



HISTORIAN'S DIGEST

Volume XXXVIII Number 2

Summer 1998

NISQUALLY MISSION PRESERVATION COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED

By Jean Hanson

At the meetings of the Pacific-Northwest Conference Historical Society on June 18, 1998, the speakers were Dr. James A. and Mary Elizabeth Edgren. They told about an Organizational Meeting held just a week earlier that launched the Committee for the Preservation of the Nisqually Mission Historical Site. Mrs. Edgren and Lorraine Overmyer are co-Chairs, and Dr. Edgren is Secretary. A long list of persons representing various communities and walks of life are already assuming subcommittee tasks, and other citizens are invited to join.

In 1834, pioneer Methodist Missionary Jason Lee came to establish the Willamette Mission. He felt the Christian message ought also to be brought to the area North of the Columbia River, and called for more U. S. personnel to come. Among the fifty-two persons who arrived at Fort Vancouver aboard the *Lausanne*

on June 1, 1840, were Dr. John P. Richmond and his wife America, whom Jason Lee assigned as missionaries to Nisqually. The Hudson's Bay Company had built Fort Nisqually in 1833 for commercial purposes; Lee persuaded the British to open the area to the Christian message as well. The mission station, an 18' x 32' x 9' log structure surrounded by a stockade, was built by William Holden Willson in 1839, and was nearly finished when the Richmonds arrived. Another new arrival was Chloe Aurelia Clarke who came to be a teacher. She later married William Willson, the first wedding in the area, and their baby was the first

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The Nisqually Mission was not only the first U.S. settlement North of the Columbia River and West of the Cascades, but also the first Methodist presence in the region.

RENEWAL REMINDER

Please look at the address label on this newsletter. Above your name you will find the expiration date of your society membership. If you see the date July 1998, or any earlier date, the time to renew your membership is now.

Our treasurer, Millard Mead, who must process all renewals, would appreciate an early response. Send your checks to Millard Mead, 212 Erie Beach Road, Lakeside, OH 43440.

Remember, membership in our society also makes a great gift for that friend with an interest in Methodist history!

CORRECTION

Please note that the dates for the 1998 annual meeting are **September 18th - 20th**. The dates appeared correctly on the Registration Form in the last issue and in this issue, but were incorrect in the lead article in the last issue.

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That Reminds Me...

Robert Drew Simpson

Thirty-nine years ago *Together* magazine included in the November issue several Methodist stories under the title *Methodist Chuckles*. I found the columns in my files and thought it worth repeating.

"Brother Van" W. W. van Orsdel, pioneer Methodist minister, could prove that Methodism's wide door occasionally let in strange characters. Once during a stagecoach holdup he chided the bandit, saying, "You wouldn't rob a poor Methodist preacher, would you?"

"Heck, no," the masked man barked, "I'm a Methodist myself!"

Those old-time circuit riders rivaled Paul Bunyan, it seems. Once a rough-neck who was offended by Jesse Walker's preaching rode his horse into an enclosure where the preacher was working.

"Parson," he shouted, "you've got me to lick or git out'n this neck o' the woods." Walker turned, quickly took the fellow by the seat of his pants and the nape of the neck and threw him over the fence. The ruffian got up, peeked through a crack in the fence, and in a mumbling-meek voice said, "Now, Parson, if you'll hand me my mare over the fence, too, I'll be agoin!"

Not always did the preachers do so well. When Lincoln was running for Congress against Peter Cartwright, he dropped in to hear the circuit rider preach. When Cartwright asked all who wanted to go to heaven to stand, all rose but Lincoln.

"Brother Lincoln," said Cartwright, where are you going?"

"To Congress," replied Lincoln – and he did.

St. Peter was once overwhelmed by 57 Methodist clamoring for admission at the pearly gates. Unable to accommodate them – it seems that a celestial housing development wasn't on schedule

– he phoned Lucifer who reluctantly agreed to look after them for a few days. But next morning came an SOS from below.

"Peter," said Lucifer, "you've got to take these Methodist back. They've already organized, taken up a collection – and are only \$50 short of having enough to air-condition the place!"

From *Together* Magazine, November 1959.

RDS

Walker, (the circuit rider), quickly took the fellow by the seat of his pants and the nape of the neck and threw him over the fence.

HOW DO I JOIN?

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- Individual: \$ 22 per year;
\$ 40 for two years
- Student: \$ 15 per year
- Family: \$ 27 per year;
\$ 50 for two years
- Institution: \$ 32 per year;
\$ 60 for two years
- Benefactor: \$ 100 per year (\$78 gift credit for tax purposes)
- Life: \$ 500

*Outside U.S.A., add \$2 per year for postage. Some UM conference historical societies offer reduced joint memberships.

*Memberships are entered quarterly: January 1, April 1, June 1, or October 1 (allow 4 weeks for processing)

Make checks payable to the Historical Society and send to:

Millard Mead, Treasurer
212 Erie Beach Road
Lakeside, OH 43440

Consider a gift membership for a family member, friend, colleague, or local church library! Recipients will receive a special letter acknowledging the gift.

Historical Society of the UMC

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12021 Orange Grove Dr.
Tampa, FL 33618
jamesyost@aol.com

President's Corner

Our theme at the historical convocation this year in Little Rock, Arkansas will be on the theme of education in the Wesleyan tradition. Why did John Wesley place such importance on education? Why did Coke and Asbury encourage and lead in the founding of Cokesbury College? Why did our early circuit riders carry at least three books: a bible, a hymn book, and a discipline?

Throughout the history of Methodism, an emphasis on the importance of knowledge has always been present and important. This emphasis, however, has never been knowledge for knowledge's sake. Our Methodist heritage insists that acquired knowledge be made real to others through concrete actions that stem from that knowledge! As Methodist, we don't "hoard" our knowledge as if we're afraid what we know as historians, archivists, and teachers will be lost if utilized by others. We are about giving: sharing with others what we've learned.

Our convocation in Little Rock will be our chance to again "share our knowledge" as members of this historical society. I hope to see you there.

Thank You!

Sharon, myself, and our daughter Emelie, would like to thank all of you for your prayers and cards and memorials. Our son Adam's death has left a huge hole in our lives; one which hurts and aches constantly. Because of your caring and prayers, our grief has been made easier. Adam loved history and hoped someday to become a film maker. We wish you could have known him. More than words can express, thank you for keeping us in your prayers. With the help of our Lord, and the prayers of friends like you, we will make our way through the "valley of the shadow of death".

John, Sharon, Emelie Sims

We are about giving: sharing with others what we have learned.

Additional Member E-Mail Addresses

The following members have kindly added their e-mail addresses to those previously shared with the society. Please add these to the list from last issue.

Mary Bakeman <mbakeman@parkbooks.com> Roseville, MN
Joe Beardsley <jbear@anotchabove.com> Littleton, NH (Pres. New England Conf, HS)
Ken Bitler <history@epix.com> Montrose, PA
Chester D. Campbell" <campbellcd@mindspring.com> Madison, TN
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Cecil Pottieger <cpep@pop.kis.net> Frederick, MD
Elizabeth Prothro <Elizabeth.Prothro@dalsemi.com> Wichita Falls, TX
James Simons <jsimmons@adrian.adrian.edu> Adrian, MI (Detroit Conf. Archives)
Charles Yrigoyen, Jr. <cyrigoyen@gcah.org> Madison, NJ (General Secretary, GCAH)

DETAILS OF THE 1998 ANNUAL MEETING

By Jim Lane

The 1998 meetings of the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church and the General Commission on Archives and History will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas September 17-20, 1998. The theme will be "The 250th Anniversary of Methodist Involvement in Education."

The convention center will be at the North Little Rock Riverfront Hilton Inn, North Little Rock, Arkansas, which is right across the Arkansas river from Little Rock. The room rate is \$59.00 for one or two people, plus taxes.

The plenary session of the Historical Society will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, September 18. There will be a major banquet Friday evening at First United Methodist Church in Little Rock (on the national historic register). Featured speaker will be Bishop Ole Borgen from Lillestrom, Norway. He is being honored by the General Commission on Archives and History.

On Saturday, tour buses will take the group to three places in Little Rock. We will see Philander Smith College, one of the Historic Black United Methodist Colleges; Camp Aldersgate, a wonderful project of the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries; and the new Visitors' Center at Little Rock Central High School, the

school made "famous" in 1957.

The tour then proceeds to Conway, Arkansas for a luncheon and program at Hendrix College. Dr. Ann Die, president of Hendrix and president of the United Methodist Association of United Methodist Schools and Colleges, will speak as will Dr. Trudy Reed, who is the new president of Philander Smith College. Dr. Reed will talk about the 13 Historic Black Colleges. Following lunch the group will visit the United Methodist Archives, housed at Hendrix. Then its back to Little Rock for a little rest before the evening banquet at First United Methodist Church in Little Rock.

Sunday morning's activities will be at the Quapaw Quarter United Methodist Church in Little Rock. The Arkansas United Methodist Museum is housed there, which we will visit. Bishop Emilio DeCarvalho of Luando, Angola, President of the General Commission on Archives and History and chair of Africa University's Board, will speak. The world-famous Philander Smith College Choir has been invited to sing. Sunday lunch will be served at the church.

Shuttle service will be provided for all transportation needs while in Little Rock.

*Register today
for our Annual
Meeting in Little
Rock, Arkansas,
September 18-
20, 1998.
Registration
form is on
page 5.*

**REGISTRATION
For the
1998 Annual Meeting of the
Historical Society of The United Methodist Church
and the
Celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the
Founding of Kingwood School by John Wesley
September 18-20, 1998
Little Rock, Arkansas**

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: (H) _____ Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____
(O) _____

Registration fee:

Before July 15, 1998 \$ 75.00 per person \$ _____

After July 15, 1998 \$ 85.00 per person \$ _____

Make your check payable to: Historical Society of UMC

The above registration fee includes:

- Friday and Saturday night banquets
- Saturday lunch
- Sunday lunch
- Transportation to and from Hotel
- Saturday Tours (UM and local historic sites)

Please mail this sheet with your check to:

Mr. Jim Lane, 508 Brent Drive, Sherwood, AR 72120-6057

Phone: 501-834-9492 Fax: 501-834-9493 E-Mail: jimlane@swbell.net

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You are responsible for making your own room reservations. When you make your reservations be sure to identify yourself as being with the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church.

Housing will be at:
North Little Rock Riverfront Hilton
2 Riverfront Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72114
Reservations: 501-371-9000
Toll Free: 1-800-445-8667

Room rate is \$59 (single or double) (plus tax)

Airline and rental car travel arrangements may be made through:

Going Places Travel, Inc.
ATTN: Ms. Ann Reskovac
3101 Broadway, Suite 140
Broadway Summit Building
Kansas City, MO 64111
Office phone: 816-756-1212
Toll-free: 800-292-6667

AWARD NOMINATIONS NEEDED

Our President, John Sims, in his Inaugural Address last Fall, established three new awards to recognize our member's special efforts.

These awards are as follows: The BLUE LIGHT AWARD, to recognize those members who show us the way by their efforts which make our Society stronger; The HISTORIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD, to recognize the member who made a significant contribution to the field of information sharing; The JOHN WESLEY

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD, the highest award, to recognize those who have made a lasting, lifetime achievement in the field of Wesleyan studies.

If you know of someone you feel qualifies for one or more of these awards, please nominate them by contacting John Sims at 702 Woodland Drive East, St. Joseph, IL 61873 or e-mail <jesims@juno.com> as soon as possible.

If you know someone who has made special contributions to our Society or as a Local Church Historian, please nominate them for one of our special awards.

Nisqually Mission cont.

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American child. The first Independence Day celebration was held at the mission site in 1841. John Richmond's speech at this event to an audience of more British and Indians than Americans, included predictions of the area's eventual destiny as part of the United States.

The Nisqually Mission was not only the first United States settlement North of the Columbia River and West of the Cascades, but also the first Methodist presence in the region. It was 1927 before a marker was placed on the mission site. Later, most of the area came under the control of the Dupont and Weyerhaeuser Companies and was inaccessible to the public. At some point the marker was removed, and the mission site, in effect was forgotten.

Recently though, area citizens (and Methodists too) have been realizing the area's significance and efforts are being made to identify and preserve these places. The Weyerhaeuser company's Land Management Division has identified the first (1833) and second (1837) Fort Nisqually sites, and recognized the existence of two others, the Wilkes Observatory and the Nisqually Mission. They have expressed willingness to set aside areas of historical significance as a public trust.

But there is much yet to be done, such as: pinpointing locations, cleaning up, relocating the marker, erecting a replica building on the site, and providing public access. There is a plan to develop the Fort Nisqually

sites at their original locations. (You may be familiar with the Point Defiance replica.) The committee's concern, and The United Methodist Church's concern, is that the Nisqually Mission also be restored and given recognition. Therefore, the Pacific-Northwest Conference Historical Society is preparing a resolution supporting the work of the Committee for the Preservation of the Nisqually Mission Historical Site, copies to go to the State, Weyerhaeuser Company, and other Historical agencies.

Should you be as excited as I am and want more information about how to get involved in this project, e-mail me, Jean Hanson, at <hinkdjh@aol.com>, or phone me at (253) 472-4259. There are no dues to pay, and we are told a great deal of the committee's business can be carried on by mail, e-mail, or telephone. Won't you join us in this effort?

(Editor's note: This article was taken from **The Chrysalis**, the newsletter of Bethany United Methodist Church in Tacoma, Washington. As Church Historian, Jean Hanson has a regular column in this newsletter called "Look What We Found in the Attic." She has graciously seen to it that your editor is on the mailing list. I have often wanted to share some of her columns with you but space would not be available. This one, I simply could not pass up. Thanks, Jean, for your wonderful work.)

Genealogy Program

The Genealogy Section of the HSUMC will have an interesting program during its meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas in September 1998. Russell Baker of the Arkansas Commission on Archives and History will be the featured speaker. His topic will likely be either Genealogical Research in Arkansas or Using Church and Religious Records in Genealogical Research. In either case it should be a very informative program for anyone interested in genealogy. Please join us.

CHURCH PLATE COLLECTION TO BE DISPLAYED IN LITTLE ROCK

The Ebenezer Collection of Methodist Church Plates will be on display at the 1998 Annual Meeting. Tom and Barbara Southwell have a unique collection of Methodist related church plates from all over the world that now numbers close to 600 plates. About 50 plates from this collection will be on display in Little Rock.

The Ebenezer Collection has been featured in a previous issue of *Historian's Digest*. It has been declared historically significant by the General Commission on Archives and History and the entire collection has been willed to the General Commission by the Southwells.

This collection has been put together and continues to grow through the gracious donations of plates from people across the country and around the world. If your church has produced a church plate at some point in it's history, why not plan to bring a plate with you to the annual meeting for donation so your church can be represented in this fine collection. The Southwells report that they have never set up a display of their collection without having someone donate additional plates during the display. Let's help them keep that record intact.

If you would like to donate a plate, but will not be at the annual meeting, please contact Tom & Barbara Southwell at 4070 Barron Avenue, Memphis, TN 38111. Phone (901) 744-4867 or e-mail <Tom87Barb@aol.com>.

Upcoming Events

1998 Aug. 14-21 WMHS World Congress at Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Kentucky. The topic is Wesleyan Holiness. For information, contact D. William Faupel, 204 N. Lexington Ave., Wilmore, KY 40390-1199.

1998 Sept. 17-19 General Commission on Archives and History meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas.

1998 Sept. 18-20 Historical Society Annual Meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas. The meetings will be held at the North Little Rock Hilton and at First United Methodist Church of Little Rock. The theme will revolve around the 250th anniversary of Kingswood School. "The 250th Anniversary of Methodist Involvement in Education." John Wesley wrote in his Journal, "The school began on Midsummer Day, 1748." (Entry from Friday, June 22, 1751) For information, contact Jim Beal, 1811 Jefferson Street, Conway, AR 72032.

1998 November 6-8 Charles Wesley Society meeting at Drew University, Madison, New Jersey. The topic will be "Hymns on the Trinity." Contact Charles A. Green, PO Box 6095, Philadelphia, PA 19114-0695 for information.

1999 June 20-23 World Methodist Historical Society North America Section meeting in Toronto, Canada. The topic will be "What Hath God Wrought? Two Centuries of Canadian Methodism" For information, contact Charles Yrigoyen, P.O. Box 127, Madison, NJ 07940.

1999 June 25-28 Fourth Historical Convocation of The United Methodist Church and Annual Meeting of The Historical Society of The United Methodist Church at Hamline University, St. Paul, Minnesota. For information, contact Charles Yrigoyen, P.O. Box 127, Madison, NJ 07940.



MANY WITNESSES: A History of Dumbarton UMC

Dumbarton United Methodist Church has recently published its history. ***Many Witnesses: A History of Dumbarton United Methodist Church***, Jane Donovan, editor, 515 pages, 94 illustrations, acid-free paper, cloth bound, notes, bibliography, index, forward by Dr. Douglas M. Strong, Professor of American Church History at Wesley Theological Seminary.

The cost of this book is \$25 plus \$5 shipping and handling. It can be ordered by sending your \$30 check for each copy to Dumbarton United Methodist Church, % Jane Donovan, 6152 31st Street NW, Washington, DC 20015-1516.

This is the first comprehensive history ever written of Dumbarton Church, which is the oldest Methodist Church in Washington, D.C. Founded in 1772, it is older than the U.S. Senate, older than the Presidency, older than the U.S. itself. It is

one of the few congregation founded under Francis Asbury's supervision in Colonial America that is still established in its original neighborhood without ever closing its doors or merging to lose its unique identity.

This history includes previously unpublished information on church trials, the Methodist Protestant schism, and the relationship between Francis Asbury and William Watters. The book also sheds light on early camp meetings, the beginnings of the Sunday School movement, 200 years of race relations, the effect of the nation's wars on local communities, the church's engagement with social issues, and the relationship between faith and daily living, through war and peace, poverty and wealth.

Order your copy from Jane Donovan.

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