

Texas United Methodist Historical Society Newsletter

Fall, 2018 Vol. 10 #2

Editor's Letter by Wm. C. Hardt

Lon Morris Remembered will be held on Saturday, November 17 at First United Methodist Church in Jacksonville from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. . There will be food, music, displays, and speakers. As many readers of this *Newsletter* know, Lon Morris College was an institution of the Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church. Lon Morris College was founded in 1854 as the New Danville Masonic Female Academy near Kilgore. In 1873, under the leadership of Dr. Isaac Alexander a young Methodist minister, the school moved into Kilgore and became Alexander Institute. It moved to Jacksonville in 1894 under the name Alexander Collegiate Institute. In 1924 it received an endowment from R. A. "Lon" Morris and was renamed in his honor.

Methodists started many schools in the mid-19th century, and Lon Morris was the only one in East Texas to survive into the modern era. In 2012 it filed for bankruptcy, bringing to an end decades of service.

The November 17th evening to remember Lon Morris is being organized by the Rev. Barbara Huggins of FUMC Jacksonville, Dr. Faulk Landrum, past president of LMC, and Dr. Deborah Burkett of the Cherokee County Historical Commission. Rev. Huggins and Dr. Landrum are both deeply involved with the work of the TUMHS and the Commission on Archives and History of the Texas Conference.

My connection with Lon Morris goes back at least to 1911 when my grandmother, Dorcas Riddlesperger enrolled in ACI. Even more importantly, Lon Morris was where my parents met. I was raised on Lon Morris lore such as the pranks of the college boys who worked in the LMC dairy, and the work and witness of long time President Cecil Peoples whose name was always honored in our home.

Join us in Jacksonville on November 17.



New Mexico Conference Historical Journal Highlights Rev. Z. B. Moon, Texas Preacher/Rancher/Legislator



New Mexico Conference Archivist Will Steinsiek recently sent a link to the November 2018 issue of the *New Mexico Conference Historical Journal* with the note that the lead story concerns the Rev. Zachariah Butler Moon who was a Texas Methodist preacher who also served in the Texas Legislature from Red River County. He later moved to New Mexico where he preached and served in the New Mexico Legislature.

Moon eventually moved back to a ranch at Midlothian, Texas. He is buried in Dallas.

Readers may access the Journal at the New Mexico Conference CAH site

<http://www.nmconfum.com/about-us/archives-history/>

2019 Meeting Information

The Ties That Bind: Texas United Methodist Connections

Arlington, Texas April 5 and 6, 2019

Special Event: Friday, April 5th Pre-Conference Tour 10:00-11:30
1902 Administration Building, Texas Wesleyan University
1903 Polytechnic Methodist Episcopal Church, South
1890 and ff Archives of Texas Wesleyan University
(Originally Polytechnic College, MECS)
Cornerstone Garden established 2001

Please make reservations before **March 15** for the pre-conference tour. Texas Wesleyan is generously providing refreshments as well as transportation services, as necessary, and will be our gracious hosts on campus.

Hotel/motel reservation information will be provided in the February newsletter

Call for Papers at Annual Meeting

Cross-conference Collaboration: It's the Texas Methodist Way!

One of the distinctive features of Texas United Methodism is its heritage of state-wide, multi-conference initiatives and institutions. A few examples of this phenomenon include *The Texas Christian Advocate*, the Texas Epworth League, the Texas Methodist Student Movement, the Methodist Children's Home, Southern Methodist University, the Texas Methodist Centennial celebration of 1934, the Texas Methodist Foundation, and our own very unique TUMHS.

The 2019 Texas United Methodist Historical Society annual meeting will explore this legacy of cross-conference collaboration. Come join us April 5-6 in Fort Worth to discuss what have we achieved together that we could not have done alone.

Call for papers

Speakers are needed to present research papers on the topic of this year's annual meeting: collaborative efforts that have included many or all of the annual conferences in Texas. Please submit paper proposals including the topic or preliminary title and a brief description of no more than 200 words to Tim Binkley (tbinkley@smu.edu) by January 15, 2019. If you would like to discuss a proposal idea prior to submission, feel free to call Tim at 214-768-1989. Papers presented at the meeting will be considered for publication in the *Heritage Journal* of the Texas United Methodist Historical Society.

News from Bridwell



Dear TUMHS members and friends, I would like to share these updated from Bridwell Library with you.

Exhibitions

Both of Bridwell Library's current exhibitions relate to United Methodist history. Please plan to visit, in person or online: *The Uniting Conference of 1968 and the Birth of the United Methodist Church*

(<https://www.smu.edu/Bridwell/SpecialCollectionsandArchives/Exhibitions/UMC50>) and

The Pietists

(<https://www.smu.edu/Bridwell/SpecialCollectionsandArchives/Exhibitions/Pietists>).

Both exhibitions will close in December.

Collections

The Archives at Bridwell Library have added several new collections this year, including photographs of Perkins School of Theology faculty members shared by the Texas Annual Conference Archives and these two Texas United Methodist collections donated by individuals.

Robert E. Briehan papers. This collection comprises documents and publications from the life and ministry of Rev. Robert E. (Bob) Breihan (1925-2017). Breihan served in the U.S. Navy in World War II. He studied at the University of Texas and at Perkins School of Theology before embarking on a career in youth work, campus ministry, and social justice advocacy. The Robert E. Breihan papers comprise two folders of documents pertaining to the racial integration of Perkins School of Theology and two small publications: the report of the Fourth National Methodist Student Conference and a history of Methodism in Industry, Texas. Date range: 1948-1950. Extent: 4 folders.

Lean Wilson King collection on Jane Manton Marshall. This collection comprises materials documenting the artistic works of Jane Marshall and many personal connections between Marshall and Leah Wilson King. Marshall directed the Perkins School of Theology Church Music Summer School (CMSS) from 1976 to 1983. King directed the CMSS from 1987 to 2010. Date range: 1985-2018. Extent: 1 box.

Finding aids

The following archival collections have been processed recently. Their finding aids are available online. Finding aids are standardized reports that archivists generate describing the context, contents, and arrangement of archived materials. Bridwell Library shares its finding aids through TARO: the Texas Archival Resources Online database.

Andrew Jackson Weeks papers

<https://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/smu/00310/smu-00310.html>

Olin Webster Nail papers

<https://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/smu/00321/smu-00321.html>

Meredith R. Groves ministerial papers

<https://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/smu/00322/smu-00322.html>

Submitted by Tim Binkley

Walter Vernon Essay Award

The present Texas United Methodist Historical Society owes its establishment to Walter Vernon. Vernon, a member of the North Texas Annual Conference and long time author of regional Methodist histories, in February 1976 called an exploratory meeting of persons interested in preserving Texas Methodist History. The group present, led by Vernon, recognized the significant need for an organization where Texas historians, members of the various Texas conferences Archives and History Commissions, and friends of Texas Methodist history could join together to share their research and promote the retention of our history. From this meeting the Society emerged with Vernon as its first President. The Society later established this essay award to recognize and honor Vernon's able leadership through its first decades as well as to contribute to our knowledge of our multifaceted history.

The Award seeks to expand our knowledge the varied and extensive history of Texas Methodism from its historical beginnings to its modern manifestations. Following are the rules governing the Award and the deadlines for submission of essays:

1. The competition is open to undergraduate and graduate students at Texas colleges submitting relevant essays exploring Texas Methodist History.
2. The essay will be presented by the author to the Society at its annual meeting.
3. Stipend for the award is \$250.00, which will contribute to any of the authors' travel expenses.
4. The essay will be published in the Society's publication, ***Heritage Journal***.
5. The winning essay will be judged by the designated Vernon Award Committee.
6. Submission date for the 2018 award is February 1, 2019
7. A paper copy, as well as a digital copy of submitted essays, should be sent to Robert Monk, 3232 Heritage Lane, Abilene. Texas, 79606. Questions on any aspect of the essay may also be submitted to Robert Monk at rcmonk9@gmail.com.

Previous Winners

- 2009 Eric Nichols, *Robert S. Hyer's Methodist Vision*
2010 Betty J. Brownsted, *The Influence of Methodism in the Spiritual Formation of a Texas Preacher, Physician and Pioneer, the Rev. Thomas Hunt Hall, M. D (1839-1919)*
2011 Reagan Lunn, "*Because I Believe the Future Will be Determined by the Ministry of the Church*"
2012 Evan Jones, *Holy Whore: How the World's Oldest Profession Shaped the History of the Methodist Church in Texas*
2013 ---
2014 David Rivera, *Collaboration in the Desert: Rev. Oscar Garza Meets Rev. David A. Shaw, Jr.*
2015 David Finley, *The Theologian vs. the "Archbishop": Albert C. Outler, Charles C. Parlin and the Politics of Ecumenism*
2016 Mark Grafenreed, *The Differences between God's Children*
2017 Mark Grafenreed, "*Mingled Without Compromise:*" *Nathaniel Lacy.*
2018 David Schmearsal, *The Rice Controversy*

Historic Church Pictures

Each issue of the Newsletter has the image of a historic Texas Methodist church to identify. Here is the one from the previous issue.



I am sure that many of you from the Northwest Texas Conference correctly identified this church as Clarendon UMC since this is the building in which the NWT Conference was organized in 1910. The church building was brand new that year, but Methodism was well-established in Clarendon. Clarendon was project of the Rev. Lewis Carhart, his brother-in-law and a group of English investors. They bought 343 sections of railroad land script, laid out towns and ranches and invited settlers. The settlement actually preceded the construction of the Fort Worth and Denver Rail Road.

The strict prohibition against the sale of alcoholic beverages induced local cowboys to rename the town, “Saint’s Roost,” “Preachertown,” or “Methodist Colony.” One waggish traveler reported in April 1879 that saying the Lord’s Prayer backwards was a required of prospective lot purchasers.

Clarendon became a shipping point for the agricultural products of the region, and prospered as settlers poured in. The catastrophic weather of 1886-1887 set the town back, but it rebounded enough to found a Methodist college in 1898. Clarendon College made the town an educational center, and the town continued to grow. This building was constructed in 1910 and hosted the first session of the “new” NWT Conference. The “old” NWT Conference was split by the 1910 MECS General Conference. The southern part of the conference became the Central Texas Conference while the northern portion retained the name, about 2/3 of the land area and 1/3 of the membership.

I invite you to learn more about the remarkable Lewis Carhart, preacher, inventor, physician, novelist, land speculator, and journalist. <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fca53>

Here is the next historic church for you to identify



Membership/Registration Information

We do not send annual membership renewal statements. Our not doing so means that many of us neglect to send our annual dues. If you can't remember the last time you sent dues, it's probably time to send them again. Please print this page and send your dues and gifts to

Cindy Martin
Northwest Texas Conference Service Center and Archives
1401 Avenue M
Lubbock, Texas. 79401

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Email _____ telephone _____

Annual dues \$20 _____

(If you wish, you may join at the lifetime dues rate of \$300)

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