

Ninth Session of the Rochester Conference.

Record of the doings
of the
Rochester Yearly
Conference
of the
Wesleyan M. Connection
of
America.
Held at PennYan, Yates Couty
New York
Commencing its Session
on
Wednesday April 27th 1853
and
Closing its Sessions
on
Saturday April 30th /53

J. Jones Sec^y

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First Day,

Morning Session Apr 27th 1853

The Rochester Yearly Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America held its ninth Session at Penn Yan Yates Co. New York Commencing on Wednesday April 27th 1853

At 9 oclock AM. The President Rev. B. Rider called the Conference to order.

After reading the Scirpturez [sic] & Singing Brothers Watson. McFarland. & Rider engaged in prayer

On the Secretary calling the roll the following Ministers answered to their names & were enrolled.

Names of Elderz. [sic]

Sylvester Adams	Clark Hudson
Alanson Bixby	S. A. Leonard
Marshal Frink	W ^m . S. May
E. H. Havens	A. R. Palmer
John Johnston	Peter S. Slauson
Benj Luckey	John Thompson
Southworth Phinney	John Watson
Sam ^l Philipz [sic]	Augustine Anderson
Benj Rider	John Jonez [sic]
Jonathan Sibley	W ^m . D. Henry
S. D. Trembley	Frederick Closser
R. L. Ward	Lodowick Salisbury
Harvey Loundsbury	Peter Norris
B. F Bradford	M. Q. McFarland
W ^m Brain	Dan ^l E. Baker
D. B Douglass	Austin Davis
Nelson Fessenden	W ^m Halsey
Charles Reynolds	Timothy Coggin
Geo L. Payne	H. M. Booth
D. B. Alden	I. Wilcox {Removed without taking a certificate Of his standing in Doings of Conf 2 nd day--

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Lay Delegates—[sic]

The following Lay Delegates presented their credentials & were admitted as Members of the Conference viz

Israel Morse	W ^m . G. Woodruff
L. M Stevenz [sic]	Theodore Compton
W ^m Spaulding	Liberty Heyden
Geo. Howorth	W ^m Price
Augustus Metcalf	O. S. Chapin
W ^m Coons	John Winch
Abner Bridgeman	Ja ^s Molyneaux
S. H. Norris	R. B. Cairns
W ^m Henderson	Danl Adamz [sic]
Ja ^s Leonard	W ^m Chilson
John Sutton	Cha ^s Shults
Henry Wilcox	

Bar of the Conference

On motion Voted that the Bar of the Conference be the first six [insert: front] pews on a line of the middle windows of the Church.

The Chair then stated the ground of the division of the Conference – After some discussion Brother Frink took exceptions to the decision of the Chair upon which it was Moved

“That B. M. Brink is a Member of this Conference”

After a spirited discussion the question was called and the Motion carried

B. Rider then resigned his Office as President & asked a letter of dismission [sic] – Granted

On Motion voted to admit M. Q. McFarland a member of this Conference by transfer from the Syracuse Conference & added his name to the Conf- roll—

B. Rider presented some papers pertaining to the reception of Br Lodowick Salisbury into the Rochester Conference Which were approved & Br Salibury's name was placed on the List of Elders.

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On Motion Voted that we commence the Sessions at 8 oclock A.M. and adjourn at 12 Noon

On Motion Voted to hold an afternoon Session to commence at 1 ½ Oclock P.M.
On Motion Voted to proceed to the Election of the Officers of the Conference as the first business in the P.M. Session

On Motion voted J. Jones & A. Bridgman the Committee on Religious Exercises
Conference adjourned

Prayer by Br Sibley__

Afternoon Session

Pursuant to adjournment Conference met in the Wesleyan M. Church, Bro Philips in the Chair – Religious exercises conducted by Br Trembley – Roll of Conference was corrected –

Proceeded to the Election of Officers—

On Motion Voted DBDouglass [sic] & J. Watson Conference Tellers

First Ballot – No Choice – Second Ballot for President No Choice – for Secretary J. Jones was Elected—

Third Ballot for Pres – No Choice Forth [sic] Ballot – Br S. Philips was elected President –

Conference then proceeded to the appointment of the following Committees

On Pastoral Relationz. [sic]

S. Phinney	}	W ^m Henderson	}
M.Q.McFarland	} Elders	A. Bridgman	}

J. Watson	}		J. Winch	}
<u>On Orderz. [sic]</u>				
M. Frink	}			
P. Norris	}	Elders	L. Harden	}
L. Salisbury	}		<u>Geo</u> Howorth	} Laymen

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Committee on Reformz –

L. Salisbury	}			
J. Sibley	}	Elders	A. Bridgman	} Laymen
W. D. Henry	}		Jas Leonard	}

Committee on the Presidency

A.R Palmer	}			
S. D. Trembly	}	Elderz [sic] =	J. Winch	}
S. Phinney	}		S. Norriz [sic]	} Laymen

On Statisticks [sic]

W^m Brain

On Ministerial Character.

J. Watson	}		I. Morse	}
B. Luckey	}	Elders =	A. Bridgman	} Laymen

On Periodicals & Book Concern.

Marshall Frink	}			
H. Loundsbury	}	Elders =	W. G. Woodruff	Layman

A communication was presented to the Conference from Br Petty –

On Motion voted to refer it to the appropriate Committees

Notices were then given & the Conf—adjourned

Prayer by Br Palmer

Second Day.

Thursday Morning Apr 28th 1853

Conference convened at the W. M. Church at 8 Oclock President in the Chair.
 Religious exercises conducted by Br Palmer -- The roll of the Conference was called. The minutes of yesterday were read & corrected.

On Motion Voted to receive Br Dan^l E. Baker by transfer from the Syracuse Conference

On Motion Voted to take up [insert: the examination of] the Character of the Elders,

On Motion Voted That in passing the Character of the Elders – the name of each be called & after giving sufficient time – if there be no objection the character pass—

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The Names of the Edlers were then called –

Conference ordered that against the name of Ira Wilcox, on the Minutes, be inserted –
“Removed without taking a certificate of his standing”

B. F. Bradford’s case laid over to be called up by the order of the Conference hereafter –

On Motion Voted to adjourn

Notices were then given –

Prayer by Br Leonard.

Third Day,

Friday Morning April 29th 1853

Conference convened at 8 oclock.

President in the Chair – Religious exercises conducted by Br Frink –

The roll of the Conference was called – The minutes of yesterday were read & corrected.

On Motion Voted to take a collection to defray the incidental expenses of the Conference = Am^t raised \$1.05

The Chair presented a communication from Br Saml Salsbury – (See file No 1)
Also one from Br B.F. Bradford – of Seneca Falls requesting a withdrawal from the W. M. Connection of America (See file N^o 2)

On Motion Voted – To grant his request without debate—

Committee on Order presented their Report – in which the following Candidates were brought before the Conference

Viz –

George L. Paine – Report of Committee on Christian Experience & in Theology was favorable – but in the Sciences he was very deficient –

Br Douglass Moved to elect Br Paine to Elders Orders

Brⁿ Rider – Lewis - Fessenden – Slauson - & others took part in the discussion of the Motion –

The question was then called & the motion prevailed –

W^m. B. Halsey – Report on theology & Christian experience favorable – in Science very deficient –

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Moved that Brother Halsey be Elected to Elders Orders –

Here Br Matlack entertained the Conference with some general remarks on the necessary qualifications for the ministry – which were followed by Brⁿ Leonard – Rider –

Brane – Chapman – Watson – Sibley & Douglass – each recommending a more thorough Scientific course of study for the Candidates to Elders Orders –

The Question was called & Br Halsey was Elected –

Br Douglass Moved to reconsider the vote in the case of Election of Br Paine to Elders Orders – Lost

Timothy Coggin – Report similar to the others – He is an old Preacher in Deacons Orders in the Protestant M. Church

On Motion Voted to Elect Br Coggin to Elders Orders

Charles Reynolds – Report similar to the two first –

On Motion Voted to Elect Br Reynolds to Elders Orders –

Conference proceeded to answer the Question –
Where shall our next Conference be held? & When?

Naples – Williamson & Royaltan were named & described –
Moved that Naples be the place – Lost –

Moved that Royaltan be the place – Carried –

On motion Voted That the time of holding the Conference be the fourth Thursday in April 1854 at 9 O'clock A.M.

On Motion – Voted – That one of the members of this Conference be appointed to preach a Sermon on Wednesday evening previous to the Session of the Conference

On Motion Voted – That B. F. Rider preach Said Sermon & that J. Watson be the Reserve in case of Br Rider's failure

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On Motion – Voted – To appoint a Committee of three on Orders for another year who shall prepare & publish in the Wesleyan a Course of Study for the Examination of Candidates to Elders Orders, & attend to the Examination

Brⁿ J. Watson, D, BDouglass, & J. Jonez [sic] were appointed that Committee –

On Motion – Voted – That when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at 3 ½ O'clock PM.

Br L. C. Matlack then presented a communication from the Syracuse Conference – On Conference Jurisdiction (See The Wesleyan of Apr 28th 1853

On Motion – Voted to lay it on the table to be taken up in the PM. Session

On Motion Voted to adjourn

Prayer by Br Douglass

Friday P.M. Apr 29th 1853

Pursuant to adjournment Conference convened at 3 ½ P.M. - Br Philips in the Chair - Religious exercises conducted by Br Adams - Roll of Conference was called

Br Matlack had the floor to address [sic] the Conference pertaining to the interests of the Book Concern at Syracuse

On Motion – Voted To refer Br Matlacks [sic] communication to the Book Committee
On Motion Voted to take up the communication presented by Br Matlack in the Morning

–
The communication was read –

On Motion – ~~Voted~~ To concur in the communication –

The question was discussed by Brⁿ Matlack – Jones – Rider – Brain – Slauson - & Frink
The Motion to concur prevailed –

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It was moved – That the Boundary Line between the Rochester & Syracuse Conference [sic] be a Strait [sic] line South from Utica to the State Line – Carried

On Motion – Voted to adjourn
Prayer by Br May

Fourth Day,

Saturday Morning Apr 30th 1853

Conference Met at 8 oclock AM>

Bro Philips in the Chair - Religious exercise conducted by Br McFarland - Roll of
the Conference was called - Journals of yesterday read & corrected –
Committee on Reforms reported as follows viz

“Your Committee would respectfully report –

That the Church of God in its nature & tendency is opposed to all sin; & being composed of those only who have been renewed & make partakers of the Divine Nature; it is therefore plainly evident that in its work & Mission it must be reformatory in its Character, refusing to have any fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness – but on the contrary be ever ready to every good word & work

On Intemperance.

Whereas Intemperance is the great source from whence proceeds almost every species of Crime which Swells the catalogue of human war destroying not only the bodies but the souls of men

Therefore Resolved

That it is the imperative duty of Christians both by precept & example; in the Church & in the State – at the Lords Table -- & at the Ballot Box to labor for the entire prohibition of the sale & use of intoxicating drinks; & that it is inconsistent – nay more! Ridiculous

after having prayed for the triumph of temperance; to vote for those who will in any wise Sustain or even countenance the Traffick –

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On War

Whereas the practice of war is antichristian in all its tendenciez [sic] & results; wholly irreconcilable with the command – “Love your enemies” – “Do violence to no man” -- & being wholly antagonistic in all its workings to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ which breathes only the Spirit of peace & good will to men; And as it is at best but a trade of barbarians –

Therefore Resolved

That it is not only the duty of christians [sic] to refuse to bear arms but in all suitable ways to discountenance the practice of war, as wholly inconsistent and incompatible with the Character of Christian Nations; & that we exert our influence to establish a Congress of Nationz [sic] for the adjustment & Settlement of difficulties that may arise without a resort to arms –

On Slavery.

Whereas American Slavery is the most unnatural inhuman & Wicked traffick [sic] in which mankind ever engaged; & the most revolting to an enlightened & pure mind a sin against God – “Who is no respecter of persons”, & an insult & outrage to upon our common humanity, annihilating as it does all those relations with God has instituted & established for the propagation & purity of our race – for our well being her & hereafter -- & annulling & rendering negatory every command of the Decalogue – & also refusing to obey the command – “Go ye into all the world & preach the Gospel to every creature & thereby not only inviting & incurring, but securing the just displeasure of a holy & righteous God

Therefore Resolved –

That it is our duty as Christians if we would not drink in of its spirit & become contaminated with it; to have no fellowship with it in Church or State; & that we refuse casting our votes knowingly for any who are its apologists & supporters lest we come under the same condemnation & forfeit our claim to the name of Christian & the favor of God.

11\\

Resolved – That obedience to what is called the “Fugitive Slave Law” is disobedience to God; & whosoever is the friend & supporter of that law is the enemy of our Lord Jesus Christ who receives as done to himself what is done to his children; & that whosoever traches obedience to it is a teacher of practical Infidelity.

On Tobacco.

Inasmuch as the use of tobacco is not only an indecent but filthy practice & one which affects the physical & mental powers; prostrating the nervous system of its votaries; & being debasing in its influence & tendency – a species of intoxication; and leading thousands of our youth into the first steps of intemperance -- & also shortening the lives of thousands thus rendering them suicides; & Whereas it defiles the house of God rendering it an unfit place for his service & worship – especially for those who kneel; & still more – defiling bodies which have been made temples of the Holy Ghost; & inasmuch as it is using the money we have professedly as Christians consecrated to God - & consuming it upon our lusts, & thus bringing the body in captivity to [insert: the Law of] Sin – contrary to the command of God – “Whether ye eat or drink or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God;” & in disobedience to the command "Let your light so shine before men that they seeing your good works may glorify your Father in heaven”

Therefore Resolved.

That it is our duty as Christians & as ministers of Our Lord Jesus Christ – to have clean hands & clean mouths in this respect; & that we use our influence to suppress a practice so inconsistent with the Christian character from the Church of the Living God

Wm D. Henry	} Chr
J. Sibley	} Committee
A. Bridgman	}

12\\

Conference ordered to take up the Report by itemz –

On Temperance

On motion Voted to adopt the report of the Committee on Temperance

On War

On Motion Voted to adopt the report on War –

On Slavery

On Motion Voted to adopt the report on Slavery

On Tobacco –

On Motion of its adoption – While the motion was pending it was sustained by the following Brothers – viz B. Rider. L. Hayden W. D. Henry. S. Philips L. C. Matlack, J. Jones – Br Leonard. Halsey, Frink May, Bridgman & Thompson

The Question was then called & the motion by a rising vote which was nearly unanimous –

The Yeas & Nays were called. Many of the brethren were absent which was much to be regretted –

The following were the Yeas viz Ministers –

Sylvester Adams	W. S. May
Marshall Frink	A.R Palmer
E. H Havens	P. S. Slauson
Sam ^l Philips	J. Thompson
B. Rider	J. Watson

J. Sibley
S. D. Trembly
R. L Ward
H. Loundsbury
W^m Brain
D. B. Douglass
N. Fessenden
S. A. Leonard

A. Anderson
J. Jones
W. D. Henry
P. Norris
M. Q. McFarland
W^m Halsey
C. Reynolds
T. Coggin

H. M. Booth
Lay Delegates

I. Morse
W^m Spaulding
L. Heyden

W^m Price
A. Metcalf
C. S. Chapin

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W^m Coons
Ja^s Molyneux
R. B. Cairns
Cha^s Shultz

A. Bridgman
S. H. Norris
Ja^s Leonard
Henry Wilcox

These all unitedly entered their names in opposing the use of Tobacco – None opposing by their vote save one & he saying to the Conference that he should leave off the use of it – viz Br B. Luckey –

On Motion – Voted That in the passage of character the question be asked whether the Brother uses Tobacco –

Br Douglass Moved That the Candidates for Orders be required to meet the Committee on Orders on Wednesday A. M. at 9 oclock previous to the session of the Conference at Royalton Center April 26th 1854. Carried

Br Matlack suggested it & Br Rider Moved that a Committee of two be appointed to prepare & report a an Essay on the immorality of the use of Tobacco at the next Session of the Rochester Conference – Carried

On Motion Voted That W^m D. Henry & John Jones be said Committee –

The following resolution was then offered to the Conference

Resolved That the Thanks of this Conference is hereby tendered to the friends in this Village & Vicinity – for their kindness in entertaining its Members during its present Session -- Carried Unanimously

Report of the Committee on Pastoral Relationz [sic] was then read by Br McFarland

On Motion voted to adopt the Report as it is Subject to correction by the Committee & President

Br Frink Moved that Simeon Halls name be placed on the Superannuated List at his own request

Carried

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Report on Pastoral Relations

Ransomville & Alcott -	J. Sibley	*
Bradford North	G. L. Payne	*
South Bradford	N. Fessenden	*
Allegany	S. Phinney	*
PennYan	J. Jones	*
Jerusalem	W S. May	*
Seneca Falls	D. B. Douglass	*
Orange	D. E. Baker	*
Blossburg	P. A. Field	
North Almond	H. M. Booth	*
Chestnut Ridge & Royalton	S. Philips	*
Haskinville	A. R. Palmer	*
Hopewell & Cheshire	M. Q. McFarland	*
Climar [sic: Clymer?]	S. A. Leonard	*
Williamson	J. Thompson	*
Eagle Harbor	B. Rider	*
Napoli	C. Pemberton	
Elkland	W ^m Price	
Ashford & Lyndon	R. L. Ward	*
Naples	J. Watson	*
Jamestown	W ^m D. Henry *	
Lent Hill	C. Reynolds	*
Ridge Road	To be supplied	
Sparta & Canadice	S. D. Trembley	*
Philipsville	A. Anderson	*
Sweden Byron & Akron	Ira Hughes	*
Wales & Boston	To be supplied	
Oak Ridge	C. Hudson	*
Westfield	B. Luckey	*
German Mission	F. Clossor	*
Granger	A. Bixby & J. W. Allen	*
State Road & South Auburn	W ^m . B. Halsey	*
Great Valley	To be supplied	
Hector	L. Salisbury	*
Elicottville & Franklinville	S. Adams	*
Jasper	P. Norris	*
Howard	E. H. Havens	*
Harmony & Clymer	To be supplied	

Continued

Portland
Grahamville

To be supplied
W^m Nutting *

S. Phinney	}	~~~~~	A. Bridgman	}	} Laymen Committee
M.Q.McFarland	} Elders		W ^m . Henderson	}	
J. Watson	}		J. Winch	}	

Br. Rider Moved That every man in Elders Orders who has a Charge with in this
Conference is a Member of this Conference Carried

Committee on Book Concern Reported – as follows viz –

Whereas we deem it of vital importance to the spread of Moral truth, & our
permanent prosperity as a Connection of Christian Churches that we sustain above
embarrassment our Periodicals & Book Concern Therefore

Resolved That we
will make renewed effort to extend the circulation of the Wesleyan & Juvenile Instructor
believing that we can recommend them to every family circle as papers of outspoken
Reformatory Principles & Literary worth

Resolved That we will take up a collection in each of our Congregations for
the purpose of circulating among the people Wesleyan Tracts

Resolved That we will efficiently Coöperate with our Editor & Agent in the
Collection of debts due the publishing & that without delay we will report a list of the
Past Officers within our respective Charges

M. Frink Chairman

On Motin Voted to adopt the Report.

On Motion voted That when we adjourn we adjourn to meet at one Oclock PM

Conference was entertained by Bro Matlack on the S. School cause

On motion Voted to adjourn Dismissed with the Benediction by the Pres.

16

P.M. Session.

Conference convened at 1 Oclock P.M. –

President in the Chair – Religiouz [sic] exercises conducted by Br. Rider

Br May presented a recommend [sic] to Elders Orders from Hector Circuit of Br S.
Prentice –

Br Rider moved a Special Committee to examine Br Prentice for Orders --
Carried

On Motion – Voted – Brⁿ M. Q. McFarland and B. Rider Said Committee

Called up the Report on the Book Concern –
On Motion – Voted the Adoption of the Report –

Br Brain introduced some resolutions on Secret Societies -- & Moved their adoption –
After Examining the Conference Records – finding the same in substance
recorded there the resolutions were moved by Br Jones to be laid on the table = Carried

Committee in the case of Br S. Prentice reported that his case be laid over until
another year –
Moved to adopt the Report -- Carried –

Br McFarland Moved that Br Chapman be appointed as Conference Evangelist – Motion
withdrawn –

Br Thompson Moved That we have a Conference Camp meeting Carried—
Br McFarland moved a Committee of five to fix the time and place of holding it –
Carried –

On Motion Voted the following Brethren said Committee viz – J. Thompson – M.Q.
McFarland – D. B. Douglass, G, Dunkle, A, Bridgman
On Motion voted that W. S. May & J. Jones be added to said Committee

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Br McFarland Moved that at some convenient time before we separate we celebrate the
Lords Supper – Withdrawn

Minutes of the Conference were read – corrected & adopted –
On Motion Voted that we now adjourn –
Prayer by Br Henry.

Disciplinary Questions Answered,

- 1 Who of the Elders are on the Stationed list?
See page 14 Report on Pastoral Relations Marked * 37
- 2 Who have retired to the unstationed List? None
- 3 What Licentiates are on the Stationed List?
O Pemberton W^m Price & C. Hudson –

4 Who are on the reserve List?

None

5 Who are the Superannated [sic] Elders?

None

6. Who have been deposed this year?

None

7. Who have withdrawn from the Conference this year?

B. F. Bradford

8 Who have joined the Conference this year?

M Q. McFarland – L Salisbury –

9 Who have died this year?

None

On Questions 10-11 & 12 there was no report submitted to the Conference

13 When and Where shall our next Conference be held?

At Royalton – on the fourth Thursday of April 1854 at 9 O'clock AM

14 How is the work supplied this year?

See page 14 Report on Pastoral Relations.

J. Jones = Secretary.