

OFFICIAL MINUTES

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EIGHTY THIRD ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

**Pittsburgh Conference  
Methodist Protestant  
Church**

HELD AT

FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

SEPTEMBER 6-11, 1916

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METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
LAKE JUNALUSKA, N. C.

Cemetery, the burial service being read by Rev. Dr. A. E. Fletcher, pastor of the First Church, South Side, Pittsburgh.

"Now the laborer's task is o'er,  
Now the battle day is past,  
Now upon the farther shore,  
Lands the voyager at last,  
Father in thy gracious keeping,  
Leave we now thy servant sleeping.

Alexander Hadley Martin departed this life at his home in Washington, Pa., June 8, 1916; having "fought a good fight and finished his course, and kept the faith; henceforth there is laid up for him a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give him at that day."

He was the son of Daniel H., and Belinda Reese Martin, of New Providence, Hardie County, Iowa, where Alexander was born February 27, 1861. His parents were members of the Progressive Society of Friends. Among whom his father was recognized as a regular minister, and preached for fifty years. And according to their law, Alexander, being the eldest son, was a birthright member.

Although from childhood he was strictly brought up, it was not until he was in his nineteenth year, on New Year's day that he experienced that change of heart that made him a new creature in Christ Jesus and an heir of heaven.

He obtained his education at the New Providence Academy, of which he was a graduate; and at the Penn College, Oskaloosa, Iowa, of which he was a student four years.

He was licensed to preach according to the usages and customs of the Quakers, and for some time he exercised his gifts and graces among them with profit and acceptability.

In 1889 he united with the M. P. Church at Peoria, Iowa, and in September of the same year, on his credentials from the Friends Church, he was received into the Iowa Conference of the Methodist-Protestant Church, and ordained elder.

After laboring some thirteen years in this Western Conference, and serving some eight different charges, he desired to remove East, and took a transfer from the Iowa Conference to the Pittsburgh Conference, into which he was received at the session in Kittanning, Pa., September, 1903.

His appointments with us were Fairchance, two years—(the first year under the President, before he was received into the Conference) Broad Ford, two years; Springdale, one year and a half; Mt. Zion Circuit, one year and a half and Morrisville two years. By temporary transfer he also served the Uhrichsville charge of the Muskingum Conference three years. At all these places he proved the sincerity of his faith by his good works. He preached salvation full and free for all through faith in a crucified Savior whose blood of atonement cleanseth from all sin.

In April, 1889, the same year he joined the Methodist Protestant Church, he was united in marriage with Miss Eliza R. Swarm, who has been a true and faithful helpmeet to him through all the trials and labors, the joys and discouragements of twenty-seven years of an itinerant life,—and a real itinerant life it was, for during those years he probably moved some fourteen or fifteen times to as many different fields of labor.

Brother Martin never had a very robust constitution, yet he never spared himself and his motto seemed to be "instant in season, out of season, always abounding in the work of the Lord." Sometime in the Winter or Spring he contracted a severe cold, which he could

not shake off, and it rapidly developed into virulent tuberculosis, for which there was found no earthly remedy.

And now his devoted wife and three children, two daughters and one son, all in deep grief and sorrow, mourn the loss of a kind and affectionate husband and father. Let us not forget to pray for them, that God in his infinite mercy and love may bless and comfort them, and make the way of life clear before them.

The funeral services were held in the Methodist Protestant Church at Washington, Pa., and were conducted by the pastor, Dr. G. C. Shepard, assisted by Rev. Dr. A. E. Fletcher, of First Church, South Side, Pittsburgh. The burial was in the Washington County cemetery.

"Out of the shadowland into the sunshine,  
Cloudless, eternal, that fades not away,  
Softly and tenderly, Jesus has called him  
Home, where the loved ones are gathering today."

Sarah Jane Keeler Shimp, beloved wife of Rev. J. H. Shimp, and the precious mother of Rev. H. S. D. Shimp, died at the home of Mr. A. L. Kamerer, 603 Petty street, McKeesport, Pa., after a lingering and painful illness, May 22, 1916, in hope of a blissful immortality.

She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Keeler, of Kittanning, Pa., where she was born July 1, 1865, and where in the 15th year of her age she was born again into a new and spiritual life in Christ-Jesus, and where on November 1, 1883, she was united in marriage with Joseph Henry Shimp, by Rev. E. A. Brindley, one of the early fathers of this Conference. She was a true and faithful wife, and a kind and loving mother. Her health had been very poor for more than a year, and she was brought to the home of Mr. Kamerer in McKeesport to be more convenient to the physician, who was treating her case. But all human efforts were unavailing. She died in the faith in which she had lived after sharing the toils and labors of an itinerant life for nearly 38 years with her now sad and lonely husband.

The funeral services were conducted by Rev. Dr. A. E. Fletcher, and she was buried in the South Side, Pittsburgh, cemetery, by the side of the grave of her daughter, Viola, who had preceded her mother to the "glory world," nearly 20 years ago.

"Sweet land of rest, for thee I sigh,  
When will the moment come  
When I shall lay my armor by,  
And dwell with Christ at home."

Mrs. Westfall, relict of Dr. G. G. Westfall on June 1 from her home in Beaver Falls, Pa., at an advanced age, after a protracted illness, gladly exchanged the sorrows of earth for the joys of heaven.

Her maiden name was Miss Mary V. Lamb. She was united in marriage with Rev. G. G. Westfall September 13, 1860, who passed from labor to reward February 8, 1912. Consequently she was a widow a little over four years. Her last days must have been rather lonely. Her husband and her two daughters, and all her immediate relatives, except a grandson and perhaps one brother, having crossed the river before her, leaving her quite alone.

At the session of the Conference, one year ago, in New Brighton, she was reported to be in ill health, and the Conference appointed a delegation consisting of Dr. W. H. Gladden, T. W. Colhouer, and J. F. Dyer to visit her. Although in a feeble condition at that time, she was still able to go about, and she appeared to appreciate the

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