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1920

Official Minutes

of the

Pittsburgh Annual Conference

of the

Methodist Episcopal Church

held at

Franklin Street Church

Johnstown, Pennsylvania

October 6 to 11

1920

Publishing Committee:
The Conference Secretaries
Editor: W. L. Wilkenson

Pittsburgh Conference, 1920

Andrew J. Ashe

In the passing of Andrew J. Ashe, one of the most familiar faces seen in our Conference has been removed from among us. For more than forty years his name was recorded at the head of the Pittsburgh Conference roll. During all this period he was actively engaged in the work of the pastorate.

He was born at Summerhill, Pa., in 1854. His conversion took place at the age of sixteen and was marked by a great change in the manner and purpose of his life. He began his career as a teacher, but his thought was soon turned toward the ministry. He prepared for this work to which God had called him and joined the Pittsburgh Conference in the fall of 1877. Soon afterward he was united in marriage to Miss Ann Plotner, also of Summerhill, the two having known one another from childhood.

During his ministry he served some of the important churches of the Conference. A list of his appointments includes West Newton, Scottdale, Kittanning, Homestead, New Kensington, Friendship Park, New Brighton, Connellsville and Knoxville. His ministry was one of great usefulness. He was a winner of souls and brought hundreds of people to Christ. As a preacher he was strong, direct and practical in his statement of the truth. He was not carried away from the great doctrines of Scripture in the attempt to find something novel and entertaining, but was true to his calling to preach the everlasting gospel. He was a man of positive convictions and believed in the power of the Christian message.

Brother Ashe was a man of unusual business tact and gave both time and energy to the improvement of the financial condition of the churches which he served. He was not afraid of a church debt or a building enterprise. In the management of temporal affairs he was a man of acknowledged leadership. When he moved into a community he soon became widely acquainted among its people, and his influence was felt in reforms and other movements for the public welfare. He took a special interest in the training of his children, inspiring in them a love for education and having the satisfaction of seeing them rise to places of usefulness and influence.

When declining health made it necessary for him to retire from an active relation to the Conference he still wished to continue in the pastoral work. When preparing to move to a new appointment he became ill and after three months of suffering, which he endured with a patient trust in God, he passed from earth on January 9, 1920. To the faithful and loyal companion of all the years of his ministry and to the surviving members of his family cordial sympathy is extended. E. S. WHITE.

James A. Hamilton

On January 9, 1920, James A. Hamilton died at his home in Dover, York county Pa. He was born at Cold Ring, Lancaster county, on May 4, 1847. Converted at the age of twelve, he united with the Church and for many years served the Lord as a layman.

Believing fully that he was called to preach, he was received into the ministry of the United Brethren Church, being ordained an elder by Bishop Floyd at Chambersburg, February 26, 1892. After preaching for ten years in the United Brethren Church, he was admitted to the Pittsburgh Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1903. He served the following charges: Pleasant Unity, Stahlstown, Armagh, Florence, Smiths Ferry, Georgetown, Independence and New Cumberland.

In 1913 he took the retired relation, moving to York, thence to Dover, a village near by, where he spent the remaining years of his life, in bodily weakness but with an unwavering faith. On his dying bed he repeated over and over the Lord's Prayer and his favorite verse of Scripture, John 3, 16.

Funeral services were conducted by the writer, assisted by the Rev. O. P. Schellhamer, of the Reformed Church. The Reverends J. H. Hege and H. P. Baker, of Dover, participated in the service. Interment was in Greenmount Cemetery, York.

Brother Hamilton was twice married—on July 25, 1869, to Miss Agnes Carpenter of Cold Ring, who died in 1908, and on November 17, 1909, to Miss Laura Bainbridge, of Philadelphia, who survives. One son and two daughters by the first marriage also survive.

