

PLANS SERVICE ON THE SITE OF CHESTER CHURCH

Bishop Homer A. Tomlinson, General Overseer of the Church of God, of World Headquarters, Queens Village, N. Y., is planning a visit Sunday to the birthplace of his late father, Bishop A. J. Tomlinson, founder of the Church of God, near Westfield.

At 11 o'clock Sunday morning Bishop Tomlinson will hold an open air service on the grounds of the Chester Quaker Meeting House in remembrance of his father, who entered Christian life in the Chester church in 1892, and in the same year preached his first sermon there.

The Tomlinson homestead still stands, and in good repair, but the Chester church long ago fell into decay and was removed. But the grounds and the Chester cemetery with inscriptions going back for two hundred years of the Tomlinsons,



BISHOP H. A. TOMLINSON --

is cared for largely by descendants living in the community.

On the ancestral farm near the church grounds which still is owned by the Tomlinson family, ceremonies have been held occasionally attracting wide attention recalling pre-Civil War days when, in the "peaceful" Quaker tradition, the great-great grandfather of Bishop Tomlinson maintained one of the most active stations on the "underground railway" for escaped Negro slaves fleeing to Canada.

Living in New York since 1916, Bishop Tomlinson has led in the establishment of the Church of God in that area, and in sending thousands of native missionaries to the lands of their birth.

Upon becoming General Overseer of the Church of God in 1943 he made a 200,000 mile journey in two years to all states and on four continents visiting the churches. He has preached in seventeen European languages and now is preparing in the languages of India, planning a so-journ there.

Bishop Tomlinson will lodge at the Severin Hotel in Indianapolis, arriving Friday noon. On Sunday morning he will be accompanied by several of his church officials to the Chester church grounds north of Westfield for the public service.

While all friends and residents of Westfield and Chester communities are invited to attend, Bishop Tomlinson is especially desirous that all families who knew his father might be present. Among members of the Tomlinson family who will be present is Pinley Tomlinson, a cousin of the late A. J. Tomlinson and his lifelong bosom companion.

Following the service Sunday, Bishop Tomlinson will go to Red Bay, Ala., to preside over the 44th annual General Assembly of the Church of God which opens Sept. 7. An attendance of some thirty thousand people is expected during the seven day assembly. This will be Bishop Tomlinson's sixth year presiding over the meeting.

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