

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,

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1840.

## TO THE READER.

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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.

Thomas S. Chew, *Elder*.  
 West Jersey, William Phœbus, Thomas Ware, Robert Sparks.  
 East Jersey, Adam Cloud, Matthew Greentree.  
 Trenton, Robert Cloud, John M'Claskey, Jacob Brush.  
 New-York, John Hagerty.  
 Long Island, Ezekiel Cooper.  
 Shelburne, Freeborn Garrettson.  
 Port Roseway, James O. Cromwell.  
 Antigua, Jeremiah Lambert, John Baxter.

Quest. 13. *What was collected for Cokesbury College?*

£45 16s. sterling.

Quest. 14. *What was the yearly collection?*  
 £300.

Quest. 15. *How was it expended?*

In making up the yearly deficiencies, and sending out two missionaries, and the expenses of our Conference.

Quest. 16. *What numbers are in Society?*  
 Members 18,000. Preachers 104.

It is recommended to all our brethren to suspend the execution of the minute on slavery till the deliberations of a future Conference; and that an equal space of time be allowed all our members for consideration, when the minute shall be put in force.

N. B. We do hold in the deepest abhorrence the practice of slavery; and shall not cease to seek its destruction by all wise and prudent means.

Quest. 17. *Where and when shall we hold our Conferences next year?*

1. Salisbury, North Carolina, Tuesday, Feb. 1, 1786.

2. Lanes' Chapel, Virginia, Monday, April 10, 1786.

3. Baltimore, May 8, 1786.

## MINUTES

TAKEN AT THE SEVERAL ANNUAL CONFERENCES OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,

FOR THE YEAR 1786.

Quest. 1. *Who are the superintendents of our church?*

Thomas Coke, Francis Asbury—2.

Quest. 2. *Who are the elders?*

Richard Whatcoat, John Tunnell, Freeborn Garrettson, Thomas S. Chew, John Hagerty, Reuben Ellis, Wm. Gill, James O'Kelly, Henry Willis, Richard Ivy, Caleb Boyer, Nelson Reed, Enoch Matson, Ignatius Pigman, Thomas Foster, John Baxter, James O. Cromwell, Lee Roy Cole, Beverly Allen, Thomas Vasey, James Foster, Francis Poythress, James Haw, Philip Bruce—24.

Quest. 3. *Who are the deacons?*

Michael Ellis, Joseph Everett, Samuel Dudley, William Cannan, Thomas Humphries, John Dickins—6.

Quest. 4. *Who are the assistants?*

All the deacons:—Isaac Smith, Richard Smith, John Baldwin, Edward Morris, John Easter, William Partridge, Thomas Anderson, Thomas Bowen, Thomas Jackson, Philip Cox, Elijah Ellis, William Dameron, John Smith, Richard Owings,

William Watters, Jesse Lee, Jas. White, Ira Ellis, William Jessop, James Riggan, William Thomas, Thomas Curtis, Henry Ogburn, Matthew Greentree, Robert Cloud, Thomas Ware, Woolman Hickson, Jonathan Forrest—28.

Quest. 5. *Who are admitted into full connection?*

Isaac Smith, John Smith, Elijah Ellis, John Robertson, Thomas Jackson, Henry Jones, Wm. Jessop, James Riggan, Wilson Lee, Thomas Ware, John Fidler—11.

Quest. 6. *Who remain on trial?*

Mark Whitaker, Henry Bingham, Stephen Johnson, Thos. Williamson, Joshua Hartley, Hope Hull, Wm. Steens, Jeremiah Mastin, Robert Sparks, Jacob Brush, Robert Ayres, Amos G. Thompson, John Paup, John M'Claskey, Robert Cann, Stephen Deakins, Ezekiel Cooper, Levin Ross, Simon Pile—19.

Quest. 7. *Who are admitted on trial?*

Sihon Smith, John Mason, Robert J. Miller, Mark Moore, Charles Hardy, Daniel Asbury, Caleb Maxey, John Steward,

Henry Vanover, Terence Burns, Micajah Tracy, Elijah Lumsdon, Newman Spain, Jacob Lurton, William Hudson, John Jarrell, William Harvey, Benjamin Ogden, John Simmons, Moses Hurley, John Merrick, Samuel Q. Talbot, Lasley Matthews, Michael Leard—24.

Quest. 8. *Who desist from travelling?*

James Hinton, Edward Drumgole, William Glendenning, William Ringold—4.

Quest. 9. *Are there any objections to any of the preachers?*

They were examined one by one.

Quest. 10. *Who have died this year?*

1. Jeremiah Lambert,—an elder; six years in the work; a man of sound judgment, clear understanding, good gifts, genuine piety, and very useful, humble, and holy; diligent in life, and resigned in death; much esteemed in the connection, and justly lamented in his death. We do not sorrow as men without hope, but expect shortly to join with him and all those who rest from their labours.

2. James Thomas,—a pious young man, of good gifts, useful and acceptable, blameless in his life, and much resigned in his death.

Quest. 11. *How are the preachers stationed?*

James Foster, *Elder.* —

Georgia, Thomas Humphries, John Major. Broad River, Stephen Johnson. Charleston, Henry Willis, Isaac Smith.

Beverly Allen, *Elder.* —

Santee, Richard Smith. Pee Dee, Jeremiah Mastin, Hope Hull.

Reuben Ellis, *Elder.* —

Salisbury, Thomas Williamson, Henry Bingham.

Yadkin, Robert J. Miller, John Mason. Holston, Mark Whitaker, Mark Moore.

James O'Kelly, *Elder.* —

Guilford, John Baldwin.

Halifax, Edward Morris, Charles Hardy. Mecklenburg, John Easter, Henry Jones.

Richard Ivy, *Elder.* —

New-Hope, William Partridge.

Tar River, Thomas Anderson, Micajah Tracy.

Roanoke, Thomas Bowen, Wm. Steens. Caswell, Sihon Smith.

Philip Bruce, *Elder.* —

Bertie, Thomas Jackson, John Freeman.

Camden and Banks, John Robertson, John Steward.

Portsmouth, Terence Burns.

Francis Poythress, *Elder.* —

Brunswick, Philip Cox, James Gibbons, Henry Merritt.

Sussex, Simon Pile, Lasley Matthews. Amelia, Elijah Ellis, Daniel Asbury.

Thomas S. Chew, *Elder.* —

Williamsburg, Levin Ross.

Orange, Wm. Dameron, Elijah Lumsdon. Bedford, Wm. Cannan, Henry Vanover, Newman Spain.

Hanover, Ananias Hudson.

Enoch Matson, *Elder.* —

Alleghany, Amos G. Thompson, Aquila Edwards, Michael Leard.

Redstone, John Smith, Robert Ayres, Stephen Deakins.

Nelson Reed, *Elder.* —

Lancaster, Lemuel Green, John Paup. Fairfax, Richard Owings, John Fidler. Berkley, Wm. Watters, Wm. Harvey.

Richard Whatcoat, *Elder.* —

Kent, Jesse Lee, Samuel Q. Talbot. Talbot, James White, Wilson Lee.

Dover, Ira Ellis, George Moore.

John Hagerty, *Elder.* —

Caroline, William Jessop, Moses Hurley, John Jarrell.

Dorchester, Samuel Dudley, Joseph Everett.

Thomas Foster, *Elder.* —

Somerset, James Riffin, John Merrick. Annessex, William Thomas.

Northampton, Thomas Curtis.

Caleb Boyer, *Elder.* —

Philadelphia, Henry Ogburn, Peter Moriarty.

Little York, Matthew Greentree.

Freeborn Garrettson and James O. Cromwell, *Elders.* —

Nova Scotia, Wm. Black, John Mann.

Thomas Vasey, *Elder.* —

Trenton, Robert Sparks, Robert Cann.

West Jersey, Jacob Brush, John Simmons, Jacob Lurton.

John Tunnell, *Elder.* —

East Jersey, John M'Claskey, Ezekiel Cooper.

Newark, Robert Cloud.

New-York, John Dickins.

Long Island, Thomas Ware.

William Gill and Ignatius Pigman, *Elders.* [Cloud.

Baltimore, Woolman Hickson, Adam

Frederick, Michael Ellis, Joseph Cromwell.

Calvert, Jonathan Forrest.

James Haw, *Elder*.

Kentucky, Benjamin Ogden.

Lee Roy Cole, *Elder*.

Newbern, New-River, and Wilmington,

Joshua Hartley, Caleb Maxey.

Antigua, John Baxter.

Quest. 12. *What numbers are in Society?*

	Whites.	Col.		Whites.	Col.
Portsmouth	330	26	Charleston	35	23
Sussex	416	72	Santee	75	
Brunswick	305	59	Pee Dee	285	10
Amelia	382	30	Broad River	200	10
Mecklenburg	392	37	Salisbury	327	
Bedford	524	16	Yadkin	426	11
Orange	374	75	Holston	250	
Williams-			Guilford	400	10
burg	167	11	Halifax	324	14
Alleghany	350	18	New-Hope	192	3
Berkley	140	26	Tar River	607	42
Redstone	523		New River	500	72
Fairfax	260		Roanoke	474	
Lancaster	174		Caswell	153	
Frederick	390	32	Bertie	405	58
Calvert	295	316	Camden and		
Baltimore	655	111	Banks	257	
Little York	136		West Jersey	492	
Kent	1013		Trenton	352	
Talbot	632	332	East Jersey	365	
Dorchester	719		New-York	178	25
Somerset	220		Long Island	146	8
Annamesset	317	33	Newark	50	
Northampton	151	9	Nova Scotia	510	
Caroline	657	243	Antigua	1000	
Dover	690	158			
Philadelphia	498				
Georgia	78				
				18,791	1890
			Preachers	117.	

Quest. 13. *What is the yearly collection?*

£182 6s. 6d.

Quest. 14. *How was this applied?*

Toward supplying the deficiencies of the preachers.

Quest. 15. *What was contributed toward the preachers' fund for the superannuated preachers, and the widows and orphans of preachers?*

£38 5s. 4d.

Quest. 16. *What demands are upon it?*

£14 for the funeral expenses of Jeremiah Lambert.

Quest. 17. *What was collected for, and expended on, missionaries this year?*

£54 17s.

Quest. 18. *What has been collected this year for Cokesbury College?*

£800 2s. 11d.

Quest. 19. *What has been expended this year?*

£1618 14s. 2d.

Balance due, £818 11s. 3d.

Quest. 20. *Where and when shall we hold Conference next year?*

1. At Salisbury, North Carolina, May 17, 1787.

2. At Petersburg, Virginia, June 19, 1787.

3. At Abingdon, Md., July 24, 1787.

## MINUTES

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FOR THE YEAR 1787.

Quest. 1. *Who are the superintendents of our church for the United States?*

Thomas Coke (when present in the States) and Francis Asbury.

Quest. 2. *Who are the elders?*

Richard Whatcoat, Freeborn Garrettson, John Tunnell, Thomas S. Chew, John Hagerty, Reuben Ellis, Wm. Gill, James O'Kelly, Henry Willis, Richard Ivy, Caleb Boyer, Nelson Reed, Enoch Matson, Ignatius Pigman, Thomas Foster, John Baxter, James O. Cromwell, Lee Roy

Cole, Beverly Allen, Francis Poythress, James Haw, Philip Bruce, Joseph Cromwell, John Dickins, Woolman Hickson—25.

Quest. 3. *Who are the deacons?*

Michael Ellis, Joseph Everett, Samuel Dudley, William Cannan, Thomas Humphries, James White, John Cooper, Thos. Curtis, William Phœbus, John Major, Edward Morris, Isaac Smith, Philip Cox, Richard Swift, John Easter, William Partridge, Jeremiah Mastin, Thomas Wil-