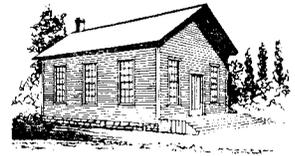




"Fellow-citizens, we cannot escape history." — A. Lincoln

FLASHBACKS



Revealing glimpses of our creative past

Vol. III No. 1

Official newsletter of the

UNITED METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN

January, 1974

CONFERENCE ARCHIVES

Each day brings more material to the Archives and Historical Library at the Evergreen Manor, 1130 North Westfield, Oshkosh, Wisconsin. At this point the collection has been largely cataloged. For the typing of the library cards, volunteers are badly needed.

GREENFIELD MUSEUM

It is the intention of the Commission to restore the museum to appear as it did in the 1850s. It will include several displays indicative of United Methodist heritage, as well as Conference artifacts. At the present time the interior of the building is awaiting volunteers.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mrs. Ethel Nulton has moved from Schofield to Waupaca. Her address is:

204½ Main Street, Apt. 8
Waupaca, Wisconsin 54981

Many who joined in 1972 have not paid for 1973. Why not send a check for \$4.00 and be up to date? Members are needed.

THE CROSS AND FLAME, the STORY OF UNITED METHODISM IN THE BADGER STATE by William Blake came off the press November 21, 1973, and is now on sale.

DON'T MISS IT.

ATTRACTIVE
ENJOYABLE
SCHOLARLY

Order from Service Department
325 Emerald Terrace,
Sun Prairie, Wis.

VIROQUA ANNIVERSARY

1973

The Archives will soon have a copy of the ten-page, illustrated brochure prepared for the 125th anniversary of the Viroqua United Methodist Church. Included in the text is the story of the beginning of the little Methodist society at a camp meeting in a grove about three miles from the town. It was a part of the first Wisconsin Methodist Annual Conference held in 1848 in Kenosha.

There were many camp meetings held in Vernon County in the early days, some denominational, some not. Larry Stephens is making a study of those in the Viroqua area.

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* JOHN *
* WESLEY *
* said, *
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THE CROSS AND THE FLAME

Monday, December 3, the Service Department at Sun Prairie began mailing out advance orders for Cross and Flame in Wisconsin, the history of United Methodism in the state, published by the Conference Commission on Archives and History.

The work has been long in preparation. Following his retirement from the active ministry in the East Wisconsin Conference in 1967, the author, William (Bill) Blake, has been continuously at work on the project. He has been assisted by an editorial committee.

The MS was delivered to the Worzalla Publishing Company at Stevens Point on July 25, and publication was expected to be completed by October 15. Delay after delay slowed the progress of its manufacture, part of it due to the existing paper shortage.

According to Wayne D. Helmerich, chairman of the Publishing Task Force, over 1,100 pre-publication orders were received. These have all been mailed out to the subscribers. At the present time orders are still being accepted at the advance price of \$3.00 (plus 50¢ handling charge) for the hard cover edition, and \$2.00 (plus 50¢ handling charge) for the paperback. It is expected that the price will be increased soon. Due to the paper shortage, the first edition is approximately 1,000 copies short of the number ordered.

One of the features of the history is a 16-page picture section. Under each of the 48 pictures is a reference to the pages of Cross and Flame relating to the person or event depicted.

In the Ministerial Roster, which takes up 51 pages of the Appendix, the names and available data for over 2,500 ministers who served United Methodists in Wisconsin from 1828 to the present, are given. The records of some are meager, but for many the dates of birth, admission to a Wisconsin-related conference, ordination, retirement and death are shown. The Appendix also lists the sessions of each of the Wisconsin conferences, with the place held, and the bishop presiding.

Short biographies of each of the bishops serving the Wisconsin Area, or having some relationship to Wisconsin before election as bishop, are also included.

Bishop Jesse R. DeWitt, the sixth bishop of the Wisconsin Area, was presented with a copy of the book by the Commission on Archives and History in his Sun Prairie office Monday, December 7, William Blake, conference historian, and Wayne D. Helmerich, chairman of the Publishing Task Force, represented the commission. A number of Bishop DeWitt's suggestions for the book were adopted, including the inspirational paperback cover and dust jacket executed by the Appleton artist, Fred A. Schmidt.

ARCHIVES OF UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Nashville, Tenn. (Religious News Service)
-- The archives of the United Methodist Church finally have found a permanent home.

Tons of historical material now deposited at Lake Junaluska, N. C. and in Dayton, Ohio will be transferred to the top floor of the Virginia Davis Laskey Library of Scarritt College, a denominational institution here.

Permanent headquarters for the collections has been discussed for years by the church's Commission on Archives and History.

Nashville was chosen as the eventual site some time ago but the selection of the precise location had remained undecided. The Scarritt Library has been approved by the commission.

The Rev. John H. Ness, Jr., executive secretary of the commission, said he hoped the material could be shifted from Lake Junaluska and Dayton by mid-1974. Interested persons in Nashville have agreed to raise \$25,000 to help underwrite shipment costs.

Historical documents and memorabilia relevant to Methodism in America were scattered for decades around the country; much still remains in university libraries and private collections.

United Methodist Reporter, Nov. 16, 1973

A VALUED ITEM

One of the treasured items in the Archives is Volume 6 of the ARMINIAN MAGAZINE for the year 1783. The name comes from Jacobus Arminius, a Dutch Reformed theologian of the University of Leiden, 1603-1609. John Wesley in 1778 went to Amsterdam and secured data on the life of Arminius. Wesley gave the magazine its name and edited it. In some respects Wesley gave Methodism a re-appraisal of Arminian theology.

The volume came down through the Huntington-Hubbard family, Miss Helen Hubbard of Minneapolis, Minnesota, giving it to a friend to place in a permanent home. In the front of the book is written: Thomas Huntington, June 12, 1896. Contacts with Miss Hubbard show that there were two Thomas Huntingtons in her family. Her grandfather married Cecilia Huntington (1825-1887), daughter of John Huntington (1808-1877), who was born in Liverpool, England. His father was Thomas Huntington. The other Huntington was Thomas Theodore Huntington, son of John and brother of Cecilia. As "Theodore" was eight years old when he came to America, the book was probably brought by an older member of the family. The Huntingtons landed in New Orleans about 1847, sailed up the Mississippi River, and then travelled by wagon to Mazomanie.

The name Huntington led some to wonder if Thomas were related in any way to the woman known as "lady elect" of the early Methodist movement. This is no doubt not the case as she was Countess Selina Hastings Huntington, a most interesting figure in 18th century Methodism.

THE METHODIST MAGAZINE

The ARMINIAN MAGAZINE became THE METHODIST MAGAZINE after the death of John Wesley. The Evergreen Manor archives has received a gift of an 1804 issue.

A CHERISHED LETTER

When Frank Keffner died in 1971 at the age of one hundred years, his daughter, Mrs. Harley Powell of Richland Center, found a letter which he had saved for twenty years. His pastor of the 1920s, Reverenc A. L. Tucker, had written him the history of the Almond Methodist Church, which Reverend Keffner had joined in 1887 and had served as lay speaker and in many other capacities for over eighty years. The seven handwritten pages told of the meeting in homes before the town was platted, of Reverend Sheldon Doolittle who came from Almond, New York, and gave the village its name, and of the joining of the Almond English and German Methodist churches in 1903. The letter closed with an amusing incident of the 1860s:

"Those were the days when ox teams furnished the only means of transportation. One Sunday Mr. Guerusey brought his oxen and sleigh to his door and went in to prepare for the morning service. When he came out, they were gone. Later he found them at their usual hitching post by the church. Even the oxen believed in regular attendance."

A copy of the letter is being sent to the Methodist archives.

CONDUCT BECOMING A WOMAN: BOLTED DOORS AND BURGEONING MISSIONS by Elaine Magalis and published by the Women's Division, Board of Global Ministries, The United Methodist Church, should be read by every church woman. Although it is not comprehensive in scope, it is a scholarly piece of work that relates the struggles of women to have a rightful place in the church.

GLORY TO THY NAME, the Story of Trinity United Methodist Church of Richland Center, by Margaret H. Scott, goes on sale in January, 1974.

MINISTERS RUN IN FAMILIES

THE IRISH FAMILY

Like twins, ministers sometimes reappear in families. Such was the case of the Irish family.

In 1851 a little Methodist society was organized in Sextonville, a village in Richland County, Wisconsin. By 1853 a little church was built. The bell in the steeple was not installed until 1856. Its first tolling was for Luther Irish, the storekeeper who had come from Ithaca, New York, in 1852. Three of his sons became ministers: William, Charles, and Joseph.

Reverend William R. Irish was converted at the age of fifteen. At eighteen he married Martha Banks, whose sister became the wife of the famous Methodist missionary, Reverend Alfred Brunson. In 1866 Reverend Irish was licensed to preach. During the three years he served the Sextonville circuit, he often held services three times on Sunday. In the morning he was at Richland Center or Sextonville; on certain Sundays he preached at the Lost Hill school in the afternoon and at Richland City at 6:30 P.M..

Reverend William Irish's brothers, Charles and Joseph, also served in Southwest Wisconsin. It is believed that Charles was the pastor at Viroqua in 1880. Reverend Joseph E. Irish was about twenty years of age when he came to Sextonville. His name is on many of the old plats of villages in the county, for he became a surveyor in 1856. During the Civil War he served as a itinerant preacher, finally settling in Eau Claire. After serving in the Senate, in 1879 he was appointed Presiding Elder and for four years served in that capacity. In the 1880s he was president of Appleton College. At one time he was sent as a consul to France.

Reverend James W. Irish, the son of William, was just a lad of four or five when his father was the circuit rider on the Sextonville charge. In 1885, at the age of seventeen, he left home and went to Aberdeen, then Dakota Territory, to work in a brother-in-law's printing office where he became a foreman and night editor. Early in 1891 he decided to enter the Christian ministry. After preparatory work at the University of Nebraska, he joined the West Wisconsin Conference. In 1898 he graduated from the University of Wisconsin and later received a divinity degree from Barrett Biblical Institute. In 1918 Lawrence College gave him an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree. First Church, La Crosse was among the churches he served. He was at Richland Center when the church was bombed during a temperance campaign. For twelve years he was District Superintendent, first of the Ashland District and later of the Eau Claire area. For several years he was Executive Secretary of the West Wisconsin Hospitals and Homes Association. He recovered from an attack of tuberculosis and in his retirement years gave liberally of his time and talents to churches in Milwaukee and Wauwatosa.

Reverend Deane W. Irish is the grandson of William R. and the nephew of James E.. His father, Luther B. Irish was a orchardist in Baraboo, where his minister son was born and raised. Reverend Irish was ordained an elder in 1931. In his later ministry he was Superintendent of the Southern District in 1954 and of the Northwest area in 1968. After his retirement in 1971, he and his wife Betty made a 3,000 mile trip on a Twaiwanese passenger-freighter that stopped at sixteen ports. They are now sharing their experiences with many churches in the Conference.