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OFFICIAL MINUTES

NINETY-NINTH SESSION

OF THE

MARYLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH

HELD AT

STARR CHURCH, BALTIMORE, MD.

APRIL 6-12, 1927

PUBLISHED BY THE SECRETARY

PRICE 25 CENTS

death is a great loss to the

thing stands out in bold relief
ship, which began during our
ed through all the intervening
), and that was his manhood.

A man of lofty ideals, strong
lings with his fellow man, but,
ot Judson Savage once wrote
out what makes a true man, it
and faculties, to conceive of
erted, rightly ranked, and set
ther.' Which was as much as
ot only all the parts of a man,
eloped to individual perfection,
at they be in harmony of com-
in was a perfect man would be
worth—but to say that he was
all of God's noblemen on the
goodly company, who through
iteousness, obtained promises—
or he was a man of faith, faith
Faith was the great power that
ght it into obedience to the will

Charge, writes: "The members
rother C. P. Nowlin with deep
e always looked on the bright
hool teacher he had wonderful
e was the teacher had grown to
ears under his direction. As a
er forget his frequent visits as
nd and advisor. There was no
ar. Our loss is his gain, and we
only Father."

s: "A few years ago I got my
by helping in a meeting while
ed in his home and saw the
and children. By day we saw
nd at night we labored for the
iles we talked of books, men,
usand things preachers talk of

We have worked together in
e had long nights working on
l not come straight. We have
er on the conference floor. In
ctions of his mind were toward
nissible, I should say, the reflex
e direction of the pure, the true,
p down his expense account as
nd saved for other but never

saved himself. While his consecration to God and the Church was complete he showed nothing of the crank or the prig. He commended the Christian religion because he lived the Christian life,—for others, without display, graciously content that he was allowed to serve."

Brother Nowlin was called home in the midst of his labors. No man among us appeared to be in better health at the last session of this conference than did he. Anyone might have predicted that there were years of usefulness before him. But how inscrutable are the ways of Providence; how frail these houses in which we live. Suddenly, as a bolt out of the clear sky, he was stricken. At the advice of Dr. J. Burton Nowlin, his brother, he was taken to the Memorial Hospital in Lynchburg, Va., where everything was done that medical science could do to restore him to health again. Through friends we kept in touch with him day by day, hoping against hope that he would be spared. On the morning of January the twenty-ninth he quietly fell asleep in Jesus. He passed away in the midst of the scenes of his childhood and young manhood, and surrounded by relatives and life long friends. The John Marshall Lodge of the Masonic order, of which Brother Nowlin was a charter member, rendered every service in their power to the bereaved family. The funeral was held from the Methodist Protestant church of Lynchburg, Monday, January 31, the president of the conference officiating assisted by the pastor Rev. J. H. Lynch. The large assembly which filled the church attested to the genuine and universal sorrow felt by the whole community. A friend wrote to us that the service was a most impressive one, and that the sermon by the president of the conference was an eloquent and fitting tribute to the life and services of our beloved brother. The burial, in which the Masonic Lodge assisted, was in the beautiful Laurel Hill Cemetery.

There, near father, mother and sister, all that it mortal of Charles P. Nowlin awaits the Ressurrection Morn. On every hand are the resting places of sainted men and women he knew during the years of his membership in the church he loved. How beautiful so to rest. A life well spent. The course, every step of which is sanctified by faithfulness, patience, courage, and devotion, finished. The crown won.

GEO. HINES, Chairman,
R. L. SHIPLEY,
LOUIS RANDALL,
F. W. WHITAKER,
B. W. KINDLEY,
W. L. BARNES,
H. H. MENDENHALL.

REV. W. S. SIMMS

Rev. J. McLain Brown, a close personal friend of Brother Simms, has the following to say about him: "Rev. W. S. Simms was born in Fairfax County, Va., on the eighth of May, 1849; and fell

asleep in Jesus October fifteenth, 1926. He was converted to God in the Alexandria, Virginia, Methodist Protestant Church on Sunday morning, December 19, 1880, and received into membership the same day, under the ministry of the late Rev. Silas B. Treadway, D. D. The Quarterly Conference of the above named church granted him an Exhorter's License, and immediately he began his life of usefulness and consecration, by calling men to forsake sin and get right with God.

"In the year 1887 he removed to Baltimore, Md., and connected himself with the old Broadway Church, under the ministry of Rev. Hugh L. Elderdice, D. D. This old church granted our brother a Local Preacher's License, and when the Maryland Conference met in this church in April 1910, Brother Simms was ordained for the ministry. These references to his official relationship with the church and conference are but milestones along the King's Highway, that he traveled for 46 years.

"Brother Simms had a fine physique, a strong voice and a passionate zeal for the souls of mankind, which he exemplified largely in pulpit and personal evangelism.

"It was said of his ministry, while located on Chinoctague Island, that he visited every family on the Island; and it might be truthfully added, that he prayed in every home where it was possible for him to do so. At the conference held in Salisbury in 1905, Bro. Simms was one of a small group of ministers that held early morning services in the Jail, at one of the East-End Churches at noon, and at the Court House in the afternoon. In all these services men were converted to God; among them a colored prisoner sentenced to pay the death penalty for his crime, and another, a young man who was the son of one of the Judges of the Orphans Court. He was with the writer in the great revival at Fawn Grave, Pa., and did splendid work, both in the pulpit and among the unsaved in the congregation. He had early in his ministry learned the true value of prayer, and he invariably turned to his Lord in seasons of sunshine or storm, that he might have the sustaining power of God's grace for every emergency."

Rev. Thomas O. Crouse, D. D., writes, "My acquaintance with Brother Simms was not as intimate as that of some others of the committee, but I knew him long enough and well enough to admire and love him for his genial and gracious spirit, his evangelistic zeal, and his faithfulness to the work to which he felt the Lord had called him, and to the charges to which the conference assigned him from year to year.

"He had the consecration and courage to accept some of the less desirable fields of labor, and at no small sacrifice toiled where others of us were not ready to go.

"Though his name was not recorded on the roster of the conference, we shall cherish his memory as our companion in labor and

926. He was converted to God in the Methodist Protestant Church on Sunday. He received into membership the same day. The late Rev. Silas B. Treadway, D. D. of the above named church granted him immediately he began his life of usefulness to forsake sin and get right

to Baltimore, Md., and connected with the church, under the ministry of Rev. J. W. Simms. The old church granted our brother a license to preach. When the Maryland Conference met in 1887, Brother Simms was ordained for the official relationship with the church. He was assigned along the King's Highway, that

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while located on Chinoctague Island, on the Island; and it might be said that every home where it was possible to hold a service held in Salisbury in 1905, Bro. J. W. Simms, of ministers that held early morning services at the East-End Churches at noon, and in the afternoon. In all these services men and women, a colored prisoner sentenced to the penitentiary, and another, a young man who had been in the Orphans Court. He was with the family at the Lawn Grave, Pa., and did splendidly in the unsaved in the congregation. He showed the true value of prayer, and in seasons of sunshine or storm, and in the power of God's grace for every

Bro. J. W. Simms, writes, "My acquaintance with him was as that of some others of the same kind, enough and well enough to admire his gracious spirit, his evangelistic zeal, and his faithfulness, which he felt the Lord had called him to, and the conference assigned him from

with the courage to accept some of the less common and small sacrifice toiled where others

recorded on the roster of the conference as our companion in labor and

brother beloved, and rejoice to believe that his name was written in Heaven, and he has entered into the faithful servant's reward."

Mr. Jesse H. Linthicum writes: "He was my pastor for a number of years, and I can truthfully say that he was the happiest and most consecrated minister I have ever met. He would not ride in the street cars on Sundays, yet he did not stop administering to the poor, the sick or the needy on that day. For years he conducted meetings at the Penitentiary, and he always walked. He was a member of the old school, and persons who were fortunate in coming in contact with him will remember him always as charitable and ready to serve his Master.

"He conducted many meetings on Sundays during his pastorate of Waverly Church. He had his regular morning service at 11 o'clock, Sunday School at 2.30 P. M., Christian Endeavor at 7.15 P. M., and preaching again in the evening at 8 o'clock. During the week he arranged for other services and went into the highways and by-ways between the Sunday School hour and the Christian Endeavor Services. These meetings were usually held on the street corners in the Waverly section, where Brother Simms perhaps did the best work of his life. Methodism Protestantism has lost one of its most beloved pastors."

Mr. W. Finney Hall writes, "Brother Simms was a true man of God. He lived the Gospel that he preached, and was held in high esteem by the people of Conquest Charge, which he served so faithfully. While we feel that we have lost a true friend and brother, we bow in humble submission to God's will, knowing that he has gone to live with Jesus, which is far better."

TRIBUTE BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THIS COMMITTEE

"Thou shalt come to thy grave in full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in its season." The death of the ripe Christian. The comparison here is a beautiful one. The shock of corn has passed through many changes of weather and heat, has resisted many attacks of the enemy, enjoyed many blessings of wind and rain and sunshine, and at last has come to fruitage; is ripened for the sickle and garner. Precisely so with the aged Christian, who has lived out three score and ten years, amid storms of temptations, floods of wickedness, attacks of enemies, evil encroachments within and without, as well as delights. He has struggled through them all, resisted, survived, rejoiced, and at last is ripened for the eternal harvest, and crowned with glory. His work is done. Precisely so with our beloved Brother Simms.

Some years ago Brother Simms became a member of the Quarterly Conference of Starr Church, and his family also became members of said church. His health began to fail soon after the last session of this conference. He did not give up his work however until about two weeks before his death, at which time he came to Baltimore, accompanied by his faithful wife and co-worker. From

then he grew rapidly worse until the end came on Friday, October 15, 1926, at about 12.30 P. M. His funeral service was held in Starr Church on the following Monday, participated in by Rev. Drs. Makosky, L. F. Warner, Louis Randall, H. L. Elderdice, Rev. J. McLain Brown and Dr. Haddaway. Interment was in Druid Ridge Cemetery. Brother Simms is not dead, but alive; and physically only sleeping.

I met Brother Simms for the first time about thirty years ago, when I was much impressed with his sincerity and consecration. This impression has deepened as the years have gone by. Some one said to me recently, "Brother Simms is a peculiar man". So is every sincere Christian. He was peculiarly charitable, to the extent of even emptying his pockets when someone was hungry. He was a man of strong convictions, and never took a neutral position on any question of importance, never on the fence, but swung clear out on the positive side of right. He was consecrated to religious work, soul and body; there was no half-heartedness in his life.

He was a man of few words. Every word was weighed before uttered. What he said he meant, and what he meant he said, and let it go at that. He never argued with anybody about anything. He stated his convictions and beliefs without argument or justification of his stand.

He was a slave to his work, day and night through cold and heat, he lived for the task to which he was assigned. He was deeply spiritual and pious, and his was a spirit-filled life. His was a demonstrable religion, emotional, and his "Amen's" were audible. We have too few of them today, even from ministers of the Gospel. When he said "Amen" it thrilled you. In a word, he was a good man, one of the very best; God's prime elect, innocent, inoffensive, childlike. He was a church man. He believed in the church, defended the church, exalted the church of the Living God. He was a denominationalist, believed in and was loyal in the extreme to the Methodist Protestant Church.

He was a home man. Never out with others, caring little for masculine associations, he lived for his wife and children in the home. Now, he is in his heavenly home.

He will be greatly missed by the Annual Conference, in which he was so well and favorably known, and most highly respected by every minister of the conference. He will be missed by the parishioners he has served, for they were devoted to him. He will be missed, sadly missed, greatly missed in his home. His full worth will be appreciated now more largely and fully than ever before. This is true with every good man or woman. We "never really miss the water till the well runs dry".

Christians, like poets, never fully live until they die, and usually poets have to be dead a hundred years before they live at all.

Brother Simms will live
who knew him from now
regard than he could have

"Servant of
The battle
And to

Goodnight Brother, we
almost hear him say to us
His bereaved wife and
whom he loved so well, and

Signed

MRS. FANNIE

Mrs. Fannie Lee Sexsmith, D.D., a member of the church near Westminster, Maryland, has returned to her heavenly home.

Mrs. Sexsmith, before she was married to Mr. Williams, the second sergeant of the 1st Maryland Infantry, was a member of the Methodist Church.

She was converted early in life and joined the Methodist Church. She soon became a devoted member in favor with the young men of the church and went for the gentle and kind.

She received her early education in her native county, and afterward she went to the city and after finishing her education she devoted the remainder of her life to business and

She was married to Rev. Frank H. Lewis, D.D., of the more Church, to which she was a member. She entered upon the life of a faithful and patient

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 by Rev. Drs. Ma-
 L. Elderdice, Rev. J. McLain
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 suitable, to the extent of ever
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 equal position on any question
 coming clear out on the positive
 religious work, soul and body;

word was weighed before
 what he meant he said, and
 anybody about anything.
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until they die, and usually
 before they live at all.

Brother Simms will live in the memory and affection of those
 who knew him from now on in a larger, fuller appreciation and
 regard than he could have possibly enjoyed while he lived in the flesh.

"Servant of God, well done;
 Thy glorious warfare's past;
 The battle's fought, the race is won,
 And thou art crowned at last."

Goodnight Brother, we will meet you in the morning. We can
 almost hear him say to us, "God be with you till we meet again."
 His bereaved wife and children he committed to the same God
 whom he loved so well, and served so faithfully during his life.

Signed:

G. W. HADDAWAY, Chairman,
 T. O. CROUSE,
 J. McLAIN BROWN,
 W. FINNEY HALL,
 J. H. LINTHICUM,
 PRESTON BARROW.

MRS. FANNIE LEE SEXSMITH

Mrs. Fannie Lee Sexsmith, the beloved wife of Rev. E. A.
 Sexsmith, D.D., a member of the Maryland Conference, was born
 near Westminster, Maryland, March 1, 1874, and passed from her
 earthly home to her heavenly home November 11, 1926.

Mrs. Sexsmith, before her marriage, was Miss Fannie Lee
 Williams, the second daughter of Christopher Columbus and Isabelle
 Williams, good and upright citizens of Carroll County, and faithful
 members of the Methodist Protestant Church.

She was converted early in life and then united with Providence
 Church. She soon became active in the work of the church, grew
 in favor with the young and old alike, and was known where she
 went for the gentle and consecrated life which she lived.

She received her early education in the public schools of her
 native county, and afterwards attended Western Maryland College,
 and after finishing her education there she devoted a short period
 of her life to business activities.

She was married to Rev. E. A. Sexsmith, D.D., at North Balti-
 more Church, to which she had transferred her membership, by Rev.
 Frank H. Lewis, D.D., June 11, 1901. Then with her husband she
 entered upon the life of an itinerant, in which relation she continued
 to be faithful and patient, doing good wherever she was located, and