A Tribute to Phil Williams

A quiet man sat somewhat apart from the group, tape recorder at hand, taking notes but rarely saying anything.

This plain-spoken man was for many years the secretary (or acting secretary) of the Indiana United Methodist Historical Society, of which he was a charter member. For several years, Philip Williams was also a member of the Society's Executive Committee. But by far his most significant contribution to the organization lay in his skillful editorship of its twice-yearly Newsletters, a task which he accepted back in 2004 at the Annual Meeting in Evansville.

Far more than merely editing the 12-page Newsletter, Phil meticulously prepared most of the copy himself. He combined research at the Conference Archives at DePauw with advance trips to the locations of the Society's upcoming annual meetings, photographing the sites as he visited. Wishing to have nothing to do with digital photography, he had his film processed the "old-fashioned" way and then taped the prints in place on the pages. These were then photocopied and duplicated.

Even as the readership climbed, Phil continued to fold, seal, label, stamp, and post the many copies of each issue. For his selfless, behind-the-scenes labor, the Society presented him with its "Editor Award" in 2011, praising his "distinguished, faithful, and continuing service."

Phil Williams was a model of the Christ-like servant. Self-effacing, he nevertheless had an incredibly deep commitment to his "mission." His standards in journalism were perfectionistic. Phil detested "typos"

(Continued on the next page, column 1)
And would proofread his copy many times. He cleared articles with the presenters to assure the accuracy of his reports.

Even after being informed that his illness was terminal, Phil worked on a final Newsletter, completing over half the pages before being forced to relinquish the task.

The Rev. Doug Davies, president of the Society during much of Phil's term, voiced his deep appreciation, saying "The quality of the newsletter kept improving and we owe that to Phil. He did a terrific job."

Phil Williams was a devout United Methodist with a passion for church history. He was the historian and librarian of the Central Avenue church ("Old Centrum"). He organized the records and wrote a valued account of the famous church. He guided Archivist Wesley Wilson through the building, locating long-missing records, and, when the church closed, aided Wes in removing great quantities of the documents to DePauw University.

When valiant efforts failed to keep the Central Avenue church doors open, Phil and other members moved to Lockerbie Square where they waged—and lost—another, equally futile, battle.

The obituary prepared by his brother, Marvin, and the Rev. David Mark Owens, his close friend, informs us that Philip Norman Williams was born to Marvin Dale and Betty (Mary R.) Williams in Indianapolis, April 6, 1940, and died in that city December 24, 2013. He had been in hospice care for several months.

Phil graduated from Shortridge High School and went on to earn four degrees from Indiana University. He worked as a librarian for the Indiana State Library and the Indiana Department of Social Services. He was a member and officer of the Church and Synagogue Library Association and was recently promoted to honorary status.

In his quiet manner, Philip Williams reached people in many places. Those who were allowed behind his natural reserve, and those who simply admired his accomplishments, have already begun missing his professional competence, his high principles, and his gruff integrity.

A memorial service was held for Phil January 4, 2014 at Edgewood United Methodist Church, Indianapolis. Contributions in his memory may be made to Indiana Landmarks, 1201 Central Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46202, which now, fittingly, occupies the building of the former Central Avenue Church.

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**It’s Time!**

It’s time to make reservations for the Annual Meeting of the Indiana United Methodist Historical Society at Epworth Forest, April 5, 2014.

Registration 9:00 with coffee and refreshments Program begins at 9:30

THEME of the meeting is: Our Camping Program, Then and Now.

**PRESENTERS:**

Charles (Chuck) Johnson
Carmen Payne Kuhn
Nick Yarde
John Elliot
Riley Case
Joseph Wood

**LUNCH IN THE HOTEL DINNING ROOM**

**BUSINESS:**

Membership fee change proposal
Election of Officers
Recognition of Outstanding Church Historian
Tribute to Phil Williams

**DISPLAY:**

"Make Your Church History Come Alive Through Displays"

**TOUR of Epworth Forest Camp Ground and new cabins**
Who in the heck, is Barbara Heck?

If you happen to be on the Epworth Forest grounds when it is filled with teenagers, you just might hear someone chanting, “Who in the heck, is Barbara Heck?” And that person just might be a youth staying in the cabin named Barbara Heck.

Paul and Barbara Heck, Barbara’s cousin Philip Embury (a local preacher in Ireland), and her brother Paul Ruckle emigrated from Ireland about 1760 and settled in New York among other Irish emigrants who had been converted under the preaching of John Wesley prior to their coming to the American colonies. Soon after their arrival, Barbara entered her kitchen in which both her brother and Embury were present and found the emigrants gambling at cards.

Appalled at their disregard of religious propriety, Barbara seized the cards and threw them into the fire, upbraided the group and then went to Embury and charged him that he should preach to them, or God would require their blood at his hands.

At Heck’s insistence, Embury preaches to five people at his home. The Heck’s are there along with their slave, Betty. Just two years later with a congregation of 400, including several African-Americans, a simple blue stucco chapel on John Street, designed by Barbara Heck, is dedicated, becoming the first Methodist church in America. Three years after the dedication, Francis Asbury preaches his first sermon in American at Wesley Chapel on John Street.

When the Revolutionary War began, the Hecks, who were loyalist, made their way to Canada. There, with other loyalist from New York, they formed the earliest Methodist Society in Canada.
We learned from Riley Case’s article that the camping experience changed over the years from an emphasis on revivalism to Christian education. Those who spend much time on the Epworth grounds will notice that not only the Epworth name, but even some of the cabins have names that honor founders of Methodism and can lead to learning and an appreciation of our Methodist heritage.

**EPWORTH:** John Wesley was born in the village of Epworth, England, where his father, Samuel was rector of St. Andrew’s church.

Later in John’s life, he was barred from preaching in St. Andrew’s so he stood on his father’s tomb, located near the entrance to the church seen in the picture above, and preached from there.

Several cabins, similar in style to the Barbara Heck cabin, are named for early Methodist preachers.

**CARTWRIGHT:** Peter Cartwright earned the nickname of the Colorful Preacher for exploits before and after he became a preacher. Born in Virginia in 1785, the family soon moved to Kentucky. There he became a tough guy in rough Logan County known as "Rogue's Harbor" because of its swarms of badmen. His Methodist mother pleaded and prayed with him. Her prayers wakened a response. In a camp meeting her sixteen year old son was convicted of his sinfulness and need for a Savior. For hours he cried out to God for forgiveness until finally the peace of Christ flooded his soul. At once he joined the Methodist Episcopal Church. Within two years he was a traveling preacher, bringing the gospel to the backwoods of the new nation. His rough past and hardy constitution served him well, for he faced floods, thieves, hunger and disease. He met every challenge head on. [Running for Congress in 1846, Peter Cartwright lost to none other than Abraham Lincoln. In 1832, over a decade earlier, however, Cartwright had defeated Lincoln in a race for the Illinois legislature.]

In addition to Barbara Heck, and those named above, three other cabins bear the names of our Methodist forebearers: Embury, Strawbridge and Whitfield.

**MCKENDREE:** William McKendree (July 6, 1757–March 3, 1835) was the fourth Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church and the first Methodist Bishop born in the United States. As a young man, McKendree served in the Virginia militia during the American Revolutionary War. He entered the ranks as a private, but eventually served as an adjutant in the commissary department. He was present at the siege of Yorktown and the surrender of Lord Cornwallis. After the war he returned to private life.

William was converted to Christ in 1787. Shortly thereafter he began conversing with his friends on the subject of the Christian faith and making them the subjects of his fervent prayers. He soon volunteered to take part in public religious meetings and his addresses produced a powerful effect.

In 1788 he was received on trial into the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Unusually he was admitted without first obtaining a License to Preach and without anyone’s recommendation.

The Rev. William McKendree became widely known and most highly esteemed because of his popular talents in the pulpit and his faithful attention to every part of his work. Consequently, the 1808 General Conference of the M.E. Church, meeting in Baltimore; elected him to the office of Bishop.

In addition to Barbara Heck, and those named above, three other cabins bear the names of our Methodist forebearers: Embury, Strawbridge and Whitfield.

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Greetings,

My name is Connie Payne and this is my second effort at writing for and editing the IUMHS newsletter. As the church historian for Paw Paw UMC, I became a member of the Historical Society and shortly thereafter an at-large-member of the Executive Committee. After reading the tribute to Phil Williams I realize he set the bar high for anyone following in his position. I welcome your input as to what you would like to see in the newsletter or how it could be made better. Better yet, if you have information or pictures of historical interest, send them in for inclusion in future issues.

I can be reached at 765-860-3485 or cfpayne2@earthlink.net.
The DePauw Digital Library: A Great Methodist History Resource

Where do I go for historical information about my church? Who were the ministers who served my church? How can I find out about the mergers and name changes in my church? The answers to these and many other history-related questions may be found in what may seem to be a surprising source - the DePauw Digital Library.

As the official repository for historical records of the UMC in Indiana, The Archives at DePauw maintains records of the church entrusted to it and makes information about those records available to the public. The Digital Library, or DL, is an online resource managed by the DePauw University Libraries. Most of the items located in it come from the Archives of DePauw University and Indiana United Methodism. United Methodist resources include...

- Inventories of local church records such as membership, baptism and Sunday school.
- Photographs of church buildings, activities, members and their ministers as well as denominational or organizations such as United Methodist Women and campgrounds.
- Lists of United Methodist ministers' appointments.
- Information on Indiana United Methodist local church founding dates, mergers and name changes. And soon, the Hoosier United Methodist News and HUM Together newspapers will be included in full-text and searchable.

To use the Digital Library, one may either start at the Archives home page at [website link] or go directly to the DL at [website link].

From the Archives page, the user will see several links.

- Digital Library will take the user directly to the DL homepage.
- Documents & Photographs will allow the user to search only those resources. They include United Methodist and DePauw photographs and digital documents.
- Media will allow searching of only the audio and video holdings.
- Archives Inventories allows searching of the descriptions of records about Indiana churches, church offices and agencies.
- United Methodist Churches will bring up many pages of church records descriptions arranged alphabetically by church name.
From the Digital Library homepage, the user will see links with collection descriptions:

- Archives Documents and Photographs is the same search as mentioned above.
- Methodist Publications allows full-text searching of the Hoosier United Methodist newspapers.
- Archives Inventories is the same as the search mentioned above.
- Archives Media Collection is the same search described above.

Inventories to collections of church records may be downloaded from the search results. The same is true for the photographs found in searches. Photos should be selected from the search results page and when it enlarges on the screen with its accompanying data, right click it to get download options.

Prepared by Wesley Wilson, Archivist, DePauw University

PROPOSAL FOR INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP DUES
TO BE VOTED ON AT ANNUAL MEETING

When the Indiana United Methodist Historical Society was established in 1996 the dues were $10.00 for an individual; $15.00 for a family and $25.00 for a church. The cost of a first class stamp was $.32 and a gallon of gas was $1.23. During the next 18 years prices have risen. A first class stamp is now $.49 and a gallon of gas is $3.25. The cost of doing business for the Society has increased along with the cost of a postage stamp. To keep the Society a viable organization which will continue into the future, the Executive Board proposes to raise the dues of the Indiana United Methodist Society. There are many activities which the Society could implement which would increase the awareness of the history of Indiana Methodism throughout the state and the world. An increase in dues will allow us to keep the society’s vision going and growing.

The following proposal to the Society’s dues structure will be voted on at the Annual Meeting:

Student $10.00 per year
Individual $20.00 per year
Family $30.00 per year
Church $50.00 per year

Q: What do I get for being a member?
A: * The fellowship of others interested in the history and development of the United Methodist Church.
* The IUMHS Newsletter twice a year.
* Participation in increasing the awareness of the history of Indiana Methodism throughout the state.
* Learning activities to improve the collection of archives for the local church.
Raub (Benton County, Ind.) United Methodist Church

Raub UMC records (1898-2006) including: church anniversary records, board meeting minutes, bulletins, charge conference records, Epworth League minutes, history, membership, newsletters, pastor's reports, photographs, quarterly conference records, Ladies Aid Society minutes, WFMS minutes, WSCS minutes and UMW minutes. [M014.017]

George Manhart typewriter
A Blickensderfer No.6 typewriter (ca. 1910), originally owned by George Manhart, Professor of History at DePauw University. The typewriter is a gift of Thomas Emery, Professor Emeritus. [D014.030]

Centerville (Wayne County, Ind.) Methodist Church

Photograph of Centerville Methodist Sunday School joined by Greensfork Sunday School at a joint picnic, circa 1915. [M014.008]

Sigma Chi, Xi Chapter

Sigma Chi, Xi chapter (DePauw University) records including history, minutes 1871-1877, chapter journals 1906-1922, blueprints/architectural drawings 1908-1935, photographs 1896-1956 and 2 scrapbooks 1873-1948. [D014.046]

Sarah Evelyn Roberts Kranbuehl Houghland '65 scrapbook
Scrapbook compiled by Sarah Roberts, class of 1965, of her freshman year at DePauw University, 1961-1962. [D014.022]

Sunnycrest (Marion, Ind.) United Methodist Church

Photograph of Sunnycrest United Methodist Church. Photograph: Sunnycrest (Marion, Ind.) UMC 100 year celebration records, 1905-2005. [M014.002]

THE FIRST ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SUNNYCREST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sarah Evelyn Roberts Kranbuehl Houghland '65 scrapbook
Indiana United Methodist Historical Society

2014 MEMBERSHIP AND EVENTS REGISTRATION

NAME: ____________________________
ADDRESS: ____________________________
CITY: __________________ STATE: __ ZIP: __ PHONE: __________________

EMAIL: ____________________ (please—very helpful) ______ Check if Church Historian

Church you attend: __________________ City: __________________

Check if: 0 (1) Individual or Check if: 0 (3) You are a life member of IUMHS
0 (2) Congregation 0 (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
0 0 $10 individual, for one year _______ @ $10 $____
0 0 $15 family, for one year _______ @ $15 $____
0 0 $25 congregation, for one year _______ @ $25 $____

Subtotal for Membership $____

REGISTRATION for ANNUAL MEETING & LUNCHEON, APRIL 5, EPWORTH FOREST
Deadline: March 21, 2014

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 $____

Note: Even if you have reserved a room at Epworth Forest, you still need to use this form to register for the meeting and luncheon.

Please make your check payable to "Indiana United Meth. Hist. Society" and mail it with a copy of this form by March 19 to: Richard Stowe, Treasurer, 8801 W. Eucalyptus Ave., Muncie, IN 47304.

Questions? Call Richard at (765) 759-9321.

Two rooms in the hotel are still available for Friday night April 4, 2014. If you are interested, call Richard at the number listed on this reservation form.