, therefore, we ask that every one be temperate in all things.

2nd. That all men totally abstain from the use of strong drinks. Solomon says, in the 20th chapter of Proverbs, 1st verse, "wine is a mockery, strong drink is raging whosoever is guilty thereby is not wise." So we see, wise men will not drink it at all, as a beverage.

W. M. MARTIN, Chairman.

## COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Cowart's Creek gets the next session of the Association. Bro. A. B. Nelson to preach the Introductory sermon. The Union meeting goes to Mt. Glory, near Quincy, Fla. Bro. A. L. Pate to preach the Introductory sermon.

J. W. NELSON, Chairman.

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### COMMITTEE ON CHURCHES AND PREACHERS

We, your committee, have investigated, the best we could, on Churches and Preachers, find them all in good standing and as we have no church to go to, we recommend that the Association turn Bro. Hudson's case over to the Executive Committee, for further consideration.

W. H. SHORES, Chairman.

### RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT

The Free Will Baptist Church at Piney Grove, met with a serious loss, on March 18, 1932, when Bro. Isaac Shores, one of our most loyal members, passed into the Great Beyond, where rest, joy and peace await those who die in the Lord.

Therefore, be it resolved, that we bow our heads in humble submission to the will of him that doeth all things well.

Brother Shores joined the Piney Grove Church, July 1928, and lived a faithful member until death.

Respectfully,

Free Will Baptist Church, of Piney Grove

Second, That we bow in humbleness to the Divine will of our Heavenly Father, who giveth and taketh away.

Sister Owens married Dec. 20, 1921. was the mother of four boys. Robert, Carl, Clyde and Wesley Earl. We extend to her loved ones our deepest sympathy.

She joined the church at Piney Grove, July 1921, and lived a faithful member until death.

Very Respectfully,

Free Will Baptist Church of Piney Grove

The Free Will Baptist Church, of Piney Grove, met with a serious loss on March 28, 1932, when Sister Kincy Owens, one of our most active members, passed into the Great Beyond, where peace awaits those who die in the Lord. Therefore, be it resolved,

First, That our Church appreciates the sacred influ-

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ences for good, of our departed Sister, while we feel our great loss, realizing that her place will be hard to fill.

We find that the Death Angel has visited Cowart's Creek, taking two of our members.

Spring Hill Church has lost Sister Elizabeth Pate, faithful wife of Rev. A. L. Pate.

The Death Angel has visited Liberty Church, taking Rev. J. M. McDaniels and Sister Viney Simmons.

Respectfully,

Sister R. J. Pendarvis, Chairman,  
Sister Mollie Anderson,  
Sister Beatrice Owens

St. John's Church has lost Bro. J. A. Anderson, Bro. Henry Darck and Sister Annie Chance.

Blountstown Church has lost Sister Ella Knight. We, the members of Blountstown Church, feel the loss of Sister Knight. She was one of our most active members, she was a Mother in Christ. We extend to her loved ones, our deepest sympathy and bow in submission to the Father's will.

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### FINANCE REPORT

We find on hand.....\$24.66

We find in Treasury..... 4.40

Total .....\$29.06

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Moved and seconded, that the Executive Committee call for Bro. Joe Hudson's Credentials.

It is ordered that each Church pay their dues to the General Conference.

Bro. Parish made a move and it was carried that each member pay ten cents for Associational purpose.



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### RESOLUTION OF THANKS

We, the Delegates and Mesengers of the Liberty Association, do heartily thank the good people of St. John's for their good care for us while with them, during the association. May God bless one and all for their kindness and care rendered us

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### GENERAL BUSINESS

Ordered to print 300 minutes.

Ordered to pay clerk \$4.00,

Executive Committee appointed: A. L. Pate, chairman; T. D. Owens, Bennett Cook, C. C. Martin and A. J. Pitts.

Poley Branch was received by proxy.



## ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Call for Corresponding Letters and Enrollment of Delegates.
3. Electing a Moderator and Clerk.
4. Call for Petitionary Letters.
5. Call for Correspondents from Sisterly Association.
6. Appointing of Committees.
7. Appointing of Correspondents.
8. Reading of Corresponding Letters.
9. Hearing Report of Committee.
10. Miscellaneous Business.

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## NAMES OF ORDAINED MINISTERS

A. L. PATE .....	Bonifay, Fla.
A. B. NELSON .....	Bonifay, Fla.
C. I. WELLS .....	Graceville, Fla.
M. L. HALL .....	Bonifay, Fla.
J. H. CHESTNUT .....	Bonifay, Fla.
G. W. ENGLISH .....	Chipley, Fla.
S. E. CARROLL .....	Hartford, Ala.
J. C. CARNLEY .....	Bonifay, Fla.
W. A. CLARK .....	Black, Ala.
W. M. DUNCAN .....	Blountstown, Fla.
J. I. CHASON .....	Crescent City, Fla.
C. C. MARTIN .....	Blountstown, Fla.
W. M. MARTIN .....	Bonifay, Fla.
W. C. BURTON .....	Crescent City, Fla.



## STATISTICAL TABLE

Churches and Pastors	Clerk	Baptism	By Letter	Restored	Total Received	Dis. by Letter	Expelled	Died	Membership	Day of Meeting
P'y Grove, J. C. Eldridge	T. D. Owens, Caipley, Fla.....	7	0	3	10	3	0	2	114	2nd Sunday
C'arts Creek, C. C. Martin	J. C. Fowler, Dothan, Ala.....	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	88	4th Sunday
Poplar Head, A. L. Pate..	A. F. Squires, Bonifay, Fla.....	0	2	0	2	3	0	0	43	1st Sunday
Liberty, A. B. Nelson .....	J. Toster, Vernon, Fla .....	0	0	1	0	3	0	2	20	3rd Sunday
St. Paul, A. L. Pate.....	J. L. Gainey, Vernon, Fla.....	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	41	4th Sunday
New Har'y, John Walchob	Roy Hughes, Chipley, Fla.....	8	3	1	9	8	8	0	27	1st Sunday
St John, J. C. Eldridge....	J. E. Sims, Bonifay, Fla.....	17	3	0	20	0	0	2	132	3rd Sunday
Blountstown, C. I. Wells	T. E. Parish, Blountstown, Fla	0	8	0	8	1	6	1	99	3rd Sunday
Pl'nt Hill, A. B. Nelson....	W. G. Lawrence, Bonifay, Fla	7	1	0	8	2	6	0	42	4th Sunday
Spring Hill, L. C. Mixon	J. L. Smith, Bonifay, Fla.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	80	2nd Sunday
Mt. Glory, M. H. Conger.	Mrs. J. A. Taylor, Quincy, Fla	3	0	1	4	0	3	0	33	4th Sunday
Mill Spgs., D. P. Mathews	Aver Edwards, Sneads, Fla...	6	7	9	22	0	11	0	11	3rd Sunday
New Hope, J. I. Chason..	W. C. Burton, Crescent City, Fla	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	
Noma, C. I. Wells.....	J. T. Birge, Graceville, Fla.....	0	0	0	0	4	0	3	63	

## CHURCH DECORUM

1. The church may choose a pastor annually at last conference in Association year, or, if they prefer, may choose a pastor for an indefinite length of time to continue from year to year as 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 Moderator of church, but when the Moderator, being present, same is absent, or does not sit, a suitable brother shall be appointed in his place.

4. There shall be two or more deacons in the church whose duty it shall be to superintend the collection and distribution of all contributions made for pastor, etc., and to distribute the bread and 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 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 preserve a file of the minutes of the Association.

7. When a clerk is appointed all the books, minutes, etc., belonging to the clerk shall be immediately turned over to him by his predecessor.

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



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

10. It shall be the duty of every member, male or female to attend each conference, 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 church doctrine, discipline and rules of holy living.

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

12. Conference shall be opened as follows: First prayer, unless divine service has just been concluded, and generally then; Second, invite visiting brethren to seats with us; Third open the doors for reception to members; Fourth, call for absentees; Fifth, for acknowledgements; Sixth, for references or deferred business; Seventh, for matters of dealing which are in order to come before the church; Eight, for miscellaneous business.

13. Visiting brethren called in as help from other churches shall be allowed to vote.

14. An ordinary member of a Baptist church which does not hold this church in fellowship, may be received into this church without a letter when it is made apparent that his Christian character is unrepachable and that he has applied for a letter and could not obtain it because he wanted to join this or some sister church. All other persons must join by letter or baptism.

15. We receive members by experience or baptism; on confession of faith; by letter or restoration.

16. When the Moderator calls for absentees the Clerk

shall inform the church what male members have been absent from three successive conferences, and the Moderator shall appoint some brother or brethren to cite each of them 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 the church, is introduced he shall not be examined until the question has been put to the church: "Will you hear the testimony of the witness?"

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

20. Members dismissed from the church by the letter who become disorderly or continue to hold their letter without 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.

22. A vote shall not be taken on any question without a move and second, and on 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 a member to absent himself from conference when an important question is to be decided; but a member upon 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 a sufficient excuse, nor engage in conversation or whispering, without being subjected to be called to

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order by the Moderator.

26. All discussion in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feeling. Those who speak must rise to their feet and keep to the point in debate.

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

28. When the Moderator speaks he must nominate some brother as Moderator in his stead.

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

30. We believe it to be the duty of the church to communicate, wash the saint's feet as often as the church sees fit, the expenses to be paid by the church.

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

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

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### ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe there is but one living and true God, whose name is Jehovah, the maker and ruler of the universe.—1st Cor. 8:6; 1st Tim. 2:5:6.

2. We believe that there is one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and by whom salvation is made secure—Heb. 2:9; St. John 3:16; 1st John 2:2.

3. We believe that in the beginning that God made man upright and placed him in a state of glory, without the least mixture of misery from which he voluntarily, by transgression fell, and by that means brought on himself, a miserable and mortal state, subject to death.—Genesis 2:17; 3:19.

4. We believe that no man shall suffer in hell for the lack of Christ.—Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; 1st Tim. 2:4.

5. We believe that the holy scriptures are the word of God and they are the only rule of faith and practice.—Acts 17:30; Heb. 3:10; 1st John 5:10.

6. We believe that sinners are drawn to God, the Father, by the Holy Ghost through Jesus Christ, the Son.—2nd Tim. 3:16-17.

7. We believe that good works are the fruits of faith and faith without work is dead.—Luke 14:16; Math. 28:19; Luke 13:3-5; Acts 3:19-38; St. Mark 1:15.

8. We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free and attainable by all mankind.—Math. 11:27-30; St. John 6:44-65; Psalms 1:1; Titus 2:11-12.

9. We believe that Commemoration and Feet Washings are the ordinances of Christ and immersion only is baptism —St. John 13:1; Tim. 5:6; Psalms 28: 17

10. We believe that all Christians should unite in performing the sacred ordinances.—Rom. 12:4-5.

11. That the end of the world is approaching when Christ will descend from Heaven and raise the dead from their graves to final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place, the righteous being adjudged to everlasting happiness and the wicked to endless punishment and this judgement will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.—Rev. 22:12; St. John 14:2-3.

