



"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. 11 No. 3

September, 1984

A SUGGESTION FOR A LOVELY FALL DAY

by Dorothy Brice

History enthusiasts of all ages, come along on a Historic Pilgrimage to our Rutland Church in Dane County, located five miles south of Oregon on Route 14. Rutland is the first United Brethren in Christ church building in Wisconsin.

Organized in 1840, the first church was built in 1847 and became the site of the first Wisconsin annual conference of the United Brethren in Christ in 1858. The annual conference also met there in 1860, 1862, 1871, 1882 and 1887. The congregation was dissolved in 1912.

WHEN: Saturday, September 29, 1984

WHERE: Meet at Waterfall Inn, Oregon, Wisconsin, for noon lunch. We have reserved a special room at no extra cost where you may order anything you want from the menu. Wide selections at reasonable cost.

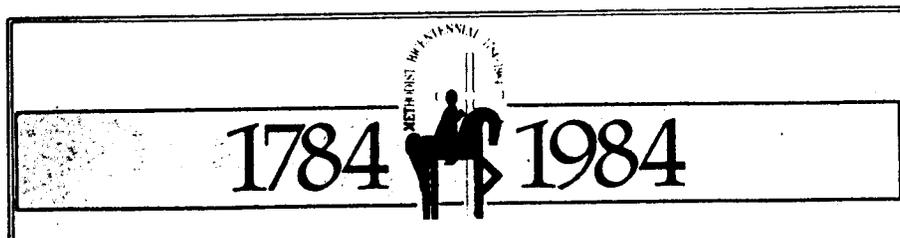
WHAT: 1 p.m. Welcome at Oregon United Methodist Church
Introductions by the Rev. Bob Kuhn, president,
United Methodist Historical Society of Wisconsin
Prayer by the Rev. Roy Bosserman
Presentation of general background and history of
the United Brethren in Christ, depicted in film-
strips by Dorothy Brice
Presentation of United Brethren history in
Wisconsin, using opaque projector, by the Rev.
Lorne Outcalt

2:30 p.m. Pilgrimage south four miles to the Rutland Church

3 p.m. A short service in the Rutland Church will be led
by the Rev. Lloyd McCormick.

Closing worship and benediction by the Rev. Kenneth
Brice

4 p.m. Depart for home



LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY



Control: Private
Undergraduate Enrollment: 1,050 (525 men; 525 women)
Academic Emphasis: Liberal arts and sciences, music,
preprofessional programs
Academic Divisions: Liberal arts college and conservatory of
music
Type/Setting: Residential/medium-sized city
Location: Appleton, Wisconsin

LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY, A METHODIST PROJECT

A major contribution of Methodism to the cultural climate of Wisconsin was the establishment of Lawrence University in Appleton.

William H. Sampson, presiding elder (district superintendent) of the Fond du Lac district, then part of the Rock River Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, received a letter from a Green Bay land agent by the name of H. Eugene Eastman in the spring of 1846.

In it, he relayed an offer from Amos A. Lawrence of Boston, Massachusetts to help establish a school on the college level in the Fox River area. He would provide an amount of \$ 10,000 for the project, provided the Methodist conference would raise a like amount and take responsibility for the institution.

In his letter to Eastman, Lawrence had written, "I should have a high opinion of the adaptation of the Methodists to the people in the West and I think from all I can learn

To raise the needed amount, many preachers gave sacrificially. Sampson, himself, sold his own home and other land to insure the success of the undertaking.

A site on the Fox River in Grand Chute was chosen and secured. By July 18 (during the conference session), \$ 11,000 had been raised. The Wisconsin Conference (ME) at its first session in Southport (Kenosha) in 1848 formally accepted the charter and the transaction involved and directed the trustees to erect and furnish a building for a preparatory department. At the close of business, they appointed Sampson to be principal of that department of Lawrence University. The settlement which grew up around the school as it developed took the name Appleton--the maiden name of Mrs. Amos A. Lawrence.

Sampson proceeded to carry out his mission. Later he wrote, "My family resided in Fond du Lac, as there was no place for them at Grand Chute, except for the forest. I could not

The University

Lawrence is a small, private liberal arts college and conservatory of music. It was chartered in 1847, the second coeducational college to be established in the nation. Lawrence is committed to provide the highest type of instruction, a heritage maintained and guided by strong leaders, and it has built upon a tradition of maintaining high academic standards in the liberal arts. Today, the curriculum is diverse and complex.

that their institutions are carried on with more vigor and diffuse more good from the same means than others."

As a result, an unofficial convention of ministers and laymen met, accepted the offer, and requested the territorial legislature to grant them a charter. This was done on January 15, 1847.

The Rock River Conference (ME) that same year gave approval to the project and appointed Reeder Smith to solicit funds needed to meet the offer. W. H. Sampson was also instructed to help raise the necessary money.

Living units on campus range from Ormsby Hall, built in 1889 and renovated in 1973

take them from the city until I built a shanty to shelter them. I arranged matters at home, packed my trunk, and on the 7th of September, 1848, left for the scene of operations....I began to cut away the thick underbrush and soon had a road cleared from the old Indian trail on the river bank to the block on which Mr. Brewster's beautiful residence now stands."

So began the Methodist Churches' contribution to higher education in Wisconsin.

MINERAL POINT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CELEBRATES 150 YEARS OF MINISTRY

The weekend of May 31 and April 1 was a special weekend for the First United Methodist Church of Mineral Point as they celebrated their 150th anniversary of being a church.

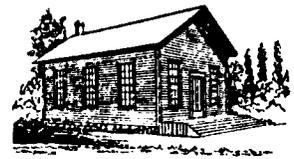
A traditional Cornish Pasty Supper was held on Saturday evening, May 31 when former pastors and parishioners were guests. Rev. T. Edmund White, district superintendent, spoke to a large crowd after they had viewed pictures of past celebrations of the church.

Bishop Marjorie S. Matthews was present to give the sermon at the special worship service commemorating the occasion on Sunday morning, April 1.

The history of the Mineral Point United Methodist Church goes back to the very earliest days of the community when religious services were conducted by "Elder" Roberts, a miner-preacher who held services in his cabin, or in a building prepared for such purposes in 1828/9, according to "History of Iowa County," published in 1881.

According to a published letter, written by the Rev. Alfred Brunson, "the first Methodist Episcopal Church, and the first Protestant church built in Wisconsin, was erected at Mineral Point in 1834. Later, he held the first love feast and administered the first sacrament in it in the fall of 1835."

The first church was built entirely of logs, not a sawed board in it, except those out of which window sash and doors were made. The floor was made of split logs, smoothed with a broadaxe on the flat side. The seats were made of split logs, smoothed on the top side and with wooden pegs driven in augur holes for legs. The building, which was about 24x30 feet, stood "on the first spur or point of land that comes in from the Northwest, some 15 or 20 rods from Abner Nichols' old hotel near the foot of Commerce St."



The first class of members was made up of William Kendell and wife, John Wallis and wife, William Phillips and wife, Andrew Remfrey, William Ball, Mr. Miller and wife, Mrs. S. Thomas and James Nancaraw.

In 1836, for the first time, the Conference records mention a "Mineral Point Circuit." Before that, Mineral Point was a part of what was known as the "Iowa Circuit." In that year, Revs. Richard Haney and John Crummer were appointed preachers -- and the Mineral Point Circuit included all of the settled country west and southwest of Madison to the western part of Lafayette County. There were probably 15 to 20 preaching places. In 1837, the society had increased to 30 members. During the fall of the year, a small rock church was built and dedicated early in 1838.

In 1840, the rude plank seats were replaced with more comfortable and attractive benches. The society increased in number so rapidly that in 1845, more commodious quarters were required. Under the direction of Mr. Philip Allen, Sr., an addition was made to the original structure.

Mineral Point Circuit embraced Mineral Point, Dodgeville and Peddler's Creek, now called Linden. The first Quarterly Conference was held at Mineral Point on Dec. 24, 1837. Present were Rev. Richard Haney, William Ball, William Thomas, William Kendall, Andrew Remfrey and William Webster. Records show that on Dec. 1, 1843, the Mineral Point Sabbath School had 56 scholars, 12 teachers and a library of 104 books.

(to be continued in next issue)

WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY ELECTS OFFICERS AT ANNUAL MEETING

The United Methodist Historical Society of Wisconsin met in the Debot Center of the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, following the evening meal on Saturday, June 2.

The scheduled evening program, the film, "John Wesley, Preacher," could not be shown because of prohibitive costs. Instead, Dick O'Neil encouraged members to arrange to have it shown to their respective congregations during the Bicentennial observance.

William Jannusch, reporting for the nominating committee, offered a slate of candidates who were elected as follows: Robert Kuhn, president; Lois Olson, vice president; Theodore Jordan, secretary; David Chevalier, treasurer (ex officio); Ferne Hoeft, Flashbacks Editor; Arlow Anderson and Bill Blake, members at large of the executive committee.

Plans for the 1984 Fall Pilgrimage to Rutland on September 29, made by former United Brethren, Ken and Dorothy Brice, Lorne Outcalt, Roy Bosserman and Lloyd McCormick, call for a noon meal at Oregon before proceeding to Rutland where the first

United Brethren conference in Wisconsin was held. The conference was held there six times.

A possible site for the 1985 Pilgrimage is the Pleasant Valley Church near Helenville.

Plans are being formulated for the Jurisdictional Archives and History meeting to be held in Wisconsin, July 8-11, 1985, possibly on the campus of St. Norbert College, West DePere.

O'Neil reported that there are now 70 members in the Historical Society and that response at the Retired Ministers Dinner was very good. All church historians are encouraged to become members of the Society by sending \$ 3 membership fee to Dick O'Neil, membership secretary, 415 Doty St., Mineral Point, WI 53565.

A vote of appreciation was extended to Margaret Scott for her work as Flashbacks editor from 1976 through May, 1984.

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*Official newsletter of the United Methodist
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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*
Miss Lois Olsen, *vice president*
Rev. Theodore Jordan, *secretary*
David W. Chevalier, *treasurer (ex officio)*
Mrs. Ferne E. Hoeft, *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.

BE A PART OF WISCONSIN'S
BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



Join the
United Methodist Historical Society
of Wisconsin