

MINUTES

OF THE

FOURTH SESSION

OF THE

Genesee Annual Convention

OF THE

FREE METHODIST CHURCH.



BUFFALO, N. Y.
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MINUTES.

THE GENESEE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH, held its fourth session at Parma Center, N. Y. commencing on Friday morning, October 2d, and closing at 12 o'clock on Monday night, October 5th, 1863.

REV. B. T. ROBERTS, the Superintendent, presided.

REV. A. A. PHELPS was elected Secretary, and THOMAS SULLY Assistant.

The roll was called, and nearly all the preachers responded to their names. The lay delegates then presented their certificates, and the following were duly admitted as members of the Convention:

<i>Parma and Chili</i> —Henry Pulis, David Wellman.	<i>Albion</i> —Rawson Abbey.
<i>Java</i> —W. G. Bentley.	<i>Kendall</i> —Nelson Coe.
<i>Perry, Asbury, &c.</i> —John Grisewood, Thomas Chappel.	<i>Gowanda and Collins</i> —A. S. Willett.
<i>West Sweeden and Brockport</i> —Loren Hill.	<i>Buffalo</i> —Thomas Sully.
<i>Rushford</i> —N. A. Bennett.	<i>Porter and Wilson</i> —W. H. Doyle.
<i>West Falls</i> —Velorous Brown.	<i>Eldred</i> —R. Caufield.
<i>Cadiz</i> —James Thatcher.	<i>Akron and Alden</i> —A. Draper.
<i>Pekin</i> —J. S. Mitchell.	<i>Lyndonville</i> —Robert Kenyon.
	<i>Wales</i> —Stillman Hudson.

Moved that a lay delegate be admitted to represent any circuit having a supply.—Carried.

COMMITTEES.

Stationing Committee—Rev. B. T. Roberts, Rev. J. W. Reddy, Rev. Asa Abell, Rev. A. F. Curry, David Wellman, John Grisewood, N. A. Bennett.

On Public Worship—Wm. Manning, J. W. Reddy.

To Publish the Minutes—A. A. Phelps, Thomas Sully.

To collect funds for the same—Wm. Jones, Wm. Jackson.

Missionary—C. D. Brooks, Geo. W. Humphreys, Levi Wood, Henry Pulis, Thomas Sully, Amos Willet.

Sunday School—C. D. Brooks, Loren Hill.

To receive money for the superannuated or widows—W. Manning, R. Abbey.

On the Country—Levi Wood, B. T. Roberts.

On Memoirs—A. A. Phelps, J. W. Reddy, A. F. Curry.

On correspondence with the other Conventions—A. F. Curry, A. A. Phelps, Asa Abell, G. W. Holmes, John Grisewood, Loren Hill.

J. W. Reddy was authorized to represent the Northern District during the session.

Levi Wood was requested to preach a sermon before the Convention, on the occasion of the death of Rev. Lorren Stiles, Jr. Chas. Hudson, and Alfred W. Abell.

The time for commencing the sessions was fixed at 8½ A. M.

General Questions of Discipline.

QUESTION 1. What preachers are admitted on trial?

James McAlpine, S. H. Lowe, Geo. Coleman,

Q. 2. Who remain on trial?

A. B. Mathewson, William Jackson.

Q. 3. Who are admitted into full connection?

Otis O. Bacon, Wm. Manning, Geo. W. Marcellus, Geo. W. Humphreys, Wm. Jones, A. H. Greene, M. N. Downing, R. Canfield.

Q. 4. Who are the Deacons?

J. B. Freeland, D. M. Sinclair, M. N. Downing, Otis O. Bacon, Wm. Manning,* Wm. Jones,* G. W. Marcellus,* G. W. Humphreys,* A. H. Greene.*

Q. 5. Who have been elected and ordained Elders this year?

None.

Q. 6. Who have located this year?

D. M. Sinclair, M. N. Downing, A. H. Greene.

Q. 7. Who are the superannuated Preachers?

There are none.

Q. 8. Who have been expelled this year?

None.

Q. 9. Who have withdrawn this year?

None.

Q. 10. Are all the Preachers blameless in life and conversation

This seems to be the chief aim. There is doubtless room for improvement. May Heaven help us to square our lives by the Bible standard! The following Elders passed: B. T. Roberts, J. W. Reddy, C. D. Brooks, A. G. Terry, Levi Wood, E. Herrick, Henry Hornsby, A. A. Phelps, A. F. Curry, Asa Abell, J. C. Thomas.

Q. 11. Who have died this year?

Lorren Stiles, Jr., also, Charles Hudson, probationer, and A. W. Abell, employed.

Q. 12. What is the number of church members, Sunday schools, etc.?

(See next page.)

* Those marked thus (*) were ordained this year.

CHARGE.	Members in full.	Members on trial.	Total.	Local Preachers.	Sunday Schools.	Sunday School Scholars.	Missionary Collection.	Preachers' Receipts.	Church property.
Buffalo.....	82	14	96	0	1	54	0	\$290 61	\$5,500
Porter and Wilson.....	67	15	82	0	1	28	\$9 45	350 00	
Akron and Alden.....	87	30	117	3	4	160	0	400 00	1,200
Wales.....	34	6	40	0	1	40	0	275 00	1,000
Cadiz and E. Otto.....	42	2	44	1	1	25	0	190 00	
W. Sweden and Brockport..	55	2	57	0	1	70	0	300 00	1,000
Kendall.....	90	12	102	0	1	60	0	350 00	300
Lyndonville.....	61	4	65	2	1	40	16 85	320 00	800
Albion.....	205	65	270	1	4	300	7 00	400 00	10,000
Rushford.....	97	4	101	3	3	160	0	380 00	3,000
Parma, Chili, &c.....	200	25	225	4	2	81	0	504 13	5,300
Allegany.....	90	0	90	0	2	50	0	323 80	2,000
Java.....	45	8	53	3	0	0	0	233 16	1,000
West Falls.....	65	4	69	1	1	20	7 35	204 82	950
Eldred.....	30	0	30	2	1	25	0	580 00	1,000
Pekin, &c.....	109	46	155	3	4	180	0		2,000
Gowanda.....	57	10	67	3	1	50	0		
Perry, Asbury, etc.....	117	8	125	5	2	44	0	684 83	2,500
Total, 1533	255	1788	31	31	1387	40 65			

By motion, the preachers were requested to make out their reports in the above order. They will please report in the same order at the next Convention.

On Monday, G. W. Holmes was admitted to take the place of Nelson Coe. In the afternoon of the same day the Convention listened to an appropriate funeral discourse from Rev. L. Wood, founded on Romans 8: 18-24.

Moved that the Examining Committee make written reports of the studies wherein any of the preachers are deficient, and that such reports be delivered to the Secretary of this Convention, and record-

ed for future reference. Also, that no one shall receive Elder's orders till he has passed a satisfactory examination on the studies of the course. Carried.

Reports of Committees.

The committee on collecting funds for the Minutes reported about \$18,00.

The committee on the Country failed to report.

The Missionary committee reported as follows:

1. There has been collected \$49,03, which we recommend to be paid to sister Stiles, towards liquidating the balance due our former missionary, Rev. L. Stiles, deceased.

2. We recommend that Rev. A. Abell be appointed missionary, to travel at large in the Convention, and assist the younger preachers at protracted and quarterly meetings, and take missionary collections.

3. That collections be taken in all our charges, and that fifty dollars be appropriated to Eldred circuit; other funds to be at the disposal of the next Annual Convention. Adopted.

The Sunday School Committee reported as follows:

Considering the great utility of Sunday Schools, if rightly managed, there is far too little being done by us, as a church, in this important work. In many places where there ought to be schools, none have been established. In some cases members have seemed indifferent whether their children attend schools within their reach or not. We urge that all read the instructions of the Discipline on the subject, and establish schools of our own wherever possible. Let not our members and friends say to their children, "Go to Sunday School," but "come." We recommend:

1. That for books and papers, we use those of the M. E. S. S. Union.

2. That the preachers be particular to report to this Convention the *number of schools*, and the *number of scholars* enrolled, Adopted.

The committee of Correspondence made their report, which was unanimously adopted. See convention record. As this report contemplated the holding of a General Convention during the year, the Convention proceeded to elect delegates accordingly. The ballot resulted as follows :

Ministerial—Asa Abell, A. F. Curry, J. W. Reddy. Reserves, Levi Wood, A. A. Phelps.

Lay—G. W. Holmes, Loren Hill, John Grisewood. Reserves, N. A. Bennett, A. S. Willett.

The committee on Memoirs presented the following :

The angel of death has been near us, and departing, left behind a mournful record. The past year has witnessed the decease of three who were especially endeared to this body by official and christian ties. Alfred W. Abell, Charles Hudson, and Lorren Stiles, Jr. will not soon be forgotten.

The first, though not a member of the Convention, was identified with us in the work of God, and employed on one of our charges. He was for several years a member of the Genesee Conference. In 1861, he requested a location, and soon after cast his lot into the F. M. Church. From this event till near the close of life, he had pastoral oversight of the West Sweden Society. His health had been slender for some years; and on Sabbath morning, June 7, 1863, he exchanged the toils of earth for the bliss of heaven. His last days were full of light, and love, and joy. Brother Abell was a young man of unusual modesty, decision, and purity of intention. Peace to his memory, and abundant blessings upon the large circle of surviving friends.

Charles Hudson was received on trial by this Convention in the Fall of 1861, and appointed to the Gowanda Circuit. He there met with a cordial reception, and labored for one year with a fair degree of success. At the next Convention he was appointed to Perry. He never visited his charge. The typhoid fever had prostrated his manly form, and it soon hurried him to the land of spirits. He died as he lived, in the full triumphs of a gospel salvation. This sad event occurred on the 25th. of September, 1862. He was 39

years of age. Brother Hudson was an independent thinker, a powerful preacher, and a holy man. He fell in the freshness and prime of life, but he fell on the field of battle, covered all over with the glory of God.

Lorren Stiles, Jr. was born in Lyons, N. Y. October 21, 1821. He embraced religion in early manhood, and soon felt the drawings of the Spirit to preach the Gospel. In 1847, he was received on trial by the Genesee Conference, and appointed to Parma Circuit. His next two years were spent on the Spencerport charge. He then located, and spent one year at the Biblical Institute, Concord, N. H., after which he was re-admitted to the Conference, and appointed to Alden Circuit. Having labored on this charge one year, he was next stationed at Pearl Street, Buffalo, which he served two years with great success. He was next assigned to Lockport, where he remained one year. After this he was appointed P. E. on Genesee District, where he exerted a mighty influence among the people. His course, however, proved too earnest for the approval of the ruling party in Conference, and he was removed from the District at the close of the year. By transfer, he was next appointed to the Union Chapel, Cincinnati. Re-transferred at the end of the year, he was stationed at Albion for two years in succession, where his labors were crowned with the salvation of many souls. At the ensuing Conference, A. D. 1859, he was driven away from the home of his choice, and compelled to go in quest of a new one, or wend his way in cheerless solitude through a world of sin and sorrow. He chose the former course. He has been identified with the F. M. Church during all its history. No extended remarks are demanded, for his name is in all the churches, Lorren Stiles was a *man*,—a *christian*,—a *Preacher*. He was distinguished for his independence of character, exemplary conversation, and great energy and eloquence in preaching the gospel of God. He needs no encomiums to perpetuate his memory. He will live in the affections of the people. His disease was typhoid fever; after a severe illness of several weeks, his ransomed spirit escaped to the mansions of light, May 7, 1863. “Death loves a shining mark.”

Q. 15. Where are the preachers stationed this year?

NORTHERN DISTRICT.

JOHN W. REDDY, - Chairman

<i>Parma and Chili</i> , Wm. Manning,	}	<i>Clarkson</i> , E. Herrick.
James McAlpine.		<i>Lyndonville</i> , Henry Hornsby.
<i>West Sweden and Brockport</i> , G. W. Marcellus.		<i>Porter and Wilson</i> , J. B. Freeland.
<i>Albion</i> , John W. Reddy.		<i>Pekin and Lockport</i> , C. D. Brooks,
<i>Kendall</i> , George Coleman.		Wm. Jackson.

MIDDLE DISTRICT.

ASA ABELL, - Chairman.

<i>Buffalo</i> , To be supplied.	}	<i>Asbury and Le Roy</i> , G. W. Humphreys.
<i>Akron and Alden</i> , A. A. Phelps.		<i>Cary and Shelby</i> , Roswell Canfield.
<i>West Falls</i> , A. G. Terry.		<i>Java</i> , To be supplied.
<i>Wales and Pratham</i> , O. O. Bacon.		<i>German Mission</i> , J. C. Thomas.
<i>Perry and Burke Hill</i> , S. H. Lowe.		

SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

LEVI WOOD, - Chairman.

<i>Allegany</i> , Levi Wood,	}	<i>Cadiz and E. Otto</i> , To be supplied.
<i>Gowanda and Collins</i> , Wm. Jones.		<i>Humphrey</i> , A. B. Mathewson.
<i>Rushford and Belmont</i> , A. F. Curry.		<i>Eldred</i> , To be supplied.

Asa Abell, Convention Missionary.

Russel Wilcox and T. W. Reed, discontinued at their request.

A vote of thanks was tendered the friends of Parma, for their kind entertainment of the Convention during its session,

Q. 16. Where and when shall our next Annual Convention be held?

At Akron, Erie County, N. Y. on the Thursday nearest the first day of October, 1864.

Committees of Examination on the Course of Study.

C. D. BROOKS,	}	- - Preliminary Course.
A. A. PHELPS,		- - First Year.
HENRY HORNSBY,		- - Second Year.
J. C. THOMAS,		- - Third Year.
ASA ABELL,		- - Fourth Year.
A. G. TERRY,		
LEVI WOOD,		
A. F. CURRY,		
J. W. REDDY,		
C. D. BROOKS.		