News in Brief

Special One-Day G.P.O. Handstamp at Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church on March 2, 1968

On the occasion of the opening of the New Methodist Church in Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle, Cheshire, England, a special one-day hand cancellation will be used on letters posted at the Church.

A special envelope has also been prepared, and depicts the architect’s impression of the inside of the church, looking to the cross.

The special envelope with the autograph of the Minister, the Reverend Amos S. Cresswell, M.A., will be supplied by sending 3 International Reply Coupons to—

Mr. J. T. Aungiers
5 Cherry Walk, Cheadle Hulme
Cheadle, Cheshire, England.

The postmark, which shows the outline of the ground plan of the church and the busts of John and Charles Wesley taken from the Wesley Memorial in Westminster Abbey, London, has been designed, as was the special envelope, by Mr. Richard M. Nuttall of Belfast, Northern Ireland.

For stamp collectors, a special one dollar packet is available which will contain: one 28-page booklet 8 x 6½ inches, with colored cover, and illustrations, entitled “Methodism on Stamps and Postmarks”; one special pictorial card showing the Wesley Memorial in Westminster Abbey and bearing the special one-day cancellation; and the special cover and one-day cancellation.

Executive Committee of Association Plans Meeting

The 1968 annual meeting of the Executive Committee of the Association of Methodist Historical Societies will be held at Dayton, Ohio, March 21-22, 1968. This will be a joint meeting with the Historical Society of the Evangelical United Brethren Church. The business sessions will be held at the United Theological Seminary in Dayton. Dr. August R. Suelflow, archivist of the Missouri Synod Lutheran Church, and Professor Arthur C. Core of the United Theological Seminary will be the featured speakers at the joint sessions.

Proposed Methodist Historical Shrines

More than forty buildings and locations have been proposed for designation as national Methodist historical shrines and landmarks. The Association’s Committee on Shrines and Landmarks met in late November to begin its work of studying all the information submitted with each proposal. The Committee will report to the Executive Committee of the Association in March 1968, and the Association
will then adopt recommendations to be presented to the General Conference meeting in Dallas in April 1968.

Utah Methodists Plan for Centennial

The Rev. James A. Smith, Jr., pastor of Community Methodist Church, Ogden, Utah, writes:

Henry Martin Merkel in his book *History of Methodism in Utah*, published by The Dentan Printing Co., Colorado Springs, Colorado, 1938, wrote, "The history of Methodism in Utah properly began with the arrival of Gustavus Marshall Peirce of the Central New York Conference in 1870." This means that the 100th year of Methodism in Utah is less than three years away. Mr. Merkel also wrote that the Rev. Lewis Hartsough became the first mission superintendent to Utah, arriving in December, 1869. Merkel says, "Thus he may be termed the father of Methodism in Utah." Due to ill health Mr. Hartsough had to leave Utah early in 1870.

It is hoped that something on the conference level can be done to celebrate the centennial of Methodism in Utah. The uniqueness of the state and situation makes the celebration that much more worthwhile. The Methodist people for 100 years have worked with the Latter-Day Saints to make Utah the state it is today.

Jesse Lee Prize

The Association of Methodist Historical Societies began in 1966 the Jesse Lee Prize of $1,500 for the best book-length manuscript on some phase of American Methodist history. The first such prize was presented to Dr. Lewis M. Purifoy of Emory and Henry College in April 1967. In order for manuscripts to be eligible in a given year, they must be in the hands of the Association's Executive Secretary by October 1 of that year, and the committee announces the winner at the annual meeting of the Executive Committee next following that date. Only two manuscripts were submitted by October 1, 1967, and the committee and the Association of Methodist Historical Societies in general are disappointed that more participation in the competition has not been forthcoming. However, it is realized that a great deal of publicity is necessary for such an endeavor, and perhaps continued promotion of the Prize will bring more entries by next October.

Disciplines

Our note in the October 1967 number of *Methodist History* has thus far brought only one reply, but we are grateful to Dr. Hoyt L. Hickman of Erie, Pennsylvania, for his suggestions and offers to help us secure a complete run of *Disciplines* for the Historical Library in the World Methodist Building at Lake Junaluska. We hope that other persons who have these volumes in their personal collections will assist us by lending them so that we may make copies or by placing their books in the Historical Library.
Frank Mason North is a name that evokes warm memories in American Protestant leaders who lived during the first third of this century. Today he is recognized primarily as a writer of hymns, especially his classic, "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life." And yet he was far more than a poet. The recent biography, Frank Mason North, by Creighton Lacy, makes this clear.

North was a many-sided person. Besides being a natural poet, he was also a gifted administrator, a social prophet, an ecumenical statesman and above all a devoted Christian. These talents and much more are brought out in this book that shows considerable research and careful preparation. The author, due to his family and professional ties, was well chosen for his task. It appears to be a work of love.

The material itself is presented in an attractive manner. Before each chapter we find one of Dr. North's well-known hymns. All of the chapters are headed by an appropriate stanza that represents the best of his verse. Our author lets his subject speak for himself and quotes extensively from his sermons and other writings. He gives a well-balanced picture of North's devotion to a "social gospel" and his vision of the kingdom of God. Nevertheless one feels that Frank Mason North had in life far more appeal than this or any other book could convey.

North spent his last days on the campus of Drew University. Two years before his death his faculty colleagues wrote of him as follows: "Though we love him truly for what he has done for us, his works; though we sincerely admire him for the choice and undying records of what he has written for us and for all men in his words; we, nevertheless, base our profoundest appreciation of his personality upon what we discern to be his character. What he is, far exceeds what he has ever said or can ever do."

—Gaither P. Warfield
former General Secretary of
Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief

The study of Methodist history, whether in America or Britain or elsewhere, has two besetting problems. One is to discover what has been written on the particular subject which occupies your attention, and the other is to locate copies of the book or books in question. The more obscure the subject the more difficult the search, and the field is vast. In my own files, mainly restricted to British Methodism of the 18th and 19th centuries I have bibliographical slips describing some 40,000 books and
pamphlets, but I realize that in many respects I have only skinned the surface, and the huge pamphlet literature of American Methodism is hardly touched therein. It is therefore a genuine thrill to welcome this volume, which will prove invaluable to all serious students of Methodist history.

Do you want to know where there is a copy of Alexander M'Caine's *Letters on the organization and early history of the Methodist Episcopal Church* (1850), as I did recently? Or of *The Centenary of Methodism* (Dublin, 1839)? This volume will tell you. Do you want to secure at least a rough guide to the writings of William Warren Sweet? This volume will tell you. Do you want to know what is available on the history of Howard Street M.E. Church, San Francisco, or St. John's Methodist Church, Saint Paul, Minnesota? This volume will tell you. True, it isn't the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, and won't answer all of your questions, but it will answer many that the Britannica wouldn't attempt to tackle. Mr. Little and the devoted group who have made this publication possible have indeed put us in their debt.

It should be noted that the literature included is limited to the general category of history, so that sermons are normally excluded, as well as most theological writings—except Methodist Disciplines, which are listed in a very valuable supplement. Similarly excluded are reports and minutes issued by Conferences and Boards, and Methodist serials and periodicals. A separate *Union Catalog of Methodist Serials* is in fact already in an advanced state of preparation, and a similar catalog of Methodist manuscripts is planned.

It is well to understand at the outset how this Methodist Union Catalog was compiled. The twelve Methodist seminaries made available the shelf lists of their holdings in this field, as also did the Methodist Publishing House, the Upper Room, and the Association of Methodist Historical Societies. In essence the catalog consists of reduced photographs of these 20,000 cards, arranged in three columns to a page in alphabetical order—a master index to most of the major American holdings on Methodist history. It is intended eventually to reduce each title to one card with a full description of the item, and on that card to insert symbols showing the libraries which own a copy. This is an enormous task, however, and to have waited for its completion would greatly have delayed publication. Part of the price we have to pay for having such a useful tool in our hands this early is the appearance of many titles in duplicate or occasionally octuplicate. Another limitation is the omission of some valuable conference or church libraries such as those at Lovely Lane, Baltimore, and Old St. George's, Philadelphia, and of the Library of Congress cards, especially those in its National Union Catalog. Having traversed much of this territory in recent years in search of the publications of the Wesley's, however, I realize more than many people that to expect this kind of coverage with such a multiplicity of authors and titles would be crying for the moon. And even though the moon may be reached this decade, I doubt whether a truly comprehensive Methodist Union Catalog could be achieved this century. Let us indeed be grateful for what is presented in this "preliminary edition," and let us give the com-
pillers all our support in trying to ensure that the next edition will be even better.

—Frank Baker
Duke University
Durham, N. C.


When the Methodist Protestant Church endorsed Methodist Union in 1939 its leaders realized that those issues which had sparked the division in 1828 were largely solved and that their branch of the Wesleyan faith would bring to the new church a uniquely rich contribution and tradition in democratic government. For Such a Time is a moving tribute to the life of Bishop James H. Straughn of Maryland who played a significant role in helping the Methodist Protestant Church make a smooth transition into the Methodist Church.

Bishop Straughn’s ecclesiastical career is traced from his early Sunday school days in Centreville, Maryland, through his years as student at Western Maryland College and Westminster Theological Seminary, president of the denominational Christian Endeavor Union, president of the Maryland Annual Conference and of West Lafayette College, and, finally, in 1936, as president of the General Conference, the highest office in the Methodist Protestant Church. In each position he received invaluable training which prepared him well for that time when he would lead his denomination into a united Methodism.

Mr. Stephenson, former executive secretary of the Board of Education of the Methodist Protestant Church, has for many years been personally associated with Bishop Straughn who he portrays as a man of good humor, keen mind, genial spirit, capable leadership and a strong ecumenical spirit.

Unfortunately, the book is too abbreviated and general to treat as thoroughly as might be desirable either the biography of Bishop Straughn or the excellent leadership he so ably provided at a critical period in Methodist history. Some discussion of his work following his appointment as bishop and during the early years of union would have more effectively concluded this very thoughtfully prepared testimonial.

—Ralph Hardee Rives
East Carolina University
Greenville, North Carolina


This book records the life history of one of Methodism’s oldest and best known Mid-Western schools, Central College at Fayette, Missouri, There is something stimulating about reading the running account of a small institution’s struggles with a variety of massive problems over a
century of changing times and formidable threats. Many small independent schools during this same period succumbed to blows no more severe than those Central College received.

This school has apparently reached safe harbor after passing the reefs of financial near-disaster, wars, internal conflicts and that great number of vicissitudes that have wrecked many academic vessels.

It is apparent that Dr. Tucker was the right choice to record these events. He has been associated with the college for half its history, was graduated there, as was his wife, to whom he dedicated the volume, and has served it in many capacities. He has, furthermore, proved his skill in writing history with a previous volume, *The Methodist Church in Missouri, 1798-1939*.

No bibliography is affixed; the source material is obviously limited, but the author reviews his sources in the Foreword and properly footnotes his references.

The founding of the school was a venture in faith and courage and should add evidence to the fact that early Methodists were committed to the education of their children.

An early curriculum provides an interesting contrast to modern education, with heavy emphasis on classical studies; Greek, Latin and "mental philosophy," whatever that was. The transfer from Classical to Modern Education is carefully traced. The merger with nearby Howard-Payne College, a Methodist girls' school, pointed the way to another advancement in educational procedure.

The final chapter lists Presidents, Faculty, Board of Curators, honorary degrees and a "Who's Who."

Admittedly, his is a small volume (195 pages) that will have a limited reading interest, but it can be hoped that its appeal will attract a wider audience than alumni and friends. It is a story in miniature of Methodist efforts in education and a tribute to the courageous and faithful men and women who conquered unforeseen and often overwhelming difficulties to establish a respected institution of higher education. It should, also, add strength to the cause of the small church-related college as a significant part of the American educational system.

—Robert E. L. Bearden
First Methodist Church
Little Rock, Arkansas