

MINUTES

OF THE

ANNUAL CONFERENCES

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,

FOR THE YEARS

1773-1828.

VOLUME I.

NEW-YORK:

PUBLISHED BY T. MASON AND G. LANE,

FOR THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, AT THE CONFERENCE
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1840.

TO THE READER.

THE Annual Minutes of the Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church contain the statistics of the church in detail. They are therefore both entertaining and useful. All who feel an interest in the prosperity of Methodism in this country derive much satisfaction from perusing these documents ; and, as a source of authentic information respecting many things connected with the history, polity, and usages of the church, they are indispensable. But being published in pamphlet form, they are liable to be lost ; and it requires no small trouble, when a consecutive series is needed for any purpose, to procure one. For these reasons the idea of publishing them in a volume was early conceived by John Dickins, first book agent in this country, who, in 1794, issued a volume embracing all the Minutes from the commencement of Methodism in America, a period of about twenty-one or twenty-two years.

In 1813 a volume was published by D. Hitt and T. Ware, book agents. But this work is out of print, and the desire of many to have the whole from the commencement to the present period seems to call for the publication now offered.

In addition to the benefit of having at hand a work of reference to which resort may be had for settling any disputed or doubtful question relating to the statistics of the church, the volume now offered to the public may be recommended as a useful reading book. The biographical sketches of deceased preachers, of which there are many in the work, are highly interesting, and cannot, we think, be read without profit.

The readers of the Minutes should bear in mind, that they are dated, severally, at the time of their publication ; and the matters recorded in each relate to the year closing at that period. This is necessary to avoid mistakes in regard to dates.

Dorchester	- - - -	280
Baltimore	- - - -	1000
Frederick	- - - -	606
Calvert	- - - -	73
Little York	- - - -	90
Fairfax	- - - -	301
Berkley	- - - -	306
Hanover	- - - -	351
Fluvanna	- - - -	342
Amelia	- - - -	506
Sussex	- - - -	606
Brunswick	- - - -	477
Mecklenburg	- - - -	350
Roanoke	- - - -	470
Tar River	- - - -	358
New-Hope	- - - -	455
Pittsylvania	- - - -	600
Marsh	- - - -	50
Edenton	- - - -	60
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		10539

Preachers 54.

Quest. 17. *What proper method should*

be taken, supposing any difference should arise in dealing between our brethren?

Let the assistant preacher at quarterly meeting consult with the steward in appointing proper persons to examine into the circumstances, and if there be any suspicion of injustice or inability in the referees, to appoint men of more skill and probity, and the parties to abide by their decision, or be excluded the society.

Quest. 18. *How many general fasts shall we have this year?*

Four, as follows:—the first Thursdays in June, September, January, and April.

Quest. 19. *Who desist from travelling this year?*

John Dickins, Isham Tatum, Wm. Moore, Greenberry Green, Daniel Ruff—5.

MINUTES

OF SOME CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN THE PREACHERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE REV. MR. JOHN WESLEY.

Held at Ellis's Preaching House, in Sussex County, Virginia, April 17, 1782, and adjourned to Baltimore, May 21.

Quest. 1. *What preachers are admitted into connection?*

Caleb Boyer, Thomas Foster, Henry Ogburn, James White, James Mallory, Beverly Allen, James Haw, Edward Morris, William Partridge, Jeremiah Lambert, John Coleman, Ignatius Pigman, Joseph Everett—13.

Quest. 2. *What preachers remain on trial?*

Enoch Matson, Adam Cloud, Philip Bruce, Ira Ellis, Caleb Cole, John Easter, John Magary, John Major, Samuel Dudley, James Gibbons, Henry Metcalf, Samuel Watson, Peter Moriarty, Jonathan Forrest, Charles Scott, Joseph Wyatt, George Mair, David Abbott—18.

Quest. 3. *What preachers are admitted on trial?*

John Baldwin, Henry Jones, George Kimble, Thomas Haskins, Hugh Roberts, Woolman Hickson, William Thomas—7.

Quest. 4. *Who act as assistants?*

Richard Garrettson, Micajah Debruler, Jas. Martin, Beverly Allen, Caleb Boyer, James White, Henry Ogburn, James Mallory, Freeborn Garrettson, Francis As-

bury, William Watters, John Tunnell, William Glendenning, Reuben Ellis, John Hagerty, Philip Cox, Thomas S. Chew, Caleb B. Pedicord, Nelson Reed, Samuel Rowe, Francis Poythress, William Gill, Lee Roy Cole, Henry Willis, Ignatius Pigman, Richard Ivy, Joshua Dudley, John Cooper—28.

Quest. 5. *Are there any objections to any of the preachers?*

They were examined one by one.

Quest. 6. *How are the preachers stationed?*

New-Hope, James White.
Tar River, Micajah Debruler, Adam Cloud.

Yadkin, John Cooper, Enoch Matson, George Kimble.

Roanoke, James Martin, Thomas Foster.
Pittsylvania, Caleb Boyer, Ira Ellis, Henry Jones.

Mecklenburg, James O'Kelly, Thomas S. Chew.

Brunswick, Richard Garrettson, Joseph Cromwell, Jeremiah Lambert, Peter Moriarty.

Isle of Wight, Philip Bruce, Jas. Gibbons.

South Branch, James Mallory, John Baldwin, James Haw.
 Fairfax, Ignatius Pigman, Samuel Watson.
 Calvert, John Hagerty, Jonathan Forrest.
 Frederick, Philip Cox, Michael Ellis.
 Baltimore, Reuben Ellis, Thomas Haskins, Hugh Roberts.
 Kent, Md., Lee Roy Cole, Joseph Wyatt.
 Somerset, Freeborn Garrettson, Woolman Hickson, John Magary.
 Dorchester, Samuel Rowe, Henry Willis.
 Talbot, Francis Poythress, Edward Morris.
 Sussex, William Gill, Moses Park, Henry Metcalf, David Abbott.
 Little York, Nelson Reed, John Major.
 Lancaster, William Partridge.
 Pennsylvania, William Glendenning, John Coleman.
 East Jersey, John Tunnell, Joseph Everett.
 West Jersey, Joshua Dudley, Richard Ivy.
 Sussex, Caleb B. Pedicord, Samuel Dudley.
 Hanover, Henry Ogburn, John Easter.
 Fluvanna, William Watters, James O. Cromwell.

Quest. 7. *How are the preachers to change after six months?*

Roanoke, Tar River, and New-Hope to change among themselves, only Jeremiah Lambert with Thomas Foster; Pittsylvania and Yadkin, Brunswick and Mecklenburg; Sussex and the Isle of Wight, only Beverly Allen to Hanover; Fluvanna with Hanover; East and West Jersey change; brother Glendenning and brother Tunnell; John Coleman and Nelson Reed to change; if brother Coleman goes to Virginia, brother Reed to take his place; Reuben Ellis to remain in Baltimore till Conference; Hugh Roberts with Michael Ellis; Thos. Haskins with John Hagerty; the preachers in the peninsula change at the fall quarterly meeting.

Quest. 8. *What numbers are there in Society?*

East Jersey	-	-	-	-	282
West Jersey	-	-	-	-	375
Pennsylvania	-	-	-	-	291
Lancaster	-	-	-	-	70
Little York	-	-	-	-	166
Delaware	-	-	-	-	852
Sussex	-	-	-	-	595
Talbot	-	-	-	-	660
Dorchester	-	-	-	-	780
Somerset	-	-	-	-	455
Kent, Md.,	-	-	-	-	610
Baltimore	-	-	-	-	993
Frederick	-	-	-	-	491
Calvert	-	-	-	-	305

Fairfax	-	-	-	-	262
South Branch	-	-	-	-	434
New-Hope	-	-	-	-	251
Tar River	-	-	-	-	300
Roanoke	-	-	-	-	450
Yadkin and Pittsylvania	-	-	-	-	491
Mecklenburg	-	-	-	-	355
Brunswick	-	-	-	-	671
Sussex	-	-	-	-	400
Isle of Wight	-	-	-	-	366
Hanover	-	-	-	-	360
Fluvanna	-	-	-	-	320
Marsh, Amelia, and Buckingham	-	-	-	-	200

11,785

Preachers 59.

Quest. 9. *What is the yearly collection?*
 £42 16s. 3d.

Quest. 10. *How was it expended?*
 On the necessities of the preachers.

Quest. 11. *What shall be done to revive the work?*

Hold evening meetings, and preach in the mornings in places convenient.

Quest. 12. *What shall be done to get a regular and impartial supply for the maintenance of the preachers?*

Let every thing they receive, either in money or clothing, be valued by the preachers and stewards at quarterly meeting, and an account of the deficiency given in to the Conference, that they may be supplied by the profits arising from the books and the Conference collections.

Quest. 13. *How shall we more effectually guard against disorderly travelling preachers?*

Write at the bottom of every certificate: The authority this conveys is limited to next Conference.

Quest. 14. *How must we do if a preacher will not desist after being found guilty?*

Let the nearest assistant stop him immediately. In brother Asbury's absence let the preachers inform the people of these rules.

Quest. 15. *How shall we more effectually guard against disorderly local preachers?*

Write at the bottom of the certificate: This conveys authority no longer than you walk uprightly, and submit to the direction of the assistant preacher.

Quest. 16. *By what rule shall we conduct ourselves toward the preachers and people that separate from us?*

Disown them.

Quest. 17. *How shall we more effectually guard against impostors?*

Let no person remove from north to south without a certificate from the assistant preacher; and let no one be received into society without.

Quest. 18. *Shall we erase that question proposed in Deer Creek Conference respecting the ordinances?*

Undoubtedly we must. It can have no place in our Minutes while we stand to our agreement signed in Conference: it is, therefore, disannulled.

The Conference acknowledge their obligations to the Rev. Mr. Jarratt, for his kind and friendly services to the preachers and people from our first entrance into Virginia, and more particularly for attending our Conference in Sussex, in public and private; and advise the preachers in the south to consult him, and take his advice, in the absence of brother Asbury.

Quest. 19. *Do the brethren in Conference unanimously choose brother Asbury to act according to Mr. Wesley's original appointment, and preside over the American Conferences and the whole work?*

Yes.

Quest. 20. *Who desist from travelling this year?*

John James.

Quest. 21. *How many general fasts shall we have this year?*

Four: the first Thursdays in June, September, January, and April.

Quest. 22. *Where and when shall our next Conferences be held?*

For Virginia the first Tuesday, and in Baltimore the last Wednesday in May.

Every assistant preacher must so order his circuit, that either himself or one of his helpers may travel with Mr. Asbury through his circuit.

MINUTES

OF SOME CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN THE PREACHERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE REV. MR. JOHN WESLEY.

Held at Ellis's Preaching House, May 6th, 1783, and adjourned to Baltimore the 27th.

Quest. 1. *What preachers are admitted?*

Enoch Matson, Philip Bruce, Samuel Dudley, John Easter, Ira Ellis, John Magary, John Major, Henry Metcalf, Samuel Watson, Peter Moriarty, James Gibbons, Joseph Wyatt, William Thomas, George Mair, Woolman Hickson, Jonathan Forrest, Michael Ellis, James Morris—18.

Quest. 2. *What preachers remain on trial?*

John Baldwin, Henry Jones, George Kimble, Thomas Haskins, Hugh Roberts, James Thomas, Matthew Greentree, Thos. Curtis, Wm. Thomas—9.

Quest. 3. *What preachers are received on trial?*

Joshua Worley, Wm. Damaron, Lemuel Green, William Cannan, Jesse Lee, Thomas Anderson, Thomas Humphries, Samuel Breeze, Henry Merritt, Francis Spry, James Hinton, William Phœbus, Richard Swift, Thomas Bower—14.

Quest. 4. *Are there any objections to any of the preachers?*

They were examined one by one.

Quest. 5. *Who act as assistants this year?*

Francis Asbury, William Watters, Wm. Glendenning, Edward Drumgole, John Dickins, Samuel Spragg, Francis Poythress, John Cooper, John Tunnell, Freeborn Garrettson, Thomas S. Chew, Caleb B. Pedicord, Lee Roy Cole, Samuel Rowe, William Gill, Reuben Ellis, John Hagerty, Philip Cox, Henry Willis, James Martin, Beverly Allen, Caleb Boyer, Jas. O'Kelly, Nelson Reed, Jas. O. Cromwell, Richard Ivy, James White, Henry Metcalf, James Haw, Woolman Hickson, Wm. Partridge, Henry Ogburn, John Easter, Philip Bruce, Edward Morris, Jeremiah Lambert, John Coleman, Moses Park, Jonathan Forrest—39.

Quest. 6. *How are the preachers stationed?*

Holston, Jeremiah Lambert. Guilford, Samuel Dudley, James Gibbons. Pittsylvania, James O. Cromwell, Thomas Anderson. Caswell, Peter Moriarty, Jesse Lee. Yadkin, Henry Ogburn, William Cannan, Lemuel Green.