



"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. VIII No. 2

May, 1979

ANNUAL MEETING

June 8

The annual meeting of the Society will be held at the Conference at Green Lake on June 8 at 5:30 p.m. during the supper hour. After picking up your tray in the main dining room, come to the Norwegian Room.

Reports of the year's activities, adoption of goals and projects, and the election of officers will constitute the major business.

FALL PILGRIMAGE

October 6

The annual pilgrimage will be to Lomira, site of probably the most vigorous camp meetings sponsored by the Evangelical Association in early Wisconsin. Camp Byron the most famous of the Methodist camp meetings, will also be visited.

The starting time for the time is 1:00 p.m. at Lomira. It is being planned and conducted by Rev. Theodore Jordan. At the meeting on June 8, the historical insights of Lomira will be presented by Rev. Jordan and those of Camp Byron by Rev. William Blake.

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CELEBRATION PLANNED

FOR REV. HERMAN BLOCK

A celebration is planned at Evergreen Manor in Oshkosh on July 5, 1979, for Rev. Herman Block's 100th birthday. He is the former E.U.B. historian.

From the Minutes of the April 25 meeting

The motion was carried that the Conference Librarian be an Executive member of the Historical Society.

The Commission on Archives and History of the North Central Jurisdiction will meet in annual session in Houghton, Michigan, July 10-12, 1979. President Ronald A. Brunger is making elaborate preparations. The meeting will take place on the campus of Michigan Technological University.

FUTURE SITES FOR PILGRIMAGE

Milwaukee Theological Institute
Benton
Fayette
Mineral Point
Monroe
Indian Mission in
Northern Wisconsin

Any preferences or suggestions?

REMINISCENCES OF CAMP BYRON

After I had finished getting FLASHBACKS ready for the typist, a friend, Mrs. Ruth Thompson, came in my room. When I happened to mention that the pilgrimage this year was to camp sites, she said, "Could one be Bryon?" I said, "Yes."

Eighty years ago Mrs. Thompson, then a little girl of nine, started going with her family to Camp Byron and each summer until she graduated from high school she spent a week there. The family lived at Waupun and the twenty miles or so to the camp was made by a crowded horse drawn bus loaded with adults, children, and food and clothing for a week. When they reached Breakneck Hill, all had to get out and walk.

The little crude "cottages" that surrounded the main building with its open sides were owned by individuals. The one her family lived in belonged to an elderly couple who could no longer attend the meetings. In addition to one bed there was a double row of bunks along the wall. Her mother had brought ticks which they filled with straw furnished by the Camp. There was a dining hall, but her family brought their own food, which included pork cake.

The evangelist preached afternoon and evening. Mrs. Thompson could not remember what the young people did in the mornings. What ever it was, it was just a few games, not the crafts of today. She said that it was here at the camp that she began to feel a personal and closer relation to God and her Saviour.

M.H.S.

CELEBRATION AT ST. PAUL'S CHURCH GREEN BAY

While the St. Paul's United Methodist Church of Green Bay dates its heritage back to 1869, in January, 1979, it celebrated the 25th anniversary of its current edifice. A service was held duplicating the service of Consecration of January 24, 1954. The worship celebration included two anthems sung by the Chancel Choir and a solo sung that were part of the original service of Consecration. Even the original music was used which carried a price tag of a nickel, for a 16-page musical anthem. A Sunday afternoon event preceded the service. It was a time of remembrances both verbal and pictorial of the original building process. The original chairpersons of the building committee spoke briefly and members of the church for 25 years or more were honored.

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Mrs. Flossie Tuttle sent some historical items on the United Methodist Church of Kaukauna. The minutes go back to 1892, but the first little frame church that was torn down was built in 1866. The ground breaking ceremonies for the new church were on September 1969. The first sermon in the new building was preached June 28, 1970. In September, 1970, twelve past presidents of the United Methodist Women's Society were honored.

Mrs. H. S. Cooke born in 1859 served as president of the former Foreign Missionary Society for thirty-five years and was also an officer in the Women's Society of Christian Service. She was eighty-two years of age when she died in 1941.

MOST WANTED LIST

Two books of important historical material are at present the objective of a search by the conference Commission on Archives and History:

1. Recollections of My Life, Forty Years of Itinerancy in the Northwest, by Chauncey Hobart. Published in 1885 by Red Wing, Minn. Chapters 19, 20, and 21 deal with pioneer Methodist work in Wisconsin.
2. Inventory of Church Archives in Wisconsin--Church of the United Brethren in Christ. Published by the W. P. A., Madison, Wisconsin in 1940

Anyone having such volumes and willing to part with them is urged to write William Blake, conference historian, 422 Webster St., Berlin, Wisconsin 54923.

REVEREND BLAKE HONORED

The award of a Certificate of Commendation was given to our conference historian, William Blake, in December by the American Association for State and Local History. It was in recognition of his authorship of CROSS AND FLAME IN WISCONSIN and BERLIN ALTARS - THE STORY OF RELIGION IN FUR AND LEATHER CITY.

Such awards are made, according to the news release issued by the society, "to recognize state and local history projects, agencies, and individuals showing superior achievement."

The Association for State and Local History is a non-profit educational agency made up of individual and organizational members dedicated to advancing knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of localized history in the United States and Canada. It is one of the two organizations sponsoring AMERICAN HERITAGE, the magazine devoted to popularizing American history.

NEW LIGHT ON FOX RIVER CONFERENCE

There is one conference, its bounds entirely within Wisconsin, one of the fore-runners of our present body, about which little is found in Cross and Flame in Wisconsin. It was the Fox River Conference of the United Brethren Church. Organized in 1861, it functioned until, in 1885, it was merged with the Wisconsin Conference of that denomination. Lack of records and other information about it accounts for the omission.

Recently our conference historian, William Blake, has found some source material about it, and has prepared a short report on his findings. We still do not have

any Minutes, but a list of the annual appointments was discovered by Dr. John H. Ness, Jr., executive secretary of the general Commission on Archives and History.

In 1861 the Wisconsin Conference (U. B.) met in Millard's Prairie, Bad Ax County (as Vernon County was then known) under the presidency of Bishop J. Markwood. At that session 11 preachers and 11 appointments were set off into a new ecclesiastical body, the Fox River Conference. It had one district, Oshkosh, with D. Harrington as presiding elder.

The next year the first session of the new conference was held in "a red school-house" in Jeffer's Prairie, Waushara County. The location is probably a few miles south of the hamlet of Richford, which is itself a short distance south of State Highway 21 in the Town of Richford. Bishop Markwood presided over the Wisconsin Conference (U. B.) that year, meeting in the Rutland church early in October, and since the Fox River sessions were also held that month one can conclude that he was probably in the chair.

For 23 years this conference served as a missionary thrust of the United Brethren Church. A few of the appointments are included year after year, but there were many and frequent changes in the list, indicating that new fields were being tried, and where the work did not prosper, were abandoned. The largest number of charges in any year was 13 (1865) and the smallest five (1883).

The following list supplements the record of conference sessions found in Cross and Flame (pp. 349-360). Where the bishop's name is not found in the source material the name of the presiding officer of the Wisconsin Conference (U. B.) for the same year is printed within parentheses followed by the symbol?

Date	Place	Bishop
1861 (Joint with Wis. Conf.)	Millard's Prairie Bad Ax County	J. Markwood
1862	Jeffer's Prairie Waushara County	(J. Markwood) ?
1863	Batavia	(J. Markwood) ?
1864	No record	J. Markwood
1865	No record	(J. Markwood) ?
1866	New London	(J. Markwood) ?
1867	Auroraville Waushara County	(D. Flickinger) ?
1868	No record	J. Markwood
1869	Eden Fond du Lac County	(J. Dickson) ?
1870	Strong's Prairie Adams County	(J. Dickson) ?
1871	Auroraville	(J. Dickson) ?
1872	Cascade	(J. Dickson) ?
1873	Vineland Winnebago County	(J. Glossbrenner) ?

1874	Auroraville	(J. Glossbrenner) ?
1875	Cascade	(J. Glossbrenner) ?
1876	New London	(J. Glossbrenner) ?
1877	Oshkosh	(Milton Wright) ?
1878	Cascade	(Milton Wright) ?
1879	Ogdensburg	(Milton Wright) ?
1880	Strong's Prairie	(Milton Wright) ?
1881	Cascade	(J. Weaver) ?
1882	Spring Lake Waushara County	(J. Weaver) ?
1883	Eden	(J. Weaver) ?
1884	Strong's Prairie	(J. Weaver) ?

Committees of the Commission on Archives and History
Wisconsin Conference
United Methodist Church

(revised, February, 1979)

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