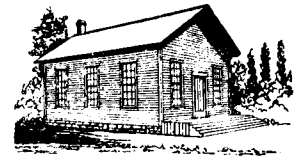




"WE are the end-product of our history."

FLASHBACKS



Revealing glimpses of our creative past

Official newsletter of the

UNITED METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN

Vol. 11 No. 2

May, 1984

"On Wings of deeds the soul must mount."

George Fawsett Rowe

FALL PILGRIMAGE

The 1984 Fall Historical Pilgrimage has been scheduled for Saturday, September 29, at Oregon. It will begin with a lunch at the Oregon United Methodist Church, but the focus of the Pilgrimage will be the little white wooden church at Rutland, east of Oregon, where the first United Brethren class in Wisconsin was organized in 1840. The church was built in 1847, and was the site of the first meeting of the Wisconsin Conference of the United Brethren in 1858. The United Brethren Conference was also held there in 1860, 1862, 1871, 1882, and 1887. The congregation was dissolved in 1912.

ANNUAL MEETING

The 1984 Annual Meeting of the United Methodist Historical Society of Wisconsin will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 2, in Debot Dining Center at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point. The express line for special banquets is line 6 on the north side of the building. Those who do not have Conference meal tickets will have to go to lines 2,3,4 or 5 and pay \$4.35 for their meal. When you have your food carry the tray down the stairs to the lower level, where we will be assigned a banquet room. Because of an unusually large number of special meals this year Saturday evening was the only time available for our meeting.

FIFTH GENERATIONS

BAPTIZED

AT ALGOMA U. METHODIST

Great, great grandmother

Imagene (Heard) Perry

1893

Great grandmother

Marion (Perry) Lohrey

1902

Grandmother

Patricia (Lohrey) Brooks

1927

Mother

Marion (Brooks) Regter

1955

Son

Nicholas A. Regter

January 1, 1984

METHODIST

BICENTENNIAL

1784-1984

The present and past issues of Flashbacks would have been sparse indeed if not for Reverend William Blake. Two of his articles are in the present issue.

BANNERS

It has been suggested that historical Bicentennial banners would be an interesting addition to a display at the Annual Conference.

If you have any, please make arrangements for someone to take them to the display area and pick them up when the display comes down.

HARDSHIPS OF AN EARLY PREACHER

Reverend John Holt was one of sixteen preachers received on trial at the West Wisconsin Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church at the meeting in Mineral Point in 1857. He was appointed to the Mindora Mission where the former minister had left because there was not enough money on which he could live. Rev. Holt found 37 members on the charge. He made 400 visits and by the end of November had forty members.

In 1859 Augusta was added to his circuit. This gave him 54 appointments which required the aid of an assistant, L. B. Davis, from Illinois. Rev. Holt's first funeral in Augusta was that of Helen Dodge who was burned to death.

In this historic period ministers were often not kept at a charge more than a year. In 1860 Rev. Holt was sent to Leon, south of Sparta. Here he found no house for his wife and three children (one a baby). Working on the house by day and preaching at night, they finally moved into the kitchen, although the house had no windows or doors.

In spite of hardships, Rev. Holt kept on preaching 33 years.

(Taken from THE HISTORY OF METHODISM,
published in 1890)

"100 YEARS IN CHRIST'S SERVICE"

"100 Years In Christ's Service" was the theme of Christ Church United Methodist of Cameron on Oct. 16, 1983. The theme was carried out in banner, the history booklet and the program for the day. Christ Church was the first church in Cameron, beginning from a camp meeting. It was served by circuit riders.

In researching the past, although records for many years were missing, it was found that the Methodists were a dedicated group. It took a lot of hard work and faith by all just to keep the church in repair and the doors open. Lay persons and pastors alike gave many hours of donated time. The church was dedicated in 1897 by Rev. W. J. Janus, with Rev. Dr. Forbes of Duluth Methodist Church as special speaker. It was remodeled and enlarged, being re-dedicated January 15, 1922 with the Rev. J. E. Kundert, District Superintendent.

The church was without a regular pastor many times. September 1940 to March 1941 was one such time until the Rev. J. Birrell, District Superintendent, brought the Rev. Janis Laupmanis, a Latvian refugee, who had escaped prison for daring to preach the gospel in Communist Russia. The church also had a woman pastor in the 1930's, Rev. Abbie Burnett. Over the years the church has been in four different charges. Since 1968 it has been on the Chetek-Cameron charge. Reverend Myron E. Christensen is the present pastor, living at Chetek.

The Day of Celebration, October 16, 1983, began with a fellowship hour when every one had a chance to see the many displays arranged in the Fellowship Hall. A twenty-four page history of the church including pictures, special segments on different organizations, and memories from former members has been published.

KAUKAUNA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

On January 15, 1984, the Kaukauna Algoma Methodist Church held a special day of celebration. The congregation was organized in 1885 with a church building erected in 1886, with the Brokaw family as its benefactors. For the next fifty years it was known as the Brokaw Memorial Church.

The church as pictured in DIMENSION of April, 1984 was built in 1970. Its story has been compiled in a twelve page booklet by Reverend William Jannusch.

WEST WISCONSIN ARCHIVES ADDED

A project of major proportions was carried out by Dr. Arlow Andersen, Neenah, our conference historian, this winter. He secured permission from the State Historical Society to have the archives of the West Wisconsin Conference of the former Methodist Church borrowed by the library of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh for several weeks. Then, making use of university facilities, he Xeroxed the material for our own conference archives, now housed in the conference center in Sun Prairie.

While other conferences in the United Methodist tradition maintained their own collections of their historical documents, the West Wisconsin Conference made the State Historical Library its depository. Hence researchers needing that material were forced to do their work in Madison. Such was the case when Cross and Flame in Wisconsin was researched and written.

Now copies of the material, which involves many local church records, are available in the archives at Sun Prairie, where Mrs. Mary Schroeder, our archivist, is available to assist. The conference owes a debt of gratitude to Dr. Andersen for this important contribution of historical material.

WISCONSIN INFLUENCE IN NBC PRODUCTION

Wisconsin United Methodist input was large in the NBC documentary A Lost History which was aired on 118 TV stations across the nation in March and April. It was carried on a number of Badger state stations.

The production focussed on the historic role of a number of creative women in Methodist history, and centered on Bishop Marjorie S. Matthews as the first feminine bishop in the denomination, and the only one in the world. Scenes showing her at work in episcopal visitation, and an interview with her were shot in the Berlin United Methodist church.

Among the heroines portrayed was Frances E. Willard, prominent temperance advocate and early crusader for women's suffrage, who grew up on a Wisconsin farm near Janesville. Also among the women portrayed was the evangelist Maggie Van Kott, who is credited with bringing 35,000 new members into Protestant churches. She conducted revival services for five weeks in Milwaukee during the early spring of 1872. The following spring she conducted similar services in Ripon, and special trains brought in folks from neighboring towns. (See Cross and Flame in Wisconsin, p. 106)

Other women included in the production as important but relatively unknown characters important in Methodist history, but about whom little is found in our current histories, were Susanna Wesley, Barbara Heck, Harriet Tubman, Mary McLeod Bethune, and Isabella Thoburn.

The whole documentary was written and produced by Ben Logan. He was born and grew up on a ridge farm in the Kickapoo River valley--on Hall's Branch near the village of Seneca in Crawford county. Logan has written of his boyhood and youth there in The Land Remembers, which was the choice of the Book of the Month Club a few years ago. He is now the senior producer for United Methodist Communications. Host narrator on the program was the actress Lynn Redgrave.

MORE DUES NEEDED

At the April 14 meeting of the Executive Committee of the Society it was reported that as of March 23 our treasury only had a balance of \$65.73. In 1983 we had income of \$276.01, and expenses of \$482.41. Our largest single expense is the cost of sending out Flashbacks, which is sent both to members and to all local church historians. We currently have only 56 members, but are mailing 369 copies of Flashbacks. If you are receiving Flashbacks, but are not a member of the Society, we urge you to join so that we can continue to provide this sharing of our history. We also encourage you to send historical articles to the Editor.

Dues are as follows: Single Membership \$3.00 per year, Family Membership \$4.00 per year,
Life Membership \$50.00 (paid once)

Those who wish to receive the national magazine "Methodist History" should pay an additional \$10.00 per year for that subscription. Dues and subscriptions should be sent to:

Rev. Richard A. O'Neil, 415 Doty St., Mineral Point, WI 53565



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Miss Margaret H. Scott, editor

1400 W. Seminary St., Richland Center, Wis. 53581

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

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

Rev. Robert W. Kuhn, *president*

Miss Joanne Hornby, *vice president*

Rev. Theodore Jordan, *secretary*

David W. Chevalier, *treasurer* (ex officio)

Miss Margaret H. Scott, *editor of Flashbacks*

Rev. Richard A. O'Neil, *membership secretary*, 415 Doty St., Mineral Point, Wis. 53565

Membership applications and dues should be sent to the membership secretary at the above address.