



# UNY Historical News & Views

UNY UNITED METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY - PRESERVE THE PAST; INFORM THE FUTURE

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## UNY Methodist History recognized

from reports on UNY-UMHS Facebook page

The Upper New York Conference of The United Methodist Church was created in 2010 when the New York churches of four former conferences - North Central New York, Troy, Western New York and Wyoming Conference - united to better serve the ministry needs of the local church and the community. Following are some tales from their history.

### Round Lake in Adirondack District

Round Lake Camp Meeting Association of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Troy Conference



was chartered in 1868 by the NY State Legislature and had its first camp meeting in September that year. (Some early stereoscope views are shown at top.) The Association installed in 1888 a Davis-Ferris tracker organ built 1847

with 1900 pipes in its Round Lake Auditorium that it had built in 1885 with seating for about 1,000 persons. The area became a summer resort with many Victorian cottages, etc. The National Park Service in December 2016 designated the organ a **National Historic Landmark** which was dedicated June 10, 2017.

### Centennials in August 2017 of three Methodist agencies started in 1917

**Westside Methodist Episcopal Church** in Elmira (now in Mountain View District) was the outgrowth of a Sunday School originally meeting in a barn and though only incorporated in August 1917 was the first in Central New York Conference to meet its quota in the 1918 Centenary campaign for missions.



**Chautauqua Institution** was originally founded as a teaching camp for Sunday School Teachers in 1874 in what is now Cornerstone District in the southwest corner of NYS. James Fenton commissioned **Fenton Deaconess Home** (dedicated in 1917) in honor of his mother and wife who were both Deaconesses.

The Methodist Sunday School Association of Troy and Vicinity was active at the **Methodist Farm** on Crooked Lake in Rensselaer County (Albany District). As with the Round Lake camp meeting grounds, what happened there evolved.

“*What to Keep and what to Toss*” in local church records was the topic of Karen Staulter’s program presentation at the September 30, 2017 meeting of the Upper New York United Methodist Historical Society at the UNY conference center in Liverpool. Ms. Staulter is the former archivist of Troy Annual Conference and the archivist for Upper New York Conference.

**Records have a retention period depending on type.** After that retention period ends (7 years for some records), the records – depending on what they are and church and locality rules – should either be *archived* or *shredded* (such as cashed checks). Historical records will include local church history records and vital records (membership records, baptisms, marriages, etc.). For closed church records, the District Superintendent is responsible for turning them over to the conference archives. The Local Church Records Schedule is available from UMC’s General Commission on Archives and History and is part of GCAH’s Managing Records of the Local Church. There are also guidelines at [gcah.org](http://gcah.org) for managing electronic records and a link to Cokesbury to buy *Guidelines for the Church Historian: Remembering the Past and Inspiring the Future*.

GCAH also offers online archival leaflets on photograph preservation basics, encapsulation, oral history, and a homemade humidifier.

See box for GCAH links to local church records resources.

A quote from GCAH: “*In order for our future to have a past we must be concerned for the records of today. The development of a records management policy is the first step in preserving our past by deciding what needs to be kept today. A concern for the historical, the legal and the fiscal needs of our church motivates us to faithfully preserve our important records.*”

# What to Keep and What to Toss in Local Church Records

Based on a presentation by Karen Staulter

The United Methodist Archives and History Center is located at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey.

## RESOURCES ON LOCAL CHURCH RECORDS

See [www.gcah.org/resources/managing-records-of-the-annual-conference-and-local-church](http://www.gcah.org/resources/managing-records-of-the-annual-conference-and-local-church). *Managing Records of the Local Church* is available there in pdf format and in Word version; as is a pdf version of *Guidelines for Managing Digital Records*.

*Guidelines for Retaining the Records of Closed United Methodist Churches 2017 Edition* is available at [s3.amazonaws.com/gcah.org/Resources/Guidelines\\_Publications/Closed-Local-Church-Records-Guidelines-2017](https://s3.amazonaws.com/gcah.org/Resources/Guidelines_Publications/Closed-Local-Church-Records-Guidelines-2017).

See [www.gcah.org/resources/basic-archives](http://www.gcah.org/resources/basic-archives) for links to *Guidelines for the Church Historian* and the archival leaflets mentioned.

See [www.gcah.org/resources/how-to-write-a-local-church-history](http://www.gcah.org/resources/how-to-write-a-local-church-history) for the 2009 revised online version of Dr. Frederick E. Maser’s 1996 booklet.

See [www.gcah.org/resources/celebrating-history](http://www.gcah.org/resources/celebrating-history) for *A Traveler’s Guide to Heritage Landmarks, Celebrating our United Methodist Heritage, and Women’s History in the Local Church*.

## UNY Historical Society Meetings



Christ Church in Duanesburg

The June 2017 meeting of the Upper New York United Methodist Historical Society was in Esperance, New York (Oneonta District). An illustrated program on Methodist churches of Schoharie County was presented during lunch by Ken Jones. After lunch (with for some a visit inside Esperance-Sloansville UMC), there was an optional tour of the 1793 Christ’s Church (Episcopal) in Duanesburg and a visit to the 1807 Friends Meeting House in Quaker Street.

The Upper New York United Methodist Historical Society will meet next starting 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, **June 16, 2018** at Clyde United Methodist Church at 84 Sodus Street in Clyde, NY (between Rochester and Syracuse in Finger Lakes District). The church will host lunch. Loreen Jorgensen (Have Churches Will Travel) will present on Methodist churches in Wayne County. All welcome.

More details will be distributed later.

INTERESTED in BECOMING INVOLVED in the  
**MINISTRY of MEMORY** in the UNITED METHODIST CHURCH?  
 Want to *Preserve the Past, Inform the Future?*



Join the HISTORICAL SOCIETY of the  
 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (HSUMC)

*through the*

**UPPER NEW YORK UNITED METHODIST  
 HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Dear Friend of United Methodist History:

This is an invitation to join both the Upper New York United Methodist Historical Society (UNYUMHS) and the denominational Historical Society of the United Methodist church (HSUMC) and save money in the process. ***The HSUMC has a policy of reducing its annual dues by 10%/year if you join through your local historical society as an individual.*** For specific costs, see next page. We urge you to take advantage of this opportunity to become a member of both the Upper New York and the national historical societies, not only to keep abreast of what is happening in United Methodist history but to take advantage of the opportunity to be a part of the ministry and mission of recovering and preserving the History of your local church and your denomination.

**BENEFITS OF JOINING THE UNYUMHS:**



- ❖ Receive *UNY Historical News & Views* newsletter (with historical vignettes and events, practical tips, and photos), periodic updates of happenings throughout the Upper New York Conference related to United Methodist history including notices of meetings and programs
- ❖ Become a member of the regional Methodist historical community, including an invitation to the private Facebook UNY-UMHS group which has pictures, historical notes, and resources
- ❖ Receive the Northeastern Jurisdictional *Bulletin*, published quarterly by the Northeastern Jurisdictional Commission on Archives and History

**BENEFITS OF JOINING THE HSUMC** (<http://www.historicalsocietyunitedmethodistchurch.org/>):



- ❖ Receive four issues of *Methodist History*, the official scholarly journal of United Methodist History throughout the connection – now with a choice of receiving it online with reduced dues
- ❖ Receive four issues of *Historian's Digest*, which will keep you abreast of happenings in the United Methodist historical community, including dates and programs of annual meetings, historical conferences and programs being offered throughout the connection, and stories of interest to local historians and members of commissions on archives and history, as well as providing updates on research being done in the field of United Methodist history
- ❖ Become a member of The United Methodist Church's historical community
- ❖ Receive a discount (10%) on publications of the General Commission on Archives and History

## UPPER NEW YORK METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to join (or renew membership in) the Upper New York United Methodist Historical Society – UNY-UMHS:

(Annual membership is renewable in quarter joined: Jan.-March; April-June; July-September; October-December.)

**Individual:** \$7.50 annually \_\_\_\_\_

**Institution:** \$15 per year \_\_\_\_\_



United Methodist residing in *or* reporting to Upper New York Conference

OR other person/institution interested in UNY Methodist history – Associate Membership

**(optional)** I also wish to join the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church (HSUMC).

(Please note: you *must also join UNY-UMHS* to receive reduced dues to HSUMC;

the amounts listed below reflect a 10% reduction in the regular HSUMC dues for joint members.)

I wish to receive *Methodist History* **online** (provide e-mail):

Individual: \$18.00 for one year \_\_\_\_\_

Student: \$10.00 for one year \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to receive a **paper copy** of *Methodist History*:

Individual/Institution: \$31.50 per year \_\_\_\_\_

Benefactor: \$100 (receive a tax exemption for \$68.50) \_\_\_\_\_

*No reduction in HSUMC dues for benefactors or life members.*

Life member: \$500.00 (one-time payment) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ new/\_\_\_\_renewal membership **Total due:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please total all lines and make **one** check payable to the Upper New York Conference - with notation on check that for *UNY Historical Society* - and mail to the name and address below. Your dues will be recorded by quarter and a renewal will be sent to you during the quarter you paid your annual dues.

(Checks received by the Society's membership/recording secretary below will be forwarded for cashing.)

Nancy Rutenber  
18 Briarwood Ter.  
Albany, NY 12203

### BLACK RIVER CONFERENCE

Black River Conference was an old Methodist conference in the Upper New York area. It *split off in 1836* from the Methodist Episcopal *Oneida Conference* with Herkimer, Oswego, Black River and Potsdam Districts. Another district was added within two years. Black River Conference continued growing for some years. In 1859 it had eight districts: Rome, Syracuse, Camden, Oswego, Adams, Watertown, Ogdensburg, and Potsdam. The 1868 General Conference apparently cut it back to four districts; *with some territory switches* with Oneida / Central New York Conference, it *became Northern New York Conference in 1872/1873*.

### FAST FACTS

With more than 168,000 members, the Upper New York Annual (Regional) Conference of The United Methodist Church comprises 867 local churches and 65 new faith communities in 12 districts, covering 48,000 square miles in 49 of the 62 counties in New York State.

### AROUND UPPER NEW YORK



2009 boundaries

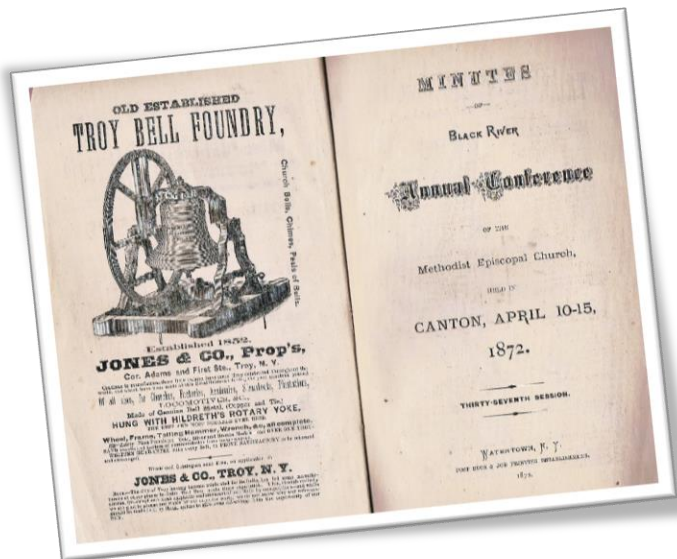
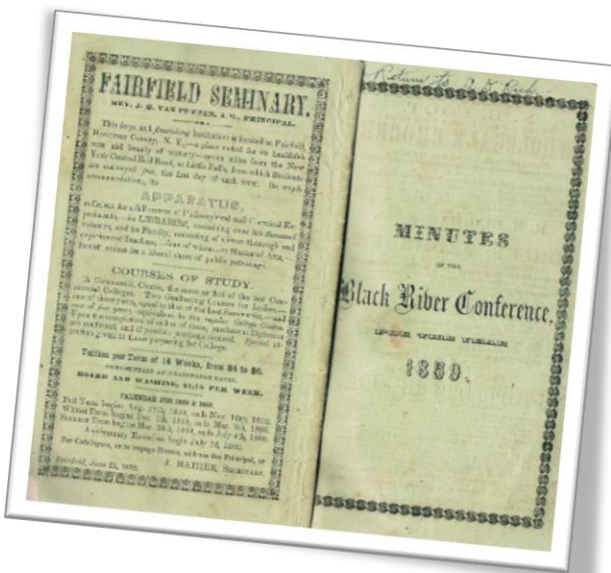
Troy Conference and Wyoming Conference were each in two states. The parts in Pennsylvania and Vermont went to other conferences in 2010 when the NYS parts of North Central New York, Troy, Western New York, and Wyoming Conferences merged.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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The UNY Historical Society Facebook page for its members and the UNYCAH team has a Black River Conference photo album with scans of selected yearbook pages from 1857, 1859, and 1868 along with scans of all the 1872 yearbook which was the last Black River Conference yearbook.



## Upper New York United Methodist Historical Society

### NEXT ISSUE:

#### Watch for MORE

- Vignettes of Methodist/EUB history in Upper New York Conference
- Tips
- Archives highlights
- Historical Society news
- Historical tidbits
- Photos/Scans



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John Wesley: "I look on all the world as my parish...."