

OFFICIAL RECORD

SIXTH CONFERENCE

WEST OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE

of

THE METHODIST CHURCH

CHICKASHA, OKLAHOMA

October 24-27, 1944

GRAHAM B. HODGE, Editor

Wakita, Oklahoma

Price 50 cents

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 // THE REV. ROBERT PAYNE WITT

Robert Payne Witt was born in August 20, 1858, in Calloway County, Kentucky, to Rev. and Mrs. John H. Witt, who were pioneers of Kentucky.

He grew up in Kentucky and was married to Miss Cynthia Nelson, August 26, 1880, at McKenzie, Tennessee. Both Rev. and Mrs. Witt had been students in McKenzie College. To this union were born eleven children, ten of whom were present when he passed away.

Brother Witt was licensed to preach in 1891 and became a member of the Memphis Conference. He transferred to the St. Louis, Missouri, Conference in 1891 and returned to the Memphis Conference and was admitted in full connection in 1893. He transferred to the West Oklahoma Conference in 1910. In 1915, after many years of service, he retired and since that time made his home in Chickasha, Oklahoma.

Brother Witt departed from this life October 6, 1944, at the age of 86. Even after retirement he continued to serve the church in some capacity, always working cheerfully.

He leaves his wife, Cynthia, four daughters: Mrs. Carrie Simmons, Chickasha; Mrs. W. E. Showen, Maysville; Mrs. J. E. Cochran, Shawnee, and Mrs. A. L. Henderson, Lubbock, Texas. Six sons: A. P., Dallas; W. H., Shawnee; Coke, Oklahoma City; F. H., Oklahoma City; R. P. Jr., Chickasha, and George E., Modesto, California. One brother, John K. Witt, Harriman, Tennessee, and two sisters, Mrs. B. L. Wilford, Brinkley, Arkansas, and Mrs. Nettie Chandler, McKenzie, Tennessee.

THE REV. WILLIAM HARMON PROFFITT

William Harmon Proffit was born July 12, 1871, at Chestnut, Sevier County, Tennessee, and departed this life at the Alva, Oklahoma, Hospital July 3, 1944.

In Tennessee he attended school and grew to manhood, entered the Ministry and at the age of 25 married Emmer Link Baker. In 1900 with his young bride he moved to Oklahoma and served a number of pastorates with the United Brethern church. In 1911 he transferred to the Methodist Episcopal Church, serving his first pastorate with the Methodists at Quinlan, in Alva district. For 18 years he served a number of pastorates in Northwest Oklahoma. While serving Quinlan for a second time, because of poor health, he was forced to retire in 1934.

In addition to his wife he is survived by three sons, Foster of Oklahoma City, James of Jenks, Oklahoma and John of Bartlesville, Oklahoma; four daughters, Golda Curtis of Waynoka, Oklahoma; Kathrine Marshall of Omaha, Nebraska; Hassie Mertena of Ponca City, Oklahoma, and Bessie Kruse of Oklahoma City, and one brother, Samuel Proffit of Longdale, Oklahoma.

Reverend Proffit was an able preacher, studious, and a man fully devoted to the ministry. He faced life's problems cheerfully and courageously.

Funeral services were conducted at the Waynoka Methodist Church by the pastor, George B. Baker.

THE REV. JOHN REUBEN STEEL

John Reuben Steel was born at Wilson, Oklahoma, September 12, 1912, and lost his life on June 6, 1944, while serving as Chaplain in the 401st Glider Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division of the United States Army. His body was laid to rest in a village church yard "Some-

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