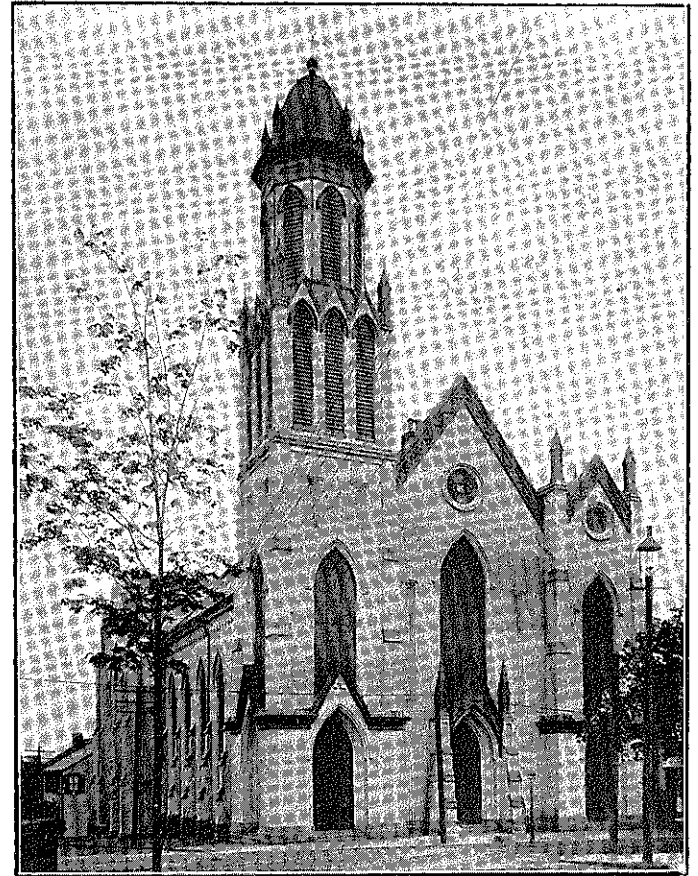


New Jersey Conference ...Minutes...



FIRST CHURCH, NEW BRUNSWICK

Official Journal—Seventieth Session

... 1906 ...

in charge of the Presiding Elder, Rev. W. P. Davis, D. D., assisted by Rev. John Allen, Jr., Rev. H. M. Denlinger, Rev. H. B. White, Rev. H. J. Heine-man, and Rev. J. B. Ryan. The burial was in the "Old Church" Cemetery near the sacred dust of the father and mother, there to await the resurrection morning.

S. MONROE VANSANT.

HANNAH S. C. GARRISON.

HANNAH S. C. GARRISON, wife of Rev. Charles F. Garrison, daughter of the late Rev. Philip Cline, was born in Philadelphia, and in early childhood, with her father and family entered the itinerary life within the bounds of the New Jersey Conference.

While her father was stationed at the old Front street church in Trenton, amid revival services, she was invited and accompanied to the altar by Sister A. K. Street, where she realized the clear and distinct witness of the Spirit to her spiritual birth. This, with the very careful training, and thorough drill in all that pertains to the keeping of baptismal vows by her parents, she attributed as the well-laid foundation which she, according to her day, was able to build.

She was a great reader and student, which made her at ease in conversation upon most of the questions of the hour.

In 1885 she received her graduate diploma of the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle. But in all reading and studies, she invariably returned to the Bible as the standard of her life. It settled all questions. It is the expressed judgment of her husband and children, that the principles of the two great commandments were the crowning principles of her life. She gloried in the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit.

This bright life, which dawned in childhood, grew, deepened and brightened unto the shining in of the fulness of the eternal light, which was in the evening hour of November 23d, 1905, in the parsonage home at Stratford, N. J.

After graduation at the State Normal School in Trenton, N. J., she gave several years to teaching. In 1871 she gave herself anew as a Pastor's wife to all the interests of home and church. She soon became greatly interested in the work of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, where she was an earnest worker, holding various offices in State, County and Local Societies.

At the close of her life a number of Unions, as well as the State President brought and laid a beautiful tribute on memory's altar.

Twenty years ago, at the session of our Conference held in New Brunswick, she, at the earnest solicitation of Mrs. Jennie Fowler Willing, accepted the office of Corresponding Secretary of the organization of the New Jersey Conference Woman's Home Missionary Society, with Mrs. Clinton B. Fisk as President.

The work of introducing and extending this new society throughout the Conference demanded much of her time and strength, yet she wearied not in presenting the cause as a means of grace to both pastor and people, as well as its great need everywhere, as far reaching as our flag.

After ten years of service as Corresponding Secretary, at the election of Mrs. Fisk as National President, Mrs. Garrison was elected President. This office she held, and was re-elected the day her spirit was ascending, and to her the message of her election was read but a few hours before she passed on. This election was a tribute to Mrs. Garrison, which the society gave her unanimously. A beautiful service was held in the Stratford Methodist Episcopal Church, on Monday, November 27th, with Rev. Dr. Moore, Presiding Elder, presiding. A large number of ministers and their wives, with many women and friends from different parts of the Conference, were present.

Revs. J. L. Roe, E. Hewitt, F. A. DeMaris and the Presiding Elder, made

appropriate addresses. A beautiful letter from Presiding Elder Haines was also read.

Brothers Gravatt, Neal, VanSant, and J. Morgan Read took part in the services, reading the scriptures and prayer. Mrs. Caminade, representing the Woman's Home Missionary Society, paid a beautiful tribute to the ability and earnest zeal of Sister Garrison in developing the Society, also to her personality, spirituality, and her undaunted faith.

Mrs. Garrison had been feeling for a number of years that ministers' wives should have a closer tie, a bond in common, that in many ways, amid the varied trials and itinerary of their lives, that they might aid and comfort one another and theirs, as helps and sympathy might do.

The thought grew when recently "The Sisterhood," composed of the wives of New Jersey Conference Ministers, was organized, with Mrs. Garrison as President. At her funeral services Mrs. George H. Neal read a paper, coming from "The Sisterhood" written by Mrs. S. Monroe VanSant, Secretary. The next day, Tuesday 28th, her remains were taken to Millville for burial, Revs. J. H. Magee, W. Mitchel and J. L. Roe conducting the service at the grave. Thus has passed from us one whose presence we shall miss at our annual gatherings, but whom we expect to meet in "The land that is fairer than day." Happy day that will be when the reunion in Heaven will be complete.

HANNAH ROBBINS.

HANNAH ROBBINS, widow of Rev. Firman Robbins, a member of the New Jersey Annual Conference, deceased in Bridgeton, N. J.

Mrs. Robbins belonged to the family of "Swings," an ancestral name in Southern New Jersey Methodism, where "Swings Chapel" has a historic record equalled only by New Mills and First Church, Trenton. She had a superior education which peculiarly fitted her for the position she accepted as the wife of a Methodist preacher. So loyal was she to the Church of her fellowship and the leadership to whom she had tendered the guidance of her religious life, that she could enter the precincts of a pastoral life with the consciousness that she could be really a helpmate to his ministry as well as a wife to his heart. The appointments were not always supporting ones, but were accepted by her with the same cheerfulness as those which more adequately met their necessities. When the heart of her husband—as he looked upon the wants and needs of a growing family, for whom he knew not how to provide—failed him, she was always ready to cheer him with a better prospect of a future. The writer was at one time their Presiding Elder, at a time when these despondencies often came upon him and the memory of her uncomplaining courage with whose spirit she endeavored to animate her husband, remains a beautiful reminiscence even now. His broken health suspended the activities of his ministry and he entered into business in the city of Bridgeton, which, after a time he abandoned and re-entered the ministry, only to again lay it aside, and permanently commit his life with business. During all these periods she was the same genial, tender, loving wife, sustaining him by the magnetism of her firm yet gentle power up to the end. She never sacrificed a conviction and she never offended in expressing it. Her father was a strong abolitionist in the days when it was not considered reputable to oppose slavery, and she inherited both the convictions and the openness of expression—and yet, while standing almost alone in her belief and listening to strong condemnation from others, she defended her position with a vigor of logic which while discomfiting her opponents at the same time retained their love.

Her later years were passed in Bridgeton, where her husband had deceased—caring for her children. One of them became religious young, and while being educated at Dickinson College preparatory to becoming a missionary, suddenly sickened, leaving her heart-broken; but trusting still in the mercy and goodness of the God who had sustained her amid all the vicissi-