



## DISCOVERY

edited by  
Frederick E. Maser

### New Editor for DISCOVERY

My work as Editor of Discovery this quarter has been to DISCOVER a new Editor for this department of *Methodist History*. I have thoroughly enjoyed searching for materials for DISCOVERY, and I have deeply appreciated the help extended to me by friends and librarians who have contributed to this quarterly column on hitherto unpublished Methodist items. Through my searches I have developed some gratifying friendships. I particularly wish to express my appreciation for their friendship, cooperation and encouragement to Dr. John H. Ness, Jr., Editor of *Methodist History*, and his Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Rufus Queen. They combine sound scholarship with administrative genius and a high degree of editorial skill. I have for some time, however, felt the burden of constantly meeting a quarterly deadline while attending to many other duties and carrying on many interesting personal relationships. I spoke of my problem to Dr. Ness, who listened with a sympathetic ear, and finally accepted my resignation as Editor of DISCOVERY. We discussed at length who should be my successor, and agreed on the name of Dr. Kenneth E. Rowe of Drew University, who I am happy to say has accepted this post and will begin his active duties at once in order to publish his first contribution as Editor of DISCOVERY in April 1974.

*Kenneth Rowe*

Kenneth Rowe, a United Methodist minister, is a member of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. In 1959 he received his A.B. degree from Drew University and in 1962 his B.D. from Yale University. In 1969 he received a Ph.D. degree from Drew University and in the following year an M.L.S. from Rutgers University. From 1962 to 1965 he was also pastor of what is now Gethsemane United Methodist Church, located on North Broad Street in Philadelphia. At present Dr. Rowe is Assistant Professor of Church History and Methodist Research Librarian at Drew University,

Madison, New Jersey. A member of several learned societies, he is Editor of the forthcoming *Methodist Union Catalogue*.

### *The Methodist Union Catalogue*

This great work will be published volume by volume as a ten-volume set plus index volumes, and will include some 50,000 entries. Volumes one and two are scheduled for production in the fall of 1973, with a publication date set for early 1974.

The *Catalogue* is a repertory of the catalogued holdings on Methodist subjects of 203 libraries, including the major Methodist research collections in the United States, Canada, and Great Britain, as well as Belgium, East Germany, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and West Germany. Included are books, pamphlets, and theses published prior to 1973 in the Latin alphabet dealing with Methodist history, biography, doctrine, polity, missions, education, and sermons. The term "Methodist" is used in its broadest sense to include the Evangelical United Brethren family, Black Methodist and other U. S. Methodist bodies as well as Methodism in Great Britain and other nations.

### *A Man for the Task*

It is obvious from this description of the background and work of Dr. Rowe that he is a man well qualified to become the Editor of DISCOVERY. His connection with Drew University, furthermore, gives him access to a great many Methodist materials not as yet published which he can place in the hands of Methodist students and historians through the DISCOVERY section of *Methodist History*. His sound scholarly training, moreover, will serve well both him and his readers in his choice of materials to publish. The fact is, one need not search very long to find unpublished Methodist items. Rather, one is embarrassed by the multitude of letters, manuscripts, diaries, documented stories, and other items that are at hand. It is not too much to say that a regular quarterly could be devoted to no other purpose than the publication of "lost" or "unknown" Methodistica. Not all of it, however, is worth the time and expense involved in publication. It is at this point that Dr. Rowe's keen knowledge of Methodist history and his discerning mind will be of great value, and we look forward with eager anticipation to his editorship.

### *A Jason Lee Letter*

Through the courtesy of William R. Phinney of Stamford, New York, we are able to include an original letter by Jason E. Lee to his nephew, Addi Lee. Mr. Phinney secured the letter from Mr. Hugh Lee, great-grandson of Addi Lee, and Mr. Lee kindly gave

his permission to Mr. Phinney to allow the letter to be published.

Addi Lee, to whom the letter was written, was born July 18, 1816, in Stanstead, Lower Canada, which was also Jason Lee's native home. According to Mr. Phinney, "Addi migrated to Delhi, New York in 1840 and taught school. He was appointed in 1842 by the presiding elder to serve on the Jefferson (New York) Circuit. In 1844 he was admitted on trial into the New York Conference. After several pastoral assignments, he was in 1851 appointed to the Bedford Street Church in New York City, at the time one of the outstanding churches in the Conference. His health broke during the year and he had to assume a supernumerary relationship to the Conference for his remaining years. He died December 8, 1857, at his home in Ashland, New York."

In the following letter Jason Lee rejects Addi Lee as a possible missionary on the basis of his youth and lack of experience. Mr. Phinney, however, believes that the condition of Addi's health had something to do with the rejection since from his earliest years he had a delicate constitution. Mr. Phinney also points out that Jason Lee on the other hand accepted the services of another nephew, Daniel Lee.

### The Lee Letter

Letter postmarked Montreal, 23 Apr. 1839, addressed to "Mr. Addi Lee, Stanstead (L.C.)."

New York April 18 1839.

My Dear Nephew

I have allowed Dr. Bangs to peruse your letter, and have stated to him as near as I could *guess*, your qualifications for the office we wish filled.

We want a man capable of managing the whole business affairs of our Mission, and of filling the most important, and responsible Station in the concern, that of the superintendant alone, excepted. We have, therefore, concluded that your age, and experience, would not warrant us in appointing you for that office. Business is rather dull here at present, and I have very little acquaintance with business men, and as I leave the City in a few hours I have no time to attend to finding a place for you; though you may rest assured, that it would afford me great pleasure to serve you, and help you on, could I do so, without neglecting *duty*. It affords me unspeakable pleasure to see you endeavouring to serve God, and be of some use in the world. And I am happy to learn that you are willing to go far hence among the Gentiles; though it seems that the Lord will probably, (this time,) take the will for the deed, yet, it may not always be the case.

One thing is most certain, that, if we acknowledge him in *all* our ways, he will direct our steps. Put your trust in him; exercise the most confiding faith in his promises,—do present duty, and leave future consequences with him.

Always bear in mind, that the *real* ills, to which poor humanity is subject in this vale of tears, are quite enough for such feeble creatures as we are to endure: hence there is as little *occasion*, as there is *necessity*, for us to afflict ourselves with imagining evils. I am persuaded that a great proportion of our mental sufferings in this world, are imaginary, and might be avoided, if we would put unwavering *trust* in the promises of God; and carefully discriminate between those things that are beyond our control, and those which are affected by our own conduct; and leave the former, to the entire control of him who is too wise to err, and turn our entire attention to so managing the latter, as to conduce to the happiest results.

Remember my dear Nephew, that it is not enough for us to say that we have a *God* to trust in, and that it is the *privilege* of Christianity to trust in God, but we must actually *trust* in him, and show the *world*, that we trust in him, if we would persuade them to join us. I would gladly pursue this subject did time permit.

Was called away on business and have just time to say, Farewell, God bless you.

Affectionately  
Yours  
Jason Lee

P.S. Should this reach you in time for a letter to reach Lachine by the 25, write yourself or see that Elias's people write and give Daniel the latest news concerning Elias. I have written to of Elias knowing that he would hear from other sources, and he will be anxious to hear the latest news. Direct care of James Keith Esq., Lachine.

J. Lee



### OFFICIAL GRAVE MARKER

This marker for the graves of United Methodist ministers is made of bronze and designed so that bolts in the back of the marker can be embedded in the tombstone. The marker can be ordered from the Commission on Archives and History, P. O. Box 488, Lake Junaluska, North Carolina 28745. The price is \$20 for one marker, or \$15 each in lots of five.