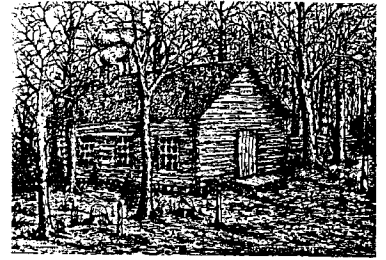


"WE are the end-product of our history."

FLASHBACKS

Revealing glimpses of our creative past



Official newsletter of the
UNITED METHODIST COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

VOL.35 NO.3

FALL HERITAGE TOUR

The 2010 Fall Heritage Tour will take place on October 2. Plans are still in progress but the emphasis will be on United Brethren in Christ churches that were organized in western Wisconsin. Details will be published.

FORWARD TO FAITH BRILLION

Congregations, like families, often share a number of members in their history. This is particularly true of the early congregation here in Wisconsin. Faith United Methodist Church in Brillion demonstrates the varied backgrounds of a number of both congregations and Circuits in the area.

The Faith congregation celebrated the 125th anniversary of the congregation on October 11, 2009. The service included a number of musical presentations, an anniversary litany and a sermon by Pastor Susan Safford-Gaul entitled "Forward by Faith."

Following the morning worship there was a dinner and a program. A Special banner was displayed that depicted each of the three structures where worship services had been held during the 125 years of history of the congregation.

The celebration on October 11 had been preceded by a series of events. On June 12, a float was included in the light parade in Brillion. The float included models of the three church structures which had preceded the present building. On two Sundays of each month, from June 14 through October 4, the church historian asked the members of the congregation, a question about the history. He then provided the answer. Each question was accompanied by an historic picture which was projected on ascreen.

August, 2010

The worship service on Sunday, August 23 was a special service of blessing the children who would be starting kindergarten. There was also a service of dedication of the stained glass windows in the church nursery.

FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A very detailed history of Faith UMC, as well as other preceding congregations, has been prepared by Dean Wallace and Patricia A. Wallace, church historians of the Brillion congregation. Not only are there records of buildings, meetings and congregations, but numerous biographies of both church members and pastors. There is an extensive section of photographs. It is a remarkable volume. It would be great if we would all do such comprehensive history of our own congregation.

The Wisconsin Conference of the Evangelical Association was established on April 19, 1856. Preachers of the Association sought out German speaking settlements where they could preach the Gospel and organize new congregations.

The Rev. William Zickerick was an Evangelical Missionary stationed in Sheboygan. He was born in Prussia in 1825. He immigrated to the United States in 1849 when he joined his parents who had settled a year earlier in Lomira. His wife was also born in Prussia.

The sixth Session of the Wisconsin Conference of the Evangelical Association passed a resolution in April, 1862, stating "that it is the duty of every citizen of the land to support the government in suppression this Rebellion" and "that slavery will finally be

abolished.” (G/ Fritsche, p. 113-114) Many German Americans, who were members of congregations of the Evangelical Association, enlisted in the Union Army and fought in support of these beliefs.

The Rev. Zickerick, who had served three years in the Prussian Army before immigrating to the United States, enlisted in the Union Army on January 1, 1862 at the rank of Private. He was eventually promoted to Captain. His military service included the Battle of Vicksburg with General Grant’s Army and the March to the Sea with General Sherman’s Army. He was reported as an active Elder in the Wisconsin Conference during his years of service in the Union Army. He was mustered out of the Army on June 7, 1865. In 1872, he was assigned to the Fond du Lac District of the conference. In all, he served for thirty years in the Wisconsin Conference.

The early history of the churches of the Evangelical association shows a large number of congregations that were organized. Usually, several congregation formed a circuit. The members and the numbers of these circuits changed frequently, reacting to the growth of the congregations. I will not attempt here, to list the various circuits.

This history is the history of three congregations that eventually formed what is now Faith United Methodist Church in Brillion.

BRILLION

The Rev. Zickerik served a congregation in Appleton in 1879. About that time, Rev. Zickerick and Philip Enders visited Two Rivers and Michicot to ascertain if it would be feasible to establish a mission in those places. From 1875 to May 1878 and again from 1881 to 1883, the Rev. Zickerick served the Calumet Circuit. He was assisted by five other pastors. The Calumet Circuit included the Emmanuel congregation in Brillion.

In 1879, the Rev. Zickerick held services at the home of Philip and Marie Enders, living in the town of Brillion. Circuit riders

continued to serve this group for the next five years. This eventually became Emmanuel Evangelical Church and then Faith United Methodist Church of Brillion.

Philip Enders was born in Prussia in 1827 and immigrated to the United States at age 22. His wife, Marie, was born in Hesse, Darmstadt. The Enders lived in several towns in Wisconsin including Fond du Lac and then in Brillion.

Land on which to build the church for the new congregation was purchased in 1882. The first building of the Emmanuel Evangelical Association was constructed in 1884 and dedicated in on November 6, 1884.

The first congregation had fourteen charter members. Of these, thirteen had been born in German states. One had been born in Wisconsin of German parents. By 1887, the membership had grown to thirty-eight. The first pastors to serve in that building were the Rev. F. Nickell and the Rev. George Reichert. These pastors were members of the Calumet Circuit which had its headquarters in Gravesville.

Emmanuel Church was assigned to the Calumet Circuit from 1882 through 1895. The Calumet Circuit included Brillion, Forest Junction, Rantoul, Gravesville, and Stockbridge in Calumet County and Reedsville, Rockland Township, Easton Township and Maple Grove Township in Manitowoc County. From 1896 through 1915, Emmanuel in Brillion and Emmanuel in Maple Grove Township, Manitowoc County were assigned to the Forest Junction Circuit.

The historians comment “The German heritage and culture were still dominant at that time among the members of Emmanuel Evangelical Association Church in Brillion. Worship services and church business continued to be conducted primarily in the German language as revealed by the fact that the minutes for annual meetings and special meetings of the congregation were written in German in the years 1895 through 1918.”

However, change began to take place around 1920 to provide for the spiritual needs of persons who were more comfortable with English and who were not fluent in the German language. Some evidence of that change is indicated by announcement in the local paper on April 2, 1920 that the evening service would be in English.

In 1818, the church steeple was hit by lightning with some damage to the building. During a discussion in 1920, it was voted to tear down the old building and construct a new one. The building was razed and the new one built on the same site. The cornerstone of the new building was laid on June 14, 1920. During the period of construction, the congregation worshipped in the I.O.O.F. hall. A bronze bell from the old building was saved and later placed in the steeple of the new building. It remained there until 1965 and is now displayed in front of the new Faith UMC.

KASSON

The earliest services of the Kasson congregation were held in homes. In 1863 to 1864 the Rev. Edward Bockemuehl was head pastor of the Two Rivers Circuit. He was assisted by the Rev. William Horn and later by the Rev. Peter Speich. Bockemuehl had been born in Prussia and was ordained in Wisconsin in 1867. Horn was born in Westphalia, Germany and was ordained in Wisconsin in 1866. In 1891, he was ordained a bishop in the Evangelical Association. Speich was born in Switzerland and ordained in Wisconsin in 1866.

The Maple Grove Circuit was created in 1864 and included Maple Grove, West Cooperstown, Morrison, Brillion, Forest Junction and Rockland. The first pastor of the circuit was the Rev. George Zellhoefer. He had been born in Bavaria and ordained in 1863.

On February, 13, 1873, the Maple Grove congregation voted approval to build a sanctuary. The Church was named Emmanuel and was completed in 1874. They also laid out a cemetery.

The history of the church includes some interesting items about the village of Kasson. There was the "Kasson House" which "consisted of a store, Post Office, saloon and an upstairs(hall) for entertainment. A separate Post Office opened between 1856 and 1866. There was also a cheese factory. Holy Trinity Catholic Church was established in 1875. St. Bartholomew German Lutheran Church was organized in 1851 with the first building erected in 1866.

In 1910, the original structure of Kasson Emmanuel Evangelical Church was remodeled. An enclosed entry was added with a room on either side, one for the ladies and one for the men. A steeple was added. Drinking water was carried in a pail from the Henry Horn farm, across from the church. The Water pail and the dipper for church attendants use was kept on a small table near the ladies' side room.

Emmanuel was a vital, thriving congregation as revealed by the number of baptisms involving children and grandchildren of the members from 1886 to 1935. The Maple Grove Circuit records show forty-nine baptisms of children in the congregation,. The Forest Junction circuit records another sixty-four baptisms of the children of that congregation that occurred from 1896 to 1928.

In December, 1943, the membership had diminished to the point where it was difficult for them to financially support a pastor, so the congregation voted to discontinue as a congregation. Membership was transferred to the Emmanuel Church in Brillion. The original building was razed and the lumber used to construct some farm buildings. The Cemetery remains in the care of the Board of the Town of Maple Grove.

RANTOUL

At the annual conference session in 1860, the Chilton Mission was established. It was to include "The northern part of Sheboygan Circuit and the six preaching points on the east side of Lake Winnebago. The boundaries and names of circuits and mis-

sions included in the Wisconsin Conference were often changed at each annual session.”

The Rev. William Horn, who was ordained bishop in 1891, served as pastor of the Chilton Mission and Calumet County Mission from April 1868 to April 1870. By 1869, he had established a congregation of German-speaking Christians in the southeast corner of Rantoul Township, Calumet County. The first meeting was held on January 5, 1869. A parcel of land was donated for the sum of fifty cents for the purpose of building a church and cemetery. The first building was completed in 1869.

The minutes of the congregation were recorded in German from January 5, 1869 through March 26, 1923.

Five men were called to the ministry from this field (Rantoul congregation): Anton Piepenburg, Henry Ninnemann, Carl Hillman, William Hillman and Otto Hillman.

Clara Fisher Enneper of the congregation translated and summarized the minutes from German to English for the meetings of the Rantoul congregation held during the years 1869 to 1923.

By 1915, the congregation voted to build new sanctuary. They continued to worship in the old building until the new one was completed in September 1916. Worship service began in the old building on Sunday September 24 at 9:30 a.m. with the Rev. J. C. Sippel leading the German service. At 10:00, the congregation marched next door into the new building. Bishop S. P. Spreng conducted the service of dedication in German. There was another service in the afternoon when Bishop Spreng preached in English. After this, the old building was razed and in 1917, the salvaged lumber was used to build a stable where members could keep their horses during worship services.

The first time the minutes were written in English from the annual meeting of the congregation was December 28, 1923. From that time, all of the minutes were written in English but German continued to be used for worship services.

In 1927,, land was purchased to enlarge the cemetery. The building was wired for electricity. By 1930, the congregation authorized the minister to have one worship service each month in English.

In 1946, the Rantoul and the Brillion congregations had a series of combined services, alternating in both sanctuaries.

Through the years, there were numerous improvement made to the building and the fixtures. In 1965, there was consideration of other extensive repairs. Under the leadership of the Rev. Roy Bosserman, of the Conference Board of Mission, there was a vote to discontinue the Rantoul congregation and to transfer the members to the Brillion Faith E.U.B. Congregation.

The old building was razed soon after that. The cemetery was cared for by the local cemetery association.

FAITH UNITED METHODIST

Emmanuel EUB of Brillion changed its name to Faith United Methodist. This change occurred with the construction of the new building in 1965. The dedication of the building was held on October 3, 1965, The cornerstone of the old building was set in place next to the entrance of the new building. Dr. Harold R. Heininger, Bishop of the Northwest area of the EUB church presided over the dedication and consecration of the new building. Several former pastors were in attendance.

A combined worship service, which involved the congregations from Rantoul Emmanuel, Faith EUB of Brillion and the Methodist Church in rural Brillion was held on July 13, 1966. The Rantoul church was officially closed in May 31, 1967 and some of the members transferred their membership to Faith.

On July 21, 1969, a motion was made to install stained glass windows in the new sanctuary where there were single plain clear glass. In August 1969, two symbols from the old church, the shock of grain which

symbolizes the body of Christ and a bunch of grapes which symbolizes the blood of Christ, were installed in the chancel windows. Memorial funds were used to put patterned amber glass with one religious symbol in the top portion of the sanctuary windows. Two religious symbols were installed in the windows above the stairwell.

The centennial anniversary was celebrated on October 7, 1984. On that day, the congregation also celebrated the founding of the Methodist Church. It also celebrated the burning of the mortgage of the new Faith UMC which was constructed in 1965. Plans were quickly made to consider an addition to the current structure. It was proposed that a two-level wing should be added to the existing building. Space would be provided at ground level for a fellowship hall and kitchen. The lower level would provide space for classrooms. Construction was completed by April 1989. Much of the labor for the new wing had been provided by members of the congregation. A service of consecration was held April 19, 1989.

In commenting on the Forward with Faith project, the Rev. Robert L Gossett wrote "This was no less a step of faith than the original (1965) church building because there are always questions about the need for such a project and the ability to pay for it.

If we could see clearly and with out question, there would be no need for faith. Faith enables us to act because we have confidence in God who we have come to know and love through Jesus Christ. If we seek God's guidance and go into the future with a ministry of love and service, I am confident that this congregation will continue to move Forward with Faith."

Material provided by
A. Dean Wallace and Patricia A. Wallace

CELEBRATE THE PAST

WESLEY UMC, KENOSHA

Wesley UMC celebrated their 60th anniversary this year, 2010. The high school group was asked to review the church history and highlight some of the events they thought were important to acknowledge. They focused on each decade and produced the following material.

1950 On May 7, Wesley Methodist Church was organized. ON April 20, 1958, the new church building was completed. In the sanctuary there were blonde pews and a blonde altar. A "religious census" was completed in the city of Kenosha and Wesley members were involved in acquiring the information. A building fund was begun in 1967 for church expansion.

1970. A new parsonage was acquired. A new roof was installed on the church. (IT seems that new roofs and repairing roofs was a theme of Wesley Church). In 1979, the church had an oriental dinner at Wesley. In 1984, the Kenosha county Methodist churches united to celebrate the Bicentennial anniversary of Methodism in the United States, 1784-1984. An addition the church began in the 80's and Sunday, October 4, 1987, the new church addition and special gift to the congregation were consecrated at a church service. Also in 1987, an anonymous gift of \$25,000 paid the majority of the construction of an elevator which made the entire building accessible to the disabled.

1990. New carpeting was placed in the sanctuary. The parking lot was expanded. For the Christmas Service in 1991, the Wesley Bell Choir played for the first time. In December, 1992, Wesley merged with Memorial Church and there were two pastors. In the 1990's the choir grew from 4 to 25 members, In 1994, the membership was 433. Pastor Pat Lyons arrived on July 1, 1996. IN the late 1990's she took her first

trip to Cambodia where she volunteers as an English teacher. In 2004, a Wesley Men's Group was formed. In June of 2006, the youth group traveled on their first mission trip to San Diego, California. In 2007, they traveled to Thunder Bay, Canada, and in 2008 to Denver, Colorado.

Material supplied by the youth of Wesley UMC.

BACK WOODS CHURCHES

The Amazing Methodists of
Stanton Township

Stanton Township is located in Dunn County, northwest of Menomonie. It contains 36 square miles. In the 1850's it was densely forested and settled only by hunters in search of bear, deer and other game. It was however continually traversed by Methodist Episcopal Circuit riders who brought the faith to everyone in the area.

By 1856 it was part of the Knight's Creek Circuit, bounded on the north by a vast wilderness, on the south by the Eau Galle Circuit, on the east by the Red Cedar River and on the west by the Eau Galle River. The faith developed so rapidly in the area that by 1870, regular services were established in the circuit by the Rev. S. M. Webster. Demand for Rev. Webster was so great that he preached at a number of locations including Burnt Bridge School house, the Wallace and Tibbits homes, Bannister school house on Irving's Creek, the Semon house located on Hudson Road, and Davis settlement near Menomonie.

During the next several years, new settlers to this area were commonplace and the ever expanding community of Knapp became the hub of Stanton Township. The Community of Knapp was named after its founder, John H. Knapp, co-owner of the huge Knapp-Stout Lumber Company, which at that time was the largest lumber company in the world.

With the influx of new settlers, there was a need to relocate worship sights to more densely populated areas. With this in mind, the Knapp Station Circuit was formed. The new places of worship were First Sabbath, Brookville, Grangers Hall, Wilson, Second Sabbath, Knapp Station, Hudson Road and Irving Creek. Now there were an amazing eight worship sights in the 36 square mile township. A new permanent church was built in Knapp at a cost of \$600.00 It had a seating capacity approaching 200 people.

Today, many United Methodist Churches are still in existence, both in and around Stanton Township and with God's help, they still are accomplishing many amazing things.

Submitted By Bruce Gardow

NORTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION

The North Central Jurisdiction on Archives and History was held at Adrian College, Adrian, Michigan on July 5-8, 2010. Approximately 35 people attended the convocation. Your editor was the sole representative from Wisconsin.

There were two themes for the Convocation: the Methodist Anti-Slavery Connection and 200 years of Methodism in Michigan.

Adrian College was founded in 1859 by Asa Mahan. Mahan had agitated against slavery both as a pastor in Cincinnati and later at Oberlin College. He led a unique spiritual revival committed to "Christian Perfection" or Holiness. He intended that Adrian College would unite spiritual Conviction and Social justice. The College was committed to human dignity and was founded as an abolitionist college. It enrolled African-American students and welcomed both women and men from its beginning. Originally the college was related to the Wesleyan Methodist denomination. Through a series of consolidations and denominational unification, the college has maintained its relationship with the United Methodist Church.

The convocation opened on Monday evening, July 5, with worship led by Bishop

Jonathan Keaton, Bishop of the Michigan area UMC. There was an address by Kimberly Davis Trnumn, Executive Director of the Underground Railroad Education Program at Adrian College. The primary mission of the education program is the documentation and dissemination of information regarding the diverse peoples and places involved in the first civil rights movement in the United States.

Monday July 6, involved a day long tour of sites in Detroit. The first stop was at Central UMC, the site of the first Protestant congregation in Michigan. The congregation was organized in 1810, and incorporated in 1822. The present sanctuary was completed in 1867.

Two features of Central UMC helped to make the visit interesting. The building itself was impressive. The chancel has cathedral-like pillars and gothic arches. The main altar has a frame nearly 30 feet high and carved of Appalachian Oak. On the arched wall enclosing the altar is a mural of the 12 apostles with Christ as the Lamb at the top.

The congregation is called the "Conscience of a City" and has long been known for its work of peace and justice, both locally and around the world. As far back as 1830, the members helped lead the effort to abolish the death penalty in Michigan, the first English speaking territory in the world to do so.

From 1934-38, the Dr. Frederick Bohn Fisher and his wife Welthy, served the congregation. Dr. Fisher had been a bishop in the church in India and his wife was a missionary in China. During their service, the congregation attracted many ethnic communities including African American, Polish and Chinese.

The pastor from 1934-38, Pastor Laird was hung in effigy for his stand against the Vietnam War. Through the years, he and several other pastors and members of the congregation were arrested because of their peace and justice witness.

A wide variety of speakers have addressed the congregation including Martin Luther King, Jr., Howard Thurman. Vice-President Al Gore and many others.

The second church in Detroit that was a part of the tour was the Cass Community Church, This Congregation was one of two mission congregations developed by Central Methodist Church. The congregation was organized by the Conference in 1883. The first edifice was erected shortly after the conference. The Sanctuary was added in 1891.

In the early years, the Cass membership and constituency were composed almost entirely of well-to-do people. Evidence of this are the Tiffany Windows and the Jackson Tracker pipe organ in the sanctuary. The organ is the largest nineteenth century pipe organ in Michigan. Membership swelled to over 700 in the first 25 years.

Gradually the neighborhood changed and so did the congregation. In 1928, they voted to stay in the area and to "intentionally minister" to and with the changed constituency. The name was actually changed to Cass Community Methodist Episcopal Church.

During the depression of the thirties the congregation started its first food line. Farm produce was brought in and distributed to the neighbors. One of the early outreach efforts in the community was to people with developmental disabilities. A second program began as outreach to homebound seniors. Another group was organized to address issues of housing, education and crime.

In 1988, a Homeless Drop-in Center and an interfaith Rotating Shelter were developed. Both organizations provide a safe place to avoid the elements and to look for jobs, housing, take a shower, do laundry use the restrooms and telephone.

Under the leadership of the current pastor, the Rev. Faith Fowler, they have created the Cass Community Social Services. Among other things, the Activity Center

serves 900 youths with development disabilities and free medical care on Saturdays. It also provides emergency shelter for homeless women and children, housing for men with chronic substance abuse, and homeless men with mental illness. It also provides 20,000 meals weekly.

Lunch was served at the First Congregational Church. The basement of this very large building has been rebuilt to resemble stations on the underground railroad. There are about seven rooms that have been organized to resemble stops on the Railroad. One section is deep forest, one a small home and other sites of refuge.

After the evening meal at the Dixboro UMC, Matthew May gave a presentation on "The Abolitionist of Nankin Mill" which had to do with Marcus Swift. He was instrumental in promoting abolitionism in Michigan. He was also one of the early members of the Wesleyan Methodist Conference.

The devotions on Thursday morning were given by Sarah Blair, a faculty member from United Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. Her subject was Bishop John Seybert, who was elected bishop of the Evangelical Association after the death of Jacob Albright, the first bishop. As a circuit rider, Seybert traveled on foot, horseback and spring wagon a distance of 175,000 miles, preached 9,850 sermons and made about 46,000 pastoral calls. He traveled as far west as Illinois and Wisconsin.

Most of Wednesday was devoted to the business of the convocation. The financial report showed that the jurisdiction has a balance of \$4187.05 in its account.

There were reports from each conference. The two Indiana conferences were united into a single conference in 2010.

Dale Patterson, archivist of the General Commission on Archives and History reported on the theft at the History Center in New Jersey. An eighteen year old student working at the center stole 20 of John Wesley's books as well as ten or twelve let

ters with presidential signatures. He sold some to a dealer in New Jersey and then tried to sell some in Great Britain. The dealer there reported it to the Center and the young man was arrested. All of the articles have been returned. Selling such material across a state line is a federal offense. The young man will be sentenced.

There was a discussion about state historical sites (For a report on sites in Wisconsin see page 9) The site should be related to the annual conference and be within the conference boundaries. The General Commission will register the site and send an identifying plaque. Heritage landmarks should be related to the denomination as a whole. Sites overseas may also be listed.

The final presentation on Thursday morning was a report on "From Saddlebags to Satellites", written by William Quick. Dr. Quick retired after 25 years as pastor of the Metropolitan UMC in Detroit. Since then he has been a visiting faculty member at Duke University of Divinity School in Durham, N.C.

The book traces the history of the United Methodist Church in Michigan. Originally, the Detroit Conference was part of Ohio and West Michigan was a part of Indiana. In 1800, Michigan had 3106 residents, the majority of which were French and Catholic by faith. In 1804, the Methodist preacher, Freeman, came to Michigan. In 1810, the first Methodist Society was formed by Nathan Bangs. In 1856, the Michigan Conference was divided into the two conferences: Michigan and Detroit.

The 2011 Jurisdictional meeting will be held in Winona, Minnesota on July 11-14. Housing will be in local hotels. Plans are being made to visit several historic churches in the area.

In 2013, the Convocation will be held in East Ohio, and in 2014 in Northern Illinois.

MOUNT HOPE 150TH ANNIVERSARY

The first Methodist church service of meeting in the Mount Hope area was held in 1860 in the Brunson schoolhouse. Services were held once in two weeks. Methodism continued in Mt. Hope with services being held in a building holding a district school, high school, and church services. A new building, shortly after it was completed, was destroyed when struck by lightning. The present day church was built and dedicated in 1875. Many changes have taken place as a new furnace, new pews, and stained glass windows were added. Then in 1915, the church was raised and a basement dug out, adding a kitchen and dining room. In 1892, the parsonage was constructed.

Some interesting remembrances in our history:

An Amen Corner was in the southwest corner of the building.

At Christmas time, a team and sled with three men would go to Millville to get a good-sized tree. Everyone brought gifts and put them on the tree. After the program, the gifts were distributed. One year, the superintendent suggested in place of receiving gifts, that we bring gifts to be sent to someone else. Later only the program was held at church and trees were in the homes.

We started our celebration this year, with a float advertising our 150 years, in the local dairy day parade. Then in July, we had an ice cream social with old style games for the children and music for the adults. In August, we are having our Second annual chicken barbecue with a special event with an emphasis on life in the late 1800's.

Our finale will be worship on Sunday, September 12 at 10:30 am, as we honor former pastors, district superintendents, long time members, and present day members. The Rev. Dr. Sam Royappa, our district superintendent, will be our guest speaker. A potluck with fellowship will follow.

Information provided by Janet
Nichols.

HISTORICAL SITES OF INTEREST WISCONSIN UMC

The Archives and History Commission of the Wisconsin Conference is preparing a brochure listing some various sites in the state that are of historical interest. The brochure will be available from the Archives office in Sun Prairie.

Byron Center. Rt. 1, Brownsville and Camp Lomira, Trinity UMC, Lomira:
Camp Lomira was the cradle of growth for the Evangelical Association in Wisconsin. It no longer exists. Similarly, Camp Byron was a camp in the Methodist Episcopal tradition that closed in 2009.

Green Bay First UMC, Green Bay:
One of the first permanent UMC organizations in Wisconsin (1832). Class was formed on the site of Fort Howard.

Helenville, Jefferson Co.:
First session of the Evangelical Association met at the Walthers Church, 1857.

Kimberly M. E. Church:
A marker notes the site of the first Methodist Episcopal church built between Lake Michigan and the Pacific Ocean. Called Smithfield at the time, the church served the Oneida tribe. Near scenic outlook at Sunset Park, Kimberly Ave, Kimberly.

Lawrence University. College Ave., Appleton:
Chartered by the Wisconsin Conference M.E. in 1848, it was the second coeducation college to be established in the country. The Chapel is at 706 E. College Ave,

Lund, Swedish Methodist Church, Pepin County:
Small country church built in the 1870s. Congregation disbanded 1924, but the building has been restored and is located 9 miles south of Pepin on Co. Rd CC.

Memorial UMC and Conference Museum 3450 S. 52nd St. Greenfield:
Site of the first Evangelical Association church in Wisconsin. The Museum is the church's second church building. Built in 1858 and was made of the famous "Milwaukee Cream Brick." Museum is currently open and actively mounting exhibits.

Mineral Point UMC 400 Doty St. Mineral Point and Linden UMC, Hwy 39, Linden:
Mineral Point UMC is among the first organized in Wisconsin (1832). The Linden Church was built in 1851 and is on the Register of National Historic Sites.

Oneida UMC, 6037 Co. Rd. E Oneida:
Among the first UM Congregations started in Wisconsin (1832). Began as a mission in the Stockbridge and Oneida tribes who migrated from New York.

Pleasant Ridge, Beetown, Grant. Co.:
Site of a United Brethren Church serving the African-Americans who migrated there in the 1850s. Replica of the church is an attraction of Old World Wisconsin.

Rutland Church Hwy 14. Dane Co.:

Site of the first United Brethren in Christ Church in Wisconsin. First UBC Conference held there in 1858. Church has recently been restored.

Platteville UMC 1065 Lancaster St. Platteville:
Among the first UMC churches organized in Wisconsin (1832). Served the Cornish immigrating into Wisconsin.

Roundtree/Mitchell Cottage, Platteville:
Built in 1837 by Rev. Samuel Mitchell and still stands today. The Mitchell and Roundtree family was among the founders of Methodism in Southwest Wisconsin.

WILLERUP UMC, Cambridge:
The first Scandinavian Methodist congregation organized in the world. Christian Willerup served as the first pastor in Cambridge. Later he went to Norway and Denmark to start churches there.

Do you know of a special place that is significant to our Wisconsin UMC Story?

The Commission on Archives and History invites you to tell us about a site that you believe is significant to United Methodism in Wisconsin. We are in the process of updating and compiling a list of these sites and need help from United Methodists all over Wisconsin. Over time, many sites and their history are being lost. Please help us to preserve the memory of these sacred sites by telling us why you think they are important.

Commission on Archives and History.

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OUR UNITED METHODIST MUSICAL
HERITAGE

Edited by
Bruce Gardow

“ABIDE WITH ME”

Author: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847
Composer: William H. Monk, 1823-1889
Tune Name: “Eventide”
Scripture Reference: Luke 24:29

*Yes, though I walk through the valley of
the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:
For Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy
Staff they comfort me.*

It has been said that only the person who can face the prospect of death realistically is able to live this life with purpose and confidence. Such was the conviction of a rather obscure English pastor, Henry F. Lyte, when he wrote the text of this hymn in 1847, shortly before his own home-going. It has since become one of the favorite hymns for Christians everywhere during the times of sorrow and deep distress.

Henry F. Lyte was born in Scotland on June 1, 1793. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland, and was member of the Church of England all of his life. Throughout his lifetime, he was known as a man frail in body but strong in faith and spirit. His health was continually threatened by asthma and tuberculosis. Despite his physical frailties, he was a tireless worker with an established reputation as a poet, musician and minister. It was he who coined the phrase, “It is better to wear out than to rust out.” Wherever he ministered, he was greatly loved and admired by his people.

For the last twenty-three years of his life, Lyte pastored a poor parish church among fishing people at Lower Brixham,

Devonshire, England. During these later years, his health became progressively worse so that he was forced to seek a warmer climate in Italy. For the last sermon with his poor parishioners on September 4, 1847, it is recorded that Lyte nearly had to crawl to the pulpit and his message came as from a dying man. His final words made a deep impact on his people when he said that it was his desire to “induce you to prepare for the solemn hour which must come to all by a timely appreciation and dependence on the death of Christ.” On his way to Rome, Italy, he was overtaken by death at Nice, France, and was buried there in the English cemetery on November 20, 1847.

Lyte is said to have written this text along with his own tune shortly before his last Sunday at the Lower Brixham Church. It never became widely used in England until it was first published in a book, *Lyte’s Remains* in 1850 in London. Its first appearance in America was in Henry Ward Beecher’s *Plymouth Collection* in 1855. There was a notation that “This hymn was meant to be read and not sung.” Later it was discovered by William Henry Monk, music editor of the well-known Anglican Church hymnal, *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. It was included in that first edition of that hymnal published in 1861.

Altogether, William Monk personally contributed fifty original tunes for the hymnal. It is said that in less than half an hour, he composed for Lyte’s text, a tune named “Eventide”. He was inspired by the beauty of a glorious sunset while yet experiencing a deep personal sorrow. In addition, to his work as editor of this hymnal, considered by hymnologists to be one of the most important hymnals ever published, William Monk was also choir director and organist at King’s College, London.

NORWEGIAN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN CONFERENCE

A bishop who was a close friend of Abraham Lincoln, appointed a Wisconsin minister the first Methodist missionary to Norway. The bishop was Matthew Simpson, the minister Christian Willerup, the time, September 1856, and the occasion, the annual session of the Wisconsin Conference held in Appleton.

Christian Willerup, thus let loose among the people of Norway, had been instrumental in organizing the church at Cambridge (now called Willerup United Methodist Church) and in erecting the first Scandinavian Methodist Church in the world at that place. The building, finished in 1852, was of substantial limestone construction, was so well built that it still serves the United Methodist congregation in Cambridge.

At the conference session of 1856, a Norwegian District was formed. It consisted of 11 charges, one of them, the mission to Norway. Three others were outside the state: Upper Iowa, St. Paul and Minnesota.

In 1858, the separate district was eliminated for a time and the Norwegian speaking charges absorbed into English speaking districts. Norway was listed as part of the Racine District, and another conference member, S. A. Steenson, was sent to Europe to reinforce Willerup. For a number of years, through the Civil War, they continued to share the Methodist expression of Christian Faith and life in Norway. For most of that time, they were regarded as part of the Milwaukee District.

A Norwegian Mission District was re-established as a part of the Wisconsin Conference in 1869, and O. P. Peterson was sent to work with Willerup and Steenson. By 1872, Peterson was back in Wisconsin. Willerup was appointed missionary to Denmark and only Steenson remained to carry the Methodist work in Norway.

In 1873, Willerup was back in Racine, but Karl Schou, Marcus Nilson. Jens

J. Christiansen and Jens Peterson were appointed to Norwegian stations, S. A. Steenson, M. Hansen, Andres Oleson, Peter Oleson and Christian Rund. In 1874, fourteen ministers were given appointments in Norway, all listed as part of the Wisconsin Conference Norwegian District,

The Wisconsin Conference Journal of 1881 is the first one which carries no listing of the appointments in Norway or Denmark -- or indeed of any of the Norwegian speaking charges. In 1869, at Racine, the Norwegian conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized, and four years later, the name changed to the Norwegian=Danish Conference.

For many years the Methodist work among Wisconsin folks of Norwegian and Danish background was carried on vigorously by its own conference. In 1943, since its people were all English speaking, the charges in the Badger State merged into the West and East Wisconsin Conferences. Historically, it was a return to the source, to the Norwegian-Danish Methodist was cradled here, in the Wisconsin Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, including the work in Norway and Denmark.

Written by William Blake. author of "Cross and Flame in Wisconsin" Originally printed in *Flashbacks*, Volume 11, No. 2, May 1973

METHODISM COMES TO AMERICA- THE BRISTOL CONNECTION.

On Monday, October 18. 2010 at Grace UMC , Rockford, IL. David Worthington, manager of the New Room, John Wesley's Chapel and Charles Wesley's house in Bristol, England, will tell the amazing story of John Wesley's ministry in Bristol, England.

The programs starts at 7:00 p.m.. The church is located at 3555 McFarland Rd, Rockford, IL. Tel: 815-637-2686

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