Minutes Taken at the Annual Conferences, 1795

Methodist Episcopal Church.

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MINUTES
TAKEN AT THE SEVERAL ANNUAL CONFERENCES OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,
FOR THE YEAR 1795.

Quest. 1. Who are admitted on trial?

Quest. 2. Who remain on trial?

Quest. 3. Who are admitted into full connection?

Quest. 4. Who are the deacons?

Quest. 5. Who are the elders?

Quest. 6. Who have been elected by the unanimous suffrages of the General Conference to superintend the Methodist Episcopal Church in America?
Thomas Coke, Francis Asbury—2.

Quest. 7. Who are under a location through weakness of body or family concerns?

Quest. 8. What preachers have withdrawn themselves this year from our order and connection?
Jordan Rexford, Menzies Rainer, James Boyd—3.

Quest. 9. Who have died this year?
1. Hardy Herbert,—a native of North Carolina, and brought up in South Carolina, on the banks of Broad River. He professed faith in Christ at sixteen years of age. He began to travel early, and laboured in the work of God about six years: during which time he passed through several circuits in the states of South Carolina, Georgia, and the north side of Virginia. He was a youth of genius, and pleasing as a speaker; an easy and natural elocution. He was proveable and economical in his employment. He was sentimental and plain, not given to dissimulation. He was
obedient to those who had the rule over him. He was loved and esteemed by the bishop, and his presiding elder, and brethren. He was himself an elder in the church of God. Finding his constitution weak, he wished to decline travelling at large, as he had suffered much in affliction. He hoped to maintain the connexion as a teacher. Moved by one that had a very great influence over him, he went to Norfolk, to improve himself in French and other studies. There he married, soon after sickness, and after a short illness died, we have good reason to believe in the fear, favour, and love of God,—earned off by a bilious fever. He changed this state of sorrow and suffering in the twenty-fifth year of his age, November 20th, 1794.

2. John Ahair,—a native of North Carolina; a meek-spirited, holy, zealous man. Weak in body, strong in faith and love, three years wholly given up to the work. He departed this life in November, 1794;—sweetly slept in Jesus, after a short and happy life, aged about twenty-six years.

"And let this feeble body fail,
And let it faint or die;
My soul shall quietly sleep,
As sweet as worlds on high."

3. Thomas Boyd,—a deserin in the church. He was a native of Europe, and died near the head of the Tonnolloway Creek, in Bedford county, Penn., in the fourth year of his labours. He was a man of tender spirit, and much afflicted before his death; but went to his long home in peace, after giving strong proof of his piety by an innocent, holy life, and conversation.

4. Emory Prior,—an elder in the church. He was a native of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, and died in May, 1795, having been about six years a suffering labourer in the vineyard of the Lord. A man of a very slender constitution, much affliction, and nearly disabled for the service of the sanctuary for four years last past. He was one of an excellent spirit and sound judgment; an Israelite indeed; worn out with affliction, and closed his feeble life on earth with a death answerable to his life, in sweet peace and consolation. He was known to many, that his temper and spirit were a continual comment on, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." Aged about forty-five years.

5. Simon Miller,—a native of Pennsylvania, born in Lancaster county; a German by descent. He laboured faithfully for four years through parts of Pennsylvania. A man of genuine piety, deep experience, and useful gifts: could speak both in German and English. Had he loved his ease, or a comfortable living, he had it at home; but the love of God and souls moved him to spread the gospel. He departed this life at Milford, in the state of Delaware, in September, 1795, not a little lamented.

Quest. 10. Are all the preachers blameless in life and conversation?

Their characters were strictly examined, one by one, before the Conference.

Quest. 11. What numbers are in Society in Virginia?

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<td>200 10 Preachers 313.</td>
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Quest. 12. How are the preachers stationed?

Nelson Reed, Elder.
Harford, James Campbell, John Seward.
Baltimore Town, John McClaskey, six months.
Baltimore cir., Morris Howe, Elijah McCay, six months.
Federall, Benton Riggin, Samuel Tarr.
Annapolis, Joseph Wyatt.
Calvert, John Milburn, Elijah McCay.
Prince George's, Robert Sparks.
Huntingdon, Robert Bonham, Thomas Edwards.
Frederick, Charles Buros, Deeed Cup.
Bath, Edward Rockoldt, Wm. McCollum.
Montgomery, John Calhams, William Bishop.
Carlisle, Joshua Jones, Resin Cash.
Lemuel Green, Elder.
Alexandria, Lemuel Green.
Fairfax, John Bloodgood, Lewis Browning.
Lexanre, Nathaniel B. Mills, James L. Higgins.
Stafford, Hamilton Jefferson, Edmund Wayman, to change after six months.

Joshua Wells, Elder.
Berkley, Andrew Nichols, Thos. Lucas.
Winchester, William McLenahan, Thomas Lucas, last six months.
Rockingham, Seely Bann.
Pendleton, Ephraim Chambers.
Charles Conaway, Elder.
Clarksburg, James Fleming, Henry Smith.
Ohio, Samuel Hitt, Thos. Haymond.
Union School, John H. Reynolds.
Washington, Thos. Lylell, Samuel Welsh.
Redstone, Daniel Hitt, John Philips.
Putnam, John Watson, Richard Ferguson.
Josiah Askew, Elder.
Greenbrier, James Jones.
Cowpasture, William Ball.
Bottetourt, Joel Tucker, Josiah Cole.
Bedford, William McKennedy, Thomas Wilkerson, to change in six months.
John Baldwin, Book Steward.
Renben Ellis, Elder.
Amherst, John Bonner, Philip Sands.
Hanover, Wm. Bellamy, Samuel Rudder.
Gloucester, Robert Cox, Edmund Ellis.
Williamsburg, James Tolleson, Henry M. Gaines.
Ira Ellis, Elder.
Cumberland, Stith Mead, Archer Moody.
Amelia, Hezekiah Arnold, John Weeks.
Greensville, Bennet Maxey, B. Blanton.
H. Wood.
Brunswick, John N. Jones, Williams Karran.
Bertie, Henry Merritt, Wm. Hulon.
Portsmouth, Daniel Southall, William Douglass.
Cameron, Edward Hardy.
North and Portsmouth, Stephen Davis.
Salathiel Weeks, Book Steward.
William Spencer, Elder.
Swano, Abner Henley, Leonard Dyson.
Yadkin, Henry Hill, Charles Ledbetter.
Salisbury, David Thompson, William Kenyon.
Union, John Clark, Samuel Risher.
Anson, William Moss.
James Meachem, Elder.
Guiford, Daniel Dean, Wm. Wilkerson.
Minutes for 1795.


Thomas Bowen, Book Steward. Anson, William Moss, to change in six months.

Little Pee Dee, G. Clark, J. Patterson, to change in six months.

Great Pee Dee, John Russell, to change in six months.

Philip Bruce, Elder. Charleston, Philip Bruce.


Burke, Josias Randle, Chas. Tankerly. Jonathan Jackson, Elder.


Broad River, Samuel Cowles, Jas. Jenkin.


Charleston, Enoch George, J. Rogers, Henry Hill, three months each. Broad River, third quarter, Enoch George, Henry Hill.

Edisto, third quarter, James Jenkin, J. Douthet.

Bush River, Samuel Cowles, third quarter. Seleta, John Simmons, fourth quarter.

Salisbury, second quarter, Samuel Risher.

Yadkin, third quarter, David Thompson. Union, Jesse Richardson, Daniel Asbury.

Francis Poythress, Elder. Cumberland, Wm. Burke, Peter Guthrie.

Salt River, J. Baxton, W. Duzza, B. M'Henry.

Davie, Francis Acuff.


Limestone, John Page.


Bottetourt, William M'Kendree, last six months; Samuel Mitchell, E. Mitchell. Bedford, John Ray, last six months.

Sussex, Joel Tucker, last six months.

Joshua Wells, Elder. Rockingham, J. Jones, last six months; L. Moore.

Winchester, Andrew Nichols, Thomas Lucas.

Berkley, Lasley Matthews, Seely Bunn. Allegany, Ephilam Chambers, William Ball.

Pendleton, Wm. McLennan, W. Beam.


Little York, Morris Howe, Rezin Cash. Harford, Samuel Tarr, Curtis Williams.

Burke, Joshua Jones, W. Page, John Seward.

Baltimore Town, Nelson Reed.


Federal, Benton Riggin, Frederick Corp. Calvert, Robert Sparks.

Prince George's, John Miburn.


Boston, John Harper, to change in six months.

Lynn, George Pickering, to change in six months.

Marblehead, James Covel. Provincetown, George Cannon.

Readfield, Enoch Mudge, Elias Hall.

Penobsoc, Joshua Hall.

Portland, Philip Wager.

Orange, Thomas Coope.

Tolland, Christopher Spry, Nicholas Snethen.

Granville, Lemuel Smith, Zebulon Kane.

Litchfield, Jesse Stoneman, Joseph Mitchell.

Middletown, Evan Rogers, Joel Ketchum. Pomfret, Daniel Ostrander, Nathaniel Chapin.

New-London, Amos G. Thompson, L. M'Combs.


New-York, Wilson Lee, John Clark, six months.

Long Island, Sylvester Hutchinson, six months.

Brooklyn, Joseph Totten, six months.


Pittsfield, Robert Green.

Thomas Ware, Elder. Cambridge, Samuel Fowler, Ezekiel Canfield.

Herkimer, Smith Weeks. Ostege, John Finnegan.

Delaware, David Bartine, Jeremiah Ballard.


Newburgh, Matthias Swaim, David Buc.

Flanders, John Fountain, Robert Dillon.

John Merrick, Elder. Salem, Moses Crane, Jacob Eggert.


Trenton, John Ragan, Joshua Taylor.

Elizabethtown, S. Bostwick, R. Hutchinson.

Weston, W. Storms.

Freehold, Anthony Turek, Daniel Crouch.

Oswego, James Coleman.

Bay Quintes, Elijah Woolsey, Sylvanus Keele.

Niagara, Darius Dunham.

Philadelphia, John M'Cleskey, Ezekiel Cooper.

Bristol, Wm. Hardesty, Joseph Rowen.


Wilmingtom, Fredus Aldridge.

Valentine Cook, Elder.

Northumberland, James Ward, Stephen Timmons.

Wyoming, Alward White.

Toga and Seneca, Joseph Whitby, John Lackey.

Richard Whatcoat, Elder.

of the name of the Lord; the contempt of the sabbath, even by those who acknowledge the obligation we are under to keep it holy, for many make no distinction between this and a common day, and others make a very bad distinction, by sleeping, walking, visiting, talking about the world, and taking their pleasure; too many also, in many parts of the country, profane the sacred day, by running their land and water stages, wagons, &c.; disobedience to parents, various debaucherries, drunkenness, and such like; to lament the deep-rooted vassalage that still reigneth in many parts of these free, independent, United States; to call upon the Lord to direct our rulers, and teach our senators wisdom; that the Lord would teach our people a just and lawful submission to their rulers; that America may not commit abominations with other corrupt nations of the earth, and partake of their sins and their plagues; that the gospel may be preached with more purity, and be heard with more affection; and that he would stop the growing infidelity of this age, by calling out men who shall preach and live the gospel; that the professors may believe the truths, feel the power, partake of the blessings, breathe the spirit, and obey the precepts of this glorious gospel dispensation; that Africans and Indians may help to fill the pure church of God.

GENERAL THANKSGIVING.

It is recommended, by the general ministry, to all our dearly beloved brethren and sisters that compose our societies and sacred assemblies, to observe the last Thursday in October, 1796, as a day of holy gratitude and thanksgiving; to lay aside the cares of the world, and to spend the day in acts of devotional gratitude: as a society, to give glory to God for his late goodness to the ancient parent society from whom we are derived; that they have been honoured with the conversion of hundreds and thousands within these two years last past; for such a signal display of his power in the Methodist society, within the space of twenty-six years, through the continent of America, as may be seen in the volume of our annual Minutes, published in 1795;* for the late glorious and powerful work we have had in Virginia and Maryland, and which still continues in an eminent and special manner in some parts of our American connection; for the many faithful public witnesses which have been raised up, and that so few (comparatively speaking) have dishonored their holy calling; that we have had so many drawn from the depth of sin and misery to the heights of love and holiness among the subjects of grace, numbers of whom are now living, and others have died in the full and glorious triumph of faith; to take into remembrance the goodness and wisdom of God displayed toward America, by making it an asylum for those who are distressed in Europe with war and want, and oppressed with ecclesiastic and civil tyranny; the merciful termination of our various wars; the pacifications of the savage tribes; and the rapid settlement and wonderful population of the continent; that we have been able to feed so many thousands at home and abroad; that we have had such faithful, wise, and skilful rulers; that we have such good constitutions formed for the respective states; for the general union and government, that this may be kept pure and permanent; for the admirable revolution, obtained and established at so small a price of blood and treasure; that religious establishments by law are condemned and exploded in almost every spot of this extensive empire. And for African liberty; we feel gratitude that many thousands of these poor people are free and pious.

* That volume is now included in this.