

MINUTES

OF THE

ANNUAL CONFERENCES

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,

FOR THE YEARS

1773-1828.

VOLUME I.

NEW-YORK:

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## 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.

Quest. 26. *What must be the conditions of our union with our Virginia brethren?*

To suspend all their administrations for one year, and all meet together in Baltimore.

Quest. 27. *How are the preachers stationed in Virginia?*

Fluvanna, Wm. Moore, Greenberry Green.  
 Hanover, Isham Tatum, Charles Hopkins.  
 Amelia, Philip Adams, Nelson Reed.  
 Sussex, Lee Roy Cole, Edward Pride, Samuel Watson.  
 Mecklenburg, Henry Willis, Moses Park.  
 Pittsylvania, Richard Ivy, Carter Cole, William Partridge,  
 Yadkin, Andrew Yeargan.  
 New-Hope, Francis Poythress, John Major.  
 Tar River, James O'Kelly.  
 Roanoke, John Dickins, Henry Ogburn.

Quest. 28. *What numbers are there in Society?*

New-Jersey	-	-	-	196
Philadelphia	-	-	-	90
Chester	-	-	-	100
Delaware	-	-	-	150
Sussex	-	-	-	260
Kent	-	-	-	725
Baltimore	-	-	-	880
Frederick	-	-	-	524
Fairfax	-	-	-	361
Berkley	-	-	-	205
Hanover	-	-	-	351
Fluvanna	-	-	-	342
Amelia	-	-	-	506
Sussex	-	-	-	620
Brunswick	-	-	-	454
Mecklenburg	-	-	-	455
Pittsylvania	-	-	-	634
Yadkin	-	-	-	21
New-Hope	-	-	-	455
Tar River	-	-	-	455
Roanoke	-	-	-	480

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MINUTES

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

*Held at Choptank, State of Delaware, April 16, 1781, and adjourned to Baltimore the 24th of said month.*

Quest. 1. *What preachers are now determined, after mature consideration, close observation, and earnest prayer, to preach the old Methodist doctrine, and strictly enforce the discipline, as contained in the Notes, Sermons, and Minutes published by Mr. Wesley, so far as they respect both preachers and people, according to the knowledge we have of them, and the ability God shall give; and firmly resolved to discountenance a separation among either preachers or people?*

Francis Asbury, William Watters, Wm. Glendenning, John Cooper, Joseph Hartley, Caleb B. Pedicord, Thomas S. Chew, Wm. Gill, Samuel Rowe, Joseph Cromwell, Freeborn Garrettson, Richard Garrettson, John Hagerty, Joshua Dudley, Caleb Boyer, Thomas Foster, John Tunnell, Micajah Debruler, Thomas M'Clure, James White, Joseph Everett, Geo. Mair, John Atkins, David Abbott, Francis Poythress, Lee Roy Cole, Edward Morris, Reuben Ellis, John James, John Coleman, Joseph Wyatt, Michael Ellis, Richard Ivy,

William Partridge, Nelson Reed, James Martin, Stephen Black, Henry Willis, Henry Metcalf—39.

Quest. 2. *Why was Conference began at Choptank?*

To examine those who could not go to Baltimore, and to provide supplies for the circuits where the Lord is more immediately pouring out his Spirit.

Quest. 3. *Is there any precedent for this in the economy of Methodism?*

Yes: Mr. Wesley generally holds a Conference in Ireland for the same purposes.

Quest. 4. *Should we take the preachers into full connection after one year's trial; or would it not be better, after considering how young they are in age, grace, and gifts, to try them two years, unless it be one of double testimony, of whom there is a general approbation?*

Yes:

Quest. 5. *Shall any assistant take a local preacher to travel in the circuit, in the vacancy of Conference, without consulting brother Asbury, or the assistants near him, by word or letter?*

No.

Quest. 6. *If any former assistant has had just cause for removing preaching from any house, should his successor return to it without consulting brother Asbury, or the assistants in the circuits near him; and if it remains doubtful, leave it till next Conference?*

Agreed.

Quest. 7. *Ought not the preachers to examine every person admitted upon trial for three months; first, whether they have been turned out; and if so, let them not be received without they have evidenced repentance, and can be generally recommended?*

Yes.

Quest. 8. *Ought not the preachers often to read the Rules of the Societies, the Character of a Methodist, and the Plain Account of Christian Perfection, if they have got them?*

Yes.

Quest. 9. *What preachers are admitted?*

John Coleman, James White, Edward Morris, Samuel Watson, Joseph Everett, David Abbott, Jeremiah Lambert, Henry Metcalf—8.

Quest. 10. *Who remain on trial?*

Isaac Rollins, John James, Stephen Black, Joseph Wyatt, George Mair, Ignatius Pigman, Charles Scott, Jonathan Forrest, Moses Park, Henry Ogburn, James Mallory, Beverly Allen, James Morris—13.

Quest. 11. *Who are admitted into connection?*

Samuel Rowe, James O. Cromwell, James Martin, Henry Willis, Reuben Ellis, Richard Ivy, Nelson Reed—7.

Quest. 12. *Who act as assistants this year?*

Francis Asbury, Wm. Watters, Wm. Glendenning, Lee Roy Cole, Thomas M'Clure, Wm. Gill, Freeborn Garrettson, Caleb B. Pedicord, Thomas S. Chew, Henry Willis, Richard Ivy, Reuben Ellis, Nelson Reed, Francis Poythress, Richard Garrettson, Micajah Debruler, Joshua Dudley, John Cooper, James Martin—19.

Quest. 13. *How are the preachers stationed this year?*

West Jersey, Caleb B. Pedicord, Joseph Cromwell.

East Jersey, James O. Cromwell, Henry Metcalf.

Pennsylvania, William Glendenning, Samuel Rowe, Isaac Rollins.

Kent, Del., William Gill, John Coleman, Lee Roy Cole, John Tunnell.

Somerset, Thos. M'Clure, Joseph Wyatt, Joseph Everett, John Atkins, George Moore.

Dorchester, Thomas S. Chew, Stephen Black.

Talbot, Henry Willis, Jeremiah Lambert.

Kent, Md., Richard Ivy, David Abbott.

Little York, Philip Cox.

Baltimore, Wm. Watters, John Hagerty, Samuel Watson.

Frederick, Reuben Ellis, Charles Scott, Jonathan Forrest.

Calvert, Nelson Reed.

Fairfax, Francis Poythress, Michael Ellis.

Berkley, Ignatius Pigman, Edward Morris, William Partridge.

Hanover, Richard Garrettson.

Fluvanna, Micajah Debruler, Samuel Dudley.

Amelia, Joshua Dudley, John James.

Sussex, Freeborn Garrettson, Jas. Morris.

Isle of Wight, Beverly Allen, Jas. Haw.

Brunswick, Caleb Boyer.

Mecklenburg, James Martin, Jas. White.

Roanoke, Enoch Matson, Adam Cloud.

Tar River, Henry Ogburn, John Cooper.

New-Hope, Philip Bruce.

Pittsylvania, Thos. Foster, Jas. Mallory.

Quest. 14. *Ought not every assistant to give a circumstantial account of the circuit, in writing, both of societies and local preachers, with a plan, to his successor?*

Yes.

Quest. 15. *Ought not each assistant to inform all our societies in his circuit of the sum that is to be made up for the preachers' quarterage, exclusive of travelling expenses, and urge them to give according to their several abilities?*

Yes.

Quest. 16. *What numbers are there in Society?*

New-Jersey . . . . . 512

Pennsylvania . . . . . 271

Delaware . . . . . 1052

Somerset . . . . . 500

Kent . . . . . 923

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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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.