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HOW THEY ENTERED CANAAN
(A Collection of Holiness Experience Accounts)
Compiled by Duane V. Maxey

Vol. I -- Named Accounts

ADAM CROOKS
1824 -- 1???
(An Early Leader in the Wesleyan Methodist Church)

Adam Crooks born in Leesville Carroll County, Ohio, on the 3rd of May, A. D., 1824. He was the son of William and Elizabeth Crooks, and the fourth child of a family of thirteen. His father was a man of the world, but taught his family the strictest honest and truthfulness. But that blessed gift of Heaven, a godly mother, by her uniform piety and the agency of the Holy Spirit, often awakened in him the most pungent convictions of sin, and led to secret prayer and solemn promises of reformation, but nothing further.

When some fourteen years of age, a singular incident occurred, which was destined, under Divine Providence, to shape his future course. His brother William, some four years his senior was somewhat skeptical as to the divine origin of Christianity, remarked, in a careless manner, "I do not believe in religion. I believe those who profess it are hypocrites; but if I should ever go to the altar for prayers, I should never leave it until I knew for certain." Although not a Christian himself, yet Adam secretly prayed with all the fervor of his heart that, William might be constrained to go to the altar. For he thought his brother's conversion a thing very desirable. It was not an hour until William was most deeply convicted, and at the altar the next evening he found salvation. He became an exemplary Christian, and a devoted minister of the Gospel; and on February 14th, 1847, went up to glory.

From the hour of his brother's conversion, Adam became a secret seeker of personal salvation, frequently praying twenty times a day, but seemingly to no effect; for he thus wandered in darkness for months. But the blessed hour of deliverance came. It as one Spring morning, he was returning from his place of secret prayer, across his father's farm. Just as the sun spread his golden mantle over field and forest, and saluted his eyes, his faith took hold on God, and the Sun of righteousness poured in His rays upon the new-born soul. Nor was this light evanescent. It was the incessant dawn of an eternal day ... The genuineness of early piety and the conversion of children is illustrated in his conversion, which occurred at the age of fourteen years, and might have been earlier; his convictions and knowledge being equal to it...

He united with the Methodist Protestant Church, of which his parents were members, while his brother William joined the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was much the youngest of any in the Church, yet willing thus early to walk alone, so long as it appeared to be the path of duty. Always generous toward other denominations, and willing to point sinners to the cross at any altar where Christ appeared; he attended religious meetings, far and near, irrespective of denominations. He deeply deplored the want of spirituality among his own people.

When about sixteen years of age, he deeply felt the need of a more thorough Christian experience. He was greatly profited by reading the "Life of William Carvosso," and sought, with ceaseless anxiety, the blessing of entire sanctification. He sought it as distinctly as justification. He trusted fully in Jesus as Savior from all taint of, and tendency to sin, and realized the speechless joy of complete salvation. This, like conversion, was effected when alone, and free from the pressure of external excitement.

Convinced of the complicity of the Methodist Protestant Church with chattel slavery, it ceased to be a congenial home to one who had nothing in view but God and his glory, and man's well-being. The heart longed for an opportunity to free itself by change of church-relationship. This opportunity was presented when the venerated Edward Smith organized a Wesleyan Methodist Church in his native village, July 25th, 1843. That day Brother Crooks was elected class-leader. This change of church-home, and open antagonism to slavery, no perils nor privations ever caused him to regret...

The 4th of May, 1844, being just twenty years of age, he accepted license to exhort...August, 1845, he joined the Allegheny Conference, and went as junior preacher to the Erie circuit.

Source: "Life of Rev. A. Crooks, A.M."
by Elizabeth (Willits), Crooks

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THE END