

HISTORICAL BULLETIN

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2010 EDITION

from our GENERAL SECRETARY

We are only a year and a half from the next World Methodist Conference, which will meet in Durban, South Africa, August 4-9, 2011. The World Methodist History Society will have a program during the seminar time for affiliated organizations and committees on Thursday afternoon, August 4. I have been in touch with Dr Sol Jacobs of South Africa who has been a great help in planning for the WMHS program. I thought that it would be interesting to persons to get away from the Conference center and take a bus tour of important heritage sites in the Durban area. Dr Jacobs seemed to agree and is hard at work helping to make this happen.

The plan as of this time is to board one bus (participation limited to 50 persons) at 12:45 pm. This is immediately after the morning session which is the opening of the conference. The focus will be on Indian Methodism in South Africa since 1862. Lunch will be served at the first stop. Several churches will be visited and we will journey on the Inanda Heritage Route. Dinner will be at another church with return to the conference center a 6:45 pm in time for the evening program. The treasury of the WMHS will cover the costs. There is much work to be done but it promises to be a most interesting afternoon. I hope that many members of the Society will be able to be present.

This serves as the Society's formal meeting for the election of officers. I will be working with the President of the Society to prepare for that election through a nominations process. Each region of the world has two vice-presidents. I would welcome receiving names for any of the offices that I can share when a nominating committee is named. Please help with this if we are going to keep our network viable.

Almost half of our membership will receive this newsletter electronically. If you are receiving this by mail but want to receive it by email, please let me know at rwilliams@gcah.org. Membership will be free if you take the newsletter by email. All we need is an expression of your interest. We hope that this will make the newsletter more accessible to persons living outside the United States. Also, submissions for inclusion in the next issue of *Historical Bulletin* are welcomed until **September 1, 2010**. Thank you for your efforts in your own location to prevent amnesia from taking over the church and that we can be joined together in caring about the heritage of the Wesleyan tradition.

- Robert J. Williams

-WMHS-

AN ITINERANT ARCHIVAL MINISTRY IN NSW, AUSTRALIA

Daryl H. Lightfoot and Susan M. Pacey

Ten years ago, the authors commenced a unique extension and outreach ministry to the congregations of the Uniting and Presbyterian Churches throughout New South Wales. Known as the "Roadshow", the project aimed initially at highlighting the shared heritage of these Churches and at strengthening communication across the archival and historical records agencies of the two denominations, which had been adversely impacted by some developments arising from the inauguration of the Uniting Church in Australia in 1977.

(The Methodist Church of Australasia, formed in 1902 from the various branches of Methodism in Australia, together with a large majority of constituent congregations of the State Congregational Unions and a smaller percentage of charges (parishes) of the

Presbyterian Church of Australia in NSW, entered the Uniting Church in Australia after many years of negotiations which can be traced to the earliest years of the 20th century.)

Presbyterian polity required a division of property between the Uniting Church and the continuing Presbyterian Church at the time of inauguration of the Uniting Church, and for this purpose a national Presbyterian Property Commission (known as the Handley Commission) was established. The Commission was effectively a court of final jurisdiction and its determinations had resulted some 25 years later in some quite unfortunate and illogical situations affecting custody of the pre-1977 records of the Presbyterian Church. In retrospect the optimistic forecasts of closer working relationships between the archives of the two denominations, on which the Handley determinations were based, had not come to fruition.¹

Increasing consciousness of the problems for researchers, and of considerable quantities of pre-1977 Presbyterian records being withheld from placement with the appropriate Archive in terms of the Handley determinations led us to consider possible solutions to these problems. One practical strategy was to develop common principles and practices to indexing and development of finding aids such that records could be more readily identified and accessed by researchers, and for the authors as the then Archivists of the Uniting and Presbyterian Churches to become more familiar with the holdings of the two repositories. We were thus led initially to work as volunteers across the two archival repositories. A change in opening days at the Presbyterian Archives and the introduction of a Saturday opening session staffed by both archivists at the Uniting Church Archives facilitated out of hours access to the Uniting Church records on the same basis as those already applying to the Presbyterian archives.

1 *Presbyterian Property (Handley) Commission Minutes*, ed. Uidam, Minute 497 (vi); See also Pacey and Lightfoot, *The Mishandling of Handley*, Hidden Histories Conference paper, Uniting Theological College, 2007, parts of which have been reproduced in *Ferguson Focus*, Vol.12 (No.2 and No.3).

These first steps led to an awareness of unresolved pain at the division of the pre-1977 Presbyterian Church among both uniting and continuing Presbyterians. Equally significantly for those having a Methodist or Congregational heritage, we became increasingly aware of the extent of overlap (not always recognized or acknowledged) between the ordained and lay ministries of these three Churches down the years from the earliest Christian outreach in Australia. The objectives of pastoral care and support and of educational outreach, although not clearly articulated at the time, can thus in retrospect be seen as the catalysts for a significant outreach and pastoral care ministry in support of congregations and members of both the Uniting and Presbyterian Churches. Today, despite changes in personal circumstances and elsewhere, the “Roadshow” ministry maintains its joint Uniting and Presbyterian Church commitment through both the Eunice Hunter Library (the Resource Centre of the WMHS in Australia) at the Epping (Oxford Street) Uniting Church and the Ferguson Memorial Library and Archives of the Presbyterian Church in NSW.

Readers familiar with the State of NSW and its geography will gain some insight into the extent of this work over the past 10 years from the following list of places visited with historical displays, or otherwise assisted with significant celebrations and the compilation of local church histories by invitation of the congregations concerned:

To Albion Park, Alstonville, Annandale, Ardlethan, Arncliffe, and Austinmer and the Presbyterian Assembly; to Barellan, Becroft, Bega, Big Hill, Bolwarra, Boolaroo, Booragul, Bowenfels and Brushgrove (and even interstate to Ballarat in Victoria); to Carlingford, Castle Hill, Castlereagh, Cessnock, Cherrybrook, Clarencetown, Coffs Harbour, Como and Cootamundra, Cowra and Dungog; to Eastwood, Ebenezer and Epping; to Glenbrook and Gloucester, Gosford and Granville; to Hickey’s Creek, Holmesville, Inverell, and Juneec; to Kurri Kurri and Kyogle, Laurieton, Lismore and Liverpool; to Macquarie, Maitland, Manly, Maroubra, Milton, Mobbs Hill and Mortdale; to Nana Glen, Newcastle, North Sydney, Nowra, Nundle, Oakdale and Orange, Parramatta, Penrith and Penshurst;

to Pittwood Homes, Portland and Pymble; to Rutherford, Ryde, Sydney Scots and St. Stephen's, Singleton, Spring Hill, Stanmore, Strathfield and Sutherland; to Tamworth, Taree, Tenterfield, Tocal College, Toongabbie and Toronto; to Unanderra and the Uniting Church Synod; to Wagga Wagga, West Tamworth, Wentworth Falls, Willoughby, Windsor, Wingham, Woolgoolga and Wyong, and (finally) to Yass and Young.

The completion of this decade of outreach was marked by two itineraries in November and December 2009 taking in the Hunter, Manning, and Hastings River valleys in the north of the State and involving over 1600 kilometres (1000 miles) of travel. These three areas, and especially the Hunter, are of great significance to the history and heritage of Methodism not only in NSW, but also to Australia and the Pacific Islands missions of the Methodist Church of Australia and its Wesleyan Methodist antecedent. Our commitments on these itineraries included pastoral contacts with a number of long-standing servants of the church and their families and various congregations previously visited in the course of the "Roadshow" ministry, together with the provision of historical displays for three churches celebrating significant anniversaries over this period.

Also arising out of this 10 year involvement, the authors have jointly researched and published two comprehensive histories on behalf of local congregations, and contributed to research for a number of locally produced church histories. Published and unpublished articles and a number of educational pamphlets on the role of the Church in Australian society have also been produced. The WMHS through the Eunice Hunter Library was a co-sponsor with the Ferguson Memorial Library and also the Baptist Archives in NSW of a seminar on the participation of Australian Christians in both combatant and non-combatant roles in World War 1. This seminar marked the 90th anniversary of the Armistice which ended the Great War, and papers presented, including one by each of the present authors with significant Methodist content, have recently been published under the title "O Valiant Hearts."

The "Roadshow" ministry has also led directly to other inter-denominational initiatives, including a Service of Thanksgiving for the shared heritage of the Uniting and Presbyterian Churches held annually in February. This service of thanksgiving and celebration is now in its sixth year and has been broadened to encourage all who see their involvement in archival and historical pursuits as part of their Christian vocation to commit their work in the coming year to God. Contacts made in the course of this ministry have also facilitated the conservation and preservation of records of organizations whose work has been based on a non-denominational approach vital to the scattered populations of this State, and which can in some cases be traced to the earliest years of the colony.

While assisting a local group compiling *Gems for His Kingdom*, the history of the Inverell Methodist (now Uniting) Church in northern NSW, we learned something of the work in that area of the inter-denominational Bush Missionary Society of NSW (BMS), which dates from 1856. The BMS workers at Inverell in more recent years had been members of the Methodist Church who had applied to the NSW Conference for training for the Methodist ministry but were unsuccessful due to restrictions on the acceptance of married men at that time, and had subsequently entered the Presbyterian ministry. Subsequently while researching *Go, Tell it on the Mountains* for the centenary of the Gloucester Presbyterian Church, we found that the BMS had also been active among the isolated communities in the Barrington ranges and head-waters of the Manning River. Our research led to contact with the family of a deceased Methodist minister who had served on the Board of the BMS for some years and also with a current Director of the Society. In the course of these ongoing contacts, we discovered a shared concern for the preservation of the official records of over 150 years work of the Society, many of which came close to destruction in serious bushfires on the NSW south coast early in 2009. Following on negotiations with the Society, the Society's official records, together with other personal papers and ephemera relating to the BMS, have now been deposited on a long-term basis with the Ferguson Memorial Library.

NEWS FROM THE WMHS RESOURCE CENTRE IN AUSTRALIA

One of our early concerns was the need for historic photographs and other visuals for displays, complicated by the need to maintain original items under appropriate archival conditions, and especially to avoid damage from ultra violet light, humidity, and rapid changes in temperature. With the support of the committees responsible for the Uniting and Presbyterian archives respectively, a joint application was made for a grant under Australia's Bi-centennial Grants program for the production of two sets of negatives of a large number of historic photographs from both repositories, thus ensuring the preservation of the original material, and contributing directly to the disaster recovery strategies in place in both archives.

The "Roadshow" ministry has also been assisted financially throughout the years of its work by other church and secular bodies. The Presbyterian Women's Association Heritage Committee has assisted with display boards, and the H.V. McKay Charitable Trust (established by the founder of the international Sunshine Harvester Co. many years ago) has funded lap-top computers and other equipment for use in the educational outreach area of our work. The generous donation of \$5000 by the Presbyterian Fellowship some years ago for unspecified "Roadshow" purposes enabled us to establish a "travel equalization fund" and opened the way for us to visit smaller congregations in remote areas where travel costs would otherwise have precluded us from accepting invitations. The value of this support can best be judged from the distances travelled over the period, which have averaged around 5,000 kilometres (over 3,000 miles) annually, excluding travel in the metropolitan area around Sydney.

In the best traditions of Methodist itineracy and catholicity and with a clearly identified WMHS involvement, the "Roadshow" ministry has now embarked on its second decade of service to Christ and the Churches and congregations in NSW, each of which comprises a "colony of heaven, and (who) wait for the Saviour who is coming from heaven" (Phil. 3:20—James Moffatt's translation).

- WMHS -

The Eunice Hunter Library and Research Centre at the Oxford Street Uniting (formerly Methodist) Church in Sydney, NSW maintained its program of quarterly seminars on aspects of Australasian and Pacific Region church heritage and history throughout 2009 and has recently announced its syllabus for 2010. Small but enthusiastic groups from varying backgrounds meet at the Centre to hear presentations on a range of topics, followed by discussion and fellowship over light refreshments. Summaries of presentations are distributed to participants and to others on request, and in some cases published in local historical journals and elsewhere.

Subjects addressed in 2009 were as follows:

Exploding an Urban Myth: Congregationalism in Rural New South Wales;
O Valiant Hearts: Heights of Valour at Gallipoli and Beyond (Non-combatant clergy in the Great War 1914-1918);
Three Methodist ministers who became Moderators of the Presbyterian Church in Australia;
The Bush Missionary Society in NSW 1856+;
The Sandhurst (England) circuit ministry of Rev. Thomas Collins (1832-1835) and its impact on NSW.

During the year, we were privileged to be offered and to accept the extensive ephemera collection of the late Rev. Sir Irving Benson, compiled over the years of his ministry as Superintendent of the Central Methodist Mission in Melbourne, Victoria. This collection has been in private hands for some twenty years, and constitutes a unique collection of material covering the majority of Christian heritage journals published in Victoria and elsewhere in Australia up to the time of Sir Irving's death in 1980.

Sir Irving Benson was perhaps the best known graduate of Cliff College in England to serve Australian Methodism until the arrival of Rev. Keith Garner, present Superintendent of Wesley Mission in Sydney, in February 2006. Our 2010 seminar program will commence with a presentation by another Cliff

College graduate, Rev. R. Perry Smith (former Methodist and now Uniting Church minister) on his experiences at Cliff College and in Australia. This seminar will include an overview of the influence of Cliff College on the Methodist ministry and on evangelism in Australia through Cliff College men specifically recruited for service in Australia from pre-World War 1 times.

Other presentations during 2010 will feature Australian hymnology, Calvinistic Methodism and the early history of the London Missionary Society, and the history of Methodism in and around Epping c1820-2010. It is planned to launch a published history of the Epping (Oxford Street) Church on the occasion of that presentation as part of a State celebration of the bi-centenary of the arrival of Lachlan Macquarie as Governor of the then colony of NSW.

Another recent publication by WMHS Oceania Region Vice-President Daryl Lightfoot was the second in a series on Methodist Missions to Fiji and the Australian Presbyterian ministry. This paper featured Rev. W. L. Irvine Arnold, who served two terms as a Methodist lay missionary printer in Fiji prior to a term as interim pastor of a large Congregational church in Sydney and his eventual entry into the Presbyterian ministry in NSW.

Ongoing research projects by Eunice Hunter Library staff include a study of "union churches" in NSW commencing with the historic Ebenezer Church dating from 1809, and further studies of chaplains, stretcher bearers and other non-combatant Christians who served in the Anzac forces during World War I.

The Library opens each Tuesday and on the 4th Saturday in each calendar month, Public Holidays excepted, and visitors are welcome for personal research in our finding aids and holdings. Enquiries may also be emailed to the Centre on wmhs.aust@gmail.com or posted to the Library at PO Box 1017, Epping 1710, NSW, Australia.

- WMHS -

AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR WESLEYAN RESEARCH

This new group has recently been formed by a range of interested Wesleyan scholars and supporters. This South Pacific organization will be promoting research on the life and time of John and Charles Wesley, their historical and theological antecedents, their successors in the Wesleyan tradition, and contemporary scholarship in the Wesleyan tradition. Secretary: Rev. Dr. Glen O'Brien
E-mail: glenaobrien@gmail.com
<http://www.acwr.edu.au/>

-WMHS-

STREAM THEOLOGICAL SYMPOSIUM

Inaugurated by the Wesleyan Methodist Church of New Zealand in August 2009 with guest teachers Dr. Ben Witherington (United Methodist from Asbury Theological Seminary) and Dr. Tom Noble (Nazarene, Nazarene Theological Seminary) this symposium "celebrating the Wesleyan theological stream" will be held annually in Auckland in the first week of August. 2010 confirmed speakers are Dr. Chris Bounds (United Methodist, Indiana Wesleyan University) and Dr. Glen O'Brien (Wesleyan Methodist, Salvation Army Booth College).
Contact: Rev. Richard Waugh
E-mail: rjw@wesleyan.org.nz

- WMHS -

WESLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING AND LECTURE SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 2010 METHODIST CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER, LONDON

The Annual Lecture and AGM of the Wesley Historical Society for 2010 will be held at the Methodist Central Hall, Westminster in London on Saturday, June 26th. The Annual Lecture will be given by the Rev. Robin P. Roddie, Hon. Archivist of the Wesley Historical Society in Ireland, on the subject of "Keeping the Faith: Ireland's Primitive Methodism."

For almost ninety years after John Wesley's death a branch of Methodism in Ireland perpetuated a form of Methodism modeled on Wesley's design for his Connexion. Following Disestablishment in Ireland and the failure of the original Methodist-Anglican "conversations," the Primitive Wesleyan Methodists united with the Irish Wesleyans in 1878, but a remnant continued within Anglicanism into the twentieth century. The lecture will be chaired by the Rev. Lord Griffiths, Chair of the Methodist Heritage Committee and as in recent years there will be a supporting program of stimulating activities in the morning which are open to anyone who is interested in finding out more about Methodist history, so why not invite your family and friends and enjoy a full day's exploration of Methodism's fascinating and inspirational history.

We are grateful to the Rev. Martin Turner, Superintendent of the Methodist Central Hall, for inviting us to hold our Annual Meeting and Lecture at this historic venue and for making available the recently refurbished chapel for our meeting and the conservatory for our refreshments. Opened in 1912 as a monument to mark the centenary of John Wesley's death, Methodist Central Hall, at the heart of the capital, was an ambitious project linked with other major new initiatives in mission for the twentieth century. They were financed by generous donations from many thousands of Methodists whose names are recorded in fifty bound volumes, which form the nucleus of Methodist Central Hall's unique archive and the Church remains focused on the challenge of mission as it approaches its centenary. On arrival tea and coffee will be available for purchase from 10:30 am in the Cafeteria/Conservatory. At 11:00 a.m. we will be welcomed by a member of the ministerial team who will explain the continuing challenges of mission at Methodist Central Hall in the twenty first century. We will then be given a guided tour of the building and introduced to the new Wesley Centre by the newly appointed archivist Paul Moynihan, who was formerly Archivist at the Scout Association. At noon there will be a break for lunch, which may be purchased in the Cafeteria and consumed in the Conservatory. There will be no charge for the day's programme but an offering will be taken at the Annual Lecture to cover expenses.

The Annual General Meeting chaired by the Rev. Dr. John A. Newton will begin at 12:45 pm, to conclude no later than 2:15 pm. The Annual Lecture will begin at 2:30 pm.

Further details of the meeting will be available on the Wesley Historical Society website:
www.wesleyhistoricalsociety.org.uk.
Venue info for the Methodist Central Hall:
www.Methodist-central-hall.org.uk.
Further enquiries about the Annual Lecture should be addressed to Dr. John A. Hargreaves, 7 Haugh Shaw Road, Halifax. HX1 3AH
Tel. 01422 250780;
E-mail: johnahargreaves@blueyonder.co.uk.

Membership of the Wesley Historical Society is open to anyone interested in Methodist history. The current annual subscription rate for the Wesley Historical Society is £12 and entitles members to receive annually three issues of the Society's informative journal, the *Proceedings of the Wesley Historical Society* and enjoy the facilities of the Society's Library. Membership enquiries should be directed to the Registrar, the Rev. Donald H. Ryan, 15 Foxlands Drive, Lloyds Hill, Penn, Wolverhampton, WV4 5NB (Tel. 01902 335556). There is also an extensive network of regional societies linked with the Wesley Historical Society offering their own additional programs of activities and publications at a small extra charge (for details of local branches contact Mr. Roger Thorne, 9, Meyer Court, Butts Road, Exeter, EX2 5PW).

The Annual Meeting and Lecture in 2011 will be held at the national Gladstone Memorial Library at St. Deiniols, Hawarden on Saturday, June 25th, when the lecturer will be Dr. Eryn White of the University of Aberystwyth and when visitors will have the opportunity to discover more about Methodism in Wales and its borders and view the large Nonconformist and religious history collections at this remarkable library with the offer of optional overnight accommodation (please contact the General Secretary, Dr. John A. Hargreaves for further details).

**CHARLES WESLEY SOCIETY ANNOUNCES
21ST ANNUAL MEETING THEME:
“CHARLES WESLEY AS CORRESPONDENT”**

- W M H S -

**EUROPEAN METHODIST
HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

The Charles Wesley Society announces its 21st annual meeting with the theme: “Charles Wesley as Correspondent,” July 18-20, 2010, to be held at the Nazarene Theological College, in Manchester, England. **Submissions for papers are welcomed before April 9, 2010.**

Much of Charles Wesley’s correspondence survives in the Methodist Archives at the historic John Rylands Library, University of Manchester. A major edition of his letters, [Oxford University Press] is due for publication in 2011. Speakers include: Dr. Gareth Lloyd, archivist, John Rylands Library and author of *Charles Wesley and the Struggle for Methodist Identity* [OUP, 2007] and Dr. Peter Forsaith, author of *Unexamined Labour* [Epworth, 2008], (letters of John Fletcher of Madeley).

Program

The program will run from 4pm, Sunday, July 18th to conclude with a visit to the John Rylands Library in the afternoon of Tuesday, July 20th. Part- or non-residential attendance will be possible.

Venue

The Nazarene Theological College, Dene Road, Didsbury, Manchester offers comfortable and reasonably priced accommodation for small conferences.

Price

£135 (full residential attendance)

(Charles Wesley Society members £120)

Non-residential/part attendance available

Write to Dr. Peter Forsaith with your name, address and email to reserve a room and get more details.

Contact: Peter S. Forsaith (UK Secretary)

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Harcourt Hill, Oxford OX2 9AT

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<http://www.wesleysociety.org>

From August 10-15, 2010, a European Historical Conference will take place in Budapest/Hungary. The Historical Commissions of all European Central Conferences of the United Methodist Church supported by the European Methodist Council is in preparation of this event. The theme will be “Methodism in Europe after World War II (1945-1965).”

Each day will focus on a specific issue:

- depression: Europe 1945
- rebuilding: international aid and ecumenical connections
- repression: Methodism under communistic governments
- reconciliation

The conference features lectures, reports from different countries, meditations using fine art as illustration, a Hungarian night, music and singing as well as a visit to a smaller Methodist church in the country.

The morning lectures complemented by the afternoon reports from different countries which will provide deeper insights into aspects of Methodist life in various cultures.

The costs for the conference is € 300.00 per person, which covers the conference fee, accommodation in a simple standard hotel (two bed room), all meals, and a bus tour to Budakeszi. (Because of the hotel agreements costs can be guaranteed till April 1).

For registration, please contact

Dr. Judit Lakatos

E-mail: lakatos.judit@metodista.hu

For a detailed program, please contact

Prof. Dr. Ulrike Schuler

E-mail: ulrike.schuler@emk.de

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HISTORICAL BULLETIN

WORLD METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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