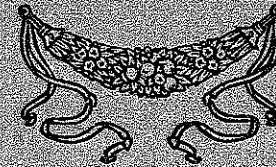


Commission On Archives And History
The United Methodist Church

Western North Carolina Annual Conference



Journal of Seventeenth Session
1906

The Seventeenth Session was held in Mount Airy,
North Carolina, November 14th to 19th,
Methodist Episcopal Church,
South

VII. MEMOIRS.

REV. THOMAS HOWARD PEGRAM.

BY H. F. CHREITZBERG.

Rev. Thomas H. Pegram, son of Jacob and Ursula Pegram, was born January 11, 1829; converted and united with the Methodist Protestant Church at the age of nineteen; married Miss Elizabeth Tison Jones in 1851; after her death he married Miss Alice Peoples Thilletts, of Kernersville, in 1890; transferred to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in 1877, and exchanged earth for heaven March 24, 1906—aged 77 years, 2 months and 13 days.

While a member of the M. P. Conference, he served the following charges: 1853-54, Yadkin Circuit; 1855-56, Albemarle Circuit and Tar River Mission; 1857, Randolph Circuit; 1858-59, Halifax Circuit; 1860, agent Jamestown College; 1861-62, Alamance Circuit; 1863-64-65 was President of his Conference; 1865 was delegate to the General Conference and was elected to each succeeding General Conference during his connection with the M. P. Church; 1867-68-69-70, Winston Circuit; 1871-72-73, Roanoke Circuit; 1874, Forsyth Circuit; 1875, Winston and Kernersville Circuit; 1876-77, Winston and Forsyth Circuit. At the close of 1877 he received a written testimonial of his standing in the Conference and withdrew to unite with the M. E. Church, South, as he favored the episcopal form of church government, remarking that "there was too much liberty in the M. P. Church—every man wanting to do as he pleased."

During the twenty-four years of active work in the M. P. Church, he reported over 1,600 converts, 700 accessions, erected 9 church buildings and 3 parsonages.

At the session of the North Carolina Conference held at Salisbury, 1877, Bishop Doggett presiding, his orders were recognized and he was received into the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

Here he served the following charges: Stokes Circuit, 1878-79-80; Forsyth, 1881-82-83; Guilford, 1884-85-86-87; Kernersville, 1888-89-90-91; Davidson, 1892; Linwood, 1893-94-95; Pilot Mountain, 1896-97-98; Jamestown, 1899-1900-01; Stokesdale, 1902-03. At the Conference at High Point, 1903, he was granted the superannuated relation at his own request, which he held until his translation.

His success as an itinerant preacher continued after his transfer to our church. From imperfect reports we gather the following results of his twenty-six years of service: 1,700 conversions, 1,500 accessions, and 8 churches erected. During his ministry of 50 years, 3,300 converts, 2,200 accessions, 17 churches erected and 3 parsonages.

The closing years of his life were spent in preaching wherever the opportunity offered, assisting his brethren in protracted meetings and other services, while he occupied his own home in Winston. His last sermon was delivered at Mooresville a few weeks before he died.

Brother Pegram was a good man, a wise administrator, a sound, earnest, and at times truly eloquent preacher, a faithful friend, ready always for every good word and work, liberal with his means, and faithful in all the walks of life.

REV. R. T. N. STEPHENSON.

BY J. C. ROWE.

Rev. Robert Theodore Nelson Stephenson was born February 17, 1835, in Alexander County; died at Polkton, North Carolina, 5th day May, 1906.

He was twice married, first to Miss Louise W. Ivey, of Lancaster, South Carolina. His second marriage was to Mrs. M. F. Burroughs, in 1866, daughter of C. C. Cundiff, of Surry County. Five children were born to them; of these, Mrs. C. B. Covington and Mrs. H. C. Bricker, with the mother, survive him.

Brother Stephenson was converted in his youth and joined the church at Rocky Springs, Alexander County, and was licensed to preach by the Quarterly Conference of the Alexander Circuit. He joined the North Carolina Conference at Beaufort in 1859. I have no record of the charges he served during the first six years of his itinerant life. But beginning with the year 1866 to the close of his effective ministry he served the following charges: 1866-7, Surry Circuit; 1868, Blue Ridge Mission; 1869-70, Onslow Circuit; 1871-72, Jonesville Circuit; 1873-75, Yadkinville Circuit; 1876-77, Salisbury Circuit; 1878-81, Pleasant Grove Circuit; 1882-85, Randolph Circuit; 1886-88, Pittsboro Circuit; 1889-92, Morven Circuit; 1893-94, Matthews Circuit; 1895-98, Farmington Circuit; 1899-1900, Stokes Circuit; 1901-02, Stony Point Circuit; 1903, Polkton Circuit.

At the Conference of 1903 he was placed on the Conference roll of honor as a superannuate and remained in this relation two and a half years, when the Lord called him to his reward. His health and strength had been failing for several years, in a measure unconsciously so to him. But when advised to ask for the superannuate relation he very readily did so.

Rev. R. T. N. Stephenson was a familiar name and the man an attractive one among us. Honor, truth, purity and charity were incarnated in him. He honored all people and claimed honor for himself. But he claimed it on the ground of merit. He was a gentleman. He never learned how to depreciate either himself or any one else. Opportunity was his standard of duty and ability.

He had somewhat of a jocular nature, but never an impure or profane word came from his lips. He was sensitive, but readily excused any real or apparent slight. His confidence in, and love for, the brethren of the Conference was deep, fervent and constant.

He had many well-marked qualities as a Christian and minister of Christ. He was conversant with the Scriptures and never indulged in doubtful interpretations. His preaching was often sublime. His commanding personal appearance secured the attention of his audience, and he held it to the close of his sermon. He needed only to be aroused, then Scripture, doctrine, history, each in its proper place, was flung forth with the earnestness of an apostle.