

*Latest minutes of the W. N. C. Conference*

*M. J. A.*

Commission On Archives And History  
The United Methodist Church

*Appropriation 54*  
**MINUTES**

*Part Office Page 28*  
OF THE

**THIRTY-THIRD SESSION**

**Western North Carolina  
Annual Conference**



**METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,  
SOUTH**

*J. L. Kayle*  
**1922**

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

## MEMOIRS

### AMES WILLSON

By J. F. Kirk

in Davie County, February 16, 1845. At that age, he made his home for about ten years at Turnersburg, in Iredell county. In 1861, during the Civil War, he enlisted with the seventeenth North Carolina Confederate cause and served the Confederacy. In 1869, he entered Trinity College and was graduated with honors by Simmons and Prof. W. H. Pegram. He was elected Moderator of the North Carolina Conference at Charlotte, 1875 by Bishop Keener. On October 20, 1875, he married Virginia Turner, daughter of Wilfred Turner. They were born six children, four of

whom were of century of service in the Methodist Church. An approximate list of the charges served

at Mount Airy, 1874; Winston, 1875; Mount Airy Station, 1880-3; Mount Airy Mission, 1885; Statesville Advocate, 1886-1900; Statesville Circuit, 1902-4; Kernersville, 1905-7; Gold Hill, 1907-9; Cherryville, 1910-11; and Statesville, 1913.

His annual relation in 1913, since which he has been in the same relation with his children, having spent the last year of his life with Mrs. Webb Alexander at Winston-Salem.

He was a man of sound and orthodox views. His sermons were well received and his friend said of him that he had never heard a better sermon. Long practice as a writer, and a command of words, even his extemporaneous addresses were for the printer.

He was a gentleman; in the social circle charming and agreeable; an unscrupulous pastor, observing the injunction "Be not employed". He improved the opportunity 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.