

THE MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTIETH SESSION

OF THE

**Central Pennsylvania Annual Conference**

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,

HELD IN

WILLIAMSPORT, PENN'A, MARCH 14--20, 1888.

Committee on Publication---The Secretaries.

HARRISBURG, PA.:  
PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT M. E. BOOK ROOMS,  
THOMAS S. WILCOX, SUP'T.  
1888.

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o a light sleep until about two o'clock Mon-  
 en touching his hand she found it icy cold.  
 id changed since she saw him last in sleep.  
 struggle visible, his right hand folded on  
 chief, a smile on his face, his eyes gently  
 e time anticipated the event. He had on  
 vious, in a conversation with W. S. Short,  
 that the end was near, and told him that  
 itchell, Wm. Frysinger and Wm. Evans to  
 just he addressed a note to his absent son,  
 ld die suddenly and asking him "to live for  
 was evidently not finished until the day be-  
 e some directions and requested the whole  
 odist Episcopal Church, expressed his great-  
 re family, and love for every person—that he  
 i the words Love, Love, Love. Your affec-  
 J. A. R. He folded the note and placed it  
 closed the leaves. It was his last, his dying  
 bequeathed to his family and to the church.  
 Christian life as an evangelist so he contin-  
 a more than ordinarily protracted ministry.  
 This is his distinction. To this work was  
 it was he signally blessed and honored of  
 to his efficiency as a revivalist. Not a few  
 instrumentality have been called to the work  
 ell, Frysinger and Evans, and the Rev. Emory  
 s among those whose talents and influence  
 ade a blessing to the church through his labors  
 o thank God that Joseph A. Ross ever lived.  
 one perhaps but he could have built them.  
 urch at Northumberland is a monument to his  
 mber how he traveled through the length and  
 e Conference, begging funds for this enterprise.  
 ch in York, Pa., whose first three pastors were  
 revs. Frysinger, Evans and Swartz.  
 h fitting him for his work, were many and by  
 le was brave—lack of courage in the perform-  
 ited. The Sunday morning after his conver-  
 rom where he was teaching school, told the  
 experienced, reminded his mother and the rest  
 ily prayer, proposed and had prayer in the face  
 art of some of the family, and prayer over, he  
 ost determined opponent on his knees and in  
 n his way from a camp meeting in Hunting-  
 t, he stopped over night at an old Country  
 by his surroundings he insisted on and suc-

ceeded in having prayer with the family. He was thoroughly original,  
 himself always. With his strong individuality may have been the slight-  
 est touch of eccentricity. With the logical faculty in abeyance, the per-  
 ceptive and intuitive were quick and seemingly unerring. His power of  
 persuasion was great and due chiefly to his truly wonderful knowledge of  
 human nature. He seemed to catch, in an instant and with an insight  
 almost startling the exact state of the minds with which he came in con-  
 tact. He knew the workings of the Spirit in the human heart for he had  
 himself experienced them. His sermons were not distinguished so much  
 for depth of thought, a strength of reasoning, as for their pungency and  
 power as a proclamation of gospel truth, as a vivid presentation of the  
 motives that prevail over the will and influence men to act. He dealt less  
 with the head than with the heart of his audience. There was a child-  
 like sympathy in his spirit with a vein of innocent mirthfulness that made  
 most agreeable his companionship. His was a fervent spirit. In preach-  
 ing, in exhortation and in prayer his force was in his fervor. There are  
 those present to-day who have heard Joseph A. Ross in his best days, and  
 at his best when his impassioned appeals to the unconverted were streams  
 of eloquence that were as flames of fire from a sacred altar; when under the  
 power that attended these appeals, strong men would bend as the pliant  
 tree before the blast, and whole congregations in tears would give expres-  
 sion to their divinely kindled emotions, some in shouts of joy, some in cry-  
 ing for mercy.

His funeral took place February 9th, 1888. The Rev. W. W. Evans  
 in accordance with his request was present and spoke touching words com-  
 memorative of the life and labors of his beloved brother and father in the  
 gospel.  
 B. B. HAMLIN.

THE REV. JOHN L. BEISHLINE.

John L. Beishline was born in Columbia county, Pa., June 9, 1849,  
 and died at Buckhorn, same county, October 8, 1887.

In the year 1865 he was brought to Christ in the experience of con-  
 verting grace, during the progress of a revival at Wesley Chapel, on the  
 Orangeville Circuit, conducted by Rev. E. M. Chilcoat.

Soon after his conversion he united with the church and became an  
 active worker in the vineyard of the Lord.

In the capacity of Sunday-school Superintendent, and in other de-  
 partments of church work, he exercised the zeal and fidelity which afford  
 the best proof of devotion to Christ and capacity for Christian usefulness.

He was licensed as a local preacher in the year 1879 at Wesley Chapel,  
 the place of his conversion. In this capacity he continued to serve the  
 church for the period of six years, three years of the time as supply on  
 the Muhlenburg charge. His labors on this charge were crowned with

success in the erection of two churches and the conversion of a number of souls.

At the Conference of 1886 he was received on trial in the Traveling Connection and appointed to the New Washington Circuit.

In this, as in his previous charge, his work was attended with revivals of religion and numerous accessions to the church.

Toward the close of the year the signs of failing health suggested the importance of his removal to a different field of labor. Accordingly at the last Conference he was appointed to the Buckhorn charge in the Danville District. With a hopeful spirit he entered upon the duties of his new charge and continued in the work until the latter part of July. His sickness lasted through a period of eight weeks. Four weeks of this time he was confined to his room.

Shortly after he was taken sick, he became impressed that he would not recover, and to his wife he said: "Now while I can, I want to tell you what to do, if I should not live," and added, "You know that life is uncertain."

His affliction which at times was very severe, was borne with great patience and fortitude, never complaining, but throughout evincing the spirit of true Christian submission.

A few days before his death he said to his wife: "Do not think I am carrying any fear. I have bidden farewell to every fear and am ready to go at any time."

Saturday evening, October 8th, with an unflinching reliance upon the promise and merit of the Redeemer, and with the sweet consciousness of personal salvation his happy spirit, released from the earthly tabernacle entered the "house not made with hands eternal in the heavens."

RICHARD HINKLE.

#### MRS. LOUISIANA McCLURE.

Louisiana McClure, widow of the late Rev. Thomas F. McClure, died at her home near Everett, Pa., November 24th, 1887, in the sixty-fifth year of her age.

She was the daughter of Armstrong and Amelia Ann Rankin, who at the ages of 20 and 15 years respectively were married and settled near Mt. Solon, Augusta County, Va., where Louisiana was born on the 16th of November, 1823.

Armstrong Rankin was the only child of his mother who was a widow and made her home with the young couple. She was a very worthy Presbyterian lady and to her Louisiana was indebted for much of the moral and religious training which molded her character for life. She was converted when seventeen years of age at a Methodist campmeeting and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church. Her parents who were not members of any church embraced religion and followed her into the church of her

choice. He gathered i

At th  
McClure c  
tionate dev  
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In th  
Chaplain  
brothers w

Divis  
Baltimore,  
continued

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