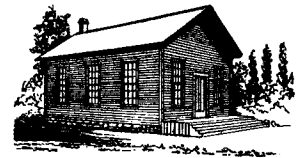




"Fellow-citizens, we cannot escape history." — A. Lincoln

FLASHBACKS



Revealing glimpses of our creative past

Official newsletter of the
UNITED METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN

VII No. 1

For He saith to the snow,
"Be thou on earth."
Job 37:6

January, 1978

OFFICERS 1977 - 1978

President: Rev. Edward Johnson, Madison
Vice-President: Rev. Robert Kuhn, Prairie du Chien
Secretary: Rev. Theodore Jordan, Amherst
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BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR

have a greater understanding and a greater appreciation of those who helped form our country, helped make our traditions, and helped shape our history.

From South East District
Newsletter - October, 1977

HOW FAR TO CONFERENCE?

From the AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF PETER GARTWRIGHT, the Backwoods Preacher. N. Y., Carlton and Porter, 1857.

To the traveler, an ever increasing sight are roadside signs explaining some historical event connected with an area, a battlefield; a historic fire, flood, or storm; a first settler or common meeting ground. Once such sign announces "Where American History Comes Alive". This slogan is in Greenfield Village, Michigan, which resembles an old New England town. In building this village, Henry Ford brought together from many places houses which had some particular connection with history. When we take the time to talk with local citizens of historical cities, usually those of older age, they share with us many interesting tales of "the good old days." It is possible for us, out of such experiences, to

Let
all
those
that
seek
Thee
rejoice
and
be
glad
in
Thee

Psalms 40:16

In the spring of 1816 Conference convened on the 1st of May in the city of Baltimore. This was the second General Conference of the Methodist Church and the first to which I was elected.

We had no steamboats, railroads, or comfortable stages. We had to travel from the extreme West on horseback. ...generally took us nearly a month to go, a month at the Conference and a month to return to our field of labor.

In mid-autumn, 1977, Whitefish Bay United Methodist Church celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary with a Diamond Jubilee celebration. In 1942 its name was changed to Community Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay. The present church was built in the 1950s.

GEORGE WHITEFIELD
1714-1770
English Evangelist, founder of
Calvinist Methodism

Extracts from GEORGE WHITEFIELD, a Biography ... compiled by
Joseph Belcher (Preface dated 1857)

EARLY YOUTH

...When twelve years old he transferred to the grammar school of St. Mary de Crypt, where he remained three years. ...Having a graceful elocution he gained much credit for delivering speeches ... He deplored ... the performance of plays ... "I cannot but observe here how this way of training has a tendency to ... raise ill passions with things contrary to the Gospel of Christ ... I got acquainted with such a set of youth - debauched, abandoned, atheistic ...

COLLEGE

...Whitefield removed to Oxford in his eighteenth year and was immediately admitted as a servitor into Pembroke College. He soon found ... moral lethargy - shut himself in his study.

BREAKFAST WITH WESLEY

...For more than a year he intensely desired to be acquainted with them (meaning those who lived by rule and method). --feeling of inferiority prevented him ... John Wesley saw him walking by and invited him to breakfast ... began to live by rule ...

BOY PREACHER

...On entering the pulpit (Bishopgate Church, London) his juvenile aspect excited a general feeling of his unfitness for the station, but he had not proceeded far in his sermon before it gave place to universal expression of wonder and pleasure.

CALL TO GEORGIA

...Whitefield had left London and was laboring among the poor and illiterate ... letters came from Wesley, "Their accounts fired my soul and made me long to go abroad for God."

OPEN-AIR PREACHING

...He had earnestly desired to preach in the open-air in London for want of room in the churches and indeed also from the opposition of the clergy ... Whitefield opened the way for Wesley who preached on the same spot.

FIRST VISIT TO NEW ENGLAND

...Early on a Monday morning Whitefield left Boston ... At Marblehead he preached to some thousands in a broad place in the middle of the town ... not with effect ... At Salem he preached to seven thousand.

SEVENTH TRIP TO AMERICA

...at New York ... "I have been here just a week. The congregations are larger than ever. Blessed to God, I have been strengthened to itinerate and preach daily for some time. Next week I propose to go to Albany from whence, perhaps to the Oneida Indians.

CENOTAPH

This cenotaph is erected with affectionate veneration to the
MEMORY OF THE REV. GEORGE WHITEFIELD

- ...In the ministry 34 years
He crossed the Atlantic 13 times
Preached more than 18,000 sermons
- ...Bold, fervent, pungent, and popular in his eloquence
Persuasive ... influence so powerful
Died 1770

HARMONY CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL

The Harmony United Methodist Church, located a few miles west of Marinette, celebrated its hundredth anniversary Sunday, October 23, 1977, with Bishop Jesse R. DeWitt preaching the centennial sermon. The Rev. William E. Morton, pastor of the Peshtigo-Harmony Charge, presided. The district Superintendent, the Rev. Donald D. Fenner, led in the dedication of the Friendship Room.

Five members who belonged to the congregation for fifty or more years were honored: Birdie Heckman Leslie (69), Cora Waterworth Bancroft (68), Eva Race Bowman (56), Harold Armstrong (50), and Edward Johnston (50).

The Harmony church got its start in a camp meeting held in an area of maples which had somehow escaped destruction in the great Peshtigo fire of 1871. It began August 4, 1877 in three leaky old tents, and continued on into the fall. When cold weather set in the meetings were moved into nearby schoolhouses. Over 200 persons were converted. One day there were 68 baptisms. Preachers active in the project were the Reverends T. H. Walker of Oconto, John Wesley Carhart the presiding elder, and Eugene Hayward of Omro. The latter had just entered the ministry, but quickly won his spurs as a preacher.

Originally organized as the Sugar Bush Methodist Episcopal Church, it was soon renamed the Harmony Church. The new name grew from the effect of the revival in settling old grudges, resolving community feuds, and reforming the moral life of the community.

Former pastors who participated included the Reverends Thomas C. Chinn, Robert J. Firary, John H. Francis, and William Blake.

BOOKS WANTED --

Larry Moody, a student at Aquinas Institute of Theology, is planning his Ph.D. dissertation on the historical, social and theological foundations for the 1972-76 Bishop's Call for Peace. Rev. Moody is in need of numerous books dealing with Methodist, E.U.B., U.B. and E. history. He is willing to purchase copies of such books. If you have any books you'd like to sell then contact him at this address: Larry Moody, Route 2 Box 309, Richland Center, Wis. 53581

THE ONEIDA MISSION --

The Methodist mission to the Oneidas originally developed among the New York Oneidas who resisted moving to Wisconsin with Eleazer William's band. The Methodist faction or the so-called Orchard Party and its members eventually began migrating to Wisconsin. In 1832 John Clark visited them and reestablished the Methodist mission. Daniel Adams, a Mohawk Indian from Canada, became the first missionary. Electra Quinney Adams was the first teacher.

A Mission to the Menominee: Alfred Cope's Green Bay Diary, Part III, quoted from the State Historical Society Proceedings, 1911. Collections XV, pp. 87-88