

1884 to the General Conference. One who was with him more intimately than any of his brethren writes: "His communion with God was constant. Often, as I have walked by his side, have I heard him saying, 'A charge to keep I have; a God to glorify.' Then again in the midst of conversation he would stop and exclaim, 'Bless the Lord, O my soul!' Then again, 'The Lord is my shepherd.'" Such was his communion with his Master while on earth. Who can doubt that on his entrance into the presence of the King he has heard him say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant?"

JOHN ATKINSON, D.D., was born in Deerfield, N. J., December 6, 1835, and died in Haverstraw, N. Y., December 8, 1897. He was converted when fifteen years old at Elmer, N. J., and entered the academy at Bridgeton, N. J. At sixteen and a half years of age he yielded to the urgent request of the presiding elder and was sent to Allowaystown Circuit as junior preacher. In 1853 he joined the New Jersey Conference, and was appointed junior preacher on Freehold Circuit. At this place there was a remarkable revival, over one hundred being converted. His next appointment was Succasunna Plains, in 1855. On July 18, 1856, he married Miss Kate L. Hanlon, who survives. His appointments were as follows: Allowaystown, Freehold, Succasunna Plains, West Stanhope, West Bloomfield, Plainfield, Cross Street, Paterson; Franklin Street, Newark; Union Street, Newark; Emory, Jersey City; Trinity, Jersey City; Grace, Chicago; Washington Street, Bay City, Mich.; Adrian, Mich.; Trinity, Jersey City, again; Halsey Street, Newark; West Side Avenue, Jersey City; and Haverstraw, N. Y. By incessant work he compassed a broad course of study. When at Cross Street, Paterson, he entered the Medical Department of the University of the City of New York and completed his course while at Franklin Street, Newark. His ministry was remarkably useful in winning souls to Christ. There were revivals at Paterson and Franklin Street, Newark, under his ministry, and in most of the other churches he served. He was permitted to witness the conversion of about one thousand five hundred souls. As a preacher he was logical and convincing. His style was oratorical both in form and expression. He was deeply evangelical, treasuring the heart thoughts of the Gospel, the atonement in Christ, and the salvation provided through him. The names of the fathers of Methodism were as familiar to him as household words. He wrote *The Living Way* before he was twenty-one. He wrote the *History of Methodism in New Jersey* at Bloomfield, *The Garden of Sorrows* at Union Street, Newark, and *The Class Leader* at Trinity, Jersey City. While stationed the second time at Trinity he wrote the *Centennial of Methodism*. His latest work, *The Wesleyan Movement in America*, is of great original research, throwing light on the early history of Methodism which will be of great value to future historians. There were no manuscripts too old or too insignificant for him to investigate. To the public, however, he will longest be known by the hymn, "We shall meet beyond the river." For some time he was in poor health. On Friday, December 3, 1897, he was seized with a severe attack of coughing, thought he was dying, and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." He then began to fail rapidly, became unconscious, and passed to the mansion prepared for him on December 8. Since his death a beloved son, Thomas Hanlon Atkinson, M.D., has also passed away. His wife, a daughter, and two sons remain to mourn their great loss.

ISAAC NEWTON VANSANT was born in Port Republic, N. J., May 31, 1830. His father lived to be over ninety, and was for more than forty-eight years a local preacher. Of his family four brothers entered the itinerant ministry and two the local. Two became members of the New Jersey Conference and

two of the Newark, the one remaining being Nicholas Vansant. In 1841 his parents moved to Lower Bank, N. J., the shipwright trade, which he followed for years. When about twenty-one he returned to Lower Bank. On September 18, 1841, he married Margaret B. Adams of with whom he lived in happy wedded life more than fifty years. He became the pastor of the Tuckertown Circuit, though still in business. He also supplied Bass River, L. Green Bank Charges, until in 1857 he resigned business and accepted an appointment at Hainesburg. Here he served from April, 1859, he was admitted on trial to the Conference, and filled the following circuits: Stillwater, Wantage, Tranquility, Bethel, Staten Island; Clinton and Pine Brook, Davis Men Readington and Allerton, Frenchtown, Staten Island; Stony Point, Quakerbury, Rockland Lake. Revivals followed wherever he went. The most notable were at Perth Amboy. These were spiritual revivals reaching in their results. At Stony Point church was erected under his supervision. He was a genial spirit, with a nature bubbling with good humor. He was a good preacher. Studious in his habits, he produced much of the best of the time. He was one of the few preachers who crossed the dead line until transferred to Perth Amboy. During the fall of 1897 his health gave way. On Christmas morning he asked his wife to read the second chapter of Matthew, which he had the habit of reading every Christmas morning. On December 27 he was seized with a rapidly sinking illness, and died of the same day. Lying upon the bed he was communing with God as he repeated "I am thine, O Lord;" "Rock of ages, be the name of the Lord." He leaves six daughters, and six sons. One son, Charles, is now a member of Troy Confer-

MICAH JOHN CRAMER, D.D., was born in Schaffhausen, Switzerland, February 23, 1800, and died in Carlisle, Pa., January 23, 1898. He was a member of the Swedish nobility, and belonged to the Reformation of the nineteenth century. For this cause the family property was confiscated. The family then renounced their title and sought a refuge in Switzerland. Micah was only five years of age when he emigrated. Subsequently his father decided to try his fortune in the New World. After a short residence in New York, the family removed to Cincinnati. Cramer entered the German department of the Methodist Book Concern and learned trade. While at work he was constantly with the purpose of entering college, and finally secured for himself the Ohio Wesleyan University. Edward Thomson being then president, he went through college, and graduated with honors in the class of 1859. In 1860 he was elected to the Cincinnati Conference on trial. He was married to Mary F. Grant, sister to the general, on August 18, 1863. He was at that time pastor of the Church, Cincinnati. In February, 1864, he was elected to the English and German Methodist Conference at Nashville which had been abandoned at Vicksburg. Here he preached both in English and in German. Subsequently he was elected to the government as post chaplain at Vicksburg. In May, 1867, he was appointed to the Johnson consul at Leipzig. He continued to preach for four years, serving as consul at Copenhagen and preaching to the resident American days. In 1871 he was appointed to the court of Denmark, which position he filled with satisfaction. In the rigors of the Danish climate he contracted a distressing neuralgia of the

JOHN ATKINSON.

1878**by transfer from Rock River. To Bay City: Washington Street. (*Madison Ave.*)
1879 & 1880. To 1881.

1881-1884 Adrian.

1884- Not in Conference Register. To Newark Conference.

Newark Conference Mar. 25-Apr. 1, 1885.

Received by Transfer? John Atkinson from Detroit--one of 11

Jersey City--Trinity. Same in 1886

1887-99 Newark:Halsey St. 1888 the same

1890-95 Jersey City:West Side Avenue No apring Conf. 1895

at least.

1896 Haverstraw, N.Y., Jersey City District. 97 t e same ~~xNewSpringx1897~~

1898. He was 6 of 10 who died. Copy of obituary. - p. 112 - *General Minutes*

Committee on Archives and History

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January 11, 2001

Ann M. Sawusch
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Dear Ann:

In response to your inquiry concerning Reverend John Atkinson, I researched the materials available. I am sending a copy of his memoir that was in the *Methodist Episcopal Church Annual Conferences Minutes*. I, too, have seen his picture at First United Methodist Church. I can confirm that in 1878 he transferred from the Rock River Annual Conference to the Detroit Annual Conference and was assigned to Bay City, Washington Street Methodist Episcopal Church where he served till 1881 when he was assigned to Adrian First Methodist Episcopal Church. At the annual conference held September 17 through 22, 1884 he was transferred to the Newark Conference (page 38). I tried to confirm that his son John Willard had attended Adrian College, but their date base does not include 1884 and he is not mentioned in 1885. I do not have any idea as to why he came west. Changing conferences was not uncommon. I hope this information will be helpful.

Sincerely,

Reverend James G. Simmons
Archivist