

HISTORICAL BULLETIN

WORLD METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Volume 19

First Quarter 1990

EDITORIAL

Occasionally we have an opportunity to support notable fund-raising activities of our constituent societies. Just such an opportunity surfaced recently with information on two projects of the United Methodist Historical Society.

Two dimensions of historical preservation are featured. In one, the Historic Shrines and Landmarks Preservation project, funds will be used "in vital maintenance efforts" of the denomination's 32 shrines and landmarks. This project is "World Service Special Gift 04-01-89." Remittances may be made through United Methodist local churches and annual conference treasurers, designated for the intended purpose, with the Special Gift number.

The second project, Preservation & Microfilming of Annual Conference, General Agency and Institutional Minutes, will help preserve documents in danger of crumbling to dust, especially those prepared on acidic paper common during the last century and a quarter. This project, "World Service Special Gift 04-02-89," may also be supported through gifts made via UM local churches and conference treasurers, made as noted above.

We are assured that all funds raised by these World Service Special Gifts will go, 100%, to the designated purpose; neither promotional nor administrative expenses will be charged against receipts.

While this cause will appeal especially to United Methodists, we realize that others of our constituent bodies have equally worthy projects. We hope to highlight some of these in coming issues.

Editor

WORLD METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE 1991

Themes, dates, and venue of the Quinquennial Conference of the World Methodist Historical Society have been set:

DATES: July 19-23, 1991

Venue: St. Francis Xavier Seminary, Ponggol, Singapore

Theme: Wesleyan Heritage in Asia & the Pacific

Speakers accepting thus far include:

Rev. Dr. (Prof.) Ted Campbell (USA), "Roots of Wesleyan Heritage"

Rev. Dr. James Udy (Australia), "Changing Protestant Attitudes Towards Missionary Activity in Asia/Pacific Region"

Rev. Dr. Yap Kim-Hae (Malaysia Singapore), "Lessons from Our Asian Methodist Story"

Rev. Dr. S. Latukefu (Fiji), "Lessons from Our Pacific Methodist Story"

Rev. Dr. (Prof.) Geoffrey Wainwright (UK/USA), "Future Challenges to Those Who Share the Wesleyan Heritage" -- banquet address

We hope to have additional speakers to announce soon. Registration will begin later in 1990, when brochure and application forms are printed.

Local Organising Committee: Rev. Lorna Khoo, WMHS vice president (SE Asia), chairperson; Mrs. Shirley Kee, Mrs. Chew-Ker Lim, Rev. Malcolm Tan, Mr. Paul Satari, Mr. David Ong; Dr. James Udy, ex officio.

ADDRESS: Rev. Lorna Khoo, chairperson, Local Organising Committee, c/o Methodist Centre, 10 Mount Sophia, Singapore 0922. TEL: 337-5155. FAX: 338-9575.

WORLD METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- GOALS:**
1. To identify and coordinate the activities of the historical agencies of all the denominations which have their roots in the Methodist movement of the 18th century, including those United or Uniting Churches into which Methodist denominations have been incorporated.
 2. To promote the organization of historical agencies in Methodist or Methodist-related denominations.
 3. To assemble representatives of Methodist and Methodist-related bodies who are interested in Methodist history in regional conferences with programs appropriate to the Wesleyan tradition.
 4. To disseminate information about the activities of Methodist historical agencies, especially through the *Historical Bulletin*.
 5. To encourage and assist in the preservation of books, documents, artifacts, buildings, and sites connected with Methodist history.

MEMBERSHIP FEES: Annual \$5 US; Quinquennial \$20 US; life \$100 US.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: Charles Yrigoyen, Jr., P.O. Box 127, Madison, NJ 07940 USA.

A CHARLES WESLEY BICENTENNIAL PUBLICATION PROJECT?

From the February 1990 issue of the Wesley Histori-

--Continued on Page Two--

WESLEY BICENTENNIAL PUBLICATION PROJECT -- Continued

cal Society *Proceedings* (XLVII:4) we summarized Elizabeth Hart's account of the initial meeting of the Charles Wesley Publication Colloquium. Gathered in September 1989 on invitation of scholar-musician S. T. Kimbrough at the Center for Theological Inquiry, Princeton Theological Seminary, twenty-seven scholars and publishers considered "what could be done to publish some or all" of the works of Charles Wesley.

One day concentrated on lectures on Charles Wesley, theologian and poet, by Thomas Langford (Duke), Horton Davies (Princeton), Kimbrough, Lawrence Stookey (Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC), and Kenneth Shields (Southern Methodist). The second and third days gave attention "to the serious task of considering (a) whether a critical edition of the works of Charles Wesley would be desirable and (b) how this might be accomplished. One depressing reality is the huge rise in the cost of scholarly publishing in the last few years -- the John Wesley project would probably never have been considered under the present circumstances -- and the state of flux in the publishing scene, with mergers of publishing houses and an almost perverse difficulty in establishing transatlantic agreements.

"Of course, most members of the Colloquium -- being Charles Wesley enthusiasts -- had no doubt in their hearts that Charles is long overdue for a proper edition, for all the available texts are woefully inadequate. Such an edition would be of value not just for Methodists but for scholars of music and literature also. Even so, a closer, reasoned approach is needed if money and time are to be spent on such a project. So it was that we heard from Frank Baker . . . Richard Heitzenrater . . . Tom Albin . . . Oliver Beckerlegge . . . on the 9,000 or so items in the poetical corpus of Charles.

"As in many gatherings, much of the real work was done in the gaps between the formal papers. People never stopped talking . . ." Sessions would start with a Charles Wesley hymn, even though transatlantic differences about the proper tune surfaced at once. Thus to many the project would need an authentic record of hymn tunes for correct understanding of the 18th century milieu. And publication costs continued to daunt -- representatives of Abingdon (UM Publishing House) and others cautioned, a computer expert advised, and a hope began to emerge: "If we could gradually compile an accurate computer data base of the Charles Wesley corpus, fed in by scholars all over the world, then perhaps we could draw from that relatively inexpensive hard copy text as needed."

A continuation committee emerged, including Alan Rose, editor of *WMS Proceedings*, for plans and reporting back to Colloquium members, including possible future meetings. One thing is clear, Hart concluded -- "our commitment to doing justice to the works of the younger brother of John -- at last."

POSTSCRIPT: *World Parish*, 30:1 (March-April 1990) definitively records a "founding meeting," October 19-21, 1990, for the Charles Wesley Society. For further information, write Dr. S. T. Kimbrough, Jr., Center for Theological Inquiry, 50 Stockton Street, Princeton, NJ 08750, USA.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE (European Historical Commission)

This Conference, designed especially for German speaking countries, was scheduled for Stuttgart, DBR, March 2-7, 1990. Topic announced was Christian Perfection (Sanctification, Holiness). We hope to be able to print a summary in a coming issue of *HB*.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE (Canadian Methodist Historical Commission)

The Editor was privileged to attend the 1990 annual general meeting of the Canadian Methodist Historical Society, June 3-6, in Victoria, British Columbia. Program and local arrangements duties were capably handled by Bob Stewart, Vancouver School of Theology and archivist for the British Columbia Conference, United Church of Canada.

The meeting partook of the nature of a memorial tribute to Dr. N. Keith Clifford, VST luminary, who had earlier been scheduled for a major paper. Several of his students participated in the sessions. It was noted that ten United Methodist candidates, mainly from the Pacific Northwest Conference, currently are studying at VST.

Headquarters for the CMHS session was Metropolitan United Church of Canada, an impressive limestone building dating from 1891, when it was built as the third edifice for Pandora Methodist Church. The Conference banquet, held in the top-floor dining room of the Chateau Victoria, afforded a sweeping view of the city and environs for the fifty who feasted. Enlivening the banquet was a one-person show in which Dr. Randi Warne, VST, introduced us to "Nellie McClung, Loved and Remembered."

Program sessions, with nearly a hundred attending one or another, featured nine papers. Dr. John Webster Grant, past president of CMHS, gave an opening address on Victoria Methodist pioneer Ephraim Evans, Marguerite Van Die, Queen's University, Dr. Phyllis Airhart, and CMHS president Bill Lamb were chairpersons for the several other sessions. Four papers dealt with Methodist women, two with pioneer Methodist males, and two with sectarian developments related to Methodism.

Dr. Phyllis Airhart, recently promoted to associate professorship at Emmanuel College, examined "Sobriety, Sentimentality, and Science -- the WCTU and the Reconstruction of Canadian Womanhood." The WCTU, emphasizing alike its slogans "Home Protection" and "Do Everything," significantly shifted the temperance crusade from its earlier lower-class targets to middle-class women, in peril from drunken husbands and their own substance-abuse temptations. The WCTU rallied scientists, the media, and political leaders in their causes, thus contributing to Canadian Progressivism in the 20th century.

Elizabeth Hart, librarian at VST, edified the group with a critical analysis of various portraits of Susanna Wesley, determining the line of descent among the painted and engraved likenesses. She offered an amusing commentary on changes in taste and intent among the several images, not omitting the Frank Salisbury version currently offered on its postcards by the World Methodist Council.

CANADIAN METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY -- Continued

Margaret Whitehead, whose topic was "'The Defective and the Misbegotten': Women and Churches in British Columbia, 1840-1940," dealt with examples of female missionaries and preachers. "The line between ordained and lay blurred on the frontier," she stated; "neither men nor women found any hesitation in moving into new roles as needed."

Dr. Marilyn Whiteley, in "Women and Ethnic Missions: the Victoria Oriental Home," highlighted the work of Annie Leek Tuttle and others in the Pandora Street Methodist Church. Beginning in the 1880s, the Home had fostered "the civilizing power of neatness" for the residents, mainly Chinese in origin, with slogans such as "light-bearers of truth in the heathen darkness of Canada."

Rev. J. Ernest Nix (Mississauga, Ont., and consultant to the Alberta and Northwest Conference Historical Society) examined the career of Thomas Woolsey, with a subtitle "City Meets Wilderness." Of English origin, Woolsey immigrated in the 1850s and was accepted by the Canadian Methodist Conference, creating missions among the Cree and helping translate the Bible and religious texts into the Cree syllabary. "A mission without a school is an anomaly," Woolsey declared, as he worked alongside Native preachers, learning as much as he taught.

Rev. Oliver Howard, in "'The Right Stuff': Early Methodist Workers Among the Indians of B. C.," gave a rapid-fire review of the careers of a dozen or more ministers, including amusing sidelights and anecdotes.

Dr. Gerald Hobbs, VST, examined "Methodist Step-Children: The Gospel Workers," a small sect originating about 1900 in southwestern Ontario out of the holiness movement. Rapid growth, stability, retrenchment, and eventual merger with the Free Methodists summarize the history of the group, sometimes called "Goffites" after their founder. Dr. Hobbs and spouse Helen had interviewed surviving members of the movement; two persons present testified as to their own affiliation with the Gospel Workers in the group's later days.

Dr. Robert Burkinshaw described "The Price Pentecostal Campaign in 1923 in British Columbia," a landmark event in Victoria and Vancouver during the years immediately preceding formation of the United Church of Canada. Burkinshaw skillfully detailed the campaign, led by Charles S. Price, Methodist clergyman and faith healer. Burkinshaw offered soundly reasoned alternative explanations for the movement's considerable success. After all, he concluded, it was "good show business," and the news media loved it.

Featured as well was the initial panel discussion, a lively affair led by Dr. Gordon Harland and including Dr. Hobbs, Dr. A. M. Watts, and Dr. Grant. "And Are We Yet Alive?" was the theme, sung to the tune Boylston. The subtitle asked "What Has Happened to Methodism in the United Church of Canada?" Dr. Harland cited the statement of the late Dr. Albert Outler, "Anyone who makes John Wesley a patron saint of theological indifferentism commits a monstrous outrage." Dr. Watts (Theological College, University of Winnipeg) paid tribute to Keith Clifford and other church leaders whose untimely deaths had led one observer to say, "Migawd, we're just going to be left with the crazies." Watts then examined the theolog-

ical views of prevailing UCC leaders -- not theologians, opinion-makers. Perceptively Watts noted the code word "journey" to describe their "faith content," as their focus moved outward from "self" to "others" to "society."

In his turn Hobbs offered a statistical analysis of the number of hymns of the Evangelical Revival (especially Charles Wesley's) in several hymnbooks of the Canadian Methodists (1886 and 1917) and of the UCC (1930 and 1971). Hobbs suggested that the sharp and steady decline in numbers of 18th century hymns in these successive editions reflected general changes in society, but specifically was foreshadowed by Methodist leaders' deliberate choices at the time of the First World War. Hobbs admitted his own leading role in producing the 1985 UCC "green" hymnal, suggesting that "we of the United Church of Canada are going to have to pluralize" in order to be true to our faith.

Dr. Grant, describing himself as "the token former Presbyterian," characterized the UCC as being conceived in "very programmatic, that is, very Methodist terms." Methodism, he noted, was a mission, centralized from the top down, by contrast to the Presbyterians' and Congregationalists' emphasis on the local church. Currently, he notes, the UCC has comprehensiveness rather than unanimity, as it works with the ecumenical movement's historic "unity with diversity." The resulting "consensus fidelium" gives a basis for hope in the future. Grant answered a question from the floor with the mild observation that in the current United Church of Canada he also sees little residual Presbyterianism or Congregationalism.

Other features of the meeting included a planned walking tour of Victoria churches and the Victoria Oriental Home building; also included was a lively business session and the showing of an amusing videotape describing Bob Stewart's work at the VSF archives.

New officers of WMHS include: President Rev. Edward Jackman, O.P.; Past President Rev. J. William Lamb; Founding President Rev. Glenn Lucas; Honorary President Dr. Goldwyn French; Vice President Marilyn Whiteley; Secretary Ruth Brouwer; Treasurer Elizabeth Muir; Programme Convenor 1991 Neil Semple; Programme Convenor 1992 Marguerite Van Die; Membership Secretary John Sheering.

Altogether, Editor found the Victoria meeting a pleasant and fruitful occasion, and he expresses his gratitude to all concerned, especially President Bill Lamb. For information on published papers, see an adjoining column.

Theodore L. Agnew

CALL FOR PAPERS
CANADIAN METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY
1991 CONFERENCE

The Canadian Methodist Historical Society will be holding its annual conference in Toronto, June 16-18, 1991. The tentative theme will be: Varieties of John Wesley's Legacy in Canada.

1991 marks the bi-centenary of the death of John Wesley and affords us a special opportunity to cele-

--Continued on Page Four--

CALL FOR PAPERS -- Continued

brate his life and work. It is our hope that the conference will focus on the various denominations and groups that share the heritage of Wesley's beliefs whether or not they continue the Methodist designation.

If you are interested in presenting a paper, please forward a title and abstract (approx. 200 words) of the proposed work by September 15, 1990 to the address listed below. Successful participants will be notified as soon as possible after that date. The Society normally covers transportation and living costs for the conference presenters.

Canadian Methodist Historical Society
c/o United Church Archives,
Victoria University,
73 Queen's Park Crescent, E.,
Toronto, Ontario
M5S 1K7

METHODIST ARCHIVES & HISTORY NEWSLETTER (UK)

This very valuable publication has arrived, courtesy of its indefatigable Editor John H. Lenton. This year's newsletter has expanded by 50%, with new sections for Wesley's Chapel, 49 City Road, London, and for the Primitive Methodist Museum at Englessa Brook. We thank our British Secretary, World Methodist Historical Society -- Mr. John Lenton, MA, MPhil, 21 Vineyard Road, Wellington, Telford, Shropshire TF1 1HB.

CONFERENCES:

A residential Conference, sponsored jointly by the WHS and WMHS (British Section), is planned for April 2nd-5th 1991 at Westminster College, North Hinksey, Oxford, with the general theme of "Methodists and Society." Lecturers who have agreed to present papers include Dr. David Bebbington, the Rev. John Munsey Turner, the Rev. Professor John Kent and the Rev. Dr. Martin Groves. It is hoped that there will be a number of other short papers and the Conferences Secretary, the Rev. T. S. A-Macquiban, will be happy to hear from anyone wishing to offer a contribution. People interested in receiving further details about the conference should contact him at St. Ives, Whitehill Road, Holmfield, Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX2 9SS, to have their names put on the mailing list. Cost L75 approx.

It is proposed to hold a General WMHS Conference in Great Britain in late July 1993. It is hoped that this timing will prove attractive to scholars from all over the world, especially the Americas. The WMHS Executive have given their blessing to this, and one suggestion is that it should be held in Cambridge.

PUBLICATIONS:

Methodism and the Wesleys, a reader's guide (updated edition), available from Methodist Publishing House, 20 Ivatt Way, Peterborough PE3 7PG.

"Index to John Munsey Turner, *Conflict and Reconciliation*" (Epworth 1985) -- new index prepared by John Vickers; available from Dr. Vickers, 87 Marshall Avenue, Bognor Regis PO21 2TW (50p. including postage).

Henry D. Rack, *Reasonable Enthusiast* (Epworth 1989)

cost L25. "This 627 page biography of John Wesley becomes immediately the major book not only on Methodism's founder, but also on Methodist history in the 18th century, and will remain so for at least the next 30 years." -- John H. Lenton.

John Wesley's Chapel, "The New Room," 36 Horsefair, Bristol BS1 3JE (Rev. A. Raymond George, Warden)

In "The Warden's Letter, Autumn 1989" the Rev. Mr. George records "a splendid year," with eight major events and plans for Wesley Day 1990. Featured were:

May 24, 1989 (Wesley Day) -- 250th Anniversary of laying the foundation stone of the New Room, May 12, 1739; communion service; lecture by Dr. John A. Vickers, "Mr. Wesley and the People Called Methodists"; Rally with Rev. Dr. Richard G. Jones, President of the Conference, speaker, and Mrs. Jenny Carpenter, Vice President, presiding, with the Bishop of Bristol and the Lord Mayor present.

September 30, 1989 -- Ecumenical Service, Bristol Cathedral, commemorating the first establishment of the first open-air sermon, the founding of the New Room, establishment of the first fully Methodist society, and John Wesley's conversation with the Bishop of Bristol in August 1738; the present Bishop of Bristol preached.

May 24, 1990 (Wesley Day) -- Holy Communion, 7:30 a.m.; Lecture at 5:30 p.m. by the Rev. Michael Jackson. Roman Catholic Ecumenical Secretary for England and Wales; Rally at 7:45 p.m., speaker the Rev. Brian Beck, Secretary of the Conference.

Wesley Historical Society (President the Rev. A. Raymond George MA, BD, 40 Knole Lane, Bristol BS10 6SS; General Secretary Dr. E. D. Graham BA, BD, 34 Spiceland Road, Northfield, Birmingham B31 1NJ)

The Wesley Historical Society is both a learned society and a fellowship of people interested in Methodist history. Study of and research into the origins, history, literature and organisation of ALL the branches of Methodism (in spite of the Society's name) is encouraged.

Membership is open to any individual or institution upon payment of the appropriate subscription: PERSONAL, Annual L6 British Isles, L7 overseas (US \$14); INSTITUTIONAL, Per annum L7 British Isles, L8.50 Overseas (US \$18).

PROCEEDINGS -- issued thrice yearly, February, May, October. The Editor, Mr. E. Alan Rose, BA, 26 Roe Cross Green, Mottram, Hyde, Cheshire, SK14 6LP, is happy to consider for inclusion any contribution sent to him. Articles on 19th and 20th century Methodism and non-Wesleyan topics would be especially welcome. The 1989 issues have included valuable articles and a host of reviews. Dr. Clive B. Field's "Bibliography of Methodist Literature" appeared as a "separate" with the October 1989 *Proceedings*, highlighting the large amount of material produced for the 250th anniversary celebrations.

The 1990 ANNUAL LECTURE, to be given during the Methodist Conference, Cardiff, will be by Mr. E. Alan Rose, BA, "dealing with some aspects of the Methodist

--Continued on Page Five--

METHODIST ARCHIVES & HISTORY NEWLETTER -- Continued

New Connexion."

Among PUBLICATIONS may be noted:

E. Dorothy Graham, *Chosen by God: A list of the Female Travelling Preachers of Early Primitive Methodism*. Price £3.00 plus 24p. postage.

John A. Vicker, comp., *General Index to the "Proceedings."* Price £2.25 plus 24p. postage.

Wesley F. Swift, *How to Write a Local History of Methodism* (revised by Thomas Shaw and E. A. Rose.) Price £1.12 plus 24p. postage.

These publications, and others, are available from the Publishing Manager: Alfred A. Taberer, FRCO, 79 Crewe Road, Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6HX.

The Old Rectory, Epworth, Doncaster, S. Yorks DN9 1HB
(P. W. Greetham, Warden)

Among the highlights of "this never to be forgotten year" (quoting Mr. Greetham) were the presence of 16,500 visitors, including the Rev. Dr. W. R. Davies, President of Conference; the chairperson of the World Methodist Council, Bishop Lawi Imathiu; the many choirs, notably the Methodist Youth Chorale USA (Carleton R. Young, director).

Public events provided other highlights. A course, "Methodist Heritage," sponsored by the University of Hull School of Adult and Continuing Education and the British Association for Local History, was given; forty persons availed themselves of this "stimulating and eminently worthwhile" opportunity.

Moreover, media programmes by Anglia Television and BBC Radio 4 were made at the Old Rectory, for broadcast during 1989.

Wesley's Chapel, 49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU (The Rev. Paul Hulme, BA, Minister)

The Rev. Mr. Hulme, finishing his first year as Minister of Wesley's Chapel, reported it "a hive of activity and an exciting place to be." With a deaconess, a lay worker, and an "American Minister in training," the Chapel is increasing its work among the 12,000 who live in the area. Two societies have been united into one, enabling the making of plans for the "ancillary premises." Youth work and mid-week activities, notably a service at Thursday lunchtime, enhance contacts with the community. A joint service on Wesley Day with St. Paul's Cathedral, at evensong (5 p.m.) in the Cathedral itself, is a newly established tradition. Joint promotion of Wesley's Chapel with the Old Rectory and the New Room is under way. Among events planned for 1989-1990 were:

1 November 1990 (WESLEY DAY), 1 p.m., Service of Holy Communion in the Chapel; 5 p.m., Evensong at St. Paul's Cathedral; 8:30 p.m., Nettleton Court Service, Speaker President of the Conference the Rev. Dr. John J. Vincent, singing by the Charles Wesley Hymn Choir.

27 May 1990 (ALDERSGATE SUNDAY), 6:30 p.m., Aldergate Celebration at the Chapel, Preacher the Vice President of Conference Mr. J. Brian Hindmarsh.

Primitive Methodist Museum, Englesea Brook (Rev. Stephen G. Hatcher, 2 Wisp Hill Croft, Grassington,

Skipton, North Yorks BD23 5NG).

The report notes that a congregation has existed at Englesea Brook since 1811, making it "one of the earliest centres of Primitive Methodist activity." The Englesea Brook Chapel and Museum is to be open each Sunday in 1990, from April 8 (Palm Sunday) through September 30, from 2 to 4 p.m. Special services and lectures are planned on Palm Sunday; on May 20 (the inaugural Chapel Aid Lecture, marking the centenary of Chapel Aid); and on September 30 (the Rev. Kenneth Street, General Secretary, Property Division). Saturday May 5 will feature a Day School, with the Extra Mural Department of Keele University, on "Primitive Methodism -- its origin and development." A book sale on August 25 and 27 (Bank Holiday weekend) is also planned. The Museum gives special attention to artifacts associated with Hugh Bourne and William Clowes, founders of the Primitive Methodist movement.

CANADIAN METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Revised Dues Schedule and Publication of Papers

At the Victoria, BC, meeting, June 3-6, 1990, members of the CMHS approved a new, and simplified, plan for dues payment. Effective immediately, DUES shall be \$20 Canadian per year -- and included is to be a copy of the volume of published papers presented at the 1990 sessions in Metropolitan United Church, Victoria.

Meanwhile announcement was made that the 1989 volume of papers is near publication (Toronto, June 18-21, 1989); this was the regional meeting jointly sponsored with the WMHS.

Papers presented at the Mount Allison University meeting in October 1989 are being separately published by that University. Inquiries should be made to Dr. C. H. H. Scobie, Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB.

CMHS dues payments may be made to: The Canadian Methodist Historical Society, c/o The United Church Archives, Victoria University, Queen's Park Crescent, East, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2C4.

RECENT ISSUE OF THE WESLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROCEEDINGS

Regularly the Editor, WMHS *HB*, is pleased to receive on exchange the *Proceedings* of the Wesley Historical Society, edited by Mr. E. Alan Rose, BA.

The issue of the *Proceedings* (XLVII:2, for May 1989), includes these interesting articles:

John C. English of Baker University, Kansas, USA, meticulously suggests that John Wesley's undergraduate studies may have included a greater acquaintance with Descartes' natural philosophy than is currently realized.

Robert L. Vilain, literary critic and graduate of Christ Church, Oxford, celebrates Charles Wesley in the Christ Church Gaudy Oration, June 22, 1988, in a gentle comparison of the kind of fame achieved by the two brothers. He notes that Christ Church has a

--Continued on Page Seven--

WESLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROCEEDINGS -- Continued

portrait of John but not Charles; that the tablet in Westminster Abbey features both; and that Charles's "Wrestling Jacob" is the only piece by either to make the *New Oxford Book of English Verse*. It was Charles, Mr. Vilain avers, whose individual qualities "were the spark of Methodism" -- notably Charles's ability in making friends. His ambivalence about some of his brother's actions, especially "John's so-called 'ordinations,'" was resolved in his writing "Come, O Thou Traveller Unknown." And fittingly, images of both appear in a new window on the north side of the Hall of Christ Church.

A third article, by Barry Williamson, Head of History at Brislington School, Bristol, recounts the story of Jonathan Spilsbury's portrait of John Fletcher; it was presented in beautifully restored form to John Wesley's Chapel (the New Room), Bristol, in 1987, by Squadron-Leader Dermot Finley, collateral relative of the Squire Ireland who had commissioned the portrait, probably in 1776. The restoration expense, it is noted, was paid by Mrs. Eleanor Edwards, widow of the Rev. Dr. Maldwyn Edwards, former Warden of the New Room.

A note, "News from our Branches," by Roger F. S. Thorne, details some of the 1988 celebrations of the Wesley brothers' religious experiences, indicating activity in more than a dozen branches, including two "overseas" (i.e., Ireland and the Isle of Man). An intriguing item is the East Midlands' innovation of a "Wesley Sing."

Similarly, ten "Wesley Commemoration Histories" are listed in this issue -- indicating bounties of celebration in other quarters.

Seven book reviews and two "Notes and Queries" complete the content of XLVII:2 (May 1989).

Perhaps, DV, we shall give a *precis* of other issues in the future.

Editor

REGIONAL ORGANIZATION -- ALBERTA & NORTHWEST CONFERENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY (UCC)

Recently Editor learned of the founding in October 1988 of a new regional organization, the Alberta and Northwest Conference (United Church of Canada) Historical Society. With an ambitious prospectus and a handsomely printed 24-page *Journal*, the Society is making a significant impact on Western Canada. It is incorporated under the Societies Act of the Province of Alberta.

The ANWCHS, if we may bestow on it the usual North American-style acronym, acts chiefly through its Historic Sites and Archives Committee, chaired by Bruce Peel, retired university librarian of Edmonton. The society has scheduled a dozen events during 1990, including the Third Annual Meeting on October 20, at Red Deer & District Museum. The "support base" for 1988-89 was reported as consisting of 98 "sources of support" -- 63 individual members (at \$5); 15 corporate members (chiefly local churches, at \$25), 14 donors, and 6 grants. Founders Members may still qualify to the time of the October 1990 general meeting, with cheque (in indicated amount) to: A&NWHistorical

Society, c/o Rev. Herman J. Miller, Secretary-Treasurer, Box 304, Carstairs, Alberta T0M 0N0.

The society has outlined an ambitious list of "eight major areas of concern" within the mandate of the UCC General Council's Committee on Archives and History. A special task force will report steps toward implementation at the October 1990 general meeting. Already approved is a project on the impact of the First and Second World Wars on the Church in Alberta. In addition, the society works closely with the Provincial Archives, depository for local church records, and is preparing a printed guide of Alberta Conference records so held.

The May 1990 issue of the *Journal* contains several historical articles, including a fine one by the aforementioned Bruce Peel, "Early Mission Presses in Alberta."

WMHS hails the vision that has brought the ANWCHS to this happy situation, and wishes them success in the years ahead.

Editor

REGIONAL ORGANIZATION -- BALTIMORE CONFERENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY (UMC)

The above-named Historical society is notable among other reasons for its Lovely Lane Museum, 2200 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21218. This facility is housed in Lovely Lane United Methodist Church, at the same address, which itself has historic importance since it continues the name and organization of the Lovely Lane Meeting House. United Methodists will easily identify the latter as the site of the Christmas Conference of 1784, from which emerged the organized Methodist Episcopal Church, with its duly consecrated Bishops Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury and its mission to spread scripture holiness across the land.

The Baltimore Conference Historical Society (BCHS) produces a lively newsletter, "Third Century Methodism, Annals of 200 Years of Methodism in Maryland & Vicinity," under the editorship of the Society's curator, the Rev. Edwin Schell.

The Society was scheduled to have its annual meeting and day-long bus tour on Saturday, May 12, 1990, visiting "Washington Churches and Institutions," guided by the aforementioned Ed Schell. The annual meeting, following the tour, was to feature as banquet speaker the Rev. Arthur W. Swarthout, associate general secretary of the UMC's General Commission on Archives & History. Art's topic was announced as "Riding the Circuit Yesterday, Today . . . and Tomorrow?"

REGIONAL ORGANISATION -- BRISTOL BRANCH, WESLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY (UK)

Bulletin No. 56 of the Wesley Historical Society's Bristol Branch is at hand, devoted completely to an address given by Mr. Michael Bishop, MA, on October 28, 1989. Entitled "The Kingswood Collier's School of 1739," the address was delivered in the Wesley Centre, Kingswood School, Bath.

--Continued on Page Seven--

BRISTOL BRANCH -- Continued

In 23 closely argued pages Mr. Bishop presents his Revised Version of what he calls the "simple facts" about the collier's school, founded in 1739 by George Whitefield and shortly thereafter becoming the responsibility of John Wesley, hard on the opening of the New Room, forty minutes' walk down the hill near the heart of Bristol. The institution was transformed within a decade, the building survived -- after many changes -- until 1919. And the boarding school which came in the wake of the collier's school, removed to Bath, was the site of Mr. Bishop's lecture. The occasion was enlivened by the presence of the recently resuscitated "very pulpit which, for more than a century and a half, adorned the long-vanished building which is our topic today; a pulpit which . . . was certainly preached from by both the Wesley brothers"

Mr. Bishop also offers sober thoughts on "simple facts" in a caution that is considerably more than an *obiter dictum*:

"These [simple facts], as so often, depend on records written perhaps soon after what they relate, perhaps many years later; records (unless they are letters not intended for publication) inevitably worked over, slanted, expurgated, embellished, recast in the light of what came later and, together, constituting a corpus of 'facts' in danger of fossilising into dogma: sacrosanct, final."

Wise words, indeed, for us all.

Editor.

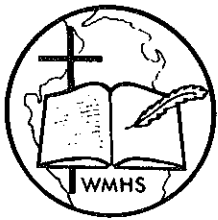
SCHEDULE OF GENERAL MEETINGS

- 1990 (1) OCTOBER 19-21 CHARLES WESLEY SOCIETY, Princeton, New Jersey, USA
 Founding Meeting
 CONTACT: Dr. S. T. Kimbrough, Jr.
 Center for Theological Inquiry, 50 Stockton St., Princeton, NJ 08750,
 USA
- (2) NOVEMBER 2-3 WESLEYAN THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Nazarene Theological Seminary,
 Kansas City, Missouri, USA
 Wesley and Eastern Orthodoxy: Theological Influences, Convergences,
 Implications
 CONTACT: Dr. Randy Maddox, Sioux Falls College, Sioux Falls, SD 57105,
 USA
- 1991 (1) APRIL 2-5 WMHS/WHS REGIONAL CONFERENCE, Westminster College, Oxford,
 UK
 Methodists and Society
 CONTACT: Rev. T. S. A-Macquiban, MA,
 St. Ives, Whitehill Road, Holmfield, Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX2
 9SS, England
- (2) JUNE 16-18 CANADIAN METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Toronto, Ontario,
 Canada
 Varities of John Wesley's Legacy in Canada
 CONTACT: Canadian Methodist Historical Society, c/o United Church
 Archives, Victoria University, 73 Queen's Park Crescent, E., Toronto,
 Ontario M5S 1K7, Canada
- (3) JUNE 28-JULY 1 HISTORICAL SOCIETY of UMC, Detroit, MI, USA
 Second Historical Convocation
 CONTACT: Dr. Charles Yrigoyen, Jr., P.O. Box 127, Madison, NJ 07940,
 USA
- (4) JULY 19-23 WMHS WORLD CONFERENCE & REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ASIA,
 Singapore
 Wesleyan Heritage in Asia & the Pacific
 CONTACT: Rev. Lorna Khoo, Chairperson, Local Organising Committee, c/o
 Methodist Centre, 10 Mount Sophia, Singapore 0922

SCHEDULE -- Continued

- 1992 (1) SPRING OR SUMMER REGIONAL CONFERENCE (EUROPEAN HISTORICAL
Place: TBA
Relations Between Christian Perfection, etc., and Methodist Church in
Europe (end of 19th C.)
CONTACT: Dr. Karl Heinz Voigt, Koenigsallee 70, in D 1000, Berlin 23;
OR, Dr. Michel Weyer, Bellinostrasse 35, D 7410, Reutlingen, DBR
- (2) SUMMER (date TBA) OXFORD INSTITUTE OF METHODIST THEOLOGICAL STUDIES
Place: TBA
Topic: To Be Announced
CONTACT: Dr. Richard P. Heitzenrater, Editor of *Oxfordnotes*
[newsletter], 5005 Bishop Boulevard, Dallas, TX 75275, USA
- 1993 (1) LATE JULY WMHS/WHS WORLD CONFERENCE, Probably, Cambridge, England
Dynamics of Church Growth (tentative topic)
CONTACT: Rev. John H. Lenton, MA, MPhil, 21 Vineyard Road, Wellington,
Telford, Shropshire TF1 1HB, UK
- (2) SUMMER OR FALL WMHS/BENEDICTINES JOINT CONFERENCE, Rome
Wesley, the Desert Fathers, and Spirituality
CONTACT: Dr. James Udy, Yaraandoo Life Centre, 88 Nollands Road,
Fiddletown, NSW 2159, AUSTRALIA
- 1994 (1) SUMMER OR FALL NORTH AMERICAN SECTOR, WMHS, Madison, NJ, USA
Topic TBA
CONTACT: Dr. Charles Yrigoyen, Jr., [address above]

HISTORICAL BULLETIN
WMHS
P.O. Box 127
Madison, NJ 07940
USA
Published Quarterly



HISTORICAL BULLETIN

WORLD METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY



VOLUME 19

Second Quarter 1990

ABOUT THAT CONSTITUTION

Readers of *HB* -- and we are gratified by recent correspondence to be reassured that there are such -- will have to bear with Editor while he communicates more information about the WMHS Constitution.

FIRST, ABOUT NOMINATIONS. President James Udy has appointed a Nominating Committee: Dr. Faith Richardson, chairperson, Newtonville, Massachusetts; Rev. Wesley Chambers, New Zealand; and Editor (who feels almost a Canadian, thanks to recurring summer residence at Thunder Bay, Ontario).

The Constitution contains this instruction: "Suggestions will be received by the Committee, and all names should be accompanied by a reasoned statement about the persons recommended."

Therefore, fellow members -- please make nominations for any of the following officers: "a president . . . five vice presidents (one each from Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania); an executive secretary; a director of the World Catalogue of Methodist Collections; a treasurer; and an editor."

SECOND, ABOUT THE PROPOSED REVISED CONSTITUTION. Representations have been made, and they sound downright reasonable, that the proposed Constitution (published in *HB*89:4) is too drastic by half in attempting to simplify membership categories by eliminating "corporate membership"; and that it is unwise to omit ex officio members of the executive committee.

EMBARRASSMENT. This proposed revised document bears a semi-official cachet in that it was discussed and assented to by a meeting of members of WMHS in September 1989 at Hotel Viktoria, Switzerland. But only the Quinquennial meeting of the WMHS can officially adopt changes. Thus the proposed revised document has been printed, with some discussion accompanying. But other proposed changes are welcome, and they would bear exactly the same relationship to the existing document as does the document that emerged from the Hotel Viktoria meeting -- a proposal merely.

The upshot is that the four officers listed on the WMHS letterhead (Udy, Yrigoyen, Hynson, and Agnew) have been consulting about how best to proceed. We promise early decision; and we hope to have results available for WMHS members no later than Autumn, 1990.

It seems at this point wise to reprint the entire text of the existing Constitution (dating from 1971, last amended 1981), together with all proposed changes to date of publication. Let us aim to do just this in *HB*90:3. A promise! Watch for it!

REPORT FROM JAPAN (by DR. TAKEO KEGA)

[This report was received late in 1989 from our fellow historian and WMHS vice president, Professor Takeo Kega, Aoyama Gakuin University, Tokyo. We apologize for any delay

in publication, and hope that he will understand our need to edit for space reasons. Above all, we thank Professor Kega for his illuminating report, and encourage other persons to do as handsomely for their countries as he has done for Japan. -- Editor]

(1) "Hundred Years Histories" of Local Churches.

A hundred years have passed since the first Protestant missionaries, including the first five missionaries of the Methodist Churches who landed at Yokohama port in 1873, brought the gospel of Jesus Christ to Japan. Churches were built then and the number of Christians increased. But the history of Christian evangelical work in Japan had severe situations through these hundred years. In 1988 the number of Christians, Catholic and Protestant all together, are 1,098,108, that is, still less than 1% of the total population of Japan.

We have, however, big hopes for the future, because we know that with this decided minority Christians have made contributions to the history of Japan in many fields besides evangelism, and certainly we shall keep them going.

Reflecting our hopes, a number of "Hundred Years Histories" of the local churches of Japan have been published for several years, reaching more than a hundred volumes in number. Recently the scholars of church history have started a project to organize these historical publications, which would make, we hope, a good contribution to the study of the Christian history of Japan.

(2) An Investigation on the Graves of Missionaries.

Rev. John W. Krummel, a missionary to Japan from the United Methodist Church, USA, now the general secretary of Christian activities and professor in the School of Business Administration of Aoyama Gakuin University, Tokyo, has recently made an extensive investigation on the foreigners' grave-yards in Aoyama Cemetery, Tokyo. He found that this is the resting place of the foreigners who gave wide-ranging contributions to the modernization of Japan, at the time of the dawn of modern Japan, 1868-1912.

Among the grave-stones he found the names of missionaries who gave their lives to Japan, as well as those of medical doctors, diplomats, architects, soldiers, naval officers, etc., who came from the USA, Britain, France, Germany, and other countries and taught the Japanese people according to their special fields. Some helped build the waterways in many cities; some helped organize hotel management; some taught English to the Royal family. Rev. Krummel thought this was a "Museum of the Modernization of Japan."

What surprised him was that the whole grave-yard was almost left without care. Names on some stones were illegible by the passing of time, and some stones were even missing. Rev. Krummel worked on the investigation of these graves for a year or two with some help of his students. He wrote articles on what he had investigated for *The Japan Times*. Further, he thought it better to give them wider publicity, and told this to the staffs of the History Department of

--Continued on Page Two--

REPORT FROM JAPAN -- Continued

Aoyama Gakuin University. Prof. Kega translated articles into Japanese, and Prof. Numata introduced them to a publisher. The result was that they appeared recently in a journal, Nippon-no-Rekishi or History of Japan. This caused general attention of the public, and the big newspapers took them up in their editorials and in their columns.

Among the graves of the missionaries we find that of M. C. Harris, bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church; that of Guido Verbeck, one of the first Protestant missionaries, who came to Japan in 1859; Rev. Alfred Stone, missionary from the Canadian Methodist Church, who lost his life in a shipwreck in northern Japan by giving his life jacket to a young student. Here sleeps Frederick Krecker, a missionary doctor who died of typhoid fever contracted while giving charity treatment to a Japanese patient. Mrs. Mary Chappell rests here; her contribution was to organize mothers meetings to help educate ordinary Japanese women, and one of the results of her work was the adoption of Mothers Day here. She was a Methodist woman missionary. We find the name of Mrs. Charlotte Draper, a pioneer in education for the disabled in Japan. Olive Hodges, Anna Pallo, Maria True, Mary Anne Grundy, and Elizabeth Thornton -- all these ladies were missionaries who gave significant contributions in women's education in Japan.

There are many more graves of missionaries who worked in Japan for the glory of God in the name of Jesus Christ. Among them is James McCauley, whose tombstone reads, "He being dead yet speaketh."

EDITORIAL

This issue seems a good time to borrow some excellent thoughts from our respected colleague, Rev. Ed Schell. Long associated with the Baltimore Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church (and its predecessors), Ed currently serves in a most active retirement as curator of the Lovely Lane Museum, 2200 St. Paul Street, Baltimore 21218. Ed's latest pastorate was one of the UMC's historic shrines, Old Otterbein Church, Baltimore.

Recently Ed had a one-month study leave at the UMC Archives, where he sharpened his skills with computer and word processor, completing his "volunteer" assignment with dispatch and general satisfaction. (Rev. Bill Beal, the UMC archivist, is quoted as having a 70-person-year backlog of work for volunteers such as Ed Schell.)

We quote remarks recently printed in the Northeastern UMC Historical Bulletin (No. 73, April 1990), in which Ed Schell proves his skill as an exhorter:

"If Conference Historical Societies and Archives are simply the places of deposit for artifacts, records and recollections, which then await the eager scholarly, genealogical or local church users, then we may have a very easy and comfortable existence as the custodians.

"If, however, these abodes of the memories of the glorious heroes, the stunning works of God's grace, the troubling awareness of the perversity of humankind even in Christ's church and all the varied flotsam and jetsam are to be living, breathing, comprehending and activating lighthouses beaming warnings and illumination to a present church desperate for renewed inspiration and information, then we will be ever overworked and frequently uncomfortable. This is because to be proactive is never to occupy an easy chair,

but always to be peering over the ramparts to see what ammunition may be provided for a sometimes weary Lord's army manning the battles against devils called secularism, materialism, atheism, professionalism among others. . . .

"It is our job to help Annual Conferences, Local Churches and the public in every way we can to find and know God and His Christ and to see the place and relationship to their lives of the church He founded. . . . Our job is to help the church see and seize on the best of its past for a present which demands our very best or there may be a very limited future. . . . We of the historical forces have the heritage to share for God's greater glory."

We thank Ed for his stirring words, and Editor, the Rev. C. Wesley Chrisman, Jr., for permission to reprint them.

T.L.A.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ALBEA GODBOLD!

Word has come to HB of the 95th birthday of one of the true giants of the World Methodist historical works, Dr. Albea Godbold.

The "day" itself was July 25, 1990. In honor of the occasion, the four offspring of Dr. Albea and the late Mrs. Godbold arranged a reception and open house for him in the Harrell Center at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. He reportedly continues his daily walks, golf games, and flower raising.

Dr. Godbold, who grew up in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South in Mississippi, was associated in his middle years with Methodism in St. Louis, Missouri, filling pastorates and district superintendency with ease. In the 1960s he served as general secretary of what was then the Association of Methodist Historical Societies, an agency "hatched" by the indefatigable Elmer T. Clark. Dr. Godbold edited several volumes of the quarterly Methodist History and gave insightful papers on occasions such as the Methodist Bicentennial in Baltimore in 1966.

The AMHS, renamed the General Commission on Archives & History, continued with enlarged responsibilities in the United Methodist Church (1968). Dr. Godbold was instrumental in preparing the way for this new incarnation.

When the Historical Society of the UMC held its first Historical Convocation at Lake Junaluska, July 1989, Dr. Godbold was present, lively as ever. He participated in one of the highlights of the meeting, a session on the successive official structures of Methodist history in the UMC. Albea Godbold joined his successors John H. Ness, Jr., Charles Yrigoyen, Jr., plus the inimitable Ed Schell -- for more of the latter, see another column -- in a wonderful afternoon of reminiscence and anecdote. On that occasion no voice spoke forth with more fervor and profundity than Dr. Godbold's ringing tones.

Persons wishing to congratulate Dr. Godbold on his latest benchmark are invited to do so: Dr. Albea Godbold, P.O. Box 577, Lake Junaluska, NC 28745 USA.

Happy 95th, Albea Godbold!

Editor.

A BOOK NOTE

Frederick E. Maser, The Story of John Wesley's Sisters, or Seven Sisters in Search of Love. Rutland, Vermont: Academy Books, c1988. vii, [119] pp. Illustrations, indexes.

This engaging little volume has several merits.

First, Fred Maser has gathered, especially from primary sources, many important facts about the seven Wesley girls who grew to maturity. Emilia or "Emily," declared brother John, was "the best reader of John Milton that he had ever heard." Mehetable or "Hetty" wrote poetry worthy of being published in The Gentleman's Magazine. Martha or "Patty" moved in the circle of Dr. Samuel Johnson. Anne or "Nancy" married a wealthy land surveyor, Susanna or "Sukey" a wealthy land owner, Mary or "Molly" a clergyman. Keziah or "Kezzy" died unmarried. All escaped formal schooling, save that provided by their resourceful mother Susanna. Not a single portrait of any sister was made in her lifetime.

Second, the author recounts the sisters' varied experiences in the search for love by means of graphic chapter titles: "Heartbreak and Healing," "A Case of Wife Abuse," "Joy and Tragedy," "Passion and Punishment," "As a Quiet Stream," "Living and Forgiving," "Quiet Desperation." The home they grew up in, Maser concludes, lacked real love, and neither parent possessed or understood the quality. Thus Samuel and Susanna Wesley fail in one of the central attributes of Christianity.

A third merit of the work lies in the epigrams, some Maser's, some quoted from the 18th century sources. An "unmarried woman," we are told, "is never in the wrong in conversation with a bachelor" (p. 22). Shortcomings of male suitors for some of the sisters are summarized: "When a man has neither religion, riches, birth nor good nature . . . [nor] good manners . . ." (p. 33). Again, "The Wesleys were never great ones for keeping confidences" (p. 44), while John Wesley "loved to meddle in people's lives. He was the eternal tinkerer with souls" (p. 46). And "The Wesleys played cards and enjoyed dancing" [!] (p. 51). An engagingly informal relationship is suggested in the salutation of Patty in a letter to her older brother: "Dear Brother Jack" (p. 81). Brother Charles applied to the same sister the epithet "grumble-towel" (p. 83).

All told, Fred Maser has again put us in his debt. His explanation for the loveless Wesley household depends partly on their commitment to 18th century middle-class virtues. Yet he suggests also an innate deficiency on the part of the two formidable parents.

At least, Maser records, John Wesley suggested a softening of Susanna's personality in later life: "My own mother, who governed her children so well, could never govern one grandchild" (p. 112). A caution for this day and age?

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The October 1989 issue of the WHS Proceedings (XLVII:3) is at hand, and its contents merit notice.

The lead article is the Wesley Historical Society Lecture for 1989, delivered by Dr. John A. Vickers. Entitled "Good Red Herring," and subtitled "Methodism's Relations with Dissent," the seventeen pages are vintage Vickers. Prompted by the Tercentenary of the Toleration Act, he starts by asking, "Are the Methodists Dissenters," quoting a 1792-93 pamphlet which stoutly answered "No." Vickers then examines seven

categories of data about relations between the two camps, summarizing the results with the word "equivocal." Eventually after Wesley's death Methodism moved "into the Church camp -- with about as much half-heartedness as a Thatcherite government going into Europe."

Vickers applies his own researches, testing interaction between Methodism and Dissent in Central Southern England. He finds that Anglicanism and "the older Dissenting bodies" were strongest in the same areas, and Methodism "like a certain brand of lager, refreshed those areas which other denominations failed to reach." He then offers proper cautions regarding the Religious Census of 1851, suggesting "micro-analysis" and coordination of regional findings. Then, he concludes, "although Methodism may have been neither Anglican fish nor Dissenting flesh, at least my chosen topic will not prove just another red herring."

Other items include: an engaging account of an early and not completely happy experience of John Fletcher of Madeley, in "Tutor to the Hills: the Early Career of John Fletcher," by Barbara Coulton; the report by General Secretary E. Dorothy Graham of the Annual Meeting and Lecture, together with the Treasurer's Report; a quartet of book reviews and briefer notices, "Notes and Queries," and listing of eleven local histories.

The Proceedings alone are well worth the cost of "Honorary Membership" in the Society, at rates effective January 1, 1990: Personal, L6 per annum (Britain), L7 per annum overseas (US \$14.00); Institutional, L7 in Britain, L8.50 overseas (US \$17.00). Membership subscriptions may be sent to the Registrar, Mrs. V. E. Vickers, 87 Marshall Avenue, Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO21 2TW, England.

METHODIST HISTORY

Methodist History, "our esteemed contemporary," as church papers in the last century customarily referred to one another, appeared recently in its Volume XXVIII, Number 3 (April 1990).

Frances E. Willard peers earnestly from the cover, her rimless pince-nez glasses dipping slightly to starboard. She epitomizes one of the four principal articles, a thoroughly researched piece by Nancy A. Hardesty, "The Best Temperance Organization in the Land: Southern Methodists and the W.C.T.U. in Georgia." One of Hardesty's insights deals with Bishop Warren A. Candler, who while favoring temperance feared votes for women, another WCTU cause: "Woman's suffrage would hurt the South more than did reconstruction, it would be our utter ruin." He forbade his wife voting after the Nineteenth Amendment was adopted. Hardesty records, "Good Methodist that she was, however, Nettie simply sneaked out of the house and went to vote with another of her newly enfranchised friends."

Another valuable article comes from the magisterial brain of Frederick A. Norwood, "Crisis of Leadership: the General Conference of 1792." Norwood finds this first General Conference (not yet delegated, however) to be worthy of bicentennial commemoration at the coming United Methodist event in Louisville. 1792 provided the first, but by no means the last, occasion for a clash between episcopal and parliamentary authority. Bishop Thomas Coke, Jesse Lee, and James O'Kelly, for differing reasons, led the move for calling the conference, to include all the preachers. After sharp debate the body defeated O'Kelly's motion to appeal the ap-

METHODIST HISTORY -- Continued

pointive power from the bishop to the assembled preachers. Thus began the quadrennial general conferences; and the same essential clash kept recurring.

A third article, by WMHS Executive Secretary (and MH editor) Charles Yrigoyen, Jr., considers "Methodists and Roman Catholics in 19th Century America." Yrigoyen extracts statements from periodicals and pamphlets published by the respective churches. Noteworthy is a 1882 review by the Catholic historian John Gilmary Shea expressing fears of Methodist domination of American life in tone paralleling similar statements about Rome by followers of Wesley.

A fourth article, placed in the leading position, is by Russell E. Richey, "The Four Languages of Early American Methodism," of which a version was delivered at the Historical Convocation of the UMC Historical Society, Lake Junaluska, June 1989. The four languages, popular or evangelical, Wesleyan, episcopal or Anglican, and republican, are present with American Methodists about the year 1800; they affect the later movements of the faith. Richey complements his carefully chosen quotations with thoughtful analysis.

As usual, Frederick E. Maser offers his regular section "Discovery." Here is a new Susanna Wesley letter, only a portion of which had previously been known. It was written to son Charles, the major section being dated April 28, 1741. "Discoverer" of the letter was Elizabeth Hart, librarian at Vancouver School of Theology, and transcriber is Charles Wallace, Jr., religion professor at Willamette University, Salem, Oregon.

Three book reviews also appear in this issue. All told, it is worthy of the subscription price, \$12 per year; in addition it is included in the annual membership fee (\$16.00) of the Historical Society of the UMC. For either write: General Commission on Archives & History, United Methodist Church, 36 Madison Avenue, Madison, NJ 07940 USA.

**REGIONAL ORGANIZATION -- NEW ENGLAND
METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY (UMC)**

The New England Methodist Historical Society (NEMHS), one of the United Methodist Church's oldest, held its annual meeting March 27, 1990, at the New England Deaconess Association facilities, Concord, MA. Featured speaker was the Rev. Henry E. Helms, retired member of the Southern New England Conference, who described the work of his father, the Rev. Edgar J. Helms, and other students at Boston University School of Theology, in founding a settlement house that eventually became Goodwill Industries. Edgar Helms was also founder of Boston's Church of All Nations.

Recently published is a history of Southern New England Methodism, entitled Roots and Branches: Historical Essays on Methodism in Southern New England, available for \$19.95 (postage and handling included) from Clinton E. Parker, 29 Six Penney Lane, Dennis, MA 02638; checks should be made out to the NEMHS. An autograph party in January honored the book's several authors and editors.

Likewise accomplished has been the inventorying of holdings -- "library, rare books, and realia" -- of the Society and of archival materials of the SNEAC. Selected materials from these sources will eventually be housed in a museum at the Southern New England Conference's historic site, St. Paul's UMC, Newport, RI.

**REGIONAL ORGANIZATION -- TEXAS UNITED METHODIST
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

The Texas United Methodist Historical Society (TUMHS) held its annual meeting February 8-9, 1990, at the newly renovated Bridwell Library, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas.

Featured events included an address by Dr. Robert W. Sledge, president of the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church, "The Sesquicentennial Observances of Methodism in Texas;" a banquet address by Bishop James S. Thomas on his current project, a history of the Central Jurisdiction (a separate structure for black members of the Methodist Church, 1939-1968); a tour of Bridwell led by the Rev. Roger Loyd, associate librarian; announcement of the Kate Warnick local church history awards; and an address by the Rev. Bruno C. Schmidt, Austin, TX, on "The Significance of Rutersville in Texas Methodist History."

Rutersville is a recognized Cluster Landmark of the United Methodist Church, having been so designated by the 1988 General Conference. Its significance begins with the founding of Rutersville College at the town of the same name -- the first Protestant and Methodist school in the Republic of Texas. Rutersville College educated some 800 young Texans in its period of thriving existence. At the college, December 25-28, 1840, was held the organizing session of the Texas Annual Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church. These and other events in the history of Rutersville will be celebrated by TUMHS on Saturday, December 1, 1990, with dedication of an official State of Texas Historical Marker.

Annual dues for 1990 in the Texas United Methodist Historical Society may be paid to the treasurer, the Rev. Oscar F. Garza, P.O. Box 6424, San Antonio, TX 78200. Regular dues are \$3, sustaining membership \$5, contributing membership \$10; all funds US currency, not Texas.

REGIONAL ORGANIZATION -- NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION (UMC)

The Northeastern Jurisdiction Commission on Archives & History (NEJCAH), United Methodist Church, continues with its handsomely printed four-page quarterly issues.

Both the January and the April 1990 numbers (respectively #72 and #73) give prominence to the 1990 annual meeting, May 16-18, at Roberts Wesleyan College, near Rochester, NY. Program events included attention to the "Free Methodist Schism in Genesee Conference," dramatizations of Frances E. Willard and of the Rev. Glezen Fillmore, early circuit rider, notice of the Chautauqua institution (where a Methodist camp meeting site turned into an adult education summer resort), and the Wesleyan Methodist sect whose college was to host the meeting.

The NEJCAH, which is the only regularly continuous structural unit in the Northeastern Jurisdiction, held two services with a historical purpose in the autumn of 1989. On October 6 they dedicated improved facilities at the Jacob Albright Memorial Chapel, Kleinfeltersville, PA. On November 18 at the site near New Windsor, MD, they consecrated the Strawbridge Shrine House, with Bishop Joseph H. Yeakel officiating. The Albright and the Strawbridge properties are recognized historical shrines of the United Methodist Church.

--Continued on Page Five--

NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION -- Continued

A third shrine within the bounds of the Northeastern Jurisdiction, Barratt's Chapel, Frederica, DE, on October 5, 1989, saw Bishop Yeakel receive from Francis I. duPont, great-great-grandson of Bishop Levi Scott (Methodist Episcopal Church) the bishop's 1852 passport. Issued by US Secretary of State Daniel Webster, the passport enabled Bishop Scott to travel to Liberia to establish the first ME conference in Africa. Lacking a photograph, the passport instead described Bishop Scott thus:

Age: 50 years. Stature: 5 feet 8 inches Eng. Forehead: High. Eyes: Gray-blue. Nose: Prominent. Mouth: Small. Chin: Medium. Hair: Auburn. Complexion: Light. Face: Rather Long.

REGIONAL ORGANIZATION -- SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION
HISTORICAL SOCIETY (UMC)

The Southeastern Jurisdiction Historical Society, one of the livelier units in pursuing our common purpose, has announced its annual meeting, July 10-13, 1990, at North Carolina Wesleyan College, Rocky Mount, NC. Keynote address, "Wesley's Piety and Knowledge," is to be given by Dr. Ted Campbell (Duke). Other presentations will deal with the

History of North Carolina Wesleyan College, by Dr. Carleton P. McKita, and "The Legacy of John Dickins," by Mrs. Vivian Mitchell.

A sing-along based on the new UM Hymnal, a concert by Native American Singers, and a tour including two UM Shrines (Green Hill House and Whitaker's Chapel) are also planned.

The Society publishes a quarterly newsletter, "SEJ/HS Notes," with a logo that incorporates the verse from Proverbs 22:28 ("Remove Not the Ancient Landmark"). Individual membership dues are \$5 per year, payable to the treasurer, the Rev. J. W. Lasley, 4 Crum Drive, Lake Junaluska, NC 28745. Checks should be made to SEJ Historical Society.

Announced also is the publication on June 1, 1990, of The Methodist Episcopal Church in North Carolina 1865-1939, by George William Bumgarner, published by the Committee on Archives & History of the Western North Carolina Conference. Hardbound, 250 pages, archival grade paper, and cost of \$15.00 plus \$2.00 postage & shipping -- these are the specifications. Orders may be placed with: The Archives, Western North Carolina Conference, P.O. Box 18005, Charlotte, NC 28218, and checks should be payable to the WNC Conference Treasurer.

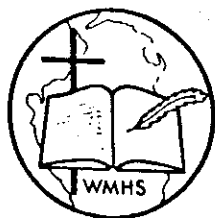
SCHEDULE OF GENERAL MEETINGS

- 1990 (1) OCTOBER 19-21 CHARLES WESLEY SOCIETY, Princeton, New Jersey, USA
Founding Meeting
CONTACT: Dr. S. T. Kimbrough, Jr.
Center for Theological Inquiry, 50 Stockton St.,
Princeton, NJ 08750, USA
- (2) NOVEMBER 2-3 WESLEYAN THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Nazarene Theological
Seminary, Kansas City, Missouri, USA
Wesley and Eastern Orthodoxy: Theological Influences,
Convergences, Implications
CONTACT: Dr. Randy Maddox, Sioux Falls College, Sioux
Falls, SD 57105, USA
- 1991 (1) APRIL 2-5 WMHS/WHS REGIONAL CONFERENCE, Westminster College,
Oxford, UK
Methodists and Society
CONTACT: Rev. T. S. A-Macquiban, MA,
St. Ives, Whitehill Road, Holmfield, Halifax, West
Yorkshire, HX2 9SS, England
- (2) JUNE 16-18 CANADIAN METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Toronto,
Ontario, Canada
Varities of John Wesley's Legacy in Canada
CONTACT: Canadian Methodist Historical Society, c/o
United Church Archives, Victoria University, 73
Queen's Park Crescent, E., Toronto, Ontario M5S 1K7,
Canada
- (3) JUNE 28-JULY 1 HISTORICAL SOCIETY of UMC, Detroit, MI, USA
Second Historical Convocation
CONTACT: Dr. Charles Yrigoyen, Jr., P.O. Box 127,

Madison, NJ 07940, USA

- (4) JULY 19-23 WMHS WORLD CONFERENCE & REGIONAL CONFERENCE
FOR ASIA, Singapore
Wesleyan Heritage in Asia & the Pacific
CONTACT: Rev. Lorna Khoo, Chairperson, Local Organising Committee, c/o Methodist Centre, 10 Mount Sophia, Singapore 0922
- 1992 (1) SPRING REGIONAL CONFERENCE (EUROPEAN HISTORICAL
OR SUMMER Place: TBA
Relations Between Christian Perfection, etc.,
and Methodist Church in Europe (end of 19th C.)
CONTACT: Dr. Karl Heinz Voigt, Koenigsallee 70, in D
1000, Berlin 23; OR, Dr. Michel Weyer, Bellinostrasse
35, D 7410, Reutlingen, DBR
- (2) SUMMER OXFORD INSTITUTE OF METHODIST THEOLOGICAL STUDIES
Place: TBA
Topic: To Be Announced
CONTACT: Dr. Richard P. Heitzenrater, Editor of
Oxfordnotes [newsletter]
5005 Bishop Boulevard, Dallas, TX 75275, USA
- 1993 (1) LATE JULY WMHS/WHS WORLD CONFERENCE, Probably, Cambridge,
England
Dynamics of Church Growth (tentative topic)
CONTACT: Rev. John H. Lenton, MA, MPhil, 21 Vineyard
Road, Wellington, Telford, Shropshire TF1 1HB, UK
- (2) SUMMER OR FALL WMHS/BENEDICTINES JOINT CONFERENCE, Rome
Wesley, the Desert Fathers, and Spirituality
CONTACT: Dr. James Udy, Yaraandoo Life Centre,
88 Nollands Road, Fiddletown, NSW 2159, AUSTRALIA
- 1994 (1) SUMMER OR FALL NORTH AMERICAN SECTOR, WMHS, Madison, NJ, USA
Topic TBA
CONTACT: Dr. Charles Yrigoyen, Jr., [address above]

HISTORICAL BULLETIN WMHS P.O. Box 127 Madison, NJ 07940 USA Published Quarterly
--



HISTORICAL BULLETIN

WORLD METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Volume 19

Third and Fourth Quarters 1990

AN EDITOR'S FAREWELL

Having been editor since Nairobi 1986, and having indicated my desire to allow others with more talent to take over, I wish to acknowledge:

1. Editor's gratitude to all who have shared actively in the work of the World Methodist Historical Society during the Quinquennium 1986-1991. Whatever benefits have come, you have been responsible for them.

2. Editor's further appreciation to all who make effective the work of our Methodist historical societies around the world, in each continent. You have in a large measure kept the Wesleyan heritage before us in WMHS, and thus before the members of our constituent churches and the larger world.

3. Editor's humble apology for all shortcomings of his time in office. Many of you have attempted to make his task easier by sharing copies of your periodicals and reports, by sending notices of newly published or projected books and pamphlets, by contributing news items; editor is grateful.

4. Editor's happy acknowledgment of friendships made or deepened in the course of working at the duties of this office, especially through attending meetings of Methodist historical societies.

5. Editor's admiration at the

industry and imagination shown by our host colleagues at Singapore for the Conference July 19-23, 1991.

6. Editor's confidence that the 1991-1996 leadership of WMHS, to be elected at Singapore, will be creative and persistent in the best manner--especially the expected incoming Editor, Dr. C. Faith Richardson.

For all the above I am grateful. Best wishes to you all. Thanks be to God!

Theodore L. Agnew
Editor 1986-1991

THE WORLD METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE, 1991

This, the official name of the great event planned for July 19-23, 1991, promises to be a conference of the greatest significance. Planned as an appropriate celebration of the life and work of the Rev. John Wesley, A.M., Oxon., it is also a part of the bicentennial observance of his death, which occurred March 2, 1791.

The Conference theme is: "Wesleyan Heritage in Asia and the Pacific."

Announced speakers include: The Rev. Dr. Ted Campbell, "Roots of Wesleyan Heritage"; The Rev.

Dr. James Udy, "Changing Protestant Attitudes Towards Missionary Activity in the Asia/Pacific Region;" The Rev. Dr. Yap Kim Hao, "Lessons from Our Asian Methodist Story;" The Rev. Dr. Sione Latukefu, "Lessons from Our Methodist Pacific Story;" The Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Wainwright, "Future Challenges to Those Who Share the Wesleyan Heritage."

Preacher for the Opening Service will be The Rev. Dr. Richard P. Heitzenrater, whose title is Albert Outler Professor of Church History and Wesley Studies, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, USA. Respondents include: The Rev. Dr. Roberta Bondi (USA), Bishop Emeritus T.R. Doraisamy (Singapore), Bishop Dennis Dutton (Malaysia), and The Rev. Dr. Sione Havea (Tonga).

The Conference venue is to be St. Francis Xavier Seminary, 199 Ponggol 17th Avenue, Singapore.

While the closing date for registration has passed, it is indicated that a late registration fee of US \$20 is possible. For information, inquire of The Registrar, World Methodist Historical Society Conference 1991, c/o Methodist Centre, 10 Mount Sophia, Singapore 0922. FAX (65)-388-9575.

A very full program of activities is planned for each of the five days of the Conference. We shall all be

indebted to the local committee for their splendidly planned Conference.

ANNIVERSARY OF JOHN WESLEY'S DEATH (March 2, 1791)

The 200th anniversary of the death of John Wesley has been noted variously in our connexion.

A program of commemoration at Wesley's Chapel, the church he built on City Road, and at Central Hall, Westminster, the historic central Methodist church situated by Parliament Square, were conducted during the first week of March.

Saturday, March 2, began with morning prayer in Foundry Chapel, a service at Wesley's Tomb, prayers in the Wesley House (where he died,) and a service of holy communion. At noon that day the Rev. Dr. Brian E. Beck, Secretary of the Methodist Conference, preached the commemoration service at Wesley's Chapel and the following day preached in a special service at Central Hall, Westminster.

On Sunday, March 3, the preacher at Wesley's Chapel was The Rev. Dr. Colin M. Morris. The weekend closed with a United Service at Westminster Central Hall with preaching by General Eva Burrows, Salvation Army.

A notice in the Methodist Recorder stated that the original name of Westminster Central Hall was "John Wesley

Centenary Building." A series of "International Preachers" was scheduled for Sunday services in February and March, including The Rev. Dr. Kenneth Gree, Cardinal Basil Hume, and Viscount Tonypany. Other special items included Drama in Worship, Music in Celebration, a "Glorious Flower Festival," and Exhibitions, featuring "Social Conditions Then and Now."

We thank John H. Lenton, British Section Secretary, WMHS, for his vigilance in supplying this and other items.

ANOTHER JOHN WESLEY ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE

On Saturday, March 2, an observance was held at First United Methodist Church, Morristown, New Jersey, sponsored by the Southern New Jersey Conference Historical Society and Commission on Archives and History. Principal speaker was Dr. Richard P. Heitzenrater, Outler Professor of Methodist Studies and general editor of the Bicentennial edition of the Wesley Works. An afternoon panel dealt with provocative topics such as "What is the Heart of the Wesleyan Heritage?," "What Would John Wesley Do -- If He Were Alive Today?" and "Did American Methodism Evolve as John Wesley Dreamed?"

Participants were Dr. Charles Yrigoyen, general secretary of the UM General Commission on Archives and History, Bishop

Neil Irons, president of the Commission, The Rev. Heather Elkins, instructor at Drew University, Dr. Kenneth E. Rowe, Methodist Librarian at Drew University, and Dr. Robert J. Williams, instructor in Methodist history, doctrine, and polity at Princeton Theological Seminary. Special music included baritone solos by The Rev. S.T. Kimbrough, Jr., Center of Theological Inquiry, Princeton, NJ.

We thank the Northeastern [Jurisdiction] United Methodist Historical Bulletin for this data.

MAJOR EVENT; HISTORICAL SOCIETY (UMC), SECOND HISTORICAL CONVOCATION

The United Methodist Church's Historical Society plans a four-day Second Historical Convocation, to be held Friday, June 28 to Monday, July 1, 1991, in Detroit, Michigan.

Metropolitan United Methodist Church, 8000 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, 48202, is to be the venue. The principal theme is "The Church in Crisis: Then and Now," which is further explained: The Program will center on crises in our church history and how our past can teach us about the crises we confront in the church today." Housing and breakfasts will be furnished at Ramada Hotel Downtown, transportation between the church and the hotel being included in the registration cost.

Six major addresses, Friday night drama and reception, workshops and seminars, and banquet Saturday evening are included. Convocation participants will worship with the Metropolitan congregation Sunday morning -- a treat in itself. For information: Historical Convocation, P.O. box 127, Madison, NJ 07940, ph 201/822-2787.

ANNUAL MEETINGS, CANADIAN METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Canadian Methodist Historical Society's annual meeting, with dates slightly rescheduled, was to be held June 9-12, 1991, in Kingston, Ontario. Host institution was Sydenham Street United Church of Canada. The Rev. Neil Semple was chairperson of the program and the theme remained as previously announced -- "Varieties of John Wesley's Legacy in Canada."

Preliminary notice of the 1992 meeting, scheduled for mid-June in Toronto, has been received. We are grateful to The Rev. Edward J.R. Jackman, O.P., president of the CMHS, for this information.

WORLD METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWBIGGIN METHODIST CHAPEL

From British Section Secretary John H. Lenton, we receive, with gratitude, information about the Newbiggin Methodist Chapel, in

Teesdale village of Newbiggin. Built by lead miners in 1759 and reputed to be the oldest in the country in continuous use, the chapel was renovated in 1860 and in 1987 extensively restored. It contains an exhibition of local and Methodist history, with Bibles and Sunday School books of the London Lead Company (leading enterprise of the community, 1753-ca 1900), circuit plans, and other Methodist memorabilia. It is open Wednesday afternoons from April to September, and at other times by special arrangement.

INTERESTING EVENT -- ANNA HOWARD SHAW CENTER, BOSTON (USA)

At mid-March 1991 the seventh annual "Women and the Word" conference was held at the Anna Howard Shaw Center, Boston University School of Theology. Meeting March 14 and 15 in the University's George Sherman Union, participants focused on the theme: "The Living Word: Scriptural Context and Mutual Ministry." Leaders included The Rev. Dr. Lynn Rhodes (Pacific School of Religion) and The Rev. Dr. Renita Weems (Vanderbilt Divinity School.) Workshops included reflections on the present stage of the church's ministry, obstacles to mutual ministry, and the witness of scripture through community.

Last October at the same Anna Howard Shaw Center an observance was held to honor Dr. C. Faith Richardson, active member of the WMHS and incoming editor of the

publication.

**NEWS OF REGIONAL ORGANIZATION,
UNITED METHODIST**

The Northeastern Jurisdiction Commission on Archives and History planned a three-day meeting May 14-16, 1991, with a distinctly urban focus. Participants were to be based at the Stony Point Center, Stony Point, NY, located in the Hudson valley 35 miles upstream from New York City.

Events planned for the metropolitan area included a Manhattan History Walk, from South Street Seaport in lower Manhattan to John Street Church for love feast and visit to the newly opened Wesley Chapel Museum. That afternoon a bus tour was to include Ellis Island; participants were urged to bring "comfortable walking shoes."

John Street United Methodist Church dates from 1766 and is one of two congregations in North America formed that year by Wesley's followers. The edifice, now 150 years old, is the third building on the site, and is a Historic Shrine of the United Methodist Church. Stony Point Center, earlier used for missionary training, is an ecumenical facility in a beautiful setting.

**WESLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, IRISH
BRANCH**

A recent article in the Northeastern [Jurisdiction]

United Methodist Historical Bulletin calls to mind this important unit of World Methodist History. Membership in the Society is available currently for \$10 per year, including a subscription to the Society's Bulletin. Write: Mr. John H. Weir, Epworth, 5 Aberdeighy Gardens, Lambeg, Lisburn, County Antrim, Northern Ireland BT27 400.

The article, by D. Gregory Van Dussen, chairperson of the Western New York Commission on Archives and History, notes that further information about the role of the churches in dealing with the conflict in Northern Ireland may be obtained from Mr. Norman Richardson, Inter-Church Centre, 48 Elmwood Avenue, Belfast, Northern Ireland BT9 6AZ.

**NEWS OF REGIONAL ORGANIZATION
--TEXAS**

The Texas United Methodist Historical Society held its annual meeting on February 7-9, 1991, in the accustomed location, Bridwell Library, Perkins School of Theology, Dallas.

Specially featured were three presentations by Bishop Othal Lakey, 2nd Episcopal District, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Cincinnati, Ohio. Bishop Lakey, who has Dallas roots and has studied at Southern Methodist University, and is author of the definitive history of the CME denomination in America:

The opening address was by Dr. Robert Sledge, president of the United Methodist Church's Historical Society. Another highlight mentioned was a ceremony on December 1, 1990, which recognized the 150th anniversary of the founding of Rutgersville and Rutgersville College, early Methodist enterprises in the Republic of Texas. United Methodist Bishops Ben Oliphint (Houston Area) and Ernest T. Dixon, Jr. (San Antonio Area) participated.

Dues (\$5 regular, \$10 contributing) may be sent to the Society's Treasurer, The Rev. Ira Thompson, Jr., 1450 Old Gate Lane, Dallas, TX 75218.

EARLY AMERICAN METHODIST MINUTE BOOK (ORIGINAL)

The Virginia Annual Conference, United Methodist Church, recently came into possession of one of the primary source treasures of Wesleyan activity in America. The item is a leather-bound volume, 4 x 6 inches, containing the handwritten minutes of the earliest Methodist conferences through the year 1783. The first two leaves, covering 1773 and 1774, are missing. The remaining pages take the story to the eve of the Christmas Conference of 1784, which organized the Methodist Episcopal Church. The Virginia Conference Archives is the depository of the volume, which has been in private hands for many years.

Comparison of the text with the printed Minutes (published in 1785) reveals what is described as "some changes." Obviously precious, this volume should be photocopied so that researchers can use the contents without damage to the original. One hopes as well that a microfilm copy can be placed in the United Methodist Archives Center, Madison, NJ.

For this information we thank Patti B. Russell of the Virginia Conference and Joseph W. Lasley of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Historical Society.

NEW ARCHIVAL PROGRAM IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN RELIGIOUS LIFE

A recent news release detailed the Schomburg Center's launching of a program to build a comprehensive archive of African-American religious life. Supported by the Lilly Foundation, the initiative is called the "Preservation of the Black Religious Heritage Project." Victor Smythe will direct the project, working with a Scholars Advisory Council of seven, including Dr. Dennis Dickerson of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, member of the WMHS executive committee. The project also has a National Advisory Board of 25 scholars and church leaders, including Dr. Charles Yrigoyen (WMH executive secretary) and three bishops from the predominantly black Methodist denominations.

RICHARD ALLEN MARKER

Recently information came to us about the placing of a permanent marker honoring Richard Allen in Dover, Delaware. Allen, founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, was celebrated for the bicentennial of his activity. The Rev. Earl R. Jefferson represented the office of AME Presiding Bishop Frank C. Cummings at the ceremony, along with city and state officials.

Text of the marker:

BISHOP RICHARD ALLEN
 Founder of the A.M. E. Church

Richard Allen founded and became the first Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1816. Born into slavery in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on February 14, 1760, Allen and his family were sold to a family near Dover in 1772. While there, he purchased his freedom, became a minister and joined the Continental Army as a non-combatant during the Revolutionary War. After returning to Philadelphia, he and another Countian, Absalom Jones, founded the Free African Society in 1787. He helped organize and was elected president of "The First Convention of the People of Colour" in 1830.

BOOK NOTICES

Ethel W. Born, By My Spirit, is an account of the mission work of the women of the Methodist

Protestant Church, USA, 1879-1939. Enlivened by accounts of personal religious experiences of missionaries and converts, and by more than 100 photographs, the volume may be ordered (for \$3.95 plus \$1.50 postage) from: Service Center, 7820 Reading Road, Cincinnati, OH 45222-1800. The Methodist Protestant Church contributed mightily to the democratic spirit in American Methodism, nowhere more vigorously than in the persons of Bishop John Warman, president of the UMC's Commission on Archives and History, 1976-1980, and historian Ethel Born.

Don W. Holter, The Lure of Kansas, The Story of Evangelicals and United Brethren, 1853-1968 (Mennonite Press, 1990) details in 176 pages the histories of the two churches (and their unified Evangelical United Brethren Church) in Kansas for more than a century. Engagingly written, as one expects from Bishop Holter, the account includes charts, maps, a bibliography, and an index. To obtain a copy, the editor suggests writing to Dr. A. Mark Conard, chairperson of the South Central Jurisdiction Commission on Archives and History, Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church, 1600 W. 27th St. North, Wichita, KS 67204. (This is the third book of Methodist history by Bishop Holter, his previous works having dealt with Kansas and with Nebraska Methodism.

The Rev. William Lamb, Bridging the Years is recently published by Bridge Street United Church of Canada, Belleville, Ontario, and deals with the history of the local church, 1815-1990, featuring interrelations between Methodists in Canada and the USA. We identify Bill Lamb as past president of the Canadian Methodist Historical Society. The book is available for US\$25 (plus \$5 postage and handling) from Bridge Street Church, 86 Bridge Street East, Belleville, Ontario K8N 7L7, Canada.

North Carolina Conference Commission on Archives and History, Lumbee Methodist History Book, was recently published by the Commission. The volume identifies the Lumbee Indians, a North Carolina people with possible ties to the English "Lost Colonists" of Sir Walter Raleigh's Roanoke Island colony planted in 1585. The book sells for \$14.95 cloth, \$8.95 paperback; it may be

ordered from: Commission on Archives and History, North Carolina Conference, P.O. Box 10955, Raleigh, NC 27605, USA.

Jeanne Jacoby Smith, An Altar in the Forest, a History of Mount Lebanon Campmeeting 1892-1992 (Lebanon, PA, Mt. Lebanon Campmeeting Association, to be published in 1992.) The volume will sell for \$11.50, and may be ordered from: Mr. David Shenk, Chair, The Centennial Committee, 8 School Lane, Lebanon, PA 17042, USA. The Mount Lebanon Campmeeting was formerly a mission of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ to German-speaking peoples of the East German Conference (organized in 1869). The work will be "thoroughly documented," with 60 photographs and illustrations, 18 German choruses (with translations), eight choruses with musical scores, and three appendixes that summarize previous celebrations.