Minutes Taken at the Annual Conferences, 1796

Methodist Episcopal Church.
MINUTES

TAKEN AT THE SEVERAL ANNUAL CONFERENCES OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,
FOR THE YEAR 1796.

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 What preachers have withdrawn themselves this year from our order and connection?

William Ball, John Clark.—2.

Quest. 9. Who have been expelled from our connection for immoral conduct?

Richard Ferguson.

Quest. 10. Who have died this year?

1. Jacob Brush,—a native of Long Island. His name had an acceptable standing upon our Minutes from the year 1765 till his death. He was an active man of God, a great friend to order and union. He exerted himself much in his labours, but had long been subject to an inflammatory sore throat, which prevented his usefulness from being so extensive as he wished. He died in New-York, of the small-pox in the month of September, 1795, about the thirty-third year of his age. As his last illness was so severe, we can give very little account of the state of his mind in his latter moments: he was principally in a stupor, or unable to speak. However, just before he died, a preacher who was present took him by the hand, and asked him if he was happy. Not being able to speak, he gave his hand an affectionate squeeze, with an expression in his appearance of a calm resignation to God. We entertain no doubt but his rest is in Abraham's bosom.

2. Stephen Davis,—a native of Gloucester county, in Virginia. He died in August, 1795, about the thirtieth year of his age. He had travelled in the itinerant connection about seven years. A man of established piety and great strength of memory. He was persuaded to take a part with some who sought to divide a part of the connection in Virginia; but soon recovered his erring judgment. For several years he faithfully and successfully defended the order and government of the church, and promoted the union of the body. Industry and frugality were his constant companions; he wrought diligently with his own hands, and left what he possessed to the management of his brethren in the ministry, for the support and help of the travelling preachers. We have reason to believe, as he lived many years in Christ, so in Jesus he died. His mother was a child of God; her house was the first that was opened in Gloucester county for our preachers; from which there was a gracious spread of the gospel throughout the country, which still continues in a lively flame.

3. William Jessop,—a native of Sussex county, in Delaware state. He was a follower of Jesus about fifteen years, and a travelling preacher from the year 1784 till his death. A man of great simplicity and gospel sincerity. He laboured beyond his bodily strength. He had travelled in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New-York; also a considerable time in N. Carolina. He was patient in his affliction, and happy in his death. He died in Lancaster county, Penn., the latter end of the year 1795.

4. Reuben Ellis,—about twenty years in the travelling connection, during which time he travelled and preached through Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North and South Carolina, and Georgia. A man of slow, but very sure and solid parts, both as a counsellor and a guide. In his preaching weighty and powerful; a man of simplicity and godly sincerity. He was a faithful friend; he sought not himself. During twenty years' labour, to our knowledge, he never laid up twenty pounds by preaching:—his horse, his clothing, and immediate necessaries, were all he appeared to want of the world. And although he married in the last year of his life, he, like a Fletcher, lived as on the verge of eternity, enjoying much of the presence of God. He was a native of North Carolina; a man large in body, but slender in constitution. A few years before his death he was brought to the gates of eternity, and the fall before his dissolution was reduced very low by affliction; but he was always ready to fill any station to which he was appointed, although he might go through the fire of temptation and waters of affliction. The people in South Carolina well knew his excellent worth as a Christian and a minister of Christ. His last station was in Baltimore, where he ended his warfare in the month of February, 1796. His way opened to his everlasting rest, and he closed his eyes to see his God. It is a doubt whether there be one left in all the connection higher, if equal, in standing, piety, and usefulness.

5. Richard Ivy,—eighteen years in the work; a native of Sussex county, in Virginia. He travelled extensively through Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North and South Carolina, and Georgia. A man of quick and solid parts. He sought not himself any more than a Pedicord, a Gill, or a Tunnell; men well known to our connection, who never thought of growing rich by the gospel; their great concern and business was to be rich in good works, and useful to souls. Thus Ivy, a man of affliction, lingered out his latter days, spending his all, with his life, in the work. Exclusive of his patrimony, he was indebted at his death. He died in his native county, in Virginia, in the latter part of the year 1795.

His race it is run,—his sorrows are over; his work it is done—he'll suffer no more.

6. Francis Acuff,—three years a travelling preacher; a young man of genius and improvable parts, and apparently of a firm constitution;—was much beloved, and greatly lamented by his family and Christian friends. He was born in Culpepper county, and brought up in Sullivan county, near Holston, in the state of Tennessee. He died in August, 1793, near Danville, in the state of Kentucky, in the twenty-fifth year of his age. Thus dropped the morning flower: though flourishing in the morning, in the evening cut down and withered. He was soon called away from his labours in the vineyard to the rest that remaineth for the people of God.

7. John Jarrell,—a man of an honest heart, and faithful in his labours. Considering his family charge, and the affliction and weakness of his body, he served the church of God in an almost unexpected manner. He travelled all the circuits in Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland, including the whole peninsula. He preserved a Christian and ministerial character; was a plain and lively preacher; a friend to discipline, order, and union. He died in Wilmington, Delaware, in June 1796. He had been travelling and preaching about ten years. His last illness was short. In his life and in his death his preaching was, Be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. He had an unshaken confidence and great peace and joy in the Lord Jesus Christ, as they who were with him in his last hours can testify.

8. Zadok Priest,—a native of Connecticut, who left his friends and connections to travel and preach the gospel, in which work he was faithfully employed for about two years and a half, but was taken with a discharge of blood, which increased to such a degree that he was obliged to desist travelling the circuit as a preacher where he was appointed. He then returned home to his friends; but his disorder increased, and terminated in a consumption. He returned to Warren circuit, in Rhode Island state, and from thence to Norton, in Massachusetts, where he was confined about three weeks, in which time he expressed a strong confidence in the favour of God, and had no doubt of being helped by reason of his affliction he did not feel that joy in the Lord he had done at other
times. He died in peace on the 22d of June, 1796, in the twenty-seventh year of his age.

9. Benjamin Abbott,—about twenty years in the society, several years as a local preacher. Eight or ten years of his life he travelled considerably through York, Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland. He was a man of a childlike simplicity and sincerity, of great faith and unshaken confidence in God. Touching his ministry, he was not skilled in the refinements of language or arts of eloquence, yet has often been heard with great astonishment on the Spirit and with great power. He was owned of God as an instrument of convincing, converting, and sanctifying power to many souls. He laboured with great weakness toward the last; and although a strong man in body, brought down to childlike weakness, and lingered out his days in pain. He died August, 1796. Perhaps he was one of the wonders of America, no man's copy, an uncommon zealot for the blessed work of sanctification, and preached it on all occasions, and in all congregations; and, what was best of all, lived it. He was an innocent, holy man. He was seldom heard to speak about any thing but God and the wonders of America, no man's copy, and we trust the sacred of the Lamb with him to all eternity. Several revivals have taken place by his means, and he has employed the powers of faith and the Holy Ghost. His last labours were upon the Eastern Shore of Maryland, where many will remember him for years to come, and will, we hope and trust, about the praises of God and the Lamb with him to all eternity. Several revivals have taken place by his means, sometimes upon the hearts of the preachers and people; yea, we trust the sacred flame still spreads on the much-favoured peninsula, begun chiefly by his instrumentality. His life was pressed out as Trenton 154 16 Norfolk and Preachers 293. Greenbrier, William Spencer.

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Chesterfield | 69
Kent | 194
Lynn | 111
Marblehead | 22
Needham | 84
Pittsfield | 230
Provincetown | 45

Rhode Island.

New York.

Connecticut.

New York.

Delaware.

New Jersey.

New Jersey.

Elizabethtown.

Pennsylvania.

Baltimore, Joshua Joaes, Seely Burn, T. Lyell.
Baltimore Town, William Jessop, Andrew Nichols, three months; Henry Willis, John Hagerty.
Fell's Point, Nelson Reed, Joseph Wyatt. Harford, John Milburn, Robert Bonham.
Federal, Lemuel Green, N. B. Mills, S. Hirst.
Montgomery, J. Bloodgood, D. Martin, A. Garrettson.
Frederick, S. G. Rossel, L. Matthews, J. Cromwell.
Huntingdon, Wm. M'Leannah, Benjamin Essex.
Little York, Charles Burgoon, Thomas Edwards.
Joshua Wells, Elder.
Barker, Ephraim Chambers, H. Harriman.
Allegany, Wm. Bishop, Thos. Curry.
Berkley, Curtis Williams, Frederick Corp.
Winchester, Wm. Talbot, J. Cullison, J. Pitts.
Rockingham, Samuel Walsh.
Pendleton, Hamilton Jefferson.
Fairfax, Moris Howe, John Chalmers.
Stafford, Levin Moore, John Potts.
Lancaster, Robert Sparks, Thos. Lucas.
Daniel Hitt, Elder.
Clarksburg, Hitt, Wm. Page.
Ohio, Andrew Nicholson, John Seward.
Redstone, C. Conaway, T. Hayden, J. Fell.
Huntingdon, William Beauchamp.
William M'Kendree, Elder.
Orange, David Thompson, Lewis Garrett.
Amherst, John Ray, Humphrey Wood.
Hanover, Stith Mead.
Williamsburg, William M'Kendree, John Bonner.
William Spencer, Elder.
Greenbrier, William Spencer.
Bedford, Pemberton Smith.
Bottetourt, Richard Bird, Wm. Brittain.
Cumberland, John Fore, Williams Kavanagh.
Brunswick, Bennet Maxey, H. M. Gains, I. Ellis.
Amelia, Isaac Lansford, Wm. A. Lilly.
Bertie, J. Hunter, E. Ellis, D. Southall.
Portsmouth, Robert Cox, Joseph Pinnell.
Cumberland, John Buxton, Wm. Duzan.
Logan, Aquila Sugg.
Guilford, William Burke.
Joshua Hall.
Lynn, James Covel.
Marblehead, George Cannon.
Chesterfield, Philip Wager.
Portland, Jesse Stoneeman.
Readfield, Cyrus Stebbins, John Brodhead.
Bath, Enoch Mudge.
Penobscot, Elias Hall.
Provincetown, Robert Yallaley.
Kennebeek, Aaron Humphrey.
Vernshire, Nicholas Snetheen.
Freeborn Garrettson, and Sylvester Hutchinson, Elders.
New-London, Nathaniel Chapin, Timothy Merritt.
Pomfret, Joel Ketchem, Daniel Brumly.
Middletown, Joshua Taylor, Lawrence M'Combs.
Tolland, Evan Rogers, Thomas Coote.
Litchfield, Daniel Dennis, Wesley Buud.
Granville, Joseph Mitchell, Ralph Williston.
Redding, Elijah Woolsey, Robert Leeds.
Cambridge and Saratoga, Shadrach Bostwick, Smith Weeks, Roger Searle.
Pittsfield, Timothy Dewy.
Columbia, Samuel Ceste, Jeremiah Ballard.
Dutchess, Peter Moriaty, Samuel Fowles.
New-Rochelle and Croton, Joseph Tottens.
David Brown, Ezekiel Canfield.
Long Island, John Clark, Jacob Rickhow.
David Buck, William Phewius.
New-York, George Roberts, Andrew Nichols.
John M'Closkey, Elder.
Salem, Robert McCoy, Peter Vannest.
Bethel, John Ragan, Anthony Turek.
Burlington, Benjamin Fisler.
Trenton, David Bartine, Roger Benton.
Freehold, Richard Swain, Robert Hutchinson.
Elizabethtown, John Fountain, Albert Van Nostrand.
Flanders, Thos. Woolsey, Samuel Thomas.
Newburg, Jacob Egbert, John Finnegan.
Delaware, Zenas Conger, Daniel Crouch.
Herkimer, William Storrs.
Albany, Robert Green, Joseph Lovell.
Darius Dunham, Elder.
Bay Quisite, Samuel Coate.

Oswaysettle, Hezekiah C. Wooster.
Niagara, James Coleman.
Christopher Spry, Elder.
Cecil, William Hunter, Fredus Aldridge.
Kent, Zebulon Kankey, David Stevens.
Queen Ann's, Wm. M'Lenahan, Richard Stockett.
Caroline, Seely Bunn, Robert Bonham.
Talbot, Robert Hardesty, John Falcom.
Dorchester, Charles Cavender, Archibald Foster.
Annemaries, William Beauchamp, John Lackey.
Somerset, John Milburn, Joseph Jewell.
Milford, Solomon Sharp, John Robinson.
Dover, John Smith, Isaac Robinson.
Solomon Covington, Book Steward.
Valentine Cook, Elder.
Clarksburg, R. Manley, H. Harriman, T. Raymond.
Ohio, Shadrach Johnson, Jonathan Bate man.
Redstone, James L. Maney, Charles Conaway.
Pittsburg, John Cullison.
Greenfield, James Smith, Jas. Lattomus.
Thomas Ware, Elder.
John Dickins, Book Steward.
Chester, Thomas Bell, Samuel Welch.
Wilmington, John Vanneman.
Strasburgh, Ephraim Chambers, James Stokes.
Northumberland, John Seward, Richard Sneate.
Wyoming, Alward White.
Tioga, Michael H. R. Wilson.
Seneica, Hamilton Jefferson, Anning Owen.
Bristol, Wm. Colbert, Joseph Whitby.
Joseph Everett, Elder.
Baltimore Town, Daniel Hitch.
Harford, Samuel Hitt, Thomas Lucas.
Montgomery, Joseph Cromwell, Joseph Stone.
Federal, Lemuel Green, J. Potts, T. Lyell.

Frederick, James Moore.
Huntingdon, Rezin Cash, James Hunter.
Calvert, Elisha Pelham, Jacob Colbert.
Carlisle, Thos. F. Sargent, L. Matthews.
Prince George's, Thornton Fleming.
Feili's Point, Nelson Reed.
Old Town, Henry Willis.
Baltimore cir., A. Garretson, B. Essex, S. Harris.

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