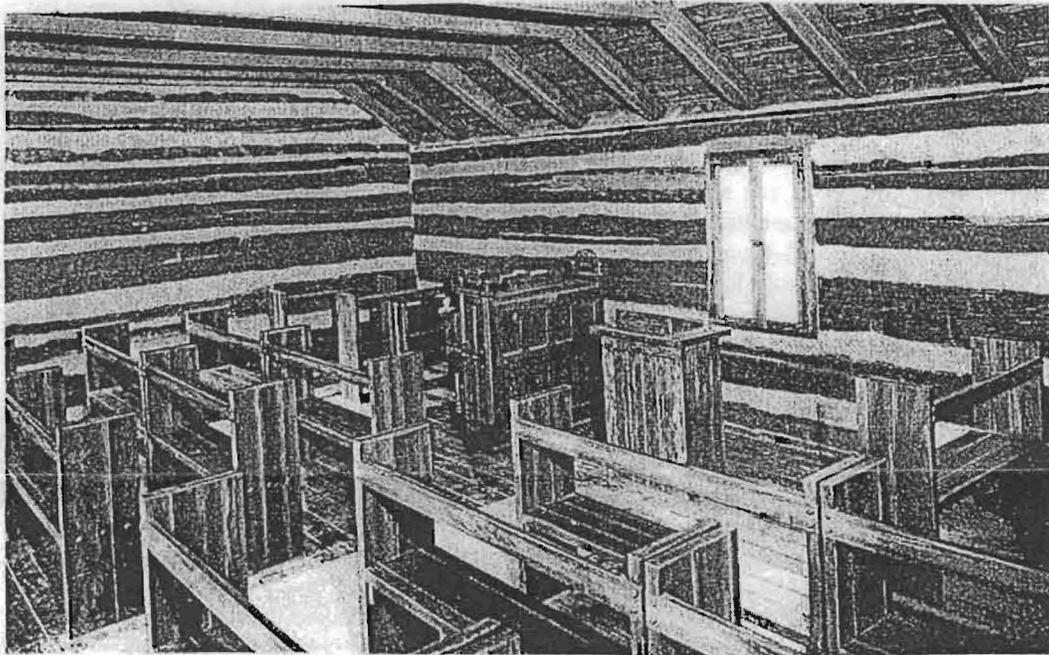


*The Indiana United Methodist Historical Society
Newsletter*

P. O. Box 331, Greencastle, Indiana 46135

Fall 2010

A Walk to the Top of the Hill



Interior of Robertson Meeting House (photo courtesy of DePauw University Archives)

In the morning of April 24, 2010, members of the Indiana United Methodist Historical Society who attended the 15th annual meeting climbed to the top of a modest hill at Camp Rivervale to sit inside Robertson Meeting House and consider its significance. The meeting house had been moved to Camp Rivervale between 1998 and 1999. On this day, Dr. Herbert Cassel directed the thoughts of attendees in its remembrance.

The Robertson Meeting House ("Old Bethel," as it was once called) is the first Methodist church built in the Indiana Territory. Preceding its construction, Methodism was carried into the wilderness by circuit riders,

adventurous young men with a roving commission from the Conference, who traveled treacherous trails by horseback, forded turbulent streams, often slept on the ground, reaching remote settlements and holding worship services in cabins or groves. Nathan Robertson's cabin was a prominent stop. It was visited by Daniel Parker and Edward Talbott. Bishop McKendree crossed the Ohio River above Charlestown Landing and preached in Nathan's cabin. Another visiting preacher was Peter Cartwright, assisted by exhorters Asa Shinn, David Young, and Frederick Hood.

(Article continues on page 2.)

*("A Walk to the Top of the Hill"
continues here.)*

In 1807, Nathan Robertson decided to build a house dedicated to worship. In addition to neighboring churchmen, Nathan had six stalwart sons to assist him. In their unified strength, they completed the Robertson Meeting House, later known as Bethel Church. In that same year of 1807, the Silver Creek circuit, the first circuit formed completely within the Indiana Territory, was organized. That same year closed with the first camp meeting conducted in Indiana, held in a maple grove surrounding the Robertson Meeting House and on the farm of Nathan Robertson.

The first Christmas sermon that was ever delivered in any Methodist church in Indiana was given in the Robertson Meeting House by Rev. Joseph Tarkington, an ancestor of the author Booth Tarkington. Also worth noting is that the first baptismal ceremony performed in any church in Indiana was conducted by Peter Cartwright, who rode from Kentucky to perform the service for Nathan Robertson's first grand child. These were firsts because Robertson Meeting House was still the only church of the Methodist denomination in Indiana.

The significance of Old Bethel today? Worth M. Tippy has written:

[It is] a place for worship in an ancient building hallowed by memories of devoted people who have long since passed into the Unseen. They were our forebears who came to Indiana when the land was new. They had a fervent faith in God and knew Him in their hearts. ... [I]t is a place for meditation and prayer... where, in silence [the visitor] ... may meditate and pray for guidance and solace

Speaking of the Robertson Meeting House as a memorial and a place for teaching, Worth Tippy has written:

Above all, it will be a religious memorial, rich in history. Its simplicity, its rugged timbers, seen as they were a hundred and fifty years ago [now over

two hundred years ago], will speak eloquently of the past and will help the visitor to recover the scenes that were witnessed when the old meeting house was new. ... [The visitor] will be told the romantic story, [and] will go back home with a new understanding and enhanced appreciation of our glorious church.

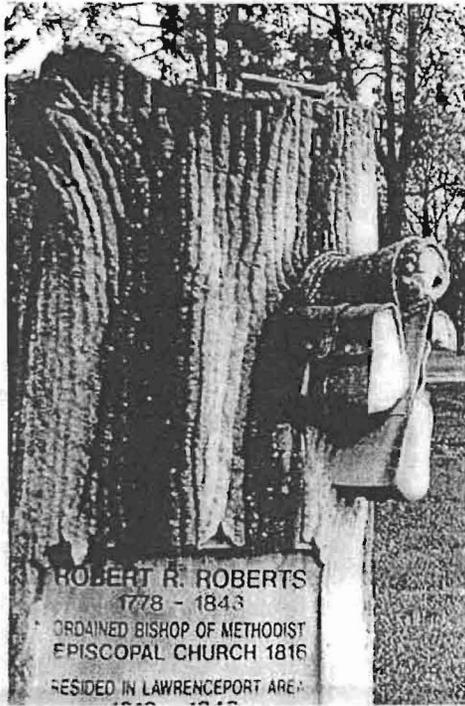


Dr. Herbert Cassel

In closing his presentation, Dr. Cassel also chose to quote Worth Tippy's *Old Bethel Church*, with the aim of drawing out the character of its builder Nathan Robertson:

It is not inconsistent with Nathan Robertson's rough and ready encounters in the community to say that he was a very religious man. To some, his religious philosophy may have seemed over-simplified and perhaps a bit unorthodox. However, his views represented a practical Christianity that had stood the test of experience. He had no patience, for example, with a kind of "otherworldliness" that was not uncommon among church members in his day. This world, he believed, is not a vale of tears to be merely endured while we wait for paradise. He was always irked by the frustrated Christian whose plaint was, "I'll get my reward in Heaven." Nathan's rejoinder was, "If it's good deeds you have done, you'll get your reward here; if bad deeds, Heaven ain't the place to look for it."

Other Presenters at the Annual Meeting



**Bishop Robert R. Roberts Memorial
Lawrenceport, Indiana**

Robert Morgan Roberts (1730-1801) and Mary Richford (1746-1796) begat Methodist bishop Robert Richford Roberts (1778-1843), who had no children, and his brother Lewis R. Roberts (1780-1848), who, with Anna Margaretha Hunnell (1775-1849), begat Jacob Roberts (1801-1859), who, with Rosannah Thompson (1816-1898), begat Newton Harve Roberts (1856-1905), who, with Verzilla Florence Woodward (1858-1942), begat Gladys Roberts (1896-1978), who, with Carlton Reid Wever (1892-1972), begat Mildred Viola Wever (1914-2004), who, with (James) Estel Hawkins (1910-1976), begat Janet Sue Hawkins Endris (1946-), our first speaker at the 15th annual meeting of the Indiana United Methodist Historical Society. Janet Endris specified she is descended from Lewis Roberts, brother of Bishop Roberts, a brother who lured the bishop to Indiana with, in part, a promise of constructing a cabin in preparation for the bishop's arrival, a cabin which was not completed at the time of the bishop's arrival,

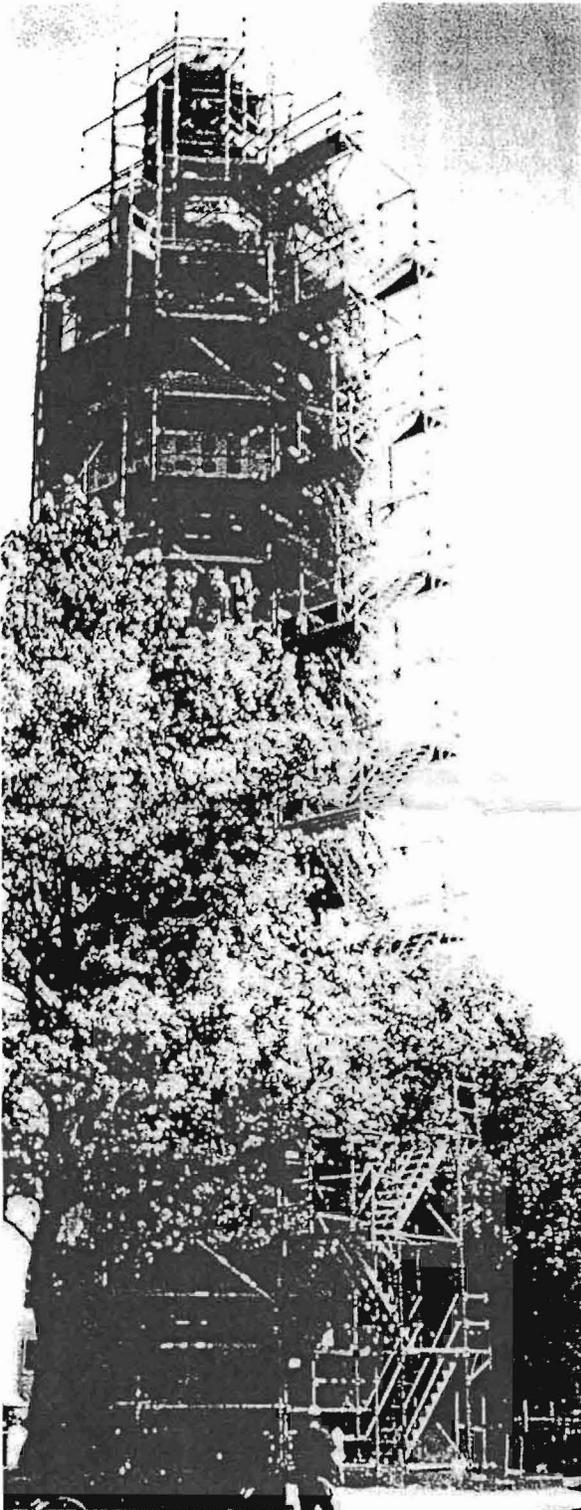
making Lewis somewhat of a "scoundrel," to use Janet Endris's word.

Her presentation was often lighthearted, including her report of Bishop Roberts' ubiquitous watch. "The Bishop must have had a dozen watches. Descendents throughout my family claim to have the Bishop's watch." The presentation became interactive when Bill Bartelt, a member of the society and an expert on Lincoln, compared notes about the Roberts and Lincoln families, who lived in Indiana at approximately the same time, separated by a few counties in a day there was traffic between the Southern counties. "They were not that far apart," affirmed Janet. And the presentation became visual when Janet Endris passed around a picture of the shop owned by Newton Roberts, a harness and saddle maker.

Endris's presentation ended with the stressed impact of understatement when she reported that when she asked for an obituary of Mrs. Roberts, the widow of Bishop Roberts, *The Indiana Press* of Greencastle could only provide a one-sentence obituary reading, "Mrs. Roberts died of extreme old age."

The last presenter was Rev. James Byerly, who knows Camp Rivervale below ground (he used to conduct spelunking camps), on the ground (he walked the grounds when the camp's director was Leroy Hodapp), and now above the ground (on the stage, now that he conducts the dramatic arts camp).

Rev. Byerly remembers buildings which have fallen to termites and time. Rev. Byerly was on the board for outdoor ministries at the time of the formation of the new conference. However, the great importance of Camp Rivervale to Rev. Byerly is that it was here that he received his call to the ministry. As he told those attending this annual meeting, "One night I had a vision of a robed figure who called me to the service of God." To seal the moment, Rev. Byerly made a mark on the rock at Inspiration Point. Whenever Rev. Byerly encounters stories of the ghost of Camp Rivervale, he says, "Yes, it has a ghost. The Holy Ghost."



The Tower of Babel? No. The former Central Avenue UMC, 12th St. and Central Ave. in Indianapolis, Indiana

Restoration, New Life

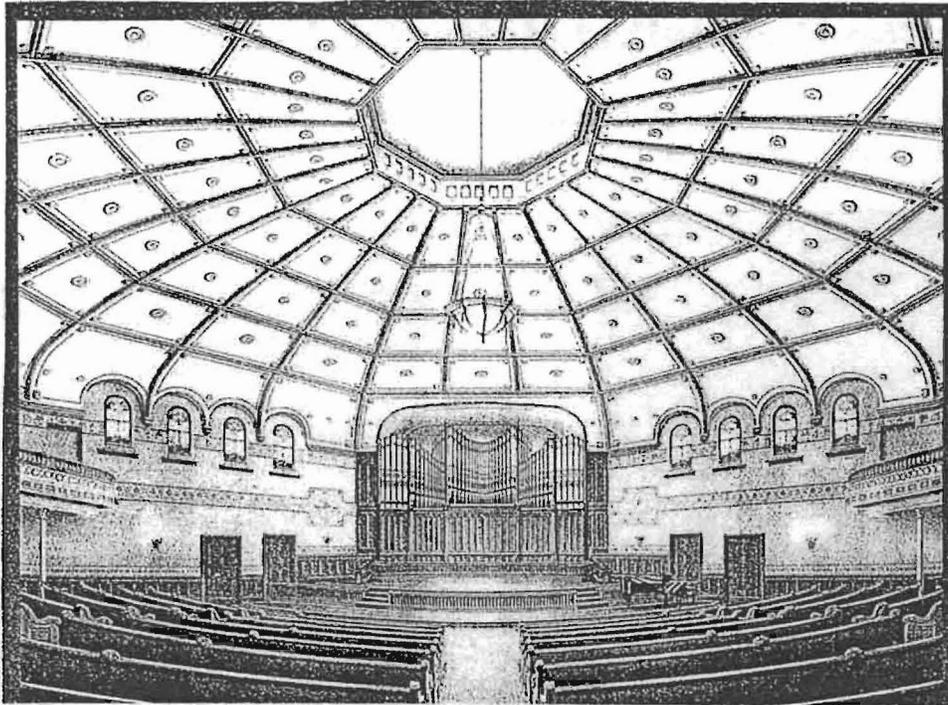
In 2001, the Indiana United Methodist Historical Society held its annual meeting at Central Avenue United Methodist Church, a church with a congregation struggling with the maintenance of what seemed to have become too grand a building and expense. To spread the expense of so large a structure, the congregation became a principal partner in the creation of the Old Centrum, a legal entity which offered space to 20 or more nonprofit groups. In 2006, the congregation vacated the building, merging with Lockerbie UMC. The building was left in the hands of the Old Centrum Foundation which, faced with the same problem of immense upkeep, closed the building in 2008.

Bill Cook, founder of the Bloomington-based Cook Group, and his wife, Gayle, were among 10 people invited to hear Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra musicians perform a private recital in the former sanctuary. Bill Cook was quick to appreciate the building and its exceptional acoustic qualities. "A good place to play, a better place to listen," an ISO musician has said. "This was too good to pass up as a historic preservation," Bill Cook concluded.

On April 13, 2010, Marsh Davis, president of Indiana Landmarks (Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana until this April day), announced that the Old Centrum (the former Central Avenue UMC) would become Indiana Landmarks Center, the home of Indiana Landmarks, a newly named organization, the second largest preservation organization in the country (second only to the National Trust). Renovation will cost \$10 million, \$7 million being contributed by Bill and Gayle Cook and their son Carl. Renovation will be completed in November of 2010 and is being headed up by the same team that supervised the restoration of West Baden Springs Hotel.

The former sanctuary within Central Avenue's Romanesque-Revival building (a pristine example of the Auditorium or Theater Plan, which had been the rule for non-liturgical churches by the 1880s) will become the Cook Grand Theater. The Sunday School building

(Article continues on page 5.)



The Cook Grand Theater

*("Restoration, New Life"
continues here.)*

a perfect example of the Akron Plan (which combined a common meeting area with provision for individual classes), will become Cook Hall with its stage and its expanse of balcony area finding multiple uses. These two buildings will be used for preservation property classes, musical performances, films, lectures, workshops, weddings and other events.

"In the Indiana Landmarks Center," states Marsh Davis, "we'll stage programs to promote a preservation ethic, a societal presumption that historic places have intrinsic social, cultural and environmental value."

Rev. Robert Sachs, pastor of Central Avenue from 1974 to 1980, who knows that the church (once the largest Methodist congregation in Indiana) has been in the midst of a wealthy district, then later a high-crime area, says, "We are coming back around again." Carol Roe, who had been a member of the church for 45-plus years, says, "We sisters were all married here; we buried our parents out of here. We've done everything from teach Sunday School to sing in

the choir. The church is such a big part of our lives and this is a dream come true for all of us." One of the sisters Carol Roe referred to, Sharon Jones, adds, "To see it go to something like this, the renovation is just so heartwarming. You feel like you can come home again."

A Footnote on Indiana Landmarks

Indiana Preservation Grants from Indiana Landmarks are available to nonprofit organizations for professional architectural and engineering feasibility studies and other preservation consulting services, as well as organizational development and fundraising projects. The grants may not be used for physical restoration work. Indiana Landmarks makes Indiana Preservation Grants on a four-to-one matching basis, with four dollars from Indiana Landmarks matching each local cash dollar. Indiana Landmarks will fund 80% of the total project cost up to \$2,500.

Other grant programs are available (e.g., the African-American Grant Program). See www.indianalandmarks.org for information on specific programs.

The New United Methodist Heritage Map

by Michael G. Cartwright



Rev. Dr. Michael G. Cartwright

After more than one year's work, the new map of historic sites in Indiana Methodism is available for use. John Baughman, John Riggs, and Richard Stowe reviewed the work that Michael Cartwright and Cindy Tyree did to complete this project. Earlier in 2010, the group submitted changes to Dan Gangler so that the new version of the map could be integrated with other materials on the website of the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church.

The new map is organized around geographical codes for each site and has colored balloons identifying denominational affiliation (Evangelical United Brethren, Evangelical Association, The Methodist Church, Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Episcopal Church South, Methodist Protestant, United Brethren, or United Methodism).

Anyone with access to a computer can simply go to <http://www.inumc.org/heritagemap> which is located on the website for the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church. There are two ways to proceed: (1) If a person knows the general area of the state where a site is located, he can click on one of the colored "balloon" images (one color for each of the denominational affiliations listed above) in that vicinity, and the information will pop up along

with the geo code coordinates. There are 108 sites (identified by geo codes) in 57 different communities in the state of Indiana. (2) If a person knows the name of the community in which the site is located, then he can look at the alphabetical list of 57 locations.

As previously noted, balloon colors correspond to categories of denominational affiliation associated with the origins of the site. If a person clicks on Lawrenceport, he finds two sites: Rivervale Campground and the Robertson Meeting House. Once a person has located the correct balloon indicator for the site, a brief description of the site will be displayed.

There is even a feature to the map that allows a person to get directions to the site from his own location using a Google Map request.

Now that the conference and the society have a map that functions, there is still work to be done. In a number of instances, there is a lack of photographs of particular sites. In order to be usable, Dan Gangler needs digital photos (the higher the resolution the better because they have to be reduced to 380 dpi X 285 dpi to be usable on the website).

Also, users are invited to share their experiences with one another as they visit various sites of United Methodist heritage in Indiana. There is a need to assemble user-friendly itineraries that confirmation classes and other groups can use. Send proposed itineraries that can be used to Dan Gangler to assist other users who intend to visit the sites. As experiences are shared, the pooling of experience will add value to this new resource.

John Wesley wrote, "We are always open to instruction." The good news is that corrections to the map can be done fairly simply. If possible errors are found, contact Dan Gangler at *Hoosier United Methodists Together* via e-mail at dan.gangler@inumc.org. The Commission on Archives and History or IUMHS will review and decide the matter.

(*"The New United Methodist Heritage Map."*
continued.)

An example of a UM Heritage Itinerary for a Confirmation Class or Other Indiana UMC Group:

It is possible to use some already existing resources like the 53 Bicentennial essays that John Riggs wrote almost a decade ago for explanations.

Silver Creek Circuit: Since this is the first Methodist circuit organized wholly within the boundaries of Indiana, it would seem a logical choice for itineration. Touring groups could gather at one of the contemporary UM congregations that trace their origins back to one or more congregations in the geographical area originally organized as the Silver Creek Circuit.

Someone might read the text of *Historical Bulletin Insert #5* by John Riggs. As appropriate, other materials might be brought into the conversation (e.g., Riggs' Insert #4 with its definitions of "circuit" and "station" charges and the related categories for ministerial appointments, such as "admitted on trial," etc.).

The itinerary could conclude with a visit to the Robertson Meeting House at Camp Rivervale, where the group might take time for prayer in commemoration of the folks like Moses Ashworth (the first circuit rider appointed to the Silver Creek Circuit) or William McKendree. Or, they might talk about the life and witness of Bishop Roberts using material taken from the chapter "Life in Lawrenceport" in Worth Tippy's biography *Frontier Bishop*.

Bibliographic references: *Historical Bulletin Inserts, prepared for the South Indiana Conference United Methodist Bicentennial Coordinating Committee and the Indiana United Methodist Bicentennial, 2000-2001*, by John R. Riggs, Archives Researcher, Archives of DePauw University and Indiana United Methodism. For computer access to this source: < http://www.depauw.edu/library/archives/find/guides/umc_history/bicentennial/ >.

An Old Partnership

John Baughman reminded the editor of this newsletter that Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana has cooperated with Methodist bodies in efforts to restore Indiana Methodist memorials. Quoting from *The Robertson Meeting House: A Brief History* by Herbert W. Cassel:

The Commission [on Archives and History] sought restoration of the Robertson Meeting House to good condition and in authentic architectural style of the period of its original construction. The Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana provided funds to the South Indiana Conference United Methodist Historical Society to obtain a cost estimate for moving and restoring the meeting house. The Historical Society funded the remainder of the cost. Leatherwood, Inc. of Franklin, Tennessee, a company that specializes in restoring historic log buildings, provided the needed estimate. In June 1998 the South Indiana Conference voted sufficient funds for the moving and restoration. Leatherwood, Inc. began the moving and restoring in October, completing the work on March 5, 1999.

The South Indiana Conference United Methodist Historical Society (the predecessor of the Indiana United Methodist Historical Society) was a co-funder, with Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, of the cost estimate required to facilitate the moving of the Robertson Meeting House to Rivervale and its restoration on that site.



Photo courtesy of DePauw University Archives and Special Collections

RECENT BOOKS

DePauw's Forgotten Founder

The Archives of DePauw University and Indiana United Methodism have published *DePauw's Forgotten Founder: The Memoirs of Calvin Washington Ruter*. Wesley W. Wilson, a member of IUMHS, and David H. Tripp co-edited this book.

Calvin Ruter began his ministry in 1817, the year after Indiana received statehood. He was appointed to the Silver Creek circuit, the first Methodist Episcopal circuit to be established entirely in Indiana, a record of which, dating back to 1808, is the oldest hand-written document in the Archives of DePauw University and Indiana Methodism. Ruter was named secretary for the first meeting of the Indiana Conference in 1832, a delegate to the general conference, and a member of the committee that formed Indiana Asbury (now DePauw) University, an institution he visited, in his words, "at considerable expense of labour and money, as roads were then frequently very bad, and no way of travelling except on horseback." Ruter retired to Switzerland County, Indiana. In Ruter Chapel United Methodist Church in Vevay, Indiana (where IUMHS held its annual meeting in 2003), there hangs in the entryway one of only two known portraits of Calvin Washington Ruter.

The manuscript "A Brief Sketch of the Life and Itinerant Labours of Calvin W. Ruter With Some Account of the Progress Of Methodism in Indiana," now published as *DePauw's Forgotten Founder*, was given to Dickinson College, then to the archives of the Central Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church, and then to the Indiana Area United Methodist archives. Interestingly, among Ruter's writings is the published sermon that he delivered at the funeral of Bishop Robert Richford Roberts, whom the society just celebrated.

Ruter's memoirs are available in a couple of forms, including electronically. All of David H. Tripp's notations remain in an online, or e-book, edition <www.depauw.edu/library/

archives/news_exhibits/calvinRuter/home/index.html >. This e-book, which includes all the editorial notes, can be considered the comprehensive edition. It is intended for study, and new information will be added to the online edition as it is discovered. For those who prefer a paperback book, Ruter's memoirs can be ordered through the Archives of DePauw University and Indiana United Methodism by e-mailing archives@depauw.edu. The cost is \$10.

Exploring Christian Mission Beyond Christendom

Another IUMHS member has edited a book worth noting. Michael Cartwright, Dean of Ecumenical and Interfaith Programs at the University of Indianapolis, has compiled *Exploring Christian Mission Beyond Christendom: United Methodist Perspectives*.

The essays and responses in this book explore some of the ways that the aspiration to move beyond Christendom-thinking informed the Evangelical United Brethren and Methodist mission endeavors of the past. Authors of the essays explore the most significant theological challenges that United Methodists face in the 21st century as the church attempts to carry out the apostolic mandate of Jesus Christ in the changing environment of globalization.

Some of the authors are familiar: Dr. J. Steven O'Mallery, professor of Methodist Holiness History at Asbury Theological Seminary; Dr. Stephen A. Graham, professor of political science at UIndy; Dr. Greg Clapper, professor of philosophy and religion at UIndy. This last-named author recently published his fifth book, *The Renewal of the Heart is the Mission of the Church: Wesley's Heart Religion in the Twenty-First Century* (Cascade Books).

Dr. Michael Cartwright's book may be ordered from the University of Indianapolis Press at lin@uindy.edu or by writing to Dr. Phylis Lan Lin at the University of Indianapolis, 1400 East Hanna Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana 46227. The book costs \$24.95, less 20% for UM readers of *HUM Together*.

At Taylor University in 2011



The 16th annual meeting of the Indiana United Methodist Historical Society will be held at Taylor University, the first Protestant college in northern Indiana, on April 16, 2011.

Taylor University marked an early concern of the Methodist Church to provide a denominational school for young ladies. Fort Wayne Female College (founded in 1846), which would become Taylor University, was the first female college created by Indiana Methodists. Indiana Asbury, today's DePauw University, was strictly a male institution at the time.

Fort Wayne Collegiate Institute, a men's school, was added in 1852 as a separate institution, then merged with Fort Wayne Female College in 1855, creating Fort Wayne College. In 1890, Fort Wayne College merged with the Fort Wayne College of Medicine to become Fort Wayne University.

The Fort Wayne school struggled to survive financially in the years after the Civil War. To stabilize the school, the National Association of Local Preachers assumed ownership of Taylor from the North Indiana

Methodist Conference. The Local Preachers (technically laymen with limited ordination) named the school after one of their own, William Taylor, "the only man who had been elevated from the Laity...to the high office of Bishop," as Taylor's yearbook stated. The bishop conducted an international ministry on six continents.

President Thaddeus Reade did guest-speaking to find financial support for Taylor. Support was found in Upland, Indiana, which was enjoying prosperity from a natural gas boom. Taylor University relocated in 1893.

The Local Preachers were in the greatest number immersed in the Holiness tradition, which emphasized a "second work of grace," as exemplified by John Wesley's 1738 Aldersgate experience. A shift in emphasis occurred in 1922 when the NALP gave up its ownership of the university. Emphasis on the Holiness tradition faded in the years after World War II. President Milo A. Rediger in 1965 introduced an open attitude that held "all truth is God's truth, and the Christian does not fear it -- nor is he afraid of where it will lead him." Students at Taylor still pursue truth.

News from the Methodist Archives

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

Roy O. West Library, DePauw University

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Archives of Indiana United Methodism: New Acquisitions

Albert Jeremiah Beveridge, 1885



Records and photographs of Albert J. Beveridge, including two bound volumes of the writings of A. J. Beveridge (*Saturday Evening Post* 1900-10), photographs taken throughout his life and career, speeches by Beveridge, printed articles by and about Beveridge.

Senator Beveridge graduated from Indiana Asbury (DePauw) University in 1885 with a Ph.B. degree. In 1899, he was elected to the U.S. Senate and served until 1911. He later dedicated his time to writing historical literature. His four-volume *The Life of John Marshall*, published from 1916 to 1919, won him a Pulitzer Prize. [D010.043]



(above) Brownstown UMC

Browntown United Methodist Church

Brownstown United Methodist Church records, 1896-2005, including anniversary materials, Calendar Circle records, clippings, consecration day records, education annex records, directories, history, membership records, official board minutes, photographs, quarterly conference records, Woman's Society of Christian Service records, United Methodist Women minutes, and Sunday School record books.

Brownstown UMC is located in Jackson County. The church was organized in 1825, with the first minister being assigned in 1827. [M010.034]

Francis Asbury Fish (1837-1910)



Rev. Francis Asbury Fish, 1837-1910, *An Outline of My Life* (followed by notations from a grocer's ledger). Includes genealogical information about his parents, Elizabeth Wilson Fish and John Brown Fish. Transcribed from the handwritten ledger of Francis Asbury Fish. [M010.053]

("New Acquisitions" continued.)

Harold Galloway



Silver trophy presented to Harold Galloway in 1920 in recognition of his game-winning, last minute 52-yard drop-kick in the 3-0 victory over Wabash College. Galloway attended DePauw University in the 1920-1921 academic year during which he played half-back for the football team. He left DePauw the following year, transferring to the University of Southern California. [D010.062]

Ulchiro Sasamori



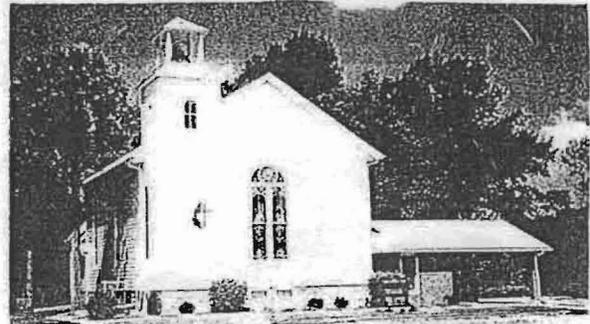
Japanese scroll, measuring 18" x 78", of Ulchiro Sasamori.

Mr. Sasamori was born in Hirosaki (in 1867), where the first Japanese students to attend DePauw were from. He was pastor at Deshima Methodist Episcopal Church and a teacher of philosophy, 1893-1895. Sasamori was named

president of Chenzei Gakuin in Tokyo in 1905. He was also a delegate from Japan to the World Conference of the YMCA in 1905 and the Methodist Episcopal Church in Baltimore in 1908.

He passed away in 1911. [D010.055]

Scott United Methodist Church



History, 1882-2004; 175th anniversary celebration history, 1834-2009; dvd collection of the 175th anniversary celebration, May 24, 2009.

Scott United Methodist Church is located in Shipshewana (LaGrange County), Indiana. The church was originally organized in 1834. The current church building was built in 1882 by the Lutheran Church and purchased in 1901 by the Methodist Episcopal Church. [M010.050]

You Are Invited to Explore

The reader is invited to search the inventories of the collections housed in the Archives of Indiana Methodism to become familiar with their content and subjects at: <http://digital.depauw.edu>.

To request copies, find proper citation for a source, request permission to use a source, or know more about the operation of the archives go to: www.depauw.edu/library/archives/. For recent acquisitions, see: www.depauw.edu/library/archives/aboutus/newacq.asp

**Indiana United Methodist
Historical Society**

**P. O. Box 331
Greencastle, IN 46135**

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11 E. Larabee Street
Greencastle IN 46135

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