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

Vol. I -- Named Accounts

MARGARET CHALFANT (Methodist)

Margaret Chalfant, wife of the Rev. Chadds Chalfant, died near Brownsville, Pennsylvania, December 19, 1837, in the eighty-second year of her age.

The deceased was born in Loudoun County, Va., December 31, 1755. Her maiden name was Mania. In her twenty-first year she was united in marriage with Mr. Chadds Chalfant. They were permitted to enjoy this happy union about fifty-four years, and were blessed with twelve children.

Mother Chalfant's death was preceded by that of her husband about seven years and a half. They were among the early settlers in the neighborhood of Brownsville, and the first-fruits of Methodism in that place. It seems that the Rev. Daniel Hitt, of precious memory, was the first Methodist preacher that found his way to the habitation of Father and Mother Chalfant, and delivered the first Methodist sermon in that neighborhood, at their house, on the 3d of May, 1794; and on the 14th of July following he embraced their house as a regular preaching-place; and four weeks after, on the 12th day of August, a class of four persons was formed, including Father and Mother Chalfant.

Mother Chalfant did not enjoy religion at this time, but still held on as an earnest seeker, until the last of December following, when it pleased the Lord to give her the knowledge of salvation, by the remission of her sins, in a class-meeting. This was about the thirty-ninth year of her age. From this time she still held on her way, adorning her profession by an upright life, until the thirteenth year of her Christian pilgrimage, when on the 8d of May, 1807, while in a class-meeting, wrestling earnestly for "a clean heart," the Lord was pleased to give her a clear evidence of "entire sanctification," which great blessing she retained in all its power and glory to the end of life, including a period of a little over thirty years.

We have seen, from the outline just drawn, that Mother Chalfant professed to be "sanctified wholly," as well as to be justified freely; that these were distinct blessings, some twelve or thirteen years intervening; that she fixed a definite time and place to each. Hence she professed to

enjoy justification and sanctification as blessings revealed to the heart by the direct testimony of the Holy Ghost.

Her mental powers did not forsake her to the last. Though she had previously suffered much, she expired at last without a struggle or a groan, and thus sweetly fell asleep in the arms of Jesus, the 19th of December, 1837. Her last testimony was that her work was done.

Source: "Saintly Women And Death-Bed Triumphs" by Maxwell Pierson Gaddis

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THE END