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Official Minutes

of the

St. Johns River Conference

of the

Methodist Episcopal Church

Thirty-fifth Annual Session

Held in

The First Church

DeLand, Florida

January 12-16, 1921

Edited by

D. H. RUTTER

Secretary

Memoirs

Rev. George W. Butler.

George W. Butler was born at Olney, Illinois, July 4, 1841. He received a good education in that state and taught in his native vicinity for several years. He enlisted as a volunteer at the beginning of the Civil War in the 198th Illinois Regiment, serving for four years. He was under the command of General Thomas at Missionary Ridge and Chickamauga, and in the fight at Bloody Pond.

At the close of the war, he was received on trial in the Southern Illinois Conference where he gave seventeen years of faithful service. In 1886, he transferred to this Conference and served the following charges: Fruitland Park, Eustis, Mt. Dora, Bay Ridge and Seneca. As Presiding Elder, he served from 1899 to 1904 when he retired at the Annual Conference held at Tarpon Springs in 1904.

He was married to Miss Frances A. Hasselrode at Centralia, Ill., Nov. 2, 1873. Of this union three children were born.

He received a stroke of paralysis several years before his death and during this period of affliction, he was loving and patient and was carefully and tenderly cared for by his now lonely widowed wife.

Brother Butler was my Presiding Elder for six years: I always found him sympathetic and helpful. His preaching was plain, practical and helpful. His sermons were clear and closely related to his texts.

He was a splendid Bible class teacher; for several years he taught a class at Mt. Dora after he had to give up preaching.

He was in attendance last year at our Conference at Jacksonville, but was very feeble and had to be almost carried to and from the church to the automobile.

Brother Butler died April 12, 1920, at South Jacksonville. The funeral services were held in the Snyder Memorial church in Jacksonville and were in charge of the pastor, Rev. S. A. Keen, who was assisted by several other members of the Conference. Many beautiful floral offerings were made attesting the high esteem in which he was held by those who knew him best.

Our Conference personnel changes so fast that only a few are here today who knew Brother Butler as an effective Elder in our Work. He was one of the pioneers of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Florida and those who knew him best will long revere his memory.

G. H. NORTHEOP.