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The Virginia Conference Annual

containing the

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE ONE HUNDRED
SIXTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE VIRGINIA
ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE
METHODIST CHURCH

together with

REPORTS, MEMOIRS *and* STATISTICS

Edited and Published for the Conference by
C. A. TUCKER

ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

October 20-25, 1943

*"Grant him, dear Lord, this added sense of peace,
That life's long loneliness, finds real.
In thought of him among the blest
And hope of meeting him when sorrows cease."*

REV. JAMES HARRY SMITH

By J. B. Hupman

James Harry Smith was born October 25, 1864, in Petersburg, Virginia, and died March 31, 1943, at Salem, Virginia.

He was admitted on trial into the Baltimore Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in 1893, and was in the active ministry for 46 years, and during those years he served the following charges: Bridgewater, 1893-95; Marksville, 1895-97; Port Republic, 1897-1900; Waynesboro, 1901-05; Berryville, 1905-09; Gaithersburg, 1909-13; Salem, 1913-17; Front Royal, 1917-21; Blacksburg, 1921-23; West End, 1923-27; Lexington, 1927-1931; Lewisburg, 1931-35; Vinton, 1935-38.

At the Conference of 1938 he took the superannuate relation and then served for several years as supply pastor for Locust Grove Church. In 1895 he married Miss Martha Burruss of Baltimore, Md., and she was a faithful companion and helper during the remainder of his life.

A good minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ has departed to be with his Lord. He was an example, in faith, in purity, in holiness, and in all the other virtues that go to make a life worthy to be imitated.

Funeral services were conducted in the First Methodist Church in Salem by J. B. Hupman, R. P. Riddick, J. B. Douglas, F. M. Richardson, and A. B. Sites.

REV. SIMPSON VEITCH HILDEBRAND

By George G. Oliver

One of the sacred duties of this session of the Virginia Annual Conference is to inscribe upon the roll of our honored dead the name of Simpson Veitch Hildebrand, who was born at Harrisonburg, Va., April 12, 1861, the son of the Rev. Thomas Hildebrand and Jane Stephens Hildebrand.

In the early morning of April 6, 1943, Brother Hildebrand left us for his eternal home in the triumph of an all conquering faith. He was an itinerant preacher for almost a half century in the Baltimore Conference of the former Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and in those years his life and ministry were after the manner of the fathers of our Methodist faith. He has gone but his works and influence still live, and some day, when the shadows have fled away and when death no longer holds sway over the lives of mortal men, we shall see our brother again, and with him, in the presence of his Saviour, a multitude who in the glory of God's Eternal Day will bear testimony to the fact that the ministry of Simpson Veitch Hildebrand had upon it the seal of God's approval.

Brother Hildebrand was admitted into the Baltimore Conference on trial at the session held in Harrisonburg, Va., 1881. Bishop John C. Keener ordained him deacon in 1883, and Bishop Granberry ordained him elder in 1885.

His itinerant ministry, unbroken for forty-eight years, is here appended:

Bridgewater, son, 1884-85; 1890; Waynesboro, Middleburg, Loudon, 1924-27; He

In 1929 and during the work in the work

He was in Clarendon.

On February D. C., who Edgar Allen. Edith Janney Bartlett and March 3rd, 19

Rev. John retired, has a brand. "He was above everything through his life ministers because all whom he a cheerful man those who were along the way greatest joy

Scripture was his public prayer Holy Writ. So one of his last and failing I met without the unseen world would say, "I

I miss him day I think through the year long until I see

The writing Brother Hildebrand thought expressed

Farewell, my friend in the presence of H

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Bridgewater, Junior Preacher, 1881-82; Freedom, Junior Preacher, 1883; Jeffer- son, 1884-85; Listonburg, 1886; Hardy, 1887; Easton, 1888-89; Alderson, 1890; Waynesboro, 1891; Wilkens Avenue, Baltimore, 1892; Fairfax, 1893-95; Middleburg, 1896-97; Church Hill, 1898; Occoquan, 1899-1900; Mt. Craw- ford, 1901-02; Sudley, 1903-06; Hamilton, 1907-10; Front Royal, 1911-12; Loudon, 1913-16; Hyattsville, 1917-20; Falls Church, 1921-23; Marshall, 1924-27; Herndon, 1928.

In 1929 he retired from the itinerancy, making his home in Arlington, Va., and during the fourteen years of superannuate life he was interested and active in the work of the Clarendon Methodist Church.

He was a true brother, friend, and helper of every preacher who served Clarendon.

On February 13, 1890, he was married to Miss Lelia Guy, of Washington, D. C., who died October 30, 1898, leaving two children, Anna Lucile and Edgar Allen. He was married a second time on September 24, 1901, to Miss Edith Janney, of Occoquan, Va. Of this union were born two children, Jesse Bartlett and Joseph Janney. The wife and mother of this second marriage died March 3rd, 1936.

Rev. John C. Hawk, a member of the old Baltimore Conference and now retired, has this to say concerning the outstanding qualities of Brother Hilde- brand. "He was loyal to his church and to his brethren. He loved the church above everything else and it was his joyous prayer theme of thought and speech through his long life, and he was happy always to fellowship with his fellow ministers because he loved them. He was a friendly and genial soul, friendly to all whom he chanced to "meet in the narrow lane or crowded street." He was a cheerful man, preferring laughter to tears though he could and did weep with those who wept. In a word, he was a sympathetic soul scattering sunshine all along the way. He was sound in doctrine, and in the faith of our Fathers; his greatest joy was in preaching the Word. Knowledge of and ability to quote Scripture was one of his unusual gifts, and being devout and able in prayer, his public prayers were like a beautiful woven fabric by apt quotations from Holy Writ. Simpson Hildebrand was ready to depart and be with the Lord. In one of his last letters to me, when practically shut in with high blood pressure and failing light, he wrote: "I am still standing on the promises." We rarely met without talking about the future and wondering which would go first to the unseen world, realizing it would not be long for either of us. So often he would say, "I am ready and waiting."

I miss him more than I can tell, and it is not an exaggeration to say, every day I think of him and the happy friendship and fellowship we had together through the years, and I find myself saying, "Well, my old pal, it will not be long until I shall see you again."

The writer of this memoir is deeply grateful for this beautiful tribute from Brother Hildebrand's close and long time friend, John C. Hawk, and to every thought expressed he can say amen and amen.

*"Servant of God well done:
Thy glorious warfare's past;
The battle's fought, the race is won,
And thou art crowned at last."*

Farewell, my spiritual father in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and my friend in all the years of my ministry, until that fair morning when in the presence of Him who hath redeemed us, we shall meet to part no more.