

With this our brother connected himself, and in the year 1805 received license as an exhorter from the Rev. Solomon Sharp. The appointment to which he was then attached was on the old Dauphin Circuit. The year following he was received on trial into the Philadelphia Annual Conference. His first field of labor was on the eastern shore of Maryland. He was ordained in this city by Bishop Asbury, on the 22nd of March, 1808, and at the same Conference was transferred to the Genesee country, where he travelled one or two years, and endured considerable hardships, upon which, after he had become aged, he delighted to converse with his children and grandchildren. Here he frequently slept in the woods, with his saddle for a pillow, and the heavens for a covering. It was also while travelling in this country that he enjoyed the companionship of the Rev. William D. Lacey, with whom he afterward frequently corresponded, and for whom he contracted a firm and ardent friendship.

“He was ordained Elder by Bishop M’Kendree at Lyons in the State of New York, on the 24th of July, in the year 1810. The two following years he spent in Canada, first at Montreal, (where, through his enterprise and activity, he succeeded in erecting a church building,) and afterward at Quebec. But not being pleased with this country, he wrote to Bishop Asbury desiring that he might be appointed to a more southern latitude. The manner in which his request was regarded by the first American Bishop may be discovered in two original letters, written by the hand of Asbury, and which have been preserved among his papers. The first of these is on a slip of paper of two inches in width. It is without date, and in these words: ‘I have tried with all my might to release you from Quebec, but cannot; perhaps you had better take up the † (cross) and try it one year more.—
F. ASBURY.’