Indiana Asbury University was the largest institution of higher education in Indiana in the 1850s. What did it offer that drew students to Greencastle? What does DePauw University offer that attracts students today? Clues to an answer may be provided by the keynote speaker at the 18th annual meeting of the Indiana United Methodist Historical Society, to be held at DePauw University on April 27, 2013.

Attendees will register at the Memorial Student Union Building at 9:00 a.m. At 9:30 a.m., they will hear from Rev. Kevin Armstrong, who has known DePauw University as a student and as an associate chaplain and, hence, can offer a true student-staff view of DePauw. Of course, Rev. Armstrong may be better known as a former pastor of Roberts Park UMC and North UMC in Indianapolis, a teacher at IUPUI's Polis Center, and now as president of the Methodist Health Foundation.

Following Rev. Armstrong's keynote address, attendees will have an option of pursuing such topics as religion, knowledge, piety, and campus life at a roundtable bringing together Dr. Michael Cartwright, Rev. Robert Epps, Rev. Riley Case and moderated by Dr. Jan Shipps. The other option will be touring the Archives of Indiana Methodism at the Roy O. West Library. The tours will be conducted by Wes Wilson, Archivist, and Jenney Taylor, Archives Associate.

Lunch, featuring main dishes of turkey breast, roast beef, honey ham, corned beef and salami, will begin at 12:15 p.m. A short business meeting will follow at 1:00 p.m.

At 1:30 p.m., Malcolm Webb will offer instruction on the collection of oral history. He will illustrate his presentation with examples of oral history interviews gathered in a real church setting. What he has done in saving the history of his church, the conferees will want to emulate in keeping the history of their own congregations.

Adjournment will be at 3:00 p.m. An optional walking tour of the DePauw University campus will then be available for those wanting to linger and reflect.

For a day filled with activities, even a choice among activities, registration is $25 for IUMHS members ($27.50 for non-members). A free copy of John Baughman's history of Indiana Methodism will be given out.

On Saturday, parking is available on the streets in front of and around the Memorial Student Union. The Memorial Student Union opens at 630 a.m.
It Grew Up in Greencastle

Roughly cut Methodists on a frontier initially frowned upon formal education. A formal recommendation of the General Conference of 1820 that local conferences establish "literary institutions, under their own control" marked a shift in the thinking of Methodist leaders. The first session of the Indiana Conference in 1832 appointed a committee to consider "the propriety of building a Conference Seminary." Methodists in Indiana were concerned about the prevailing Presbyterian presence in the state's formal educational institutions (the forerunners of Hanover and Wabash colleges, with a dominant influence at Indiana College – later Indiana University).

The Indiana Conference took final action at its Indianapolis meeting of 1836 with a decision to establish "an institution of the first order...equal to any College or University in the valley of the Mississippi." The charter for Indiana Asbury University was prepared and on January 10, 1837, was approved by the Indiana General Assembly. The charter declared that the institution was to be founded "for the benefit of the youth of every class of citizens, and of every denomination, who shall be admitted to equal advantages and privileges of education."

Various Indiana towns competed to be the site for the new university. Greencastle in Putnam County managed to raise the winning sum of $25,000. Greencastle had about 20 stores on a square, a one-story brick courthouse being its focus. It was said its "society was in almost every sense in a very primitive condition."

The first regular member of the faculty, Cyrus Nutt (destined to be the president of Fort Wayne Female College, which became Taylor University, and of Indiana University), served as acting president while the search for a first president continued. He also served as principal of the preparatory department which, as its name implies, prepared students to advance to such a level of proficiency that they might be admitted to the university. On the fifth of June 1837, Indiana Asbury's first class, that of the preparatory department, reported: five pupils, barefooted and without coats, boys from town.

In February of 1839, Matthew Simpson accepted the presidency of Indiana Asbury, joining Cyrus Nutt, John Weakley, and John Wheeler (a student) as the faculty of the university. The 1839-40 catalog, the first issued, prescribed a four-year course of study requiring recitations and leading to a bachelor of arts degree. Following a familiar pattern, it comprised a heavy dose of Latin, Greek, and mathematics, alleviated in closing years by rhetoric, logic, ancient history, political economy, and the law of nations. Moral philosophy and "Christian evidences" capped the senior year. The last was a practical course in "right living."

Literary societies coexisted with fraternities during the Asbury years. They gave students social fellowship and an opportunity to supplement the thin prescribed curriculum with oratorical exercises on current issues. The strength of support for these societies was exhibited in 1856 when President Daniel Curry demanded their members pledge to hold weekly meetings on Friday afternoon, rather than in the evening, or be dismissed. Seventy-seven students were suspended, including the entire senior class. No one graduated in 1857.

Indiana Asbury did show its willingness to adapt to newly recognized needs by becoming a pioneer in the teaching of the natural sciences within and alongside the traditional classical curriculum. In 1849, the university established a

(Article continues on next page.)
two-year scientific department which permitted students planning careers in teaching or business to substitute for Latin and Greek more "practical" subjects such as science and modern languages. This new direction became a four-year program leading to the bachelor of science.

The enrollment of Indiana Asbury grew until the school had become the largest institution of higher education in Indiana in the 1850s. However, a near-mass exodus from campus of older boys during the four crisis years of the Civil War forced enrollments to drop for the first time since 1846. One factor rescued the school: the preparatory department enrolled boys below the age of military service. Two years after the war, in 1867 under President Thomas Bowman, women were admitted to Indiana Asbury; and that action, in time, would add numbers to the student body. After considering a woman's college in conjunction with Indiana Asbury, the board of trustees opted for a fully coeducational school. Truly marking their presence, some women of Indiana Asbury would found Kappa Alpha Theta, the first college sorority in America.

Two ventures reflect Indiana Asbury's willingness to fill professional needs. The trustees established a medical department in Indianapolis, appointing eight persons to the faculty in 1848. Indiana Central Medical College, which closed after operating three years, graduated more than 40 of its 100 students. Another attempt at meeting a professional need was the Indiana Asbury law school program, which began in 1853, then was discontinued in 1862 when enrollment of mature males dropped as they left for the Civil War. The School of Law was resurrected later under the university's new name in 1885. It offered a two-year course of study. The school lasted for ten years and awarded 133 persons the L.L. B. degree, including three women. One of them, Merta Mitchell, became the first woman to practice law in the state of Indiana.

A depression in the 1870s meant default and decreased interest on bonds held by the university. Indiana Asbury came very close to going under. It was saved by a New Albany industrialist, Washington C. DePauw, president of the board of trustees. Washington C. DePauw had the intention of leaving part of his estate for the establishment of a Methodist university named for him. Vice President of Indiana Asbury John C. Ridpath, having heard of DePauw's written will, intervened to persuade DePauw to divert his bequest to Indiana Asbury. Washington C. DePauw agreed, provided Indiana Methodists would raise $150,000 for the endowment, with the added stipulation that Greencastle and Putnam County residents would secure $60,000 for the purchase of land to enlarge the campus. Most importantly, Washington C. DePauw got his wish: the board of trustees voted to change the name of Indiana Asbury University to DePauw University, which became official on May 5, 1884.

Matching the physical expansion of what was now DePauw University was a determined expansion of the educational programs under President Alexander Martin, the last president of Indiana Asbury and the first president of DePauw. Martin was the first of what has been called "a new breed of university administrators, who went beyond an emphasis on piety and scholarship to a new concern for efficiency and growth." Working with Washington C. DePauw, Martin pushed toward transition and growth, bringing in younger and more scholarly faculty members. It was because of President Martin's published plans for three professional schools that the School of Law was given a brief rebirth, along with special schools for music, art, pedagogy, and horticulture. Martin's ambitions were picked up by his successor, President John P. D. John, who created an elective system, replacing the prescribed curriculum. President John encouraged a broadening of the variety of disciplines through which students might experience the "process" of intellectual growth. The process involved electing majors and minors, a first for the university.

Taken into the next century, expansion of the curriculum continued. DePauw would develop a binary pre-engineering program with Rose Polytechnic Institute, Case Institute of Technology, and the Carnegie Institute of Technology. Five years later, in 1955 under President Russell J. Humbert, the School of Nursing was organized in cooperation with Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis.
Matthew Simpson, Indiana Asbury's First President

Bishop Matthew Simpson

Who would hire a 27-year-old youth with little teaching experience for the faculty of a new university?

And install him as the president?

Matthew Simpson was born in Cadiz, Ohio, June 21, 1811, to James and Sarah (Tingley) Simpson. Later in the year, the Simpsons were hosts to the venerable Bishop Asbury. Asbury's traveling companion later recalled that the bishop "baptized the little boy." Simpson's parents dedicated Matthew to God for service but did not tell him so until years later when Matthew revealed that he felt called to the ministry.

Young Matthew's beginnings did not appear promising. He was "raised on corn pone and skimmed milk" in the new West. Some years after his immigrant Scotch-Irish father died, Matthew labored at a reed-making machine to support his mother and sisters. He had only $11 in his pocket when he set off for Madison College at Uniontown, Pennsylvania, ninety miles from home. He walked nearly all the way. Unfortunately, after only two months he had to go home to take care of his mother and sisters.

Despite these humble circumstances, Matthew did have imposing qualifications. For one thing, he had a soaring IQ. He was reading at three. As a child, he worked arithmetic problems in his head. He was also facile with languages. He learned passable Latin by age twelve, then tackled Graeca Majora, Latin footnotes and all. When an academy opened in Cadiz, he studied French, Spanish, Italian, advanced algebra, botany, geology, and chemistry, all before he was fifteen.

When Matthew was seventeen, he was "discovered" by a classically-educated Methodist minister named Charles Elliot. It was Elliot who got him into college and Elliot who would take young Simpson's career in hand afterward.

Converted at a camp meeting in a country churchyard, Matthew Simpson staunchly resisted a call to preach. The greatest Methodist orator of the mid-19th century was then too bashful to speak in front of a group! To avoid the call, he plunged into the study of medicine and met the Ohio requirements to practice. He immediately put out his shingle in Cadiz.

Ironically, his own health was precarious. He exercised to build himself up. When he finally committed to preach the Gospel, he walked to some of his twenty-eight appointments to improve his stamina.

Received into the Pittsburgh Conference and appointed as junior pastor at Pittsburgh, Matthew found enough spare time to court and marry Ellen Verner, a local girl who would eventually occupy a sphere of influence in the Church. Meanwhile, Matthew began to feel his lack of a formal degree. The educated men who knew him were convinced that Simpson's mastery of languages, mathematics, and other branches of learning exceeded that of most graduates. One president told him that he "had learned much more than our college requires." So Matthew applied to Allegheny College, newly acquired from the Presbyterians, for

(Article continues on next page.)
permission to take the bachelor’s degree by examination. The president, Dr. Martin Ruter, was aware of Simpson’s attainments and countered with the offer of an honorary master’s degree. This was followed by an appointment as a professor of natural sciences.

Within six months, Simpson was also tapped to be Allegheny’s vice-president. There he was, at the tender age of 27, when word came early in 1839 that the trustees of a new, ambitious school a great way off in western Indiana had elected Simpson president. It was, of course, Simpson’s good angel, Charles Elliot, who had made it happen.

The grandly-named Indiana Asbury University was only two years old. Its first building was little more than the physical foundation. The only instruction was in a preparatory school in a borrowed academy. College-ready students were scarce.

Arriving in Greencastle, president-elect Simpson was momentarily dismayed, and the impression he made on the institution’s trustees and conference visitors was scarcely flattering. They eyed the youthful appearance, homespun clothes, tall, slightly stooped frame, homely features, and timid manner of this protégé of Charles Elliot. Rev. Edward Ames spoke for all when he said, “We’ll have to discount Elliot’s recommendation twenty percent.”

However, the skeptics were soon silenced by the lofty preaching and spell-binding oratory of the new president. Matthew Simpson also proved to be a capable administrator, a scholarly teacher, a father-figure to his pupils and — by dint of frequent tours on horseback — a skillful publicist and fund-raiser. The building and the enrollment rose, a small but competent faculty was recruited, and both the university and its chief executive were underway.

Unfortunately, nine years of this regimen nearly broke Simpson’s frail health. He accepted a “desk job,” editing the Methodist Episcopal Church’s Cincinnati-based Western Christian Advocate, a weekly newspaper which his mentor, Charles Elliot, had built into a major organ. Simpson bucked the tradition of religious newspapers — and the edict of the General Conference — by taking a stance on slavery and other public issues. From that post, he was elevated to the office of bishop, one of four elected by the General Conference in 1852.

In 1854, Bishop Simpson made the arduous journey by way of Panama to hold annual conferences on the West Coast. A year earlier, his colleague, Bishop Ames, had done the same. They were the first bishops to do so. Thus began the grueling years of separation from home, delays in travel, late-night haggling with presiding elders over appointments, rulings on thorny matters of church law, resolutions of knotty church problems, and negotiations with unhappy preachers or parishioners.

These years did see a most gratifying growth of church membership. After mid-century, Methodism reigned as the largest Protestant body in America and was erecting new churches at the furious pace of nearly one a day. Simultaneously, the Church was shedding its rustic character and plainness. Bishop Simpson championed tasteful architecture in its houses of worship.

Then, inexorably, the nation was plunged into civil war. Bishops Simpson and Ames, who knew Lincoln and Secretary of War Stanton, threw their acclaimed oratorial powers behind the Union cause. The two bishops from the Indiana Conference were the acknowledged voices of the Methodist Episcopal Church during the crisis.

Upon Lincoln’s tragic assassination, the First Family summoned Simpson to the White House. Two weeks later, shaken at heart, Simpson preached the President’s funeral sermon at Springfield, Illinois.

Despite ill health, Bishop Simpson drove himself on, traveling abroad, writing extensively, and always speaking with eloquence. Even as his legendary reputation peaked, he sank; and, on June 18, 1884, three days short of his 73rd birthday, he died, mourned by the whole Church which he had well loved and faithfully served.
"Something was happening"

Bishop Robert R. Roberts

On Friday, October 26, 2012, officers of the Indiana United Methodist Historical Society gathered for the re-installation of the portrait of Bishop Robert R. Roberts at Meharry Hall, East College, DePauw University. As Donald Findlay, Chair of the Indiana Conference Commission on Archives and History, said of the occasion, “Something was happening. Inroads were being made in bringing the Methodist Church and DePauw University back together again.”

Something was happening, something that the Indiana United Methodist Historical Society is all about. Those gathered were remembering: remembering that in 1835 Bishop Roberts established a committee on education at the Indiana Annual Conference; that, as presiding bishop of the Indiana Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1834, 1835, and 1836, Roberts oversaw the founding of Indiana Asbury (DePauw) University; that, of his annual salary of $200, Roberts gave $100 to the new college and named it a residuary legatee in his will. Remembering is the purpose of Heritage Sunday, the declaration of Methodism’s ministry of memory.

Bishop Robert R. Roberts has been a part of DePauw University from its beginning and has remained a part of the school ever since. He is buried on the campus. He was joined by his wife on her death. A full-length painting of Bishop Roberts hung in the Edifice, which burned in 1879. In an effort to save some part of the painting, a student cut the head from the canvas. Reframed, that portion of the portrait hung outside Meharry Hall in East College until just a few years ago when it was vandalized with spray paint.

Restored, the portrait was re-installed in October of 2012, again just outside Meharry Hall; and the officers of IUMHS gathered to remember the bishop who shares the history and the soil of DePauw University. It was part of our ministry of memory. Donald Findlay was right. “Something was happening.”

You and your congregation can share your own moments of remembrance. Each year, in approximation of the date of John Wesley’s Aldersgate experience, each United Methodist Church is urged to celebrate Heritage Sunday, reflecting on the history of Methodism and that of the local congregation. This year’s theme is “The Power of Place: Historical Landmarks and Historic Sites.”

For details go to:

www.gcah.org/site/c.ghKJIOPHioE/b.3521055/
The 18th and 19th centuries in the North American colonies and, later, in the infant United States saw many waves of religious enthusiasm and interest, often called “Great Awakenings.” The earliest of these centered in the New England area, but later moved into the mid-Atlantic and Virginia areas. Even later, the outbreaks of religious zeal crossed the Appalachian Mountains into the Ohio River Valley.

The earliest Great Awakening principally affected English speaking communities. Because of language barriers, it had only limited influence among non-English speaking immigrant communities.

The next wave of religious enthusiasm, however, reached into the German speaking populations in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. Into this setting, two prominent German speaking pastors emerged.

Martin Boehm (1725-1812) was active among the Mennonites in Pennsylvania and preached an Armenian theology that proclaimed a salvation available to all people and called for a personal inner Christian experience.

Philip William Otterbein (1726-1813) came to Pennsylvania in 1752 to minister to the German Lutherans there. He, like Boehm, emphasized the universality of saving grace and the possibility of an inner spiritual experience. He was called to be a pastor of the Reformed Church in Baltimore in 1774.

Boehm and Otterbein were friends and aware of their theological kinship. Otterbein, on first hearing Boehm’s testimony, declared, “We are brethren.”

When the followers of John Wesley met in Baltimore to found a Church in the new United States, Francis Asbury requested that his friend Otterbein be one of those who “laid hands on him” as he was set aside as General Superintendent (later “Bishop”). In the classic lithograph of this event, Otterbein stands, fully robed, in a position of prominence.

In 1800, the followers of Boehm and Otterbein joined to create a Church for German speaking Christians. They called this Church “The United Brethren in Christ.” This Church proclaimed the Armenian concept of grace and encouraged the inner testimony of spiritual experience. It was “methodistic” in organization with “Superintendency” (both Boehm and Otterbein were elected to the title of Bishop in 1800) and “Conferencing” as a means of being open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

In future years, the United Brethren in Christ united with the Evangelical Church as the Evangelical and United Brethren Church, which became a part of the United Methodist Church in 1968.
Mainly for Church Historians

Greetings from Greencastle:

The year is 1882, and the first annual meeting of the Indiana Methodist Historical Society has just concluded.

What remarkable parallels there are between our session and your annual meeting this coming April 2013!

For instance, we convened at Indiana Asbury University. You selected the same location, but you call it DePauw University. We met in East College, in the elaborately furnished Hall of the Platonean Society with its fading thick carpets, draped windows, and upholstered settees. East College still stands in your day..

The campus was beautiful in our time too, and historic. In fact, DePauw is just now concluding the celebration of its 175th anniversary. A monument honors one of its chief founders, Bishop Robert Richford Roberts, the first bishop to make his home in this state. Do pay your respects when you come.

Our long-ago meetings addressed historical topics such as “The Methodist Pioneers.” You will be favored by a thoughtful keynote address and a roundtable presentation explaining how numerous colleges were founded in Indiana by the followers of John Wesley. Perhaps your alma mater is one.

We learned much in our time through conversation. Nowadays, historians use the magic of tape-recording these interviews and call it “oral history.” An expert in this technique will illustrate his presentation with actual examples of oral history in a real church setting. You will want to try this method with your congregation.

In our 1880s’ meetings, we benefited enormously by “rubbing elbows” with other historians. You’ll be able to do the same thing during lunch and breaks in your meeting.

What a splendid feature is your “ Idea Table,” upon which examples of church history from all over the Conference will be displayed. So be sure to bring your books, photos, or videos and show others what you’ve been doing.

One thing that you have which we lacked is the marvelous Indiana United Methodist Archives. You must see this treasure trove while you are here!

Some say old Meharry Hall is haunted. So it is. Come, and perhaps we’ll meet.

Fraternally in Christ,

A. Wood

Special note: A brand-new edition of the invaluable booklet Guidelines for Local Church Historians has just been released by Cokesbury for only $1.25. Go to www.cokesbury.com and search for “guidelines church historian.” Be sure to order the 2013-2016 edition with the blue cover.
Letters to Matthew Simpson

(Left to right: Wes Wilson and Dr. William Dugan)

The family of William Dugan, class of 1960, donated five notebooks containing letters written to Matthew Simpson, DePauw’s first president. The letters came from people all over Indiana – Methodists ministers, alumni, and others – and were written while Simpson was in Greencastle. This donation is a significant addition to the Matthew Simpson papers and is indexed and transcribed. [D013.029]

175th Anniversary Time Capsule

The time capsule was prepared by Student Government from contributions made by student groups. The time capsule will remain in the Archives and be kept closed until 2037 when it will be opened at the bicentennial celebrations. [D013.031]

Important Related Items

The Indiana Conference Commission on Archives and History and IUMHS call your attention to an informative workshop which will help equip you to preserve the most important treasure your congregation owns – your historic building with its unique heritage, architecture, and memories.

“Historic Preservation 101,” a workshop led by expert Mark Dollase, will clarify the preservation process for buildings constructed in the mid-1960s or earlier.

This workshop will be from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (ET), March 14, 2013, at Indiana Landmarks’ Cook Theater, 1201 Central Avenue, Indianapolis. The $10 cost covers lunch and materials.

For details, go to:
www.centerforcongregations.org/workshop/historic-preservation-congregations-101

The Indiana Conference on Archives and History is accepting nominations from local churches for the 2013 Historians of the Year. To make a nomination, please submit a letter explaining what the candidate has done in terms of preserving and promoting the heritage of the local church.

Please send letters of nomination or inquiries for further information and guidelines to Larry Saunders, either by email at:
larry.saunders@inumc.org

Or, USPS at 8136 E. Wesley Lane, North Webster, IN 46555. The deadline for nominations is Friday, March 15.
Lodging for Conferees

On Campus

The INN at DePauw
2 West Seminary Street
Greencastle, IN

(765) 653-2761

Near the DePauw Campus

BirdSong Bed and Breakfast
1172 W. County Rd. 200 S.
Greencastle, IN

(765) 653-6739

College Inn
315 Bloomington Street
Greencastle, IN

(765) 653-4167

Greencastle Inn
1233 S. Bloomington St.
(U.S. 231 S.)
Greencastle, IN

(765) 653-8424

Dixie Chopper
Greencastle Airport Hotel
102 Ballard Lane
Greencastle, IN

(765) 655-1658

The Campus
Indiana United Methodist Historical Society
2013 MEMBERSHIP AND EVENTS REGISTRATION

NAME________________________________________ ADDRESS_____________________________________

CITY________________________________________ STATE __ ZIP ______ PHONE ________________________

EMAIL (please--very helpful)______________________________________ □ Check if Church Historian

Church you attend ______________________________ City____________________________

Check if: □ (1) Individual or         Check if: □ (3) I am already a life member of IUMHS
        □ (2) Congregation                 □ (4) This congregation is a life member

Please Note: If you are not a life member, your annual membership fee is now due and should accompany this form. Thank you.

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: How many? Amount

New or Renewal

☐ ☐ $10 Individual, for one year ________ @ $10 $_____
☐ ☐ $15 family, for one year ________ @ $15 $_____
☐ ☐ $25 congregation, for one year $25 $_____

Subtotal for Membership $_____

REGISTRATION for ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL 27, DePAUW UNIVERSITY
Deadline: April 18, 2013

Members registering for ANNUAL MEETING ________ @ $25 $_____
Non-members registering for ANNUAL MEETING ________ @ $27.50 $_____
Subtotal for ANNUAL MEETING $_____

Additional DONATION to help IUMHS accomplish its mission (Thank You!) $_____

TOTAL enclosed $_____

If registering for the Annual Meeting, please indicate which of these two concurrent events you would prefer to attend:

☐ Walking tour of DePauw/UM Archives            ☐ Roundtable panel discussion

Please make your check payable to "Indiana United Meth. Hist. Society" and mail it with a copy of this form by April 16 to: Richard Stowe, Treasurer, 8801 W. Eucalyptus Ave., Muncie, IN 47304. Questions? Call me at (765) 759-9321.

Why not invite a Church Historian to IUMHS, too?
Indiana United Methodist Historical Society

P. O. Box 331
Greencastle, IN 46135

Why, oh, why?

If you are not a member of IUMHS, why are you receiving this Newsletter?

That's easy.

We're mailing this issue to every Local Church Historian in our Conference to introduce you to the Society and invite you to the exciting Annual Meeting. See the details inside.

Also, please check out the many features in these pages beamed at Church Historians! We're gearing up to be your Society.