Minutes Taken at the Annual Conferences, 1798

Methodist Episcopal Church.

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.wofford.edu/sc1785

Recommended Citation
Methodist Episcopal Church., "Minutes Taken at the Annual Conferences, 1798" (1798). South Carolina Conference 1785 Journal. 171.
https://digitalcommons.wofford.edu/sc1785/171
MINUTES
TAKEN AT THE SEVERAL ANNUAL CONFERENCES OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,
FOR THE YEAR 1798.

Quest. 1. Who are admitted on trial?

Quest. 2. Who remain on trial?

Quest. 3. Who are admitted into full connection?
Those marked thus [*] were elected to the office of deacons, but not ordained.
Minutes for 1798.

Williston, Wesley Budd, Peter Jayne, Timothy Merritt, Robert Yallaley, Aaron Humphrey—20.

Quest. 4. Who are the deacons?

Those with this mark [1] are elected to the elders' office; but the indisposition or absence of

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. Who are the superannuates?

John Smith, Thomas Morrell, Enoch Mudge, Henry Willis—4.

Quest. 9. What preachers have withdrawn themselves from our order and connection?

Elias Hull.

Quest. 10. Who have been expelled from our order and connection?

None.

Quest. 11. Who have died this year?

1. James King,—a native of Gloucester county, in the state of Virginia. He had been upward of four years in the travelling connection, during which time he travelled extensively, and preached faithfully, through the states of Georgia and South Carolina. He had a good understanding, great zeal, and a pleasing utterance. In the last two years of his life he preached with great animation, and the work of God revived under his ministry in several places. He was stationed in Charleston, S. C., in 1797, where he was taken with the yellow fever, which soon put an end to his useful life. He was about twenty-four or twenty-five years of age. He gave his life, his labours, and his fortune to the church of Christ, and his brethren, and was a friend to religion and liberty.

2. Michael H. R. Wilson,—who was born in the state of Maryland on the 27th of October, 1770, and departed this life April 24th, 1798, at Strasburg, Lancaster county, Pa. He was patient under affliction, enjoyed peace in his soul, and in a public manner often showed rejoicing in the Lord as being more than conqueror through Him that loved him.

3. John Dickins,—a native of Great Britain, born and educated in the city of London. He was united to the society of Methodists here in the year 1774, and was admitted as a travelling preacher in the year 1777. He travelled extensively in Virginia and North Carolina during the American revolutionary war. At the return of peace he was stationed for two years in the city of New York. In 1799 he was stationed in Philadelphia, where he continued till he closed a laborious, suffering, and useful life, by the malignant fever, Sept. 27, 1798, in the fifty-second year of his age. His works shall praise him in the gates of Zion. For several years he superintended the book business of the Methodist societies, sending out, into every state in the Union, many thousands of volumes on experimental and practical religion. He had acquired considerable knowledge in human literature;—the English language he was master of; he understood the Latin and Greek; he was acquainted with several of the learned sciences, the mathematics, &c. He was a man of quick and solid parts; a sound and close reasoner, and a pointed preacher. His pulpit discourses were faithful explanations of divine truth, and appeals to the consciences of his hearers. In his Christian and domestic character, rigidly just;—peculiarly attentive to his duty as a husband and a parent;—in the discharge of the exercises of prayer in the family and closet; remarkable for his tenderness and strictness in the education of his children, not suffering them to mix with the wild, wick'd, and dissipated, either in childhood or advanced age. His skill and Zeal in the ministry, his prudence and accuracy, and corrector of the press, were exceedingly great;—conducting the whole of his business with punctuality and integrity. We can leave that to the testimony of those who frequently transacted business with him.

Perhaps something more of this truly excellent man, will be seen hereafter in the Methodist Magazine. It is most proper to present at present that such was his probity and piety that, according to his time and opportunity, he was one of the greatest characters that ever graced the pulpit, or adorned the society of ministers or Methodists. After standing the shock of two seasons, 1793 and 1797, of the prevailing fever, he fell in the third and awful visitation of 1798. A short extract of his own letter, written a little before his death to Bishop Asbury, may he acceptable to his friends and brethren, as his letters were frequently weighty and powerful:

"My much esteemed Friend and Brother:—I set down to write as in the jaws of death: whether Providence may permit me to see your face again in the flesh, I know not. But if not, I hope, through abundant mercy, we shall meet in the presence of God. I am truly conscious that I am an unprofitable, a very unprofitable, servant; but I think my heart condemnus me not; and, therefore, I have confidence toward God. Perhaps I might have left the city, as most of my friends and brethren have done; but when I thought of such a thing, my mind recurred to that Providence which has done so much for me, a poor worm, that I was afraid of indulging any distrust. So I commit myself and family into the hands of God, for life or death."
It was his comfort to live, but more abundantly to die, in the Lord, and to close his setting hour of life with uncommon joy, peace, and a triumphant assurance of heavenly bliss. On his tomb might be engraved, or over his sleeping ashes with truth be pronounced, Here lieth he, who, in the cause of God, never feared nor flattered man.

At the time when the above was written we were not in possession of the memoirs of his death; but these have been transmitted to Bishop Asbury by Elizabeth Dickinson, the widow of John Dickinson, and faithful attendant in his dying hours. Notwithstanding he visited persons in the fever, and certainly died of that malignant disease, he was mercifully preserved from those awful agitations of body, and distractions of mind, that have frequently appeared very dreadful in patients under the operations of that terrible disorder.

"Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace," Psa. xxxvi. 37.

An Extract from a Letter written by Elizabeth Dickinson, widow of the late John Dickinson, addressed to Bishop Asbury—

"Philadelphia, October 15th, 1798. Santee and Gloucester 1000

The day of the arrival of your letter, I am am in my senses; I believe him to have been one of the most upright, holy men, for twenty years past, that has lived. Indeed he was a light to those that knew him. Never, never, let any reflect upon him for staying in the city at this awful time; ye should not leave it; and the Lord watered his soul with divine comfort. With what composure did he receive the stroke at the hand of his God!

"On the first day of his sickness, about three hours after he was taken, he called me to his bedside:—'My dear,' said he, 'I am very ill; I expect you; in the most earnest manner, not to be the least compos'd or uneasy. Tell the children I beg of them not to be uneasy, for divine Wisdom cannot err. Glory be to God, I can rejoice in his will, whether for life or death! I know all is well. Glory be to Jesus! I hang upon thee! Glory be to thee, O God! I have made my constant business, in my feeble manner, to please thee, and now, O God, thou dost comfort me!'—clasping his dear hands together, with tears running down his cheeks, crying, 'Glory be to God!"
TAKEN AT THE SEVERAL ANNUAL CONFERENCES OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 
FOR THE YEAR 1799.

MINUTES

Minutes for 1798.

James Rogers, Presiding Elder.
Cassel, Lewis Garrett, John Turner.
Tar River, Wm. James, Llewellyn Evans.
Benjamin, Nathan Washington.
Newbern, James Jones, Lawrence Evans.
Trenton, William Kenyon.
Pamlico, John King.
Maggum, John Sale.
Roanoke, John Ray, William Britain.
Robert Whistall, Presiding Elder.
Cumberland, Samuel Rieser, Duke W. Hullam.
Amelia, Wm. Early, Banister Meador.
Greenerville, Wm. Russell, Wm. Lambeth.
Mecklenburg, Pemberton Smith.
Brunswick, Philip Sands, Stith Mead.
John Evans.
Sussex, John West, Nathaniel Walker.
Portsmouth, Wm. Ordway, Wm. Atwood.
Bertie, Christopher S. Moore, Joseph Hill.
Cameron, John Bonner.
Norfolk, Anthony Sale, Jas. G. Martin.
Wm. McKendree, Presiding Elder.
Greenbrier, James Ward.
Bottetourt, Humphrey Wood.
Bedford, Joseph Moore, John Saunders.
Orange, Benj. Matthews, Josiah Phillips.
Amherst, John Floyd.
Williamsburg, Edmund Ellis, Hill Jones.
Hanover, Archer Moody.
Gloucester, William Wilkerson, Thomas Drumgold.
Joseph Everett, Philip Bruce, Presiding Elders.
Lancaster, James Lattomus.
Stafford, Heshsek Harriman.
Fairfax, Curtis Williams, Benj. Essex.
Alexandria, Samuel Hitt.
Berkley, John Potts, James Hunter.
Winchester, Stephen Timmons, Abraham Andrews.
Rockingham, John Pitts.
Pendleton, Morris Howe.
Alleghany, Rexin Cash.
Bath, Thomas Daughaday.
Daniel Hitt, Presiding Elder.
Pittsburg, Robert Manley.
Redstone, Jacob Colbert, Edmund Wayman.
Clerksburg, James Smith.
Ohio, Nathaniel B. Mills, Solomon Harris.
Lemuel Green, Presiding Elder.
Baltimore, John Harper, Thomas Lyell.
H. Willis, Fell's Point, Nelson Reed.
Federal, James L. Higgins, Joseph Stone.
Baltimore city, John Bloodgood, Thomas F. Sargent.
Montgomery, Thos. Lucas, Isaac Matheus.
Prince George's, Shadrach Johnson.
Frederick, Jonathan Forrest, Daniel Hall.
Carisle, Joseph Rowen.
Harford, Levoine Moore, Jonathan Batemus.
Huntingdon, Seely Bann, John Phillips.
Calvert, Thornton Fleming, John Collins.
Annapolis, Benton Riggins.
Christopher Spy, Presiding Elder.
Kent, Robert Sparks.
Queen Ann's, Asher Smith.
Caroline, Wm. Bishop, Robert McCoo.
Talbot, Robert Bonham, John Ruth.
Dorchester, John Seward, Thos. Dodson.
Anne Arundel, Joseph Jewell, Efihit Fitzerald.
Northampton, Wm. Harde, Archibald Foster.
Somerset, Daniel Crouch, David Stevens.
Milford, Ephraim Chambers, Thos. Jones.
Dover, Thos. Jackson, Joseph Whitby.
Thomas Ware, Presiding Elder.
Cecil, William Hunter.
Wilmingtont and Newport, Ezekiel Cooper.
Strasburg and Chester, Wm. P. Chandler.
Daniel Higby.
Bristol, James Moore.
Northumberland, John Lackey, John Letch.
Wyoming, William Cobert.
Freeborn Garrettson, Presiding Elder.
Albany City, Joel Ketchum.
Albany city, Wm. L'Ennian, Ann McCarty.
Saratoga, Anthony Torck.
Herkimer, Roger Benton, Eber Cowless.
Shenango, Jonathan Newman.
Seneca, James Stokes, Richard Lyod.
Trios, Johnson Dunham.
Delaware, John Robinson, William Vredenbury.
John McIaclay, Presiding Elder.
Salem, Jacob Egbert, Jesse Justes.
Bethel, Robert Hutchison, Richard Scaeth.
Burlington, Solomon Sharp, Zenas Cooger.
Trenton, Caleb Kendall, Joseph Lovell.

Minutes for 1799.

Elizabethtown, James Tollason, Samuel Thomas, Thomas Morrill.
Flanders, Ja. Campbell, David Bartine.
Newburg, Robert Green.
Sylvester Hutchinson, Presiding Elder.
Brooklyn, Andrew Nichols.
New Rochelle, Joseph Totten, John Crout.
Croton, Peter Vannest, Thos. Woolsey.
Dutchess, Jacob Rickhow, Billy Hibbard.
Columbia, Peter Morisarty.
Cambridge, Timothy Dewy, Lorenzo Dow.
Vergennes, Joseph Mitchell, Abner Wood.
Pittsfield, Joseph Sawyer, Reuben Hubbard.
Granville, Ezekiel Canfield, Daniel Webb.
Litchfield, Ebenezer Stevens, Truman Bishop.
Redding, William Thaeber.
Middletown, Augustus Jecelyn.
Shadrach Bostwick, Presiding Elder.
Tollasena, Lawrence M'Combs.
Pomfret, Daniel Osmander, Asa Heath.
Chesterfield, Elijah Bachelor.
Versailles, Joseph Crawford.
George Pickering, Presiding Elder.
Warren, John Brodhead.
Greenville, Stephen Hull.
Providence, Joshua Hall.
Sandwich, Epaphras Kirby.
Martha's Vineyard, Joseph Snelling.
Provincetown, Smith Weeks.
Boston, William Beauchamp.
Lynn, Ralph Williston.
Needham, Daniel Brumly.
Exeter, John Nichols.
Joshua Taylor, Presiding Elder.
Portland, Timothy Merritt.
Readfield, Joshua Taylor, Jesse Stone.
Kennebunk, Roger Searle.
Bath and Union, Robert Yallalay, Aaron Humphrey.
Penobscot, Enoch Mudge, John Finnegan.
Pleasant River, Peter Jayne.
Darius Dunham, Presiding Elder.
Bay Quittie, Darius Dunham.
Oswego County, Samuel Coate.
Niagara, James Coleman, Michael Coate.
Quest. 15. When and when shall our next conferences be held?

2. Jones' Chapel, Va., April 9, 1799.
3. Bethel Academy, Ky., May 1, 1799.
4. Baltimore, May 1, 1799.

Quest. 1. Who are admitted on trial?

Lewis Myers, Zachariah Maddox, Wm. Arant, Moses Matthews, James Dillard.
Newpou, Jeremiah Capel, Jeremiah King.
Bankston, Nathaniel Jarrett, John Moore.

Quest. 2. Who remain on trial?

Thomas Milligan, George Dougarty.