

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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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.

ries allowed our married preachers who have children?

They are. Therefore, for the future, no married preacher shall demand more than £48, P. C.

Quest. 19. *Shall any directions be given concerning register books?*

Let register books be provided by all the societies, that the elders and deacons may enter the marriages and baptisms regularly in them; and let every such register book be kept in the hands of the steward, or any other proper person of each society respectively. Let one general register book be also kept in the hands of the general steward of every circuit, in which the contents of all the private register books in the circuit may be inserted at convenient times.

Quest. 20. *What can we do for the rising generation?*

Let the elders, deacons, and helpers

class the children of our friends in proper classes, as far as it is practicable; meet them as often as possible, and commit them, during their absence, into the care of proper persons, who may meet them at least weekly; and if any of them be *truly awakened*, let them be admitted into society.

Quest. 21. *Where and when shall the Conferences be held next year?*

1. At Charleston, on Tuesday, 12th of March.

2. In Georgia, on Tuesday, the 9th of April.

3. In Holston, on Tuesday, the 13th of May.

4. In Amelia county, Va., on Tuesday, 17th of June.

5. At Union Town, on Tuesday, the 22d of July.

6. At Baltimore, on Tuesday, the 10th of September.

MINUTES

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

FOR THE YEAR 1788.

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

Thomas Coke, Francis Asbury—2.

Quest. 2. *Who are the elders?*

Reuben Ellis, John Tunnell, Beverly Allen, James Haw, Richard Ivy, James O'Kelly, Francis Poythress, Philip Bruce, William Gill, Edward Morris, Ira Ellis, Richard Whatcoat, John Hagerty, Nelson Reed, Joseph Cromwell, James O. Cromwell, Henry Willis, Thomas Foster, Joseph Everett, Lemuel Green, Freeborn Garrettson, John Dickins—22.

Quest. 2. *Who are the deacons?*

Hope Hull, Isaac Smith, Thos. Ware, Thomas Humphries, Matthew Greentree, Jeremiah Mastin, Thomas Williamson, Philip Cox, Thomas Anderson, John Paup, Richard Swift, John Baldwin, John Smith, Henry Ogburn, John Easter, William Phœbus, Thomas Bowen, Jacob Brush, William Jessop, Jonathan Forrest, James Riffin, John M'Claskey, Ezekiel Cooper, James White, Robert Sparks, Amos G.

Thompson, Geo. Moore, Samuel Breeze, Michael Leard, William Thomas, John Merrick, Robert Cloud, Peter Moriarty, Samuel Q. Talbot, Cornelius Cook, Thos. Morrell—36.

Quest. 4. *Who are admitted into full connection?*

Mark Moore, Daniel Asbury, Charles Hardy, Henry Merritt, Michael Leard, Lasley Matthews, Jacob Lurton, John Simmons, John Merriek, Samuel Q. Talbot, Cornelius Cook, Thos. Morrell—12.

Quest. 5. *Who remain on trial?*

Lemuel Andrews, Matthew Harris, Nathaniel Moore, Barnabas M'Henry, Micajah Tracy, Benjamin Carter, David Combs, Edward West, Jeremiah Minter, Daniel Lockett, David Haggard, Jeremiah Abel, Thomas Weatherford, Lewis Chastain, Isaac Lowe, James Conner, Elisha Phelps, Richard Pearson, Charles Conway, George Callahan, James Wilson, John Jarrell, Benjamin Roberts, George Hagerty, Francis Spry, Aaron Hutchin-

son, Nathaniel B. Mills, John Milburn, Daniel Combs—29.

Quest. 6. *Who are admitted on trial?*

Bennet Maxey, William Moss, Michael Burdge, James Meachem, Jesse Richardson, William Heath, Joseph Doddridge, John Hill, Peter Massie, Benjamin Snelling, Richard Pope, James Parks, Benjamin Barnes, Archer Davis, Henry Birchett, Joshua Hartley, Stephen Davis, John Fore, Salathiel Weeks, Aquila Sugg, Isaac Lunsford, William M'Kendree, Doily Baird, Joseph Dawson, James Thomas, John M'Gee, John Rowen, Eliphalet Reed, John Chalmers, John Allen, Emory Prior, Valentine Cook, John Lee, Robert Green, George Wells, Griffith Callahan, William Gassaway, William Dougherty, Jethro Johnson, Thornton Fleming, John Cooper, Samuel Wigton, John Bloodgood, Andrew Harpending, Lemuel Smith, David Kendall, Darius Dunham, Lenox Martin—48.

Quest. 7. *Who desist from travelling in connection with, and under the direction of, our Conference?*

Enoch Matson, Adam Cloud, Thomas S. Chew—3.

Quest. 8. *What preachers have a partial location on account of their families, and are subject to the order of Conference?*

Caleb Boyer, Samuel Dudley, William Cannan, Joseph Wyatt, Michael Ellis, Ignatius Pigman—6.

Quest. 9. *Who have died this year?*

1. Thomas Curtis,—a deacon, upright in his life, successful in his labours, and triumphant in his death:—about seven years in the ministry.

2. John Major,—a simple-hearted man; a living, loving soul, who died, as he lived, full of faith and the Holy Ghost:—ten years in the work; useful and blameless.

3. Woolman Hickson,—of promising genius and considerable preaching abilities: upright in life, but soon snatched away from the work by a consumption, and in the midst of his usefulness:—seven years in the work.

4. Elijah Ellis,—a deacon; four years in the work: steady, solid, humble, diligent, and faithful; who spent himself in the work of God in Lancaster, Virginia.

Quest. 10. *Are all the preachers blameless in life and conversation?*

They were all strictly tried, one by one, before the Conference.

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

Richard Ivy, *Elder.* —
Burke, Moses Park, Bennet Maxey.
Richmond, Matthew Harris.
Washington, Hope Hull, James Conner.

Reuben Ellis, *Elder.* —
Seleuda, Lemuel Andrews.
Broad River, William Partridge.
Edisto, Henry Bingham, Wm. Gassaway.
Charleston, Ira Ellis.
Santee, John Smith, Hardy Herbert.
Waxsaws, Michael Burdge.
Pee Dee, Thos. Humphries, Mark Moore.

John Tunnell, *Elder.* —
Tar River, Henry Merriitt, William Moss,
Daniel Lockett.
Bladen, Thomas Hardy.
New-River, Thos. Anderson, Jas. Parks.
Roanoke, Charles Hardy, William Heath,
Michael Smith.

Caswell, Isaac Lowe.
New-Hope, Henry Ogburn, John Ellis,
Nathaniel Moore.

Guilford, Jeremiah Abel, James Conner.
Salisbury, John Baldwin, Doily Baird.
Yadkin, Sihon Smith, Micaiah Tracy.
Halifax, Edward West, Josiah Askew.

Edward Morris, *Elder.* —
Holston, Jeremiah Mastin, Joseph Doddridge.

French Broad, Daniel Asbury.
New-River, Thos. Ware, Jesse Richardson.

Greenbrier, Richard Swift, Benj. Carter.

James O'Kelly, *Elder.* —
Anson, David Haggard.
Bertie, James Meachem, Archer Davis.
Camden, Henry Birchett, J. Difnal.
Portsmouth, John Barker.
Sussex, John Easter, Lewis Grigg, Benjamin Barnes.

Brunswick, John Paup, Benjamin Ogden.
Amelia, Jeremiah Minter, Salathiel Weeks.
Mecklenburg, Philip Cox, William M'Kendree.

Buckingham, Joseph Dawson.
Bedford, Joshua Hartley, Isaac Lunsford.
Amherst, John Ford.
Orange, Thos. Weatherford, Samuel Davis.
Hanover, Richard Pope.
Williamsburg, Lee Roy Cole.

Quest. 13. *What is contributed toward the fund for the superannuated preachers, with the widows and orphans of preachers?*

£35 4s. 2d.

N. B. The Conferences for the ensuing year are to be held at Georgia, Monday, March 9;—Charleston, Tuesday, March

17;—North Carolina, Saturday, April 11, at M'Knight's church;—Petersburg, Monday, April 20;—Leesburg, Tuesday, April 28;—Baltimore, Monday, May 4;—Cokesbury, Saturday, May 9;—Chester Town, Wednesday, May 13;—Philadelphia, Monday, May 18;—Trenton, Saturday, May 23;—New-York, Thursday, May 28.

MINUTES

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

FOR THE YEAR 1789.

Quest. 1. *Who are the persons that exercise the episcopal office in the Methodist Church in Europe and America?*

John Wesley, Thomas Coke, Francis Asbury—3.

Quest. 2. *Who have been elected by the unanimous suffrages of the General Conference to superintend the Methodist connection in America?*

Thomas Coke, Francis Asbury—2.

Quest. 3. *Who are the elders?*

Richard Ivy, Hope Hull, Moses Park, Reuben Ellis, Beverly Allen, Ira Ellis, John Tunnell, Edward Morris, Isaac Smith, James O'Kelly, Philip Bruce, John Easter, Philip Cox, Francis Poythress, James Haw, Nelson Reed, John Hagerty, Ezekiel Cooper, Jonathan Forrest, Richard Whatcoat, Joseph Everett, Thomas Foster, Henry Willis, Lemuel Green, James O. Cromwell, Joseph Cromwell, Freeborn Garrettson, John Dickins, Robert Cloud, Thomas Morrell—30.

Quest. 4. *Who are the deacons?*

James Conner, Matthew Harris, Mark Moore, Edward West, David Haggard, Jeremiah Abel, Isaac Lowe, Daniel Asbury, Henry Merritt, Sihon Smith, Mark Whitaker, Thomas Ware, Thomas Humphries, Thomas Anderson, Jeremiah Martin, James Riggan, Henry Ogburn, Richard Swift, John Baldwin, Charles Hardy, John Paup, Stephen Johnson, Thomas Weatherford, Jeremiah Minter, Henry Jones, Thos. Bowen, Amos G. Thompson, Wm. Phœbus, Thomas Williamson, Michael Leard, Samuel Breeze, George Hagerty, John Hill, George Moore, William Jessop, Robert Sparks, William Thomas, Matthew Green-

tree, Jacob Brush, John Smith, Joseph Wyatt, Thomas Jackson, Benton Riggan, Levin Ross, John Merrick, John M'Claskey, Cornelius Cook, Peter Moriarty, Samuel Q. Talbot, Jacob Lurton—50.

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

Matthew Harris, James Conner, Michael Burdge, Lemuel Andrews, Daniel Lockett, Barnabas M'Henry, Micajah Tracy, Benjamin Carter, Edward West, David Haggard, Jeremiah Abel, Isaac Lowe, Jeremiah Minter, Thomas Weatherford, Joshua Hartley, John Barker, Lewis Chastain, George Hagerty, John Hill, James Wilson, Benton Riggan, Benjamin Roberts, John Jarrell, Christopher Spry, John Milburn, Nathaniel B. Mills, Aaron Hutchinson, Andrew Harpending, John Bloodgood—29.

Quest. 6. *Who remain on trial?*

Bennet Maxey, Wm. Gassaway, Hardy Herbert, James Parks, Doily Baird, John M'Gee, William Moss, Joseph Doddridge, Jesse Richardson, John Ellis, Richard Pope, Archer Davis, Benjamin Barnes, Henry Birchett, Salathiel Weeks, Aquila Sugg, James Meachem, Peter Massie, Julius Conner, William Heath, Stephen Davis, John Fore, William M'Kendree, Lewis Dawson, Isaac Lunsford, Thomas Hardy, John Chalmers, Thornton Fleming, George Wells, James Thomas, Benjamin Snelling, John Rowen, Eliphalet Reed, Griffith Callahan, John Allen, Robert Green, Valentine Cook, Daniel Combs, Aquila Edwards, Lenox Martin, William Dougherty, John Cooper, Jethro Johnson, Emory Prior, John Lee, Lemuel Smith,