

# HISTORIAN'S DIGEST



Volume 53, Number 4

Fall, 2013

## General Commission on Archives and History Hosts 2013 HSUMC Annual Meeting

From September 15-17, as an extension of their 2013 annual meeting, the General Commission on Archives and History (GCAH) hosted the 2013 annual meeting of the Historical Society of the UMC (HSUMC), which also included a number of chairs of annual conference Commissions on Archives and History. Once each quadrennium, usually during the second year, the General Commission pays the travel costs for chairs (or their designees) to attend the annual meeting of the Commission. Many of the chairpersons also stayed this year for the HSUMC meeting, and some HSUMC members also attended some or all of the GCAH meeting. Those who attended the GCAH meeting were also included in the Banquet on Friday evening where Dr. J. Gordon Melton was presented the 2013 Distinguished Service Award for outstanding service to the United Methodist Church in the area of archives and history. In particular, Dr. Melton was recognized for his recent publication, *A Will to Choose: The Origins of African American Methodism*. After accepting the award, Dr. Melton gave a most interesting summary of his journey in researching and writing his book. He also provided an excellent handout titled, "African American Methodists in the Antebellum and Reconstruction Periods: A Timetable, 1760-1860."

Prior to the official opening of the HSUMC meeting on Saturday evening, annual conference chairpersons and Historical Society members gathered with Bob Williams and Dale Patterson for a general discussion. One of the major issues focused on the role of the Annual Conference Historian in conferences which have such a position. Many commissions do not have an Historian and for the most part, those who do, do not have a job description for the position. The only commission which has been identified as having a job description is the Minnesota Conference Commission. In some cases the individual is elected to the position and in other cases, the individual holds the position based upon the work which s/he does for the Commission.

There was also a discussion of the relationship between the annual conference commissions and

annual conference historical societies (where such societies exist). Again, there were a variety of organizational structures reported – from an overlap between officers of the historical society and the commissions to those who have completely separate organizations. The session concluded with Dale Patterson giving a brief overview of the new GCAH web site which is currently being brought online.



HSUMC President, Dan Swinson, and 2013 Ministry of Memory Award recipient, Lila Hill (O-I An Conf)

Over 60 people gathered on Saturday evening for the opening banquet and program for the HSUMC meeting. Dan Swinson, President, opened the meeting by singing, "Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown," and welcomed everyone. Following the banquet Dan presented the Ministry of Memory Award to Lila Hill from the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference.

The Ministry of Memory Award is given each year by the Historical Society to recognize outstanding service in archives and history at the local, conference, and/or jurisdictional level. Among many of Lila's contributions are her more than 28 years as a member of the Oregon-Idaho CAH, more than 25 years as a member of the Western Jurisdiction CAH (serving for four years as President), her 8 years as a member of the General Commission on Archives and History  
(cont. p.3)

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## From Our New President-elect, Russell Richey

### *Preaching to the Choir*

Elsewhere in this issue I trust our diligent editor will have covered (or will cover in a subsequent newsletter) our recent meeting, its excellent program, the remarkable talks including especially those by Randy Maddox and J. Gordon Melton and effective leadership of the Society by our outgoing president, Dan Swinson.

Here I want to call attention to a few of the websites that I find myself frequenting. I presume that many, perhaps most, in the HSUMC will know these but in the chance that a few do not, I thought I would use this letter to remind folks of the tremendous resources lying only a click away. So 'preaching to the choir.'

First, of course, are our own website and that of GCAH, each of which offers an array of resources and links to other important websites. For any teaching adult classes, remember the item accessible through GCAH and Drew, with its wonderful graphics: *The Story of United Methodism in America*. Published by Drew, the text is by John G. McEllhenney, and features one hundred and twenty-eight illustrations from the Archives and History Center. Go to GCAH and look under UMC History or try <http://depts.drew.edu/lib/books/200Years/200UM/homepage.htm>.

Second, Wesleyan and Methodist seminaries now typically feature their own items on, resources for and links to Methodistica (for instance to the considerable digital library of John Wesley's works on the Northwest Nazarene site). Now back at Duke, I use the Divinity School's almost daily. This summer I found Asbury's to be comparably valuable. Each has distinctive offerings. Kenneth Collins's Wesleyan bibliography on the Asbury site should be noted. On the Duke site, Randy Maddox and Richard Heitzenrater have mounted all known Charles Wesley verse: <http://divinity.duke.edu/initiatives-centers/cswt/wesley-texts>. I often select an unfamiliar but wonderful hymn to open a lecture.

Third, you probably know about The American Methodism Project, but, if not, certainly should—an incredible array of out-of-copyright Methodistica, including important standard items: <http://archive.org/details/americanmethodism>. The journals of General Conference and of selected annual conferences, *Advocates*, standard histories, biographies, circuit-rider journals and diaries, you name it, can be found there. *The Encyclopedia of World Methodism*, Matthew Simpson's *Cyclopedia of Methodism*, and John Tigert's *Constitutional History* are among the items which I have found especially useful.

Fourth, Early American Imprints (Series 1, 1670-1800; Series 2, 1801-1819) and Making of America offer a broader array of Americana but can be immensely useful for what Methodistica they do contain. For instance, use the first for early Disciplines, including the 1798 Coke-Asbury annotated version. Both of these may require access through a university or some other subscriber.

I would note (with some embarrassment) and fifthly, the online journal of which I am co-editor: *Methodist Review: A Journal of Wesleyan and Methodist Studies*, online, free but by registration, sequel to *Quarterly Review* and to the *Methodist Magazine* (launched in 1818 and variously titled): <https://www.methodistreview.org/index.php/mr/index>. Rex Matthews, Ted Campbell and I have been in conversation with Robert Williams and in exploration of ways to make *Methodist Review* be complementary to, rather than competitive with *Methodist History*. And for starters note that the *Review*, while including history, is dedicated to all fields and disciplines which function in a way that can be termed Wesleyan or Methodist. Matthews edits and produces a *Newsletter* which complements this one and keeps the links on the site current.

Finally, a Religion in North Carolina Project: <http://ncreligion.blogspot.com/> promises to include a good sampling of Methodist materials.

If you know of other macro-sites not readily accessible through the above, please email me and I'll try to include them in subsequent letters.



Dr. Russell Richey

Again, greetings.  
Russell Richey

(cont. from p.1)

(during which she served as the chair of the Archives and History Committee for four years) and her transcription to the computer of 2500 microfilmed pages of photocopied, handwritten letters to and from the Oregon Mission. Congratulations, Lila!

Dan then introduced Dr. Robert Sledge, the Chairperson of the Saddlebag Selection Award Committee. Each year a plaque is presented to both the author of the book which is selected for the award and one to



Kathy Armisted, Abingdon Press

the publishing company, as well. This year, for the first time, a representative of the Publishing House was also available to receive the award. Kathy Armisted was present from Abingdon Press to receive the publisher's award for *Doctrinal and Controversial Treatises I: Foundational Treatises on Soteriology*, Volume 12 of

the Bicentennial Edition of *The Works of John Wesley*, ed. by Dr. Randy L. Maddox. Rob then presented the author's award to Dr. Maddox, who accepted not only for his own publication but also on behalf of the entire *Wesley Works* project.



Dr. Robert Sledge and Dr. Randy Maddox

Dr. Maddox gave an excellent presentation on his volume, including a powerpoint overview of the previous editions of the *Works*, and the major differences between them and the current *Bicentennial Edition of the Works of John Wesley*. The original *Works* included various books and tracts that Wesley himself edited. These were followed by three different editions which primarily included additional letters and writings and/or reorganized or corrected previous editions, the fourth edition being produced in 1849. In the early 1900's Nehemiah Curnock produced eight volumes of the *Journal of John Wesley*, and in 1931 John Telford published eight volumes of the *Letters of John Wesley*.

A careful reading of the various early editions revealed that Wesley often left out material with which he didn't agree or which he didn't like and sometimes these changes evolved over time as his own views may have changed. For example, though "Wesley was

raised in a tradition that assumed Genesis taught God originally created Eve subordinate to Adam," he later excluded material from his edited editions which supported this belief. That was, most likely, because it was also during this period that Wesley was writing letters to women who were seeking his advice on responding to their call to preach and telling them to follow their call from God.

By the 1940's there was beginning to be a call for a new edition of the *Works* which recognized 1) an awareness of missing material, 2) earlier editions were not "critical editions" (along with the need to locate and annotate all earlier editions), and 3) a desire for more contextual aids for readers. The kick-off for the project was in 1974 at Drew University in anticipation of the publication of the first volume (Vol. 11) in 1975 (200 years after the publication of the last volume of Wesley's original edition) of what became known as the *Oxford Edition of the Works of John Wesley*. This edition included Vols. 11, 25, 26, 7 and was published between 1975 and 1983.

In 1984 the United Methodist Publishing House assumed support for the publication and the project became known as the *Bicentennial Edition of the Works of John Wesley*. The current edition edited by Dr. Maddox is Volume 12 and is the first of a 3 volume set. This volume includes an introduction on Wesley as Theologian, and gathers 4 "Foundational Treatises on Soteriology," three of which are not included in 19th century editions: an extract of *Homilies*, an abridgement of Baxter's *Aphorisms*, and an abridgement of *Shorter Catechism*. It is in this volume that Dr. Maddox highlights some of the changes in Wesley's theology over the years as noted above.

Volume 13, *Christian Perfection and Calvinist Debates*, is due in October, 2013, and is the 19th volume of the 35 which are projected as a part of this project. Dr. Maddox also noted that there are a growing role and hopes for a web site to be developed for this project, as well.

Following this presentation Dan Swinson presented the proposed locations for the upcoming HSUMC meetings which were approved by the members: 2014 - Wofford College, Spartanburg, SC, June 24-26, hosted by the SEJ and SC Conference historical societies; 2015 - Garrett Evangelical Theological School, Evanston, IL, in July, hosted by the North Central Jurisdiction; 2016 - Delaware, in May, hosted by the Northeastern Jurisdiction; 2018 - possibly in St. Louis, MO, in July, hosted by the South Central Jurisdiction.

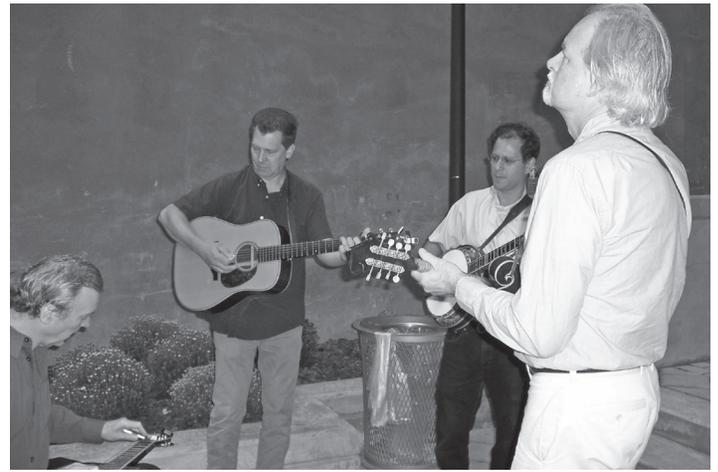
The following morning the group boarded a bus for a trip into New York City for a Sunday morning worship service at the John Street United Methodist Church, one of the two oldest congregations in America (the other being the congregation organized by Robert Strawbridge in Maryland during the same decade - 1760-1770). Prior to the worship service there was time to visit the museum in the lower level of the building and view the many plaques on the outside of



John Street UMC, New York City

the building and in the sanctuary highlighting many of the events and people who have been a part of the history of the congregation over the past 240 years.

After a very inspiring worship service which included a lively sermon by pastor, Jason Radmacher, entitled, "Heartache, Bluegrass, and the Love that Will Not Let Us Go," along with music by a Blue Grass Band, the Crusty Gentleman, lunch was served by the church members in the courtyard and the lower level. The Crusty Gentleman continued to provide wonderful



The Crusty Gentlemen in the Courtyard

music during our luncheon, as well.

Following lunch Jo Hibbard, Heritage Officer of the Methodist Church in Britain, gave an address entitled, "Heritage As Mission: Why and How the British Methodist Church uses its Heritage." In Jo's words: This talk aimed to set out some of the approaches to heritage as a tool for mission that underpin the work of the Connexional Heritage Committee and Officer of the British Methodist Church. Jo described the work of the Connexional Heritage Committee and its work with their various historical sites and places throughout Britain, to help them to become more than simply old historic churches or places. A report made to 2010 annual conference, which established the theological underpinning of the Committee stated, in part that these sites may "attract many thousands of visitors each year. These comprise pilgrims from the World Methodist family, secular tourists interested in local and family history or the place of religion in our national heritage, and casual passers-by drawn in from the world of work and commerce.

"In these places there are life-changing and life-enhancing possibilities for the Church to engage in an evangelism that counters the effects of modern consumerism and moral confusion by offering an alternative which is distinctive and desirable.



Mural in Courtyard of John Street Church of the original Wesley Chapel

“They can become oases of spirituality for searchers, resting places for the weary and troubled, places of challenge as the stories of the People called Methodist point to gospel values and reveal signs of God’s kingdom through those who have gone before.”

Jo then went on to report how the Committee had worked with their historic sites and places to tell their stories and then to relate their stories to ongoing mission and outreach and evangelism.

After Jo’s presentation a number of options were offered, including a walking tour led by Rev. Radmacher to various historic sites and places related to the John Street Church or a visit to the site of Ground Zero and the new World Trade Center building and museum. Many of us opted to take the walking tour with Jason, who began on the sidewalk in front of John Street UMC where Maggie Newton Van Cott, the first woman in the Methodist Episcopal Church to receive a license to preach, had a vision that led to her conversion.

We then visited a number of sites including the site of the Rigging Loft where Philip Embury and Capt. Thomas Webb began holding services in 1767 (now the entrance to a subway stations), City Hall Park where George Whitefield held open air prayer meetings over the many visits he made to the city, the site of the former Duane Street Methodist Church (the 3rd Methodist church to be established in the City) where Maggie Newton Van Cott attended worship, as well as Municipal Building Plaza, the site of Philip Embury’s Augustus Street home.

Also included was the National Monument which commemorates and communicates the story of the African Burial Ground, discovered in 1991 when excavation work for a new federal office building uncovered the skeletal remains of more than 400 African American men, women, and children.



At the African Burial Ground – “For all those who were lost, For all those who were stolen, For all those who were left behind, For all those who were not forgotten.”

The following morning the HSUMC annual meeting began with worship in Craig Chapel in Seminary Hall, led by the Rev. Dr. Tanya Bennett, Chaplain of the University and worship leader of the Chapel. The preacher of the day was the Rev. Dr. Russell Richey, with a sermon was titled, “‘Handing-on’ as Methodist Practice and our Particular

Calling.” Russ talked about our role in “handing-on,” the Methodist story, highlighting our diagnostic role, our sacramental role, our theological-constructive role, our community-forming role, and our identity-giving role in this process. We need to articulate what God has done in the past and to make God present in the future, using, in part, the Wesleyan Quadrilateral of scripture, tradition, reason, and experience.

Dr. Kevin Newburg, Post-Doctoral Fellow in Methodist Studies at the Drew Theological School, then took us through the “worship wars” at the turn of the nineteenth century which were always about music, noting the various groups: the traditionalists (“let’s keep doing it the way we’ve always done it” – though really not that far back), the Wesleyans (“let’s get back to Wesley”), the Anglophiles (those who loved the Episcopalian high church, often affiliated with universities and seminaries) and the Independents (who didn’t want any kind of static music or worship). He highlighted the struggle between those who supported the more traditional pew hymnal which was issued in 1905 but which didn’t include any gospel songs, and subsequent publications such as *Songs of Faith and Hope*, which was a collection of 145 Gospel songs which many people in the pew preferred.

Dan Swinson led the conclusion of the annual meeting presenting the Budget Report for 2012/13 and the proposed budget for 2013/14 (see page four), which were both accepted as presented. The membership secretary reported that we have 17 life members, 126 regular members, 2 benefactors and 30 joint members (joining through a conference/regional historical society). It was noted that memberships continue to decline, and everyone present who was not a member was encouraged to join, and to encourage others to join, as well.

The editor of this newsletter noted that she will be including all CAH chairs, along with Historical Society chairs in her quarterly notices for articles for the *Digest* and urged them to encourage their members to submit materials to the *Digest* in order to keep our members informed about happenings in the United Methodist historical community.

Dan introduced the new officers of the Society: Russ Richey, President; Dan Swinson, Vice-president; Barb Essen, Secretary; and Kerri Shoemaker, Treasurer; Marge Benham, Membership Secretary, Linda Schramm, representative from GCAH. Dan also reported that the Board had accepted three new members of the Program Committee: Priscilla Pope-Levinson, Phil Lawton, and Dan Flores, who will serve along with Chris Shoemaker and Rob Sledge (ex-officio as chairperson of the Saddlebag Selection Committee). Pat Thompson will continue as editor of *Historian’s Digest* and the General Secretary of GCAH also serves as an ex-officio member of the Board. Many thanks go to Dan for the leadership which he has provided to the Society over the past four years as our President.

Patti Russell from Virginia was announced as the 2014 Ministry of Memory recipient.

**2012 - 2013 Treasurer's Report – Dr. Charles Yrigoyen, Jr.**

Balance: April 30, 2012	\$13,565.85*	
	Budget	Actual
Income:		
Dues and Gifts	\$3,500.00	\$ 8,055.80
From Reserves	<u>8,000.00</u>	<u>2,442.62</u>
Total Income	\$11,500.00	\$10,498.42
Expenses:		
Methodist History (quarterly)	\$5,000.00	\$ 7,139.00
Historian's Digest (quarterly)	1,400.00	1,367.82
Awards	1,500.00	1,611.88
Travel (Board of Directors)	3,000.00	0**
Insurance	500.00	379.72
Postage and Miscellaneous	<u>100.00</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 11,500.00	\$10,498.42
Balance – September 3, 2013	\$11,123.23	(cont. next column)

\* Includes gifts to the Albea Godbold Fund from Bea Shepperd, Rob Sledge, and Dan Swinson totaling \$3,000.

\*\*Members of Board of Directors neither requested nor received reimbursement for travel.

**2013-2014 Budget**

Income:	
Dues	\$5,000.00
From Reserves	<u>6,600.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 11,600.00
Expenses:	
Methodist History	\$5,000.00
Historian's Digest	1,400.00
Travel (Board)	3,000.00
Awards	1,600.00
Insurance	500.00
Postage/Miscellaneous	<u>100.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$11,600.00

**Note from the editor:** If you are interested in receiving a copy of the full presentation by Jo Hibbard, Jason Radmacher's tour guide notes, outline presentations of Dr. Randy Maddox's address, and an outline of Dr. Richey's sermon, please e-mail [pajt8817@aol.com](mailto:pajt8817@aol.com).

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