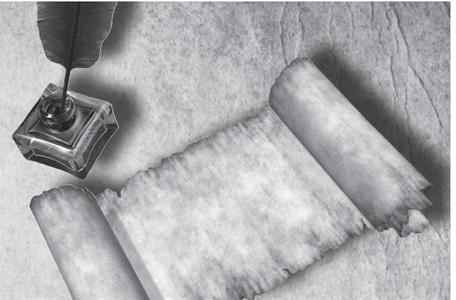


# HISTORIAN'S DIGEST



Volume 54, Number 1

Winter, 2014

## The South Carolina Conference Historical Society and the Conference Commission on Archives and History To Host the 2014 HSUMC Annual Meeting

The South Carolina Conference Historical Society and the Conference Commission on Archives and History will host the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Historical Society of the UMC, as a part of the 2014 SEJ Historical Society meeting. It will be held Tuesday-Thursday, June 24-26, 2014, on the campus of Wofford College in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Historic Wofford College, founded in 1854, is one of the four South Carolina colleges related to the South Carolina Conference of the UMC.

Wofford College was established by a \$100,000 gift left in will of the Rev. Benjamin Wofford to "establish a college of literary, classical and scientific education to be located in my native district and to be under the control and management of the Methodist Church of my native state."

Benjamin Wofford was born in rural Spartanburg County on October 19, 1780. Sometime during the great frontier revivals of the early 19th century, he joined the Methodist church and served as a circuit rider for several years. He later settled in Spartanburg where he concentrated on investments in finance and manufacturing.



Benjamin Wofford

The gift proved to be one of the largest financial contributions made to American higher education prior to the Civil War. [Historical information and pictures taken from Wofford College website].

The theme of the meeting will be "Methodism and Education in South Carolina in the 19th and early 20th Centuries". The keynote address, which will provide an overview of the theme, will be delivered by the Reverend Dr. A. V. Huff, Jr., retired Professor of History and Dean of Furman University, and South Carolina Conference

Historian. Dr. Huff also serves currently as President of the SEJ Historical Society.

Others will speak on developments in education resulting from Methodist influence and efforts throughout the period. Dr. Katherine Cann will share the story of the Textile Industrial Institute, known today as Spartanburg



Old Main at Wofford College

Methodist College. A presentation on Methodist involvement in the education of African Americans in South Carolina in the 19th century will be given by Dr. David Mitchell of Winthrop University. The Reverend Dr. Ron Robinson, Wofford College Chaplain, will speak on Methodist influence today at its church-related colleges. A tour to Greenwood, South Carolina, to visit the sites of Tabernacle, Mount Ariel, and see the restored Cokesbury Conference School is also being planned. Bishop L. Jonathan Holston of the Columbia Area has been scheduled as preacher for the concluding worship and memorial service.

Spartanburg, South Carolina, is located in the upper part of the state at the intersection of Interstate 26 and Interstate 85. The city is served by the Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport with air service available through US Airways, United, Southwest, Delta, and American Airlines. Housing and meals will be offered in Wofford College facilities at a very reasonable cost. Other accommodations are available nearby.

Registration deadline is May 16, 2014. Registration materials can be found on the insert in this newsletter.

## From the President, Dr. Russell Richey

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### Connecting Methodists: Preaching the Word and Pushing Books

In North America, Methodism presented itself to the ear. It represented itself by the printed word. It was an aural/oral movement. It prospered through publications. Adherents took pride in their evocative hymns and lusty hymn singing, in their vibrant preaching, in their converting testimony. These singing, testifying, shouting Methodists carried pocket hymnbooks, preached from the Bible, and shared witness through letter and publication. The circuit-riding preacher needed, so it was said, a horse and strong lungs. He rode with books—Bible, *Discipline*, hymnbook. And soon after becoming an independent church, the denomination commissioned the circuit rider to function as colporteur for its growing book business, the proceeds from book sales augmenting meager salaries (quarterage). Employing their dual resources—voice and publication—American Methodists patterned themselves after John and Charles Wesley and the Wesleyan movement generally. Preaching the Word and pushing books, that was the Methodist way, that was Methodist connectionalism, that ‘said’ who Methodists were and what they were about.

The dual commitment had been prefigured in the very first gathering of the colonial Methodist preachers in conference (1773). Its six brief actions indicate that they agreed to adhere to the Wesleyan practices and discipline, to remain a renewal movement within the Church (of England), to refrain from administering the sacraments, and to accept their preaching appointments. Thus the commitment to the oral/aural side of the itinerant preaching movement. Three of the six rules to which they bound themselves—also “agreed to by all the preachers present”—pertained to the other side, to the written word, specifically to John Wesley’s books and to the preachers rendering their own accounts every six months. (The preachers rendered the commitment to Wesley’s books in an ironic fashion by prohibiting Robert Williams from printing more Wesleyana on his own and clearly committing American Methodists to authorized texts from Mr. Wesley himself.)

Methodism’s oral/aural connectionalism made the system work. It helped the peoples of the Methodist Episcopal Church as they grew to understand who they were and what they were about. In some respects Methodists said a lot about themselves. They did so with their publications, the Book Concern as they termed it being the first of their connectional agencies. It generated tracts, Wesleyana, *Disciplines*, hymnals, devotional biographies, and other materials in quantity. And eventually its *Christian Advocate(s)* rivaled secular papers in distribution and its *Methodist Magazine* compared with clergy journals of other denominations. And in all such pages Methodists said much about being Methodist. Yet, they struggled in the area that serves theologically to define what a church is and is about, namely ecclesiology. [to be continued in the next issue.]

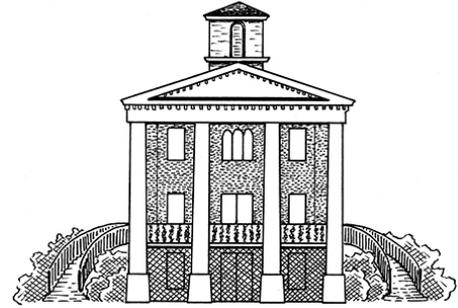
Russell E. Richey

Excerpts, with additions and deletions, from the “Introduction” of my *Methodist Connectionalism: Historical Perspectives* (Nashville: GBHEM, 2009), used with permission.



Dr. Russell Richey

2014 ANNUAL MEETING  
 The SEJ Historical Society Of The United Methodist Church  
*Hosting*  
 The Historical Society Of The United Methodist Church  
 June 24-26, 2014  
 WOFFORD COLLEGE  
 Spartanburg, South Carolina



***“Methodism and Education in South Carolina  
 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries*”**

**PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

Monday, June 23, 2014

2:00 – 6:00 Registration, Lodging Check-In, The Galleria(Evins Street)  
 6:00 Dinner – Burwell Center Dining Hall

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

7:30 Breakfast – Burwell Center Dining Hall  
 9:00 – 1:00 Registration, Lodging Check-In, The Galleria (Evins Street)  
 10:30 – 12:00 SEJHS Steering Committee, Gray-Jones Room, Burwell Center  
 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch, Burwell Center Dining Hall  
 1:00 – 1:30 Welcome & Opening Remarks Ms. Joyce E. Plyler, Esquire, President  
 South Carolina Conference Historical Society  
 1:30 – 2:30 Keynote Address – “South Carolina Methodism and Education in the 19<sup>th</sup> and Early  
 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries” The Reverend Dr. A. V. Huff, Jr., President  
 SEJ Historical Society of the UMC  
 South Carolina Conference Historian  
 Professor of History Emeritus, Furman University, Greenville, South Carolina  
 2:30 – 2:45 Break  
 2:45 – 3:45 Business Meetings  
 SEJHS, Gray-Jones Room, Burwell Center  
 HSUMC, Holcombe Room, Burwell Center  
 4:00 – 5:00 “Walking Tour” of the Wofford Campus Dr. R. Phillip Stone, Archivist  
 Wofford College and South Carolina Conference  
 6:00 – 7:00 Dinner, Burwell Center Dining Hall  
 7:00 – 8:00 “History of Textile Industrial Institute, Spartanburg Junior College, and Spartanburg  
 Methodist College” Dr. Katherine Cann Professor of History  
 Spartanburg Methodist College, Spartanburg, South Carolina  
 8:30 – until Social Hour, Burwell Center *Loggia*

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

7:30 Breakfast, Burwell Center Dining Hall  
 8:30 – 9:00 Morning Devotion and Prayer  
 9:00 – 10:00 “Methodism and the Education of African-Americans in South Carolina in the 19<sup>th</sup>  
 Century” Dr. David Mitchell, Adjunct Faculty of History  
 Winthrop University, Rock Hill, South Carolina  
 10:00 – 10:15 Break

- 10:15 – 11:00 Business Meetings  
 SEJHS, Gray-Jones Room, Burwell Center  
 HSUMC, Holcombe Room, Burwell Center
- 11:30 – 5:00 Tour to the Cokesbury Historic District, Greenwood, South Carolina (Lunch on Bus)  
 The Reverend Dr. Ted R. Morton, Jr.  
 Former Member, Cokesbury Historical and Recreation Commission
- 6:30 Banquet and Awards, Faculty Dining Room, Burwell Center  
 HSUMC, SEJHS - Remarks  
 Entertainment, TBA

Thursday, June 26, 2014

- 7:30 Breakfast, Burwell Center Dining Hall
- 8:30 – 9:15 Business Meetings  
 SEJHS, Gray-Jones Room, Burwell Center  
 HSUMC, Holcombe Room, Burwell Center
- 9:15 – 10:15 “The State of Methodist Influence and Faith at Methodist Founded Colleges and Universities”  
 The Reverend Dr. Ronald R. Robinson  
 Perkins-Prothro Chaplain and Professor of Religion  
 Wofford College, Spartanburg, South Carolina
- 10:45 – 12:00 Service of Holy Communion and Memorial Observance  
 Leonard Auditorium, Old Main Building  
 Bishop L. Jonathan Holston, Preacher and Celebrant  
 The Reverend Dr. Roger M. Gramling, Liturgist
- 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch, Burwell Center Dining Hall

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Welcome!** The South Carolina Conference Historical Society and the South Carolina Conference Commission on Archives and History welcome you to South Carolina and the 2014 Annual Meeting of the SEJ Historical Society and the meeting of the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church. There were numerous early Methodist ventures into education in South Carolina, and we hope that you will find the program about them interesting and informative.

**Lodging and Meals** are offered on the Wofford Campus for this meeting. Lodging will be provided in The Wofford Village Apartments. Each apartment is composed of a living area, four single private bedrooms, and two baths. First floor assignments will be made to those who must avoid stairs (please advise on the registration form).

Linens are provided; however, you will need to bring your own pillow and extra blanket as desired. You may wish to bring your own bath soap. **Parking** is available in The Village parking lots near each apartment. Meals will be provided in the Dining Hall of the Burwell Center. The dining hall is located on the main(second) floor. There is elevator access via a service elevator from the rear of the ground floor meeting area to the food service area.

**“Day Student” Parking.** For those lodging off-campus, parking is available in the admission visitors’ parking area. A campus map will be sent after your registration is received.

**Other lodging is available.** The closest hotel is the Spartanburg Marriott within walking distance of the campus. The Spartanburg Marriott is located at 299 N. Church Street(Tel. 864/596-1211). You should ask for the “Wofford Rate”. Other recommended lodging is Courtyard Spartanburg located several miles from campus at 110 Mobile Drive(Tel. 864/585-2400). For those lodging off campus, a “day student” package is offered which includes meals at Wofford, snacks, social, banquet, and Wednesday tour to the Cokesbury Historic District.

**Meetings** will be held in the Gray-Jones and Holcombe rooms on the ground floor of the Burwell Center. Ground level access is available at the left side of the building through the patio(*Loggia*) area.

**The Thursday Holy Communion and Memorial Service** will be held in Leonard Auditorium of Wofford’s Old Main Building. Ground level access to an elevator is available through doors at the rear of the building.

**Directions.** Wofford College is located at 429 N. Church Street(Highway 221) in Spartanburg, South Carolina 29303-3663. Spartanburg is located at the intersection of Interstate Highway 26 and Interstate Highway 85. Exits 21, 22, & 28 from Interstate 26, Exits 72,75, & 78 from Interstate 85, and Exits 4, 5, & 6 from Business Loop 85 will take you to downtown Spartanburg and the Campus.

**Air Service** is provided through the Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport with service available through US Airways, United, Southwest, Delta, and American Airlines. (The next closest airport is Charlotte International outside of Charlotte, North Carolina. You will need to rent a car if you fly into Charlotte.)

**If it is necessary to cancel your registration,** the South Carolina Conference Historical Society will reimburse your fees in full on or prior to June 1, 2014. After June 1, 2014, reimbursement will be adjusted for costs which the Society has already incurred or for which the Society has already contracted.

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**REGISTRATION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print name(s) as you wish them to appear on your name tag and list of registrants.)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Conference \_\_\_\_\_

I/We plan to arrive(circle one): Monday Afternoon or Tuesday Morning

Please indicate any special needs or requests. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(If traveling by air, please provide information regarding arrival city, airline, day and time \_\_\_\_\_)

Event Registration

Lodging, Meals, and Tour Package(Monday afternoon arrival) – Three nights housing \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
on the Wofford Campus(Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday), linens(bring your own pillow  
and extra blanket), all meals, snacks, banquet, social, and Wednesday tour to Cokesbury  
Historic District. \$ 207.00 per person

Lodging, Meals, and Tour Package(Tuesday morning arrival) – Two nights housing \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
on the Wofford Campus(Tuesday and Wednesday), linens(bring your own pillow  
and extra blanket), all meals(beginning with Tuesday lunch), snacks, banquet, social,  
and Wednesday tour to Cokesbury Historic District. \$ 177.00 per person

“Day Student” Package – All meals at Wofford(beginning with Tuesday lunch), snacks, \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
banquet, social, and Wednesday tour to Cokesbury Historic District(off-campus lodging  
arrangements made by registrant). \$ 127.00 per person

Membership Dues in the SEJ Historical Society - \$15.00(1 year), \$27.00(2 years), \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\$40.00(3 years), \$200.00(Life Members).

Proceedings – A compilation of papers and reports shared during this meeting mailed \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
in the Fall following the meeting. \$10.00 per copy

Total Amount Enclosed Payable by Check or Money Order \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks Payable To:**  
*South Carolina Conference Historical Society*

**Mail Checks and Registration Forms To:**  
*South Carolina Conference Historical Society*  
*P. O. Box 21305*  
*Columbia, South Carolina 29221-1305*

**Registration Deadline Is May 16, 2014** For Questions Regarding Registration Contact: The Reverend  
Roger M. Gramling, Tel. 803/771-9125, E-mail: [scumf@bellsouth.net](mailto:scumf@bellsouth.net)

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## From the General Secretary, Bob Williams:

As I approach the end of 8 ½ years in this position I begin to reflect on all that has happened in that time. What has been accomplished and what has been left undone. I will probably return to that theme as June approaches. But right now I am considering evaluation questions that come to us from the Connectional Table. In addition to being accountable to the 24 directors of the General Commission, both the Connectional Table (CT) and the General Council on Finance and Administration review our spending plan each year. And then once in a quadrennium, CT reviews our self-evaluation. If you have any comments about our work that might be useful for evaluating GCAH, please send me an email at [rwilliams@gcah.org](mailto:rwilliams@gcah.org) by March 1 (or as soon thereafter as possible) as the report is due March 28. The areas that CT want us to comment upon are:

### **Part 1: Program Goals and Measures**

List your goals and expected outcomes for the 2013-2016 quadrennium and how they are tracked and measured. Please specify how these goals relate to the Four Areas of Focus that serve to meet the UMC's adaptive challenge toward an increase in the number of vital congregations, and/or the agency's disciplinary mandates and other essential responsibilities.

*Comment:* These are important concerns for the Historical Society and conference commissions as well. Our goals do not change as they are to collect, preserve, and utilize the documentary record of about the stories of faith and ministry in the church. We have worked to increase access, integrate knowledge with the pressing issues of the denomination, and be both local and global in emphasis. We provide the historical perspective for Developing Principled Leaders, Global Health, New Places for New People, and Ministry with the Poor.

### **Part 2: Results of Internal Evaluations**

Include a summary of data that your agency has collected from surveys, event evaluations, and follow-up interviews with users of your services or other evaluation tools that focus on qualitative data, evaluating program implementation and the quality and value of service delivery.

*Comment:* We have not systematically collected evaluation forms but I would welcome any comments you have about our archivist training event and the time spent with chairs of conference commissions once a quadrennium.

### **Part 3: Using Evaluation Data to Make Program Adjustments**

What changes, adjustments, and alignments have you made based on the results of your internal evaluation data? Describe how your agency is better serving the annual conference, local congregation and community.

*Comment:* Six years ago we felt we needed more time with conference archivists and thus started the training event held at the Archives Center. Also, we needed to do more around racial and ethnic history so I have placed great emphasis in partnering with the African American Methodist Heritage Center and the Latino Oral History Project.

Two other areas that are more specialized for the General Commission are our collaboration with other general agencies and how we serve our constituency outside the United States. I hope this gives a glimpse of the range of concerns we have as we seek to be ever more faithful and effective in this "ministry of memory."

Note From the Editor: In the previous issue when I listed the upcoming annual meetings, I failed to include the 2017 meeting. Thus, here is the correct list: 2015 – Garrett Evangelical Theological School, Evanston, IL, in July, hosted by the North Central Jurisdiction; 2016 - Delaware, in May, hosted by the Northeastern Jurisdiction; 2017 - Anchorage, Alaska in June, hosted by the Western Jurisdiction; 2018 – possibly in St. Louis, MO, in July, hosted by the South Central Jurisdiction.

# Suggestions Being Sought for the 2014 Saddlebag Selection Award

January has arrived again, 2013 is over and done, and there were undoubtedly some fine books on Methodist history, theology, polity, and biography that were produced during the year. The HSUMC annually honors one book with our "Saddlebag Selection" award as the best work in the field during the calendar year. This year we will name our ninth winner, following in the footsteps of some distinguished books of the past, including the first, Robert Bray's biography of Peter Cartwright (2005), John Wigger's *Francis Asbury and The Methodists* (2009), and the most recent, the 2012 publication *Doctrinal and Controversial Treatises I*, edited by Dr. Randy L. Maddox.

Each year, invitations are broadcast to appropriate publishers asking for nominations for one or more of their books. But the invitation receives best consideration by publishers when they can be told that the book was suggested by one of the members of the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church.

That's where you come in. If you know of a worthy work published in 2013, please send your suggestions to Rob Sledge, the Saddlebag Selection Coordinator, by e-mail [rsledge@mcm.edu](mailto:rsledge@mcm.edu) or regular mail at Box 218, McMurry University Station, Abilene, Texas 79697. Then the publisher can be contacted again with the word that the book has been nominated.

Deadline for entries from the publishers is April 15, 2014, so suggestions from the membership should come in by the beginning of March, if possible. The selection will be announced in advance of the annual meeting in June and the winning author(s) invited to attend to receive the award and address the Society.

The selection committee consists of Dr. Charles Yrigoyen of Pennsylvania, Ms. Linda Schramm of Michigan, Rev. Lyle Johnston of Arizona, and Dr. Sledge.

*Editor's Note:* If you are interested in receiving a list of the previous Saddlebag Selection Award winners, please contact me at [pajt8817@aol.com](mailto:pajt8817@aol.com), and I will e-mail you a list.

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