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PRE-CONFERENCE MEETING
MAY 19, 2000

If you are interested in history or are the local church historian, You are invited on the morning of the opening of the Detroit Annual Conference, May 19 from 9 a.m. to noon to attend the session of the Friends of the Archives and the Committee on Archives and History. We will meet in Stephenson Alumni Lounge, North Hall on the Adrian College campus.

We are privileged to have as our morning presenter Dr. Francis Blouin the Director of the Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan. He will discuss his work of conducting an inventory and developing a guide to the Vatican Library as well as some nuts and bolts suggestions for local church historians.

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NORTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION
CONVOCATION 2000

This year's Archives and History Convocation will be held June 26 - 29 on the historic campus of Iowa Wesleyan College, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. The cost is very reasonable: $150.00 which includes lodging, all meals, tour transportation and admission fees. There will be a variety of presentations on subjects of historical interest to United Methodists. The tours will take us to several interesting spots. EVERYONE is welcome to participate. For further information contact your editor.

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DETROIT CONFERENCE
ARCHIVES AND HISTORY
WILL HOST THE
2002 CONVOCATION
July 8 - 11, 2002

"Susanna Wesley" will be make a presentation at the convocation. Let me clarify. Sue Pellowe, a Bard of Cornwall, will bring Susanna Wesley to life through a dramatic
presentation.

The theme for the convocation is "The Cornwall Connection to Michigan Methodism." The hub of our activity will be Michigan Tech University in Houghton. We will learn about and visit many Methodist historical sites.

As the time grows closer we will share more details. Mark your calendar now.

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HUDSON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PLANNING AN OBSERVANCE

[A little over a year from now the First United Methodist Church in Hudson will be celebrating. They have big plans and have visited the Archives researching their past. The following account appeared in the "Sunday School Gleaner" probably in 1882.]

My First Sabbath School
By Mrs. Samuel King

When I attended Church and Sabbath School Sabbath after Sabbath, here in Hudson, I often feel to say "God has truly done wonderful things for us whereof we have reason to rejoice."

In the winter of 1836 I first came to Lanesville, now Hudson. I was but a child, only six years old at that time. The first Sabbath after I came I went to Sabbath School with my cousin, a young lady, daughter of Uncle Simeon Akin, and that Sabbath I recited the first Sabbath School lesson I ever learned. It was the 19th verse of the fifth chapter of Matthew; but as the weather was cold and the days so short (it was in the month of December) our school was adjourned until the weather became warm the next spring.

In the spring our school was again opened under the superintendence of our venerable townsman, Mr. Beriah H. Lane. Rev. David Pratt was located pastor of the place at that time, but Rev. Wm. Warner preached for us frequently, and he was my especial favorite. The first sermon I ever heard in Michigan he preached and I shall never forget it. The words that he chose for his text that day are found in the third chapter of Proverbs and the 17th verse. But to return to my Sabbath School. The place of meeting for our school was in a log school house that stood near where Mr. Boies' store now stands. My teacher was Miss Sarah Pratt, who afterwards became the wife of Col. Frank Smith, who is known by many now in Hudson; but she has long since passed away. Our books were donated from some other school, but I do not know what one. We learned for our lesson seven verses to recite of some chapter selected by our Superintendent. We commenced at that time with the third chapter of Matthew. Our superintendent was chorister, librarian, indeed, I think he was the only officer in the school.

It may gratify some, especially to know what preparations we made Sunday mornings for meeting (for we did not have a church to go to); well, we washed ourselves and combed our hair, and put on clean calico dresses, and washed our feet too, for we all went barefooted, with the exception of two little girls that wore shoes and stockings, and they were "stuck up," and the rest did not care. We loved our school and our teachers as well as the little boys and girls do that attend Sabbath schools now in Hudson. After we had our school for two or three years, our teachers and the older members of the school said we
would have our first 4th of July, and we enjoyed that very much. We met at the schoolhouse in the morning at 9 o’clock and marched to a barn known as “Cobb’s barn.” I do not remember who was the orator of the day. After the speeches and music were over we partook of refreshments previously prepared by our parents. We did not have any cannon, but the anvil was used quite freely. I remember when we were marching to the barn from the schoolhouse there was one little girl placed beside me and every time they would fire the anvil she would fall down as if she had been shot, and cry that they were going to shoot her, and then the marshal would come and help her up and assure her that she should not be hurt. Our Marshall for the day was Mr. Henry Tibbets, who died many years ago. He is well remembered by some, and was a fine man.

People attending our school now can imagine the contrast with the school of 46 years ago; and yet who will say that there was not a seed planted at that time that has resulted in some good in our school today.

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MICHIGAN UNITED METHODIST MINISTER RAN FOR PRESIDENT

[John Safran, a retired United Methodist Minister died in January of this year. Mark Keller, Tribal Archivist of the Swan Creek Black River Confederated Objibwa Tribes of Michigan forwarded an obituary from the Detroit Free Press, January 14, 2000. The following is quoted from that obituary.]

The Rev. John Safran, a retired Lapeer County Methodist minister, labor lawyer and peace activist who ran for president in New Hampshire’s 1996 Democratic primary and for Michigan governor in the state’s 1982 Democratic primary, died Tuesday of a heart attack. He was 91.

Mr. Safran, who lived in the tiny town of Clifford (pop. 354) and served one term as a Lapeer County commissioner in 1979-80, was described by his son, John S. Safran, a psychologist from West Bloomfield, as “the champion of unpopular causes.”

For example, in his presidential announcement on the New Hampshire statehouse steps at age 87, Safran, a self-described pacifist, quoted Dwight Eisenhower on the evils of “unwarranted influence ... sought by the military-industrial complex.” And he pledged, if elected, to cut $200 billion in defense spending so it could be applied to a “massive public works program” across the United States.

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ARCHIVES MOVE INTO THE NEW FACILITY

As I am preparing this edition we are preparing to move into the new Archives at the enlarged and redesigned Shipman Library on the campus of Adrian College. It is almost unheard of that a project as large as this is finishing ahead of schedule.

The move will begin in May and be completed in June. Then we will be attempting to once again bring order out of chaos. I request that you be patient in your expectations concerning replies to your inquiries. We will do the best we can.

The Detroit Conference Archives and the Adrian College Archives will share an enlarged room. It will be a state of the art facility the
will be very user friendly for our staffs and visitors. There will be a Heritage Area which will host many displays. I am sorry it will not be available for tours at Annual Conference, but do plan to visit us at a later time and we will proudly show off our pride and joy.

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remained a guidepost in our community.

Attendance has ranged from over-flowing to just several worshipers, but the church has never been closed. ...

On April 29, 1941, the church burned. For the next 7 years services were held over the Springville Store, members homes, and the schoolhouse east of Springville.

During this period the members of the church worked long and faithfully to prepare for a new church which was accomplished by the moving of the former Methodist Protestant church building from West Summerfield. It arrived on September 14, 1948.

* * * *
HENRY HITT CRANE CONTINUES TO INSPIRE

[A friend forwarded to the Archives several bulletins from Central Methodist Church in Detroit. She said the covers never ceased to inspire her. On the cover of the bulletin for April 23, 1950 Henry Hitt Crane wrote the following.]

Daudet tells the story of an old priest who rescued his church from poverty by concocting a new wine.

He kept the formula secret; made all the wine himself in the basement of the church.

To test each mixture he had to sample it.

As the wine grew in fame and the church in wealth, the taste for wine grew in the old priest.

The story ends with the soft chanting of the choir in the beautiful new sanctuary of the remodeled church, while in the basement below, the old priest, now a hopeless alcoholic, mawkishly attempts to warble a ribald drinking song.

His outward achievements had become conspicuously successful, but the man inside had steadily disintegrated.

One of the most profoundly sad things in life is just such outward success at the price of inward worth.

The cynic insists that “every man has his price.” If this be true, when the price is paid in character, no election to high office, no discovery of a vast continent, no invention of a world-shaking “weapon of defense,” no amassing of billions of dollars in securities, no supremacy as the mightiest mortal on earth can make up for the loss of the sick and dying “man inside.”

We each have our “man outside” and our “man inside.”

The first is the part the world sees, that achieves material power, prestige, position and possessions, that make us what is popularly known as a “success.”

Then there is the “man inside.” This is our character.

Whenever the outer man grows to gigantic stature and the inner man remains dwarfed and undernourished, existence is mocked with meaninglessness. Nothing is of any real value any more because the valuer is no longer at hand.

What matters above all else is the “man inside.”
“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man exchange for his soul?”

H.H.C.

* * * *

SAGINAW, JEFFERSON AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

[Esther Odom, a member of the Committee on Archives and History, forwarded “A Brief Historical Review” of her church. Part of this article follows.]

Saginaw’s Jefferson Avenue United Methodist Church has undergone many changes in her long history. First organized in 1852, the congregation built the “Little Brown Church” in 1855 on the corner of South Washington and Federal... In 1867, the 136 member congregation moved to the current location on South Jefferson Avenue.

The original 162-foot steeple was struck by lightning in 1896 causing it to fall on (and through) the roof of the sanctuary’s north side. Along with repairs to the sanctuary, the remaining upper portion of the tower was demolished and a simple cap placed on it. Ninety years later, in 1986, the congregation voted to rebuild the tower and replace the steeple. It was consecrated in 1987. Many other changes and additions were made over the years, the largest of which was the addition of the educational wing and chapel in 1960.

Our large sanctuary is one of the most beautiful in the city. Its second floor location was due to the muddy streets and rowdiness of the lumberjacks in early Saginaw. An elevator was added making both levels of the church accessible to our handicapped members and visitors. As a denomination, we were Methodist Episcopalians. We became United Methodist when our denomination merged with the Evangelical United Brethren Church. We are a mission-minded congregation, helping areas of need in the tradition of John Wesley.

Locally, Jefferson Avenue grew during the merger with the Warren Avenue United Methodist Church, and transfers from the Tuscola and Epworth United Methodist Churches when they closed. In 1994, the Emmanuel Catholic Church moved from the International Centre to the chapel at Jefferson Avenue. Both congregations share many activities as well as the physical building. Through the years, we have also shared our facilities with the Commission on Aging, Habitat for Humanity, Saginaw Choral Society, Church Women United’s “Lunch with a Lift,” 4-H Clubs, READ Programs, Scouts and many district and conference events.

An important annual event involving most of the membership is the Christmas Bazaar sponsored by the United Methodist Women. Visitors come to our luncheon and bazaar because they recognize it as a quality area event.

We continue to have an outstanding music program, with professional organist and choir director. Worship is innovative and spiritually challenging. We serve this urban ministry continually and expect to add even more contributions to the metropolitan Saginaw area. And a metropolitan church we are, with members coming from Bridgeport, Frankenmuth, Thomas and Saginaw townships, as well as both East and West Saginaw. Visitors are welcomed with a handshake and a smile!