



"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. 20, No. 2

May 1993

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION AT PEACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
RICHLAND CENTER

Peace United Methodist Church of Richland Center (formerly United Brethren, and later, Evangelical United Brethren) is planning a Centennial Celebration during October, 1993 through October, 1994. It was on October 16, 1893 that the first sermon was preached at a temporary location until May 1, 1894. On October 15, 1894 the official members of the United Brethren in Christ were organized and the building of the church was begun in September, 1894. Dedication took place on June 2, 1895.

Following is the names of the charter members:

J.H. Richards, Pastor	Lillian Webley
Celina Richards, Pastor's wife	Stella Benton
John R. Moon	C.S. Richards
John Smelker	Mrs. Jennie Richards
Edward Morris	Alice Blakeman
William Minett	
Mrs. William Minett	

Any descendants of these charter members, please contact the Centennial Committee. Anyone who would like to be on the mailing list to receive a calendar of events may send your name and address to: Centennial Committee, Peace United Methodist Church, 265 North Church Street, Richland Center, Wisconsin 53581 or call 608-647-4559.

The highlight of the Celebration will be a "Homecoming Sunday" when the Bishop will be celebrating with us in October, 1994.

Hazel Marshall, Secretary
Centennial Committee

FALL PILGRIMAGE, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1993

The Annual Fall Pilgrimage sponsored by the Wisconsin United Methodist Historical Society is planned to be in Richland Center at Peace United Methodist Church located on the corner of Church and Union Streets on Saturday, September 25, 1993 at 11:00 a.m. Archives and History will meet in the morning also at Peace Church--time to be decided later.

Joanne Hornby will lead in devotions for the Historical Society meeting and Dorothy Brice will present a history of the Peace United Methodist Church. A dinner will be served at 12:15 p.m. sharp at Schmitt Woodland Hills, 1400 West Seminary Street, Richland Center, \$5.00. A tour of the Schmitt Woodland Hills Retirement Community will follow at 1:15 p.m. All persons attending the dinner must send reservations to Dorothy Brice, 1400 West Seminary Street, Richland Center, Wisconsin 53581 by September 4, 1993. This is necessary for the Dietary Department to order food and arrange extra kitchen and dining room help.

Dorothy Brice
Joanne Hornby

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING AND PROGRAM
ANNUAL CONFERENCE, FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 1993, NOON

The Wisconsin United Methodist Historical Society will meet during the noon lunch hour at 12:00 on Friday, June 4, 1993 at Annual Conference at Stevens Point University of Wisconsin. It will be a Celebration of United Methodist Heritage. The Reverend Stanford Strosahl will speak on the "Changing Role of the District Superintendent".

Those attending should get their food and go to Room 073 down stairs in Debot Dining Center.

WISCONSIN PIONEER METHODISM



Hiram W. Frink

(From a yearbook, 1850 - 1869 and entitled "An Historical Sketch of Milwaukee Methodism from 1835 - 1873 and written by W.G. Miller) this was a clipping found in the book and entitled Wisconsin Pioneer Methodism by H.W. Frink, born July 11, 1810, Oneida County, New York, died October, 1891, Dodge County, Wisconsin.

In the fall of 1837, the Illinois Conference was held at Rushville. I received my appointment to Sheboygan Mission, which included the territory north of Milwaukee as far as Green Bay, also Brothertown, Stockbridge, Calumet and Fond du Lac, the latter being the boundaries of the mission. After filling my portmanteau with books and clothing, I started from Chicago on horseback and after two days travel arrived at Milwaukee, which at this date was a shanty town. There I prepared for traveling through an unbroken wilderness, for such it was between there and Green Bay. I purchased a small ax, punk and steel, as matches were not in use, and prepared for camping nights, during my journey. The first night I spent in Milwaukee was with Brother Lowery who kept a tailor's shop where the Post Office and government building now stands. After spending a day and night there, I started for Sheboygan and at the close of the first day I found myself at Saukville. There I spent the night in an old shanty, putting my horse in one corner and barricading the door with puncheons to keep out the wolves, which were very numerous at that time. In order to secure myself from them I climbed up above my horse and placing my saddle and portmanteau upon some timbers I there endeavored to rest, by using them for a pillow and the puncheons for a bed. The next morning I arose at daybreak and started for Port Washington, where there was a small settlement. There I spent two or three days, and preached once as that was also on my mission. From there I went to Sheboygan and was obliged to travel most of the way upon the beach of the lake, and to swim my horse through the streams as there were no roads or bridges. At the time of the establishment of the Mission an appropriation of \$100 was made for my support.

Some time after settling down to my work, I had an attack of bilious fever, which resulted in a very serious illness and left me in a dangerous condition. When I became convalescent I found my horse had suffered from lack of food and care, and was almost useless. Corn was then 40 a bushel and the only hay to be had was cut from the marshes.

I found no fault with the people as it was the best they could do.

Soon I formed a society of nine members, the first one established in Sheboygan. The last of December I visited the Nova Scotia settlement and preached Saturday night and three times on Sunday. There, two were reclaimed and all was benefited.

The first day of the new year I started again for Sheboygan.

Having finished my work at Nova Scotia settlement January 1, 1838. I made preparations to go to my quarterly meeting which was to be held the following Sabbath at Sheboygan. It was necessary that I should make preparations for food for myself and horse during my journey of fifty miles through an unbroken forest. My provisions consisted of four quarts of corn boiled for my horse, and a lunch for myself consisting of boiled pork and bread.

January 2nd it commenced raining and being fearful that the streams would break up and make it impossible for me to cross I hastened my journey. That day I traveled fifteen miles, and as the snow was melting fast the traveling was very bad. Night over took me in a swamp, and I prepared to camp there. Having no tent I was obliged to shelter myself by turning my jumper up against a tree, for one side and cut down a partially decayed tree and rolling that up for the other side. Then drawing stakes above the fallen tree, and rolling a log on the top of that. I then put poles across from the log to the jumper about a foot apart, and stretched a blanket across these so it would shed rain like the roof of a house. In building this I had two objects in view, one was to shelter me from the rain and the other to protect myself from the wolves, which were very fierce. I attempted to build a fire but my matches failed to ignite. I then involuntarily exclaimed, "My God am I to remain here all night without a fire, and be eaten up by the wolves!" I then reflected, "I have not thrown myself designedly in this position, and it is to try my faith."

Then I was calm, and assured that God would protect me if he did "Daniel in the lion's den," and said my evening prayers.

I then hitched my horse to a tree, and covered him with a blanket, and then crawled under my shed. I stuck my knife into the tree above my head, and laid my ax near me so as to be ready to protect myself from the wolves.

But I was not disturbed by them that night, and slept sweetly.

At four o'clock the next morning I arose and harnessed my horse, and was ready to start. The snow was then nearly gone, and I had to walk and let my horse drag the cutter over bare ground most of the way. I traveled about five miles when I heard a roaring, and discovered that Pigeon River was across my path, and which I was obliged to cross in some way, by bridging, swimming or wading. I chose the former, and felled a large tree on the bank which would reach across the main body of the stream. I unhitched and unharnessed my horse and swam him across then carried my harness and blankets across by walking on the tree. I then hitched my lines to my cutter shafts, and towed that over.

I had nothing to eat but some sugar and tea to satisfy my hunger.

I then started on and after traveling five miles came to another stream which I crossed in much the same manner as the other with the exception that I fell into the stream this time, and night came on again, and I thoroughly wet and cold and without food. I again prepared a camp and while doing so heard my horse whinneying and in a moment human voices. I soon discovered three men one of whom was Col. Graves who was the mail contractor from Milwaukee to Green Bay. He had taken advantage of my bridging the stream and had swam his horse across and had wet the mail.

I made the inquiry "have you anything to eat for I have to stay here all night." The answer was "No, nothing but a few crackers."

The other two men volunteered to stay with me all night, but Col. Graves said "No, you must leave your straps and follow me." So I threw a blanket on my horse and started after them. After hours of hard travel we arrived on the bank of the Sheboygan River, and there built a fire and warmed ourselves.

As it was so dark Col. Graves and myself could not cross until the other two men went over, and returned with lanterns. The next Sunday was the quarterly meeting, and as the Presiding Elder was absent I was obliged to hold it alone. He traveled in the same path as myself, but failed to get through.

The United Methodist Church
Wisconsin Annual Conference
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*United Methodist Historical
Society of Wisconsin*

F L A S H B A C K S

Official newsletter of the United Methodist
Historical Society of Wisconsin

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Richland Center, WI 53581-2036

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

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