

# MINUTES

OF THE

## ANNUAL CONFERENCES

OF THE

Methodist Episcopal Church, South,

*Methodist Episcopal church, South.*

FOR THE YEAR

*Conferences.*

1912.

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EDITED AND TABULATED BY JOHN L. KIRBY.

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nd Talala, J. D. Edwards.  
 Station, J. C. Cooper.  
 Station, R. C. Taylor.  
 Station, W. H. Roper.  
 r Circuit, to be supplied by W. I.  
 ns.  
 r Station, T. F. Brewer.  
 Station, A. P. Johnson.  
 : Missionary Evangelist, Wiley H.  
 l.  
 of Oklahoma Anti-Saloon League,  
 Sweet, Jr.

ferred.—Richard Hardin Horton,  
 Rippey, A. L. Scales, to the West  
 na Conference; Lester Weaver, to  
 messee Conference; O. L. Adams,  
 southwest Missouri Conference; E.  
 nks, to the North Georgia Confer-  
 l. A. Burns, to the Pacific Confer-  
 . E. Buttrell, to the Texas Confer-  
 . V. Baird, to the Central Texas  
 nce; J. A. Biggs, to the Little  
 nference.

ERENCE.

MBER 20-25, 1912.

. NEWMAN, *Secretary.*

4. Who are admitted into full con-  
 Lewis D. Atkins, George G.  
 Charles P. Hamby, Lee M. Hearts-  
 sse L. McHugh, William H. Mans-  
 omas B. McPheeters, Guy F. Pon-  
 quel L. Prickett, William O. Ren-  
 mes C. Savage, Lewis G. Sturdi-  
 arles C. Turner. 13.
5. Who are readmitted? None.
6. Who are received by transfer  
 er Conferences? J. B. Cumming,  
 Alabama Conference; W. T. Dan-  
 the Louisville Conference; Dr. C.  
 from the China Mission Confer-  
 aud O'Rear, from the Little Rock  
 ce; Joseph Parkin, from the Bra-  
 rence. 5.
7. Who are received from other  
 s as local preachers? None.
8. Who are received from other  
 s as traveling preachers? None.
9. Who are the deacons of one  
 William R. Battle, James D. Hunt-  
 min F. Miller, Arthur H. Nabors,  
 L. Pruitt, Clare Purcell, Isaac B.  
 William W. Rutland, Robert L.  
 Melville E. Wilson, James A.  
 John M. Farrell, Jonathan D.

Johnston, Marvin M. Newton, Joseph H.  
 Pass, Edward L. Roy, Jesse J. Sandlin,  
 Willis A. Sutton; in the class of the third  
 year, Bela M. Bellinger, Samuel S. Hunt-  
 er, Newton H. Price, Robert W. Sides,  
 James W. Syler. 23.

Ques. 10. What traveling preachers are  
 elected deacons? Lewis D. Atkins, George  
 G. Grimes, Charles P. Hamby, Lee M.  
 Heartsfield, William H. Mansfield, Jesse  
 L. McHugh, Thomas B. McPheeters, Guy  
 F. Ponder, Samuel L. Prickett, William O.  
 Rencher, John O. Savage, Lewis G. Stur-  
 divant, Charles C. Turner, Turner B. Mid-  
 dlebrooks. 14.

Ques. 11. What traveling preachers are  
 ordained deacons? Lewis D. Atkins,  
 George G. Grimes, Charles P. Hamby, Lee  
 N. Heartsfield, Thomas B. McPheeters,  
 Guy F. Ponder, Samuel L. Prickett, Wil-  
 liam O. Rencher, John C. Savage, L. Gar-  
 ner Sturdivant, Charles C. Turner. 11.

Ques. 12. What local preachers are elect-  
 ed deacons? Herbert O. Chambers, Samuel  
 M. Williams, Thomas D. Brooks, Olin W.  
 Barber. 4.

Ques. 13. What local preachers are or-  
 dained deacons? Herbert O. Chambers,  
 Samuel M. Williams, Thomas D. Brooks,  
 J. Fletcher Turney. 4.

Ques. 14. What traveling preachers are  
 elected elders? John E. Black, Cawthon  
 A. Bowen, Ralph L. Dill, William R. Dun-  
 can, S. A. Swindell, Eldey D. Totherow,  
 Bennett T. Waites. 7.

Ques. 15. What traveling preachers are  
 ordained elders? John E. Black, Caw-  
 thon A. Bowen, Ralph L. Dill, William R.  
 Duncan, Samuel A. Swindell, Edley D.  
 Totherow, Bennett T. Waites. 7.

Ques. 16. What local preachers are elect-  
 ed elders? Henry M. Jones. 1.

Ques. 17. What local preachers are or-  
 dained elders? Henry M. Jones. 1.

Ques. 18. Who are located this year?  
 Jackson W. Lee, William L. Burk, James  
 A. Neville, at their own request. 3.

Ques. 19. Who are supernumerary? W.  
 L. Hendricks, J. O. Ray, W. J. Reid. 3.

Ques. 20. Who are superannuated? G.  
 W. Alley, W. T. Andrews, B. M. Bellinger,  
 N. W. Beverly, H. L. Boothe, M. E. Butt,  
 A. J. Chappell, J. N. Dupree, D. T. Dye,  
 W. R. Eddins, J. V. Emerson, T. W. Hayes,  
 F. K. Hewlett, M. E. Johnston, T. A. Kerr,  
 I. Q. Melton, M. N. Morris, Rufus Nichol-  
 son, C. C. O'Neal, W. T. Pattillo, H. B.  
 Rawls, C. B. Riddick, T. K. Roberts, G.  
 W. Sellers, G. G. Smith, R. A. Speer, J.  
 W. Spencer, J. G. Walker, R. J. Wilson,  
 A. M. Yoe. 30.

Ques. 21. What preachers have died dur-

ing the past year? Thomas Armstrong, T.  
 B. McCain, J. W. Tucker, D. L. Parrish. 4.

THEODORE BOWDEN MCCAIN, the son of  
 William and Matilda McCain, was born  
 in Talladega County, Alabama, October 2,  
 1844. His early days were spent in the  
 village of Lincoln, and his boyhood was  
 vibrant with life. The youth was count-  
 ed a splendid comrade, for he was open,  
 cordial, bold, and was ever ready to lead  
 the sport down on the river, out through  
 the woods, and among the villagers. At  
 the close of the war his wild spirit led  
 him to engage in daring exploits which  
 took him away from home. He wandered  
 across the ocean, and in distant lands  
 his career was checkered with bold ad-  
 ventures. This brought him associations  
 that he afterwards regretted. Back home  
 again, he was converted in the old Pine  
 Grove Meetinghouse in Calhoun County.  
 Rev. R. A. Timmons was his pastor. The  
 change was radical, and he cherished the  
 experience throughout his life. He joined  
 the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.  
 His nature was so intense that he must  
 needs throw all his mind and soul and  
 strength into the life he lived. It is not  
 strange that he responded to a call to  
 preach, and sought the itinerant ranks.  
 He joined the North Alabama Conference  
 in November, 1876, and was appointed  
 that year to a charge in Coosa County.  
 After the first year he served the follow-  
 ing charges: Camp Hill, Good Water,  
 Pelham, Leeds, Jonesboro, Walnut Grove,  
 Hartselle, Carbon Hill, Oakman, Calera,  
 Johns and Adger, Athens Circuit, Oneonta,  
 Gaylesville, Pratt City Circuit, and  
 Millport. Brother McCain was married  
 February 22, 1867, and his wife was a  
 faithful helpmeet and a sympathetic coun-  
 selor to the end. The union was blessed  
 with nine children, who survive their fa-  
 ther. Eight of these are married: Mrs.  
 W. G. Deeson, Louis, Mrs. Luthella Jones,  
 Marvin, Mrs. J. R. Cooper, Mrs. James  
 Willingham, Virgil B., and Mrs. C. J. Wil-  
 liamson. Vivian, the youngest, resides  
 with her mother at Millport. Though de-  
 prived of early school advantages, Broth-  
 er McCain was a man of virile strength.  
 After entering the ministry he applied  
 himself industriously to his books, but to  
 the end of his life he keenly felt the dis-  
 advantage, and was one of the most ar-  
 dent advocates of Christian education.  
 Finest qualities graced this heroic soul.  
 Perhaps the most striking was his daunt-  
 less courage. The bold sinner was trans-  
 formed into an intrepid apostle of Jesus

Christ. We are witnesses of the great things he suffered for His Name's sake. Not only was he fearless in facing privations, but he was dauntless in urging his convictions—and Brother McCain had the fiber of his soul was his fidelity. He prided himself on keeping his promises. Every vow he made he held sacred. His pledged word was a holy obligation. Driving with him on long country roads, in quiet confidence, he has talked to me of the promises he had made, to his friends, to his wife, to his children, to the Church, and to the Lord—and the gleam in his eye revealed the joy the man felt in being able to say he had kept them all. In rare degree Brother McCain possessed the grace of cheerfulness. I have never known a more radiant spirit. In times of hardness, when a more timid soul would have been depressed, I have found Brother McCain buoyant with hope. In the sick-room he was a beam of sunshine. His spirit never grew bitter. As a preacher Brother McCain was earnest and fervent. He had great appreciation of the doctrines of his Church, and he loved to preach on them. Especially was he strong in his denunciation of sin, and his warning of eternal punishment. He busied himself establishing family altars, and urging parents to have their children baptized. As an itinerant, Brother McCain was faithful to the last. He did the hardest work and received the meagerest pay. He served most difficult charges, often cheerless but for the bright faces of the loved ones of his own household, the sunshine of his own soul, and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. He was never happier than when he received his last appointment. He was given a royal welcome. The kindness of the flock filled the old shepherd's heart with joy. He was never well after going to Millport, but he continued to preach when other men would have been in bed. Once he broke down and cried. It was when he heard the church bell, and the doctor would not let him go to his pulpit. After weeks of suffering he was brought to a Birmingham infirmary, where he died on February 22, 1912. We buried him in Fayette, Ala., a town he loved more than any other, for it is filled with people who will cherish the loving memory of Brother Bowden McCain.

THOMAS ARMSTRONG was born in 1832, in Wilcox County, Alabama. The place of his birth was a farm near the present

town of Pineapple. He died in Birmingham, Ala., May 18, 1912. His maternal grandfather, whose name was King, was a pioneer Methodist preacher, and it is said was the first Methodist to preach in what is now the city of Montgomery, Ala. Dr. Armstrong had two brothers who were ministers of the gospel. Both of them served in the Alabama Conference. These facts tell us something of his early home life and of his parentage. For three preachers to come out of one home is something unusual, and indicates excellence of character in his father and mother. Dr. Armstrong was educated in part in the academies of his section of the State, but the profound scholarship of his later years was the result of private study. He spent some of the years previous to his itinerant life in farming and some in school-teaching. He was an educator of prominence and ability. Some of those who were educated by him became distinguished in public life. He was for a time President of Mansfield (La.) Female College, and filled the position with credit and eminent satisfaction. It was while in charge of this institution that he was licensed to preach, and was for a number of years a useful local preacher. On July 26, 1860, in Greensboro, Ala., Dr. Armstrong was married to Miss Mattie Du Bois, who was the daughter of the Rev. John Du Bois, inventor of the Du Bois cotton gin. This good woman departed this life about six years ago. Dr. Armstrong served the following pastoral charges: Tuscumbia Station, 1884-6; Decatur Station, 1887-9; Gadsden Station, 1890-2; St. John's, 1896; La Fayette Station, 1897-8; Elyton, 1899; Fayette Station, 1900. In 1901 he was placed on the superannuate roll, and remained there until the end of his life. He was the editor of the *Alabama Christian Advocate* during 1893-5. He spent sixteen years as a member of the North Alabama Conference, and was nearly seventy years of age when he retired from the active work of the ministry. Dr. Armstrong was pastor of the Methodist church at Decatur during the dreadful scourge of yellow fever at that place in 1888. He stood by his people in their distress, ministering to the sick and giving a Christian burial to all who needed his services. About the same time his brother, Rev. J. K. Armstrong, lost his life in another city while performing similar services during a yellow fever epidemic. In appearance Dr. Armstrong was striking. He was always neat, and was digni-

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