



HISTORIAN'S DIGEST

Volume XL Number 3

Summer 2000

ANNUAL MEETING, SEPT. 24-26 – BALTIMORE, MD

Speakers for the Annual Meeting of the United Methodist Historical Society have been announced. Attendees will be treated to tours of some of the recently designated Historical Sites—places of historical significance to the United Methodist Church, more specifically to the United Brethren in Christ Church.

The Sunday evening buffet dinner will be held at Old Otterbein United Methodist Church. Following dinner a play by the Wesley Grove Disciples, entitled “As it was in the Beginning” will be presented. After that, J. Steven O’Malley will speak about “United Brethren Missions from 1830.”

On Monday after a visit to the Kemp house and lunch at Shiremanstown United Methodist Church Milton Loyer will speak about “UB Splits.” At Isaac Long Barn, Abram Sangrey will talk about the “UB Beginnings in Eastern Pennsylvania”. Following supper at Boehm’s Chapel, John Schildt and Ed Schell will talk about “UB Ecumenism.”

Tuesday morning will find meeting attendees listening to K. James Stein as he winds up the event with his thoughts on the “Church of UB in Christ: a Reluctant Denomination.”

Transportation to the meeting will be provided [upon advance request] from BWI Airport or Amtrak Station. Housing

has been arranged at the Best Inn for a “special rate” of \$58/night per room. Transportation for the travel into Pennsylvania on Saturday is provided aboard a tour bus.

Registration deadlines are pending. Enclosed, please find the registration form and all pertinent information needed. If you have further questions, call

Dwight Sheesley at 717-359-0588 or Ed Schell (nights) at 410-566-3530.

An email address is also provided: lovlnmus@bcpl.net

The meeting is hosted by the Central Pennsylvania, Eastern Pennsylvania and Baltimore-Washington Conferences; Old Otterbein & Lovely Lane Churches; Strawbridge Shrine Association; and the New England Jurisdictional Commission on Archives and History.

*200th
Anniversary
Service
at
Kemp
House*

RENEWAL REMINDER

Please look at the address label on this newsletter. Above your name you will find the expiration date of your membership. If you see June 2000 or any earlier date, the time to renew your membership is now.

Our treasurer, would appreciate an early response. Send your checks to **Lyle Johnston, 512 S. 2nd Street, Williams, AZ 86046-2523.**

It is a great help when you renew on time. It saves time and money for volunteer officers.

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THAT REMINDS ME...

DR. ROBERT SIMPSON

PREACHER WITH A FLAIR

The style of preaching by Methodist ministers changed rather sharply in the 1st half of the 20th century from that of the Methodist preachers in the late 18th and 19th centuries. It became more conversational and less rhetorical. It centered in current events and psychology rather than in the Bible. It relied more on humor and gimmicks to hold the attention of the congregation rather than on the personal note usually sounded in evangelistic preaching.

Henry Hitt Crane, one of the most popular of the 20th century Methodist preachers, still retained a kind of rhetorical flair, but he also relied on gimmicks to get the attention of his congregation.

On one occasion he wanted to emphasize the importance of the scripture reading in his service. He opened the Bible and then, as though perplexed, he turned to another section of the Holy Book. Shaking his head as though mystified, he turned back to the Old Testament and then to the New Testament. Again he shook his head, and he began to conduct his search in the middle of the Bible.

By this time, the attention of his congregation was riveted on their pastor and the Bible. He looked up and said, "It used to be in here!" Then he turned to the passage of scripture he was searching for, and he began to read. By his gimmick, he succeeded in getting the attention of the entire congregation.

From: If Saddlebags Could Talk by Robert Drew Simpson.

"It used to be in here!"

WESTERN JURISDICTION A&H ANNUAL MEETING

The Western Jurisdiction is holding their Annual Meeting on August 31-September 3 in Denver, Colorado. The opening business session is at 4pm on Thursday, August 31 and the meeting will conclude with lunch on Sunday.

Many of the sessions will take place at Trinity United Methodist Church in Denver. Dennis Gallagher, Professor at Regis College will provide a look at "Early History of Denver and Denver Churches" during dinner.

On Friday, a tour bus will take participants on a tour of "Churches on the Plains" and then to Breckenridge for drama and dinner. Saturday meetings will provide some training sessions for archivists and a dinner with Duane Smith speaking on "Early Colorado History".

Early registration dates have passed, but you can contact Rev. Nancy Mead for information—307-632-1410 or nancmead@juno.com

HOW DO I JOIN?

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Individual:	\$ 30 per year; \$ 55 for two years
Student:	\$ 20 per year
Family:	\$ 36 per year; \$ 67 for two years
Institution:	\$ 43 per year; \$ 80 for two years
Benefactor:	\$ 100 per year (\$70 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:

Lyle Johnston, Treasurer
512 So. 2nd St.
Williams, AZ 86046-2523

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***

John E. Sims, President

702 Woodland Drive East
St. Joseph, IL 61873 (217)469-2050h(2515w)
jesims@juno.com

James Holsinger, Vice President

4705 Waterside Court
Lexington, KY 40513 (606)224-8250
jwh@pop.uky.edu

Nancie Fadeley, Secretary

260 Sunset Drive
Eugene, OR 97403 (612)870-0058
nfade@OREGON.UOREGON.edu

Lyle Johnston, Treasurer

512 So. 2nd St.
Williams, AZ 86046-2523 (520)635-2511
(Send memberships to Lyle Johnston.)

Editorial Correspondence ... to:

E. Joy Dodson, Editor
Smiley Memorial Library
Fayette, MO 65248 (660)248-6279
Jdodson@cmc.edu

Change of Address ... to: Historian's Digest

c/o Fern Christensen
1017 Oma Street
Natchitoches, LA 71457 (318)352-8206

That Reminds Me ... to:

Robert Drew Simpson
P. O. Box 127
Madison, NJ 07940

Section Chairpersons:

Thelma Boeder, Local Church

122 W. Franklin Avenue #400
Minneapolis, MN 55404 (612-870-0058x249)
Tboeder@pmlink.com

Robert Sledge, Education and Research

McMurry University Dept. of History
Abilene, Texas 79697-0638
(915)793-3864

sledger@mcmurryadm.mcm.edu

Faith Richardson, Genealogy

168 Mt. Vernon Street
Newton, MA 02465-2517 (617-332-1971)
Clyta@aol.com

Lois Yost, Commissions & Historical Societies

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

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

JOHN E. SIMS

I recently ran across a Latin phrase that confused me to no end. It said, "*AB ESSE AD POSSE*". Now, if your Latin is as limited as mine, you could conclude that the phrase says, "From it IS, to it is POSSIBLE". People who speak, read, and even write Latin tell me a more appropriate understanding would be - "If it happened, then it is possible".

Frankly, I like the latter explanation because, it seems to me, this is our meaning as members of the Historical Society. You and I are to be about understanding the occurrences and happenings of the past so as to glean and understand their importance for the future. As we approach our Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD celebrating the 200th anniversary of the founding of the United Brethren in Christ denomination, let that Latin phrase be the crux upon which we seek to find meaning. A group of German immigrants many years ago came together to worship God in ways they considered appropriate and founded this denomination. What is possible for us BECAUSE of that event?

I hope to see you in Baltimore as we seek to find meanings.

John

EXHIBIT SPACE

Annual Conferences, boards, agencies, sections, Historical Society members, etc. may request exhibit space at the Annual Meeting of the United Methodist Historical Society. Please contact:

Ms. Jane Donovan [202-363-6581]
6152 31st St NW
Washington, DC 20015

Dealers should contact:

Rev. Michael Johnson
Wesley Memorial UMC
410-744-5462 (410-747-5689-home)

If it
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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

The History of the Arizona Mission (ME Church) is now ready for purchase. It was written by Lyle Johnston (Treasurer of the UMHS). It is paperback, 61 pages, indexed with a few pictures. It sells for \$10 which includes the postage. Contact Rev. Johnston to purchase.

A Dream Unfolding, a history of the Desert Southwest Conference Archives & History Commission is also for sale. It is 160 pages, hardcover. It sells for \$18 postage paid. Orders can be sent to Marianna Steele, 3502 E. Cherry Lynn Road, Phoenix AZ 85018. Checks should be made payable to the DSW conference.

Nancy Britton has written Two Centuries of Methodism in Arkansas: 1800-2000. It was published by August House and includes appointment lists for the Methodist Episcopal Church in Arkansas for 1863 and 1866-68, a list of historic sites in Arkansas and mini church histories.

METHODIST HISTORY ISSUES

AVAILABLE

Dr. Lawrence Breeze has retired from Southwest Missouri State University. He wants to donate his issues of *Methodist History* to a library/archive that might need them to fill in a gap.

Any library/archive who needs issues, please contact the HD editor. Identify which issues you need. Dr. Breeze's collection dates back for many years and continues into the 1990's. Requested issues will be mailed library rate. Postage reimbursement is requested.

**Desert
SW Conf,
Arkansas
Conf.**



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THE HISTORIAN'S DIGEST

c/o Joy Dodson
Central Methodist College
Fayette, MO 65248-1198

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