

The following pages are from the 1886 North Indiana Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Pages 66 through 69 contain the Memoir of Rev. Jacob Colclazer, 1813-1885.

The Memoir was supplied to Val Harris, Communications Ministry Chair, and Joy Loop, Archivist, of Grace United Methodist Church, Kokomo, IN, by John R. Riggs, Archives Researcher, DePauw University.

Rev. Jacob Colclazer was the circuit preacher in the founding of Grace United Methodist Church, in 1844.

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MEMOIRS.

The Rev. Jacob Colclazer.

Jacob Colclazer was born in Georgetown, D. C., September 22, 1813, and died in Kendallville, December 24, 1885, aged 72 years, 3 months, and 2 days.

He was the child of Methodist parents. In his early boyhood his father removed across the line into the city of Washington. Here he resided until the year 1825, when the family removed to Coshocton county, Ohio. Here Brother Colclazer lived for ten years. In 1835 he came, in company with his brother George, to Indiana, and settled in what is now the city of Logansport, which was then a mere Indian trading post.

In his youth his educational advantages were meager, being such only as were afforded by the instructions of an intelligent, pious sister, the Sabbath-School, an attendance for a few months on the free schools of Washington City, by studious habits, and a bright and consecrated intellect. Perseverance and determination of purpose marked him all his life, and made him a man of good education, and of superior attainments.

Brother Colclazer was converted in Ohio, August 17, 1831, and on the same date united with the Methodist Episcopal Church, which he always loved, ever honored, and to which he gave the services and powers of his life.

Two weeks after his arrival at Logansport, the Rev. J. A. Brouse appointed him leader of a class of thirteen members. April 12, 1836, he received license to exhort, and on the 24th of September of the same year he was licensed to preach, by the Rev. Richard Hargrove, in a little frame church on what is now Third street in the city of Peru. On the same day he was recommended for admission into the traveling connection. He was admitted on trial in the old Indiana Conference, October 23, 1836.

Brother Colclazer's first charge was Deep River Mission, a circuit of endless forests, and hundreds of miles in extent. In 1837 he was sent to the Kalamazoo Circuit, Michigan, as junior preacher, where he had thirty-two appointments, and traveled a territory of 500 miles; 1838, he was sent to Logansport; in 1839 to Fort Wayne, where he built a small frame church on the site of the present Berry Street Church, and organized the First Methodist Sunday-School in the city. In 1840, he was sent to Monticello Circuit. His parsonage was a log cabin of a single room, near the Tippecanoe battle

ground. Here he found and brought into the itinerancy H. N. Barnes and Milton Mahin. In 1841 his work was Dayton; 1842, Frankfort. In 1843, he was sent to Kokomo Mission, and preached his first sermon in one of the two houses then in the town. He also assisted in laying out the original plat of the city.

His fields of labor continue as follows: 1844, Rockville; '45, Roseville; '46, Rochester; '47, Delphi; '48, Covington; '49, Middletown; '50-51, Muncie; '52, Centerville; '53-4-5-6, Presiding Elder of the Goshen District; '57-8-9, Presiding Elder of the West Fort Wayne District; '60, Richmond; '61-2, Roberts' Chapel, Indianapolis; '63-4, Logansport; '65, Wabash; '66-7, Peru; '68, supernumerary; '69, superannuated; '70-1, St. Paul, Peru; '72-3, Warsaw; '74, Berry Street, Fort Wayne; '75-6, New Castle. In 1876 he lost the sight of one eye, and resigned his charge in the middle of the year; '77, superannuated; '78-9, Peru. In 1880, he superannuated on account of the almost total loss of sight in his remaining eye, and continued in that honorable relation as long as he lived. This long and excellent record shows nearly forty-five years of effective service, and over forty-nine years in the ministry. In 1860 he was a delegate to the General Conference at Buffalo.

After his superannuation he removed to Rome City, where he engaged in the book and drug business, and within the last two years he removed to Kendallville.

Brother Colclazer was married August 22, 1839, to Miss Isabella M. Sholtz, of Carrol county, Ind., the Rev. George M. Beswick officiating. Four children were given to this marriage. Two of these passed away in early childhood, and on January 28, 1847, he buried his wife. He was married for the second time, November 5, 1848, to Miss Eliza A. Hathaway, his now bereaved companion. One son was given to this union, who died before his father.

During his superannuation, and the almost total blindness of his later years, our brother was always cheerful and hopeful. None heard him complain. The refining fire of affliction showed him to be the pure and fine gold. He was abundant in labors, as far as his strength and health would permit, and identified himself with every interest of the Church. He was helpful to his pastor, sweet in his spirit, and greatly interested in the work of the Sabbath-School, giving much attention to a Bible class, of which he was the teacher.

His final illness was protracted. The nature of his disease was such that much of the time he suffered severe pain, which he bore with the greatest resignation and patience. Those who were with him in the last days of his sojourn say that it was indeed an inspiration to see and hear him. These almost fifty years of service were crowned with a halo of glory and of triumph. Testimonies of peace, of joy, and of vision, made his sick room seem quite on the verge of heaven. He was honored, like Elisha at Dothan, and the cohorts of glory awaited his passage to convey him to the presence of the Savior whom he had loved and served so long.

To his pastor he often testified: "I am resting in the rifted rock." Concerning his recovery he declared, "I have no will of my own." Of his experience he remarked, "For fifty years I have been wondering how it would seem at the death hour, but while walking through the valley of the shadow of death His rod and staff they comfort me; there is no river here." His dying message to us was, "Tell my Brethren at Conference all is well with me; that the same Jesus I have preached in life was my sure support in death; tell them I love them all." During his last lucid interval, he drew his pastor over near to his mouth, and whispered, "Preach Christ; I have tried so to do." Then with a face beaming with light and joy, he said, articulating with difficulty, "Look, Look! Don't you see them? They're coming, they're coming!—Angels! Angels! A great company! I see mother! I see Thomas! O how beautiful! Transcendent glory! How precious! O such fullness! Majesty! Eternity! How comforting is Christ in this hour of my triumph!" While the cold beads of sweat were standing on his brow he distinctly uttered his last words, "I hear the angels singing! I am almost home." Thus did this saintly man depart to his inheritance.

His funeral services were held in the Methodist church in Goshen, and more than twenty of his Brethren in the ministry gathered to do him honor. His body was laid away by the side of his dear boy, among many who had labored with him in early days, amid the scenes of his first work, in the midst of the people to whom he had devoted years of the strength of his manhood as the ambassador of Christ.

Jacob Colclazer was a man and a minister whose life and work are his best and most eloquent eulogy. He was a man of power, and great influence, as well as usefulness. As a preacher, he was eloquent, forcible, instructive, and strong. He dealt much on Bible doctrines. His utterances were supplemented by an untarnished Christian character, against which no breath of reproach was ever directed. He was as loyal to the Church of his choice as he was to his God and Savior. He was always industrious, and consistent. While a vein of melancholy often showed itself in his character, he was always resigned and full of trust. His demeanor was that of a true Christian gentleman, and such as adorned and honored the cause he represented. He never forgot who or what he was, or whom he came to proclaim. Although of not more than medium height, and not apparently of remarkable vigor of body or constitution, yet he performed some of the most difficult of our pioneer labor, and prolonged his years of effective service to a length rarely equaled. In the churches he served his name is remembered with the most kindly feeling. Many circuits and stations stand as lasting monuments of his usefulness, monuments better than brass or marble.

As a citizen he was ever interested in the public welfare, and in all the great reforms of the age. All his influence was thrown on the side of uprightness, and his motto was "For God and humanity."

In his family, he was most affectionate and kind. The husband and father was not surpassed by the citizen or the minister of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Others who are here to-day will do him full justice, and can speak from more extended knowledge than the writer. The fathers! Where are they? We enter into the results of their labors, and let us see to it that we carry forward and advance the cause they loved so well, and hand down to our successors the precious trust they have given into our hands. Let us not forget our brother. Such men are precious in this heedless world. Let us emulate his virtues, and do as well if we can.

May our blessed Savior lead his lonely wife gently by the hand into the land of reunion, and restore her to her glorified husband.

"Prisoner long detained below,
Prisoner now with freedom blessed,
Welcome from the world of woe;
Welcome to the land of rest!

"Thus the kindly angels sing,
As they bear the soul on high,
While with hallelujahs ring
All the regions of the sky."

The Rev. Abia M. Kerwood.

The Rev. Abia Minor Kerwood, son of Richard Kerwood, was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, August 2, 1812, and died in Muncio, Ind., March 25, 1886, aged 73 years, 7 months, and 25 days.

He was sprung from English ancestry, and came of a long-lived race. He grew to manhood in the place of his birth, working with his father at the blacksmith trade. On arriving at his majority, our brother came to what was then the far west. He embarked on an Ohio river steamboat, and came to Cincinnati, whence he went to Oxford, Ohio, where his brother was living. Here he attended school and worked at his trade. He was married in Preble county, Ohio, in 1840, to Miss Rebecca Peden, whom he had met on his journey to Cincinnati, and who survives him. After his marriage he engaged in mercantile pursuits and farming in Preble county. In 1848, he removed to Wayne county, Indiana, where he engaged in farming and teaching school.

Brother Kerwood was converted in the year 1832, and at once united with the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he remained in communion and to which he gave the best of his life. He was licensed to preach in 1841, by the Rev. James B. Finley, and served the Church in the local capacity until 1854, when he was received on trial in the North Indiana Conference, at its session in the city of Peru. Of the class of fifteen who were then admitted, the Rev. J. S. McCarty only remains in the effective ranks. Bishop Simpson ordained him as a Deacon in 1857, and Elder in 1862. He