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Minutes  
Of the Eighth Yearly Session  
Of the  
Zanesville Conference  
Held at  
East Orange, Delaware Co. Ohio  
Aug. 20, 21 etc 1856

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First Day AM Session

Minutes of the proceedings of the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the Zanesville yearly Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America, held at East Orange Delaware County Ohio, Commencing Aug 20<sup>th</sup>, 9 O'Clock A.M., 1856

Brethren assembled at the time and place above named when an impressive sermon was delivered by the President, Text, "Though I speak with the tongues of men and Angels" Etc., 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13<sup>th</sup> Chapter 12 verses followed by prayer by Bro Jones. Conference was then called to order by the President – Roll was called, and the following members appeared, and answered to their names.

A. W. Sanders  
A. N. Hamlin  
S. D. Jones  
A. Crooks  
R. McCune  
L. R. Royce  
G. W. Bainum  
A. R. Brooks  
James McPeak  
James Spear

Absent,  
C. Woodruff  
W. Sewal  
E. Thompson  
R. Horton  
D. Wilson  
W. B. Moody  
Isaac Embree  
D. L. Travis  
J. H. Webster  
Wm Smith

J. Evans  
I. Moore  
B. Tressonrider  
B. McConnell

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Certificates of Delegates were then presented and read by the Secretary when it appeared that the following were duly elected, who came forward and took their seats as members of the Conference

Names	Circuits
J. Adams	Strongsville
W. B. Moody Jr	Granger
	Leesville
James Smith	Deersville
{Eleazer Thompson	
{H. Ford	{Woodsfield
	Zanesville
Amos Gardner	Plymouth
{Samuel Patterson	
{M. Phillips	{Delaware
A Nichols	Licking
	Mt. Vernon
Geo. McFarland	Washington
	Guilford N.C.
Wm Spear	Hocking Mission

Bar of Conference then fixed at the third slip from the front.

Members on trial and Delegates to the Electoral College were invited to honorary seats within the bar of Conference. Conference fixed the hours of meeting and adjournment at 8 ½ and 11 ¾ A.M. Bro H. B. Knight of Miami Conference being present on business for the Parent Book Concern, was introduced to the Conference by the President.

The following Committees were then ordered

A Committee of 3 on religious services appointed by the chair as follows:

A Crooks, A. N. Hamlin, S. Patterson.

On Reforms, G. W. Bainum, A W Sanders O. Nichols

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A Committee of five on Book Concern and Periodicals;

A. N. Hamlin

S. D. Jones

L. R. Royce

S. Patterson

Wm Spear

On Missions. S. D. Jones, L R Royce, George McFarland.

Conference then agreed to commence the examination of character.

The name of Edward Smith being called, the President – Bro McCune, invited Bro Hamlin to the chair who informed the Conference that our beloved Father had been called from labor to reward, when on motion of Bro Jones, a Committe [sic. Note: This word is consistently misspelled throughout these minutes, so from here on I will omit “sic” and allow the correct spelling as suggested by the word processing program to

remain – Transcriptionist] of three was appointed to prepare an Obituary to his memory. The following persons were then appointed, Viz; A. W. Sanders, A. Crooks S. D. Jones

The Character of A. W. Sanders was considered and passed. Adjourned to meet at 2 ½ P.M. Prayer by Bro Brooks.

Wednesday August 20<sup>th</sup> 2 ½ P.M.

Conference met – President in the chair Devotional exercises were conducted by Bro Bainum Roll called, and minutes of the previous session read corrected and approved.

A Committee on Boundaries was then ordered. A N. Hamlin, A. W. Sanders Eleazer Thompson, J. Adams, J. McPeak were that Committee.

Also on Pastoral Relations elected by ballot as follows. D. Jones, A. Crooks, A. W. Sanders Ministerial, and H. Ford, J. Adams, and O Nichols

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Lay members of that Committee

Examination of Character was then resumed, Characters of Bro. A. N Hamlin C. Woodruff S. D. Jones A Crooks W. Sewell, R. McCune, E. Thompson, R Horton and W. B. Moody, were severally considered and passed.

The name of Isaac Moore, character considered and passed, and his name placed on the unstationed list.

The names of G. W. Bainum, L. R. Royce, B. Tressonrider, and Wm McConnell, were severally considered and passed.

Name of Isaac Embree was called when from the fact that he had left the work and removed [insert: beyond] the bounds assigned him, by this body at its sixth session [insert: and removed beyond our bounds] while charges were pending against him, and without having reported himself to this body, his name was stricken from the list.

Bro Tressonrider appeared and took his seat as a member of this Conference.

The vote fixing the hour of meeting was reconsidered and fixed at 8 O'clock A.M instead of 8 ½ O-Clock.

Bro Daniel Worth of the Indiana Conference was introduced to the Conf – by the Pres – various announcements were made, when Conference adjourned by benediction.

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Thursday Morning 8 O'clock AM Aug 21<sup>st</sup>

Conference met President in the chair devotional exercises conducted by H.B Knight Roll called, minutes of the previous session read and approved.

Bro Jennings of Sandusky City appeared as a representative of the church in that city and Norwalk Circuit though without formal ~~personal~~ election. On motion he was received as a delegate from that work.

Committee on boundaries reported through their chairman which after some discussion was recommitted.

Rev. Thompson pastor of a charge in this vicinity – Brother to the well known missionary to Africa, was then introduced to the Conference by the President A Committee of 5 was appointed on the sinking fund as follows;

B. Tressonrider, G. W. Bainum, A. Smith, M. Phillips H Ford

Examination of Character was then resumed. Names of D. L. Travis, J. H. Webster, Wm Smith James Spear and A. R. Brooks were severally called considered and passed. Daniel Wison's name was called when the President stated that his case was surrounded with much difficulty – whereupon a Committee consisting of A. Crooks, B. Tressonrider and R. J. Jennings were appointed to examine into the case and report to the Conference.

On motion of Bro Tressonrider the Committee on religious exercises were instructed to secure if possible the delivery of a funeral sermon by the Conference on Sabbath next, to the memory of our departed Father Smith.

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On recommendation of the Delaware Circuit, - George C. Hicks was received into the travelling connection as a member on trial.

Wm B Moody Jr – was received into the travelling connection as a member on trial by recommendation of the Granger Circuit.

On motion of A. Crooks the members on trial were invited to honorary seats.

Members on trial remained.

Character of A. B. Hicks was passed and by request his name was discontinued from the roll.

Character of G Candee was passed and his name discontinued according to his wish as understood by the Conference.

Conference then called for statistics from the various circuits and Stations within the bounds of this Conference resulting as follows; [Note: added hyphens to fit]

Circuits	Amt. for Preaching	Missions	Nos in Connection	No in Sabbath Schools	Superintendents	Teachers	Scholars
Sandusky City			30	1	1	10	45
Norwalk			60				
Carlisle	\$25		35				
Strongsville	210		75				
Granger	200		90	2	2	8	30
Huntington	244		68	1	1	6	30
Leesville			15				
Deersville	235	1	150				
Woodsfield	308		330	3	1		30
Zanesville			26				
Plymouth	170		175	2	1	4	50
Delaware	379	13.77	118	4	4	23	117
Licking	313	5.00	135	2	2	18	135
Mt Vernon	50		30	1	1	8	50
Washington	275		155	3	3	27	150

Marietta Mission			18	1	1	4	30
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Circuits	Amt. for Preaching	Miss-ions	Nos in Con-nection	No in Sabbath Schools	Super-intend-ents	Teach-ers	Schol-ars
Hocking Mission							
Guilford N.C.			320				
TOTAL	26.02	19.36	1852	19	17	88	407

On motion of G. W. Bainum a Committee on Sabbath Schools was appointed as follows; B. Tressonrider, S. J. Jones, and O. Nichols

Recommendations to Elders orders was taken up and the recommendation of C. Lukens by the Quarterly Conference of Plymouth Circuit, was presented to the Conference pending a motion to refer his case to the examining committee, his application was dismissed by laying it on the table. Conference then adjourned. Prayer by Bro Nichols.

Friday Morning 8 O'clock A.M. Aug. 22/56

Conference met. President in the chair Reading Singing and Prayer by Bro Worth. Roll called, minutes of the previous session read and approved, Committee on the sinking fund reported and the report laid on the table for future action.

[Margin: See Report No. 2]

The Committee on Reforms reported through its Chairman, which was read, recd [sic], discussed extensively and adopted as a whole, when on motion of Bro. Hamlin it was voted that the secretary be instructed that in giving publicity to this report he state that the item on war was extensively discussed and adopted unanimously.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools reported a reaffirmation of the report

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Adopted by our last session. Said report was read and adopted. (3<sup>rd</sup> Resolution amended.) See report no 4 of last year.

[Margin: Report on Sinking Fund]

The report of Committee on Sinking Fund was by motion taken from the table and adopted, when on motion of B. Tressonrider, the collection and subscription, provided for in the first and second resolutions in said report was voted to be lifted tomorrow at 3 O'clock P.M. (See report No 1)

Resolved that when we adjourn we do so to meet at 2 1/4 P.M. Announcements, Prayer, by S. Patterson.

Adjourned.

Friday 2 ¼ P.M. Aug 22/56

Conference met. Pres in the chair, devotional exercises by B. Tressonrider Calling Roll dispense with. Minutes of the previous session read and approved.

[Margin: Report on Wilson Case]

Committee appointed to inquire into the case of Bro Wilson and Evans of North Carolina, reported which report was adopted. (See Report No. 3)

Committee on Book Concern and periodicals was received and adopted. (See Rep No 4)

[Margin: Organizing of Electoral College]

On motion of A. N. Hamlin, Conference adjourned with a view to forming an electoral College to choose delegates to the Gen. Conference.

The Electoral College was then organized by calling Bro. Tressonrider to the chair and electing G. W. Bainum Secretary. Bro Edson a local Elder, S. Patterson his

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Delegate and Bro Nickerson of Woodsfield circuit, were received as members of this body.

[Margin: ...of Electoral College]

Chair appointed S. R. Royce and D. L. Travis Tellers. Balloting commenced which resulted in the election of A. N. Hamlin, R. McCune, and A. Crooks Ministerial and O. Nichols, H. Ford, and S. Rheem, Lay delegates.

Reserve delegates were elected as follows; S. D. Jones, A. W. Sanders and G. W. Bainum Ministerial, and Wm Steel, R. J. Jennings and Wm Spear, Lay Delegates. Reserve Wm Steel [sic] was made Bro Fords reserve, Bro Jennings – Bro Rheem's, Bro Spear – Bro Nichole's.

[Margin: Instructions to delegates to Gen. Conf]

Bro Crooks then introduced the following, Resolved by the Electoral College of the Zanesville yearly Conference of the Wesleyan M. Connection of America in Session at East Orange Delaware Co Ohio, Aug 22, That its delegates to the General Conference to meet at Cleveland Ohio the first Wednesday of Oct 1856, be and are hereby instructed to endeavor to secure the following changes in our book of Discipline;

1<sup>st</sup> to strike out from page 38 the clause giving the quar [sic] Conference power to inquire into the character and usefulness of unstationed Elders.

2<sup>nd</sup> That the Gen Conference insert in the discipline a course of study to be pursued by candidates for Elder's orders.

3d to bring children into a relation to the Church, like that of Catechumens as the primitive church, which may promote their spiritual good.

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[Margin: Instructions to Delegates to Gen. Conf]

4<sup>th</sup> To clothe the Gen Conference with power to decide upon the proceedings of the yearly conferences.

These items were severally discussed and adopted.

Bro Crooks also introduced a resolution looking to a change of the third item on page 33 of Discipline which was discussed for a time and laid on the table.

Electoral College then adjourned.

President of the Conference then took the chair, and Conf. was called to order. The chairman of the Electoral College reported its doings which was received, adopted and ordered insertion as follows;

Delegates elected to the Gen Conference

Ministerial	Reserve Delegates
A. N. Hamlin	S. D. Jones
R. McCune	A W Sanders
A. Crooks	G. W. Bainum

Laymen	Reserve
H. Ford	Wm Spear
O. Nichols	R. J. Jennings
S. Rheem	W. Steel

Conference then adjourned by benediction.

Saturday morning 8 A.M. Aug 23/56

Conference met President in the chair Singing and prayer by Bro Sanders Roll called minutes of the previous session read and approved.

[Margin: On Boundaries]

Committee on Boundaries reported, that Franklin of Leesburgh [sic] Circuit be united to Deersville Circuit. Respectfully submitted. A. N. Hamlin

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[Margin: Comm on Missions]

Committee on Missions reported, was received and adopted item by item as follows.  
(See Report 5)

[Margin: Officers of mission association]

The election of officers for the missionary association was taken up when on motion of Bro Crooks, the Pres. Secty [sic] and Treasurer of Conference were elected to the same offices in the Association.

By Motion of A. N. Hamlin it was agreed that the Ex President. Of the Conference shall be the Vice Pres of the Association.

O. Nichols, Wm Spear, S. Patterson, S. Rheem and R. J. Jennings, were elected board of managers for the Missionary Association.

Bro Crooks was elected Treasurer of the Conference and of the Missionary fund.

[Margin: Officers of Conference]

Conference then proceeded to the election of Officers the ensuing year. Election resulted as follows;

Pres. R. McCune, Secretary G. W. Bainum

[Margin: Officers to attend the Wilson Case]

On motion the committee to carry into effect the recommendations of Committee in case of D. Wilson and J. Evans was elected as follows;

A. W. Sanders, L. R. Royce.

Roll of Conference was called to ascertain the amount collected for Gen Conference expenses. Bro Royce had collected \$2.70. On motion a Committee of 3 was appointed to make an apportionment among the circuits for Gen Conference

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Expenses G. W. Bainum D. L. Travis and R. J. Jennings were on that Committee.

[Margin: Committee on General Conf. Expenses Collection for]

On motion of Bro. A. N. Hamlin the preachers were instructed to take up collections for this purpose on their first round on their circuits.

[Margin: Place of next session]

Resolved that when we adjourn we do so to meet at 2 O'clock P.M.

Where shall our next conference be held? The question was taken up, and Washington Richland Co Ohio, was fixed upon as the place of meeting. Pending the motion to fix the time of our next Conference on the first Wednesday of April [sic] 1857, Conference adjourned by limitation.

Benediction by the chair.

Saturday 2 O.Clock P.M Aug 23/56

Conference met, President in the chair Roll not called minutes read and approved, singing and prayer by Bro Jones

[Margin: Time of next session fixed]

The discussion on the time of holding our next Conference was resumed and finally laid on the table and Conference agreed that when we adjourn, we do so to meet on the third Wednesday of August next 1857.

[Margin: Committee on Obituary of Bro. Smith reported]

The committee appointed to prepare an obituary to the memory of Edward Smith deceased, submitted a report which was adopted (See Report No 6)

The order of the day, Viz the collection and subscriptions for the sinking fund was taken up and \$17.11 in cash obtained.

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And \$15.50 subscribed, making in all \$32.61.

[Margin: Comm on President]

A Committee to elect a President in case of vacancy was elected was elected [sic] as follows;

A. N. Hamlin, A. W. Sanders, L. R. Royce, A. J. Jennings and George McFarland.

Geo W. Bainum was elected Treasurer of the sinking fund.



[Margin: Branch Concern Collection Missions]

Report on Branch concern was made by Bro. McCune and adopted (see Report No. 7)

A Missionary collection was taken up. \$12.00 in cash and \$73.00 subscription was obtained.

The treasurer of the Missionary Society was instructed to pay off a claim of debt with the money in hand.

[Margin: Apportionment for...(unreadable)]

Resolved that the treasurer of the Sinking fund be authorized to make an apportionment of 25 cents per member in Conference. The Committee on Gen Conference expenses – report was adopted. (See Report NO. 8)

Committee on pastoral relations reported through its chairman the report was adopted (See Report No. 9)

[Margin: Instructions to Secretary]

On motion of Bro. Tressonrider the secretary was instructed to collect the facts in reference to bro. J. G. Pierce deceased and spread them upon the minutes.

Adjourned to meet after sermon this evening. Various Announcements made.

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Prayer by Bishop Davis of the United Brethren in Christ.

[Margin comments too faded to read]

Saturday Evening 9 ½ O.Clock P.M.

Conference was called to order by the chair Minutes of the previous session read and approved.

On motion of Bro Royce Conference voted that a sermon be delivered by the Pres. At the opening of our next yearly session at 10 ½ O-Clock A.M.

By ... vote our thanks were returned to the citizens of Orange and vicinity for their kindness and hospitality to the members of this Conference.

The secretary was instructed to make out such publication of our minutes as is usually done.

On motion the officers and board of Managers of the Missionary fund were instructed to make such (apportionment) appropriations as in their judgment may be deemed necessary.

The business of the Conference being ended the Pres after a few appropriate remarks, lead [sic] the Conf in solemn prayer and thanks to God for the [insert: pleasant and profitable] ~~solemn~~ manner in which the exercises had proceeded. Members then dispersed.

R. McCune, Pres.

G. W. Bainum, Le

Recorded by G. C. Hicks

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Report No 1  
Report on sinking fund

The Committee to whom was referred the consideration of the claims of the parent Book Concern, against this Conference, agree to recommend that this conference unite in an earnest effort to meet these claims so long since assumed, without delay. Therefore Resolved;

1<sup>st</sup> That a public collection shall be lifted for this purpose, during the sitting of this Conference

2 That a paper be circulated also and subscriptions be obtained for as large an amount as possible, payable within one month.

3 That the treasurer of the sinking fund be, and hereby is instructed to make out an apportionment of the remainder during this session and place the amount to be paid by each circuit in the hands of the minister having charge of such circuit who shall proceed immediately to its collection So that the whole may be raised if possible by the time of the sitting of our next Gen Conference.

Respectfully Submitted,

B. Tressonrider

G. W. Bainum

M. Phillips

P. Smith

H. Ford

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Report No 2  
On Reforms. 1<sup>st</sup> War

Resolved, that we believe the system of War in all its forms to be inconsistent with the benevolent designs and kindly spirit of the Christian Religion – that it is a source whence has issued streams of blood in which the nations of the earth have been baptized; an altar on which fourteen hundred millions of the human race have been sacrificed [sic]; and whose very vapor as it arose and mingled with the winds, has spread misery and moral desolation among the habitations of mankind.

Resolved 2. That as we believe the gospel to be calculated to bring the children of men to repose together in peace on the bosom of the savior – that as we have the promise of a time when, “Nations shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks” and as we love the Lord and all his creatures, we, as ministers and members of the Church of Christ, should labor together prayerfully, hopefully and unceasingly, for the entire destruction of this mighty scourge.

On Temperance

Resolved that we will continue to seek the elevation of our race by an earnest advocacy and consistent practice of the principles of temperance in all things – believing that these principles have much to do in the moral renovation and salvation of the world.

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### On Benevolence

Resolved, That, in the wise economy of mind and of grace, God has not only imparted the desire to benefit others, but that he has so associated us together, and depended us one upon another – as to furnish the means by which this kindly feeling of the human and especially of the truly Christian heart, may be gratified in acts of beneficence each to other – that however blessed it be to receive it is far more blessed to give – that we rejoice to have unmistakable evidence of an increased benevolence among our people – And that we are convinced, that where the Church of the Living God shall become fully awake and faithful to her duty here, then – and not till then, will she move forward in triumph to the accomplishment of the mission assigned her on Earth.

### On Slavery

Resolved, That in the agitation of this subject throughout the land we have hope, that there are evidences in the “signs of the times,” that the hour of deliverance to the captive is rapidly approaching – that if we do not let the oppressed go free – if we do not “proclaim liberty throughout all the land to all the inhabitants thereof,” then will God himself be their avenger and with his own finger write our Epitaph as a people. That now is the time for us to work; for our Country – for pure religion – for God and his Christ in the persons of bleeding humanity: To work with a zeal undying, hope high, beautiful and bright as the rose of the morning, and with a faith which knows our labor shall not be in vain in the Lord awaiting in patience the time when God shall bestow the Glorious rewards of life everlasting.

{G. Bainum

{A Sanders

{O Nichols

Comm.

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### Report No 3 The Wilson Case

The Committee to whom was referred the case of Bros Wilson and Evans have had the same under consideration and conclude to present the following report

1<sup>st</sup> We recommend the passage of Bro Evans charact as we find nothing against him.

2 As we find the difficulty among the brethren in North Carolina [sic] to be no less if not greater than it was a year ago, and as your Committee have their fears that Bro Wilson has not persued [sic] a course calculated to restore peace and tranquility but has rather added fuel to the fire already kindled, disregarding in this the advice of the last Conference in this matter – we therefore recommend that the Conference do not pass his character.

3<sup>rd</sup> We recommend the appointment of a Committee of three, of whom the President shall be Chairman, whose duty it shall be to correspond with Brethren in North Carolina [sic] and do what they can to reconcile the parties at variance. And also

to take such actions as in their wisdom the case may seem to require. Which action shall be final untill [sic] the next meeting of Conference to which said Committee shall report

A Crooks  
Chairman

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Report No. 4

The Committee on Book Concern and Periodicals beg leave to report that we regard the vigorous existence and healthful pecuniary position of the Parent Book Concern as objects of prime importance to our infant Connection; we therefore deeply sympathize with Bro Matlack in his endeavors to wipe out its indebtedness, and tender him our hearty thanks for his efforts [sic] in its behalf; therefore

Resolved that the Wesleyan and Juvenile Instructor are held in great esteem by us, both for the doctrines they inculcate and the ability with which they are conducted, and will not cease our efforts to extend their circulation and thus increase their power to do good

Resolved 2<sup>nd</sup> That from the best information we can obtain, we are satisfied of the solvency of the Western Branch, and would recommend it to the confidence of our friends everywhere.

All of which is respectfully Submitted

A. N. Hamlin  
Chairman

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Report No 5

On Missions

Your Committee have had the subject of Missions under consideration & conclude to report as follows.

In the first place you are aware that we have two missions within our bounds viz the [insert: Marietta] Mission, (which has existed four years or more and for which no appropriations have been made,) and the Hocking Mission which has existed on year without any appropriations upon both of which the Missionaries have expended considerable labor and time, and have not received from any source to remunerate them for their labors.

Secondly You are aware that we have large territory within our bounds yet unoccupied – but open for our occupancy, also that we have men who may be employed in those fields, provided they had means to sustain them – therefore we recommend the following for your consideration and adoption

1<sup>st</sup> Resolved, That, we the members of the Zanesville Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America do hereby constitute ourselves a Missionary Association for the promotion and extension of the Gospel within our bounds.

2<sup>nd</sup> Resolved That we adopt the following Constitution for our government in reference to Missions within our Conference bounds

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Constitution

Art 1<sup>st</sup> This Society shall be called the Zanesville Conference Missionary Association auxilliary [sic] to the American missionary Association.

Art 2<sup>nd</sup> The object of their Association whose field of labor shall be confined to the bounds of the Zanesville Conference – shall be as follows

1<sup>st</sup> To ascertain the wants of this field of ~~labor~~ Missionary labor

2d To examine the claims of Churches applying for Missionary aid and the qualifications of Ministers for whom maintenance is asked and make appropriations of funds in aid of such as they shall deem worthy. And report the same to the executive Committee of the Parent Society if it be judged expedient to ask aid of it.

3d To raise funds to sustain Missionaries and in order to the accomplishment of this object every Minister and Preacher in our Conference shall set as Agent to present its claims to the Churches.

Art 3d The funds of this Association shall be devoted and applied 1<sup>st</sup> to the support of Missions within our bounds and the necessary expenses of the Society and 2<sup>nd</sup> in aid of the Parent Society after the demands of our fields have been met.

Art 4 Any person not a Slave-holder of good moral character may become a member of this Association by contributing to its funds the sum of \$1.00 Annually or a life member by contributing \$10.00 at any one time.

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Art 5 The Officers of this Association shall be a President Vice Peresident [sic] Secretary Treasurer and Board of Managers who shall be 5 in number to be elected Annually by the Conference 2/3ds of whom shall form a quorum for the transaction of business – having power to supply vacancies at regular meetings Association to meet Annually at the time and place of the Yearly Conf; or at the call of the Treasurer.

Respectfully Submitted

S. D. Jones

L. R. Royce

Report No 6

Memoir of the Rev.

Edward Smith

This distinguished and eminently useful Minister of Christ, was born the 11<sup>th</sup> of July 1797 in Rockbridge County Virginia. His father was a Catholic and educated for a Roman Priest. His mother was of Episcopalian parentage and was nominally a

Presbyterian. His early religious privileges were few. His father like Luther's designed him for the Law.

Bro Smith like many others, sought to calm a troubled conscience by applications of the anodynes of infidelity – acknowledged himself an infidel and boasted of the purity of his orality. Then about nineteen years of age he for the first time attended a Methodist Meeting – Sermon over – a young lady arose and shouted the praise of God. Smith felt as never before and unable to contrall [sic] his emotions he left the house. He saw himself a condemned sinner, and felt his need of a Savior –

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And though he did not immediately become a Christian, from that hour Infidelity had no place in his heart.

Subsequently, on Sabbath evening while meditating on the immortality of the Soul, its fearful capabilities for happiness or misery, and consequent infinite value, he came to the deliberate, but firm resolve, to make it the one great business of life to secure life eternal. As by the hand of an Angel the Conviction, "You must be a Methodist Preacher" was instantly riveted upon his heart – A moment of suspense ensued – Dreadful moment of Fearful Suspense. Eternal interest tremble in the balance of the soul! "I will go" was the wise decision, and a degree of peace possessed his mind.

A short time after, while seated at the Communion with the Presbyterians, the eye of Faith beheld Jesus at the right hand of the Father. Sudden as thought, new life joys of heavenly breath thrill the Spirit and all within and without says,

"My God is reconciled  
His pardoning voice I hear  
He owns me for his child  
I can no longer fear  
With confidence I now draw nigh  
And Father – Abba Father cry."

Not disobedient to the heavenly calling Bro Smith entered immediately upon the work of the Ministry – preached his first sermon Eight weeks from the time of his conversion.

The 29<sup>th</sup> of January 1821 he was licensed to preach by the Quarterly Conference of Stanton Circuit in the Va yearly Conference of the M. E. Church. The 5<sup>th</sup> of May, same year, he was united in marriage to Harriet Allen, also of Rockbridge County Virginia – And

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The following October, he and the partner of his labors started for ~~their~~ his first Circuit which was in the bounds of the Missouri Conference, State of Indiana. He remained here three years and tho [sic] in feeble health he filled his regular appointments, with the exception of four months, during which time he was confined to his bed of fever. Constrained by the love of Christ, through the dark forest, along the indistinct path – weary and sick and faint our Brother made his way from appointment to appointment, preaching to perishing to perishing sinner peace through Jesus.

In 1825 by the advice of Bishop Roberts and to regain his health, he took a transfer to the Baltimore Conference. It had the effect desired. He remained in this Conference till 1835 all of which time, except one year he was in active service.

[Note: The subsequent handwriting is severely faded. Some unreadable words will be replaced by ellipses.]

Having, by running of horses, while walking the streets of Hagerstown, Maryland, been thrown upon ice at a pump and five of his ribs and the collar bone thereof broken, and thus rendered unable to preach, he taught a select school, which at the end of the third quarter, nine months promised to be very lucrative – A good man will make himself a blessing in any calling in life. It was thus with Bro Smith in this School. Lessons were imparted to the heart. God graciously poured out his Spirit and many of the scholars were subjects of converting grace. But money was not the object of his pursuit and the school house was too limited for his field of operation. At the close of the third quarter, he took an appointment from the Conference, and was stationed at York PA. Here he studied the Greek and Hebrew Languages and here at this early date this avowed friend of Temperance, from a discussion, on this subject, write a Presbyterian

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Clergyman. About this time also he became the author of a Philosophical Grammar. His Credentials show that he received Deacon's Orders. August 28 1825 Signed by Wm McKintree and Elders Orders April 15<sup>th</sup> 1827 signed by R. R. Roberts.

In 1835 he took a transfer to the Pittsburgh Conference. The esteem in which he was held in this Conference, is evidenced by his appointment to the Office of Presiding Elder. He served the Church in this capacity on the Barnesville District for three years – from 1837 till... during one of which years he collected three thousand dollars Missionary money.

About this time [insert: the minds of] many of the Ministers and Members of the Church were awakened to a sense of the enormity of the Evils of Slavery. With all the energies of his mighty intellect he threw himself into the contest against this mighty wrong. In the great mortification of the good the Church took sides with the vile oppressors. Many of his friends wished him to comply with the advice of the Bishops in 1836 – to wisely refrain from this agitating subject. But duty to God, the Church, the world and the Love of Christ, constrained him to cry aloud and spare not. This brought him into direct conflict with the Church. Indeed his Office as Presiding Elder was withheld, and in it the opposition to his efforts to free the Church from its connection with this great sin, had arisen ... tempest – The storm raged fiercely around his noble form in the Conference. But like Luther at Worms, made strong by a consciousness of his integrity, Our Brother boldly declared in the faces of the Bishop and the Conference – that no flatteries could court, nor threat deter from discharge of duty. He was suspended from the Ministry but appealed to the next General Conference to meet in 1844. Activity was his element. He

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Knew not how to be idle. From 1841 to 43 his pen as Editor of the "Spirit of Liberty," ably plead the cause of Christ in the persons of the bleeding slave. In the meantime he preached as opportunity offered. This was in Pittsburgh. Impelled by a sense of duty in March of 1843, he withdrew from the Church in whose ministry he had labored by night and by day during 20 of the best years of his life – a church to which he was bound by strong ties of Sympathy and affection. This was a severe trial of loyalty to his convictions of right, a trial where many failed, but which, with him Conscience was the victor.

He was a prominent member of the Utica Convention [insert: in Mass?] and assisted in forming the Wesleyan Discipline, and laying the foundation of a Church, under the name of the Wesleyan M. Connection of America which was to exist a monument against what the founder of Methodism justly denominated, the sum of all villainies. In this Church, he has constantly occupied stations of responsibility and honor.

He was a member of our first Gen. Conference which met in Cleveland in 1844, also of the last which was held in Syracuse 1852.

From 43 to 46 he was stationed Pastor of the Church in Pittsburgh. The year 46 he moved to his woodland home in Harmony Township Morrow Co, Ohio. He served, for four years, as President of the Conference to which he belonged.

The New York Book Committee in 48 established the Western Branch Book Concern, and appointed Bro Smith its Agent. In 51 he edited in "Western Expositor" The Gen. Conf of 52 reappointed him Agent of the W. B. B C. and instructed him to continue the publication of the Expositor. This was done but under the name of the Christian Statesman untill [sic] last winter, when mainly due to the consequence of the failure of his health it was discontinued. At his death he was Treasurer of the Conference Missionary Society and had been

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For a number of years. During his connection with the paper and the press he became the Author of "Bible Servitude" a Book of 254 pages, and triumphant indication of the Bible and Apostolic Churches from all support of the Herculean Sin of Slavery. Also of numerous "Reform Tracts" and volumnes [sic] of "Uncle Tom's Kindred" – a series of Sabbath School Books, in which the cause of the Slave is plead [sic] at the bar of the unprejudiced minds of Children.

Deeply schooled in the philosophy of Society, he well knew that Juvenile years is the fulcrum, and Juvenile Instruction the ~~fulcrum~~ lever with which to upturn the moral world – Hence the last effort of his life, in this appeal to the Young.

For more than 30 years our brother had been afflicted with Chronic Diarrhoea [sic], but for two and a halph [sic] years past he has walked arm in arm with death. He was confined to his bed thirty-nine days, during which time he frequently conversed, with great confidence, of his speedy departure, and with triumphant assurance of his prospects of a happy eternity. Indeed he longed to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. The hour of release, at length, came.

Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> of June at 7 O'clock in the morning, being 58 years 10 months and 26 days old, his redeemed Spirit took its flight from the [insert: theater of many a] scene of moral conflict to realms of Eternal Joy.



The following Sabbath his mortal remains were conveyed to the Cemetery at Bloomfield and committed to the faithful keeping of God to await the resurrection. Prayer was offered at the grave by Rev. L. S. ... and a funeral sermon preached by A Crooks to a weeping congregation, from the words of Paul to Timothy 2<sup>n</sup> Epistle 4 ...and 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> verses. [Note: last line on page unreadable: Maybe "A thoughtful testimonial of respect from have been bestowed..."]

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...upon his morning. Honorable notice of his death appeared in papers of different political and religious creeds throughout the country.

A tribute of respect was also paid to his memory by his admiring and devoted friend the Rev J C Walker Pastor of the first Congregational Church in Mansfield Ohio – Author of the "Philosophy of the plan of Salvation" and of "God revealed in Creation and in Christ" – who made the death of our Bro. the occasion of a sermon preached to his own Congregation the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sabbath of July – Text the 20<sup>th</sup> Chapt [sic] of the Acts 27<sup>th</sup> Verse "For I have not shunned to declare unto you, all the counsel of God" – Theme "The Faithful Gospel Minister."

As a man Bro Smith was possessed of an altogether superior intellect – Clear, vigorous, far-reaching and wide grasping of warm, and generous impulses of unbending purposes, unyielding perseverance and untiring ability and zeal – Combining so many elements of intellectual and moral greatness, he was eminently fitted for any position in Society and destined to distinction in whatever position he might assume As a Christian, the whole man converted. The intellect was enlightened and fully conjoined Affection, all on fire, and will fully fixed to serve God. His scrupulous moral honesty was prominently preeminent and controlling. This led him to join the Methodists, at the ... of Fatherly favor, and a home in a Father's house, and then to leave that Church, though the strong bonds of sympathy and affection were all against it. And it was this that placed him on the unpopular side of reforms, and made him a man of distinguishing plainness in this fashionable age.

As a Minister, he was possessed of every qualification to an eminent degree. A clear and strong judgment vivid imagination – retentive memory and ready recollection – of mainly plain and

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enduring constitution and all set in motion and governed by a heart overflowing with love for souls.

Over mountains and glens, through heat and cold, in storm and in sunshine, in poverty and in sickness, by day and by night – he labored to bring back the lost sheep of the house of Israel [sic]. His sermons were convincing to the unbelieving [sic] – awakening to the Sinner -- instructing to the Ignorant, comforting to the mourner -- soothing to the suffering, stirring to the Stupid and Soul-inspiring to the faithful. The thousands of private ~~members~~ Christians, and hundreds of Ministers of the Gospel – first led to the cross by him, show him to have been one of the most faithful, and successful Ambassadors for Christ, the world has ever known. In this glorious work he labored most assiduously 35 years. As a Reformer he properly takes his position in the front ranks – Daunted by no danger, discouraged by no difficulty, and wearied by no

efforts -- ...host in himself – he inspired others with the same exalted sentiments and noble purposes which activated him.

As a philanthropist – he gave his [insert: entire] whole life to of [sic] love – All was not too much for him to lay upon the Altar of the good of humanity. In his death the world has lost one of its brightest guiding stars – the cause of Reform, a most able and fearless advocate – the Church one of its strongest pillars, and the Zanesville Conference the labors, example and counsels of its most experienced, tallented [sic] and faithful Members – (And) his family an unreparable [sic] loss. He is with us no more. God has taken him, and with his bereaved family we deeply mourn his loss – But his life never can be lost, to us or to the world – we shall still be blessed with the light of his precepts and example, and the [insert: becoming] language of submission and thankfulness, we will say, “The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away & blessed be the name of the Lord.”

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And as expression of our own sentiments and feeling, we adopt the language of the Rev. J. B. Walker in the following lines written upon the occasion of his death:

“Upon the field of conflict,  
In the hottest of the fight,  
Our brother stood, the champion  
Of humanity and right.

Firm as a Granite Mountain,  
When others fled the field  
He struggled on ‘till he was borne  
Away upon his shield.

The banner of the Bleeding Lamb  
Stall waving o’er his head,  
The Sacramental host of Christ  
Into the fight he led.

His voice was heard along our lines  
When others fought and fell,  
‘Courage,’ he cried, and led the charge  
Right through the host of hell.

Vice felt his power, and Slavery raged  
And gnashed her teeth in spite,  
As strong of soul – he flashed the truth  
Into her realms of Night.  
Exhausted by the conflict,  
And marked with many a wound,  
But unconquered, and advancing,  
He fell upon the ground.

We wrapped him in the banner  
Of our 'Leader and our Lord,'  
And laid upon his manly breast  
His helmet and his sword.

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Our tears were shed – but not for him,  
'The faith of Christ he'd kept' –  
But we all had lost a Leader  
And for Ourselves we wept."

A Crooks}  
S. D. Jones} Committee  
A. W. Sanders}

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#### Report No. 7

##### Report of Agent of Western Branch and Book Committee

The Agent in charge of the Branch, having received his appointment but a few weeks ago; and as he has been encumbered with much other business hasn't been able to present a statement of the financial condition of the Branch. Hence all the information he or the Committee have is what they can gather from the Books, as kept by the late Agent. The Committee have ordered the new Agent to proceed with the collection of debts due the Concern, and as fast as means are collected to pay off claims standing against the Concern.

They have further agreed to recommend to the General Conference to discontinue the Branch as soon as a satisfactory adjustment of its affairs can be effected.

On behalf of the Book Committee of the Branch the above is respectfully submitted.

R. McCune  
Agent

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#### Report No. 8 Of Expenses

The Committee, to whom was referred apportionment of expenses of Delegates to the General Conference, have agreed to present the following

1<sup>st</sup> The amount required to convey Bros Crooks, Hamlin and Rheem, to, and from the seat of Gen. Conf; will be about \$6.60, each. R. McCune, \$3.60. Obadiah Nichols, \$1.60 and Henry Ford \$10.60 making an aggregate of \$43.60 to be raised in our Conference.

2d An apportionment of 3 ½ cts per member will be necessary to secure this amount which, divided among the [insert: paying] Circuits according to their numeral [sic] strength, appears as follows

|              |         |
|--------------|---------|
| Sandusky     | \$1.05  |
| Norwalk      | .21     |
| Strongsville | 3.24    |
| Granger      | 2.45    |
| Huntington   | 2.38    |
| Deersville   | 5.25    |
| Woodsfield   | 11.55   |
| Plyouth      | 6.12    |
| Deleware     | 4.13    |
| Licking      | 4.82    |
| Mt. Vernon   | 1.05    |
| Washington   | 5.42    |
|              | \$48.47 |

Respectfully Submitted  
G. W. Bainum

For Report o Sabbath Schools  
See Report No. 4 of last year

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Report No. 9  
Report of Stationing Committee

|                          |                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sandusky and Norwalk     | To be supplied                 |
| Strongsville             | Geo C Hicks                    |
| Granger                  | W. B. Moody, sen               |
| Deersville               | James McPeck [could be McPeck] |
| Woodsfield               | J. H. Webster – R. Horton      |
| Zanesville               | Without supply                 |
| Huntington & Harrisville | A W Sanders                    |
| Plymouth                 | ...R. Brooks                   |
| Delaware                 | A Crooks – W. B. ....          |
| Licking                  | G. W. Bainum                   |
| Mt Vernon                | To be supplied                 |
| Washington               | L. R. Royce                    |
| Guilford, N. C.          | To be supplied                 |
| Hocking Mission          | James Spear                    |
| Marietta Ga              | S. D. Jones                    |
| Columbus                 | B. Tressonrider                |
| Conf. Evangelist         | A. N. Hamlin                   |

W. Sewell  
D. Wilson  
J. Evans  
D. L. Travis

Without appointment

R. McCune  
Chairman

The various Reports adopted by the Zanesville Annual Conference at its 8<sup>th</sup> Yearly Session are now complete  
G. W. Bainum  
Secretary

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By a vote of Conference, for which see page 214, the undersigned was authorized to collect the facts, of interest, in the history of our Beloved Brother, John G. Pierce, lately deceased and spread them upon the records of Conference; which has been done as follows, the leading facts having been obtained from the lips of that brother two days before his death.

G. W. Bainum

Memoir of the Revd John G. Pierce – Minister in the Wesleyan Methodist Connection, who departed this life Feb. 14, 1856

Bro: Pierce was born at Chestnutt hill, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, July 16<sup>th</sup> 1811. Consequently was aged 44 years, 7 months and 22 days when called to exchange [sic] time for eternity.

His Mother was pious, and doubtless it was the early teachings of this Christian woman which proved instrumental, in the hands of God, in bringing her son to a knowledge of the truth, in after years. Parents being poor he was thrown upon his own efforts, when but a boy, for a living in the world, followed boating on the Erie Canal, a poor school for morals. And although a wicked and thoughtless youth, he was disposed to husband his hard earnings, rather than spend it in uselessness and dissipation, as young men, in such circumstances usually do.

Came to Cuyahoga County in the winter of 1832, and in the spring of 1834, was convicted of sin, A mother's prayers had followed him, and as the voice of God, within aroused the conscience

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from its slumber, he saw that there was no safety out of Christ; he saw and fled for refuge to lay old upon the hope set before him, and one week from the date of his first convictions he was enabled to rejoice in the pardoning mercy of God.

"Jesus, I my cross have taken  
All to leave and follow thee"

was now the language of his soul, now fully submitted to the will of his master, so clear, and satisfactory, was the change he experienced, that he never once doubted its' [sic] truth.

He soon became a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church: the ~~same~~ fall of the same year he was united in the bonds of wedlock to Celestia Lusk. Removed to Huron County in 1835, and, to Delaware [sic] County, the winter of 1836. Served here as Class-Leader for a time, and received license to exhort in 1839.

But, finding his conscience ill at ease while standing connected with those who bought and sold his brother's flesh; feeling his heart stirred to its' [sic] depths, by the wails of bondmen, which began now to born [sic] to the north continually, as by the passing breeze; being convinced that God had a work for him to perform for the poor, and for the oppressed, he resolved to sever that tie which had hitherto bound him; and he, with Eight others, formed themselves into a Wesleyan Society, not knowing of another; within a hundred miles. But was soon made acquainted with the one at Orange – a distance of 20 miles.

Bro: Pierce was a pattern of piety – no charge was ever preferred against his moral Character and he has left a name behind him that will do honor to the cause of Christ.

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Bro Pierce received license to preach in 1843; was Delegate to Conference in 1851; Received Elders' Orders and admitted to full connection with the Conference in the summer of 1855 – his name placed on the unstationed list. His mental endowments were of a high order – health feeble – for years strongly disposed to pulmonary affection [sic]: Of active habits. On Monday in usual health at work on his farm, injured himself by jerking a stick violently against his side – nothing serious apprehended. Wednesday morning took to his bed to die. The following evening a Physician, called, pronounced his disease, Lung fever. For a few days his friends were hopeful, But from the first Bro: Pierce said the time of his departure had come. Spoke freely, and frequently of his approaching dissolution: His raising family was the only tie, that seemed to bind him to the earth. His will, bowed in sweet submission to the will divine: and he sent word to his brethren, at a distance, that [insert: the] religion he had tried to preach, was his only Consolation.

The Sabbath before his departure, he said, earnestly, to a brother at his side; "Brother I am going, and I am going right!" Wednesday morning he said, "Oh! If I was not a Christian, I could not get religion now:" About 7 Oclock the same evening, in reply to the remark, "the if he did not soon get better, he must die," he said "I am glad of it."

Two Oclock next morning he fell asleep in death. Feb: 14 1856.

The morning of the 16<sup>th</sup>, 10 Oclock, his funeral sermon was preached to a large and weeping audience, from the language of the Psalmist, "Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace." Thence, his mortal remains were conveyed to the Delaware [sic] Cemetery, to await the Archangels' call. Amen.

G. W. Bainum