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Eleventh Session of the Rochester Annual [sic] Conference.

Record

of the doings

of the

Rochester Yearly Conference

of the

Wesleyan M Connexion [sic]

of

America.

Held at Williamson, Wayne Co, N, Y,

Commencing its session on Wednesday
April 25th, 1855. And closing its session
April 28th 1835, in the evening at 9 O Clock.

M.Q. McFarland, Sec^y.

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First Day.

Morning Session April 25th 1835—

The Rochester Yearly Conference of the Wesleyan Methdist [sic] Connexion [sic] of America held its eleventh session at William Wayne Co, N.Y. Commencing April 25th 1855, at 9 Oclock, A.M.

The President – M. Q. M^cFarland in the chair. called the Conference to order, And after Reading the scriptures & singing, the Throne of Grace was addressed by Bos. Norris, Fisk and M^cFarland

The roll of Conference was then called & the following Ministers answered to their names

Ministers

P. A. Field --

J. Sibly

J. Jones,
W. S. May
W. Brain
S. D. Trembly
M, Q, M^cFarland
S, A, Leonard
N, Fessenden
J. Swallow
A. Bixby
Peter. Norris
Calvin Hawley

P, S,lawson
A. Chapman
S. D. Prentice
D. E. Baker
L, Salsbury
D, W, Marvin
J. Thompson
W, Price
G. L. Payne
J. Johnston
Sela, Payne Sup^d

Licetiates [sic]

G. W. Scudder
A. Sargent

L. Lowe
J. H. Rumsey

Lay Delegates

R. Britten
O. S. Chopin
N. Shelly
L. Lowe
J. Covil
P. Prindle

D. C. Frost
J. Furguson
G. Dunkle
D. Bixby
N. Slauson
N. Smith

J. W. Grange

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Session of April 1855.

The credentials of the delegate from union Ct. being questioned, A committee of 3 were appointed on Credentials, Composed of P. Norris, J. Jones, & G Dunkle, to whom said credentials were refered [sic]. Said Committee reported, unfavourably [sic] on the above case & the delegate wasn't received as a member of this Conference.

On motion voted, that D. W. Marvin's name be entered on the Roll of Ministers he having labored on Granger Ct. after the resignation of A. Anderson the past year.

On Motion voted to proceed to the election of Officers.

W. S. May and G. Dunkle were appointed tellers –

On Motion voted, that the names for President & Secratary [sic] be balloted for at the same time.

1st Ballot. Tellers reported whole number of votes cast 32 Nessassary [sic] to a choice
17 Bro. J. Jones had 22 votes

John, Jones, was therefore elected President

For Sec'y. No choice.

2nd Ballot for Sec'y, No Choice.

3rd Ballot – whole number of votes cast 33 –

M. Q. McFarland, received 26 votes & was therefore declared elected Secy.

Bro. Nathaniel Smith was elected Assistant sec'y.

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A Vote of thanks was tendered to the Ex Officers of the Conference.

Movered [sic] to adjourn – lost.

On Motion voted that a committee of 3 be appointed to nominate the several Committees.

J. Jones, N. Shelly, & G. Dunkle were appointed said Committee.

Moved to adjourn – Carried.

Benediction by the President.

Afternoon Session – 2 O'Clock, P.M.
Conference opened, Religious Services by J. Sibley –
Minuits [sic] read, corrected & approved.
Voted that Bro's Cook, Fisk of Mich. Conf^d.
Matlack & Frink, of the Syracuse Conf^d.
Be constituted honory [sic] members.

The Committee on Nominations reported the following names for the following committees. _____

On Orders & to travel.

S. D. Trembly –
Peter. Norris-
Nath'l. Smith –
L. Salsbury –

On the Book Concern.

Johnathan, Sibly
Nathaniel Smith

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On Religious Services.

N. Fessenden – W^m. S. May—
Richard. Britten – John. Jones.

On Statisticts [sic]

Nathan Slawson.

On Reforms.

J. Johnston, W. S. May – N. Shelly –

On Missions.

J. Thompson – J. A. Swallow –
J. Covell – S. A. Leonard –

On Pastoral Relations.

John. Jones –
L. Salsbury, D. W. Marvin
D. E. Baker . G Dunkle –
J. Furguson, L. Lowe –

On Education.

M. Q. McFarland. J. Jones, N. Smith –

On Union,

J. Jones – G. Dunkle.

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Committees Continued.

Session of April 1855.

On the Presidency.

J. Sibley. A. Chapman –
P. A. Field, G. Dunkle –
 N. Shelly,

On Ministerial Character.

Peter. Norris J. Sibley
 N. Smith.

Voted that we proceed [sic] to the examination of Ministerial Character. __

On Motion, Voted that we hear reports. From the several Charges tomorrow at 1 O'clock P.M.

On Motion, Voted that Bro. Fisk Agent of the Mich. Union College be heard first business tomorrow morning.

On Motion, Voted that we meet at 8 O-Clock A.M. and adjourn at 12. M.

Adjourned

Prayer by Bro Payne.

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Second Day; 8. O'clock., A.M.

The President in the chair –
Religious services [sic] by Bro Gregory –
Minutes [sic] read, corrected and approved.

Bro. M. Fisk, proceeded to present the claims of Mich. U. College. After remarks by Matlack Jones and M^cFarland – the roll of Conf was called and five scholarships [sic] taken, and ten dollars pledged.

Calvin, Hawley – was received by transfer from the Syracuse Conference, and his Name entered upon the roll of Conference.

On Motion, Voted to release Bros. Sibly & Smith from the Committee on the Book Concern and substitute the names of J. Johnston, & N. Shelly.

Voted to add the name of the Secretary to the Committee on Missions.

Adjourned to 1, O Clock – P.M. Benediction by the Secretary.

Afternoon Session. 1, O Clock P.M.
Religious Servises [sic] by Bro S. A. Leonard.

Minuits [sic] Corrected & approved,

Voted J. H. Rumsey an honory [sic] Member –

Proceeded to hear from the state of the work on the several Charges. Which indicated progress –

Revivals had been enjoyed on fifteen Charges –

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After hearing a brief statement of the work on the several Charges which was truly gratifying & soul inspiring the conf adjourned
Benediction by the President.

Third Day. 8. O. Clock. A. M. April 27/55
Minuits [sic] read corrected & approved –

The Committee on Education reported as follows –

After having listened to the claims of the Michigan Union College, as set forth by their Agent, Rev. Miles. Fiske. And feeling as we do, that a sanctified and reformatory education is a powerful auxilleary [sic] in pushing forward the car of reform, and of “Spreading Scriptural holiness over these lands.” And whereas, the Mich. Union College affords admirable facilities for requiring such an education as our Ministry, Church & the world needs at the present day, in order to meet and discharge the active duties and responsibilities of life, and whereas, it is indispensable to the Church to fill her high & glorious destiny in the world to properly and righteously educated, not only morally and religiously, but scientifically, Therefore –

Resolved – That we hail with pleasure our Bro. Fiske, the Agent of the Mich. Union College, and pledge to him our sympathies and mutual aid in carrying out the object of his mission among us.

2nd, That we recommend him and the Institution which he represents to the sympathies of the reformatory public. Who would like to advance and build up a correct literature in the world.

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3rd. That we as a Conference will take one Scholarship [sic] to be made out in the name of the President, which shall be at the disposal of the Conference, the installments to be paid by voluntary contributions from the members at each yearly session.

M. Q. McFarland – Chairman.

Adopted –

The Committee on the Book Concern reported – as follows –

Resolved, That we learn with pleasure the appointment of L. C. Matlack L., Lee. and D. B. Douglass – by the Syracuse Conf to point out a course of study, and prepare an outline of questions on the various departments of study, to aid those who are to be examined yearly as candidates for Elders orders – and we will as a Conference unite in recommending its publication in pamphlet form, and also use the same at our next yearly examination, provided it is issued within six months from this time.

Resolved, That it is the duty of the Conference to make a more vigorous effort for the increased circulation of our papers.

The Wesleyan & Juvenile Instructor.

Adopted –

The Committee on union reported as follows –

Resolved, that in the judgment of this Conference the subject of Union among the followers of Christ is one of the first importance. And we hereby express our satisfaction at the evidence furnished in the Wesleyan & Statesman; that the desire for Union among religious bodies of like principles of reform

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and articles of faith is on the increase.

And we favor union with the United Brethren, the Evangelical Association, and Free Will Baptists, and any other religious bodies, either by fusion or Cooperation, throughout this nation, as far as they are in harmony with the fundamental principles of Christianity.

Resolved, That we harmonize with the Syracuse Conference in recommending the next General Conference of the Wesleyan M Connexion [sic] that there be a standing Committee on Christian Union, With power to confer with simelar [sic] Committees from other reformatory Churches, and conjointly therewith to call a general Convention for the discussion of a plan of Union to be submitted for final adoption to the General Conference next ensuing.

J. Jones

Geo, Dunkle.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools reported as follows -----

Whereas, the cause of Sabbath Schools is of great importance to an infant denomination, ourselves & the world, And as our statistics show the smallness of our numbers, we therefore infer there is a want of interest on the subject, Therefore –

Resolved, That we recommend to All our brethren to renew their effort, to advance the interests of Sabbath Schools, and that they use their utmost

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efforts to introduce as many of the Juvenile

Instructors and our books as may be, and that in addition to this there be an effort made in every Sabbath School to establish singing among the teachers and Schollars [sic] believing that the proper use of singing in Sabbath schools has a tendency to interest Children beyond all other influences combined to warrent [sic] a punctual attendance.

P. S. Slauson

P. Prindle.

Report of the Treasurer of the Missionary Socy

Received from collections on the charges –

\$44.48

Collection at Missionary Meeting

11.00

Pledged _____

3.00

At the Missionary Meeting Saturday evening, appropriate, interesting and thrilling speeches were made by Bros McFarland, Swallows, Salsbury and Jones, the Meeting passed off with and much good feeling We regretted that the evening was unpropitiary [sic]

M. Q. McFarland, Treas.

P. S. \$45- Was put out on interest to Bro L. C. Matlack –
M.

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The following [sic] Note was given for a permanent Missionary Fund.

We the undersigned, agree to pay 6 pr ct interest annually on the sums affixed to our names, to the treasurer of the Rochester Conference Missionary Society to be appropriated under the direction of said Society – provided that we reserve to ourselves individually the right of withdrawing our names at the end of any Conference year, by paying the interest due, and provided also, that the obligation hereby assumed shall be cancelled by the death of the signer –

[note: table inserted for clarity]

Lucius C. Matlack	\$100.00	Phileman Prindle	\$100.00
Pletus A. Field	50.00	Daniel. E. Baker	50.00
Lawrence Lowe	100.00	N. Fessenden	50.00
John Thompson	100.00	John Jones	100.00
George Dunkle	100.00	S. A. Leonard	50.00
Harry Gregory	100.00	P. S. Slauson	50.00
George. L. Payne	50.00	Joseph F. Swallow	100.00
Nathan Slawson	50.00	Abel Sargent	25.00
G. W. Scudder	50.00	D. W. Marvin	50.00
W ^m . S. May	50.00	J. H. Rumsey	100.00
Lodowick Dalsburg	100.00	David. C. Frost	25.00

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Diciplinary [sic] Questions.

Who are on the stationed Stationed [sic] list?

S. A. Leonard	M. Q. M ^c Farland
L. Lowe	J. Thompson
D. W. Marvin	S D. Trembly
J. Jones	L. Salsbury
P A Field	A. Chapman
J. Rumsey	N. Fessenden
P. Norris	J. A. Swallow
A. Bixby	Z. T. Petty
R. L. Ward	G, L, Paine
W ^m price	S. Phinney
H. Norton	E. H. Havens
W ^m Nutting	J. Sibly
P. S. Slauson	J. Johnson
S. Adams	T E Baker.

Who have retired from the Stationed list?

Charles. Reynolds
Fredrick. Closser
W. Cheeney

C. Hudson
P. A. Johnson

What Licentiates are on the Stationed List?

L. Lowe
G. W. Scudder

J. Rumsey
A. Sargent

Who are on the reserve list?

None.

Who are the superannuated [sic] Elders?

Selah. Payne.

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Who have been deposed this year?

None.

Who have withdrawn this year?

A.Anderson

Who have joined the Conf this year?

D. W. Marvin & L. Lowe –
J. Rumsey A. Sargent
G. W. Scudder on probation.

Who have died this year?

None.

10th, 11th & 12. Questions –

Answered in the

Report on
Statistics.

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[note: table inserted for clarity]

Report on Statistics Churches. & Charges.	No. Members	No. in S. S.	Support of the Gospel	Property
Ransomville & Olcott	118	100	\$370.00	3200
North Bradford	116	60	260.00	150
South Bradford	74	30	161.55	-
Allegany & Phillipsville	30	10	270.00	1300
Penn Yan -	91	25	325.00	4000
Jerusalem	114	35	362.00	--
Seneca Falls	60	48	430.00	3000
Orange	40	--	--	--
North Almond	20	--	--	--
Chesnut [sic] Ridge & Royalton	59	68	346,71	3800
Charleston	71	50	160.00	--
Haskinsville	15	50	210.00	--
Hopewell & Cheshire	75	30	291.00	3000
Williamson	65	80	200.00	1100
Eagle Harbor	132	80	320.00	2500
Napoli --	75	--	225.00	--
Elkland	71	25	151.00	300
Franklinville & Ashford	50	--	117.00	--
Naples	33	20	120.00	2000
Jamestown	120	50	425.00	2500
Lent Hill	40	--	--	--
Sparta & Canadice	44	50	219.00	--
West Ville & State line	63	66	300.00	500
Granger	113	50	300.00	1000
Hector	70	--	352.00	1000
Elicottville & Franklinville	27	40	200.00	--
Jasper	19	--	15.00	--
Howard	30	--	--	--
Catharine	75	25	250.00	1000

Hornby	40	60	282.00	--
Union	37	20	--	--
Westfield & Climar	30	100	140.00	1000
	2045	1243	6772,36	31350

Nathan Slawson

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Report of the Committee on Reform.

On Tobacco.

Whereas we as a Conference beholding with utter abhorance, [sic] the enormous and needless expence [sic] of tobacco, and the disgusting use of this poisonous and nauseous weed, in chewing smoking and snuffing –

Therefore, Resolved, that the continual use of tobacco for the gratification [sic] of our unhallowed appetites, is a sin against God, in defiling our bodies which should be the temples of the Holy Ghost, Also a criminal disobedience [sic] to the command “Thou shalt not kill,” and should meet with a positive disapproval from every professor [sic] of religion, both in precept and strict example,

Resolved that we by voting for this resolution, pledge ourselves Wholly to refrain from the use of tobacco by smoking, chewing or snuffing.

On War.

Resolved, That the destruction of human life in the late wars in foreign nations demand renewed expression of our disapproval of the heinous [sic] system of all aggressive war, as opposed to the gospel of Christ, in the commands – “As ye would that men would unto you do ye even so to them.” Overcome evil with good for the Kingdom of God is not meat or drink, but Righteousness and peace”.

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On Slavery.

Whereas the manifestations and workings of this iniquitous system, are growing more & more outraging upon the most sacred rights of humanity, and tending to overthrow the rightful political enactments of human law, jeopardizing the rights of the now free, and hedging up the way of the spread of the glorious gospel of Christ.

Therefore, Resolved, That, all Slaveholders and apologists [sic] for Slavery and Slaveholding institutions are totally unworthy of christian [sic] fellowship or political Confidence, And should be treated emphatically as antichristian and enemies [sic] to the human race.

Resolved, That in view of the wrongs of the outraged slave, and the eminent danger of our Country, We are more than ever determined to labor untiringly with our political as well as our ecclesiastical influence for the entire extermination [sic] of slavery from our own country and the world.

Intemperance.

Resolved. That we, as a Conference rejoice of a prohibitory Licquor [sic] law by the Legislature of our State, and pledge our hearty cooperation [sic] to carry it into effect.

Secret Societies.

Resolved, That Secret Societies, and late events justify the wisdom of our rule, on secret oath bound Societies, and our sincere regret is that any of our members should have connected themselves with any secret society, of whatever name or for whatever object,

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Resolved, That those brethren who have left Conference without leave, have violated the rules of the body, and we are not willing to tolerate [sic] such conduct in our body.

Resolved, That we will not tolerate [sic] any of our preachers in interfering with other Circuits, opperating [sic] upon them or any part of them or drawing any support from them without the consent of the preacher in charge –

Report of the Committee on Pastoral Relations.

Allegany Ct.	S. A. Leonard, G. W. Scudder	Granger -	“	S. Phinney –
Bradford North	“	Jasper -	“	To be suplied, [sic]
“ South	L. Lowe.	Howard -	“	E. H. Havens.
Penn Yan	D. W. Marvin	West ^{fld} & Portland	“	J. Sibly.
Charleston	John. Jones.	Gorhamville	“	W ^m Nutting,
Union	P. A. Field.	Catharine	“	P.S. Slauson.
Williamson	To be supplied.	Wyoming Miss	“	J. Watson.
Eagle Harbor	N. Fessenden-	Jerusalem Ct -		M. Q. M ^c Farland-
Napoli	J. A. Swallow-	Seneca Falls -		To be supplied,
Elkland	Z. T. Petty –	Oreange -	-	A. Sargent.
Sparty & Cand ^c	J. Rumsey –	N th Almond	-	S. D. Prentice
	G. L. Payne –	Ches ^t & Houghton	-	J. Thompson
		Haskinville -		S. D. Trembly –

Hopewell & Cheshire - L. Salsbury –
 Cly^r & Westfield - A Chapman –
 Naples - P. Norris –
 Jamestown - A. Bixby ,
 Lyndon Ct^e - R. L. Ward –
 Lent Hill - W^m Price-

Frank^{ln} & Ashford - A. Davis
 Oleoth Ransomville & Forestvill. J.
 Johnsto & H Norton –
 Hector – S. Adams.
 Hornby - D. E. Baker.
 W. S. May Missionary

D. B. Douglass Transferred to the Syracuse Conference.

P. Prindle ordained on the Sabbath.

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Question 13th When & where shall our next conference be held? –

At Naples Otario [sic] Co N. Y. If praticable, [sic]

If Not, at Eagle Harbor Orleans Co N. Y.

Commencing on the 4th Wednesday of April 1856, at 9 O clock A. M.

Roll of Conference Members

S. A. Leonard
 L. W. Marvin
 S. D. Prentice.
 N. Fessenden -
 S. D. Trembly.
 Z. T. Petty -
 A,Chopman [sic]
 A.Bixby
 G. L. Payne
 S. Phinney.
 E. H. Havens,
 J. Johnston
 W^m Nutting
 P. S. Slauson
 J Watson

M. Q. M^cFarland
 John Jones.
 P. A. Field.
 John. Thompson.
 J. A. Swallows.
 L. Salsbury –
 P. Norris
 R. L. Ward
 W^m. Price
 A. Davis
 J. Sibly
 H. Norton
 S. Adams
 D. E. Baker
 W. S. May –

Probationers –

G. W. Scudder
 J. H. Rumsey

L. Lowe
 A Sargent,

Conference adjourned since die –

Benediction By the President –

John, Jones Pret _____

M.Q. M^cFarland Secretary