

The Doings of the Seventh Session
of the
Rochester Yearly Conference

of the

Wesleyan Connection
of

America

Held at Hopewell Ontario County

New York

Commencing on Wednesday

April 23rd 1851

And Concluding

Monday

April 28th

F. R. Mastin
Sec^y

2

[Blank page]

3

First Day April 23rd

The Rochester Yearly Conference commenced it [sic] Seventh Session at the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel Hopewell, Ontario Cy. N. Y. April 23rd 1851.

The President, Bro. John Watson called the
Conference to order at 10 oclock. A. M.

After reading the Scriptures and singing, Bros. Phillips & Salisbury engaged in prayer.

The Roll of Ministers being called the following

answered to their names

Marshall Frink

M. Q. McFarland

B. F. Bradford

E. M. High

H. D. Inman

Saml Salisbury

Jonathon Sibley
 John Watson
 Z. T. Petty
 Sylvester Adams
 A.R. Palmer
 Willard Chase
 N. Fessendon
 Wm. Nipper
 Peter Norris
 P. S. Slauson

Sam^l Phillips
 Benj. Rider
 D. B. Douglass
 S. Phinney
 S. D. Trembly
 F. R. Mastin
 D.E. Baker
 Benj. Luckey
 C.R. Tripp
 Clark Hudson 26

The following named persons presented their
 Credentials and were received as Lay Delegates.

Montgomery Merrick	Ward Wire	absend [sic]
R. G. King	Chas Clark	"
John Lindsey	Sylvester Flagler	
H. J. Wirt	Liberty Hayden	
W. S. Briggs	Angelow [sic] Shaw	
S. H. Norris	A.W. Bishop	
S. Howard	Andrew Crawford	
Levi Pratt	Alvah Hurlbut	
Wm. J. Fuller	David S. Coddington	
Hiram H. Townsend	Richard Britton	
Hiram Ketch	N. Rogers	
Elijah Bishop	Joseph Metcalf	
Wilson Doolittle	H. J. Diefendorf	26

4

First Day April 23.

Voted. That Conference commence the session at 9 oclock A. M. and close at 3 oclock P.M. including one hour of resess [sic] at noon.

Voted. That the Conference proceed to the election of its officers on the sixth Ballot the vote stood as follows.

S. Salisbury 19 S. Phillips 21 B. Rider 1.

Whereupon S. Phillips was declared duly elected.

On the first ballot F. R. Mastin was elected Secretary.-

Voted to proceed to the election of Committees.

Committee on Pastoral Relations. [Table inserted for clarity.]

Peter Norris Sam ^l Salisbury John Watson	Ministers	Sylvester Flagler Alvah Hurlbut M. Merrick	Laymen
---	-----------	--	--------

Committee on Religious Services.

B. Rider H. Gregory. Liberty Hayden. Geo. Dunkle.

John Thompson an Elder was received from the St. Lawrence Conference by transfer
Adjourned. Prayer by Bro. Sibley.

Second Day Session April 24

The Conference was opened with the usual religious services.

After calling the Roll, the Minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

Orson Medbury an Elder in the Methodist Reform Church presented his credentials of ordination & was received.

Conference proceeded with the appointment of Committees

Committee on Statistics

D. B. Douglass

Wilson Doolittle

Comittee [sic] on Reforms

J. Watson

M. Merrick

S. Salisbury

H. H. Townsend

M. Frink

Voted. That the Committee on Elders Orders. appointed last year be discharged.

Voted. That B. F. Bradford. B. Rider, M. Frink W. S. Briggs Jo^s Metcalf. H. J. Wirt. M. Q. M^cFarland. be a committee on Orders.

5

Second Day April 24

The credentials of Isaac Seaman an Elder in the Methodist Protestant Church were presented & returned, he not being present to satisfy the Conference of his agreement with us in Doctrine, Discipline & usage. –

Conference proceeded to the examination of character.

The following Elders were examined & their characters passed.

M. Frink

E. M. High

M. Q. M^cFarland

H. D. Inman

B. F. Bradford

Sam^l Salisbury

J. Sibley

J. Watson

Sam^l Phillips

B. Rider

T. Burrows

R. L. Ward

Z. T. Petty

P. A. Jonsons [sic] case laid on the Table.

Conference took a recess of one hour. Prayer by Bro. Slauson.

After the recess Conference was opened with the usual religious

Services.

Bro. Trembly had leave of absence for the rest of the session.

Committee on Reforms had leave to retire. Also Committee on Orders.

Conference proceeded with the examination of character and passed the following.

D. B. Douglass

S. Adams.

M. Dearstine

S Phinney

A.R. Palmer

L.D. Trembly

Ira Wilcox

Willard Chase

F.R. Mastin

N. Fessendon
H. M. Booth
P. Norris

D.E. Baker
B. Luckey

W^m. Nipper
D. B. Alden

Bro P. A. Johnson's case was taken up
Voted to refer it to the committee on Ministerial character to report to morrow. [sic] P. S. Slauson, Jonathon Sibley, S. Flagler said committee.
Objections being raised against the passage of John Kitchells [sic] character, it was refered [sic] to the committee on Ministereal [sic] character
Adjourned.
Conference closed with prayer. –

6

Third Day. April 25

Conference opened with the usual religious services.

After calling the Roll the minutes of yesterday were read corrected & approved.

It was moved and Seconded that the rule prohibiting a Minister or Licentiate from being appointed more than three successive years to the same Circuit or Station be suspen[d]ed.

Laid on the table.

Bro. Briggs moved the following resolution Resolved that the limitation contained in Subdivision 4 of Section 8. Be & the same whereby suspended for one year, So far as the Same Shall apply to Penn Yann & Jerusalem Circuit. Carried.

Bro. King presented the case of Peruville & Harford Circuit requesting H. D. Inman might be returned the fourth year to said Circuit by suspending the restrictive rule.

Request granted. –

Conference proceeded with the examination of character.

The following Elders were examined & their characters passed.

Stephen Salisbury	C. R. Tripp	O. G. Secor
John Johnston	Austin Davis	A. Bixby
P. S. Slauson	Clarke Hudson	W. Danforth

John Broad head & Thomas Burrows were transferred to the Alleghany Conference at their own request.

Conference took a recess of one hour: prayer by Bro Phinney
After the recess Conferenced [sic] was opened with the usual religious Services.

Conference passed the character of

Selah Payne	W ^m Wescott	J. A. Ormsbee
-------------	------------------------	---------------

Bro. L. C. Matlack agent of the Book concern at N. York made a Statement in reference to said concern, after which the Conference raised Fifty Dollars as a donation. -- --

Adjourned -- Closed with prayer.

Fourth Day Session. April 26

Conference was opened with appropriate [sic] Religious Services.
 After calling the Roll, the minutes of yesterday were read & approved
 Conference proceeded with the examination of character and passed the
 following.

7

Fourth day.

April 26

Alvin Kelsey	Seth How	John Beadle
Harry Gregory	W ^m Nutting	T. W. Cheyney
Ge ^o Riley	Justice Bartholomew	Elij- Bishop
Cyrus Gregg	Keler Hoyt	Valentine Lewis
E. Mints	Salmon Bently	Henry Norton
D. W. Marvin	Wallace Lock	Francis Strang
W. W. Harrison	Tho ^s Osgood	C. F. Barnet
John Nason	Sam ^l Gail	S. W. Parks
Ab. Jones	Simeon Hall	S. W. Pierson

William Haslet returned his credentials & his name was dropt [sic]

The President was appointed a committee to correspond with L. Lovewell
 in regard to the relation he sustains to this body.

Richard Chapin character
 not passed, refered [sic] to a committee composed of R. L. Ward. Z. T. Petty & T. W.
 Cheney.

The case of Thomas Tomlinson was refered [sic] to a committee for investigation,
 composed of S. Adams, V. Lewis & N. Fessendon.

In the case of John Kitchel the committee on Ministerial character recomment
 [sic] the appointment of a committee to investigate his case according to Discipline.
 Report Adopted.

P. Norris. S. Phinney Wakeman Hull Said Committee.

The following brethren were examined & their characters passed.

H. Benson	W ^m Brain	S. A. Leonard
-----------	----------------------	---------------

The following resolutions in reference to the Book Concern were
 presented, discussed, [sic] & adopted. --

1 Resolved. That every Minister or Preacher having charge of a Circuit or Station, be
 instructed to take up a Collection once a year, in December, at each appointment, to aid
 in meeting the claims due from the Wesleyan Book Concern to the estate of the late
 Rev O Scott, -- and that we recommend to the favorable consideration of the Several
 Yearly Conferences the propriety of uniting in a general effort throughout the
 Connection, to liquidate the entire claims by means of a yearly collection. ---

2 Resolved; That we recommend to the favorable consideration of our brethren &
 friends throughout the Rochester Conference, the perpetual Stock plan, as proposed by
 the Book Agent in the

8

Fourth Day

April 26

columns of the True Wesleyan.

3 Resolved; That we will continue the effort commenced at this session, to secure subscriptions to their stock at all our appointments -- and that we will endeavor to secure one from every church within our bounds.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted Resolved; That when his term of office as Editor of the True Wesleyan shall expire we cordially invite Bro. Luther Lee to unite with the Rochester Conference.

Conference took a recess of one hour

Prayer by Bro Baker;

After the recess Conference was opened with Singing & prayer.

The committee appointed last year to investigate charges against Bro. Arthur Hughs, Report nothing against him. Report adopted & his character passed.

Objections being raised against the passage of P. A. Johnson's character, it was referred [sic] to a committee composed of S. Adams N. Fessendon & P. S. Slauson, to report next Conference.

Committee on Orders Report.

D. P. Jones	recommended for Eders [sic] Orders. Withdrawn
Jeremiah Palmer	“ “ “ “
Amos Chapman	“ “ “ “
John G. Crane	“ “ “ “
Isaac Johnston	“ “ “ “
William Johnson	“ “ “ “
E. H. Havens	“ “ “ “
W ^m . S. May	“ “ “ “

Report adopted.

And they were ordained.

The Committee on Orders recommend that the case of D. P. Jones & the Rochester Churches be referred [sic] to a committee of three for investigation & to report to the next Conference. –

Recommendation adopted and B. Rider. R. Britton & Geo Dunkle appointed said committee.

Voted That we have an evening session to commence at 6 o'clock. Adjourned
Conference closed with prayer.

Fourth Day. April 26. Eveng [sic] Session.

At 6 oclock P. M. the President called the Conference to order.

Bro Bradford conducted the religious services. –

Homer Blake an Elder in the Methodist Protestant Church presented his credentials of ordination and having satisfied the Conference of his agreement with us in Doctrine, Discipline and usage, was received. –

Voted That A. R. Palmer and George Wilhelm be added to the committee on Bro Kitchells case.

Brother Rider was excused from Serving on the committee appointed to investigate the case of Bro. Jones and the Rochester Churches at his own request. – Bro. D. E. Baker was appointed in Bro Riders place, and Jo^s. Metcalf and Harry Gregory added to the committee. –

Resolved; [sic] That the next Conference be held at Seneca Falls Seneca County N. Y. on the 4 Wednesday in April 1852.

Objections being raised to passage of Bro. Tipple's character it was refered [sic] to the committee on Ministerial character

Adjourned to 8 A.M. Monday Morning.

Closed with Prayer.

Fifth Day.

April 28

The Conference met at the hour to which it stood adjourned, and was opened with appropriate religious services.

The minutes of Saturday were read corrected and approved.

The Committee on Statistics report (See page [16 & 17]) Report adopted.

Conference appointed a Committee on the Presidency

S. Salisbury	}	Jo ^s . Metcalf	}
B. Rider	}	S. Flagler	}
B. F. Bradford	}	Ministers	} Laymen

Conference appointed the Ministerial part of the committee on orders.

F. R. Mastin, M. Q. McFarland. D. E. Baker. Said committee.

The Committee on Ministerial character report that there difficulties in Bro Tipples case & recommend

10

Fifth Day.

April 28.

That it be refered [sic] to a committee to investigate [sic] where the difficulty transpired.

Report adopted

[Note: table inserted for clarity.]

Willard Chase Cha ^s . Strang S. A. Leonard	Ministers	Francis Smith Sam ^l Mills Sam ^l Kendrick	Laymen
---	-----------	--	--------

Appointed Said Committee. –

Voted That the thanks of this Conference be tendered to the friends & brethren of Hopewell, for their generous hospitality so abundantly & kindly bestowed on us during the Session of this Conference.

Committee on Reforms, report. [insert: Report] adopted

As follows. –

The Fugitive Slave Bill.

Resolved: That, the so called “Fugitive Slave Bill” which has now become a law of this nation, originated with the father of lies, who taught our first parents to disobey God; and therefore to obey it, is to make war with heaven – to declare our allegiance with hell – and to proclaim our infidelity to the world.

On Secret Societies

Resolved: That, “Secret Societies” of whatever name, are wrong in themselves; anti-christian [sic] in their tendency, and ruinous in their final results: therefore Christians & christian [sic] ministers should not only refuse to countenance them, but throw the entire weight of their influence, individual and associate, against them.

On Temperance.

Resolve: That as christians, [sic] and christian [sic] Ministers, we are bound by considerations high as Heaven, deep as hell, and broad as eternity, to give our entire influence, religious, political and social, against the sale, and use of intoxicating liquor as a beverage. –

11

Fifth Day.

April 28.

On Slavery.

Whereas American human chattleship [sic] is a system of such atrocious [sic] wickedness, so contrary to the word of God, and destructive to all the rights of one class of the inhabitants of these United States. Therefore Resolved, That it is inconsistent to acknowledge as christian [sic] Churches those who allow their members still to continue the practice of either trading in the persons of their fellow men, or of holding them in bondage, and that it is also wicked to act with those political parties, who help to make and give countenance to such wicked laws. –

On Tobacco.

The use of Tobacco is filthy, expensive, injurious to health, and he who uses it, enslaves his reason, by a silly habit, and a vile appetite.

On Moral Purity.

Keep thyself pure – know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost – if any man defile the Temple of God, him shall God destroy.

Licentiousness has been, and is still the great and damning sin of the world. It stealthily mingles itself in the Social intercourse of every grade of Society, and effectually poisons the cup of human happiness.

The word of inspiration positively affirms that, fornicators and adulterers shall not inherit the Kingdom of God – It is therein plainly and emphatically enjoined as the duty, of all ministers of the Gospel of Christ, to lay aside false modesty

in reference to the crying sin of sexual impurity, and publicly enforce from the pulpit, the strict observance of the seventh commandment.

The Committee [sic] on Pastoral Relations presented their report. Report, received, amended, and unanimously adopted See page 17. 18.

12

Fifth Day.

April 28

The minutes were read and approved.

Bros. Salisbury and Douglass engaged in prayer, and the
Conference ajourned [sic]
Sine die

F. R. Mastin
Secretary.
Hopewell. April 28th
1857.

Samuel Phillips
President,

13

Conference Questions.

1 st	Who are the Elders	
S	Marshall Frink	Edgar M. High
"	M. Q. McFarland	Henry D. Inman
"	B. F. Bradford	Sam ^l Salisbury
"	Jonathon Sibley	Sam ^l Phillips
"	John Watson	Benj – Rider
"	R, L. Ward	Z. T. Petty
"	P. A. Johnson	D. B. Douglass
"	Sylvester Adams	Matthew Dearstine
"	John Kitchell	Southworth Phinney
"	A.R. Palmer	S. D. Trembly
	Ira Wilcox	Willard Chase
	Frederick R, Mastin	Henry Benson
	W ^m Brain	N. Fessendon
	Daniel E. Baker	W ^m . Nipper
	H. M. Booth	Benj- Luckey
	D. B. Alden	Jeremiah Palmer
	Amos Chapman	John G. Crane
	Isaac Johnston	W ^m Johnson
	Elijah H. Havens	W ^m S. May.
	Homer Blake	John Thompson

Orson Medbury
 Oliver G. Secor
 C. R. Tripp
 John Johnston
 Alanson Bixby
 Clark Hudson
 Selah Payne
 J. A. Ormsbee
 Seth How
 Harry Gregory
 T. W. Cheney
 Justice Bartholomew
 Cyrus Gregg
 Valentine Lewis
 Salmon Bently
 D. W. Marvin
 L. Lovewell

Peter Norris
 Stephen Salisbury
 S. A. Leonard
 Austin Davis
 P. S. Slauson
 W^m. Danforth
 W^m Wescott
 Alvin Kelsey
 John Beadle
 W^m Nutting
 George Riley
 Elijah Bishop
 Keeler Hoyt
 Ezekiel Mints
 Henry Norton
 Wallace Lock
 Francis Strang

14

W. W. Harrison
 C. R. Barnet
 Arthur Hughes
 Sam^l Gail
 S. W. Parks
 Simeon Hall

Thomas Osgood
 John Nason
 Richard Chapin
 Thomas Tomlinson
 Abraham Jones
 S. W. Pierson

Peter Tipple

87

2nd

Who of the Elders are on the Stationed list?

Sam^l Salisbury
 F. R. Mastin
 Marshall Frink
 John Kitchell
 Benj – Rider
 D. B. Alden
 Clark Hudson
 S. Phinney
 Austin Davis
 L. D. Trembly
 Matthew Dearstine
 H. D. Inman
 Sylvester Adams
 D. E. Baker
 Z. T. Petty
 W^m Nipper
 E. H. Havens

Isaac Johnson
 Sam^l Phillips
 Jonathan Sibley
 B. F. Bradford
 D. B. Douglass
 R. L. Ward
 J. Watson
 B. Luckey
 A. R. Palmer
 Peter Norris
 Ira Wilcox
 N. Fessendon
 Wm S. May
 P. S. Slauson
 Willard Chase
 E. M. High
 John Thompson

Alanson Bixby
Henry Benson
Stephen A Leonard
W^m Johnson

John Johnston
J. G. Crane
Wm Brain
M. Q. McFarland

42

3rd What licentiates are on the Stationed list?
Harvey Loundsbury Ge^o. L. Payne
James M. Throop -----3

4th Who are on the reserve list?
None

15

5th Who are the superannuated [sic] Elders?
Samul [sic] Gail 1

6th Who have been deposed this year?
None

7 Who have withdrawn from the Connection this year?
William Haslet 1

8 Who have died this year?
J. M. Gorton 1

9 What has been contributed on the Several Circuits and Stations for the support of Preaching on the same, and for the support of Missions?

[Note: table inserted for clarity.]

	Salary	Missions		Salary.	Missions.
					181
Syracuse	500	26	Orleans	270	22
Clay & Hinmanville	90		Seneca Falls	350	10
East Solon	120		Hopewell & Cheshire	290	50
Peruville & Harford	220	1	Penn Yan & Jerusalem	400	25
Olcott & Ransomville	480	120	Jamestown	450	--
Chesnut Ridge & Royalton	457	26	Portland	150	
Sweden Byron & Pembroke			Napoli	150	
Wales & Boston	52	3	Allegany	200	30

Sparta & Canadice	155		Howard	155	
Prattsburg	85		North Almond	60	5
Owego	150		Hector	228	
West Bradford	200		South Orburn	50	
Orange	211	5	Palmyra & Williamson	270	70
Athens & Pipe Creek	50		Great Valley	21	
Blossburg	200		Lent Hill	112	
Manlius & Oran	200		Phillipsville	145	
Granger	175		Tyre	7	
				3308	
Mount Morris & Nunda	<u>77</u>	—		<u>3422</u>	
	3422	181		6730.	393

This is but a partial report, several Circuits making no report to the committee on Statistics. Sec^y.

16

10 What number are in Connection?
[Note: table inserted for clarity.]

	Numbers	S. Schools	Superintendents	Teachers	Schollars [sic]
Syracuse	156	1	1	12	55
Clay & Hinmanville	50	1	1	4	20
East Solon	30				
Onondaga	33				
Peruville & Harford	76				
Olcot & Ransomville	110	1	1	5	30
Chesnut Ridge & Royalton	138				
Orleans	43	1	1	6	25
Sweden Byron & Pembrok	40				

Oak Orchard	12				
Seneca Falls	60	1	1	8	40
Hopewell & Cheshire	89				
Penn Yan & Jerusalem	140	1	1	6	30
Jamestown	99	1	1	8	50
Harmony & Clymer	160				
Portland	30				
Napoli	60	1			
Allegany	80	1			
Sparta & Canadice	46	3	3	12	50
Howard	58				
Prattsburg	36				
North Almond	50	1	1	3	20
South Dansville	22				
Owego	134	2	2	8	83
Hector	83	1	1	4	30
West Bradford	90	2			
Elkland	54				
State Road	30				
South Orbun [sic]	42	1	1	3	20
Orange	63	1	1	8	40
Palmyra & Williamson	46	2	1	25	90
Athens & Pipe Creek	54	1	1	8	40
Great Valley	13	1	1	8	30
	2227	24	19	128	653

17

Bro ^t .Up	2227	24	19	128	653
Blossburg	90	1	1	5	30

Lent Hill	72				
Manlius & Oran	75	1	1	6	30
Philipsville [sic]	55				
Granger	66	2	2	12	60
Tyre	10				
Mount Morris & Nunda	25				
Rochester 2 nd Church	17	1	1	5	40
Ackron [sic]	6				
	2663	29	24	156	813
Wales & Boston omitted	160				
	2123				
Elders	87				
2810*	2710*				

*[Note: These last two numbers were smudged and corrected.]

- 11 How many Sunday Schools, Superintendents, Teachers, and Scholars are there connected with the several Circuits and Stations?

Ans. 29 S. Schools. 24 Superintendents 156 Teachers 813 Scholars.

- 12 When & where shall our next Conference be held?

At Seneca Falls, Seneca C^y N. Y. on the Fourth Wednesday in April 1852.

- 13 How is the work supplied this year?

Syracuse	S. Salisbury
Clay & Hinmanville	G. L. Payne
East Solon	Isaac Johnston
Onondaga	To be supplied
Peruville & Harford	F. R. Mastin
Olcott & Ransomville	S. Phillips
Chesnut Ridge & Royalton	M. Frink
Orleans & Oak Orchard	J. Sibley
Sweden Byron & Ackron	J. Kitchell
Seneca Falls	B. F. Bradford
Hopewell & Cheshire	B. Rider

18

Penn Yan & Jerusalem	D. B. Douglass
Jamestown	To be supplied
Harmony & Clymer	D. B. Alden
Portland	J. M. Throop

Napoli	R. L. Ward
Wales & Boston	C. Hudson
Allegany	J. Watson
Sparta & Canadice	S. Phinney
Howard	B. Luckey & A. Davis
Prattsburg	A. R. Palmer
North Almond	S. D. Trembly
South Dansville	P. Norris
Owego	M. Dearstine
Windsor & Triange [sic]	Ira Wilcox
Hector	H. D. Inman
South Bradford	N. Fessendon
North Bradford	S. Adams
Elkland	To be supplied
State Road & Suth Orburn	H. Loundsbury
Orange	W. S. May
Williamson	D. E. Baker
Athens & Pipe Creek	P. S. Slauson
Great Valley	Z. T. Petty
Blossburg	W. Chase
Granby & Hannibald [sic]	W. Nipper
Lent Hill	E. H. Havens
Manlius & Fylers	E. M. High
Phillipsville	J. Thompson
Granger & Nunda	A. Bixby
Tyre	To be supplied
Ridge Road	J. Johnston
Rochester	To be supplied
Cazenovia	H. Benson
Catlin Hill & Gibson Corners	J. G. Crane
Westfield	S. A. Leonard
Block House	W. Brain
Warren	W. Johnson
Palermo St. Lawrence Con.	M. Q. M ^c Farland