



HISTORIAN'S DIGEST

Volume XL Number 2

Summer 2000

UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST SITES APPROVED FOR HERITAGE LANDMARK STATUS

A cluster of Maryland sites which marks areas associated with clergymen important in the development of the UB Church was approved for Heritage Landmark status at the General Conference in May. A celebration of the UB Bicentennial was also scheduled during the General Conference in Cleveland.

The United Brethren in Christ is one of the first churches to originate in the United States. The UB and the Evangelical Association merged in 1946 to form the Evangelical United Brethren Church (EUB). In 1968 that denomination merged with the Methodist Church to create the United Methodist Church.

The approved Heritage Landmark Sites include the Peter Kemp House, near Frederick MD, where the Church of the United Brethren in Christ was founded in September 1800. An anniversary observance is scheduled for September 25 at the house. [see the insert for Conference registration information.]

Another site is the location of the Geeting Meetinghouse at Mt. Hebron. Built in 1774, it is believed to be the first building erected by the future denomination. George Adam Geeting was ordained by Philip William Otterbein in 1783 and remained the only person so authorized until Otterbein was dying 30 years later. Otter-

bein and Martin Boehm are considered the founders of the United Brethren.

Other sites include the George Adam Geeting House—his home; the Bishop John Russel House and grave; and the Bishop Christian Newcomer House. The Russel house and the Geeting house can only be viewed from the outside. The Newcomer house is fully restored. It recognizes Newcomer's role as pioneer evangelist in the early life of the denomination.

Note: Many Heritage Landmarks have been designated across the country. A listing of those with Internet resources is located on the General Commission's Web Page, www.gcch.org.

[from the UM News Service]

Sept. 25, Celebrate at the Kemp House

RENEWAL REMINDER

Please look at the address label on this newsletter. Above your name you will find the expiration date of your membership. If you see the date July 2000 or earlier, the time to renew your membership is now.

Our treasurer, would appreciate an early response. Send your checks to **Lyle Johnston, 512 S. 2nd Street, Williams, AZ 86046-2523.**

It is a great help when you renew on time. It saves time and money for volunteer officers.

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THAT REMINDS ME...

Robert Drew Simpson

Recently an inquiry came to our attention at the United Methodist Archives and History Commission. Could we locate the New York Christian Advocate for January and May, 1849? Two advertisements were the point of the inquiry. I found the issues and the advertisements were fascinating. They were for a Methodist Episcopal Church commercial venture to organize and transport a Methodist colony to the Gold regions. None of us at the Archives had ever run upon such an enterprise before. I thought it would interest some of our readers and especially California Methodists to see these advertisements.

The January 11 advertisement was entitled, California Mutual Benefit and Joint Stock Association, and was obviously sponsored by enterprising east coast Methodists.

California Mutual Benefit

AND JOINT STOCK ASSOCIATION.

A company is now forming in this city, with the above title, for the purpose of trading and mining in California.

The plan of this Association is to form a community of from fifty to eighty persons, each to invest \$300, to be deposited in bank, in the name of the contributor, for the purpose of purchasing a suitable vessel, and fit her out with provisions for one year, and necessary articles for mining and trading; the vessel to carry the company by way of Cape Horn, and to be used as a home when in California.

Persons wishing to join this Association must be members of the METHODIST CHURCH, well recommended, men of strong constitutions, industrious habits, teetotalers, warm-hearted Christians, who will carry out the principles of Christianity wherever they go, and under all circumstances, and will share and share alike, having no separate interests, submitting to the decision of the majority in all cases, as all matters connected with the Association will be decided by plurality of votes of all the stockholders. Those who approve the plan, and answer the description of persons above stated, will have all necessary information by addressing a letter, post paid, with the name, and where an interview can be had, to

Dec. 27, .2t.

W. H., New York Post Office

The second advertisement appeared on May 10, 1849. Here we learn more about the nature of the venture. They now own a ship, the Arkansas, being freighted and prepared for departure for San Francisco by way of Cape Horn. The reference to all participants being Methodist has been changed to "persons of religious or good moral character." Perhaps not enough Methodists enlisted. But note the ship will have in its company a chaplain, a physician, a geologist and assayer and mining machinery. Clearly gold was their goal and they had come to stay awhile.

FOR SAN FRANCISCO

AND THE GOLD REGIONS. The packet-ship Arkansas, of 627 tons register, P.W. Shepherd, master, is now receiving Freight, and will sail as soon as freighted for California. She is a superior vessel, and her accommodations for passengers are excellent. This ship is owned by the California Mutual Benefit and Joint Stock Association, which is formed of persons of religious or good moral character, who take with them a chaplain, a well qualified Physician, a Geologist and Assayer, with the most approved machinery for mining. A few more persons answering the above character will be received into the Association, if application be made soon—\$300 is the price of a shareholder to this voyage, a share in all the property of the Association, and provisions for 18 months. To persons desiring agreeable companions and trust-worthy partners this Association offers peculiar inducements. Several gentlemen with their families have already taken passage. Persons wishing passage in the cabins, or saloon with the Association, may apply to Thos. Wardle, 89 South-street, or to James Bishop & Co., No. 3 Beaver-St., N.Y. For shares in the Association apply personally or by letter, post-paid, to Rev. C. Lathrop 98 Broadway, N.Y. The ship can be seen at Pier 36 East River, near Catharine Market.

New York, May 3, 1849.

Ma10,3t.

It should be added as a part of California Methodist history that the following September in 1849

(Continued on page 4)

HOW DO I JOIN?

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- Individual: \$ 30 per year;
\$ 55 for two years
- Student: \$ 20 per year
- Family: \$ 36 per year;
\$ 67 for two years
- Institution: \$ 43 per year;
\$ 80 for two years
- Benefactor: \$ 100 per year (\$70 gift credit for tax purposes)
- Life: \$ 500

*Outside U.S.A., add \$2 per year for postage. Some UM conference historical societies offer reduced joint memberships.

*Memberships are entered quarterly: January 1, April 1, June 1, or October 1 (allow 4 weeks for processing)

Make checks payable to the Historical Society and send to:

Lyle Johnston, Treasurer
512 So. 2nd St.
Williams, AZ 86046-2523

Consider a gift membership for a family member, friend, colleague, or local church library! Recipients will receive a special letter acknowledging the gift.

To
organize
and
transport
a
Method-
ist col-
ony
to the
Gold
regions

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OF THE UMC***

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

JOHN E. SIMS

Recently in the church I pastor, slips of paper covered with doodles have been appearing after each worship service. The head usher told me the Junior and Senior High youth groups have started rating the sermon by the quantity of paper covered in doodling! It seems the more doodle-covered paper in a worship service indicates the sermon was either too long, too boring, or both!

Evaluation by doodle seems to me to be just one of many ways to evaluate performance. How do we as historians, archivists, librarians, and seminary persons evaluate OUR performance? Is it by the number of letters processed or the quantity of replies produced during a given period? Is it the number of articles written or workshops given? Is it the quantity of libraries visited or resources researched? The Scriptures say all of us are inclined to a kind of "works righteousness" which is manifested in busy work. As Historical Society members, our task is not quantity but quality! We will never know the complete background of the past which we preserve and for which we provide stewardship. What we do is take the time to share the QUALITY of what we hold in stewardship for the future generations of historians.

In whatever you do, focus on the quality; the quality of providing the information needed by others as they work on their little bit of the past. By doing history this way, we won't have to worry about "doodle evaluation".

"Potius Sera Quam Nunquam" - Titus Livius

COLUMNIST NEEDED

Dr. Robert Simpson has asked to be "released" from his regular columnist duties. He has been assigned additional duties at the General Commission on Archives & History, and will be unable to continue with the column.

I don't know how long Dr. Simpson has been writing his column, but I have greatly enjoyed it. He finds tidbits that make history fun and exciting. Thanks Dr. Simpson!

Any volunteers to take on the task? Historian's Digest is published 4 times a year, each article is roughly 250 words.

Contact President John Sims or Editor Joy Dodson to volunteer. No one can fill Dr. Simpson's shoes, but maybe you can create and wear a new pair.

*Evaluation
by
Doodle
???*

NEW HISTORY PUBLISHED

Missouri East and Missouri West Conferences have joined together to publish a new history of the Missouri area United Methodist Church. The history was written by Dr. John O. Gooch. It was released in June and is now available for sale.

This volume recounts how Methodism became prominent in Missouri in the early 1800s through circuit riders. Missouri Methodism continued to grow as it reached Indians, free blacks, and slaves; struggled over slavery and the relationship of races; shifted in population due to war and economics; and eventually became the "mother of many conferences." Devoted, mission-minded crusaders are still spreading the Word, sustaining United Methodist churches locally and internationally [from the book jacket.]

Circuit Riders to Crusades: Essays in Missouri Methodist History is available from the Missouri United Methodist Archives, 411 Central Methodist Square, Fayette MO 65248. The book costs \$20 until August 1. After that the price will be \$25—shipping and handling included.

*Circuit
Riders
to
Crusades*

Continued from Page 2

William Taylor (later called "California" Taylor and still later Bishop Taylor) set sail in another ship around the Horn with his family landing in San Francisco and establishing an important mission among the miners and loggers. He came by way of appointment from the Baltimore, Maryland Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. If anyone has discovered any connection between Taylor and this planned colony of Methodists, or of any similar ventures, we would be most interested to know.

[Note: The quality of a scanned image from a microfilm copy wasn't very good. Therefore, the ads have been recreated, using typefaces as near to the originals as possible.]

ANNUAL MEETING EXHIBITS

Exhibit space at the Annual Meeting of the Historical Society of the UMC is available. Annual conferences, boards, agencies, sections, & Historical Society members desiring exhibit space should contact Jane Donovan at 6152 31st St. NW, Wash. DC 20015 (202-363-6581) by September 10. Dealers desiring to rent tables should contact Rev. Michael Johnson at Wesley Memorial UMC, phone 410-744-5462 or 410-747-5689.

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THE HISTORIAN'S DIGEST

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