THE WYANDOT MISSION at Upper Sandusky, Ohio, is often referred to as the first organized mission work of the Methodist Episcopal Church. It grew out of the ministry of John Stewart, a Virginian of black and Native American heritage, who was converted at Marietta, Ohio, and joined a Methodist society. Feeling called to preach, he labored among the Indians in northern Ohio and eventually travelled northwest to Upper Sandusky where he received encouragement from William Walker, agent of Indian affairs. Stewart began preaching to the Wyandots through an interpreter in 1816, and at the request of two converted Indian chiefs, he was licensed to preach by the Urbana Quarterly Conference in 1819. In 1821 seven chiefs requested the organization of a mission school at Upper Sandusky. James B. Finley was sent to assist Stewart and in 1822 the first manual training school was built. Then in 1824 the 30 x 40 stone church was erected. Today this restored building is a National United Methodist Historic Shrine.