

**Official Journal**

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**Oregon Annual Conference**

**Methodist Episcopal Church**

**Sixty-Fourth Session  
1916**

REFERENCE

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bio March 4, 1841, and died He moved with his parents isin to Iowa in 1861, from r, serving full time. After yta territory in 1867. Was ght school for several years nited with the Des Moines undaries he became a mem- On his first circuit of eight his health broke down and ed to Washington, Columbia Moscow, Idaho. In 1886 he ice where he remained until the superannuated relation e ministry, 30 of which was s evangelistic in his preach- He had perfect faith and

by his pastor, James Moore, l the members of the Albany of which he was a member, led in a body, and in their their appreciation and sym- d successful preacher of the sides his wife the deceased s, two sons, two sisters, one he Oregon Conference, pastor

GARDINER

in England August 3, 1845,

and died in Cottage Grove, Ore., January 29, 1916. Brother Gardiner came to the United States when he was four years old. In 1853 the family moved to Iowa where both his parents died. In 1862 he enlisted in the Civil War and was in several important battles, and after three years service was honorably discharged. Brother Gardiner was converted during his army life. His conversion was clear, and he was very successful as a soul winner among his comrades. He received his divine call to the ministry in 1873 and began work on the Maple Valley circuit in Iowa. From 1878 to 1888 he was very successful in the State of Iowa in building churches and in winning many for Christ. In 1888, broken in health, he removed to Oregon and served six different charges. At Cottage Grove he organized the First Methodist Episcopal Church on Thanksgiving evening, November 29, 1888, with twenty-seven charter members. In October, 1908, he removed to Cottage Grove where he has lived until called to his reward.

The funeral services were held in the First Methodist Episcopal Church, Cottage Grove, January 31, 1916, and the body was laid away in the cemetery at Walker. The services were conducted by the pastor, Rev. H. N. Aldrich, assisted by the following brethren: C. E. Cline, a classmate; R. S. Bishop of Creswell; Hiram Gould, an old Conference associate in Iowa; T. B. Ford, a former District Superintendent, and George H. Feese, a former pastor. Brother Gardiner's family are all living. The widow, Mrs. Susannah Gardiner, Leonard, Gardiner of Salem, Mrs. Myrtle Morgan of Lowell, Mrs. Alma Bennett of Salem, W. J. Gardiner of Sacramento, Cal., and Mrs. Grace Wood of Cottage Grove. They were all present for the funeral. A good soldier of Jesus Christ has gone to his reward and the world is poorer because of his passing out.

#### JOSEPH HENRY SKIDMORE

Joseph Henry Skidmore was born August 21, 1837, at Worcester-shire, England, and died May 2, 1916, at Vancouver, Wash. He was one of the pioneer preachers and educators of Oregon and at the time of his death was one of the three oldest members of the Oregon Conference. He was a self-made man in the real sense. He began work in the coal mines when eight years of age, without having ever attended school. At the age of ten he came to America. At twenty years of age he entered Greenwich Institute, Rhode Island. He came to the front so rapidly that he became a teacher.

He was converted in the Methodist Church at Providence. He became active as a Sunday School worker and was soon made a local preacher. At the beginning of the Civil War he was elected chaplain of the first Rhode Island regiment, but failed to receive the appointment. In 1863 he came to California and organized the first public school at San Bernardino. During the Civil War he worked to elect Lincoln president, but the opposition to him was so intense that he left and came to Nevada. After a short stay he came to Coos Bay and engaged in the logging business. He had the distinction of preaching at the first religious service held in Coos County. He was the first teacher of mathematics and later principal of the Wilbur Academy in Douglas County. He married Annie M. Hill at Wilbur July 6, 1869. He was founder and for six years was president of the Ashland Academy, which later became the Southern Oregon State Normal School. He built the present Methodist Church at Ashland, quarrying the cut stone with his own hands. In 1878 he was offered the Republican nomination for Congress, but declined. An able and eloquent preacher, he was much sought after as a stump orator. From 1880 until some years before his death he held pastorates in Idaho, Washington and Oregon. He was at one time Presiding Elder of the Idaho Conference. The dominating feature of Brother Skidmore's life was kindness. It was his invariable practice to think of others first. No one ever heard him utter one unkind word.

He is survived by his wife and four sons, Joseph H. of Omaha, Neb., Newell G. of Vancouver, Wash., Fredrick H. of Pioneerville, Ida., and Charles E. of Berkeley, Cal.

The funeral was conducted at Vancouver, Wash., May 4 by T. B. Ford, Superintendent of the Salem District, and E. L. Benedict, pastor of First Church, Vancouver.

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