

Official Record and Year Book

of the

# NORTH-EAST OHIO CONFERENCE

of the

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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## THIRTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

held in the

GRACE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

COSHOCTON, OHIO

September 9th to 16th, 1924

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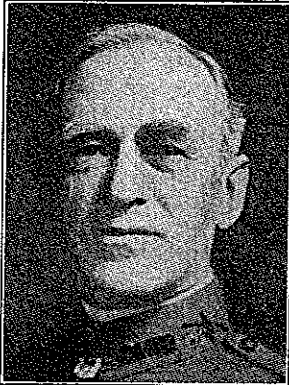
THEODORE S. HENDERSON, D. D., LL. D., Presiding Bishop

F. I. JOHNSON, Secretary



*Henderson,*

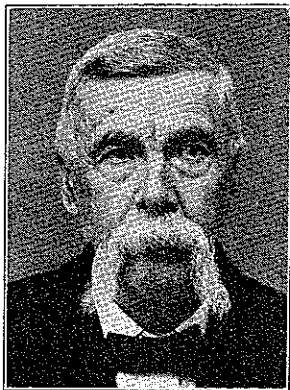
## REV. GEORGE B. SMITH, D.D.



Doctor Smith was born in Carroll County, Ohio, and received his early training in Harlem Springs Seminary. He entered the Pittsburgh Conference in 1876, the year in which the East Ohio Conference was formed, of which he became a member. He served with vigor and marked efficiency for forty-four years, and retired in 1919, but not to inactivity. He had prosecuted a very active ministry of preaching and other forms of service since his release from pastoral work. Among his pastorates are—Uhrichsville, Cadiz, Alliance, Massillon, Steubenville, Barnesville, and Bellaire. He was for a time President of Scio College, and for six years was Presiding Elder of Canton District. He was a member of the General Conference in 1900 and 1904 and Ecumenical Conference of 1911. He was a soldier in the Civil War, a member of the One-Hundred and Eighty-Sixth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was a reader of good books and took a keen interest in world affairs, the progress of knowledge and the questions at issue in church and state. Allegheny College conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1898. He was a good minister of Jesus Christ. He was a wise administrator, a genuine brother and a dependable friend.

The funeral services were held at Barnesville; conducted by his District Superintendent, C. W. Danford, assisted by the pastor of the church and other pastors of the district.

## REV. RANSOM SMITH STRAHL



Ransom Smith Strahl, son of Jesse and Jane Strahl, was born near Barnesville, O., May 9, 1840, and died in Barnesville, September 17, 1923. The day before his death he preached at First Church, Barnesville, and attended the Joseph Ball Reunion at Hendrysburgh in the afternoon. He was seen several times on the streets, Monday, but that evening he was found in his home, where he lived alone, dead with pen in hand, as he had been writing in his diary. "He was not, for God took him."

He received his education in the public schools and in the Old Barnesville Academy. On February 23, 1859, he was happily converted in the Union Church, Barnesville Circuit, and immediately united with the Church. He was a teacher in the public schools for six years.

On January 27, 1866, he was licensed to preach at Somerton, O., Rev. Richard Cartwright, pastor, and Rev. J. L. Deens, presiding elder. In 1867, he was received on trial into the Pittsburgh Conference at Massillon, and into full membership at New Philadelphia, in 1869, when he was ordained

deacon by Bishop E. R. Simpson at Steubenville.

He served the following churches: Morgan, Rich Hill, Henry, New Athens, Quaker City—in all thirty-seven years of superannuated relation. Since retiring, he resides

On December 31, 1923, with whom he lived happily. He is survived by one daughter in Toronto. He was the last of the ministers in Ohio.

Brother Strahl was on many a difficult field of mission, mobiles, rural mail service, etc. He was cheerful and respected by his friends on every church. He was believed in a salvation that made sinners tremble and saved

Funeral services in Barnesville, pastor, E. A. Miller, and Rev. J. W. Danford were also present. Burial in Greenmount Cemetery, K.

Mary Istalena, daughter in Buncombe county, N. C., Good Samaritan Hospital, years lacking one week, her heart to Christ and with God. On October 10, W. D. Akers, a member of the church. A better model as a pastor for six years she stood by him in his joys. She made a good wife. At every charge served. At the present home, she was particularly loved.

She was in truth a devoted and honored ministers. Her husband, a son, and son-in-law.

She is survived by four children, Rev. L. R. Ga., Mrs. H. C. Maitland, Columbus, Ga. She of the cemetery at Wilmore, K.

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He served the following charges: Centerville, Sharon, Duncans Falls, Morgan, Rich Hill, Hendrysburgh, East Springfield, Bloomfield, Deersville, New Athens, Quaker City, Bridgeport Circuit, Elkton, Shadyside and Demos—in all thirty-seven years in the effective relation. In 1903 he took the superannuated relation. For four years, 1908-11, he did efficient supply work. Since retiring, he resided in Barnesville.

On December 31, 1863, he was married to Miss Penelope Jane Dyer, with whom he lived happily for almost forty-four years. She died in 1907. He is survived by one daughter, wife of the Rev. H. F. Patterson, pastor at Toronto. He was the last of his immediate family, and one of the oldest ministers in Ohio.

Brother Strahl was a faithful, loyal, and heroic preacher and pastor on many a difficult field, in a day when improved roads, telephones, automobiles, rural mail service, aeroplanes and the radio were scarcely dreamed of. He was cheerful and witty, and yet sweet-spirited and deeply religious. His friends on every charge were legion. Every one everywhere loved and respected him. He was a good, orthodox sermonizer and preacher. He believed in a salvation that saves to the uttermost. His sermons often made sinners tremble and saints rejoice.

Funeral services in First church, Barnesville, were conducted by his pastor, E. A. Miller, assisted by Revs. G. B. Smith and G. W. Cooper. The Revs. J. W. Danford, T. H. Armstrong, L. S. Rose and H. F. Patterson were also present. The Masonic order had charge at the grave in Greenmount Cemetery, Doctor Miller conducting the closing service.

MARY ISTALENA AKERS

Mary Istalena, daughter of Rev. John H. and Harriet Robeson, was born in Buncombe county, North Carolina, June 20, 1856, departed this life in Good Samaritan Hospital, Lexington, Kentucky, June 13, 1924, aged 68 years lacking one week. At Cartecay, Ga., in early childhood, she gave her heart to Christ and from that time forth, like Enoch of old, she walked with God. On October 17, 1878, she was united in marriage to the Rev. W. D. Akers, a member of the Holston Conference, M. E. Church, South. A better model as a pastor's wife could hardly be found. For almost forty-six years she stood by the side of her husband, bearing his burdens, sharing his joys. She made friends as naturally as a flower opens to the sun. At every charge served, she radiated good cheer and glorified her Lord. At the present home, Sparta, Ohio, where for six years she ministered, she was particularly loved and esteemed.

She was in truth a daughter of the church. Both grandfathers were honored ministers. Her father and two uncles were also ministers, her husband, a son, and son-in-law also serve in like capacity.

She is survived by her husband, Rev. W. D. Akers, of Sparta, Ohio, four children, Rev. L. R. Akers, of Ashland, Ohio, D. C. Akers, of Atlanta, Ga., Mrs. H. C. Maitland, of Winfield, Kas., and W. D. Akers, Jr. of Columbus, Ga. She often expressed her desire to be laid away in the cemetery at Wilmore, Ky., near her friends of former days, Sister Hughes,