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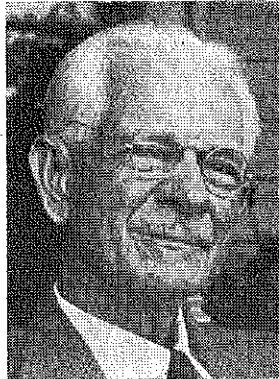
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7. Memoirs

OLIN PETER ADER

January 16, 1870 - August 31, 1961

As we come together in Annual Conference, we sing the hymn hallowed by tradition, "Are We Yet Alive and See Each Other's Face?" Our hearts are saddened by the absence of those who have served so well and faithfully. Among these faces we miss is that of Olin Peter Ader. The story of his life reads like a novel, filled alternately with joy and sorrow, but always transfused with faith and integrity.



He was born in Davidson County, North Carolina, January 16, 1870, one of nine children of David C. and Mary Scott Ader. In 1891 he entered old Trinity College, near High Point, and moved with the college to Durham where he graduated in 1894 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

After graduation, he met Miss Beatrice Smith, the daughter of a country doctor living near Sparta. The two young people became engaged and set the wedding date. The bride-to-be became ill, and she wrote to postpone the wedding. The groom, not receiving the letter, arrived at the bride's home, bringing his own minister to perform the ceremony. Miss Smith being much improved, the decision was made to go on with the marriage. The bride, however, had a relapse and died within twenty-four hours of the marriage.

He taught school that fall at Kernersville Academy, near Winston-Salem. In 1897 he was admitted on trial into the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and was appointed to McKendree. In 1898 he entered Vanderbilt University where he received the degree of Bachelor of Divinity. He was admitted into full connection in 1901 and served as follows: 1900-01, Epworth and Seversville; 1901-03, Robbinsville; 1903-07, Watauga; 1908-10, High Point: South Main Street; 1910-14, Ramseur-Franklinville; 1914-16, Waynesville; 1916-19, Asheville: Haywood Street; 1919-21, Weaverville; 1921-25, Mount Holly; 1925-28, Kings Mountain; 1928-31, Winston-Salem: Ogburn Memorial; 1931-33, Franklin; 1933-36, Superannuate; 1936-39, Coleridge; 1939-41, Ansonville.

In 1899 he married Miss Ruth Blair, who was a tutor to the children of a wealthy family. To this union were born Edith, Ruth, Olin Blair, Mary Nightingale, Anne and Elsie. Mrs. Ader suffered from tuberculosis for a number of years and died in Asheville in 1916. Olin employed a housekeeper and heroically sought to keep the children together with him.

Early in 1917 the Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church sent Miss Alice Estella Fassett, a deaconess, to Asheville as superintendent of the Deaconess Training School for colored girls. Miss Fassett persuaded Dr. Charles Wesley Byrd, pastor of Central Church, to teach hymnology one hour a week and Brother Ader to teach a course in Bible. During this association Brother Ader and Miss Fassett became interested in each other and were married on July 31, 1918. To this union were born Paul Fassett, Mary Alice, and Faith Louise. Together they shared the joys and hardships of the itinerant ministry. The courageous manner in which they faced the sorrows and misfortunes of life was an inspiring example.

In 1941 at the age of seventy-two and after forty-one years of service, the Conference released him from active duty and granted him a well-deserved rest. Mr. and Mrs. Ader bought a home in Spartanburg to be near one of the sons then teaching at Wofford College. There they lived for seventeen years. Finally, at the age of eighty-eight, he and his wife, who survives, became members of The Methodist Home in Charlotte. They lived happily together in their own apartment surrounded by the love and care of the church which they had served so faithfully.

He died August 31, 1961, in his ninety-second year. Funeral services were held in the Hovis Chapel in Charlotte and at Mount Olivet Church, near Lexington.

C. Excella Rozzelle, a long-time friend of the family, gave a short message; T. S. Hoffman, chaplain of The Methodist Home, Fred O. Dryman and J. T. Frazier, Jr., pastor of the Mount Olivet Church, assisted. Miss Carolyn Eargle sang, "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go."

The earthly house in which Brother Ader had lived so long was laid to rest in the church cemetery, but his spirit joined the company of the redeemed around the throne of God.

—EMBREE H. BLACKARD

ADOLPHUS ROBERT BELL

April 29, 1879 - December 7, 1961

After I was accepted on trial as a young minister in the Western North Carolina Conference, one of the men whose friendly attitude impressed me greatly was Brother A. R. Bell. This meant much to me then and has become one of the happy memories of my ministry.

When, in 1954, illness brought Brother Bell to the Emory University Hospital, our friendship was renewed and deepened. His courageous and friendly attitude so markedly impressed those who came to know him here that they happily responded to his gracious spirit. He was always pleasant and cheerful; this was a constant characteristic. At the time he came to Atlanta, he was accompanied by his wife and daughter, Miss Elizabeth Bell, whose care for him was characterized by deep love and concern.

The son of Adolphus Taylor Bell and Elizabeth Berkeley Bell, he was born in Sunderland, England, on April 29, 1879. His father, also a minister, emigrated with his family from England to America when the son was twelve years of age. Later they settled in Mississippi but after some years moved to Murphy, North Carolina.

Prior to coming to the United States, Brother Bell attended school in England. Later, in this country, he became a student at Millsaps College, Jackson, Mississippi. After completing the necessary Conference courses by correspondence through Trinity College, he joined the Western North Carolina Conference in High Point in November, 1903.

On June 24, 1903, he married Miss Josephine Frances Cooper of Murphy. In June 1961 he and his beloved wife celebrated their fifty-eighth wedding anniversary. Mrs. Bell and three children survive: one daughter, Elizabeth Hortense of Carthage, and two sons, Adolphus Abram of Tallahassee, Florida, and George Robert of Washington, D. C. Also surviving are two grandchildren and one brother, the Rev. Ernest B. Bell of Robbins.

He retired in 1931. During his fruitful ministry he served for a time each of seventeen charges, namely: Lewisville, Webster, Stokesdale, Walnut Cove, Thomasville, Wilkesboro, Greensboro: Proximity, Randleman, McAdenville, Ansonville, Taylorsville, Charlotte: Hickory Grove, Pleasant Garden, Farmer, Concord; Westford, Farmington, Winston-Salem: Hiatt Memorial. For fifteen years he also served as manager of the Pastors' Book Exchange in the Western North Carolina Conference. During World War II, when there was a special need for ministers, he became pastor at Broadway and Moncure Circuit in the North Carolina Conference.

The last two years of his life were spent in Carthage where Elizabeth, his daughter, taught in the high school. As was to be anticipated, this faithful minister of the gospel became an asset to the community and to the church, for which gratitude has often been expressed by many individuals. He taught in the church school and preached as opportunities were presented.

Brother A. R. Bell was a man of many talents. He tuned pianos and other musical instruments. Always he took great interest in the music of the church. After moving to Carthage, he frequently entertained the choir. His passing was a distinct loss to many. His service for God in the church has left many people in his debt.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday afternoon, December 9, 1961, from the Carthage Methodist Church by the pastor, Robert Moore, assisted by B. E. Dotson and C. A. Kirby. Burial was in Cross Hill Cemetery.

—G. RAY JORDAN

