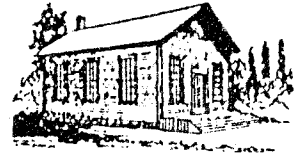




"WE are the end-product of our history."

# FLASHBACKS



Revealing glimpses of our creative past

*Official newsletter of the*

Vol. 20, No. 1

UNITED METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN

January 1993

## WIESE REUNION HELD AT WEST KEWAUNEE CHURCH

Because the West Kewaunee United Methodist Church is so rich in family history and in the history of Methodism in Wisconsin, it was chosen as the site of the first reunion of the grandchildren of Wilhelm and Maria Wilkowski Wiese and his second wife, Albertina Popp Wiese, pioneers of the West Kewaunee congregation. 104 members of the family and of the congregation joined together in the sanctuary on Sunday, August 30, to hear about the family's place in the history of the church, worship together, and reminisce about the eleven children in the Wilhelm Wiese family.

Both the Popp and the Wiese families are listed among the first ten members of the West Kewaunee German Methodist Episcopal Church, having joined that congregation between 1868 and 1872. Today the West Kewaunee congregation numbers 28, including a granddaughter of Wilhelm and Maria Eleanore Wiese Seifert. The annual budget of the church is \$11,000, and the congregation provides for the beautifully maintained church cemetery. The pastor is Robert W. Kuhn, who also serves the Algoma United Methodist Church.

The Rev. Milton Feldt, retired from the Wisconsin Conference, and a grandson of the original family, told the assembled descendants about their Methodist heritage. Wilhelm, the family patriarch, served as a lay preacher of the West Kewaunee Church, as did his son, Ezra. Two other sons, Carl and William, were ordained Methodist ministers and served many years in the Wisconsin Conference. Two daughters married the Rev. Hubert Feldt and the Rev. Robert Gross. Wilhelm's brother-in-law was the Rev. Robert Wilkowske.

In the next generation the Rev. Stanley Wiese, another grandson, was ordained, as well as the Rev. Milton Feldt. In addition, two granddaughters, Marie Wiese and Myrtle Seidel, married the Rev. Al Eliason and the Rev. Lloyd Foster. Other Wiese descendants have served as lay speakers, organists, and choirmasters, as well as in the mission field. Another son of the West Kewaunee congregation who became a minister was the Rev. Arthur Prust.

After the service of worship which included reminiscences, special music by family members, hymns, and a prayer, the family had dinner together. During the afternoon small groups studied the detailed genealogy charts, viewed their ancestor's graves in the cemetery, looked at scrapbooks and pictures, and visited the family homestead nearby.

Marie Wiese Eliason

#### FALL PILGRIMAGE HELD AT BAY VIEW CHURCH, MILWAUKEE

At the Fall pilgrimage at Bay View Church in Milwaukee, Ruth Pierce, historian for Bay View Church gave a brief history of the church. A partial listing of their history is as follows: Bay View United Methodist Church has always been known as an outreach church. The public school has used this building for educational purposes. The church now provides facilities to teach high school potential drop-outs and has sent out 24 graduates each year.

Bay View celebrated their Centennial this year. They were known as the Methodist Episcopal Church. Bishop Clark came in 1835. The church started holding meetings in the office of a mill. In 1868 they built a log cabin church. In 1873 the mill closed because of the Panic. The people of the congregation helped each other.

They had 200 Sunday School members in 1888. Most were received as church members on probation. Electricity came in 1924. More space was needed, so a basement was added under the sanctuary. In 1991 - 1992 the church members purchased property for a parking lot. In 1941 they had 400 members and a Bible School of 435.

The church changed names several times as other Evangelical and Evangelical United Brethren merged for services. In 1976 they sponsored a Cambodian family and found a house for them to live in. The children grew up and now give gifts at Christmas time to Bay View Church.

Reported by Dorothy Brice

#### FALL PILGRIMAGE SEPTEMBER 25, 1993

The Fall Pilgrimage, September 25, 1993 will be held at the Peace United Church, corner of Church and Union Streets, Richland Center at 11:00 a.m. A dinner will be served at noon. A short pilgrimage and program is being arranged. All interested people are invited. Further details will be in the August issue of Flashbacks.

Dorothy Brice

#### SOLDIERS GROVE CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL

Sunday, September 20, 1992, Soldiers Grove Church celebrated their Centennial with a fine worship service with District Superintendent, the Rev. David Harsh, as speaker. Greetings were also given by Mr. Cecil Turk, Mr. Wayne Ewers and the Rev. Hubert Groves. A letter was read from Bishop David Lawson.

A lovely choir all dressed in new robes, gave special music for the service. The new stained glass windows added to the festival. Refreshments were serviced after the service.

Reported by Dorothy Brice

**BE A MEMBER OF BOTH THE CONFERENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND  
THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

You have an opportunity to belong to both our Conference Historical Society and the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church at a special rate. you will pay your usual Conference Membership fee of \$5 for Single Membership, \$8 for Family Membership or \$50 for Life Membership; and you can join the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church for \$18 for Individual Membership or \$23 for Family Membership. This is a savings of \$2.

The Historical Society of the United Methodist Church is a national organization for United Methodists. Some of the benefits you get are:

METHODIST HISTORY (Historical Journal, published four times a year)

The Historian's Digest (Newsletter, published four times a year)

Membership Section of your interest (Sections are: Local Church History, Genealogy, Commissions and Historical Societies, and Education and Research)

Historical Convocations (Held every four years - 1995 will be at Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island, Georgia) and Annual Meetings at different locations.

The Conference Historical Society decided to enter this joint membership at the Fall Pilgrimage in September, 1992. You will find enclosed an application. We hope you will join. Send application and money to:

Mary Schroeder  
P.O. Box 220  
Sun Prairie, WI 53590-0220

We need ten members to join to make this active, and it has to be sent in as a group for the first ten or more, and Mary has agreed to receive your money and will send it in. Please Make Checks Payable To: The Historical Society of the United Methodist Church.

## LOIS OLSEN HOME FROM AFRICA

Lois Olsen, former President of the United Methodist State Historical Society has returned from Kenya, Africa and will be living at St. John's Tower, 1840 North Prospect Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53202. Lois and Barbara Dickinson visited Zimbabwe to see Victoria Falls and ancient ruins of Zimbabwe. This area was very beautiful! We will be happy to greet Lois again.

## REV. RICHARD A. O'NEIL ELECTED CHAIRPERSON

Our own Rev. Richard O'Neil was elected Chairperson of the North Central Jurisdiction Commission on Archives and History at their meeting at Evanston, Illinois last July. He will serve for the quadrennium. Quoting from a recent letter to Mary Schroeder: "At the last Jurisdictional Commission on Archives and History meeting at Evanston, Illinois.....I was elected Chairperson of the Commission for the next four years. This also put me on the General Commission on Archives and History.....and the General Commission appointed me their representative to the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church and I am also on the Editorial Board for the Methodist History (Journal published by the Historical Society four times a year.) Finally, I am also on the Jurisdictional Council on Ministries, by virtue of my Jurisdictional Archives and History office. So this is going to be a very busy four years." Our congratulations to Rev. Richard A. O'Neil.



# ***NOW IS THE TIME.....***

***for all good women and men***

***to come to the aid of the Society!***

**Renew your membership now for the calendar year 1993.**

**Not yet a member? Now is the time!**



**Historical Society of The United Methodist Church**

Name (Person or Institution) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Research interests and current projects \_\_\_\_\_

Choice of Sectional Membership (choose one):

Local Church History     Commissions and Historical Societies

Genealogy     Education and Research

This is a  new /  renewal membership for the calendar year 1993.  
(Please note: memberships are calculated on a calendar year basis.)

Membership categories: (check one)

Individual \$ 20.00\*     Student \$ 15.00\*

Family \$ 25.00\*     Institutional \$ 30.00\*

Patron \$100.00     Life \$500.00

(\* outside the U.S., add \$2.00)

Enclosed is my membership of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. An additional gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

***Mail this form and your check to:***  
***Dr. C. Faith Richardson, 168 Mt. Vernon St., Newtonville, MA 02160***

Some regional United Methodist historical groups offer joint memberships with the Historical Society. Check with your Annual Conference Commission on Archives and History for details.

***Consider a gift membership for a family member, friend, colleague, or local church library!***

The United Methodist Church  
Wisconsin Annual Conference  
P.O. Box 220  
Sun Prairie, WI 53590-0220

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## FLASHBACKS

*Revealing glimpses of our  
creative past*

*United Methodist Historical  
Society of Wisconsin*

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MARY SCHROEDER  
750 WINDSOR STREET  
P O BOX 220  
SUN PRAIRIE, WI 53590

### FLASHBACKS

Official newsletter of the United Methodist  
Historical Society of Wisconsin

Material of historical interest, church  
anniversaries, recollections, activities of  
local historical committees and historians,  
should be sent to her at the above address.

### OFFICERS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Merlin Hoeft, president  
William Jannusch, vice president  
Dorothy Brice, recording secretary  
Linn C. Emerick, treasurer  
Fern I. Miller, membership secretary  
N89 W16988 Roosevelt Dr.  
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051  
Mary Schroeder and Joann Hornby,  
members-at-large  
Randell Richter, ex-officia member

Membership applications and dues should be  
sent to the membership secretary at the above  
address, single annual dues \$5, family \$8.