

FLINT, CHARLES WESLEY, BISHOP

Flint, Bishop Charles Wesley

Died - Dec. 12, 1964

Memoir - Central New York Conf., 1965. p.182.

CHARLES W. FLINT, CHURCHMAN, DIES

Retired Bishop, Once Head
of Syracuse U., Was 86

BINGHAMTON, N. Y., Dec. 12 (AP)—The Rev. Dr. Charles W. Flint, a retired Methodist Bishop and a former Chancellor of Syracuse University, died today at his home here. He was 86 years old.

Namesake of Early Methodist

Charles Wesley Flint was named for Charles Wesley, the brother of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. Like the Wesleys, Dr. Flint pursued his religious beliefs in ways that brought him to grips with nearly all contemporary social issues.

With the same enthusiasm that Charles Wesley showed in preaching in colonial Georgia and 18th-century London, his latter-day namesake attacked the issues of his time.

These ranged from pacifism, intolerance and prohibition right down to overemphasis on college football and undergraduate cutups.

Met Issues at University

Most of these matters came up while Dr. Flint served as Chancellor of Syracuse University from 1922 to 1936. During that time the university was the largest Methodist-affiliated university with an enrollment of more than 3,000.

Several storms confronted Dr. Flint during his tenure at Syracuse. The earliest occurred a year after his induction. The Senior Council—the governing body of the school—made an unofficial appeal to the administration to limit the admission of Jewish students.

Dr. Flint did not wait for the Council to submit a formal petition. Instead he called together the Council and tried to ascertain where the idea had originated. Then he issued a statement branding the request as "childish," and "asinine," and stating emphatically that "the university has no intention of limiting admission in any way.

provided applicants meet standards for entrance."

The next year, 1924, a very vocal movement began on campus that bitterly assailed any form of military training for students. Dr. Flint, who had often in the past publicly decried the pressures that lead men to war, demonstratively joined the Army reserve as a Colonel.

During his term as Chancellor he issued a ban on smoking on the campus, and forbade marriages of students. A strong defender of prohibition, he was urged to run as a "dry Republican for Governor in 1930 and for Senator in 1926.

In 1931 Dr. Flint confronted a problem that has been plaguing many campuses for several decades—the overemphasis on football football-playing students and winning coaches.

In that year Chancellor Flint ordered a reorganization of the University's Athletic Department making it directly responsible to him.

While the Chancellor was opposed to too great an emphasis on football, he was not against winning football. When in 1931 the Orange was to play Ohio Wesleyan, captained by his son George, Dr. Flint urged Syracuse to win saying:

"Why, single-handed, I myself licked one member of their squad more than once—some years ago."

Dr. Flint's term at Syracuse came to an end in 1936, when he was elected Bishop of Atlanta by the Methodist Board of Bishops.

In 1939 he was named Bishop of the Syracuse area. From 1944 until his retirement in 1952 he served as Bishop of Washington.

Dr. Flint was born in Stouffville, Ontario, on Nov. 14, 1878.

He received his degree in theology from Drew Seminary and his doctorate from Columbia University.

In 1901, when he was pastor of a church in Pocahontas, Iowa, he married Clara Janetta Yetter, who died some years ago.

He is survived by a son, the Rev. George Y. Flint, pastor of the Tabernacle Methodist Church in Binghamton, and a daughter, Dr. Lois H. Flint, a professor at Glendale College in California.

A funeral service will be held Tuesday in Binghamton. Bishop W. Earl Ledden of Washington will officiate.

New York Times
December 13, 1964

p. 86

Bishop Flint Dies



Bishop Charles Wesley Flint

Bishop Charles Wesley Flint, who presided over the Washington Area from 1944-52, died at Binghamton, N.Y., on December 12.

He died at the home of his son, the Rev. George Y. Flint, pastor of the Tabernacle Church in Binghamton. He was 86.

Bishop W. Earl Ledden conducted the funeral service. Both Bishop Flint and Bishop Ledden had served as episcopal leaders of the Syracuse Area.

Bishop Flint served as president of the General Board of Education from 1944-48.

Methodist Bishop Dies

Bishop Charles Wesley Flint, 86, retired head of the Washington Area, died December 12 at Binghamton, N.Y.

He became bishop in 1936, and also had assignments in the Atlanta and Syracuse Areas. From 1915 to 1922, he was president of Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Iowa, and was chancellor of Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y., from 1922 to 1936.

He was a president of the Methodist Board of Education, served three terms as chairman of the Federal Board of Arbitration under the Railway Labor Act, and was a trustee of the Roosevelt State Memorial in New York.

Survivors include a son, Dr. George Y. Flint, pastor of Tabernacle Meth-

odist Church, Binghamton, and a daughter, Dr. Lois M. Flint, a professor at Glendale, Calif., Junior College. Mrs. Flint died in 1958.



district conference, and that equipment can now be replaced. The classes are being held in the club cellars of three families in the church. Worship has been held regularly at the Fred Scasser High School, even before the fire. TOGETHER is filled with inspiring stories like this one. Share this copy of TOGETHER with all your friends

and who identified themselves as Methodist-leaning.

House-to-house visitation to these newly found prospects has been underway for some time, and one group of new members was received in January.

T. Newell Cox Elected

T. Newell Cox, president and general manager of Consolidated Engineering Company, Inc., of Baltimore, has been elected to the board of governors of Wesley Seminary.

Mr. Cox is a member of the Ames Church, Pikesville, Md., where he serves on the official board. He is also a trustee of Western Maryland College, and once served on the board of education of Baltimore County.

Mr. Cox began his service with Consolidated Engineering as a timekeeper in 1918.

structurally sound buildings, slum dwellers can afford. A corporation hopes to sell the tenants themselves, under a plan. So far, the group has

Background: The Bishop's ration was formed last summer by Bishop James K. Mathews. It comes from individual church members, local college students, and labor. Others have bought properties which provide funds for the finance much of its activity. The plan has been offered at \$20 apiece, and

Says Bishop Mathews: "We have no illusions that we can do the decent housing for these people. We are hopeful of a chain reaction where properties on a block are in houses begin to take an interest and are becoming interested in it. "What we want to do."

se
e-
r-
is,
es

India Presses for Birth Control

Some \$200 million will be spent by India in the next five years to educate its people on the need for birth control. The expenditure quadruples that of

TOGETHER/NEWS EDITION
Syracuse Area

BISHOP

W. Ralph Ward

EDITOR

The Rev. Carlton J. Frazier, 501 E. Fayette St., Syracuse, N.Y. 13202.

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 3

MARCH, 1965

First Syracuse Area Bishop Dies at 86

Retired Methodist Bishop Charles Wesley Flint died in Binghamton, N.Y., December 12, at 86.



Bishop Flint

Funeral services were held at Tabernacle Church in Binghamton, December 14, where his son, the Rev. George Y. Flint, is pastor.

Bishop W. Earl Ledden, retired, now of Washington, D.C., officiated at the services, at which Chancellor

William P. Tolley spoke for Syracuse University. Bishop Flint was chancellor of the university, 1922-36.

Interment was in Oakwood Cemetery in Syracuse, beside his late wife Clara Yetter Flint, who died in 1958. Bishop W. Ralph Ward officiated at the cemetery service.

Bishop Flint was born in Stonyville, Ontario, November 14, 1879. He was graduated from Victoria College (now

University of Toronto), and Drew Theological Seminary. He received his doctorate at Columbia University. He began his Methodist ministry in Iowa; then came east to serve in Bayville and Brooklyn, New York; going from Brooklyn to Middletown, Conn. He then had another pastorate in Brooklyn before going to the presidency of Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, Iowa. He became the fifth chancellor of Syracuse University in 1922, resigning in 1936 when elected a Methodist bishop.

Bishop Flint served the Atlanta Area, 1936-39; was the first bishop of Syracuse Area, 1939-44, going from this area to the Washington, D.C., Area in 1944, where he remained until retirement in 1952. He was an honorary member of Central New York Conference.

The story of the man, his life, his influence, and accomplishments is too great for these brief columns. The following quotations will only hint at it.

A LIVING GOD WITH ME

(From the writings of Bishop Flint)

Each person should have some metaphor, some phrase, some root idea around which to organize his life. For Augustine it was the "City of God"; for Calvin, "the Sovereignty of God"; for Barth, the "Absolute Other"; for some, "Christ-centered"; for others, "Justification and Sanctification."

While understanding what they mean, I am not gripped by any of these; they are not "mine." Each person, including myself, must have his own interpretation—graspable, understandable, explicable. Mine, I say humbly, is the consciousness of the presence of a living God with me all the time.

Amazing Record

Chancellor William Pearson Tolley of Syracuse University extolled him as "great in mind, character, courage, and faith. . . . There was nothing stuffy, nothing false about his relationship to God. It was as natural as rain and free from all pretense.

"What he did for Syracuse University few men could have done . . . level mountains of debt, restore buildings in disrepair, rebuild strength of faculty (He) gave new standards to the College of Liberal Arts, new vitality to the professional schools, and new pride to alumni, students and faculty . . . He founded the Maxwell Graduate School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. He made over the School of Education . . . organized the School of Journalism . . . built Hendricks Chapel, the new Medical College and Maxwell

Hall . . . an amazing record of leadership."

A Good Minister of Jesus Christ

Said Bishop W. Ralph Ward, in part: "Deep as was his commitment to the university—to learning, to scholarship, research, and the application of truth to every phase of life—Charles Wesley Flint was at heart a good minister of Jesus Christ. In youth he was called to preach, and the closing active years of his public career were spent in dedicated service as an episcopal leader of his church. Whether in (Syracuse) Area, in the deep South, or in the capital of the nation, his influence as a wise administrator; judicious and thoughtful disciplinarian; brilliant and resourceful preacher; alert and critical student of national and international affairs made him a figure of towering strength as a bishop of The Methodist Church. His colleagues in the episcopacy learned to lean on him, his pastors learned to trust him, and the church everywhere was blessed by his farsightedness and unlimited faith in the future. . . . Thanks be to God for this man with such a faith!"

Personal Mention

The Rev. David W. Binville, CNY, retired, is serving as interim pastor of historic Waioli Church on Kauai Island, Hawaii. Founded in 1834, it is the second oldest on Kauai, near the location used in filming *South Pacific*. The Binvilles' address is Box 142, Hanalei, Kauai, Hawaii 96714.

Chaplain Eugene W. Pilgrim, a WNY Conference member, retired from active duty with the Veterans Administration in mid-December. He served overseas three years during World War II.

The Rev. Franklin M. Zents of Kenmore Church is a newly elected member of the General Board of Christian Social Concerns.

Miss Rosalyn Kemp, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Harry E. Kemp of Jordanville, recently studying at Columbia University, sailed February 3 as a three-year, short-term missionary to Sendai, Japan, where she will teach English.

Miss Sharon Ehnes of Asbury First Church, Rochester, a student at Ohio Wesleyan, left in January for six months of study in Bogota, Colombia.

Miss Judy Root of University Church, Syracuse, left in mid-January under American Field Service auspices for a full academic year. She will reside with a New Zealand family near Wellington.

New 'Together' Readers

Red Creek Church, Geneva District, recently joined the growing number of church-plan subscribers to TOGETHER. New readers of the magazine and of this Syracuse *Area News Edition* are cordially welcomed.

Pastoral Changes

A number of changes in pastoral appointment have been announced since the previous issue of Syracuse *Area News Edition*:

Central New York

The Rev. James W. McConnell, transferred from Liverpool, January 17, to Western New York Conference and appointed to Batavia.

in the district parsonage for the time being.

The Rev. John O. Mabuice, on February 1, became interim superintendent of Buffalo District to succeed Mr. Richardson.

Retired in 1964, Mr. Mabuice has been returned to active status. Since June he has been serving St. Paul's Church, Niagara Falls, as associate pastor.

His previous WNY appointments were in Corning, Portville, Rochester, Bath, Buffalo, and Clarence. He served the 1st



Mr. Richardson



Mr. Mabuice

The Rev. Dean E. Richardson left the superintendency of Buffalo District, February 1, to accept special appointment as a director of the department of finance and field service of the Division of National Missions.

He has had pastoral experience in all three conferences of Syracuse Area: Syracuse, James Street, 1922-23; Portville, 1924-30; Syracuse First, 1941-47. Buffalo Asbury, Delaware, 1947-58. Buffalo District superintendent since 1959.

He has represented Western New York as a delegate to General and jurisdictional conferences; became denominationally known through his articulate membership on the General Commission on Interjurisdictional Relations.

The Richardsons will continue to reside

Photographs from this
file have not been
included but are
available upon request.
For more information
please contact
research@gcah.org