



HISTORIAN'S DIGEST

Volume XL Number 4

Fall 2000

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST CHURCH



Old Otterbein, Martin Boehm, John Fohl, Peter Kemp... The list goes on. Many of these names were just that—names.

However, due to the efforts of the Central PA, Eastern PA, and Baltimore-Washington Conferences; NE Jurisdiction Commission on Archives & History; Old Otterbein Church; Lovely Lane Church and Strawbridge Shring Association these names and the places associated with them came alive.

Participants in the 2000 Annual Meeting of the United Methodist Historical Society were treated to drama, lecture and reenactments. They were provided with a 300-mile bus tour from Baltimore into Pennsylvania with stops at the Peter Kemp House, Shiremanstown, the Isaac Long Barn and Boehm's Chapel. Because of the rain and gloomy day a Bicentennial Service which was scheduled to be held at the Kemp House was moved to Trinity UMC in Frederick, MD.

Along the way, educational "snippets" were provided by tour leaders. Each hosting conference supplied an on-board tour guide and drive-by viewings of many historical sites in the area. Further explanations and biographical information was also provided.

The Annual Meeting was also complemented by lectures. Dr. J. Stephen O'Malley spoke about "United Brethren Missions from 1830." Milton Loyer took the role of John Fohl in speaking about the UB split. Abram Sangrey presented the "Beginnings in Eastern Pennsylvania" complete with a reenactment of the Otterbein's greeting to Martin Boehm, "We are Brethren" in 1767 in Long's Barn.

A paper by John Shildt was read, it was entitled "United Brethren Ecumenism." Edwin Schell also spoke on the historical Ecumenism of the UB. Bishop James K. Mathews provided a meditation for the morning devotion. This was followed by Dr. K. James Stein, "Church of United Brethren in Christ: a Reluctant Denomination."

A drama, presented by the Wesley Grove Disciples, entitled "In the Beginning" portrayed the role of the UB leaders "then and now" in the quilt of life in America.

The week was rounded out with food, fun, fellowship and worship. The United Methodist News Service reported that this meeting celebrated the 200th anniversary of the "foundation [being] laid for what has been called the first truly American church."



"We are Brethren"

RENEWAL REMINDER

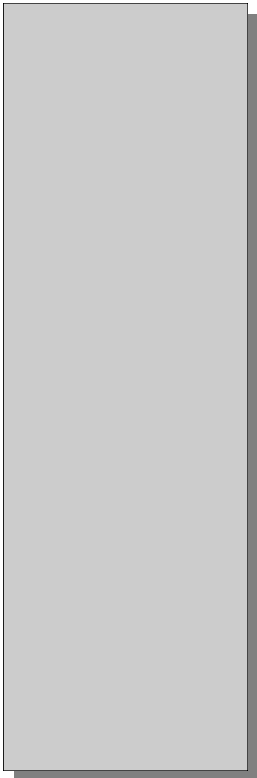
Please look at the address label on this newsletter. Above your name you will find the expiration date of your membership. If you see June 2000 or any earlier date, the time to renew your membership is now.

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

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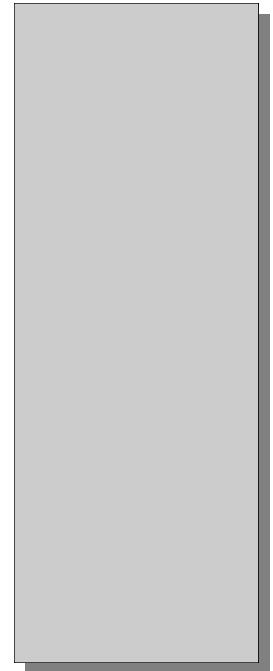
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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

JOHN E. SIMS



***COMMISSION MEMBERS
OBJECT TO SALE OF
CHURCH RECORDS***

Interested in collecting old church records? How about Sunday school pins, commemorative church plates or cookbooks? Try eBay, the Internet auction site. Although not on the formal agenda of the United Methodist Commission on Archives and History at its meeting, the auctioning of church membership and baptismal records surfaced as a concern for some of the agency's directors and staff.

Pins, plates and cookbooks are fair game, it was agreed, but church membership records belong to the church and not to individuals and placing them on the auction block is improper. The situation usually arises in small membership churches where the person in charge of records keeps the materials at home. Eventually they are found by family members clearing out a residence. Purchasers of the records likely are to be involved in genealogy or baptism research. In at least one instance, a commission member, seeing the eBay listings, located the purchaser, who willingly turned the records over. [from UMNS]

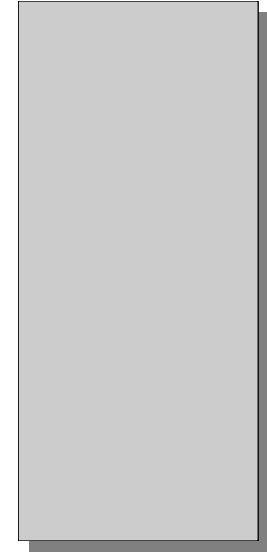
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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

METHODIST HISTORY ISSUES *AVAILABLE*

Dr. Lawrence Breeze has retired from Southwest Missouri State University. He wants to donate his issues of *Methodist History* to a library/archive that might need them to fill in a gap.

Any library/archive who needs issues, please contact the HD editor. Identify which issues you need. Dr. Breeze's collection dates back for many years and continues into the 1990's. Requested issues will be mailed library rate. Postage reimbursement is requested.



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The Historian's Digest is published quarterly by The Historical Society of The United Methodist Church and serves as the newsletter of that organization.

Postmaster: Send address changes to *The Historian's Digest*, E. Joy Dodson, Editor, Missouri UM Archives, Smiley Memorial Library, Fayette, MO 65248,

THE HISTORIAN'S DIGEST

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