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HISTORICAL NUMBER

OFFICIAL MINUTES

OF THE

NINETY-FIRST SESSION

OF THE

GENESEE CONFERENCE

OF THE

Methodist Episcopal Church

HELD AT THE

FIRST CHURCH

NORTH TONAWANDA, N. Y.

September 26-October 2, 1900

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MRS. MARY McKENZIE

Mrs. Mary McKenzie, widow of Rev. W. H. McKenzie, was born at Eunniskillen, Ireland, in 1837. Her maiden name was Mary Welsh. She came to America with her parents when she was six years of age. She was married to Rev. W. H. McKenzie, in Rochester, N. Y., by Rev. John Raines, about thirty-five years ago. The date of her conversion is lost, but it was at an early age. She was a faithful helpmeet to her husband from the time he entered the conference until his death. Since that time she had resided with her parents in Buffalo and at Silver Lake Assembly, and was as cheerful and happy as she could be under the circumstances incident to her condition. She had a deep religious experience and an unflinching trust in God. Last winter she had a fall to visit Toronto, Ontario, and there experienced an attack of pneumonia, from which she died December 29, 1899. The funeral was held from the house of her cousin, Mrs. Joseph Barrett, 197 West Utica St., Buffalo. The sermon was preached by Rev. Ward Platt, and she was carried to her last resting place in Forest Lawn by several pastors of the city churches. She sleeps by the side of her sainted husband, awaiting the resurrection of the just.

Never having been blessed with children of her own, she adopted and brought up three, Mrs. Mary Harper, of Jamestown, N. Y., Mrs. Florence Smith, of Silver Springs, N. Y., and Miss Susan McKenzie, now attending the Normal School at Fredonia, N. Y.

"She hath done what she could."

T. F. PARKER.

MRS MARY M. SUTHERLAND

Mrs. Mary McLean Sutherland was born in New York City, March 16, 1828, and died in Rochester, N. Y., Nov. 13, 1899. Her father, Wm. McLean was a lumber merchant in New York City, and for many years was a class leader in the Bedford St. M. E. Church of that city. Her mother, Elizabeth De Groot McLean was a devoted woman, whose mother, Joanna De Groot, was the founder of the Bedford St. Church, she having opened her own house for public worship about 1803, in Brandon St. (now Spring St.) For three years her house was placed upon the list of conference appointments, and services were sustained there each Sunday and during the week for that period. Subsequently the congregation moved to a school house and afterward became the Bedford St. Church. The father and mother of Mrs. Sutherland were for fifty years members of this church, and she was brought up under those influences which abound in a Christian home. She was converted at the age of fourteen and joined the Bedford St. Church, but soon after moved to the town of Starkey, Yates Co., (near Dundee,) where her father had purchased a farm.

In 1846, Andrew Sutherland joined the Genesee Conference at Lyons, and his first appointment was to the Starkey Circuit. There he met Mary McLean, and in 1848, August 7, they were married. From that time until 1886, when her husband superannuated, she was his constant and devoted helpmate. She was watchful for her husband's health, and was also, to him, an intellectual stimulus. She deprived herself of the comforts of life in order to give to her children an education. Her devotion to her family cannot be overestimated.

Andrew Sutherland, after his superannuation, became a resident of Rochester, where in 1891 his companion closed his eyes in death.

She lived ministered to every need in full measure and looked up in society and simply to lose she might dep and be at rest. was peace. S

Mrs. Sutherland, a distinguished land, also of R Church, Miss

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She lived until she was more than three score years and ten. Her children ministered to her comfort with the most tender and generous spirit, supplying every need in her declining years and last sickness. Having thus attained the full measure of human life, and having seen her husband fall asleep in death, and looked upon her children ripe in years and engaged in honorable service in society and in the Church of God, death came to her robed in light. It was simply to loosen the ties that still held her to a trembling wearied life, that she might depart hence, join those who have passed over the river before her, and be at rest. Her life was one of beautiful self-sacrificing service. Her end was peace. She has won a crown and a mansion in Heaven.

Mrs. Sutherland has left three sons and two daughters; Hon. Wm. Sutherland, a distinguished lawyer of Rochester, the Hon. Judge Arthur E. Sutherland, also of Rochester, Rev. Ward Sutherland, a minister in the Congregational Church, Miss Anna Sutherland and Miss Leela Sutherland

A. D. WILBOR.

MRS. MATTIE M. MUCHMORE

At Lexington Heights Hospital, Buffalo, N. Y., Mattie Monroe Cummings, wife of the Rev. L. J. Muchmore, pastor at Darien, Genesee Conference, entered into rest November 8, 1899. Sister Muchmore was born in Williams-town, Mass., May 16, 1864, and married September 5, 1883. Her religious life began too early in childhood for the assignment of a definite date, but she had evidence of the reality of the spirit-birth, as of the flesh-birth, in herself, making public profession and assuming church obligations at the age of sixteen, under the pastorate of H. A. Starks. Her husband, contemplating mission service in Japan, after graduation at Williams College, went to Drew Seminary, and in their home she studied the course with him and thus secured a rare preparation for usefulness as a pastor's wife. Wherever her lot was cast, amid success or reverses, she led the same consecrated life. Though suffering for years the painful disease which culminated in death, she was not only uncomplaining but notably hopeful, cheerful and self-sacrificing. She was a happy home-maker, with such tact and taste, efficiency and grace that, with all the limitations of an itinerant's wife, she brought to her husband the richest joys of domestic life, and welcomed their guests with a hospitality at once generous, restful and refreshing. In temperance and church work, in the choir, Sunday School, Epworth Leagues, and social meetings, though never obtrusive she was always ready and effective, fully justifying the remark of a leading parishioner, "She completely supplemented her husband's labors." Her triumphant faith, her power with God in prayer and her deep spiritual insight made her specially successful in all church work. The expressions of affection at her funeral were marked and manifest. The services were conducted by P. S. Merrill, Presiding Elder of the District, assisted by the writer and other brethren. Representatives from other charges served by her husband were present and resolutions from the united officary of Kensington Church, Buffalo, were read. The church at Darien in its various organizations and the community seemed to vie with each other in their manifestations of esteem for the departed and sympathy for their beloved pastor and her aged mother, and yet as her remains were borne to the cemetery amid the gathering shades of evening, there was no murmuring or complaining, for all felt that thus the Heavenly Father "giveth His beloved sleep."

T. J. BISSELL.