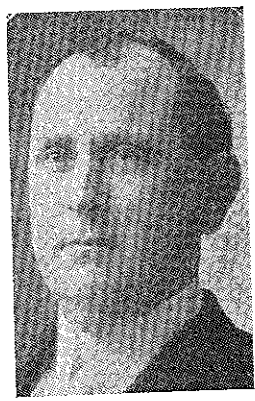


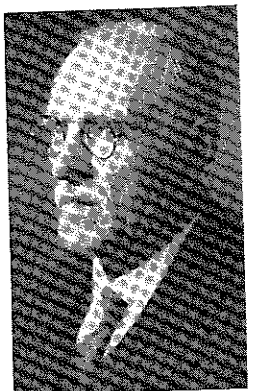


**ADMITTED ON TRIAL, 1940**

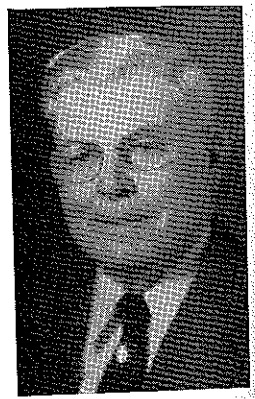
Front (L-R) Wade Robert Bustle, Joseph Temple Shackford, Raymond Odell Brown, and William Ed. Andrews. Back (L-R) Simeon Byron Nifong, John Frank Cagle, Sherrill East Biggers, Charles Denny White, and Lee Roy Spencer.



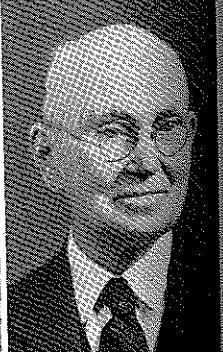
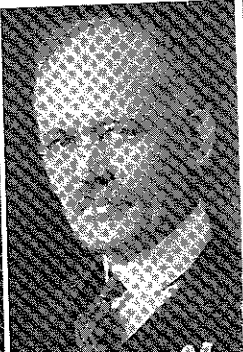
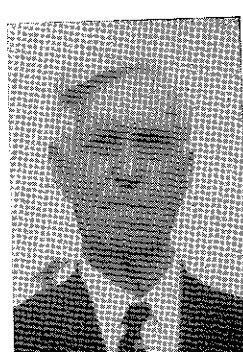
A. S. Raper, 1868-1939



J. T. Ratledge, 1868-1939



J. H. West, 1862-1939



JOURNAL

*of the*

Second Session

*of the*

Western North Carolina  
Annual Conference

*of*

The Methodist Church



WESLEY MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH  
HIGH POINT, NORTH CAROLINA  
OCTOBER 22-25, 1940

After having received his education at Old Trinity College (now Duke University), Brother Ratledge taught for several years in the schools of Davie County. In 1901 he joined the Western North Carolina Conference at Gastonia, North Carolina, and during twenty-nine years of active ministry served the following charges: Danbury, 1901-1905; Lewisville, 1905-1909; Arcadia, 1909-1913; Advance, 1913-1914; Mooresville, 1914-1918; Catawba, 1918-1921; Walnut Cove, 1921-1924; Wentworth, 1924-1928; Pleasant Garden, 1928-1930. Because of ill health he took the superannuate relation in 1930, and lived near Madison, North Carolina, until the time of his death.

These are but some of the bare facts of the life of Brother Ratledge, and tell little of the man. To evaluate the man himself is a challenging task. The primary fact about him was the sweetness of his spirit which shone through everything that he did and said. His greatest ministry lay in simple associations, and his contribution to those who were privileged to know him was immeasurable. He was mentally alive and awake, and up to the time of his death was interested in ideas and not afraid of pursuing them in his thinking and conversation. Somehow he finished every discussion and every conversation standing at the foot of the Cross, looking up into the face of his Friend and Lord, for in Jesus Christ he found the answer to all questions, the solution to all problems and the final meaning of all things.

As a preacher, Brother Ratledge was fearless and direct, and in his very simplicity, profound. There are preachers whose countenance, whose spirit and whose very presence had a majesty and meaning to words that they cannot have coming from the lips of ordinary men; preachers whose utterances convince and convict because of the character of the men themselves. Brother Ratledge was such a preacher. Men heard him and repented. Men heard him and believed. Men heard him and loved the Lord.

Young people and children recognized in him a spirit kin to their own—a spirit alive to the world about him; to the world within him; to the world above him. They loved him because he loved them, as indeed he loved everything alive and young and growing. After his retirement from the active ministry, when he came to live at his little home near Madison, he planted a garden. God loved a garden, and walked in His garden "in the cool of the day." Jesus loved a garden, and met His Father there often. In his garden Brother Ratledge communed and worshipped, and came very close to his Father and his God. Out of it he went into the world where men toil and sorrow and sweat, carrying to him something of the freshness and cleanness and sweetness that he found there, and his company men found rest and refreshment. His was a daily comradeship with the Holy Spirit. There was something in his face and in the touch of his hand that told men that he was a son of God. He "wist not that the skin of his face shone." When he came to the end of the way, he simply stepped out upon the promises of God, hand in hand with Jesus Christ.

"Scarce had he need to doff his pride,  
Or shed the dross of earth;  
E'en as he trod  
That day with God,  
So walked he from his birth—  
In simpleness, and gentleness;  
Honor, and clean mirth."

R. M. LAUGHLIN.

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### Thomas Jefferson Rogers

Thomas Jefferson Rogers, son of James Marshall Rogers and Nancy Belk Rogers, was born in Monroe, N. C., January 4, 1861; he was converted and joined the Methodist Church in early life, and attended Union County schools and Rutherford College.

On April 11, 1894, he was happily united in marriage to Miss Lillian Kate Wiseman of Rutherford County, North Carolina. Brother Rogers was admitted on trial into the Methodist itinerancy at Greensboro in 1889, during the last Annual Conference of North Carolina Methodism before the division into two Conferences, the North Carolina Conference and the Western North Carolina Conference. He was admitted into full connection at the second session of the Western North Carolina Conference, at Asheville, in 1891.

During his active ministry he served the following charges: Henrietta, 1889-1890; Mountain Island, 1890-1892; Marion, 1892-1896; Waynesville, 1896-1900; Newton, 1900-1901; Mooresville, 1901-1905; Rutherfordton, 1905-1909; Lincolnton, 1909-1913; Ramseur and Franklinville, 1913-1914; North Wilkesboro, 1914-1916; West Greensboro, 1916-1920; High Point, Main Street, 1920-1923; Madison, 1923-1927; Kernersville, 1927-1931.

Throughout his active ministry he rendered efficient service in the various departments of the pastorate. Included in constructive work he began the new church building at Lincolnton, had erected the educational building of Main Street Church, High Point, and effected the building of present parsonage of West Greensboro Charge. He was an efficient pastor. The statement has been made that Brother Rogers' "particular ministry was predominantly evangelistic in character, and he was widely known for the large number of conversions made in evangelistic meetings, and at the same time he was considered very effective as a pastor." The tribute is paid that he received 3,600 members on profession of faith in his own pastoral charges.

He was known as progressive in his labors, and for ten years attended the summer school for pastors at Duke University.

After having thus faithfully served for forty-two years in the active ministry, he retired in 1932 on account of ill health. During these years of retirement he was regular in attending church services and Sunday school unless prevented by infirmity or illness.

During the recent period of illness Brother Rogers indicated that he was aware of nearing the end. Following a critical illness of about two weeks, this faithful servant of God, on Saturday afternoon, January 6, 1940, gently passed from the Burrus Hospital, High Point, unto the larger life beyond.

On November 13, 1935, the wife, who had devotedly shared in the itinerancy, preceded her faithful companion to the "Father's house of many mansions."

Surviving are the following children: Mrs. Hilda Stansbury, High Point; Mrs. Helen Sampson, Greensboro; Miss Virginia Rogers, High Point; Mrs. Kathleen Tate, High Point; Mrs. Marguerite Rossiter, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Marion Joyce, Greenville, S. C.; T. Baxter Rogers, Indianapolis, Ind.; W. Kilgo Rogers, Lincolnton; Thomas J. Rogers, Jr., Greensboro; and John G. Rogers, Greensboro.

Also surviving are two brothers, J. P. Rogers, Monroe, and S. A. Rogers, Clarkton; a sister, Mrs. John Carr, Monroe, and eight grandchildren.

Brother Rogers has bequeathed to his family and friends a rich legacy of priceless spiritual values. "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold."

He was not unmindful of Paul's admonition to Timothy: "But watch thou in all things, enduring afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of (or fulfil) thy ministry."

He has "come to" his "grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in in his season." How rich are God's promises to the wise for faithful service: "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."

May "the Father of Mercies, and the God of all comfort, who comforteth us in all our tribulation," richly comfort and sustain every bereaved heart.

SAMUEL B. TURRENTINE.

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### Joseph Henry West

"A tall cedar has fallen  
And many hearts are sad."

These words expressed the feeling of the people of Brevard when they heard that Rev. J. H. West, beloved former pastor and leading citizen, had passed away.

The Rev. Joseph Henry West, the son of Henry West and Caroline Plemmons West, was born in Gilmer County, near Dalton, Georgia, March 17, 1862. When he was ten