CHAPTER XI

OUR DELEGATES TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCES

Shortly after the conference at Frederick in 1800, when the society of preachers adopted a name and settled down to the business of being a denomination, the work prospered mightily. Soon the movement was spreading into western Pennsylvania, and out into Ohio, as well as throughout the Shenandoah and Cumberland Valleys. As the circuits kept growing and the ministers found themselves many miles away, it became very difficult for the ministers in the distant sections to attend sessions of their conference. Consequently, there were informal get-togethers of ministers in various centers which became the nuclei of Miami, Muskingum, Allegheny, Virginia, and other conferences. In 1814 a group of Ohio preachers (members of the mother conference, of course, for there was but one conference to that time) took the initiative and asked for a convention, or General Conference, at a central point to which delegates should come from all the informal conferences. The place decided on was Mount Pleasant, Westmoreland County, Penna. The Conference was held in 1815 and was attended by fourteen preachers, eleven or twelve of whom held membership in the mother conference, although most of them were working in the outlying areas. We do not know who represented Penna. Conference in the narrow sense. The same is true of the General Conference of 1817. Twelve ministers were in attendance, eight of whom were on the Penna. Conference register. At the third General Conference, held in Ohio, five were in attendance from our Conference, and three failed to attend. Beginning with 1825 it is clear just who represented us in our various General Conferences.

1815—Mt. Pleasant, Westmoreland County, Penna.
(Total Attendance)
Christian Newcomer, Abraham Hiestand, Andrew Zeller, Daniel Troyer, George Benedum, Christian Crum, Isaac Niswander, Henry Spayth, John Snyder, Abraham Mayer, Henry Kumler, Abraham Troxel, Christian Berger and Jacob Baulus. (Note: All the above were members of Penna. Conference except Abraham Hiestand and Andrew Zeller, who were from the Miami Conference, recently formed. As indicated above, although they were members of our conference, some of the men were representing other areas).

1817—Mt. Pleasant, Westmoreland County, Penna.
(Total Attendance)
C. Newcomer, Andrew Zeller, Abraham Mayer, Joseph Hoffman, John Snyder, H. Kumler, Jacob Dehof, L. Kramer, D. Mechlin, H. G. Spayth, C. Roth and Hermann Au. (Note: Only four members of the second General Conference were not on our register, namely, Zeller, Kramer, Mechlin and Roth).
1821—Fairfield County, Ohio.
Samuel Huber, William Brown, Michael Baer, George Geeting, Jr.,
and Daniel Pfeifer.

1825—Tuscarawas County, Ohio.
Abraham Mayer, John Hildt, Jacob Daup, Daniel Pfeifer and William
Brown.

1829—Fairfield County, Ohio.
William Brown, Thomas Miller, Henry Burtner, John Zahn, Jacob
Erb, Simon Dresbach, John Hendricks and Ezekiel Boring.

1833—Dresbach’s Church, Ohio.
Ezekiel Boring, Jacob Erb, John Snyder, William Brown, James
Newman, Frederick Gilbert.

1837—Germantown, Ohio.
Jacob Erb, Jacob Winters (Representation reduced because of division
of the conference).

1841—Dresbach’s Church, Ohio.
John Russell, Jacob Roop.

1845—Circleville, Ohio.
John Russell.

1849—Germantown, Ohio.
Jacob Erb, George Miller, John Fohl.

1853—Miltonville, Ohio.

1857—Cincinnati, Ohio.
Jacob Erb, John Russell, W. B. Raber.

1861—Westerville, Ohio.
J. Dickson, W. B. Raber, J. C. Smith.

1865—Western, Linn County, Iowa.
J. Dickson, W. B. Raber, J. C. Smith.

1869—Lebanon, Penna.
J. Dickson, J. M. Bishop, W. B. Raber.

1873—Dayton, Ohio.

1877—Westfield, Illinois
Z. A. Colestock, J. H. Young, C. T. Stearn.

1881—Lisbon, Iowa.
1885—Fostoria, Ohio.

1889—York, Penna.

1893—Dayton, Ohio.
Note: No lay delegates prior to this conference.

1897—Toledo, Iowa.
Laymen: W. A. Lutz, Moses Snyder.

1901—Frederick, Maryland

1905—Topeka, Kansas.
Ministers: A. R. Ayres, G. D. Gossard, J. Luther Grimm, J. W. Kiracofe,
A. B. Statton, W. H. Washinger.
Laymen: J. C. Heckert, S. F. Huber, W. A. Lutz, G. C. Snyder, G. A.
Wolf, G. W. Spangler.

1909—Canton, Ohio.
Ministers: W. H. Washinger, A. B. Statton, J. W. Kiracofe, H. J. Kitz-
miller, A. A. Long, C. W. Brewbaker.
Laymen: J. R. Clippinger, J. H. Kiracofe, H. E. Lefever, G. C. Snyder,
E. O. Smiley.

1913—Decatur, Illinois.
Ministers: W. H. Washinger, G. D. Gossard, A. R. Ayres, J. Lower
Grimm, J. W. Owen.
Laymen: Fred Smith, E. E. Houseman, J. H. Eckels, J. F. Rudisill,
H. L. McCurdy.

1917—Wichita, Kansas.
Ministers: W. H. Washinger, A. A. Long, A. B. Statton, L. W. Lutz,
Laymen: G. M. Washinger, J. H. Kiracofe, E. E. Houseman, Harry Lease,
J. B. Wingerd, M. S. Meredith, W. N. McFaul.

1921—Indianapolis, Indiana.
Ministers: A. B. Statton, A. R. Ayres, J. P. Koontz, F. B. Plummer,
Laymen: R. G. Mowrey, W. N. McFaul, Henry Wolf, J. H. Kiracofe,
C. M. Horst, C. O. Yeatts.
OUR DELEGATES TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

1925—Buffalo, N. Y.

1929—Lancaster, Penna.

1933—Akron, Ohio.

1937—Chambersburg, Penna.

Marylanders in the General Conferences

At the Hagerstown (or Virginia) Conference of 1832 it was decided to divide the conference into two districts, Maryland and Virginia, each to elect two delegates to the General Conference. We are not sure this plan of representation in the General Conferences was strictly adhered to, but a perusal of the rosters of the General Conferences of 1833 to 1885 indicates that Maryland delegates were very much in evidence. They were always prominent in the leadership of that body. However, we would be sure to make many errors if we attempted to single out Maryland District delegates from Virginia Conference to the General Conferences referred to. After all, they represented not a district of a conference, but the conference as a whole.

The delegates to General Conference during the period 1887—1901, when Maryland Conference was a separate entity, are as follows: 1889—C. I. B. Brane, A. M. Evers, G. J. Roudebush; 1893—C. I. B. Brane, G. J. Roudebush, W. L. Martin. Lay delegate, G. C. Snyder; 1897—J. E. Fout, G. J. Roudebush, W. L. Martin, Lay delegate, Harvey E. Thomas; 1901—L. O. Burtner, A. M. Evers, A. B. Statton. Lay delegate, G. C. Snyder.