

NIA CONFERENCE.

AND THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION.

ND, VA., NOVEMBER 15-21, 1916.

ident; B. F. LIPSCOMB, Secretary.

Arthur L. Stevenson, Sterling W. Wilkin- son. 13.

Ques. 11. What traveling preachers are ordained deacons? Leslie F. Callahan, Jacob J. Clarke, Leon S. Flournoy, William H. Hantzmon, Leon W. Hendrickson, Edgar G. Hill, Edward M. Higginbotham, Theodore G. Laughon, Charles H. McNeil, Henry W. Neville, William P. Province, Arthur L. Stevenson, Sterling W. Wilkin- son. 13.

Ques. 12. What local preachers are elect- ed deacons? William James Craddock, William K. Cunningham, Dumas Malone, John Marshall, James M. Mooney, Chester A. Tucker. 6.

Ques. 13. What local preachers are or- dained deacons? William James Crad- dock, William K. Cunningham, Dumas Malone, John Marshall, James M. Mooney, Chester A. Tucker. 6.

Ques. 14. What traveling preachers are elected elders? Cecil C. Bell, Hadley V. Clarke, Fleming W. England, Allen W. Linthicum, William A. Orser, John B. Peters. 6.

Ques. 15. What traveling preachers are ordained elders? Cecil C. Bell, Hadley V. Clarke, Fleming W. England, Allen W. Linthicum, William A. Orser, John B. Peters. 6.

Ques. 16. What local preachers are elect- ed elders? John William Wimbish. 1.

Ques. 17. What local preachers are or- dained elders? John William Wimbish. 1.

Ques. 18. Who are located this year? None.

Ques. 19. Who are supernumerary? John M. Burton, William H. Camper, John E. McCartney, Edward L. Pell, Ed- gar A. Potts, Eugene J. Potts, Horace P. Read. 7.

Ques. 20. Who are superannuated? W. G. Bates, Sr., L. B. Betty, Charles H. Boggs, H. C. Bowles, Charles W. Cain, William R. Crowder, S. W. Day, T. P. Duke, John R. Gill, Charles H. Green, Wester H. Gregory, B. S. Herrink, Wil- liam P. Jordan, William E. Judkins, S. S. Lambeth, William A. Laughon, J. E. Mc- Sparran, James O. Moss, James E. Oyler, E. P. Parham, John W. Parrish, N. J.

Pruden, John Q. Rhodes, William H. Rid- dick, D. R. Sturgis, William A. Tompkins, D. J. Traynham, William V. Tudor, C. W. Turner, Charles E. Watts, C. C. Wert- enbaker, J. T. Whitley, Walter J. Williams, John P. Woodward. 34.

Ques. 21. What preachers have died dur- ing the past year? Joseph H. Amiss, Rob- ert B. Blankinship, Robert N. Crooks, Wil- liam G. Starr, Travis J. Taylor. 5.

ROBERT N. CROOKS was born in Greenup County, Ky., March 16, 1830, and departed this life at Yorktown, Va., February 26, 1916. His parents were Abraham and Catherine Conrad Crooks, of Kentucky. He was converted early in life, and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in August, 1852, when about twenty-two years of age. He was licensed to preach by the Greenup Quarterly Conference in March, 1855; received into the Western Virginia Conference in September, 1855; ordained a deacon in 1857, and an elder in 1859. He came to Virginia the first year of the Civil War, enlisted for service, and was made first lieutenant of his company. This position he held until June, 1862, when he was appointed chaplain in the Confederate Army and assigned to duty at Chimborazo Hospital, Richmond, where he remained until after the war. In No- vember, 1865, he was transferred to the Virginia Conference. Having passed through the perils and hardships of the Civil War, and of a pioneer preacher in the mountains, he now entered a field with as many difficulties and hardships as he had encountered in the past. He was sent to York Circuit, where he had to reorganize scattered societies and re- build demolished churches. But none of these things moved him. He had seen a vision and caught an inspiration that gave him such courage and determination as to make his efforts always a great suc- cess. Nine churches and two parsonages were built under his administration, while many old places of worship were either rebuilt or repaired, and thirteen hundred persons were received by him into the Church. His active ministry extended through about one-third of a century, and was of unusual acceptability as well as efficiency. During that time he served two charges—Bertie and York Circuits—fifteen years. While pastor of Hanover Circuit from 1879 to 1882, Brother Crooks was painfully injured by a fall from his buggy. Though compelled to itinerate on crutches, he persevered in his loved em-

ploy until the Conference of 1883, when, with a constitution shattered by rheuma- tism and other painful maladies, he re- luctantly retired to the superannuate re- lation. He ended his career as an itin- erant preacher on the Chase City charge, and then located in Richmond, where he resided four years. From there he re- moved to Yorktown, where he spent the remainder of his life. He loved his Church, but the cause of Christ more. Though circumscribed by superannuation, he was not wholly hindered from the work he so much loved. Sabbath after Sabbath he would meet the people of his town in the little chapel that he had been instru- mental in building, and open to them the Scriptures, either from the pulpit or in the pew. Here he was greatly beloved by the people, and eternity alone will reveal the good he has done. Brother Crooks was happy in his domestic relations. Au- gust 6, 1867, he was married to Miss Susan Scully, of Richmond. Eight children were born to them, four of whom are now liv- ing—two sons and two daughters. He was a kind and affectionate father, and the mutual devotion of father and chil- dren was beautiful. He loved his breth- ren and delighted in their fellowship. His kindness, courtesy, and geniality won for him many friends. He was so magnani- mous in spirit that men everywhere would say, "He is one of the best." The funeral services were conducted by the writer, whom he received into the Methodist Church forty-seven years ago, assisted by Rev. W. W. Royall and Rev. J. B. Askew, of our Church, and Rev. A. J. Renforth, of the Christian denomination. We laid him away in the cemetery of Providence church, which in the days of his active ministry he had served as pastor for seven years. Here rests the body of one of the purest, noblest, and most consecrated men of whom modern Methodism can boast.

"Servant of God, well done!
Rest from thy loved employ;
The battle fought, the victory won,
Enter thy Master's joy."

—T. G. Pullen.

TRAVIS J. TAYLOR departed this life at the residence of his son-in-law, R. R. Car- ter, of Nottoway County, Va. As his re- deemed spirit went "sweeping through the gates" into the Eternal City, many won to Christ by his ministry and blessed and nurtured by his tender, loving pastoral care, who had preceded him to the man-

sions of the blest, gave him glad welcome into the eternal habitations; while over all their rejoicing and glad welcome was heard the voice of Jesus saying: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." But few words need to be written of this great and good man—great because he was good. Of him it can be truly said: "He was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith; and much people was added unto the Lord." The name of a more consecrated and useful man has not adorned the roll of membership of the Virginia Conference in all of its long and honorable history. He was born at Burwell's Bay, Isle of Wight County, Va., May 16, 1845, his parents being Robert Carter and Mary Evelyn Taylor. He was converted and at once joined the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in October, 1866, and in a few weeks was appointed class leader; May 18, 1867, he was licensed as an exhorter; November 2, 1867, he was licensed to preach, and in the same month he was received on trial into the Virginia Conference. His first appointment was King William Circuit, where he remained two years. On this charge God greatly blessed his ministry. Thereafter he served with the most signal success the following charges: Dinwiddie, Bedford Springs, Prospect, and Appomattox, four years each; South Norfolk Circuit, two years; Smithfield and Benn's, four years; Wright Memorial Station, Portsmouth, two years; and each of the following charges four years: Laurel Street, Richmond; Calvary, North Danville; Crewe Station, Queen Street, Norfolk; and Chestnut Avenue, Newport News. Failing health caused him to superannuate in 1913. During a part of this year, however, he served Ocean View charge. Returning to the effective list in 1914, he was reappointed to Ocean View; but his health again failed, and at the Conference of 1915 he again took the superannuate relation. This is a most notable record. In a ministry of nearly forty-nine years he served ten charges four years each; and the charges he served only two years would have gladly retained him for the full term of four years, had the appointing power permitted it. In an experience of fifteen years in the presiding eldership of the Virginia Conference, I can say without reserve that Travis J. Taylor was one of the most complete, all-round pastors of a charge I have ever known. His reports to the Quarterly Conference were

models. Every interest of the charge he knew, even to the minutest details. His work was his constant joy. He was an optimist, attempting great things, expecting great things, and accomplishing great things. The joy of the Lord was the strength of his soul. Brother Taylor lived in constant communion with his Lord. He walked and talked with his Lord. He walked and talked with God. Prayer was his "vital breath," his "native air," the atmosphere in which he lived. He prayed without ceasing and in everything gave thanks. He had fully dedicated his life to God and was entirely consecrated to his service. He was indeed "a vessel unto honor, sanctified and meet for the Master's use, and prepared unto every good work." The following tribute, by one who knew him well and loved him long, gives a beautiful and true description of his life and labors: "He did not possess the gifts that dazzle, but he had the graces that shine, and the light of his life radiated and blessed wherever he went. He never seemed to be weary in well doing, nor to count his life dear unto himself, if he might finish his course with joy, and the ministry which he had received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God. He was instant in season and out of season, visiting the sick, comforting the sorrowing, correcting the wrong, calling back the prodigal, and pointing all to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. He achieved remarkable success in winning souls to Christ, in reconciling men to each other and to God, in building up the charges he was sent to serve. He drew men and women and children to him by the warmth and sincerity of his love for them, and many will rise up and call him blessed because of his tender sympathy and helpful ministrations; they are better, nobler, happier, because he lived and loved and served." He was gentle, yet firm, kind, and tactful. He knew how to handle the sensitive, to recall the wayward, and to adjust and reconcile differences and difficulties. He asked of God, and he gave him the wisdom that is "first pure, then peaceable, gentle and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." Brother Taylor was blessed with one of God's best gifts, a noble and consecrated wife. On May 18, 1870, he was married to Miss Eliza Campbell, daughter of Achilles and Elizabeth Campbell, of King William County, Va. This union must have been made

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in heaven, for it made a home a very heaven on earth. From this home of love and joy this good man went forth followed and sustained by the love and prayers of a good wife, who entered with her whole mind, soul, and strength into all of her husband's labors, and contributed largely to his success. This union was blessed with a son and three daughters, and all of these as they grew up added their love and labors to those of the father and mother in the work of their Master. His wife and three daughters—Mrs. J. K. Jolliff and Mrs. J. W. Eure, of the Virginia Conference, and Mrs. R. R. Carter, of Nottoway County, Virginia—survive to mourn their immeasurable loss. Our dear brother was not exempt from great sorrow. His only son, bearing the name of his father, a talented Christian physician with the most flattering prospects of great success, was suddenly called from his chosen profession on earth to the silence of the tomb. In this great sorrow our brother murmured not. God's will was his will. From that hour heaven became nearer and dearer, and his labors, if possible, more diligent and unremitting in the Master's service. His last days were spent in the reading of God's Word and in sweet communion with the Saviour. He would say to his wife over and over again: "Jesus, my Saviour, is so sweet and precious to me." Thus walking with God, on the afternoon of June 28, 1916, he walked through the pearly gates and came back no more, for God had taken him. His funeral services were conducted from the Laurel Street Church, Richmond, of which his son-in-law, Rev. J. K. Jolliff, is pastor, and which he himself had served four years with signal success. The services were conducted by the writer, assisted by Rev. T. McN. Simpson and Rev. R. F. Gayle. His brethren of the Conference bore him to his last resting place, and his precious dust was laid to rest in Hollywood Cemetery on Friday, June 30, 1916.

"Life's labor done, as sinks the clay,
Light from its load the spirit flies,
While heaven and earth combine to say,
'How blest the righteous when he dies!'"

—J. C. Reed.

WILLIAM G. STARR was the son of Rev. William H. and Frances Starr, and was born in Rappahannock County, Va., September 26, 1840. His father was a member of the Virginia Annual Conference

fifty-one years. The son exceeded his father's term of service by five years. He was converted at the age of sixteen. Randolph-Macon College was his *alma mater*, graduating him at the age of eighteen. He was chosen as the valedictorian of his class. The writer was present and heard the address, a poem that elicited great admiration, giving promise of his brilliant career. After graduation he went to Alabama and taught school for a year. In 1860, at Alexandria, Va., he was received on trial into the Virginia Conference, and was sent to Gloucester Circuit as the junior of Rev. John B. Dey. Six weeks later he was directed by his presiding elder to take charge of the church in Hampton, where his work was terminated by the War between the States. He then returned South and enlisted as chaplain in the Forty-seventh Alabama Regiment. In 1863 he became the captain of a company in the same regiment. As a soldier he was noted for cool-headedness, courage, and resourcefulness. On the retreat of the Army of Northern Virginia from Gettysburg a battery located on an eminence was annoying the Confederate forces, and the General in command of that part of the field ordered Captain Starr to capture it. He replied: "General, I cannot capture the battery by a frontal attack, but if you will let me flank it through that ravine [pointing to the ravine], I think I can capture it." The General replied: "Take it any way you can." Captain Starr had the command of about ninety men. He flanked the battery, charging it from the rear; and though he lost more than twenty-five per cent of his men, he captured the battery. As one who knew him well, I can see the firm-set lips, the flashing eye, and hear the clear-ringing voice of command as he charged and captured that battery. It was just like him; whatever he attempted he did with his might. After the close of the war we find him filling the position of junior preacher on the Bedford Circuit. In 1865 he reconnected himself with the Conference at its session in Danville, having been discontinued three years before at his own request, on account of feeble health. Beginning his active and continuous work in the Virginia Conference in 1865, he was sent to Murfreesboro, N. C., where he remained two years, 1865 to 1867. Then he was stationed at Liberty (now Bedford City), two years, 1867 to 1869. The next three years, 1869 to 1872, he was pastor of the