

MINUTES
OF THE
SIXTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
Central Illinois Conference
OF THE
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HELD AT

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OFFICIAL RECORDS

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arger and Mrs. Effie Gordon of Victoria, and
d, S. Dakota.

l the Ministry of the Methodist Episcopal
Conference in 1864, and retired from the
this long term of active membership in the
ficult but important Charges with great accep-
Victoria, but removed from there to Blue
Seven years later they came back to Victoria
e of his death.

who was his true helpmeet for over fifty years
confidence of happy reunion beyond the stars.
sterling integrity and loyal to the core to all

osition and devoted to Christ and His Church
genuine Christianity in every relation of life.
sonality, Clear and positive in his preaching
iscientious in the performance of all duties
h calling to preach the Truth in Christ and
such manner that he had the respect and es-

as nearing the bound of life, but feeling no
funeral service, that was carried out as he
a long time close friend and brother Minister,
d preached the sermon. Rev. Ekstrom, the
read the 14th Chapter of John's Gospel and

linois

VIN B. COUCH

at Elm Grove, Tazewell county, Illinois, Nov-
soula, Montana, June 27, 1922, being 81 years
His last illness was of brief duration. His
ssion was in 1919. At that time he was in
delightful spirit. He left the Conference
ind that he in all probability would never meet
ed in early life and united with the Metho-
he enlisted in the eleventh Illinois cavalry,
i. Ingersoll. In 1862 he was admitted on Trial
ce and gave 20 years to the active ministry
ermont, Kirkwood, Berwick, Roseville, Oneida,
ig compelled to retire from the active work
Nebraska, and settled on a farm near this
is death.

mitted in marriage to Miss Mattie K. Zoll.
i May 5, 1916. Heeding the Master's word,
i I will give thee a crown of life" he proved
even in his latest years ever striving to lead
taketh away the sin of the world. His life
y of the Gospel.

d at York, Nebraska, conducted by the pastor,

L. R. Dewolf, assisted by Rev. Frank Lindhorst, pastor of the Methodist
Church at Waco, Nebraska.

MILTON LORENZO HANEY

Milton L. Haney was born in Richland County, Ohio, January, 20, 1825,
and died January 23, 1922, just three days after entering the ninety-eighth
year of his earthly life.

He came of a family of ministers. His father, an Irishman of Donegal,
his brothers, Richard, Freeborn and William, all were Methodist preachers
and members of Conference. In the family of his brother Richard Haney,
four generations of ministers held forth the word of life: James, the father,
Richard, his son, James, son of Richard, and Richard, son of James.

Milton's death closes, probably the career of the Haney family in the
Methodist ministry, and it is unlikely that the name of Haney will be called
in any subsequent session of the Conference.

As boy and man, student and soldier, teacher and citizen, preacher and
evangelist, winner of souls, and in his devotion to high ideals of life and
service, his was a worth-while life.

Through all and above all, during his manhood life, his dominant pur-
pose was the emancipation of human souls from the slavery of sin, and their
induction into a personal consciousness of the freedom of soul in Christ Jesus.

The establishment of God's kingdom in human hearts, was his chief
thought and inspiration—a constant call for tireless service.

His faith in the ultimate triumph of the great truths in Christ's gospel
never wavered. The gospel trumpet he blew never pressed the trembling lips
of doubt.

The greater part of his ministerial work was spent in evangelistic work,
especially emphasizing the doctrine, and urging the experience of entire sancti-
fication, a doctrine and experience that needs to be emphasized now.

In his work as a "Holiness Evangelist," his consecrated life and tireless
service, and the blessing of God brought signal success. Multiplied hundreds
here and yonder have been led by him from a life of sin and indifference,
into a blessed experience of perfect love and loyal service, such a love and ser-
vice as God wants his children to have and to do.

Among the charges he served prior to evangelistic service, were Abing-
don, Galseburg, Lewistown, Farmington, LaSalle and Canton.

His evangelistic work was chiefly done in Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana,
Mississippi, Colorado and Oregon.

In 1849 he married Miss Sarah Katherine Huntsinger, and for more than
seventy-one years they travelled life's pathway together. Mrs. Haney passed
to her reward about one and one-half years before her husband's summons came.
She was in many ways a remarkable woman and a wonderful inspiration to
him in his work.

She was especially gifted in prayer and in the presentation of God's claim
on human hearts for love and service.

Clearness, force, often beauty and genuine eloquence characterized her
public utterances. A caustic wit, a sense of humor, a ready repartee, all
underlaid by absolute consecration to God, and loyalty to, and service for
Him, made her an unusual woman and so large a factor in the life and success
of our departed brother.

After the death of his wife, and nearing the one hundredth year of mortal life, he felt so keenly the sadness of separation.

He is the twelfth member of our Conference who is buried in California. His body sleeps in the cemetery at Pasadena, beside that of his loved wife, awaiting the great awakening of the resurrection.

G. R. PALMER

W. J. LEACH

William James Leach was born at Collinswood, Ontario, Canada, February 1, 1875. His boyhood days were spent in Dwight, Illinois, where he attended the public schools. Later he attended Grand Prairie Seminary, Bradley Polytechnic Institute, and Northwestern University. He united with the Central Illinois Conference at Peoria in 1900, having previously served as a supply at Bartonville. His subsequent charges were Vermont, Dunlap, Madison Avenue at Peoria, Pekin, Spencer Memorial, Morton, ElPaso, and Averyville. In all these charges he left the impress of a sincere follower of his Master, a warm lover of men, a preacher of good news. His preaching was characterized by simplicity of style, originality of statement, and clearness of thought. He cared little for the conventional statement of creed or program, but was always loyal to the essentials of faith and life. Early in his ministry he came to understand the social implications of the teachings of Jesus and his ministry was marked by an earnest effort to illustrate them in his message and life.

He early discovered the value of the press to reinforce the message of the pulpit and became a frequent and highly esteemed contributor to the local papers in the communities where he served. During the closing years of his life he was connected with the Peoria Journal as special writer. Seldom has any one succeeded more signally in working in what to many seems to be two distinct fields. In his pulpit and in his newspaper he was preaching and exemplifying the teachings of the New Testament. To his newspaper work as to his pulpit ministrations he brought a chaste literary style, a sane philosophy of life, a deep interest in folks and a sure faith in God.

His keen interest in the affairs of men found expression in his service in the Spanish American War and later in his Y. M. C. A. service during the World War where he was attached to the Second Division A. E. F. It was this division that went through Chateau Thierry and stood the brunt of the fighting of that period. It was characteristic of Brother Leach that upon his return from overseas his first message to his congregation at ElPaso was a gospel sermon instead of an account of his experiences in the war.

His death came while he was busy with his daily tasks. His last day was spent at his newspaper duties, after which he went home for a hurried evening meal. From home he hastened to make a pastoral call, after which he conducted a Pre-Lenten service at the Averyville Methodist Church. At the close of the service he left the church and was seen no more. Two weeks later the body was found on the East Peoria side of the Illinois River. Few men are mourned by so many and such varied groups of citizens, for few have touched so many lives helpfully.

The interment was in the cemetery at Vermont, Illinois, and a memorial service was held in the First Methodist Church in Peoria in which members of his family, newspaper men, parishioners from charges he had served, social and civic workers, brethren in the ministry joined in paying tribute to one