Francis Asbury landed at Philadelphia. During the remainder of the year he preached at several points within the states of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York.

The site of the Old Otterbein Church in Baltimore, Maryland, was purchased. This church became the mother church for the United Brethren in Christ.


Methodists in the American Colonies numbered 316. This listing was the first appearance of “America” in the English minutes and in the statistical returns of member societies.

January

Joseph Benson, classical tutor at Trevecca College, Wales, was dismissed by Lady Huntingdon for his defense of the Wesley Minutes opposing Calvinism.

March 5

Joseph Pilmore received a letter from London, informing him that John Wesley had “preached a funeral sermon on the Death of that great man of God, Mr. Whitefield. What a pity Mr. Wesley and he were ever divided.” (Pilmore's Journal)

May

William Watters, one of the first native American Methodist itinerants, had his conversion experience in the home where he was born in Baltimore County, Maryland.

1796

Jacob Albright, founder of the Evangelical Association, began his first preaching tour in the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Francis Asbury learned that a bell was installed in the Methodist chapel in Augusta, Georgia, and expressed this comment in his Journal: “It is the first I ever saw in a house of ours in America; I hope it will be the last.”

Ebenezer Academy, in Brunswick County, Virginia, founded in 1784 as a day school, applied to the state for incorporation. This institution, nicknamed the Cradle of Methodism, was the first Methodist school
in America. About 1800 the school passed out of Methodist hands.

Richard Watson, aged 15, was received on trial in England, the youngest itinerant to be received by English Methodism.

Negro Methodists withdrew from the John Street Methodist Episcopal Church in New York City and organized their own congregation.

Zoar opened on Brown Street, the second Methodist Episcopal house of worship for colored people in Philadelphia.

Alexander Kilham was expelled from the Wesleyan Methodist Connection in England. He had opposed the Articles of Pacification and had published a pamphlet advocating the distribution of church power and authority between clergy and laity. When certain accusations were not substantiated he was expelled by unanimous consent. The following year Kilham and a few friends organized the New Connection Methodists.

March 28

The Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church was incorporated at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

May 27

Birth of Henry Bidleman Bascom in Hancock, New York. Methodist Episcopal clergyman and author, first president of Madison College in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, 1827-29; agent for the American Colonization Society 1829-31; president of Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky, 1842-49. In 1850 he was elected the fifth bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

1821

Joseph Pilmore resigned as minister from St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

The first American revision of John Wesley's hymn book was made largely by Nathan Bangs and published by him, book agent of the Methodist Episcopal Church. This volume had the title *A Collection of Hymns for the Use of the Methodist Episcopal Church*. With minor changes, this hymn book served the church for thirty years.

Nathan Bangs established the first bindery of the Methodist Episcopal Book Concern in the 14 Cross Street basement of the Wesleyan Seminary in New York City. Operation began in 1822.
A Methodist temperance society was formed in Bangor, Maine, the earliest Methodist society of record.

The first full edition of Asbury's Journal was published in three volumes by Francis Hollingsworth. In 1836, the original manuscript was destroyed by the Book Concern fire in New York.

January
James B. Finley formed the first Methodist class among the Wyandots.

February 16

April 12
Beginning publication of the Wesleyan Repository and Religious Intelligencer, first Reform periodical and precursor of the Methodist Protestant controversy. This journal was published as a sixteen-page bi-monthly for two years. William S. Stockton, a layman in the Philadelphia Conference, was the editor. With a subscription of less than 500, this organ suspended operations at a loss in April 1824, after three years of publication. The Mutual Rights of Ministers and Members of the Methodist Episcopal Church took its place.

May 2
Birth of William Taylor of Rockbridge County, Virginia, eminent Methodist bishop, author, and worldwide missionary. In 1849 he was sent by the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church as a missionary to San Francisco. He became missionary bishop for Africa in 1884.

May 16
The General Conference of the United Brethren of Christ opposed slavery.

June 21
The first conference of some of the New York Negro churches met under the name of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in America. Some of the members present were expecting to be organized as an African Conference by the next General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1822 this group became independent of the mother church.

1846
Illinois Conference Female Academy was founded at Jacksonville, Illinois, by Methodists, and opened for instruction in 1848. In 1953 the name was changed to MacMurray College.
Ole Peter Petersen, a Norwegian sailor, was converted on the Bethel Ship. He was appointed Methodist Episcopal missionary to Norway in 1853.

Founding of Indiana Asbury Female College by the Indiana Conference, in New Albany, Indiana. Later, the name was changed to DePauw College for Young Ladies in honor of its benefactor, Washington Charles DePauw.

The first foreign mission of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South was authorized. Benjamin Jenkins arrived in China in 1848.

April 9
Baldwin Institute, Berea, Ohio, opened for students under Methodist auspices. In 1856 the name was changed to Baldwin University. In 1913 Baldwin University and German Wallace College united to form Baldwin-Wallace College.

May 1
The first General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South opened in the Union Street Church, now the Washington Street Church, in Petersburg, Virginia. The following legislation is now of interest:

1) Publication of its first official hymn book was ordered, and it was issued in 1847 as *Southern Methodist Hymns.*

2) The Missouri Conference was divided into the St. Louis and Missouri Conferences.

3) William Capers was elected bishop.

May 15
Birth of Wesley M. Stanford in Venango County, Pennsylvania, minister in the Evangelical Association. In 1882 he became editor of *The Evangelical Messenger,* and managing editor in 1889. In 1894 he was elected bishop of the United Evangelical Church and served until 1902 when his term of office as bishop terminated. He then became editor of *The Evangelical,* the official church paper.

1871
Northwestern Ohio Normal School was established at Ada, Ohio, by the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1855 it was chartered as Ohio Normal University and adopted the name, Ohio Northern University in 1904.

The Methodist Protestant Book Concern at Springfield, Ohio was relocated at Pittsburgh.

An English Wesleyan Methodist mission was established in Oporto, Portugal.
Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, opened under the auspices of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

February
Frances E. Willard was elected president of Woman's College, Evanston, Illinois.

February 23
Death of Lee Claflin in Boston, Massachusetts, Methodist Episcopal layman and philanthropist. He contributed generously to the support of Claflin University, Orangeburg, South Carolina, the first college for Negroes in the state, and to other educational institutions.

March 2
Death of James Osgood Andrew in New Orleans, ninth bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church and the second bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Through inheritance and marriage he found himself a slave holder. This state of affairs led directly to the separation of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1844.

March 14
Bishop Ames appointed Leroy M. Vernon "missionary and superintendent of the work of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Italy." Mr. Vernon was the first Methodist Episcopal missionary to Italy, strengthening the English Wesleyans who came to Italy from France in 1852.

April 5
Death of Edward T. Taylor, "Father Taylor," in Boston, Massachusetts, the sailor preacher, eminent Methodist Episcopal clergyman and eloquent pulpit orator.

May 3
Boston University School of Theology was established.

June 15
The first annual session of the Evangelical Association in Europe to be held in France convened in Strassburg, Alsace. John Schmidli was appointed to begin a mission in Colmar, Alsace.

October 11
Union Biblical Seminary, Dayton, Ohio was founded. In 1909 the name was changed to Bonebrake Theological Seminary. Through union with Evangelical School of Theology, Reading, Pennsylvania in 1954, it became known as United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio. This was the oldest seminary of the Evangelical United Brethren Church.
EDITOR’S NOTE: In the October, 1970 issue of Methodist History, under the Calendar of events for 1770, we wish to correct several inaccurate statements in the second paragraph on page 58. The corrected paragraph should read: “Paul and Barbara Heck, with their two sons John and Jacob and their daughter Elizabeth, moved from New York City to Camden, New York, in the Hudson Valley watershed. Probably in 1778 they moved to Canada.” (These corrections were supplied by the Rev. J. William Lamb, a historian of the Bay of Quinte Conference, United Church of Canada. He indicated that son Samuel Heck was not born until 1771 in the Camden Valley.)