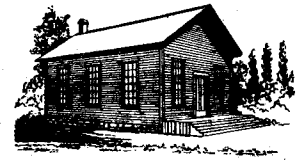




"Fellow-citizens, we cannot escape history." — A. Lincoln

# FLASHBACKS



Revealing glimpses of our creative past

Official newsletter of the

UNITED METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN

Vol. IX No. 3

September, 1980

## THE PILGRIMAGE

From the pen of President Reverend Robert Kuhn:

The date of the Annual Pilgrimage has been changed because of a conflict with a jurisdictional meeting of Black Methodists for Church Renewal. The new date is ~~OCTOBER 25, (Saturday)~~. The subject of the Pilgrimage will be the history of Black churches in Wisconsin.

We will be visiting three Black churches in Beloit. We will start at 12:00 noon with a meal at Wesley Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (church downtown), served by the Womens Culture Club. (Beloit telephone book gave this address as 1760 Shore Drive.) Then we will visit Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Beloit and finish up at St. Matthias United Methodist Church, 727 Henderson Street, Beloit.

Reservations for the meal at Wesley Christian Methodist Episcopal Church may be sent to Reverend Robert Kuhn, 501 First Center Ave., Brodhead, Wis. 53520

The Commission on Archives will meet at 9:30, Saturday, October 25, at St. Matthias Church.

### BLACK METHODIST HISTORY PROJECT

At the annual meeting of the United Methodist Historical Society, the sum of \$100.00 was appropriated to help launch the Black Methodist History project.

### NOTE ON ARCHIVES

Kitty Hobson reported that records of the Kingsley Church of Milwaukee, most meticulously kept by Mrs. Herbert Baker until the church closed, are now in the Archives. She reminds us that the collection has no history of German Methodism.

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### DAVIS CORNERS CHURCH

The Davis Corners Church on the Dells-Delton-Davis Corners charge celebrates its centennial on September 21, 1980.

It was founded in 1880 in a meeting at the schoolhouse, when ten people covenanted together to establish a Christian society following the Congregational beliefs and policy. For 130 years it was a Congregational Church; for fifty now it has been Methodist.

Reverend William Blake will give the message on Centennial Day.

The National Endowment for the Humanities awarded \$8,050 to the World Methodist Historical Society to send Dr. Homer Calkin to Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Philippines, Korea, Japan, and Papua, which in time may lead to a directory of collect ons related to Methodism.

In 1840 there were 185 Negroes in Wisconsin territory, half of them under twenty years of age and eleven of them slaves. The latter were exclusively in the lead-mining area: ten in Grant County and one in Iowa County. Free Negroes resided in small numbers throughout the Wisconsin territory, but most of them were in the lead-mining region. Negroes had increased to 635, less than one per-cent of the total population. By 1850 Wisconsin Blacks had settled more widely over the state; sixty-one per cent located in Brown, Calumet, Milwaukee, Waukesha, and Racine Counties.

Quoted by Twyla Kepler in "A Touch of Slavery in Wisconsin" from A History of Wisconsin by Alice E. Smith. Vol. I. (Madison, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1973)P. 475.

#### WAYMAN CHAPEL

African Methodist  
Episcopal Church  
406 S. Sixth Street  
Rev. Bland Childress  
Pastor

Brother Willie Thompson  
Sunday School Supt.

Sundays

10 a.m. Sunday School

11 a.m. Morning Worship

Community invited to attend

all Wayman's activities

From the DELAVAN ENTERPRISE of May 23, 1980

The history of Wayland Chapel in Delavan goes back to ten or twelve black families who settled in the area many years ago. While it is not a member of the United Methodist Conference, the relationship with the United Methodist Church of Delavan has been a cordial one. Irene Ramsay who left Delavan in 1942 remembers when she was a child that Grandma Ashley was in her husband's Sunday School class and that a Black girl was in hers. Reverend Kassilke when pastor at Delavan confirmed a young woman as there was not a class at her church. At one time Wayman Chapel provided an organist for the Delavan Methodist Church. Both churches belong to the Delavan Council of Churches.

The minister at Wayman Chapel is usually supplied by a Beloit church.

#### BETHEL CHURCH

When one of the Parish of the Hills churches, Bethel Church, located between Mineral Point and Hollendale, celebrated its centennial in June, 1980, Bruce McNeill, a member of the church and at the time a communication major at the University of Wisconsin, wrote the history of the church. It is now in typed form and in the United Methodist Archives.

The Reconstruction movement following the Civil War had formally died when some English families living on farms a few miles apart met in the PleasantValley schoolhouse to worship. In about 1880 James Bond, Sr. promoted the idea of building a church; Urian James donated an acre of ground. The Ellery brothers did the carpenter work. Newly weds sat in the front rows. Men and women sat on opposite sides. The offering plates had long handles so that the collector could rap sleepers on the head. Nice ran about where the choir sat and got into the organ.

In January, 1911, Bethel became a Methodist Episcopal Church rather than a Primitive Methodist. Many changes took place over the years, including stained glass windows, wool carpeting, and velvet drapes. A lighted cross on the roof was added in 1972. The chicken suppers lasted from 1955-72. In the mid 40's to early 1950s, the caravan groups, teams of young people who visited for a week, came to vitalize the local youth fellowship. A myriad of memories linger on.

#### ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LA CROSSE

THE STORY OF ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH By Raymond C. Bice is on its way to the Methodist Archives at Oshkosh to add a delightful addition to the section on church history.

The book is not a formal, highly objective account of a church, although it involved much research and describes the old and new church buildings, of which the last one is depicted on the cover, the three parsonages, and the anniversaries and dedications. It is rather a narrative of the meaning of the church to the eighty-four year old author, who served in the Wisconsin senate for twenty-two years. It is filled with anecdotes, emotional touches, and a bit of nostalgia interspersed with humor.

In the chapter on the Reverend Hurd bell, Mr. Bice says, "Bells are not only history; they are history." The book makes the old bell "sing" from the time of it was lifted into the tower in 1881 until in 1959, when loosened, it crashed into the basement and was hauled off to the dump from which Mr. Bice could not recover it.

While all of the pastors are listed, one whole chapter is devoted to Reverend Hugh Kinley who served the church for twenty years. Among the latter's virtues was his sense of humor. Once the highbacked chair back of the pulpit has been moved in the cleaning. Reverend Kinley thinking it was there, sat down with a thump: "His brief attempt to remain unruffled quickly vanished when the entire congregation burst out laughing."

Mr. Bice tells about the near tragedy when upon entering the basement of the second church, he heard a cracking sound in the ceiling for the main wood beams were about to collapse. He sent word to Reverend Bell to clear the sanctuary quietly, for he knew if the congregation left simultaneously the floor would fall. Measurement later revealed it had dropped twelve feet.

The book also contains brief histories of the area churches: Onalaska United Methodist, Wesley United Methodist, Asbury United Methodist and First and Second German Methodist Episcopal.

There is a fine picture and document section as well as an index.

#### MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN 1980 (some 1981)

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## FLASHBACKS

*Official newsletter of the United Methodist  
Historical Society of Wisconsin*

*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*

*Mrs. Josephine Rowlands, 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, P. O. Box 96, Arlington, Wis. 53911*

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