

Section I: Historical

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REMEMBERING THOSE WHO, IN THE PAST, “TRANSFORMED ARKANSAS BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.”

In our conference we have several different groups of persons who are responsible for and volunteer to help in preserving the precious memories of those who have gone on before us. These history gatherers are also history preservers of United Methodist news today so that there will be history of us in the future. These keepers of our history want church members who have **“Transformed Arkansas by the Power of the Holy Spirit”** to be remembered. Who are our keepers of history? How do they relate to each other? How can you get involved if you are interested in United Methodist history? How can you help preserve the past and news of today? Does your local church have a written history? The following sections in this report will seek to assist you in knowing these groups within our conference, how they relate to each other, how they can be of ministry to you and introduce you to some UM groups you might like to get involved in.

The Commission on Archives and History

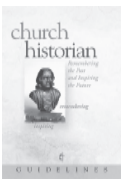
This group falls under the list of structured conference ministries. Every year it is required to report to the annual conference about its work. Among the members, each district has a representative. The commission meets once or twice a year. Bill Mann is the new chair.

One of the important works this commission has been involved in is collecting oral histories of dedicated laity and clergy who have given us leadership and inspiration. Missionaries are often recorded. In the past this recording was done with audio tape recorders and transcribed. Now we use our high technology and make interviews on DVD's.

In 2006 this Commission had **four workshops** across Arkansas, inviting all local church historians by mail to attend, in the Monticello, Hope, Ozark, and Newport UM Churches. The purpose was to help historians gain information on “Preserve the Precious Memories of Their Churches.” Included in the workshops were presentations about keeping history, the development of local church archives, writing church histories, and preserving church documents such as paper and photographs. A good numbers of local church historians from across the state came to these training sessions. Workshops are being planned for 2010.

The Commission is purchasing four fireproof, waterproof, crushproof file cabinets for the Archives, to protect this valuable information.

The Commission has given each district superintendent a great video, “Memory and Ministry, Caring for Your Church’s Heritage.” This video has just about every thing a local church historian can do to preserve the congregation’s history for the coming generations. These are available from your superintendents to be borrowed. The archives discussed below also has copies to loan.



Available in November 2008 from Cokesbury will be a new booklet, **“Church Historian.”** If you have been asked to be your local church historian it will answer some important questions: You have just found a box of old records, what do you keep? How do you store these materials? How do you preserve them? What good is all this? As part of celebrating your church’s anniversary, you may want to write a history of your church. How do you

start? Some of your church’s leaders are aging. You want to record their memories. How do you prepare to interview them and what do you ask?

In the past the Commission has had interesting articles in the Conference Journals. Samples included information such as United Methodist historical sites in Arkansas, the United Methodist Museum of Arkansas in Batesville, missionaries from Arkansas, and the fiftieth anniversary of the ordination of women in the UM Church includes lists and dates of ordained women clergy in Arkansas.

One of the larger ministries of the Commission is keeping and preserving the history of Arkansas Methodism as it happens now and has happened in the past. There is a vast collection of this material and it keeps growing. To keep it safe and organized the Commission has created **The Arkansas Conference United Methodist Archives**. Overseeing this archives is probably the largest and most important of the Commission’s responsibilities and ministries.

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The Arkansas Conference United Methodist Archives

The Commission on Archives and History oversees the ministry of the conference's history gathering and storage. One of the ways this is done is through an archives. **What is an archives and why is it a ministry?** This ministry serves to help people find historical information about Methodism in the state. There is **no charge for this assistance**. The cost of this ministry is covered under the apportionments of our conference. Our archives is located at Hendrix College, Bailey Library in Conway on the second floor. Hendrix has made available two nice rooms that are both light and humidity controlled. We are very grateful for this space. There are two employed persons who are responsible for maintaining the archives, adding news about our churches and people and assisting persons with research. Mauzel Beal has been our archivist for 18 years and Marcia Crossman is in her seventh year as an archivist. In 2008 the two archivists **assisted over 150 persons** who visited, emailed, called or contacted the archives looking for history on churches, Methodist places and pastors and even some genealogy. Often the requests are simple. Others are projects with our churches that cover a few months time working back and forth with churches or individuals. **The archivists welcome your visit and want to do as much as possible to assist you.** They will try to answer your questions and can help you preserve your church's unique history. The archives is open between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. every Thursday. Other open times can be arranged by appointment.



The specific goals of the conference archives are:

- to collect, preserve, maintain and make available histories, journals, and photographs, of all churches in Arkansas that are now the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church.
- to receive and maintain biographical information of clergy, diaconal ministers, missionaries, clergy spouses and a limited number of laity whose contributions have been of historical significance in Arkansas Methodism.
- to preserve records of all closed and abandoned churches that are now the Arkansas Conference. It specifically has many histories of churches and pastors. It also has a collection of membership record books, property transactions and photographs.
- to update the data base of the Arkansas Methodist newspapers going back to around 1886. Hendrix College has microfilm of this newspaper to 2009. This data base is used to find information stored on the microfilm.

The following is a detailed list of all the information you can utilize at the conference archives:

Finding aids:

- Computer Index of the Arkansas United Methodist Newspaper (*from 1886 to 2009*)
- Index of many pastors obituaries up until 1968 from all over the country
- Index to Pastoral Appointments and Memoirs for Arkansas Pastors by Rev. Vernon Paysinger

Arkansas United Methodist Histories:

- Horace Jewell — 1892
- James Anderson — 1936
- Walter Vernon — 1976
- Nancy Britton — 2000

Conference Journals:

- White River
- Little Rock
- Arkansas (*old*)
- North Arkansas
- Methodist Protestant Church
- Arkansas (*new*)

General Conference Journals

United Methodist Women's Ministry:

- United Methodist Women
- Wesleyan Service Guild
- Women's Society of Christian Service

Books:

- John Wesley
- General Methodism
- Local church histories
- Hymnals
- Early Methodist leaders
- General church publications
- Arkansas authors

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Files on UM Clergy who have served in Arkansas

Files on Local UM Churches in Arkansas (open and closed)

Arkansas Methodism:

- Bound copies of the Arkansas Methodist Newspaper from 1884
- Ark. Area Directories and Conference Officials • District Records
- Local Church Records: Baptisms, Births, Marriages, Membership

American Methodism — World Methodism — American Methodism:

- Early Leaders
- Bishops
- Councils and Conferences
- United Brethren in Christ
- Anniversaries and Celebrations
- Christian Education
- Evangelical Association
- Evangelical United Brethren

History:

- Historical Development of UMC
- Historical Societies
- Books of Discipline: (*back to 1800's*) Methodist Episcopal — Methodist Episcopal South
Methodist Protestant — Evangelical United Brethren — United Methodist
- American Missions
- Women's Work
- Historic Institutions and Churches
- Worship Resources for Historic Occasions
- Publications / Publishing
- Epworth League / Methodist Youth Fellowship

World Methodism:

- Councils and Conferences
- Wesley Materials

Misc. Files on the Arkansas Area: (All Conferences)

- Little Rock Conference
- Ouachita / Wachita Conference
- White River Conference
- Little Rock / North Arkansas
- Arkansas Conference 2003
- Bishops (*Arkansas*)
- Colleges / Schools
- Pastors' Schools
- School of Christian Mission
- History of Arkansas Methodism
- North Arkansas Conference
- Southwest Conference
- Clergy Groups
- Laity
- Anniversaries and Celebrations
- Campgrounds
- Campus Ministries
- Course of Study School
- Councils
- New Church Starts

United Methodist Historical Organizations:

- Archives
- Commission on Archives and History
- Properties
- Integration / Race Relations and Methodism
- Missionaries / Deaconesses
- Newspapers (*Arkansas United Methodist*)
- United Methodist Men
- Archives and History Exhibits at Annual Conference
- Museum
- Historical Societies
- Hunger Ingathering
- Women as Pastors
- Missions
- Women's Groups
- Methodist Protestant Church

Districts — Files and Minutes:

- District Files of Little Rock, North Arkansas, Arkansas (2003) Conferences
- Records of Arkansas Area Transition Team (2003)
- White River Conference Presiding Elders Minutes
- Charge Conference Records of North Arkansas Conference

THE IMPORTANCE OF COLLECTING THE RECORDS OF CLOSED OR ABANDONED CHURCHES:

The Commission on Archives and History has placed a great emphasis on **collecting records of closed or abandoned churches**. Many of our church folks who were members of a closed church have, in a loving way, tried to protect the memory of that church by keeping the record books and even artifacts from the church building that remind them of the way it was. These books and objects are eventually found in attics, trunks, old cedar chests and even under beds. Sometimes pastors keep old church record books because they don't know what to do with them. Surely they do not want to discard them and just keep them up on the bookshelf.

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The Arkansas Conference Archives and the Arkansas Conference Museum is where these belong. Having this information is important to the Arkansas UMC of the future. To make sure these valuable records are safely and permanently preserved, contact the Arkansas Conference Archives at (501) 450-1370. Email the archivists, Mauzel Beal or Marcia Crossman at arkmethodist@hendrix.edu for information on preservation.

The United Methodist Historical Society of Arkansas

With its beginning in 1987 the UM Historical Society of Arkansas is probably one of the best kept secrets in our conference. For only \$5 one can join the society, and the benefits of **learning more about UM history** are growing. John Walker has been the president of the Society for the past several years and Kathy Cooper will be serving as its new president. This year there are 167 members in the Society. It is governed by an elected Board.

The Historical Society was created to work with the Joint Commission on Archives and History when there were two conferences in Arkansas (North Arkansas and Little Rock). Its purpose is to promote research, writing and **publication of a history in every local church**. It works to locate and encourage preservation of appropriate sites of historic interest within the State of Arkansas. It seeks to develop interest in UM history and teaches skills for pursuing history among local church historians. The society has publicized materials for observances of historical anniversaries and other events of church history. It also seeks to stimulate the spiritual life of our Church, and the reality of God in our daily lives.

The Historical Society publishes a newsletter two times a year, the "Occasional Papers". Different people have contributed informative articles for the past 20 years. Here are some examples of these interesting articles:

- 250th Anniversary of John Wesley's Conversion
- Thomas Hively's Saddle
- Arkansas Sesquicentennial 1836-1986
- Work of the General Commission on Archives and History
- The "Evil Effects" of Dancing (from the 1819 Methodist Magazine)
- Obituary of Rev. John H. Rice (a Confederate chaplain caught and shot twice through the head)
- Batesville District Conference at Evening Shade, July 1878
- Centennial Celebration at Humphrey
- Arkansas Methodism from "Cyclopedia of Methodism"
- Soulesbury Institute, Batesville Historic Site
- Photographs of Stanley Baugh (photographs of many of our smaller and closed rural churches)
- 50th Annual of the Methodist Youth Fellowship
- Methodist Missionary Nelle Dyer
- Camp Meeting Stories
- The Old McKendree Chapel, Jackson, MO

The United Methodist Museum of Arkansas

By 1990 interest had begun within the Historical Society to form a museum of Methodist artifacts. The Society began to accept dimensional artifacts of our history. The Museum opened in May of 1997 on the fourth floor of the Quapaw UM Church in Little Rock. By that time the museum housed around 150 artifacts. In 2005 the Museum was moved to the Asbury UM Church in Batesville. The museum has a website: arkummuseum.org. Groups are invited to visit the museum and it's free. Just this year a curator was secured to care for the collection, Rev. Doyle Berckefeldt. Rev. Berckefeldt welcomes your visit. Arrangements can be made to visit the museum by contacting the Curator at 870-698-2945 / dberckefeldt@att.net or LaDonna Busby, secretary at 870-793-5247 / northdistrict@yahoo.com. Take a look at the next page of the Journal to see some of the interesting artifacts that can be seen in the museum.

Our State has a History Book

"Two Centuries of Methodism in Arkansas, 1800-2000" our newest Arkansas United Methodist history book, written by Nancy Britton is the first-ever look at United Methodists developments in Arkansas since 1968. It includes the Uniting Conference that incorporated the former Southwest Conference and completed the merger with the Evangelical United Brethren Church creating the United Methodist Church. It was published by a committee of the joint Commissions on Archives and History, the Arkansas United Methodist Historical Society and the History 2000 Committee. These hard-bound books are filled with pictures and even mini-histories of churches all over the state. The history books are being sold now for only \$10.00.

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The Philander Smith College Archives

The Philander Smith College in Little Rock is a United Methodist supported college. The Donald W. Reynolds Library is located at the main entrance of the Philander Smith College campus. In the year 2000, Philander Smith College received a \$7.8 million grant from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation to build, furnish and equip a new two-story, 49,404 square feet, state-of-the-art library and technology center. The mission of the Philander Smith Archives Center is to collect and preserve current and historical materials about the College and the **history of African Americans in Arkansas** dating back to 1877. Some history on Methodists can be found there along with the W. D. Lester Collection. Gracie Carter is the Archivist at the library. The telephone number of the archives is 501-370-5263. It is open between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., Monday through Thursday.



The Conference Secretary and the Annual Conference Journal

The Conference Secretary compiles the Conference Journal each year. Rev. Bob Crossman has been the Conference secretary for 17 years. The Conference Secretary keeps us informed of historical dates and data on clergy. Reports are compiled on all the structured groups and other UM agencies of the conference. Lists are printed or updated at least every four years of the annual conference sessions, dates, places, and presiding bishops; pastoral "Roll in Heaven" (1836-2008) which includes the names of deceased pastors, place of burial, birth and death dates; and the memoirs (obituaries) of deceased pastors. The Journal also includes statistical data on all local churches and sermons and addresses given at conference.

Elders Ordination Chain

...tracing the episcopal ordination chain...

“Under the providence of Almighty God, and in recognition of His Eternal Glory, I, bishop of the Methodist Church, and several elders have, by the imposition of our hands, and by prayer, set this one apart for the work of an Elder, to read the Holy Scriptures in the Church of God, to preach the Word of God, and to administer the Holy Sacraments in the congregation, so long as this person continues to be a faithful servant of Jesus Christ and adheres to and teaches the Gospel of our Lord and the doctrine of the Church. I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of my office.”

Pastors: check the following pages to find your ordination genealogy back to John Wesley.

John Wesley, in 1784 sent to America as a Superintendent,
Thomas Coke, who in 1784 ordained as Elder,
Francis Asbury, who ordained as Elder,
William M’Kendree, who ordained as Elder,
William Capers, who ordained as Elder,
Holland Nimmons McTyeire, who ordained as Elder,
Elijah Embree Hoss, who ordained as Elder,
Ivan Lee Holt, who ordained as Elder,
Alsie H. Carleton, who ordained as Elder,
Charles N. Crutchfield



*Bishop Charles N. Crutchfield
2004 -*

John Wesley, in 1784 sent to America as a Superintendent,
Thomas Coke, who in 1784 ordained as Elder,
Francis Asbury, who ordained as Elder,
William M’Kendree, who ordained as Elder,
John Early, who ordained as Elder,
Robert Kennon Hargrove, who ordained as Elder,
Hiram Abiff Boaz, who ordained as Elder,
Oliver Eugene Slater, who ordained as Elder,
Janice Riggle Huie



*Bishop Janice Riggle Huie
1996 - 2004*

John Wesley, in 1784 sent to America as a Superintendent,
Thomas Coke, who in 1784 ordained as Elder,
Francis Asbury, who ordained as Elder,
William M’Kendree, who ordained as Elder,
William Capers, who ordained as Elder,
Holland Nimmons McTyeire, who ordained as Elder,
Eugene Russell Hendrix, who ordained as Elder,
Edwin DuBose Mouzon, who ordained as Elder,
Dana Dawson, who ordained as Elder,
Richard B. Wilkie



*Bishop Richard B. Wilkie
1984 - 1996*

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Bishop Dan E. Soloman
2000

John Wesley, in 1784 sent to America as a Superintendent,
Thomas Coke, who in 1784 ordained as Elder,
Francis Asbury, who ordained as Elder,
William M'Kendree, who ordained as Elder,
William Capers, who ordained as Elder,
Holland Nimmons McTyeire, who ordained as Elder,
Henry Clay Morrison, who ordained as Elder,
Hoyt McWhorter Dobbs, who ordained as Elder,
Paul Vernon Galloway, who ordained as Elder,

Dan E. Soloman

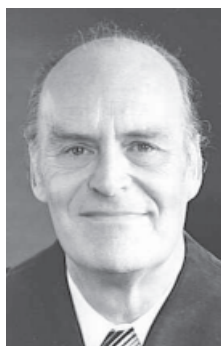
*Bishop Dan E. Soloman presided over the North Arkansas conference session,
June, 2000 when Bishop Huie was called to her mother's bedside.*

John Wesley, in 1784 sent to America as a Superintendent,
Thomas Coke, who in 1784 ordained as Elder,
Francis Asbury, who ordained as Elder,
Elijah Hedding, who ordained as Elder,
Levi Scott, who ordained as Elder,
John Heyl Vincent, who ordained as Elder,
Adna Wright Leonard, who ordained as Elder,
Glenn Randall Phillips, who ordained as Elder,

Kenneth William Hicks



Bishop Kenneth W. Hicks
1976 - 1984



Bishop Eugene M. Frank
1972 - 1976

John Wesley, in 1784 sent to America as a Superintendent,
Thomas Coke, who in 1784 ordained as Elder,
Francis Asbury, who ordained as Elder,
Robert Richford Roberts, who ordained as Elder,
Edward Thomson, who ordained as Elder,
Charles Henry Fowler, who ordained as Elder,
Charles Larew Mead, who ordained as Elder,

Eugene Maxwell Frank

John Wesley, in 1784 sent to America as a Superintendent,
Thomas Coke, who in 1784 ordained as Elder,
Francis Asbury, who ordained as Elder,
William M'Kendree, who ordained as Elder,
William Capers, who ordained as Elder,
Holland Nimmons McTyeire, who ordained as Elder,
Henry Clay Morrison, who ordained as Elder,
Hoyt McWhorter Dobbs, who ordained as Elder,

Paul Vernon Galloway



Bishop Paul V. Galloway
1964 - 1972

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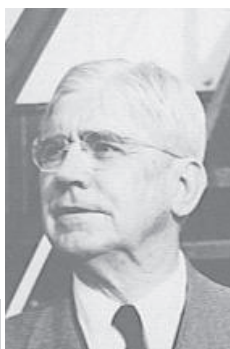
Bishop Kenneth W. Pope
1960 - 1964

John Wesley, in 1784 sent to America as a Superintendent,
Thomas Coke, who in 1784 ordained as Elder,
Francis Asbury, who ordained as Elder,
William M'Kendree, who ordained as Elder,
James Osgood Andrew, who ordained as Elder,
John Christian Keener, who ordained as Elder,
Warren Akin Candler, who ordained as Elder,
Arthur James Moore, who ordained as Elder,
William Kenneth Pope



Bishop Paul E. Martin
1944 - 1960

John Wesley, in 1784 sent to America as a Superintendent,
Thomas Coke, who in 1784 ordained as Elder,
Francis Asbury, who ordained as Elder,
Beverly Waugh, who ordained as Elder,
Alpheus Waters Wilson, who ordained as Elder,
Samuel Ross Hay, who ordained as Elder,
Paul Elliott Martin



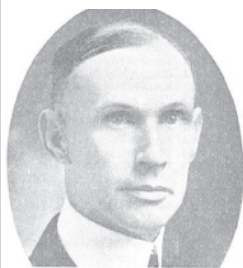
Bishop Charles C. Selecman
1938 - 1944

John Wesley, in 1784 sent to America as a Superintendent,
Thomas Coke, who in 1784 ordained as Elder,
Francis Asbury, who ordained as Elder,
Beverly Waugh, who ordained as Elder,
Alpheus Waters Wilson, who ordained as Elder,
Charles Claude Selecman



Bishop John M. Moore
1934 - 1938

John Wesley, in 1784 sent to America as a Superintendent,
Thomas Coke, who in 1784 ordained as Elder,
Francis Asbury, who ordained as Elder,
Wm. M'Kendree, who ordained as Elder,
John Early, who ordained as Elder,
Robert Hargrove, who ordained as Elder,
Hiram Boaz, who ordained as Elder,
Robert Hargrove, who ordained as Elder,
John Monroe Moore



Bishop Hoyt M. Dobbs
1930 - 1934

John Wesley, in 1784 sent to America as a Superintendent,
Thomas Coke, who in 1784 ordained as Elder,
Francis Asbury, who ordained as Elder,
Wm. M'Kendree, who ordained as Elder,
William Capers, who ordained as Elder,
Holland McTyeire, who ordained as Elder,
Henry Morrison, who ordained as Elder,
Holt McWhorter Dobbs