

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



FLASHBACKS



Glimpses of our creative past

UNITED METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN
Lorne L. Outcalt — Editorial Committee — Earl F. Kammerud

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Editorial Committee--The last meeting was held April 24 & 25 for the Editorial Committee of the book, "Cross and Flame in Wisconsin", by William Blake. I believe you should order your book new. Pre-publication price is \$13.00 for hard cover, and \$2.00 for paper back plus \$.50 for sales tax, wrapping, and handling. Not only is it good history of our church, but it is very enjoyable reading. I'm positive that you should try it. You will like it. (Look over the enclosed cover copy.)

be members of the Conference Commission on History and Archives. The first annual meeting and election will be held at Annual Conference time. Date: JUNE 9, 1973
Hour: 6:30 PM
Place: BRAYTON CASE HALL

Plan to be present, if possible. The offices are: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Editor for Flashbacks.

Application for Membership in the United Methodist Historical Society of the Wisconsin conference.

Historical Librarian and Archivist-- We welcome to our conference staff our new Conference Historical Librarian and Archivist, in the person of Mrs. Kitty Hobson, of Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Her educational background includes a B.A. in History, which was granted magna cum laude, and an M.A. degree in Library Science from the University of Wisconsin--Oshkosh. She was awarded the scholarship for graduate study by the American Association of University Women. She is a part of the following honor societies: Delta Tau Kappa, Phi Alpha Theta, Sigma Pi Epsilon. Born in Vienna, Austria, she emigrated to the United States by the way of England and Canada. She has been a United States citizen since 1958. She is fluent in German and does well in French. The German will be especially useful since many of our historical records are in the German language. Mrs. Hobson makes her home with her husband at 404 S. Meadow Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901.

Name _____

Address _____

Type of Membership _____

Membership Rates:

- Single Membership annual dues: \$2.00
- Family Membership : \$3.00
- Patron Membership : \$10.00
- Life Membership : \$50.00

Send to Mrs. Ethel B. Nulton
204 1/2 S. Main Street
Waupaca, WI 54981

To All Members--By action of the General Conference, each Conference Historical Society may have an annual meeting and elect their officers from their membership. Previously the officers were to

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 Mathew Simpson, the minister Christian Willerup, the time September of 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, 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 reestablished as part of the Wisconsin Conference in 1869, and O.P. Petersen was sent to work with Willerup and Steenson. By 1872, Petersen was back in Wisconsin. Willerup was appointed missionary to Denmark, and only Steenson remained to carry on 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. Hensen, Andres Oleson, Petér Oleson, and Christian Rund. In 1874, fourteen ministers were given appointments in Norway, all listed as part of the Wisconsin Conference's Norwegian District.

The Wisconsin Conference Journal of 1881 is the first one which carries no listing of appointments in Norway or Denmark--or indeed of any of the Norwegian speaking charges. In 1880, at Racine, the Norwegian Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized, and four years later its name was 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, for Norwegian-Danish Methodist evangelism was cradled here, in the Wisconsin Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, including the work in Norway and Denmark.

By William Blake, author of "Cross and Flame in Wisconsin".

Historian's Manual--A committee appointed by the Commission on Archives & History has just prepared and published a new Local Church Historians Manual. I believe it will be a helpful guide.

These manuals are available for \$1.00 at:

United Methodist Church Office
Rev. Wayne Helmerich
325 Emerald Terrace
Sun Prairie, WI 53590