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Minutes of the East Ohio Conference of The Methodist Episcopal Church

HELD AT

First Methodist Episcopal Church,
Niles, Ohio

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PUBLISHING COMMITTEE

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ministry. He joined the Pittsburg Conference in 1856, and was the last but one of his class to cease from labor and enter into rest, the Rev. J. H. Hollingshead, of Cleveland, Ohio, surviving.

Thirty-six years of mature manhood were given to the arduous labors of a Methodist itinerant preacher, during which time he served with marked efficiency some of the more prominent pastorates of the Conference: Alliance, Lisbon, Bellaire, Bridgeport (two terms), McConnelsville, Cambridge, Coshocton, St. Clairsville, Massillon, Geneva, Carrollton, Poland, Tallmadge, and Salineville.

Of commanding presence, strong, clear mind, ample educational training, winsome personality, excellent social qualities and administrative ability, he was thoroughly furnished unto every good work. His strong, clear, courageous presentation of gospel truth was blessed of God in turning many to righteousness.

Brother Vail served with distinction in the Civil War, being with Sherman on his famous "march to the sea." He received appointment to a chaplaincy, but owing to infirm health was not able to serve in that capacity.

The funeral services were held in Scio Church, under the direction of the Rev. W. H. Dickerson, Superintendent of Steubenville District. After prayer at the home by President Beetham of Scio College, the body was taken to the church, escorted by a number of veteran soldiers, where prayer was offered by N. B. Stewart, the Scriptures were read by J. C. Winters and C. M. Porter, addresses were made by J. V. Orin, W. D. Starkey, and C. B. Henthorne, and the closing prayer was offered by D. C. Grover. Thus closed the earthly career of this good man, who in so many ways rendered signal service to his country and his God. J. V. ORIN.

REV. J. S. REAGER.

J. S. Reager died Monday morning, July 11, 1910, at his home in Canton, Ohio. His death ended a noble life in this world, the last years of which were marked by the patient endurance of great suffering as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. He was born in Wheeling, W. Va., April 14, 1842, but was reared in Cincinnati. When a young man he read law with Col. Samuel Fisher, who was subsequently Commissioner of Patents under President Grant. It was the intention of Colonel Fisher's student to locate and practice law at Kansas City, and at the close of the war he went there for that purpose. After a brief stay he went to Detroit, Mich., where he first experienced a conviction of sin and a desire to become a Christian. He was converted August 26, 1866, at Peoria, Ill. He joined the Church at Jeffersonville, Ind., where he was licensed to preach June 26, 1869. He was admitted on trial in Southeast Indiana Conference at its session at Indianapolis, September 12, 1870. He preached in Indiana twelve years, having pastorates in Madison and Indianapolis. Later he was transferred to North Ohio Conference, and preached at Fairfield, Tiffin, Mount Vernon, and Bucyrus. He was then transferred to the East Ohio Conference, and served pastorates at Scovill and what is now Epworth Memorial

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REV. J. S. REAGER.

On Monday morning, July 11, 1910, at his home in Canton, Ohio, ended a noble life in this world, the last years of which were marked by the patient endurance of great suffering as a good Christian. He was born in Wheeling, W. Va., April 14, 1842, of a pioneer family. When a young man he read law with Colonel Fisher, and subsequently Commissioner of Patents under the intention of Colonel Fisher's student to locate in Chicago, Ill., and at the close of the war he went there for a brief stay he went to Detroit, Mich., where he was converted from the bondage of sin and a desire to become a Christian. He was licensed to preach June 26, 1866, at Peoria, Ill. He joined the Church at Peoria, Ill. here he was licensed to preach June 26, 1869. He served in the Southeast Indiana Conference at its session at Peoria, Ill., June 12, 1870. He preached in Indiana twelve years, in Madison and Indianapolis. Later he was transferred to the West Virginia Conference, and preached at Fairfield, Tiffin, Mount Vernon, and was then transferred to the East Ohio Conference, where he served at Scovill and what is now Epworth Memorial

(Cleveland), Wellsville, Steubenville, Simpson (Canton), Ravenna, and Dueber Avenue (Canton), where he laid down the work to pass on to his reward. He was a soldier in the Civil War in Company C, One Hundred and Thirty-eighth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

In a letter to his friends in the ministry, among the last he wrote, were these words: "In all these years God through Jesus has been gracious to me. I have enjoyed a blessed Christian experience, conscious of pardon and adoption into the family of God, a clear knowledge of the power of the blood of Jesus to cleanse from all sin, and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit. For thirty-eight years I have had the assurance of the perfect love of Christ abiding. The peace has been unbroken, the assurance most comfortable that Jesus saves to the uttermost. With a loving, cheerful hope of dwelling forever with the Lord and His redeemed ones, I bid you good cheer in your work, and an affectionate farewell."

After months of intense suffering he passed peacefully and triumphantly into the home beyond, his last words being: "Triumph! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!" The funeral services, held in Dueber Avenue Church, were in charge of District Superintendent J. C. Smith, who was assisted by a number of the brethren of the Conference, and pastors in the city of Canton. Interment was in Westlawn Cemetery, Canton.

J. C. SMITH.

REV. O. G. ST. JOHN.

O. G. St. John was born February 26, 1843, in Eden Valley, New York. He was converted in 1863 in Meadville, Pa., under the pastorate of W. F. Day. In 1870 he graduated from Willoughby College. He was admitted to the Erie Conference in 1871, ordained Deacon on September 6, 1874, by Jesse T. Peck, and Elder by Bishop Ames at Steubenville, September 24, 1876. He was married to Mary Sheffield, June 15, 1871. She died at Cherry Valley, Ohio, soon after their marriage. He married October 28, 1875, Mary Ellen Gill, who died March 25, 1891, leaving two children. For his third wife he married Addie Laura Buck, August 20, 1896, who shared his labors and his life until called to his reward September 17, 1910. In the first hours of a new-born day, and conscious almost to the last, his closing moments were peaceful. Like a tired child he sank into the slumbers of death. His last loving look was for his wife, who has so faithfully ministered to his comfort during the long period of illness, consequent to the long labors and exposure of an itinerant preacher. His son, daughter, wife, and one brother were there to smooth his dying pillow. In the death of Brother St. John the Church has truly lost a saint. Somebody said of F. B. Meyer, that he was so full of the glory of God that it shone through his flesh. That was true of O. G. St. John. He carried in his face the glow which was the result of a close walk with God. "He was a faithful man and feared God above many." His funeral was attended by a large crowd of friends, who came to pay their last respects to one who had revealed to them the beauty of holiness. Brothers Smith, Elliott, Haskell, and the pastor, Garfield Morgan, conducted the service.

GARFIELD MORGAN.