

-THE-

HOLSTON ANNUAL 1902

OFFICIAL RECORD

...OF THE...

Holston Annual Conference

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH

SEVENTY-NINTH SESSION

-HELD AT-

Wytheville, Va., October 8=14, 1902

Bishop H. C. MORRISON,
Rev. J. A. BURROW,
Secretary
Rev. J. S. FRENCH,
Assistant Secretary
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Rev. C. L. STRADLEY,
Statistical Secretaries

Edited by REV. J. A. BURROW, Secretary

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MEMOIRS.

REV. W. L. JONES.

Rev. W. L. Jones was born January 10, 1853. He was educated at Carson and Newman College, located at Jefferson City, Tenn., being a graduate of that institution. He was converted in young manhood and at once united with the M. E. Church, South, in whose doctrines and polity he sincerely believed, and was devotedly attached. He soon gave himself to the work of the ministry, and in 1882, at Asheville, N. C., was admitted on trial into the Holston Conference, and was appointed to the Rutledge Circuit. During his ministry he served the following charges: Rutledge Circuit, Tate Spring Circuit, Morristown Circuit, Clinton Station, Jonesboro Station, Greeneville Station, Rogersville Station, and St. Clair Circuit. He was successful on all these charges.

On October 25, 1881, he was happily married to Miss Julia Tate, daughter of John C. Tate, who faithfully stood by him in all the conflicts, struggles, and triumphs of his ministerial life. Five bright children, some of whom are almost grown, blessed their home, and were the pride and joy of the father's life.

On the morning of January 16, 1902, at his home in Rogersville, surrounded by his patient wife and devoted children, Brother Jones passed from the Church Militant to the Church Triumphant. On the morning of the day following his death, the casket was carried to the Southern Methodist Church in Rogersville, where, in the presence of a large concourse of people, Dr. C. T. Carroll, a life-long friend of the deceased, preached a strong and helpful sermon from the text: "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." The services ended, the remains were taken to Morristown and interred in the city cemetery by the Masonic fraternity, of which he was an honored member.

In the death of Brother Jones the Holston Conference has lost one of its truest and best preachers, the wife a devoted husband, and the children a most affectionate father. Brother Jones served in the active work of the itinerant ministry for nearly twenty years, during which time hundreds of souls were saved, and influenced to a higher and better life, and these will rise up in the cloudless day to call him blessed. May the blessing of God rest upon the stricken wife and children, and may they come at last to join the loved one in the home of the just.

L. M. CARTRIGHT.

REV. W. H. DAWN.

Rev. W. H. Dawn was converted in 1871, at Church Street Church, Knoxville, Tenn. He joined the Holston Conference in 1872, and was appointed to Rogersville Circuit; second year, Tazewell, Tenn.; third, at Rogersville. He married Miss Looney, who was a helpmeet indeed. His fourth appointment was to Morristown Circuit; fifth, Ooltewah; sixth, Murphy, N. C. Here his health failed. His preaching was earnest and practical. Being a mechanic, when his health failed he devoted himself to contracting and building houses, and accumulated considerable means, and was a liberal giver. But the collapse of the boom in Knoxville swept it all away.

His death was occasioned by a fall into a cellar he was having excavated for a large building; his head, striking a rock, affected his brain, from which he never recovered. While in health, he was always attentive to preaching and prayer-meetings, frequently filling appointments for the brethren and assisting in the sacraments. He was loved and respected by all who knew him. He was a man of clean lips and pure speech. He was

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"Lo, the pain of life is past, All his warfare now is o'er; Death and hell behind are cast, Grief and suffering are no more.

"Lo, the prisoner is released, Lightened of his fleshly load; Where the weary are at rest, He is gathered unto God."

W. H. BATES.

REV. JOHN H. KEITH.

Rev. John H. Keith, M. D., D. D., was born in Rhea County, Tennessee, April 27, 1839, and died at his home in Rogersville at 2 o'clock a. m., Saturday, September 20, 1902, aged sixty-three years, four months and twenty-three days. At the early age of fifteen, our sainted brother professed saving faith in Christ, and at once affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. In the eighteenth year of his life, Dr. Keith was licensed to preach so that at the time of his translation he had worn was licensed to preach, so that at the time of his translation he had worn the clerical robes for more than forty-five years. In his early manhood he studied medicine, and became a successful practitioner of the healing art, but a dispensation of the gospel had been committed unto him, and he very soon completely and permanently divorced himself from all secular pursuits, and irrevocably consecrated himself to the work of the Christian ministry. I greatly regret my inability to give dates as to his admission on trial and his ordination as deacon and elder. Of the following facts in relation to his ministerial career I am reasonably certain:

He was licensed to preach in 1857, traveled as a supply for two or three years, practiced medicine during the war between the States, was admitted into the Holston Conference on trial about 1870, and was received into full connection at the session of the Conference held in the Very soon after his entrance into the regular work of the ministry, the fact became patent that Dr. Keith was a man of extraordinary gifts, grace and usefulness, and he soon took high rank in his holy calling. With signal ability and acceptability he filled the following prominent pastoral charges: Decatur Circuit, Sweetwater Circuit, Asheville Station, Church Street, Knoxville; Broad Street, Knoxville; State Street, Bristol; Cleveland Station, Chattanooga District, Morristown District, Newport Station, Rogersville Station, and perhaps some others in Holston Conference. Some years since, in the hope of regaining his health, Dr. Keith transferred to the North Texas Conference, and filled some of the leading pulpits in the "Lone Star State." He also served one year as the popular He also served one year as the popular pastor of the Concord Station, in the Western North Carolina Conference.

Dr. Keith was happily married to Miss Anne Myers, of Rhea County, Tennessee, and the fruit of this union was eight children, seven of whom, with the stricken widow, survive to mourn their irreparable loss. His domestic life was true, tender and beautiful, and his home was almost a little paradise. As a man, our sainted brother was kind, genial, social. I think, more fully than any other person with whom I have been intimate, he was possessed of the milk of human kindness. To the art of making enemies he seemed to be a total stranger. He was the friend of every man, and every man was his friend. In the most practical manner, he recognized the brotherhood of human-kind, and as far as in him lay, he bore the burdens of those about him, and so fulfilled the law of Christ. Modest, quiet, unassuming, bearing about in his body the dying of his blessed Lord, his walk alone among his parishioners was a benediction.