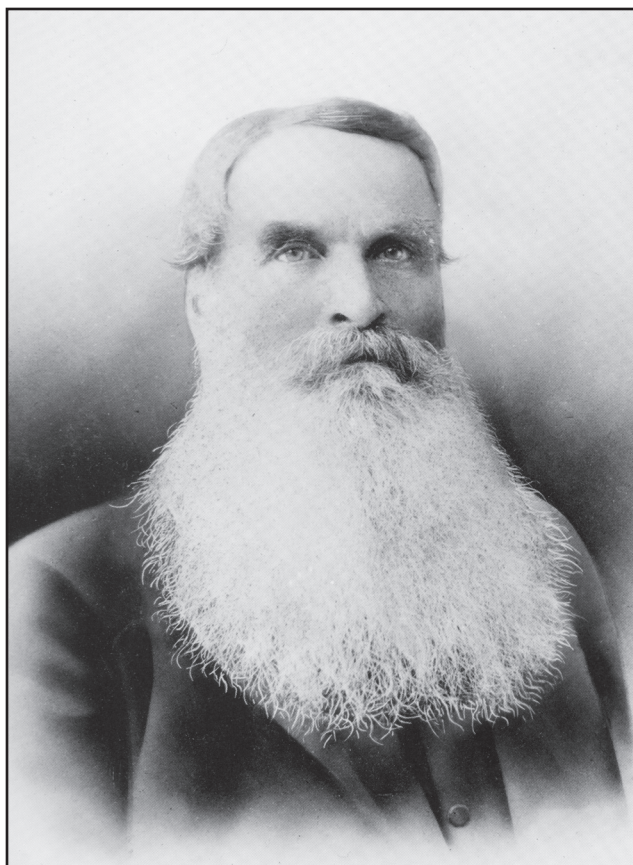


METHODIST HISTORY

January 2009

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Number 2



WILLIAM TAYLOR



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Cover: William Taylor (1821-1902), a Methodist Missionary who served in Chile, is the subject of a case study by Peter Feinman in this issue (84-101). Image is from the Drew Photograph File of the Drew University Methodist Collection, Madison, New Jersey.

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Robert J. Williams, Editor

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EDITOR'S NOTE

I received the following note from John Vickers, British Methodist scholar. I thought this online resource might be of interest to many of our readers. Dr. Vickers wrote:

A Dictionary of Methodism in Britain and Ireland was published by the Epworth Press in 2000 as a volume of over 400 pages. Soon after it appeared I began discussing with the Methodist Publishing House the possibility of an online version, and in due course was given permission to go ahead with this, using the printed volume as the starting point. Copyright of the original text remains the property of the Methodist Publishing House.

Eight years later the new version has been launched. It shares a website with the Wesley Historical Society, and can be accessed directly at: <http://dmbi.wesleyhistoricalsociety.org.uk/>. Access is free.

This online version, with over 3,000 entries, is almost twice the length of what was possible with its predecessor. Any errors detected have been corrected. Some of the original entries have been augmented or rewritten. Particular attention has been given to groups such as lay Methodists, women and non-Wesleyans, though more remains to be done in these fields. The sources of further information have been considerably augmented; they are now attached to individual entries, instead of being listed in a general bibliography. Many more cross-references have been created, with immediate access from one entry to the other. It is also possible to search the text for key words, and there are indexes both to occupations and to contributors and their entries.

One advantage of the online format is that the Dictionary can continue to be revised and augmented, and this will happen on a regular basis. Plans for the immediate future include adding portraits and other illustrations. There is also scope for many more outline histories of Methodism in particular places, as the necessary material becomes available.

Incorporated into the website is a "Feedback" facility, making it easy for the reader to notify any errors found and to offer a draft of any entry not at present found in the Dictionary. Many people have contributed to both the original *Dictionary* and its successor, and it is hoped that in its new form it will initiate discussion and dialogue between those interested in our denominational history.

I welcome receiving such announcements of important resources.

ROBERT J. WILLIAMS