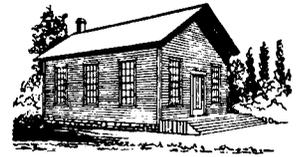




"WE are the end-product of our history."

# FLASHBACKS



Revealing glimpses of our creative past

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*Official newsletter of the*  
**UNITED METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN**

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September, 1982

" . . . and all that is and has been is merely the  
twilight of the dawn." H. G. Wells  
The Discovery of the Future.

## FALL PILGRIMAGE AT ONEIDA

There has been a slight change in the location of our 1982 Fall Pilgrimage, which will be held on Saturday, October 2. Instead of starting at Kimberly, where the first Oneida Methodist Church was built in 1832, we will start at the present Oneida United Methodist Church, which is located on highway E, between Freedom and Green Bay. From the south take highway 55 from Kaukauna to Freedom, and then take E northeast to the church. From the north take highway 54 to E, and then take E southwest to the church. The program will start with a brief Oneida worship service at 11:30 a.m., followed by a dinner of corn soup and fry bread at 12:00 noon. The cost of the dinner will be \$3.50. Please send your meal reservations to Rev. Eldon Riggs, 1852 Freedom Rd., De Pere, Wi. 54115. After dinner we will hear the story of the Oneida Church and visit the Oneida Nation Museum, which is not far from the church.

## LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY

At 2:30 p.m. we will travel to Appleton for a walking tour of the oldest buildings on the campus of Lawrence University, which was chartered at the first session of the Wisconsin Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1848. Its first building, called the Institute, was erected in 1849. The Methodist Church occupied much of its first floor. Bed bugs were rumored to be thick on its third floor, while the fourth floor was surrendered to bats and ventilation! In 1853 the present Main Hall was built. Its cornerstone was laid by Rev. Alfred Brunson, pioneer missionary, circuit rider and presiding elder from Prairie du Chien. The old Institute building was destroyed in 1857 by a fire that started while most of the local citizens were gathered in Main Hall for a two hour Sunday evening prayer meeting.

Robert Kuhn

## AMOS ADAM LAWRENCE, FOUNDER OF LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY

Amos Adam Lawrence, born in Groteon, Massachusetts in 1814, came from a family who did much for the establishment of the cotton industry of New England.

After graduation from Harvard College in 1835, he became a selling agent for leading textile mills in Massachusetts and by 1860 had gained control of the Ipsich mills which manufactures cotton hosiery; this he built into the biggest knit goods enterprise in the United States.

Mr. Lawrence was a young man in his early thirties when he offered money for a school of higher learning in the Fox River area of Wisconsin. He continued to be an influential citizen doing far more than serving as a financial philanthropist. In 1854 he became treasurer of the Massachusetts Emigrant Aid Company which sent 1,300 settlers to Kansas, where in time a city was named for him. He contributed to the Sharp rifles which were packed as "books" and "primers" and shipped to Kansas and afterwards fell into the hands of John Brown. Although he deplored Brown's fanaticism, he did appeal to the governor of Virginia to give Brown a lawful trial. During the Civil War he organized a regiment of cavalry, the second in Massachusetts. He had been treasurer of Harvard from 1857 to 1862 but from 1879 to 1882 he served as overseer. He died in 1886 but not before he saw Lawrence College (University) become a leading school of higher education in the mid-West.

A brief account of the school founded by Amos Lawrence appeared in WISCONSIN, edited Ex-Governor George W. Peck, Madison, Western Historical Assn., 1906. It stated that in 1846 Amos Lawrence offered to contribute \$10,000 toward the establishment of an institute of higher learning somewhere in the Fox River valley. His project was submitted to the Rock River Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the territory of Wisconsin and was accepted.

William Blake in CROSS AND FLAME IN WISCONSIN stated that the gift was conditioned on the raising of \$30,000 and that the charter was adopted at the first conference session in 1848 (Wisconsin Conference, M.E.). In the formative years the major project of Wisconsin Methodists was Lawrence University. In 1917 and 1918 approximately a sum of million dollars was raised for it. Tethies loosened in 1933, the church then taking more interest in the Wesley Foundation. (See Blake, pp. 156, 201, 248.)

In the very first years the school was called Lawrence Institute but in about 1849 it became Lawrence University. In 1909 its name became Lawrence College. Now that is a leading educational institution in the state, it is again Lawrence University.

### CHANGE MARKED WISCONSIN IN 1832

In 1832--150 years ago--the winds of change were blowing across Wisconsin. For several centuries its population consisted of Native Americans. Their culture was based on discovering the ways of the wilderness and conforming their lifestyles to its demands. But a new race of immigrants was beginning to settle in the territory. Europeans, some from the British Isles, some from the continent, were arriving, drawn by the attractiveness of the climate, the fertility of the soil, and the opportunity for even the poor to own land. The culture of the newcomers was based on a different philosophy. They discovered the secrets of nature in order to make it conform to and serve their needs. That meant clearing the woods, taming the prairies, bulding cabins and barns, forming settlements with stores, blacksmith shops, schools, and churches.

The federal census of 1820 counted the newcomers and found 651 civilians and 804 military living within what is now Wisconsin. The census of 1830 found 2,932 civilians and 703 military. The count of immigrants in 1836, when it ceased to be a part of Michigan territory and took its new name, Wisconsin, was 11,683.

It was a rough summer in the new territory. An epidemic of cholera broke out in the East, proceeded up the St. Lawrence River, through the Great Lakes, and down the Mississippi valley. While it was raging Rev. John Clark, just appointed "Missionary to Green Bay" by the New York Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, made his way to his new appointment.

Clark arrived in Green Bay July 21, a Saturday. There he found a kindred spirit and fellow-Methodist in Col. Samuel G. Ryan of the Fort Howard garrison. A small congregation was gathered in Fort Howard the next day, July 22, a Sunday, and the missionary preached. At the conclusion of the service a class was formed and Col. Ryan made its leader. Other members were: Mrs. Sherman, Mrs. Gen. Brooke (whose husband was commandant of the Fort) and a young man whose name has been lost. The history of the First United Methodist Church of Green Bay had begun.

Clark pushed on to Smithfield, a village of Oneida Indians, located in what is now Kimberly, on the south bank of the Fox River. He spent most of the summer with them.

Meanwhile, in the southwestern corner of the state, the Black Hawk War was in progress. Fear gripped the settlers and despair moved the Native Americans. It was a rough and turbulent year--1832--when United Methodist beachheads were established in Wisconsin.

#### EXTENDED CELEBRATION AT PLATTEVILLE

The publication of an excellent, well-illustrated 104-page history of the Platteville United Methodist Church has initiated that congregation's celebration of the sesquicentennial of Wisconsin United Methodism, as well as its own unique role as one of the three churches of the conference founded in 1832.

Seven special Heritage Sundays were observed:

April 25--Our Heritage

May 16--Our Music

May 30--Homecoming

June 13--Women of the Church

July 4--An Ecumenical Gathering held in Smith Park, site of the former Methodist Campground.

September 12--Education

October 24--Episcopal visit, with Bishop Marjorie S. Matthews as speaker.

Rev. Lance Herrick is the pastor. Dr. Bernice F. Coffee edited the history. Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Grindell are co-chairpersons of the Historical Committee.

### PLATTEVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



From DECISIONS

GENERAL ARCHIVES TO DREW CAMPUS

The Archives of the United Methodist Church, which have for many years been located at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, are in the process of being moved to their splendid new building on the campus of United Methodist-related Drew University, Madison, New Jersey. The new home, especially designed for the housing and preservation of historical records and documents, cost about \$2,750,000. Preparations for the move began March 20, and the packing is expected to take until July 1, when the actual move to the new facility will begin.

**Archives  
Commemorative  
Volume to be  
Published in 1984**

Early in 1984, a 124 page commemorative volume about the Archives Center will be published. Telling the story of the United Methodist Church through pictures of center holdings, and making extensive use of photographs of the center to illustrate the mission and ministry of the General Commission on Archives and History, the book will be an excellent educational resource for families, congregations, and other groups.

COMING EVENTS:

Oneida United Methodist Church - 150th anniversary - September 12

Historical Pilgrimage - Oneida and Lawrence University - October 2

Grand Avenue United Methodist Church at Port Washington - 125th anniversary -  
October 3.

Eau Claire United Methodist Church - 125th anniversary - October 3

Platteville United Methodist Church - Service honoring former Sunday School teachers and superintendents - September 12

Close of Sesquicentennial Celebration with Bishop Matthews speaking on  
"The Things that Make for Peace" - October 24.

**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*, 415 Doty St., Mineral Point, Wis. 53565

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