

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Methodist Episcopal Church, South

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MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

1911



NOVEMBER EIGHTH TO THIRTEENTH

STATESVILLE, N. C.

VII. MEMOIRS

REV. SOLOMON HILARY HELSABECK

BY R. M. TAYLOR

Solomon Hilary Helsabeck was born in Stokes County, N. C., March 10, 1822, and died near the place of his birth, December 11, 1910.

His education was good for the times, and he lost no opportunity for self-improvement. His early school advantages were so poor that after his marriage he moved to Trinity College where he pursued his studies for some while.

He was converted in early life, and at once began a life of constant activity for the Master. He was licensed to exhort by the Quarterly Conference of Stokes Circuit at the age of 18. He exercised as an exhorter for three years, and on August 22, 1843, at old Mount Gilead Camp Ground, the Stokes Circuit Quarterly Conference granted him license to preach and recommended him to the North Carolina Annual Conference for admission on trial. He was admitted at Halifax, Virginia, in November, 1843, being then 21 years of age. Bishop Morris was the president of the conference. He passed the usual course of study and was ordained deacon in 1845, and according to the best information obtainable he was granted elder's orders in 1847.

He was happily married to Miss Margaret J. Banner, January 20, 1847. They had no children.

Following is a list of his appointments as best they can be obtained from the meager records at hand:

1843-44, Mocksville and Salisbury; 1845, Granville; 1846, Currituck; 1847, Surry; 1848, Randolph; 1849, Wilkes; 1850, Located. 1854, re-admitted and traveled Guilford Circuit in 1854-56; 1857, Mocksville; 1858-59, Iredell; 1860-62, Forsyth; 1866, Stokes; 1868, Stokes; 1871-72, Forsyth; 1874, Guilford; 1876-77, Forsyth; 1878-79, Stokes; 1885, Forsyth; 1889, supernumerary till 1896 he was superannuated, which relation he sustained till his death. (The data was not available to give a complete record of his Conference appointments).

Brother Helsabeck kept a daily record of events in his life, which is full of interest locally, but strange to say not a word is found in all his diary so far as the writer could have time to investigate that gave any information as to the charges to which he was appointed at the conferences. He

spoke of attending conference but never once mentioned his appointment in the diary. He was no ordinary man. He was above the average in preaching ability. He bought and read many of the best books, and hence was a man of broad intelligence.

Brother Helsabeck was what has been termed a local itinerant. He belonged to conference and received his appointments as others but never moved to his charge. He served the surrounding charges again and again, and always acceptably, as he was always a splendid preacher. His local popularity may be estimated by the fact of his being so much in demand for funerals, and officiating at the marriage of over 1,700 people. He performed the last sad rites over 121 soldiers, and baptized many hundreds of people, both infants and adults.

He attended the annual conference in Winston in 1910, at which he contracted a cold, from which he never recovered. His end was peaceful and triumphant. By his own request the funeral sermon was preached by Rev. J. E. Ab-ernethy.

He left all his remaining property, after paying all debts, to Greensboro Female College, which was a token of his life-long interest in education.

REV. THOMAS A. BOONE

BY G. T. ROWE

Rev. Thomas A. Boone was born in Sumter County, S. C., November 14, 1831, and died in Mocksville, February 4, 1911.

Brother Boone was in every sense a Christian gentleman. He was born well, his parents before him having been Christians and members of the Methodist Church. His mother especially enjoyed a profound sense of peace in the love of God. In his 16th year, he was consciously converted and led into the church.

Even from the early days of his Christian experience, Brother Boone manifested a thoughtfulness, which made it advisable to place him in the responsible position of class leader, and such was his recognized value to the church that he was seldom without official position in it. Although he felt a call to the ministry from early childhood, his reticence and modesty held him back until he was 32 years of age. During the long years of service, he filled with faithfulness and acceptability almost every variety of appointment. His preaching was scholarly, earnest and persuasive, and his utterances reinforced by the gentleness and beauty of his life. His interest in the great truths of Christianity and the progress of the gospel remained keen as long as he lived.

Brother Boone was first married to Miss Emily R. Beckham, of Lancaster, S. C., in 1849, and on February 14, 1873,