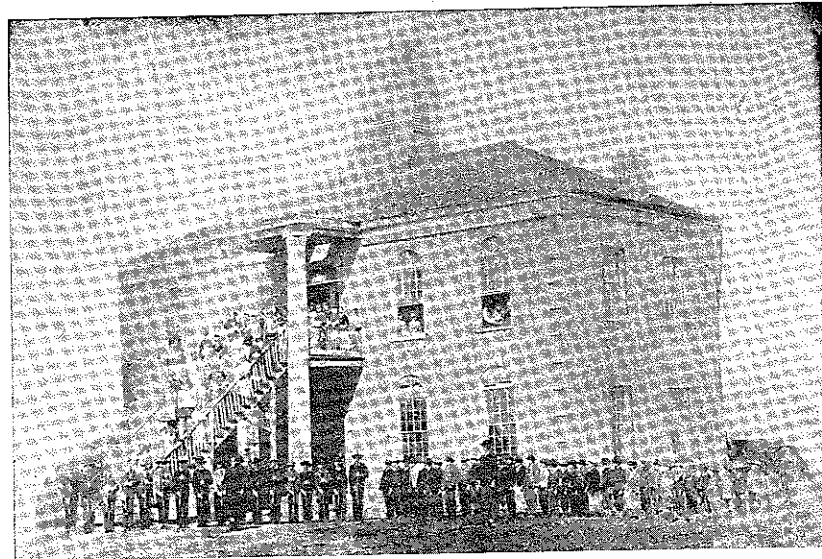


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JOURNAL
OF
The Rio Grande Mission
Conference
OF
The Methodist Episcopal Church, South



Paine Female College, Goliad, Texas, where the first session of the West Texas Conference was held, 1859. College founded 1852.

Constituted by the General Conference held in the City of Nashville, Tennessee, May, 1858, and its first appointments made by Bishop Pierce at the Texas Conference held in the City of Austin, Texas, November, 1858.

BOUNDARY OF THE RIO GRANDE MISSION CONFERENCE

All that part of the state of Texas lying west and southwest of a line beginning at the mouth of the Guadalupe River;—thence up said river to where it is crossed by the road from San Antonio to Fredericksburg;—thence on said road to Fort Mason;—thence due north to the Colorado river;—thence up said river to the big spring;—thence due north to the state line.

NOTE: The 1937 session of the West Texas Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, ordered the Minutes of the conferences for the years 1859-1876 to be printed as appendices of its Journal, the first installment to begin with the 1938 edition.

Special thanks are due Dr. E. W. Winkler, Bibliographer, University of Texas, Austin, for supervising the transcription of the original Minutes.
OLIN W. NAIL, Carrizo Springs, *Journal Editor.*

G. FISHER, D. D. was born in Texana, near Edna, 1864 and entered into the ministry with his Lord on April 18, 1883, after he joined the West Texas Conference in 1883. He was more profoundly influenced in the Southwest by the Holy Spirit of God. He served as Secretary of the West Texas Conference from 1907 to 1937, a period of 47 years, perhaps unequalled in the history of American Methodism. He is the author of the old records of the West Texas Conference.

Assistant Secretary of the West Texas Conference, he did a splendid work in the published Journals and much other data. He is the author of the University of Texas publication of these old records. We wish to thank him for his faithful service and his fine work.

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Olin W. Nail, Secretary-Editor, Sept. 1, 1943.

These were ordered bound and distributed at the Texas Conference. See page 1.

**Friday Morning, November 13, 1863,
10 o'Clock, A. M.**

ference, by reading the scriptures, singing and prayer. was dispensed with.

Fampke was deferred until the case of N. H. Boring.

admitted into full connection?" The name of N. H. Boring was added to the Committee on Missions.

was taken up. The charges and specifications were read, and a decision of the committee was set aside on the ground that it could not justify his suspension. The Conference proceeded to adjourn and he was acquitted. His character passed, and he was

admitted to have an evening session.

Who are elected and ordained deacons?"

Who are elected and ordained elders?"

Who is the minister of this year?"

Who is the secretary?"

Who is the treasurer?"

Who died during the past year?" Jasper K. Harper.

Who are blameless in their life and official administration?"

Who are the members of the Conference? Jesse Boring, Robert H. Belvin were called and

and the session was prolonged 15 minutes.

W. Cooly were called and their characters passed.

by the president.

**Friday Evening, November 13, 1863,
7 o'Clock, P. M.**

by reading the scriptures, singing and prayer. A committee was appointed to read, and referred to the Committee on Books

number of preachers and members in the several circuits, and the statistics of the same."

John De-Vilbiss was called, his character passed and he was appointed to a professorship in the Aranama College.

His character passed and he was continued in a superannuated position. Hord was called, his character passed and he was

The names of Gustavus Elly, John S. Gillett, elder A. Sharper, elder elect; Robert P. Thompson and their characters passed.

and their characters passed.

and their characters passed.

and their characters passed.

and their characters passed.

by the president.

November 14, 9 o'Clock, A. M.

by reading the scriptures, singing and prayer. was dispensed with.

by the Committee on Education made their report, containing the following resolutions:

to recommend to our people the Paine Female Institute, as a very worthy of the patronage of the church

Resolved, that we fully appreciate the labors of the teachers in the San Antonio Female College and can recommend that institution to the care of the Conference and the patronage of the people.

Resolved, that this Conference should take steps immediately to establish a male school under military government, and your committee recommends that the Conference appoint a committee to locate such an institution and to make the preliminary arrangements to put it in operation.

The Committee on Books and Periodicals made their report, which was read, received and adopted, and the San Antonio Herald and Goliad Messenger were requested to publish. Containing the following resolutions:

Resolved, that we commence at once to procure subscriptions for the "Advocate" and that we will use every effort to obtain donations in money and otherwise for its support.

Resolved, that we will heartily co-operate with our brethren of the Texas and East Texas Conferences in their efforts to reestablish the paper.

Resolved, that we agree with our brethren in the plan they have adopted for the distribution of our books, or any plan the convention may adopt.

The following resolutions were offered and adopted: Resolved, that we as a Conference, request the Tennessee Conference to transfer to the Rio Grande Conference our Brother H. A. Groves, who is known to us as a worthy Christian minister, having labored within the bounds of our Conference during the past year or most of it.

Resolved, that we earnestly request the Bishops to convene a General Conference at as early a period as possible, and that the secretary transmit this request to them at the earliest convenience and also send one of their number west of the Mississippi River to afford us ordination and pastoral oversight.

Resolved, that it is the sense of this Conference, that our Missionary collections should be taken up as early as practicable and wherever practicable organize auxiliary societies and when a preacher fails to bring up a Missionary collection his character shall not pass without censure.

Resolved, that the thanks of the Conference are respectfully tendered to our presiding officer, for the kind and able manner in which he has presided over our deliberations.

Resolved, that the thanks of this Conference are respectfully tendered to our secretary for the faithful and efficient manner in which he has discharged his duties.

Resolved, that the thanks of this Conference be tendered to the citizens of Sutherlands Springs and vicinity for the kind entertainment we have received at their hands.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools made their report, which was read, revised and adopted, containing the following resolutions:

Resolved, that all diligence be used to comply with the Discipline in regard to Sabbath Schools and in our statistical reports we embody all necessary information.

Resolved, in view of the scarcity of Sabbath School books that we will engage with our brethren of the Texas and East Texas Conferences, in any effort to supply the great lack.

The Committee on Memorials made their report, which was read and ordered to be spread upon the minutes.

To the president and members of the Rio Grande Conference:

Dear Brethren: Your Committee on Memorials beg leave to report that death has invaded our Conference since our last session and taken from our midst one of our most useful, most promising and best beloved brethren. Jasper K. Harper has fallen at his post, his voice is hushed forever on earth. It will never more be heard in our pulpits in proclaiming the Gospel which he so much loved, nor in our Conference deliberations where he was ever listened to with deep interest. But we have a well grounded hope that while it is silent here, it has engaged in a nobler, sweeter song, where sorrow and sighing flee away and death is an eternal stranger. Brother Harper died on the 18th of January, 1863, his end was peace [ful]. He not only died without fear but in triumph. Brother Harper was a most conscientious man, faithfully discharging his duty, as he understood. He was an able and successful preacher, he was a cordial friend. Let us cherish his memory and emulate his actions.

Question 17th, "What amounts are necessary for the superannuated preachers, and the widows and orphans of preachers and to make up the deficiencies of those who have not received their regular allowance in their respective districts, circuits and stations?" Answer: \$601.00.

Question 18th, "What has been collected on the foregoing account, and how has it been applied?"