

METHODIST HISTORY

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CHINESE CHILDREN'S CHOIR, c.1950



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Robert J. Williams, Editor

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Editor: METHODIST HISTORY, P.O. Box 127, Madison, NJ 07940. Prospective authors are
advised to write for guidelines or visit www.gcah.org.

CONTRIBUTORS

MARTIN CLARKE was awarded a Ph.D. from Durham University in 2008 for his thesis “John Wesley and Methodist Music in the Eighteenth Century: Principles and Practice.” He is a member of the Music Resources Group of the Methodist Church of Great Britain and is an Associate Lecturer with Open University.

TOM LANK is a Commissioned Deacon in the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference. He is a 2008 graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary and is currently serving as one of the pastors at Princeton United Methodist Church in Princeton, New Jersey. An earlier version of this article won the John Harrison Ness Memorial Prize from the General Commission on Archives and History in 2008.

PETER FEINMAN is the founder and president of the Institute of History, Archaeology, and Education, a non-profit organization which provides enrichment programs for schools, professional development for teachers, and public programs. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania (B.A.), New York University (M.Ed. And M.B.A.), and Columbia University (Ed. D.). He is the author of *William Foxwell Albright, Origins of a Biblical Archaeologist*.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The General Commission on Archives and History of The United Methodist Church sponsors a modest program of writing awards and research grants. A full listing of the awards can be found on the Commission's web site, www.gcqh.org. I am pleased to announce the recipients of the awards and grants for 2009.

The Asian, Black, Hispanic, and Native American United Methodist Research Grants were awarded to Laurajane C. Verde, a Masters of Divinity candidate at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and Dr. Daniel Flores, pastor and archivist for the Rio Grande Annual Conference. Ms. Verde will be researching the history of missions to Native Americans within The United Methodist Church and its antecedents. Dr. Flores is designing a "Mobile Archives Project" which will use advanced wireless internet and classroom technology to introduce the work of the Commission on Archives and History in a traveling interactive exhibit.

The Women in United Methodist History Research Grants were awarded to Dr. Joanna Cruickshank, faculty in the School of History, Heritage and Society, Deakin University, Geelong, Australia, and Stefanie Sarah Bator, Ph.D. candidate, Department of History, Northwestern University. Dr. Cruickshank is working on a project studying the relationship between Mary Bosanquet Fletcher and her husband, John Fletcher. She will be utilizing the Fletcher-Tooth Collection in the John Rylands University Library, Manchester, England, and looks to publish a biography of Mary Fletcher. Ms. Bator is researching the topic, "Engendering Civilization: Women, Reform, and U.S. Colonialism in the Philippines, 1898-1964."

The John Harrison Ness Memorial Award was granted to Anne P. Wheeler, a student at Candler School of Theology, for her paper entitled "The Music of the Early Nineteenth-Century Camp Meeting: Song in Service to Evangelistic Revival." Her paper was nominated by Dr. Russell Richey. Second prize went to Charlie Baber for "The Blood of Thy Brother: How John Wesley's Theological Foundations Influenced his Action for the Enslaved African." This paper was nominated by Dr. Richard Heitzenrater and Dr. Seann Duffin of Duke Divinity School.

Apart from these annual programs, the General Commission is offering assistance for an oral history project of Latino/Latina persons being conducted by Bishop Joel Martinez; for the publication of a centennial history by the National Association of Filipino-American United Methodists; and for the development of a training program for local church archivists in Mozambique by Simao Jaime, a member of the General Commission.

ROBERT J. WILLIAMS