

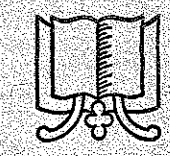
*Latus minutes of the W. N. C. Conference*  
*M. W. R.*  
Commission On Archives And History  
The United Methodist Church

*Appropriation 54*  
**MINUTES**

*Post office page 56*  
OF THE

**THIRTY-THIRD SESSION**

**Western North Carolina  
Annual Conference**



**METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,  
SOUTH**

*J. L. Payne*  
**1922**

**CENTRAL CHURCH  
MONROE, N. C.**

## MEMOIRS

REV. JAMES WILLSON

By J. F. Kirk

James Willson was born in Davie County, February 16, 1845. Left an orphan at an early age, he made his home for about ten years, with Wilfred Turner at Turnersburg, in Iredell county. In the second year of the Civil War, he enlisted with the seventeen-year-old boys as a private, and served the Confederate cause to the close of the war. In 1869, he entered Trinity College and was a classmate of Hon. F. M. Simmons and Prof. W. H. Pegram.

In 1871, he joined the North Carolina Conference at Charlotte, and was ordained elder in 1875 by Bishop Keener. On October 20, 1874, he was married to Miss Virginia Turner, daughter of Wilfred Turner of Turnersburg. To them were born six children, four of whom survive.

He had a record of a half century of service in the Methodist ministry. We give below an approximate list of the charges served by him during this time:

Jones Circuit, 1872-3; Magnolia, 1874; Winston, 1875; Mount Airy Circuit, 1876-9; Mount Airy Station, 1880-3; Mount Airy Mission, 1884; Rocky Mount, 1885; Statesville Advocate, 1886-1900; Mooresboro Circuit, 1901; Statesville Circuit, 1902-4; Kernersville, 1905; West Randolph, 1906; Gold Hill, 1907-9; Cherryville, 1910-11; McAdenville, 1912; Woodleaf, 1913.

He was granted the superannuate relation in 1913, since which time he had made his home with his children, having spent the last several years with his daughter, Mrs. Webb Alexander at Winston-Salem.

As a preacher, he was sane and orthodox. His sermons were always carefully prepared. A friend said of him that he had never heard him preach a slovenly sermon. Long practice as a writer, made him careful in his choice of words, even his extemporaneous utterances needed no revision for the printer.

As a pastor, he was diligent; in the social circle charming. Moreover, he was a very conscientious pastor, observing the injunction "never be triflingly employed". He improved the opportunity in his visiting from house to house to present to the mem-

bers of his charge every important cause of the church. He was successful on several charges in securing the largest number of new subscriptions to his church paper of any member of the conference.

He rendered a various service to the church, but it is in the field of journalism, that he made his most signal contribution. He had a style that showed marked ability in facility of expression. There was, also, running through nearly all that he wrote that whimsical humor and keen wit that made its reading a delight.

He possessed a decided spirit of loyalty. He loved his friends and stood loyally by them. He was also positive in his convictions. In the pioneer days of the fight against the legalized liquor traffic, he was one of the recognized leaders in the state when it required courage to take such a stand.

After an illness of some three months at the home of his daughter in Winston-Salem, he fell on sleep, June 15, 1922. His body was laid to rest in the cemetery at Statesville, N. C., there to await the summons on the resurrection morn.

REV. WESLEY M. BAGBY

By T. E. Wagg

Rev. Wesley M. Bagby, son of Abner and Lucinda Bagby, was born in Yadkin County, N. C., Nov. 2, 1852. Died suddenly at his home in Montezuma, Avery County, N. C., July 17, 1922.

Brother Bagby did not have the advantages of an early education. He was 18 years old when he learned to read. But possessing a strong mind, and an indomitable will, he set out thus late in life to prepare for his life work. He entered the East Bend High School and finished the High School course in that institution. He was ever after a close student; and while he did not have a classical education, it could not be said that he was not an educated man.

He was converted and joined the M. E. Church when about 19 years old, and licensed to preach by that church about two years after his conversion. He felt a definite Divine call to preach and he did not fight this call but set about with all the resources at his command to prepare himself for the task.

He joined the Blue Ridge Conference, M. E. Church, in 1876, in which he served the following charges in their order: Catawba, Yadkin, Kings Mountain, and Concord Circuits, and Asheville Station.