The Indiana United Methodist Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 331, Greencastle, Indiana 46135 Fall 2009

Two Bishops

Dr. Richard Stowe, author of the following article

Enjoying what was a heady expansion, the Methodist Episcopal Church could be excused for believing that its rosy future and the nation's "manifest destiny" were being guided by the same infallible, providential hand. Just one problem darkened the prospects of church and state in the mid-19th century: the wrenching issue of slave holding. Already, the M.E. Church South, had broken away; and now it was the turn of the country as a whole to splinter.

Two figures became dominant in this turbulent epoch: Matthew Simpson and Edward R. Ames. They were an unlikely pair of youthful bishops whose boots were caked with Hoosier mud. Earlier, both men had played key roles in the 19th State in keeping Indiana Asbury (DePauw) University open, in altering the course of a gubernatorial election, and in boosting the causes of temperance and public schooling.

Never before had two bishops been elected from the same annual conference at the same moment, but in 1852 the Indiana Conference gave these friends and rivals to the episcopacy. The duo rose to lead American Methodism during the fracturing of the Union, the Civil War, the assassination of their mutual friend, Lincoln, and the Era of Reconstruction. During those tumultuous decades, Simpson and Ames presided over a church with immensely rising political power and were personally welcome at the White House during several administrations.

Both men were, of course, products of their age as well as its shapers; and some of their actions still raise eyebrows. During the war, for instance, they took control of numerous southern Methodist churches which lacked "loyal" ministers, thereby sparking bitter resentment in Dixie.

It also disturbs us that these bishops and their peers rejected social equality for freed slaves. Moreover, they advocated harsh punishment for the leaders of the rebellion. Ames opposed laymen as delegates to the councils of the church, and both men would have been appalled to think of ordaining women. Yet the glimmerings of what became the monumental Methodist Social Creed shone in Matthew Simpson's more forward-looking pronouncements.

In sum, Simpson and Ames shared many of the same traits and a strong mental character, including a single-minded devotion to duty as they saw it. They were towering preachers and orators, unabashed Unionists, savvy politicians, and tender family men. But they were unlike too. Ames had an imposing physique and presence, and by turns might be callous or conciliatory. Of slight build, Simpson was more gracious, but perhaps was no less iron-willed. All in all, they were contradictory but fascinating human beings.

The 130th anniversary of the death of Bishop Ames fell on April 25, 2009, the day of the most recent IUMHS annual meeting, an appropriate time to remember these bishops.

COMPARATIVE TIMELINES for METHODIST EPISCOPAL BISHOPS MATTHEW SIMPSON and EDWARD R. AMES

Prepared by Richard A. Stowe, Spring 2009

MATTHEW SIMPSON			EDWARD RAYMOND AMES
Born in Cadiz, Ohio	1811	1806	Born near Amesville, Ohio
Father, James, died	1812	1823	Father, Sylvanus, died
Off to Madison College	1830	1826	Off to Ohio University
Practiced medicine in Cadiz	1833	1828	Taught in Lebanon, Illinois
Appointed to Pittsburgh	1834	1830	Appointed to Shoal Creek, IL
Married Ellen Verner	1835	1834	Married Henrietta Beach
Returned to Pittsburgh, Liberty Street	1835	1831-4	Appointed to Vincennes, New Albany-Jeffersonville, & Indianapolis
Appointed to Williamsport	1836	1835-7	Agent, Preachers Aid Society
Prof. & VP, Allegheny College	1837-9	1838	Appointed to St. Louis, Mo.
President, Indiana Asbury U.; met Ames	1839	1839	Presiding Elder, Greencastle; met Simpson
Delegate to General Conference	1840	1840	Delegate to General Conference
Continued at Indiana Asbury	1840-4	1840-4	Western Missionary Secretary
Lost son, James, 4	1842	1848	Lost daughter, Laura, 7
Delegate to General Conference	1844	1844	Delegate to General Conference
Continued as president at Indiana Asbury; efforts met with success	1844-8	1844-8	Presiding Elder, Indiana; Henrietta died; he remarried, to Mahala Porter, 1846
Editor, Western Christian Advocate	1848-1852	1848-1852	Presiding Elder, Indianapolis & Jeffersonville districts
Elected bishop	1852	1852	Elected bishop
To Pacific Coast	1854	1853	First bishop to Pacific Coast
Presided, General Conference, Indianapolis	1856	1856	Presided, General Conference, Indianapolis
Traveled Europe, Middle East	1857-8	1860	Met California & Oregon conferences again

Simpson			Ames
Presided, General Conference, Buffalo	1860	1860	Presided, General Conference, Buffalo
Patriotic orator, ardent supporter of Union; access to Lincoln and Stanton	1861-1864	1861-1864	Patriotic orator, ardent supporter of Union; access to Lincoln and Stanton; Commissioner
Moved to Philadelphia	1863	1863	Moved to Baltimore
Filled Southern pulpits with "loyal" ministers; solicited aid for Union soldiers	1863-1865	1863-1865	Filled Southern pulpits with "loyal" ministers; solicited aid for Union soldiers
Presided, General Conference, Philadelphia	1864	1864	Presided, General Conference, Philadelphia; headed delegation to call on Lincoln
Rallied support for Lincoln's second term	1864	1864	Rallied support for Lincoln's second term
Consoled Lincoln's family; preached Lincoln's funeral	1865	1866	Helped raise $8.7 million for Methodist Centennial
Aided freed slaves; extended churches & schools in South	1865-1875	1865-1875	Aided freed slaves; extended churches & schools in South
Presided, General Conference, Chicago	1868	1868	Presided, General Conference, Chicago
Visited Europe; delegate to British Wesleyan Conference	1870	1869	Attended Grant's inauguration
Met conferences in Germany & Switzerland	1875	1870	Met conferences in Colorado, Nevada, Oregon, & California
Gave famous speech at Exeter Hall, London	1881	1879	Saying, "My work is done," he died at Baltimore
Appeared at his final General Conference; died at Philadelphia	1884		

"Forty Years After Dallas:
Retrieving the EUB Heritage for United Methodism"

By Rev. Nancy Richmond
Vice President of IUMHS

In 1968, the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren joined together to create the United Methodist Church. Last September, scholars and historians gathered to look back at what was lost that needs to be re-examined at a conference entitled "Forty Years After Dallas: Retrieving the EUB Heritage for United Methodism."

There were twelve speakers, plus the plenary speaker, reminding us of the evangelical and pietist traditions of the EUB. The speakers included William J. Abraham, Kenneth Rowe, Paul Wesley Chilcote, William H. Naumann, Jason Vickers, James E. Kirby, Kendall McCabe, K. James Stein, Scott Thomas Kisker, J. Steven O'Malley, Tyron Inbody, Ulrike Shuler, and Wendy Diechmann Edwards.

They spoke on piety and how the EUB came to be known for pietism and why we United Methodists need to take it seriously. Plenary speaker William J. Abraham said that United Methodists are pietists with a passion for social justice. We need personal salvation and healing of our souls. He reminded us that the EUB Confession of Faith remains in our *Book of Discipline*.

James E. Kirby, speaking on "Ordination and Episcopacy," noted the reasons why very similar denominations had not merged prior to 1968. In the Evangelical Association, of course, the answer was language. The Evangelical Church used the Methodist *Book of Discipline*, but retained the German language. The Evangelical Association chose the path of democratic leadership election. The United Brethren in Christ only had two bishops in the history of their denomination and discontinued the episcopacy in 1825. The first *Book of Discipline* of the Evangelical Association had an order for bishop, but that was later removed; and bishops were not elected for life.

Wendy Diechmann Edwards reminded us that the Evangelical Association mirrored the United Brethren in Christ, except that it did not support women in ministry. She spoke of how piety was developed to bring one to the deepest relationship with God. She said, "There were echoes of radical pietism in the EUB with revivalist activities and direct mentorship. Early societies reflected the radical influence." And she stated that they called their meetings "Pentecost" meetings, and the *Book of Discipline* talked of the baptism of power. When Bishop Siebert died, ecstatic theology diminished.

Kendall McKabe spoke on the practice of liturgy and sacraments in the EUB tradition and noted the many similarities to that of the Methodist tradition. He told of foot washing being left to the judgment of the individual. The EUB had a minimalist guide to the practice. Clergy could create their guide. McCabe spoke of the unfinished business of the EUB merger that was resolved with the merger with Methodist Church.

The United Brethren used a large portion of the Articles of Religion, and the Evangelical Association used a large portion of the liturgy of the Methodist Church. The word "sacrament" was not used in 1869. United Brethren used the term "ordinance," but the Evangelical Association used neither term. There was no mention of the sacrificial aspect of the Lord's Supper. The UB and EA recognized the presider's importance in these sacraments. There was, in the last United Brethren *Book of Discipline,* a mention of dedication of babies, but no order of service before that. The option was for wet or dry dedication. The UB order of service for dedication was better than that of its baptismal service. In the EUB, there was no distinction between the two.

It was not possible to attend all of the talks at the conference, but the good news is that all of the papers from these speakers are being published and will be released in 2010.

The Gavel That Brought Indiana Together

Writing in the spring issue of the 2009 IUMHS newsletter, President Douglas Davies told how a gavel made of timber from the Robertson Meetinghouse had been passed from the first president of IUMHS, Bill Bartelt, to the current president.

On June 25, 2009, Bishop Mike Coyner, using that same gavel, called together the first Indiana Annual Coference Session. Once again history was being bound together by an object fashioned from the oldest surviving building in Indiana United Methodism, possibly the oldest existing Protestant church building in Indiana, one built in 1807.

The gavel is back in the hands of the Indiana United Methodist Historical Society, where it will be passed forward to succeeding presidents.

Another Look at Methodism and Health Care

Early in his presentation to the 14th annual meeting of the Indiana United Methodist Historical Society, Steven L. Wantz, Senior Vice President for Administration and Human Resources of Clarian Health, reminded conferees of Methodism's connection to health concerns through its founder, John Wesley. Mr. Wantz spoke of his having taught a curriculum on wellness in his church's Sunday School. In that curriculum, he draws on John Wesley's book *Primitive Physick: An Easy and Natural Method of Curing Most Diseases* (published in 1747). Wantz quoted Wesley as saying, "Everyone that would preserve health should be as clean and sweet as possible in their houses, clothes, and furniture." Before discovery of germ theory, Wesley proclaimed in one of his sermons: "Cleanliness is next to Godliness." Steven Wantz said, "We are rediscovering these things today."

In Wesley's belief in treating the "whole man," he recognized the connection between pain and emotional distress. Wesley knew bodily disorders are caused or influenced by the mind. John Wesley recommended the assistance of the minister. It would seem John Wesley foresaw pastoral counseling, and maybe psychiatry as well. In *Primitive Physick*, John Wesley dealt with clarity with such topics as diet, sleep, exercise, and regularity of natural habits.

On the topic of Methodist Hospital itself, Steven Wantz emphasized that Methodist Hospital has been a trauma center from its beginning, treating emergency injuries resulting from the trades and other life activities. Today Methodist Hospital is a Level 1 Trauma Center, meaning it has been certified by the American College of Surgeons.

Some firsts were reviewed by Mr. Wantz. In 1910, Methodist Hospital introduced its first motorized ambulance, one of its first uses being transporting injured drivers from the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. The speed of reaching the hospital is critical when it falls within the Golden Hour, the one-hour period of time when medical intervention is most effective. In the 1970s, helicopter transport was added to the hospital's capabilities.

Methodist Hospital, working with Eli Lilly Pharmaceuticals, offered the first use of insulin in the treatment of diabetes. The hospital had the first lithotripter in the U.S., a device for crushing kidney stones with acoustic shock waves. And today the hospital has the fifth largest organ transplant program in the country.

In 1984, Methodist Hospital made a major commitment by deciding to remain in downtown Indianapolis, rather than moving its central building and campus out to the suburbs. In remodeling its downtown facility, the hospital turned the main entrance to I-65, a major interstate highway. The new orientation of the building and its main entrance was symbolic. The orientation to an interstate said that the hospital belongs to the state of Indiana, its field of work in the broadest geographical sense.

One to One

At the 2009 annual meeting of the Indiana United Methodist Historical Society, the society aligned itself one to one with the new Indiana United Methodist Conference; that is, a statewide historical society, declared so at its 2005 annual meeting, matched its statewide scope to the new statewide conference, which first met in 2009. The bylaws of IUMHS, which had read "shall associate itself [the historical society] in cooperative ways with the two Indiana Annual Conference Commissions on Archives and History," were changed to a revised statement which reads "with the Indiana Annual Conference Commission on Archives and History," with similar changes from plural to singular references throughout. In 2005, IUMHS had the prescience to achieve a statewide unity that it took the Indiana Conference four more years to realize; but both – the statewide unity of IUMHS and the statewide unity of the Indiana Conference – came together when IUMHS's members voted acceptance of its revised bylaws, matching **one** statewide society to **one** statewide conference. We are now joined in purpose and in number.

Also at the 2009 business meeting, President Douglas Davies announced that Dr. Michael Cartwright had agreed to direct the map project, which aims to produce a map showing the location of Methodist historical sites within Indiana. Dr. John Baughman predicted the resulting map would open up the possibility of tours of sites identified on the map. Dr. Cartwright has indicated he is willing to have an advisory committee.

Rev. Douglas Davies alerted all attendees to the fact that district offices which are closing throughout the state and committees and commissions that are being reformed or ceasing to be as the merger of North and South Indiana Conferences proceeds will be generating a host of records that will need to be reviewed, with records of high historic interest needing to be earmarked for referral to archival storage. Members of IUMHS might want to volunteer to work with district secretaries in identifying historically important documents. "Send the records to the archives, not to the trash," exclaimed President Davies.

Rev. James Gentry presented the report of the nominations committee to this 2009 meeting. The following persons were nominated as officers on the Executive Committee for 2009-2010:

President – Rev. Douglas Davies
Vice President – Rev. Nancy Richmond
Secretary – Philip Williams
Treasurer – Lois G. Shelton
Membership – Donna Dyer

Members at large:

Dr. John Baughman
Robert Epps
Dr. Richard Stowe

No nominations were made from the floor. The slate presented by Rev. Gentry was voted on and accepted.

President Davies recognized two of IUMHS's authors: Bill Bartelt, the first president of the historical society, for his book *"There I Grew Up": Remembering Abraham Lincoln's Indiana Youth* and Dr. John Baughman, another former president, for *Our Past, Their Present: Historical Essays on Putnam County, Indiana.*

President Douglas Davies informed the membership that a damaged portrait of Bishop Robert R. Roberts that has been of concern to the Executive Committee of IUMHS is, according to the president of DePauw University, to be restored.

It is significant that our historical society can successfully encourage the act of restoration on the part of other Methodist institutions.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Williams, Secretary, IUMHS

R E S O U R C E S

A New Academic Journal

By Vicki Brown

The board of directors and the sponsors of The Methodist Review, Inc., are pleased to announce that *Methodist Review: A Journal of Wesleyan and Methodist Studies*, a new open-access, peer-reviewed electronic academic journal, began publication on May 1, 2009. *Methodist Review (MR)* publishes scholarly articles in all areas and eras of Wesleyan and Methodist studies, including biblical, theological, ethical, philosophical, practical, historical, biographical, and social-scientific topics and methodologies. Visit the new journal at www.methodistreview.org.

Methodist Review is sponsored by Candler School of Theology, Emory University; Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University; the Association of United Methodist Theological Schools (AUMTS); and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church (GBHEM). The corporate office of The Methodist Review, Inc., is located at GBHEM in Nashville, Tennessee; the *MR* editorial office is located at Candler School of Theology in Atlanta. Technical support is provided by the Digital Systems division of the Emory University Libraries, where *MR* is hosted.

Methodist Review is partly a successor to and partly a transformation of *Quarterly Review: A Journal of Theological Resources for Ministry (QR)*, which was published jointly by GBHEM and The United Methodist Publishing House from 1980 to 2005. Russell E. Richey (Candler) and Ted A. Campbell (Perkins) serve as the general editors of *MR*; Rex D. Mathews (Candler) is the managing editor; and Valerie J. Loner (Candler) is the current editorial assistant.

The financial support provided by its sponsors enables *MR* to provide immediate access to its content at no cost to its readers. A one-time, free user registration is required to access the articles published in the journal.

One of the first articles to be published (specifically, "The United Methodist Church at 40: How Have We Done?") was written by Bishop Woodie W. White (Candler School of Theology).

The article above originally appeared as *"Methodist Review* began publication May 1," by Vicki Brown in *Hoosier United Methodists Together* 39 (May-June 2009), *page 15*. Vicki Brown is an associate editor and writer for the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

Together in Retrospect

Did you know that more than four years of past issues of *Hoosier United Methodists Together* are available online? They may be accessed at: www.inumc.org.

Other Sources

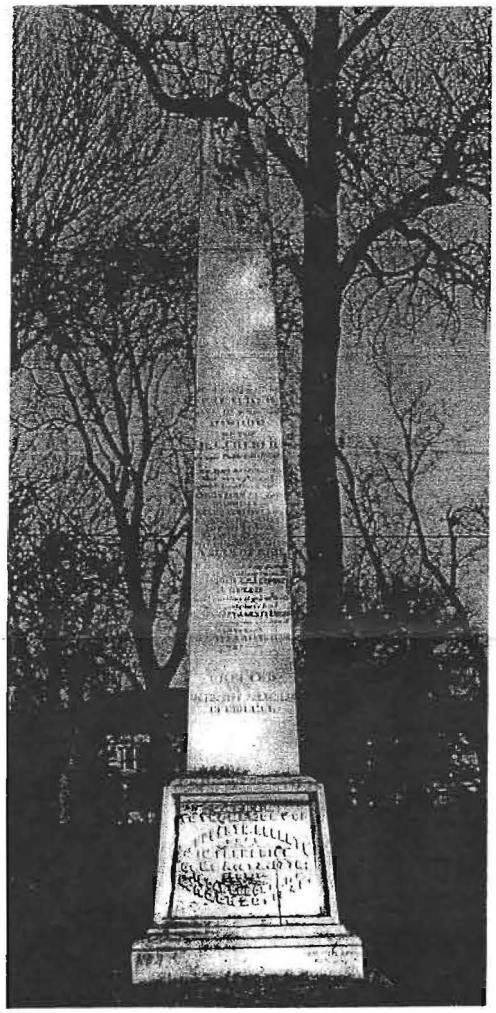
The full presentation made by Dr. Richard Stowe on Bishops Matthew Simpson and Edward R Ames at the 2009 IUMHS annual meeting (page one of this newsletter) may be found at:

www.depauw.edu/library/archives/historicalsociety/index.htm

Back issues of the *Indiana United Methodist Historical Society Newsletter* from 2005 to the present may be accessed at:

www.depauw.edu/library/archives/historicalsociety/index.htm

Bishop Robert R. Roberts Gravesite: Greencastle



Photo, courtesy of DePauw University Archives and Special Collections

Robert R. Roberts was United Methodism's first frontier bishop and the first bishop to reside in Indiana. He kept a home in Indiana for 23 of the 27 years that he was bishop. After Bishop Asbury's death, Roberts was elected bishop and became free to leave his assignments in the East, venturing into the West, pursuing the expanding lines of national settlement.

Bishop Robert R. Roberts moved to Lawrenceport, Indiana, where he had selected a homesite. With his wife's encouragement and patience, Roberts traveled to annual conferences throughout the South and the West, areas where he was lifeblood to these fledgling organizations. His wife, Elizabeth, kept the farm at Lawrenceport in his absence.

Bishop Robert R. Roberts was the founding bishop of Indiana Asbury (now, DePauw) University. It was under Roberts' leadership that the Indiana Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church established the university in 1837. It has been reported that Bishop Roberts at the time gave half his annual salary to the school's founding; and, on his deathbed, Roberts willed Indiana Asbury University the residuary of his estate.

Under the Roberts gravestone on the campus of DePauw University, Bishop Robert R. Roberts and his wife, Elizabeth, both of whom took great pride in Indiana Asbury University, are buried side by side.

The gravestone is of granite and, although now weathered, still retains a remembered purity of whiteness. In descending order, the running inscription reads:

He was a traveling
preacher over 40
years, and Bishop of
the Methodist Episcopal
Church from 1816 till death.
To him belonged the scriptural
qualifications of a Christian Bishop:
Humble, Self-sacrificing, Laborious,
Patient, Apt to Teach, of Good Report,
Given to Hospitality, a Man of God, with
Imposing Person and Commanding Voice.
He Presided Gracefully and Ruled with
Authority, but with Patriarchal Simplicity
and Gentleness of Manner as Secured
Universal Respect and Affection.

Most of us would be content if the words "of good report" appeared in our epitaphs.

At Camp Rivervale in 2010

Photo, courtesy of DePauw University Archives and Special Colletions

The 15th annual meeting of IUMHS will be at Camp Rivervale on April 24, 2010.

Rivervale Park will be remembered by many as a campground started by the Epworth League Institute of the Methodist Episcopal Indiana Conference. It offered a structured camping program that included a wake up call at 6:00 a.m., a morning watch, classes, quiet hours, recreation, tabernacle gatherings, prayer, and lights out at 10:20 p.m. Methodist youth reflected in this setting and took away memories from their experiences.

Less remembered, if known at all, is the connection of the land to Bishop Robert Richford Roberts, Methodism's first frontier bishop. A tract of land was given to the Methodist Conference by Mrs. Neil (Turley) Fitsgibbons. That land, an inheritance from her father, was also once a part of the farm owned by Bishop Robert R. Roberts. Hence, the park (Rivervale) was first named for Bishop Roberts.

Bishop Roberts' identity with his homestead was deep. As William H. Sweet notes in his book *Circuit-Rider Days in Indiana*:

> [I]n 1839 resolutions were offered ... requesting Bishop Roberts to remove to some more prominent place in the state, where his brethren and friends could more easily have access to him.

Roberts refused to leave his Lawrence County farm. Indeed, Roberts was buried on his farm.

The old Indiana Conference at its last session drafted several resolutions in recognition of Bishop Roberts' passing, including resolutions that the remains of Bishop Roberts (with his wife's consent) be disinterred and removed to Greencastle, where they now reside, and that a monument with an epitaph written by Bishop Soule mark Roberts' final resting place.

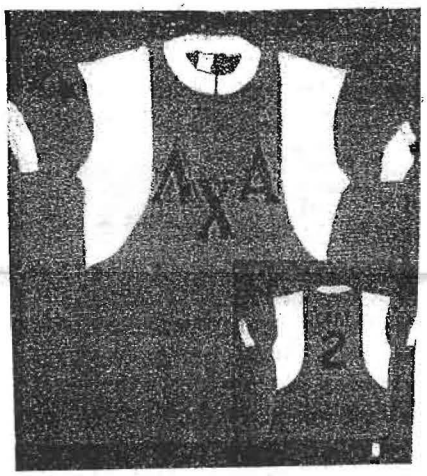
Rivervale was Bishop Roberts' land, and he loved it.

News from the Methodist Archives

A Special Section Providing News Items and Releases from the Archives of Indiana United Methodism, DePauw University, Greencastle, Indiana

Archives of Indiana United Methodism: New Acquisitions

Kent Billingsley, Jr. '80



Team jersey worn by Lambda Chi Alpha captain, Kent Billingsley '80, in the 1979 Little 500 bicycle race at DePauw University. Beta Theta Pi claimed the first place trophy in 1979 for the second year in a row. [D009.096]

Jolietville (Hamilton Co., Ind.) UMC

Jolietville Church history 1837-1957; Jolietville Charge history and manual 1837-97; Methodist Sunday School Hymnal 1911. The first log church building was erected in 1840. Fifteen years later, a substantial frame building was constructed. In 1873, the first steps were taken that led to the formation of a Methodist class in Jolietville. [M009.028]

Virginia Greenwald Risser Logan '59

Memorabilia, photographs, and clippings collected by Virginia "Gini" Greenwald '59 while a student at DePauw University. Gini pledged Alpha Omicron Pi sorority. She dated Jim Risser, a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, during their four years of college; and they married after graduation in 1959. They were married almost 42 years until Jim's death in 2001. [D010.002]

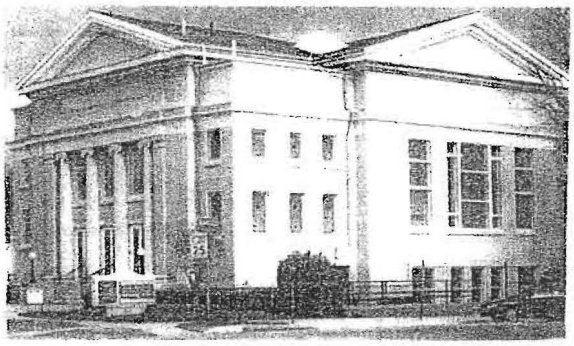
Lela E. Nordyke '17

Transcription of postcards and letters written to Lela's friend from China, "Letters from China, Lela Nordyke to Grace E. Smith, 1920 to 1925" (compiled and edited with illustrations by John B. Kalb). The letters, written by Miss Nordyke from various mission posts to Miss Smith, with whom she had taught at Liberty Center, offer a view of missionary life in China during the 20's, especially the life of a young single woman. [D009.112]

People's Chapel (Allen Co., Ind.) Methodist Church

Electronic file of photographs and text on the history of the People's Chapel Methodist Church. The first church building was started in 1900 and dedicated on August 26, 1901. The photo at the bottom of the previous column, which was taken during its 50th anniversary in 1951, is of Rev. Painter and the children of the church. The church closed in 1958. [M009.012]

Plymouth First (Marshall Co., Ind.) UMC



Plymouth First UMC records, 1887-2007, including administrative board minutes, local church history, Sunday School records, directories, programs, photographs, architectural drawings, cookbooks, and membership records. This church was first organized in 1836. [M009.022]

President Davies Sounds an Alarm

At the 14th annual meeting of IUMHS, held at Methodist Hospital, President Davies alerted all those attending to the fact that as the restructuring of the church proceeds district offices will continue closing or moving. He suggested IUMHS members volunteer to help district secretaries process materials, earmarking records that would be of interest to the archives. Records will also be coming out of committees and commissions statewide.

"Send the records to the archives, not the trash," exclaimed President Douglas Davies as a declaration of his and the society's care and interest. Selected records become treasures.