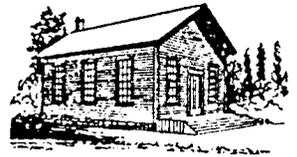




"WE are the end-product of our history."

# 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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Vol. 12 No. 3

September, 1985

BIBLE CHRISTIAN-METHODIST MERGER TO BE NOTED AT ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE, OCT. 5

The annual pilgrimage of the United Methodist Historical Society of Wisconsin, scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 5, 1985, will feature the history of the merger of the Bible Christian and Methodist Churches, beginning with a noon meal in the Pleasant Valley Church, located on Highway E, one mile north of Highway 106, 14 miles east of Fort Atkinson.

The Pleasant Valley and Siloam congregations were originally organized by Bible Christians headquartered in Canada.

There was a district in Wisconsin and another in Indiana. The Badger State group consisted of six pastoral charges with 10 churches.

The Bible Christians (sometimes called Byronites) originated in Cornwall in 1815 or 1816 by a split from the Wesleyan Methodist Church in the British Isles. The acknowledged leader was a preacher named Byron (or William O'Bryan). The first spelling is given in an article in Volume XIV of the Wisconsin Historical Collections, the second is found in the article on the denomination found in the Encyclopedia Americana.

### Welcomed Women As Preachers

Bible Christians left more freedom of action to the laity than the body from which they split and welcomed women as preachers. The parent conference in Canada merged with other Methodist bodies in 1884 to form the United Methodist Church of Canada.

### U.S. Bible Christians Orphaned

This development left the congregations in the United States orphaned. The 10 churches in this state elected to join the Wisconsin Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. This decision was not made by group action, but by the decision of each congregation taken separately.

Of the six ministers, four also elected to remain in Wisconsin and to join the Methodist Episcopal Conference. They were John S. Lean, William Medland, William Rollins and Robert Davidson.

Our conference archives at Sun Prairie possesses a rather complete file of Bible Christian materials, all on microfilm. In addition to the annual Minutes are files of the denominational periodicals.

UMC HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL  
COMPLETE SLATE OF OFFICERS  
AT ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

The Nominating Committee of the United Methodist Historical Society of Wisconsin continued its work during the summer in order to be able to present names of nominees for unfilled offices of the society at a special meeting to be held at the Fall Pilgrimage on Oct. 5 at Pleasant Valley.

## Wisconsin Is Host

### BISHOP DAVID LAWSON ADDRESSES NORTH CENTRAL JURISDICTIONAL SESSION

The North Central Jurisdictional Commission on Archives and History held its 1985 meeting at St. Norbert College, DePere, from July 8 to July 11, with the Rev. Richard A. O'Neil in charge of arrangements. O'Neil welcomed annual conference representatives from the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

Bishop David Lawson spoke at the opening worship service, emphasizing the proper use of a knowledge of the past to insure an adequate future.

O'Neil and the Rev. Lourinda R. Sanford were the official representatives of the Wisconsin Conference.

Dr. Arlow W. Andersen, conference historian, presented a paper on Norwegian-Danish Methodism; and Rev. William Blake described the work of Rev. John Clark, pioneer missionary and organizer of the first two Methodist congregations in Wisconsin.

#### Schevenius Video Tape

Dr. Andersen presented a video tape program on Rev. Carl W. Schevenius, a leader for many years among the Scandinavian Methodists in the Midwest. Schevenius is still alive and active after having passed the century mark.

Others on the program included the Rev. Charles Yrigoyen, Madison, New Jersey, who is the executive secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History; and Mrs. Carolyn Gifford, who spoke on the Women's History Project of the General Church, which she heads.

The entire group traveled to First Church, Green Bay, on July 10, where the Rev. Donald Ott led the group in worship and detailed the early history of his congregation, the first Methodist group organized in Wisconsin on July 22, 1832.

The Commission then went to the Oneida Church, the second congregation to be organized in the state on September 15, 1832, where the history of that congregation and the struggle of the Oneida tribe to

maintain its culture and identity was outlined by representatives of that community.

Following a noon meal of Iroquois food served by ladies of the church, the group toured the nearby museum of the Oneida nation and witnessed work on the building of a "long house," characteristic structure of the Iroquois culture.

The bicentennial hymn, rechristened "The Circuit Riders Song," was sung and the Jurisdictional Commission adopted a resolution requesting that the Hymnal Revision Committee include it in the new hymnal now in preparation.

The Commission will hold its 1986 sessions in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

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## FLASHBACKS

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

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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.

## PASTOR WILLIAM JANNUSCH SPEAKS AT DEDICATION OF KIMBERLY VILLAGE MONUMENT

The Rev. William M. Jannusch, pastor of the Kaukauna United Methodist Church and of the Kimberly Presbyterian Church, spoke at the dedication of the Oneida Methodist Church Monument at Smithfield, Aug. 4, on the occasion of the 75th anniversary celebration of the incorporation of the Village of Kimberly.

"It was eerie that an event planned for the late 1930's did not take place until a Sunday noon in 1985," Jannusch observed.

Village officials were present, Bill said, as was Channel 5 of Green Bay. Jannusch's sources were William Blake, Ruth Seager Wolfe, Oneida UMC

pamphlet, and M. E. Church Wisconsin Conference Journals from 1938 through 1942.

"We come to dedicate this monument of the location of an early house of worship," Jannusch began as he described the history of the Oneida nation in the area.

### Oneidas Fought On the Side of Americans in Revolutionary War

The Oneida nation, a part of the six tribes of the Iroquois, had been the one nation of that confederacy that fought on the side of the Americans during the Revolutionary War. Oneidas had sought education from the white man, had adopted new farming practices and had taken European names. The European settlement of upstate New York began to press upon the Oneida settlements.

In 1822, the first of the Oneidas came to the Fox Valley. In 1830, the "Orchard Party," those who had been evangelized by the Methodist Episcopal Church preachers, came to what is present day Kimberly. The community was called Smithfield, after one of the chiefs of the Oneida people.

In the summer of 1832, the Rev. John Clark was sent by the Methodist Episcopal Church to work at "Green Bay" with the Oneida and other Native Americans from Sault Sainte Marie and west.

In September of 1832, the Rev. John Clark reached Smithfield with appropriations for buildings and equipment. Daniel Adams, a native preacher of the Mohawk nation, came with Rev. Clark. The principal chief of the Oneidas, Anthony John, called together a council meeting "to fix a site for a school house and a place of worship." This log structure, 24 by 30 feet in size, was shortly completed. On Saturday, Sept. 15, 1832, Mr. Clark formed a Methodist Society of 25 Indian members. On Sunday, the 16th, he preached, dedicated the building, baptized an Indian child, Adam Smith, and administered the Lord's Supper to the Oneidas and to visiting Presbyterian Stockbridges and Tuscaroras.

On Monday, Sept. 17, Miss Electa Quinney from Statesburgh opened her school of 30 pupils and undertook the responsibility for a Sunday School for adults and children.

So far as it is known (and it has been published repeatedly without challenge), this was the first Methodist Episcopal church between Lake Michigan and the Pacific Ocean, north of a point 50 miles south of Chicago. But, the removal of all the New York Indians went on apace. The Methodists had to give up their holdings and were transferred to what became the Oneida Reservation.

In the summer of 1833, pastor and teacher, now Mr. and Mrs. Adams, with their congregation and pupils, went to the Duck Creek Reservation at a point about six miles south of the Protestant Episcopal Mission, which they called New Smithfield in memory of their first home in Wisconsin.

A temporary log building was constructed to serve as a school and church. According to church records, a frame building replaced the log structure in 1838. This served the congregation until about 1890 when a larger building was erected.

In 1937-1938, the Historical Society of the Wisconsin Conference of the Methodist Church sought to commemorate this first congregation and church building. William L. Wolf of Appleton, first curator of the Grignon Home in Kaukauna, found the location from old government maps of the Fox River. The Oneida Indian Nation donated the boulder that was set in place in the summer of 1938. The Historical Society of the Wisconsin Conference would provide the bronze tablet to be attached to the boulder.

The village of Kimberly, according to the minutes of the 1939 Wisconsin Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, had promised a permanent road to the partially prepared historical site of the church, located on Kimberly-Clark Corporation property (now Midtec). The road was delayed because the village was using its financial resources to construct a sewage disposal plant. Other road projects in the ensuing two years delayed Kimberly's development of an access road.

In the summer of 1941, the bronze tablet was fastened to the boulder and spruce trees were planted near the boulder by the Rev. Hugo Wenberg of the Oneida Methodist Church.

World War II began, the papermill grounds became restricted, and the planned dedication service never took place...until today!

During the summer of 1985, the Village of Kimberly moved this monument from its location one-eighth of a mile due north of the Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church. The monument site remains within the historical bounds of Smithfield in the lovely setting of Sunset Point Park.

## 1832 HISTORICAL PILGRIMAGE 1985

**SATURDAY**

12:00 n. Dinner at Pleasant Valley  
 1:00 pm. Special meeting of the United Methodist  
 Historical Society  
 1:20 to Historical Presentation and Visits. Visits  
 4:00 pm. to the Siloam United Methodist Church,  
 ORGANIZED in 1850 by the Bible Christian  
 Church of Canada; and to Helenville, site  
 of the First session of the Wisconsin  
 Conference of the Evangelical Association  
 in 1857. Dr. Raymond Veh will tell the  
 story of that historic conference. (Dr.  
 Veh was Editor of the Evangelical Press  
 in Harrisburg, PA. for 30 years.)

**OCTOBER 5**

The noon meal is \$3.75 per person. Please send reservations to:  
 Mrs. Richard J. Northey, 4086 Hwy. "Z", Dousman, WI. 53118

SPONSORED BY THE UNITED METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN

**Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church**