Anna Maria Pittman, who sailed around Cape Horn to be a missionary in Oregon, was asked by Jason Lee, pioneer Methodist missionary, to be his wife. She gave her answer in a poem. Their wedding, Sunday, July 16, 1837, was the first marriage of a white man and white woman in all the Oregon Country.

Christine Willits composed the music, and the song was published by the Oregon Methodist Conference Historical Society and copyrighted in 1959. The Oregon Society has submitted the song for possible use in the Bicentennial Celebration at Baltimore in 1966.

These are the words:

WHERE THOU GOEST
Yes, where thou goest I will go,
With thine my earthly lot be cast;
In pain or pleasure, joy or woe,
Will I attend thee to the last.

That hour shall find me by thy side,
And where thy grave, there mine shall be;
Death can but for a time divide
My firm and faithful heart from thee.

And as through life we glide along,
Through tribulation's troubled sea;
Still let our faith in God be strong,
And confidence unshaken be.

Thy people and thy charge be mine.
Thy God, my God shall ever be;
All that I have, receive as thine,
My heart and hand I give to thee.*

—Ormal B. Trick, President
Oregon Methodist Conference
Historical Society

* Printed with permission of the Society.
At its session last June, the South Iowa Annual Conference voted $500 which will be used to send ten conference men to the Bicentennial Celebration in Baltimore, April 21-24, 1966. The Western Pennsylvania Conference voted similar assistance for its official delegates to Baltimore. This is commendable. Perhaps other conferences or conference historical societies will be able to help some of their number who wish to go to Baltimore.

The Local Committee on Arrangements in Baltimore, Edwin Schell, Chairman, is considering the feasibility of using a helicopter to lower the Time Capsule into the earth in Mount Olivet Cemetery when the ceremony is held there next April. It is hoped that Bishop Herbert Welch can be present for this ceremony. Since he is 103 years old, his presence would link the Bicentennial with the Centennial celebration of 1866. The helicopter would symbolize the entrance of Methodism into the space age as it begins its third century in America.

Interest among Methodist preachers in the proposed horseback ride from Old McKendree Chapel in Missouri to Baltimore next April proved to be so great—130 applied for the privilege of making the ride—that the General Bicentennial Committee voted to permit twelve rides. The Saddlebags East Committee, Kenneth S. Jones, Jr., Chairman, has announced that the riders and the points from which they will start are as follows:

- The Rev. John R. Allan, pastor, Farwell Methodist Church, Farwell, Michigan, starting at Kalamazoo, Michigan.
- The Rev. Daniel T. Benedict, Sr., pastor of Conquest Methodist Church, Port Byron, New York, starting from Port Byron, New York.
- The Rev. Tommy Faggart, pastor of Fairview Methodist Church, Burlington, North Carolina, starting from Durham, North Carolina.
- The Rev. Charles E. Covington, pastor of Epworth Methodist Church, Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, starting from Barratt’s Chapel, Frederica, Delaware.
- The Rev. John C. Dillinger, Jr., pastor of the McCracken, Kansas, Methodist Church, starting from Cape Girardeau, Missouri.
- The Rev. Woodrow W. Hayzlett, pastor of the Central Methodist Church, Arlington, Virginia, starting from Leesburg, Virginia.
- The Rev. R. Kenneth Keiper, pastor of the Bolivar Methodist Church, Bolivar, Pennsylvania, starting from Uniontown, Pennsylvania.
- The Rev. Sumner L. Martin, retired, will ride to Baltimore from Greencastle, Indiana. He is 77 years old.
- The Rev. William W. Richardson, pastor of the Macksburg, Iowa, Methodist Church, will ride from Omaha, Nebraska.
- The Rev. Lester Spencer, pastor of St. Mark Methodist Church, Mobile, Alabama, will ride from Montgomery, Alabama.
The Rev. Dan W. Tohline, pastor of the Wesley Methodist Church, Sulphur, Louisiana, will ride from Vidalia, Louisiana.

The General Committee has approved the striking of a bronze medallion for the Bicentennial. John Street Church, New York and St. George's Church, Philadelphia, will appear on one side and Robert Strawbridge's Log Chapel in Maryland and Leesburg Chapel in Virginia on the other side. The plain medallion will sell for $1.00. A few medallions will be set in Steuben's glass and will sell for $5.00 each.

Three plates commemorating the Bicentennial have been fabricated. Two of the plates will show the twelve national historical shrines of Methodism, six shrines on each plate. The third plate will show about twelve of the outstanding leaders in early American Methodism. The plates will sell for $2.50 each.

Ernest R. Case, President of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Historical Association, is responsible for the manufacture of the Time Capsule and for the items which will be buried in it. Each bishop in the church is supplying a brief recorded message for the capsule. The American Bible Society is giving a specially bound Bible which shows that 1966 is the sesquicentennial of the Society's organization.

The official Bicentennial book, *The Dramatic Story of Early American Methodism*, by Frederick E. Maser, was published some weeks ago. All pastors in the church have been notified that they may have one copy free, if they will order it. The 112-page book sells for 75 cents a copy, or $7.50 per dozen. Many favorable reports on the book have been received. The little volume ought to be in every church and church school library. It is excellent for use by church study groups wishing to know more about the history of American Methodism.

*Live or Die, I Must Ride!* is the title of the filmstrip prepared especially for the Bicentennial. The script was written by Leland D. Case, former Editorial Director of *Christian Advocate/Together*, and the narration is by the news commentator Lowell Thomas. The filmstrip show pictorially the beginnings of Methodism on the eastern seaboard and in other sections of the country. Also, it presents pictures of the twelve national historical shrines of Methodism.
The Methodist Guidebook has been prepared in connection with the Bicentennial. Dr. J. Manning Potts, Editor of The Upper Room, is chairman of the committee. Dr. George H. Jones is the editor. The Guidebook will be helpful to persons who wish to learn about or visit Methodist shrines and Methodist institutions in the United States. The volume will sell for $1.00.

St. George's Church, Philadelphia, in cooperation with TRAFCO, has prepared a motion picture depicting the church's history and giving glimpses of early Methodist history in the eastern United States. As is generally known, the St. George's congregation worships in the world's oldest Methodist church building in continuous service. All of the Methodist preachers sent to America by John Wesley delivered their first sermons in America at St. George's Church, Philadelphia. Dr. Frederick E. Maser, the pastor, and his officials felt that they should do something special in connection with the Bicentennial of American Methodism. The motion picture, entitled Methodism's Living Heritage, will not be sold; it may be borrowed for showing in churches with the understanding that a freewill offering will be taken at each showing.

Bishop T. Otto Nall of Minneapolis and Bishop W. Ralph Ward of Syracuse arranged to send The Dramatic Story of Early American Methodism to every minister in their respective episcopal areas. They bought extra books for this purpose.

The registration fee for the Baltimore Meeting next April will be $3 per person. Registration forms are being sent to all subscribers to METHODIST HISTORY with this copy of the magazine. Send your registration with check for $3 to: Local Arrangements Committee, 2200 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, Maryland, 21218. The evening mass meetings in the Baltimore Civic Center, April 22, 23, and 24, 1966, will be open to all without charge, but a freewill offering will be taken in those meetings.

The Rev. Robert B. Steelman, pastor of Trinity Methodist Church, Bridgeton, New Jersey, has prepared an interesting and informative booklet entitled Cumberland's Hallowed Heritage, which is the religious history of Cumberland County, New Jersey. Mr. Steelman has done an excellent job in presenting a concise and factual history of the early denominations active in Cumberland County. Copies of the booklet can be secured without charge upon request to the
Cumberland Mutual Fire Insurance Company, Bridgeton, New Jersey.

A plaque honoring the memory of Learner Blackman, native son, was dedicated in a fitting ceremony at Asbury Methodist Church, English Creek, New Jersey, on Saturday afternoon, October 23, 1965. The dedicatory address, "Learner Blackman: A Favorite Son," was delivered by the Rev. Robert B. Steelman, Methodist historian of Bridgeton, New Jersey. The plaque reads as follows:

REV. LEARNER BLACKMAN
(1781-1815)

Pioneer Methodist Circuit Rider and Presiding Elder. Born, raised, converted in English Creek. Became a preacher in 1800. Served on Circuits and Districts in Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi. Chaplain War of 1812. Drowned in Ohio River. Bishop Francis Asbury said of him, "He has been raised up from small appearances—possibly to very considerable consequences."

Dr. John Hoon, chairman of the Committee on Observance of the Bicentennial in Annual Conferences, is working with his committee in perfecting a certificate which can be used throughout the church in recognizing the oldest church in each annual conference and in east district. The uniformity of such recognition should make it more meaningful to the recipients and to the church at large.

Bishop Herbert Welch, who celebrated his 103rd birthday on November 7, was honored by a special exhibit which opened at Lovely Lane Museum, Baltimore, on that day. Featured in the display were personal mementos including citations, high distinctions from foreign governments, medals and diplomas from American institutions citing the varied career of the senior statesman of American Methodism. The display at the Museum will continue until February.

It is announced by the Area Committee concerned with the production and publication of the history of Methodism in Missouri that the first draft of the book is completed and is presently undergoing final revision. The author is Dr. Frank C. Tucker of Cape Girardeau, well known preacher, writer and educator. The title of the book will be The Methodist Church in Missouri, 1798-1939, A Brief History. A leaflet for pre-publication orders at reduced price will be available in the winter or early spring.

The vast amount of research which lies behind the writing has disclosed some new history, long forgotten, concerning Missouri Methodism. Examples concern the first Methodist meeting house in the state, Shiloh by name, having been built in Washington County.
near Caledonia prior to the year 1814. This pre-dates McKendree Chapel, which has commonly been credited with being the first. Also disclosed is the fact that Methodism in St. Louis was begun by action of the Missouri Conference in October, 1821, when directions were given to “buy or build a meeting house in the city of St. Louis.” Further, it has been discovered that official lay representation was included in annual conferences in Missouri as early as 1867.

Ownership of the grave of the Rev. William Watters, first American-born Methodist traveling preacher, was acquired by the Virginia Methodist Historical Society in a ceremony in Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, October 23, 1965. Ten descendents of Mrs. Watters, all residents of the McLean, Virginia, area, presented the deed to the gravesite to the Society’s president, Dr. Harold H. Hughes, at the headquarters of The Methodist Church in Northern Virginia. Heirs of Mrs. Watters who gave the property are Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert W. Gray, Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. Kuschnereit, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Furlong, and Mr. and Mrs. Marion Furlong. William Watters, born in Maryland in 1751, traveled, preached, and organized churches all along the Eastern coast of the United States. When Bishop Francis Asbury, suspected of being a Tory, was in hiding, Watters presided for him at the first Methodist conference held in Virginia, in 1778 at Leesburg. His final home was in what is now McLean, Virginia, and there his grave is located.

The 150th anniversary of the death of Francis Asbury will be suitably marked by a commemorative lecture at Handsworth College, near Birmingham, England, on March 31, 1966. The lecturer will be the Rev. Dr. John T. Wilkinson, former Principal of Hartley Victoria Theological College, Manchester. It is hoped that one or more American Methodist representatives can be present on that day.