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# MINUTES

OF THE

## Troy Annual Conference

OF THE

### METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,

HELD IN

The First Church, Gloversville, N. Y.,

APRIL 18 to 23, 1883.

FIFTY-FIRST SESSION.

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companionship, is left, with her daughter, the wife of the Rev. H. C. Farrar, of our Conference, to mourn their loss, and yet more to rejoice over the assured reunion in the heavenly home.

### 3. HENRY L. STARKS, A.M.,

Died at Waterford, N. Y., June 20, 1882. On the 23d all classes and creeds met for his funeral at his late residence. The Rev. Mr. Riggs, of the Presbyterian, and the Rev. Mr. Green, of the Baptist, Church, spoke feelingly and earnestly of "Father Starks" as the village patriarch, whose loss was felt by the entire community. Brothers Heath, Marshall, and Robinson tearfully referred to his long history, faithfully consecrated to the itinerant ministry, and closing with a sunset so serene and bright.

The following day ministerial brethren accompanied his remains to Canaan, N. Y. There they were met by many of Brother Starks' early associates, and after a sermon by the writer from "I have fought a good fight," etc., they were buried with his ancestors in a rural cemetery, where sleeps the dust of Billy Hibbard, Lewis Pease, and Henry Smith, ministerial brethren and lifelong friends.

Rev. Brothers Gates, Devol, Fenton, and Colman assisted at the services, and were the bearers.

The son, Rev. W. H. Lord Starks, in feeble health, tottered from the grave recently opened for his companion. The wife who had traveled by his side for more than half a century rejoined her husband within a few weeks, leaving a home so long unbroken solitary.

Brother Starks was born April 12, 1801, in the town of Austerlitz, Columbia County, N. Y. His parents were among the first members of the Methodist Church there, and were earnest Christians.

He was converted in his nineteenth year at a Quarterly Meeting on Chatham Circuit, and immediately united with the Methodist Church. He was soon convinced that God had called him to the ministry.

In 1832 he was licensed to exhort by Elbert Osborn, and in 1833 to preach by the Quarterly Conference of Chatham Circuit, Coles Carpenter presiding elder.

In August, 1834, at the session of the Troy Conference held at Plattsburg, N. Y., he was received on trial.

He was ordained deacon by Bishop Waugh and elder by Bishop Morris.

His appointments were as follows: 1834, Half-Moon; 1835-36, Amsterdam; 1837-38, Esperance; 1839, Clifton Park; 1840-41, North Second Street, Troy; 1842-43; Divis-

ion Street, Albany; 1844-45, Shelburne, Vt.; 1846-47, Burlington, Vt.; 1848-49, Ballston Spa and Malta; 1850-51, Hudson Street, Albany; 1852-53, Schenectady; 1854-55, Pittsfield, Mass.; 1856-59, Presiding Elder of Albany District; 1860-61, Schenectady; 1862-63, Cohoes; 1864-66, Broadway, Albany; 1867-69, Johnstown; 1870-72, Fonda; 1873-75, Waterford.

In 1856 and 1860 he was a delegate to the General Conference.

Troy Conference being in session on his seventy-fifth birthday, 1876, he asked and received a supernumerary relation.

His labors were uninterrupted by even a short vacation, until age and infirmity carried him to the rear, where, patiently lingering, he said to his brother, Desevignia, "We are only waiting to die."

He came tremblingly to our last Conference session, and his spirit glowed with its youthful ardor as he contemplated the strong men in the itinerant field.

He gave us his benediction and went home to await his appointed time.

He had great tenacity of life, and his chosen work and family caused him to turn with some reluctance toward the "narrow house;" yet he murmured not, but rested on the divine will and on the divine arm.

As bodily weakness increased he became more triumphant. As Brother Sherwood sang, "I saw a way-worn traveler," the countenance of Brother Starks brightened, and his tremulous voice whispered, "Praise God! Glory!"

While his son was sitting at his bed-side, the dying father, seeming to feel that he was alone with God, was absorbed in a colloquy, stating his case, and then saying, "Lord, did you not promise?" and then repeating some precious Bible truth. Then pausing, exclaimed, "I knew it! I knew it!" and with his utmost power shouted, "Glory! halleluia!" Thus passed to the Church triumphant our venerable father in the ministry.

Brother Starks has left a record of consistency, efficiency, and fidelity. His position in our Conference has been one of prominence, influence, and usefulness. He was a marvel of punctuality in all work assigned him, however irksome.

As a preacher, he was instructive and impressive, showing in his illustrations the discriminating use of a well-selected library, yet keeping the Gospel truth prominent, and impressing it with faith for speedy results. There were conversions in every charge he served in several extensive revivals.

Although his early opportunities for education were limited

to the common schools, by earnest application he became quite proficient in general literature, and creditably familiar with French, Latin, Greek, and the higher mathematics. When pastor in Burlington, Vermont University conferred on him the honorary A.M.

In the pastoral work he had few superiors. He possessed the rare talent of harmonizing difficulties. There was a magnetism in his salutations that compelled respect and affection. So sweetly did he move in his social relations and ministerial duties that he never left a divided church. When Presiding Elder of Albany District, not bisected as now by railroads, he was an earnest colporteur, distributing our books after the primitive method, encouraging both the ministry and laity to read our standard works. The young ministers and those having severe trials and hard appointments will long cherish his fatherly counsel, cheerful spirit, sincere affection, and thrilling "God bless you!"

#### 4. ALANSON RICHARDS.

Alanson Richards was born in Poultney, Rutland County, Vt., in 1804, and died in Girard, Mich., July 7, 1882, aged seventy-eight. Brother Richards was converted and united with the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1825, being at the time twenty-one years of age. In March, 1826, he was married to Miss Caroline Sprague, who was with him in his arduous labors for many years. In 1833, at the first session of the Troy Conference, he was admitted on trial and appointed to Granville, but owing to the sickness of the preacher sent to Ticonderoga, Brother Richards was transferred to that charge.

Some of his other appointments were: 1834, Salisbury and Leicester; 1835-36, Sheldon; subsequently, Grand Isle, Dorset, and Union City, in Michigan.

In 1849 he received a supernumerary relation, which was continued until 1859, at which time he was made supernumate.

He removed to Michigan in 1853, and lived successively at Onondaga, Albion, and Girard. At the latter place he died.

In February, 1873, he buried his wife. In 1876 he was united in marriage to Mrs. Harriet Storrs, of Chester, N. Y., who proved herself a faithful companion during the evening of his life. She, with his three daughters and a son, survive him. His pastor, Rev. E. A. Whitman, thus writes of our brother: "Father Richards, as I have seen him during my pastorate at Girard, and as he has been represented by the people with whom he has lived many years, was a devoted Christian minister. His years of waiting for the chariot have not been use-

less, though physical disabilities have prevented his being decidedly active. His place has generally been filled at Church and social meeting, and his testimony was always clear. He loved to talk of religion, and the writer has been much encouraged by his frequent conferences with him."

Brother Richards was a man of great faith. "He knew whom he believed." He loved to tell of the manifestations of divine grace which he had witnessed during his life, though not to the exclusion of his present experience.

His last years were shadowed by financial misfortune, but, amid all, he was continually telling how good the Lord was to him.

The last year of his life he was a great sufferer, being confined to the house nearly all the time, and it was plain to all, himself included, that the end was near. Through all he was of an unruffled spirit, always answering our question as to the future, "It is all bright; there is not a cloud."

A short time before the end he selected for a funeral text the words, "Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!" Thus another father in Israel is promoted to the ranks of the glorified, leaving the example of his life as a savor to all who remain.

#### 5. JOHN CHASE.

John Chase was born in Champlain, N. Y., June 5, 1806, and died in Colchester, Vt., March 5, 1883.

Brother Chase, when a child, was left an orphan, and was reared in a Presbyterian family; finding his way to a Methodist prayer-meeting, he was converted at seventeen years of age, at Port Jackson, N. Y.

His early life was spent on the farm. In 1840 he felt he was called of God to preach and the Church granted him a license. In 1842 he joined the Troy Conference, in which he filled, with great acceptability, the following appointments: Champlain, Mooers, Ellenburg, Wilmington, Redford, Beekmantown, Knox, Troy, Brunswick, Pittsford, North Ferrisburg, Hinesburg, Wiliston, Alburg, Colchester, Panton, Westford.

Brother Chase, as a minister, was faithful and devoted to his work, building up the Church in holiness and leading sinners to Christ. He thus endeared himself to the people whom he served, while he was most emphatically a man of one work.

His last days were marked with extreme suffering, which was borne heroically under the influence of grace. As he came near the close, with his family gathered at his bedside, his language was, "Yes, we'll praise him again when we pass over Jordan!" When past the power of utterance he pressed the