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OFFICIAL JOURNAL—1935

## Year Book and Minutes of the Ninety-Ninth Session

of the

# New Jersey Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church

HELD AT FIRST CHURCH ASBURY PARK, NEW JERSEY SEPTEMBER 19 to 22, 1935

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NEW YORK THE METHODIST BOOK CONCERN, PRINTERS, 150 FIFTH AVENUE 1935 Church, Point Pleasant; Rev. John Townley, pastor of Point Pleasant Presbyterian Church; and Rev. William R. Guffick, pastor of West Grove Church. Interment was at Atlantic View Cemetery, Manasquan, N. J.



Brother Oakes, descendant of a long line of teachers and preachers, was born in Elkhart, Ind., on November 10, 1856. His parents were Henry Eshleman Oakes and Anne Elder Stephens, both of Elkhart, When a young man, he came to Pennsylvania, attending Dickinson College for two years. He married the late Caroline Abigail Parker, daughter of the late Rev. Samuel Parker of the New Jersey Conference, on November 9, 1879. In 1888 he joined the New Jersey Conference, serving charges at Wilton, Cinnamonson, Forked River and Bayville, Tabernacle and Indian Mills, Crosswicks and Ellisdate, Hurffville, Sharptown, Highlands, Spring Lake, Burlington, Marlton, Island Heights, Imlaystown and Belford. He retired in 1919, making his home in Pitman for nearly twenty years.

Mr. Oakes taught school in Indiana, Tremley, Cedar Run, Manahawkin, Tuckerton, Tuckahoe, Hancock's Bridge, Marlton, Imlaystown, Monroeville, North Centerville and Folsom.

Both the maternal great-grandfather and great-greatgrandfather fought in the Revolutionary War. John W. Oakes, uncle of Brother Oakes, died from injuries

received at the Battle of Missionary Ridge during the Civil War. The deceased was a member of Goodwill Council, No. 32, Junior Order United American Mechanics, of New Brunswick, N. J.

Brother Oakes is survived by one daughter, Edith L. Oakes, graduate of the Methodist Episcopal Hospital of Philadelphia.

John Andrew Oakes and the writer of this memoir were classmates at D ckinson College, class of 1881. He did not finish his course, but left at the end of his sophomore year. He was gifted with a mathematical mind and easily carried away the honors in that department. Although he was rather backward in disposition, yet, when it came to the solution of the most intricate problems in higher mathematics, he not only excelled the members of his class, but even the professor himself would call him to the blackboard to solve a problem which he himself could not solve.

This type of mental attitude followed him into the pulpit, and his sermons were prepared and delivered with great clearness and precision. As a teacher in the classroom, which profession he followed when not holding an appointment of the Conference, he was most able and took high rank. Although spending only about two years at Dickinson, yet these were years full of hard and studious application, thus laying a fine foundation for his after career.

HENRY RIDGELY ROBINSON,

#### JOHN FRANKLIN SECHRIST

OHN FRANKLIN SECHRIST was born in Stewartstown, Pa., February 2, 1855. He was the son of William and Mary B. Sechrist. His early training was received in the academy of his native town; Dickinson Seminary, Williamsport, Pa.; through special courses in Chicago University; and in the study of the Hebrew language in Philadelphia. In the fourteenth year of his age he was brought to the personal knowledge of Jesus Christ in his conversion, which he never forgot nor ever questioned. With his faith well grounded he soon recognized the call of God to enter the ministry and preach the gospel.

On August 14, 1879, he was joined in marriage to Miss Eugenia V. Kerlinger, which for more than fifty-five years proved to be a most devoted and happy wedded life. The month following their marriage this young couple went to Nebraska, where the new clergyman did work under the direction of the Home Missionary Society. He returned to the East in 1881 to accept a charge in the New Jersey

In March, 1882, he was admitted into the New Jersey Conference, where he served the following charges: Cross Keys; Port Monmouth; Palmyra; Tuckerton; Milltown; Lakewood; Pennington; Beverly; Woodstown; Elmer; Sayreville; Trenton, Broad Street; Salem, First Church; Trenton, St. Paul; Sayreville; Florence. He retired in 1928, after which he supplied Fieldsboro. As assistant to the Conference treasurer and in all places he filled on committees he was most faithful and conscientious, believing that every office was a trust that should be carefully filled. In his long ministerial life he but once, and that through illness, failed to answer to

his name at the Conference roll call. Surviving are wife, who resides in Trenton; two sons, Wilbur H., of Lansdowne, Pa., and Edwin L., of Elmira, N. Y.; and a daughter, Mabel, who is at home with her

Brother Sechrist was a princely soul, a man of cultured mind, spiritual alertness and refinement of manners. He lived in touch with his day. His large library was filled with literature covering the past and the present, and was as windows opening up to him new visions. He also lived in touch with the divine, and in an atmosphere that gave men the feeling that he was a man of God; that sense voiced by Wordsworth: "And I have felt a presence that disturbs me with the joy of elevated thoughts." He was a man of one work, that of saving men and building them into the likeness of Jesus Christ. He was evangelistic in his preaching, and his churches were marked with revivals when souls were converted and gathered for the Kingdom. The churches he served were always better for having had this man of God as their pastor. He was peculiarly strong in his ability to attract the young to the Church and to Christ. No congregation ever needed to apologize for



any service when Brother Sechrist was in charge, for all things were done in a

manner approved by the most critical.

The spirit of brotherliness strongly marked this man, manifesting itself in the kindly smile, the word of good cheer and the optimistic faith; a life that was helpful; that lifted many souls over hard places, and in any community where known men could say of him, "There is a man." These qualifications made him particularly strong in pastoral work, visiting from house to house, carrying the joys of a victorious life. His home was ideal. He loved it. His wife and children were the recipients of unstinted affection by a loving husband and father. He went to his final reward-"Well done"-from his home in Trenton, N. J., August 3, 1935, after several months of failing health, passing out of life as sweetly and gently as the sun sinks behind the hills at close of day, or as the tired child shuts his eyes in sleep at evening time.

Funeral services were held the following Tuesday, August 6, 1935, and were in charge of District Superintendent T. S. Brock, assisted by Leon Chamberlain, E. A. Wells, J. W. Lee and C. S. Lawrence, a Conference classmate. Burial took place in Riverview Cemetery, Trenton, N. J.

> "And ever near, though unseen. The dear, immortal spirits tread: For all the boundless universe Is life-there is no dead."

CHARLES S. LAWRENCE.

### JAMES BISHOP SHAW

AMES BISHOP SHAW was born in Cape May County, N. J., November 26, 1854, and was translated from his home in Ocean Grove, N. J., on Tuesday, September 3, 1935, as the result of a fall on the previous Thursday.

He was united in marriage to Miss Anna B. Sayre on November 7, 1878, and for fifty-seven years they journeyed together along life's pathway in happy

fellowship, and in Christian life and service.

His devotion to Christ and His Church led to his election in the Quarterly Conference as a local preacher, and he was in demand for pulpit supply in his own church and in many other places. His quiet and unassuming manner, his definite Christian experience, and loyalty to the Word of God, made him an efficient preacher of the Gospel.

Larger fields of opportunity opened to him, and in 1902 District Superintendent Edmund Hewitt appointed him pastor of Eldora Circuit, where he had a fruitful ministry for five years. He was then appointed pastor of the Deerfield and Aldine