

JOURNAL AND YEAR BOOK  
OF THE  
EIGHTH SESSION  
OF THE  
**Erie Annual Conference**  
OF THE  
Methodist Church  
and the  
ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH SESSION  
as a  
CONFERENCE OF METHODISM



ALLEGHENY COLLEGE and STONE CHURCH  
MEADVILLE, PA.  
SEPTEMBER 4-8, 1946

**(c) DECEASED WIVES OF PASTORS****MRS. ROSE M. HILLARD**

Mrs. Rose M. Hillard was born along the Clarion River in Forest County, Pennsylvania, on December 20, 1864, and died at the home of her son, Ellis M. Hillard, near Volant, Lawrence County, Pennsylvania, on November 11, 1945. She had spent the summer as usual at her summer home two miles away, but was stricken before she could be returned to Pittsburgh where she lived with two of her daughters, Muriel and Helen. Funeral services were conducted where she died, by her pastor, O. G. Shindlecker of Volant, assisted by Dr. Harold A. McCurdy, Superintendent of the Grove City District. Interment was made in the Volant Cemetery by the side of her husband, Rev. James E. Hillard, who preceded her in death twenty-two years.

Her parents were Justus and Berthinda Steele Shawkey, early pioneers in Forest County. Her girlhood days along the Clarion and Allegheny Rivers, were the days of lumbering, rafting and kindred sort of occupations, days of hard work and simple comforts. But she used her opportunities and at sixteen was teaching school. At nineteen she had married the County Superintendent. For a number of years she lived near the public eye, for her husband, her father, and two brothers had offices in the Tionesta Court House.

Then she became mistress of the parsonage, when her husband was admitted to the Erie Conference and assigned to Franklin Circuit. For thirty-one years, until his death at West Middlesex, she was a good partner with him in his work in various fields. Her ready friendliness and interest in folks in a day when the parsonage was the center of the Circuit social life, with its donation parties, carpet rag sewings, quilting bees, packing of missionary barrels, and other gatherings, made her especially appreciated and remembered wherever she served.

Because her chosen ideal was to make every parsonage in which she lived a real home for her own family, she probably will long be remembered by the young folks who found the Hillard place always a fine place for good fun. When widowed, she lived for several years at the cottage near Volant with rare success as a gardener. She had the "green thumb" and whatever she planted grew. She has continued to summer here, but for many years she lived in Pittsburgh in nearness to most of her children. She loved motoring, never needing to be asked twice to go, and never objected to speed. Within a few years she stood the long trip to California and back by auto better than some of the younger folks.

Her humor was unexpected and deep-seated, and at its best on hard days. Through the trials of a broken hip in the last few years the burdens of all concerned were lightened by her cheery comments. In terse moments, and in trying times, as well as in the ordinary

routine of life, her sage advice and sympathetic humor brought new courage. Back of this attitude was a faith that was simple, practical and sturdy. Rarely vocal on religious questions, she kept the faith fresh and vivid. When her husband died, she had not been well. Her family felt that her attendance at church two days after his burial from that church, might prove too much for her. She said, "Your father, for thirty years, preached the power of God for every occasion. We'll prove it!" and led her entire family to church that Sunday. One son came into the ministry on that.

She kept fully apace with the times. Her interests were many and varied. She was loyal to her minister, her church and its pronouncements. With discerning understanding she estimated people accurately, and always found good in everyone. She used even the limitations of age for happy twilight years, evidencing Browning's "Grow old along with me, the best is yet to be; etc."

She is survived by five sons: Archie R., of Erie; Ellis M., of Volant; Richard R., of Bessemer; Frank M., of Grove City; and Robert J., of Pittsburgh; four daughters: Muriel A. and Helen M., of Pittsburgh; Hazel (Mrs. H. V. Archer), of Ben Avon; and Jean (Mrs. R. B. Peete), of Bowling Green, Ky.; two brothers: Harry A., of Warren; Wilbur E., of California; two sisters: Minnie A. and Florence B., of Warren.

**MRS. O. H. NICKLE**

Mrs. Martha Linn Nickle, the widow of Rev. O. H. Nickle, was born near Van, Pa., September 5, 1857, the daughter of the late Charles and Catherine Rumberger Linn. She was married to Oliver H. Nickle, December 25, 1877, and they were happy in this relationship for sixty-five years, when Mr. Nickle was called to his eternal home.



Four daughters were born to this union: Mrs. A. M. Sweet, Kennedy, N. Y.; Mrs. L. E. Watson, Seneca, Pa.; Mrs. M. C. Main, Wesleyville, Pa.; and Mrs. V. A. Snapp, Erie, Pa.

In 1916, Rev. Nickle took the Retired Relationship and for twenty-five years he and his wife made their home in Seneca, Pa., where Mrs. Nickle continued to live after Rev. Nickle's death in 1943, until last August, when she went to make her home with her

daughter, Mrs. Snapp, where she passed away December 6, 1945.

The memorial services were conducted by Rev. J. E. Shafer, of Seneca, and Dr. William E. Davis, District Superintendent. She was laid to rest beside her husband in the Nickleville, Pa., cemetery.

J. E. SHAFER.

### MRS. ROSE STOCKER

Mrs. Rosana Caneen Stocker, the daughter of Thomas and Dolly Caneen, was born in Leon, N. Y., on August 1, 1857. She attended Randolph Institute and Buffalo State Teachers' College, after which she taught for several years in Leon,, Steamburg, and Cherry Creek, N. Y.



On January 31, 1889, she was united in marriage with Rev. James F. Stocker, and together they served the Lord in several communities, including Cherry Creek, N. Y., Mill Creek and Columbus, Pa., faithfully carrying on the exacting duties required of devoted servants of God.

Her husband preceded her in death on September 25, 1902, at Leon, N. Y. Since then, she has continued to be a constant source of inspiration to all of her associates. She has been a devout Christian, a woman of great faith. At any time of distress, her aid has always been forthcoming. Reliable,

thoughtful, uplifting, faithful, helpful, and yet modest, retiring, and unassuming—this was her life.

She passed away at the General Hospital in Jamestown, N. Y., on January 10, 1946. At the time of her death she was a member of the Cattaraugus Methodist Church. Funeral services were held in Cherry Creek, and were conducted by the pastor, R. Blaine Detrick; interment was at Leon. The closest surviving relatives are two nieces, Mrs. Henry Liesinger, Buffalo, N. Y., and Mrs. Dolly Mather, Cherry Creek, N. Y.

R. BLAINE DETRICK.

### MRS. GILBERT D. WALKER

Mrs. Kittie McCrillis Walker was born on a farm near Titusville, Pennsylvania, on January 11, 1865. There were nine children in the McCrillis home, only one of which survives her.

She was a studious girl, and was graduated from the Edinboro State Normal School, now the Edinboro State Teachers' College, in the Class of 1888, and for eighteen years she devoted her time to the teaching profession, ten years of this service being given in a suburban school of Oil City, Pennsylvania.

In early life she united with the church and soon became a devoted Bible student, sharing in private and in public ways the revealing truths she learned through her years of study. She had a keen intellect, strong convictions, great fluency in speech, and was the author of many beautiful religious poems.

On November 26, 1903, she was united in marriage to the Rev. Gilbert D. Walker, who preceded her to the Heavenly Home on November 15, 1915. During her years of parsonage life, she was active in church work, and gave constructive leadership in religious and social activities. She later made Chautauqua, New York, her home, and was deeply interested in its cultural life and policies.

She is survived by her daughter, Vida, Mrs. Fisk W. S. Scudder, of Chautauqua, New York, and Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, whose husband is a member of the faculty of Susquehanna University. Other relatives of Mrs. Walker include a grandson, James Scudder, and a brother, Charles E. McCrillis. She made her home with her daughter at Selinsgrove, where she passed away on May 16, 1946, and was buried in the Selinsgrove Union Cemetery. The funeral services were conducted by the Rev. Oliver H. R. Krapf, Pastor of the First Methodist Church, Selinsgrove, who had administered Holy Communion to her at her home the day before her passing, at which time she was able to join in the service with prayers of thanksgiving.

"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."

VIDA GERTRUDE SCUDDER.