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# Our Conference Historical Societies: Their Organization, Purpose, and Accomplishments

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# OUR Conference Historical Societies Their Organization, Purpose and Accomplishments

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AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BEFORE THE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE UPPER SOUTH  
CAROLINA CONFERENCE, MAIN STREET CHURCH,  
GREENWOOD, S. C., NOVEMBER 3, 1931

AND BEFORE THE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA  
CONFERENCE, TRINITY CHURCH, SUMTER,  
S. C., NOVEMBER 10, 1931

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By J. M. ROGERS,  
Of the South Carolina Conference

## FOREWORD

Much of the material used in preparing this address was gathered from the Minutes of the South Carolina Conference from 1856 to 1930, and from the Minutes of the Upper South Carolina Conference since its organization in 1915. The files of the Southern Christian Advocate furnished some data also. Of the books consulted mention should be made of Chreitzberg's "Early Methodism in the Carolinas," Shipp's "History of Methodism in South Carolina," McTyeire's "History of Methodism," DuBose's "Life of Francis Asbury" and Garber's "Romance of American Methodism." Various pamphlets and manuscripts were referred to also, many of which are in the Archives of the Historical Society at Wofford College.

To two of my brethren I am indebted for valuable assistance rendered me in this work. To Dr. W. C. Kirkland, upon whose nomination this honor came to me, I am due hearty thanks for access to his file of Minutes and for his help in reading them. To Rev. J. F. Hoffmeyer I am due a like expression of thanks for his company on my visit to the Repository of the Societies at Wofford College and for his assistance in research there.

The pamphlet is sent out with the hope that it will help to create a larger interest in the effort to preserve the glorious history of our Methodism.

J. M. R.

Heath Springs, S. C., June 27, 1932.

## OUR CONFERENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETIES: THEIR ORGANIZATION, PURPOSE AND ACCOMPLISHMENT

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An address delivered before the Historical Society of the Upper South Carolina Conference, Main Street Church, Greenwood, S. C., November 3, 1931; and before the Historical Society of the South Carolina Conference, Trinity Church, Sumter, S. C., November 10, 1931.

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By J. M. ROGERS, of the South Carolina Conference

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### Introductory

At the last session of the South Carolina Annual Conference when the Executive Committee of the Historical Society met to select a speaker for this year they chose the subject for the address also. That was an unusual action on the part of the Committee, but there was a reason for it. This year is the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Historical Society. With that fact in view the Committee recommended that the exercises of the two Societies this year should be an observance of that event—a sort of diamond jubilee in the history of the parent Society. And accompanying the recommendation of the Committee was the request that the address should be a sketch of the Societies, or a review of their organization, purpose and accomplishment. The Committee's recommendation for such an observance at this time and its suggestion as to the subject of the address, together with the nomination of a speaker for the occasion, was confirmed by vote of the Society. The result of that vote has been a matter of information for both Societies throughout the year.

To be privileged to perform this task is an honor for which I am not ungrateful. And it is appreciated the more because of the manner in which it came. It was a call to perform a more public service than usual and one that came unsought and unexpected amid the unpretentious labors of a pastor in the small town and rural communities. Having been invited to perform this task I am present, through the blessing of God, to render the service as best I may. If the hearing of this address shall give but a small measure of the profit and enjoyment that have been experienced in the preparation of it, then I shall be both satisfied and happy.

### The Subject

The subject assigned me for this hour, "Our Historical Societies," would seem, on first thought, to be one chiefly of local interest and significance. But since Methodism is connectional in spirit and worldwide in action her marvelous history everywhere is a part of our inheritance in South Carolina. At first the sources of information for this address seemed limited. But with investigation and study the subject has grown in interest and fruitfulness. Surprising have been its unfoldings, and really thrilling have been the many facts which a little research has brought to light. So instead of being handicapped by lack

of material I have been overwhelmed by the richness of the theme and embarrassed by a consciousness of my own inability to present it justly and satisfactorily.

### Historical Setting

During the last century marked educational progress was made in South Carolina Methodism. For a long time the term "ignorant and unlearned men" was applied to Methodist preachers in general. Whether or not that name was deserved one thing is certain; they have left behind a glorious record of their zeal for knowledge and of their love for learning. As early as 1793 Mount Bethel Academy, located in Newberry county, was projected and the work of the school began the next year. This was the first high school among the Methodists of Carolina. After some years this school was discontinued, and about ~~1925~~ 1820 Tabernacle Academy was brought into existence. It was made famous and glorious because of the conversion of Stephen Olin while teaching there. This school was superseded by Mount Ariel Academy. Shortly afterwards the name Mount Ariel was changed to Cokesbury and the Academy became the Cokesbury Conference School. This was about 1825. The exact date is uncertain. Wofford College was founded in 1851 and Columbia College in 1854. Lander College had its beginning in 1872 and Carlisle School in 1892. Thus through the entire century Methodism in South Carolina was unceasingly and vigorously active in behalf of higher education. Her record of accomplishment in that field has not, we dare say, been surpassed by any other Conference of our own Church, nor by the like work of any other denomination within the same length of time.

Two other institutions of the Church, educational in purpose and in work, were established within this period. The Southern Christian Advocate was founded in 1837 and the Conference Historical Society was organized in 1856. It is the last named institution alone that this paper attempts to sketch briefly. The other institutions have been mentioned merely to show the setting of this one. All taken together form a grand constellation in the educational heavens of Methodism. The Historical Society is not a star of the first magnitude in that splendid group. But for seventy-five years its shining has helped to light the way of our Church's progress in South Carolina. The light that it has shed, comparatively feeble, perhaps, has helped our people to read with better understanding the record of Methodism's early struggles and to interpret more correctly her heroic spirit and her apostolic faith.

### Organization

It was in 1856, during the the sixty-ninth session of the South Carolina Annual Conference, that the Historical Society was organized. The Conference met that year in Yorkville (now York), South Carolina. Its sessions were held in the Court House and were presided over by Bishop James O. Andrew. From the minutes of that Conference, 1856, I quote the following account of the organization:

"In compliance with a previous call, a number of the members of the South Carolina Conference met on Friday afternoon, 3 o'clock, Novem-

ber 21st, 1856, in the Court House of Yorkville, South Carolina, for the purpose of organizing a Methodist Historical Society.

Whatcoat A. Gamewell was called to the chair and Paul A. M. Williams requested to act as Secretary.

The Secretary then read to the meeting the Constitution and Circular of the Methodist Historical Society of the Baltimore Conference; when, on motion, a committee of five, consisting of Paul A. M. Williams, Abel M. Chreitzberg, F. A. Mood, A. G. Stacy, and W. T. Caston were appointed to draft a Constitution and nominate officers.

After consultation the Committee reported, through their Chairman, the following Constitution and nominations which were submitted and adopted:

### Constitution

Article I. This Association shall be denominated the "Historical Society of the South Carolina Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South."

Article II. The object of the Society shall be to collect and preserve information in connection with the rise and progress of Methodism within the bounds of the South Carolina Annual Conference, and elsewhere; likewise objects of curiosity and interest, in the form of manuscripts, books, pamphlets, medals, portraits, &c., and anything that may shed light upon this interesting subject.

Article III. The property of the Association shall be deposited at Wofford College, and each article numbered and labelled legibly with the name of the Association, the name of the donor, and the date at which it was presented—the number, &c. to correspond with a like entry upon a register kept for that purpose.

Article IV. All the property of the Association shall be open to the inspection of the members of the Society and others, under such restrictions and regulations as may be adopted by the Board of Curators; and in no case, shall any article of any kind be removed from the Museum, or Depository; which Depository shall contain, under the same restrictions and regulations, for the benefit of the members, a Library, as rapidly formed as circumstances may admit.

Article V. The interests of the Society shall be under the supervision of a President, three Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, Recording Secretary, three Curators, and a Board of nine Managers; the said officers to be elected annually, and continue in office until their successors be appointed.

Article VI. The Officers and Managers shall meet annually at the seat of the Conference Session. Five shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, the Curators being ex-officio members of the Board.

The Society shall meet annually during the Conference Sessions, for the purpose of hearing a Lecture, electing officers and attending to any other necessary business. The time and places of the meeting of the Board and Society shall be made known by the President of the Association.

Article VII. An initiation fee of fifty cents, and an annual con-

tribution of fifty cents, shall constitute a member for one year; ten dollars a Life Member; and donations of value shall constitute the donor an Honorary Member.

Article VIII. The Board of Managers shall have charge of the interests of the Society, and the Curators during the intervals of the meeting of said Board; the remaining officers shall perform the duties usually appertaining to such offices.

Article IX. This Constitution may be altered or amended at any annual meeting of the Society by a vote of two-thirds of the members present, provided such alteration has been previously approved by the Board of Managers.

The following names were then subscribed to the Constitution, by the payment of the initiation fee and annual subscription:

David W. Seale	A. M. Shipp
John W. Crider	James W. Wightman
Chas. S. Walker	H. A. C. Walker
Colin Murchinson	M. Puckett
Wm. W. Mood	A. H. Stephens
A. M. Chreitzberg	Wm. M. Wightman
John D. W. Crook	J. A. Minnick
Samuel B. Jones	John R. Pickett
Whitefoord Smith	James S. Erwin
C. H. Pritchard	L. A. Johnson
Wm. H. Flemming	J. P. Hughes
Thomas Raysor	R. W. Burgess
R. J. Boyd	Samuel Leard
A. W. Walker	Charles Betts
Osgood A. Darby	Hartwell Spain
W. T. Caston	Joseph Cross
Nicholas Talley	W. A. Gamewell
Charles Taylor	A. G. Stacy
Bond English	John W. Kelly
James Stacy	F. Milton Kennedy
F. A. Mood	D. J. Simmons
Paul A. M. Williams	S. Bobo
E. J. Meynardie	W. L. Pegues
Wm. A. Hemingway	J. W. Miller
J. F. Walker	J. S. Connor
John A. Porter	R. R. Pegues
Thos. G. Herbert	G. K. Andrews
Wm. Carson	S. Townsend
J. T. DuBose	John Watts
A. L. Smith	A. H. Lester
J. W. Murray	G. W. Moore
J. H. Wilson	Landy Wood
Robert Bryce	G. H. Round
John Finger	Wm. Crook."
Tracy R. Walsh	

The roll call of these sixty-nine names brings before the older men of both Conferences today a vision of the forms and faces of a goodly num-

ber of the original members of the Historical Society. The writer recalls having seen twenty of that historic company. The last survivor of them was Rev. Thomas G. Herbert who passed to his eternal rest, from his superannuate home in Leesville, South Carolina, during the session of the Annual Conference in Newberry in 1902.

"The officers elected to serve the Society for the first year were:

President, W. A. Gamewell.

First Vice President, Wm. M. Wightman.

Second Vice President, Whitefoord Smith.

Secretary, Paul A. M. Williams.

Recording Secretary, A. G. Stacy.

Treasurer, Thomas Raysor.

Curators: Robert Bryce, W. T. Caston, S. Bobo.

Managers: Robert J. Boyd, William Martin, S. Leard, A. M. Chreitzberg, James Stacy, Joseph Cross, Wm. A. McSwain, F. A. Mood, Samuel B. Jones.

Whitefoord Smith was elected to deliver the address before the Society at its next meeting."

This glance at the organization of the Historical Society shows a beginning that promised to make it an institution of usefulness in preserving Methodist history. The men who brought it into existence and started it upon its mission were possessed of large vision, of earnest purpose, of flaming zeal, and of passionate love for Methodism as a chosen agency for bringing the Kingdom of God among men. Great names are many of those which appear on that original roll. But time would fail us to characterize even a few of the number. Among them were men of titanic mould and gigantic growth.

### Purpose

The purpose for which the Historical Society was organized was clearly stated in the beginning. By request, the Secretary, Paul A. M. Williams, prepared an article setting forth its object and purpose. That article was published in the Minutes of the Annual Conference of that year, 1856, and also in the Southern Christian Advocate. The following liberal quotation from it will show its timeliness:

"By formal resolution I have been appointed to prepare an address for the public setting forth the object and purpose of our Association, and urging upon all lovers and friends of Methodism to aid us in the praiseworthy enterprise upon which we are now entering. Our second article defines our object to be to collect and preserve information in connection with the rise and progress of Methodism within the bounds of the South Carolina Annual Conference, and elsewhere; likewise objects of curiosity and interest in the form of manuscripts, books, pamphlets, medals, portraits, autographs, &c., &c., and anything that may shed light upon this interesting subject. It is further proposed to form a library as rapidly as possible for the benefit of the members. These objects will, no doubt, commend themselves to your hearty approval, and elicit your active cooperation.

"As a Church we have no written history of our origin, progress and movements in the South. Our earlier periodicals contain many facts



and incidents worthy of preservation. There are here and there a few old Methodists yet lingering amongst us who lived and labored in the days of Asbury and his coadjutors, in whose memories are stored away many things of interest, and in whose possession may, perhaps, be found brief journals, autograph letters, plans of circuits, class books, stewards' books, &c., &c. Now is it not highly important that we make haste to gather up these fragments that nothing of them be lost? This can be done by inquiry and personal application. It is therefore earnestly hoped that every member and friend of our society will bestir himself in this good work; for what is done in it must be done quickly. Our old members are passing away, and a few years later will greatly add to the difficulty of carrying out successfully our objects. Many objects of interest exist amongst us that we should not willingly let die. Let us make haste to gather them up, and hand them down to posterity. By the collection of books, manuscripts, &c., the future historian of Southern Methodism will be greatly aided in his labors and may furnish us with a record of facts and incidents of which none of us need be ashamed.

"All who may read this brief exposition are kindly solicited to consider its object, and aid, as far as may be in their power, the accomplishment of the wishes of the Society."

We learn from both the Constitution and this address to the public that in organizing the Historical Society the founders had in mind two objectives. The first of these was to collect relics of interest and to preserve information concerning Methodism's rise and progress within the bounds of the South Carolina Conference and elsewhere. Something of what the Society has accomplished in working towards its first objective will be told later. Just here I wish to speak briefly of the second objective which the organizers had in mind.

The second purpose in the organization of the the Historical Society was to form a library for the use of its members. For fifty years the Conference had been active in the cause of education. Wofford College and Columbia College had but recently thrown open their doors to our youth of the state. The fathers had made provision whereby their sons might be "as plants grown up in their youth," and their daughters be "as cornerstones polished after the similitude of a palace." (Psalms 144:12.) Now they thought about themselves and sought to make opportunity for self-help, and to give larger advantages to their younger itinerant brethren.

So far as has been learned from the records the work of forming the proposed library progressed rather slowly. At the meeting of the Society in 1861 the Treasurer was instructed to place with the Curators the sum of fifty dollars for the purchase of books. These were to be bought with the advice and concurrence of Dr. A. M. Shipp. At this same meeting the books of the late Bishop William Capers were presented to the Society. From time to time a few volumes of history, biography, and of ecclesiastical and theological works were donated, and some manuscripts also. But a usable library of adequate size was not formed. However the purpose of the founders was not in vain. It has borne fruit in subsequent efforts to provide courses of reading and

study for the benefit of our preachers. Many of us recall the Oxford League of some thirty years ago. It was short-lived, but it numbered in its membership some of the best minds in the Conference, and its prescribed course of reading and study was a liberal one.

Another like undertaking of a later date was a course of study, chiefly by correspondence, under the direction of Dr. A. G. Rembert, of Wofford College. This course consisted principally of studies in New Testament Greek and in psychology. It supplied a fine opportunity to those who had been denied the privilege of a college course. Some of our earnest preachers, in that number, availed themselves of that fine advantage.

About that time the Pastors' School was begun. This institution has superseded all former movements for individual study and self-improvement. It brings to all our preachers the privilege of study under the direction of some of the best and most experienced teachers from the schools and pulpits of Methodism. There may be ventured the suggestion that this opportunity for study and learning and training which our two conferences furnish to their preachers today is the realization of the dream of the fathers in their purpose to form a library for the use of the members of the Historical Society of their day. These wonderful present day privileges are the fruitage of their sowing of love and zeal for knowledge. Our attainments bespeak their wisdom and foresight. The Historical Society which they founded seventy-five years ago has not only been preserving material for Methodist history but it has also been helping, through these decades, to make a history of better type and finer character.

### Progress

In its progress through the years the Society has kept steadily before it the high purpose of the founders. Those who have directed its course, administered its affairs and done its work have held to the ideals of the fathers. They have been actuated by the same love for the Church and by the same high purpose to preserve the glorious history of Methodism. So well conceived were the plan and scope of its work, and so complete and capable was the provision to accomplish its objective that there has arisen no necessity for any marked change in its *modus operandi*. For forty years the Constitution was not altered. In 1896, at the annual meeting of the Society at Conference in Abbeville a committee, consisting of A. M. Chreitzberg, W. C. Power, and A. J. Stokes, was appointed to revise the Constitution and to report at the next meeting. Accordingly this committee rendered its report the next year, 1897, at the annual meeting in Florence. The report was adopted and the Constitution as revised by that committee is the one under which the Historical Society works today. It is a shorter document than was the original, and it provides a simpler organization. The first Constitution consisted of nine articles while the second one has but six. The old Constitution provided for a President, three Vice Presidents, a Secretary, a Recording Secretary, a Treasurer, three Curators and a Board of Managers composed of nine members. Our present Constitution names as the officers of the Society

a President, two Vice Presidents, a Secretary-Treasurer, one Curator, and it designates these five officers a Board of Managers. Under the old Constitution the officers of the Society were elected annually, while under the revised or present Constitution they are elected quadrennially, at the meeting next preceding the General Conference. The article that called for the forming of a library for the use of the members of the Society was eliminated by the revisers. As has been mentioned already, that need is being met today through other agencies. The abbreviations and changes made in revising the Constitution did not affect it in any of its essentials. We exist today, for the same high purpose as at the beginning and we are working towards the same praiseworthy accomplishment.

During its seventy-five years' existence the Historical Society has held regularly its annual meeting. In a few instances the minutes of the yearly meeting were not published in the minutes of the Conference. But from other sources we learn of the unbroken continuity of its annual meetings and are able to give, in regular order, the names of the principal officers. In addition to the regular meeting each year a few special meetings of the Society have been held at the call of the President. In 1898 and 1899 special meetings were held at Wofford College in June during commencement. The attendance each year was good and there was manifested an enthusiastic spirit. A large number of valuable contributions was made at those mid-year meetings.

Since its organization the Society has had fourteen different Presidents. Among these have been some of the most distinguished men whose names are recorded in our Church history in South Carolina. The length of time which each served varies from one year in some instances to several quadrenniums in others. The longest term as President was served by H. B. Browne who held the office for nineteen years, 1898-1916. The second longest term in this office was served by A. M. Shipp, twelve years, 1860 and 1862-1872. The third term of service in length was that of M. L. Carlisle, the first President of the Historical Society of the Upper South Carolina Conference, eleven years, 1915-1926. The record for the longest term of service given the Society by any officer has been made by Dr. D. D. Wallace, of Wofford College, the Curator of both Historical Societies. He was elected to this office in 1899 and has served continuously through thirty-one years. To his capable and painstaking labors the Societies owe much of their present accomplishment.

In any enterprise success comes through the willing, faithful, cooperative service of its friends and supporters as a body. This has been true of the Historical Society. The minutes of its yearly meetings are a record of earnest service rendered the Society by its membership as a whole. From first to last the record contains several hundred names of men who labored zealously to help the Institution meet its worthy purpose. These all obtained a good report and died in the faith. Of these there may be fittingly mentioned a few whose wise leadership and large effort gave to them a more than average place among their brethren. Such a roll of our deceased members would necessarily include the names of A. M. Shipp, F. A. Mood, Samuel

Leard, A. M. Chreitzberg, Bishop W. W. Duncan, W. W. Mood, H. B. Browne, S. A. Weber, and John O. Willson. Perhaps other names might, with equal justice, be added to this number. But the list cannot be lengthened now. And of those already named, their vigilant and untiring effort to gather valuable material and their painstaking work in the conduct of the Society cannot be told in detail at this time. A hundred rare and priceless gifts bespeak the love they bore and the labor they bestowed.

As has been said already the Historical Society was organized to be an educating agency as well as to gather and preserve material for the future historian of the Church. To carry out this purpose the Constitution provided for an address at each annual meeting on some subject of historical interest and worth. This address, or lecture as it was then called, was to be one of the important features of the regular meetings of the Society.

The first speaker chosen for this service was Dr. Whitefoord Smith, then professor of English Literature in Wofford College. The address has not been preserved, nor is its subject known. A brief reference to it in the Southern Christian Advocate of that date says that it was "replete with learning." No doubt it was heard with great pleasure and profit. Doctor Smith was then at the meridian of his distinguished career as a pulpit orator. His impressive physical form, his fine face, his musical voice, his faultless pulpit manners, his elocutionary gifts and powers, all combined to give him a place in Methodism's company of "silver tongued orators." There may be ventured the statement that this first lecture before the Historical Society set a high standard for the addresses that have followed from year to year.

From the records that are available, we find that fifty-nine historical addresses have been delivered before the Society at its annual meetings. At fifteen of the meetings between 1856 and 1879 addresses were not delivered, or if so, no record of them was made. Beginning with 1880 the record is complete. A little study of the record of the lectures that have been given from first to last reveals a few interesting facts. Samuel Leard and A. M. Chreitzberg delivered the address four times each. S. A. Weber delivered it three times. Whitefoord Smith, A. M. Shipp, John T. Wightman, W. C. Power, John O. Willson, and W. B. Duncan, each, made the address twice, and J. Walter Daniel whose presence and ministry are still a blessing among us has made the address twice also.

The first layman to perform this service was Dr. James H. Carlisle, then President of Wofford College. He delivered the address at the regular meeting of the Society during Conference in Spartanburg in 1887. He was chosen the speaker twice after this; for the annual meeting in Charleston in 1892 and again in Spartanburg in 1905, but he was unable to attend those meetings. He addressed the two special meetings of the Society which were held at Wofford College during Commencement in 1898 and 1899. The next layman to give the address was Prof. W. S. Morrison of Clemson College, at Orangeburg in 1899. Since then Dr. D. D. Wallace and Dr. J. G. Clinkscales, laymen, both of Wofford College, have rendered that service, the one at Greenville and Florence in 1916 and the other at

Union and Georgetown in 1920. It would be interesting and informing to study, even briefly, the different Historical addresses that have been delivered before the Society from year to year. But time would fail us to mention the subjects even, while to attempt a review of the speeches themselves would be to leave a great task but half finished.

Through a period of several years there was, now and then, some agitation of the question of dividing the South Carolina Conference into two bodies. Sentiment in favor of such a movement gradually grew and in 1914 the division was legally made. With this action came the work of organizing the new body, the Upper South Carolina Conference. At its first session which was held in Bethel Church, Spartanburg, the Historical Society of the Upper South Carolina Conference was organized, November 23, 1915. M. L. Carlisle was elected President, J. L. Stokes First Vice President, J. B. Traywick Second Vice President, A. E. Driggers Secretary-Treasurer, and Dr. D. D. Wallace Curator. The Constitution of the parent Society was adopted as the Constitution of the new Historical Society. E. T. Hodges delivered the address at this first meeting of the new organization. The subject of the address was "The Life of Methodism." Dr. D. D. Wallace was chosen the speaker for the next year, 1916. Beginning with 1916 the two Historical Societies have, by mutual agreement, alternated in the election of the annual lecturer, and the speaker chosen has, since then, addressed both societies. Sprung from one common origin, possessed of the same noble heritage, compassed about by the same great cloud of witnesses, our two Historical Societies are working together at the one worthy task of preserving the glorious history of our beloved Methodism.

### **Accomplishment**

There remains to be told something of what the Historical Society has accomplished during these seventy-five years. It was the original plan, and was so stated in the Constitution, that all material gathered should be kept at Wofford College. The trustees of that Institution placed at the disposal of the Society a room in the Main building for a Repository. When the Whitefoord Smith Library building was erected some years ago a room in it was assigned the Society for its Museum. Both Historical Societies use the same Repository and both have the same Curator.

In the Repository are to be found miscellaneous souvenirs and relics, books and pamphlets, manuscripts and personal letters, photographs, note books, records of old churches, journals of quarterly conferences, and a wealth of historic material in general. Of the miscellaneous souvenirs, about fifty in number, I mention the following:

The walking cane of Bishop Asbury.

A lock of Bishop McKendree's hair.

The pocket compass used by Rev. Daniel Asbury in his itinerant labors 1786-1825.

A rock from the chimney of old Mount Bethel Academy.

The first bell used by the Cokesbury Conference School.

The Episcopal seal of Bishop William Capers. It was presented by

Rev. Ellison Capers, a son of Bishop William Capers, and later a Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

The pair of saddle-bags used by Rev. John Attaway.

A walking cane procured by the Honorable William C. Preston at Appii Forum, or the Three Taverns, Rome, Italy. Mr. Preston presented this cane to Rev. William Martin.

Several photographs of persons and places. Of these I mention the photograph of the old brick church, Winnsboro, S. C., in which Bishop Asbury preached, that of the house in which Dr. James H. Carlisle was born, and the one of the house in which our first China mission was planned. The collection of photographs should be larger than it is for the minutes of the meeting of the Society for 1860 say that "on motion, it was resolved that each preacher be requested to have his likeness taken, at his own expense, as a contribution to the Society,—the likeness so furnished to be labeled by the Curators and placed in the Society's Museum." This resolution, it appears, was not carried out. Whether it was disregarded because of too little money or because of too much modesty is not recorded.

In the Repository are four hundred and sixty-five volumes of books. Most of these are old and rare and could not be purchased today. These are books on doctrine, dogmatics, homiletics, theology, preaching, missions, Sunday schools and of history and biography. There is a file of the Methodist Discipline. There are ninety-five old Record books of churches and of district, quarterly and other conferences. There are biographies each of John Wesley, George Whitefield, Adam Clark, Richard Watson, John Fletcher, Freeborn Garrettson, Lorenzo Dow, and of Bishops Coke, Asbury, and Roberts, besides sketches of some preachers of later date. Perhaps the most valuable and sacred book in the entire collection is the copy of the New Testament that Bishop Asbury used in his itinerant labors in this country. From beginning to end verses and passages are distinctly and neatly marked. These, no doubt, were the texts from which he preached, calling sinners to repentance and believers to growth in grace, as he travelled "the long road" up and down the Atlantic seaboard. To hold this book in one's hand, turn its pages, and read its marked and emphasized passages is to stand in the presence of one of Methodism's most apostolic and heroic spirits.

The articles of greatest value which the Society has gathered are, perhaps, the manuscripts. This collection consists of sermons, addresses, ordination certificates, letters, Bishop's messages and other such papers. These fill forty-five containers. In all there are several hundred separate articles. Many of these priceless papers deserve to be named and their history told, but that cannot be done now. Let it suffice to name the following only:

The parchment of Rev. John Harper, signed by John Wesley, August 4, 1787.

The ordination certificate of Rev. James Jenkins, signed by Bishops Coke and Asbury.

The funeral sermon of Bishop Asbury which was preached by Freeborn Garrettson.



Sermon by Bishop McKendree preached at the ordination of elders at Middlebury, Vermont, 1817.

The address of Bishop Asbury to the General Conference in Baltimore in 1816. This is, doubtless, the most valuable paper in the entire collection. This address was written in South Carolina during Bishop Asbury's last visit to the state. The manuscript is in his own handwriting, and it carries on its heading the follow notation of place and time: "Up the Santee River Seventy Miles from Charleston, January 8th, 1816." The old Bishop had hoped to have a midwinter rest in Charleston. He was on his way to that city when he made the last entry in his Journal, December 7, 1815, at Granby, near Columbia. But so feeble was he and so slowly did he travel, that he was forced to abandon the purposed visit to Charleston. Somewhere between that city and Columbia he turned northward and started upon the long, slow, tedious journey which he hoped would bring him to Baltimore for the meeting of the General Conference in that city in May following. Somewhere on the Santee river, evidently not far from where state highway number thirty crosses that majestic stream today, he rested and put in manuscript form this notable address. It was never read to that General Conference for the old "prophet of the long road" did not himself reach Baltimore. By slow and laborious stages he continued on the journey, and towards the latter part of March, 1816, he arrived at the home of an old friend, George Arnold, thirty miles from Fredericksburg, Virginia. This was his last halt, for in that friendly home, on March 31, 1816, the old hero ended his labors in the Church Militant and, from there, went up to join that high council of the Church Triumphant. This invaluable manuscript came into the possession of Rev. Daniel Asbury, a brother of Bishop Francis Asbury, and was given by him to the Society.

It would be an omission of a worth-while accomplishment not to mention the books, pamphlets and manuscripts that have been written by various members of the Historical Societies. Such work has usually been undertaken by request. The Historical addresses that have been delivered at the annual meetings of the Societies make a body of most excellent literature. They include Methodist history, biography, organization, institutional beginnings and growth such as our educational, Sunday school, missionary and Church extension enterprises, and other subjects vital and valuable. Prior to 1898 these addresses were not printed in pamphlet form. Many of the manuscripts were ordered to be deposited in the Society's Archives and some were requested for publication in the Southern Christian Advocate. If all were collected and put in book form they would fill several volumes of convenient size. And the number would be increased if there should be included the various sketches of persons and churches that were written at the request of the Society.

The most valuable product of this class is Shipp's History of Methodism in South Carolina. The work was undertaken at the request of the Historical Society. The author, Dr. A. M. Shipp, was an original member of the Society and for many years one of its most active workers. First as professor in Wofford College and later its president

for seventeen years, he filled a large and prominent place in South Carolina Methodism during his day. This book is worthy alike the importance of the subject and the possession of both preachers and people.

Another historical work, *Early Methodism in the Carolinas*, by Dr. A. M. Chreitzberg, deserves mention in this connection. It was not written at the request of the Historical Society but at the instance of the South Carolina Conference. The author was, however, one of the founders of the Society and an untiring worker in it to the end of his remarkable itinerant career of fifty-four consecutive years. The Archives of the Society furnished the venerable historian some of the sources from which he gathered information for the writing of this history. In a sense this valuable volume belongs among the Society's accomplishments.

No adequate conception of what has been done through seventy-five years can be gained, and no intelligent appreciation of the magnitude of the accomplishment can be had, without a visit to the Museum and a study of its contents. There are hundreds of separate articles, each one of which is numbered and catalogued and arranged in the commodious cabinets which belong to the Societies. To attempt to name each article and to tell, even in the fewest words possible, something of its history, would be impracticable at this time. If one would know the variety and worth of the material that has been gathered through these years, much of which is rare and of incalculable value, he must "come and see." And when he shall have come, and seen, and studied, and learned he will be constrained, in all honesty, to say that the half had not been told to him.

Our Historical Societies have been teaching us Methodism's history in object lessons. They have been preserving, in sign and symbol, the thrilling story of her providential origin. Through these sacred relics may be traced, in outline, her marvelous expansion and her glorious achievements. They speak inaudibly, but eloquently, of the toils, the struggles and the sacrifices of the fathers. They witness to their loyalty to their Church, their zeal for their Master's cause, their heroic endurance against "fightings without and fears within," and all because the love of Christ constrained them. They tell of revival fires, of the shouts of new-born souls, and of the songs of victory which cheered the old saints as they marched upward to Zion.

The testimony which the accomplishment of the Societies give is the convincing proof of the goodly inheritance into which we have come. It is an inheritance upon which we bestowed no labor. The fathers labored and we have entered into their labors. But the wisdom and impartiality of the divine law of labor rewards us, the sons of the fathers, in that he that reapeth receiveth wages and gathereth fruit unto life eternal; that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together." (John 4:26). They without us could not be made perfect. (Heb. 11:40.) So the Church grows and the Kingdom comes by the toils and ease, the sorrowings and rejoicings of successive generations as they move through the passing years.

Seeing "whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same



rule, let us mind the same thing." (Phil 3:15.) Let us hold fast the faith of the fathers, their spirit of loyalty to the divine Christ, their love in serving a needy world, and their passionate desire for the salvation of the lost. Let us not cease to gather up and cherish the sacred relics of our past. Likewise let us continue to add the worthy tokens of our growing greatness. But let us, with larger zeal and holier passion, labor to make for Methodism a future out of which shall be gathered the imperishable trophies of human souls saved by grace divine. Faithful toil in fields like these will bring the crowning day when our Lord Jesus Christ shall "present to Himself a glorious Church not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing." (Eph. 5:27.)

# CONSTITUTION OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

## Article I. Name

This Association shall be called the Historical Society of the South Carolina Annual Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

## Article II. Membership, Dues, Etc.

Section 1. Every preacher in full connection with the South Carolina Conference shall be eligible to membership in this Society, and may be elected, by acclamation, at any meeting. Each member shall pay an annual fee of twenty-five (25) cents for the maintenance of the work of the Society.

Section 2. Any layman, living within the bounds of the Conference, shall be eligible to membership, and may be elected by acclamation, at any meeting upon the payment of twenty-five (25) cents; and his membership may be continued by the annual payment of a similar sum.

## Article III. Officers, Managers, Etc.

Section 1. The interests of this Society shall be under the supervision of a President, two Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer and a Curator who shall discharge the duties usually pertaining to such offices; said officers shall be elected quadrennially at the sessions of the Annual Conferences next preceding the sessions of the General Conference.

Section 2. The officers of this Society shall also constitute a Board of Managers, who shall have charge of all the interests of the Society ad interim, and shall arrange for the annual meetings, nominate the annual lecturer, and attend to all matters usual to Executive Boards.

## Article IV. Meetings

Section 1. This Society shall meet at least annually, during the sessions of the South Carolina Conference, for the purpose of hearing lectures, sermons, etc., and transacting the business usually pertaining to such organizations. All papers read before the Society shall be considered its property and held as such. The time and place of meeting shall be designated by the President.

Section 2. The President, upon the request of ten members, may call a special meeting, designating time and place, whenever the interests of the Society may be promoted thereby.

Section 3. The meeting at Conference shall be the regular annual meeting of the Society.

## Article V. Object

The object of this Society shall be to collect and preserve all valuable information in connection with the rise and progress of Methodism within the bounds of the South Carolina Conference and elsewhere; also objects of curiosity and interest in the form of manuscripts, books, pamphlets, medals, portraits, and anything else that may be of interest or value.

# ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

No.	Year	Place	PRESIDENT	SECRETARY	LECTURER	SUBJECT
1	1856	Yorkville	W. A. Gamewell	P. A. M. Williams	(Organization	
2	1857	Charlotte, N. C.	W. A. Gamewell	P. A. M. Williams	Whitefoord Smith	
3	1858	Charleston	W. M. Wightman	P. A. M. Williams	A. M. Shipp	Early Methodism in Those Portions of North Carolina Embraced in the South Carolina Conference.
4	1859	Greenville	W. A. Gamewell	P. A. M. Williams		
5	1860	Columbia	A. M. Shipp	A. G. Stacy		
6	1861	Chester	W. A. Gamewell	A. G. Stacy	A. M. Shipp	
7	1862	Spartanburg	A. M. Shipp	A. G. Stacy		
8	1863	Sumter	A. M. Shipp	A. G. Stacy		
9	1864	Newberry	A. M. Shipp	A. G. Stacy	Lovick Pierce	
10	1865	Charlotte, N. C.	A. M. Shipp	A. G. Stacy		
11	1866	Marion	A. M. Shipp	A. G. Stacy		
12	1867	Morganton, N. C.	A. M. Shipp	A. G. Stacy	Samuel Leard	Methodism in Bluffton, S. C.
13	1868	Abbeville	A. M. Shipp	A. G. Stacy		
14	1869	Cheraw	A. M. Shipp	A. G. Stacy		
15	1870	Charleston	A. M. Shipp	A. G. Stacy		
16	1871	Spartanburg	A. M. Shipp	S. Lander	J. T. Wightman	
17	1872	Anderson	A. M. Shipp	S. Lander		
18	1873	Sumter	A. M. Chreitzberg	S. Lander		
19	1874	Greenville	A. M. Chreitzberg	A. J. Stokes		
20	1875	Orangeburg	A. M. Chreitzberg	A. J. Stokes		
21	1876	Chester	A. M. Chreitzberg	A. J. Stokes	J. T. Wightman	
22	1877	Columbia	J. T. Wightman	A. J. Stokes	A. M. Chreitzberg	
23	1878	Newberry	J. T. Wightman	A. J. Stokes		
24	1879	Charleston	J. T. Wightman	A. J. Stokes		
25	1880	Marion	J. T. Wightman	A. J. Stokes	Samuel Leard	
26	1881	Union	W. W. Duncan	A. J. Stokes	Whitefoord Smith	
27	1882	Greenville	W. W. Duncan	A. J. Stafford	Samuel Leard	Reminiscences of Fifty Years Ago
28	1883	Sumter	W. W. Duncan	J. B. Campbell	H. M. Mood	
29	1884	Charleston	W. W. Duncan	G. W. Walker	Samuel Leard	
30	1885	Columbia	S. A. Weber	O. A. Darby	A. M. Chreitzberg	
31	1886	Orangeburg	S. A. Weber	O. A. Darby	W. T. Capers	
32	1887	Spartanburg	S. A. Weber	O. A. Darby	Jas. H. Carlisle	
33	1888	Winnboro	S. A. Weber	O. A. Darby	Samuel Lander	
34	1889	Camden	S. A. Weber	H. B. Browne	John O. Willson	Methodism in Camden
35	1890	Anderson	S. A. Weber	O. A. Darby	W. C. Power	
36	1891	Darlington	A. M. Chreitzberg	A. J. Stokes	S. A. Weber	Sketch of a Revival Forty Years Ago.
37	1892	Charleston	H. F. Chreitzberg	W. I. Herbert	A. M. Chreitzberg	Early Methodism in Charleston.
38	1893	Sumter	R. N. Wells	H. B. Browne	W. W. Mood	
39	1894	Laurens	G. T. Harmon	H. B. Browne	J. W. Daniel	Bishop William M. Wightman.
40	1895	Rock Hill	G. T. Harmon	W. I. Herbert	J. A. Clifton	

## ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE (Continued)

No.	Year	Place	PRESIDENT	SECRETARY	LECTURER	SUBJECT
41	1896	Abbeville	G. T. Harmon	H. B. Browne	W. C. Power	Methodism.
42	1897	Florence	G. T. Harmon	H. B. Browne	A. M. Chreitzberg	Lights and Shadows of the Itinerancy.
43	1898	Greenwood	H. B. Browne	W. A. Betts	Sidi H. Brown	Some Changes within Fifty Years.
44	1899	Orangeburg	H. B. Browne	W. A. Betts	W. S. Morrison	Methodism in and Around Orangeburg.
45	1900	Chester	H. B. Browne	J. M. Steadman	E. O. Watson	Methodist Education in South Carolina.
46	1901	Columbia	H. B. Browne	W. A. Betts	L. F. Beaty	Work of S. C. Methodism Among the Slaves.
47	1902	Newberry	H. B. Browne	J. C. Yongue	A. J. Stokes	The Epiphany of Woman.
48	1903	Greenville	H. B. Browne	J. C. Yongue	S. A. Weber	The Conference of 1859 and Else.
49	1904	Darlington	H. B. Browne	J. C. Yongue	R. E. Stackhouse	Methodism in the Pee Dee.
50	1905	Spartanburg	H. B. Browne	J. C. Yongue	S. A. Weber	The Auld Lang Syne of the S. C. Conference.
51	1906	Columbia	H. B. Browne	J. C. Yongue	W. B. Duncan	The Leadership of Methodism.
52	1907	Gaffney	H. B. Browne	J. C. Yongue	M. L. Carlisle	The Presiding Eldership.
53	1908	Laurens	H. B. Browne	J. C. Yongue	J. S. Beasley	The S. C. Conference 38 Years Ago.
54	1909	Abbeville	H. B. Browne	J. C. Yongue	J. B. Traywick	The Local Preacher in Methodism.
55	1910	Charleston	H. B. Browne	W. M. Duncan	W. B. Duncan	Trials and Triumphs of Charleston Methodism.
56	1911	Bennettsville	H. B. Browne	W. C. Owen	H. R. Browne	Methodist Sunday Schools after 100 Years.
57	1912	Anderson	H. B. Browne	W. C. Owen	J. L. Stokes	The March of Democracy in the M. E. Church, South.
58	1913	Rock Hill	H. B. Browne	W. C. Owen	J. E. Mahaffey	Some Factors of Methodism.
59	1914	Sumter	H. B. Browne	W. C. Owen	John O. Willson	Methodism and Education in S. C.
60	1915	Charleston	H. B. Browne	W. C. Owen	A. D. Betts	South Carolina Methodism and Missions.
61	1916	Florence	C. B. Smith	W. C. Owen	D. D. Wallace	The Historical Background of Religion in South Carolina.
62	1917	Bishopville	C. B. Smith	W. C. Owen	D. M. McLeod	Church Extension.
63	1918	Orangeburg	C. B. Smith	D. D. Jones	J. C. Roper	The Historical Basis for a Methodist Theodicy.
64	1919	McColl	C. B. Smith	D. D. Jones	W. A. Massebeau	The Camp Meeting in S. C. Methodism.
65	1920	Georgetown	C. B. Smith	D. D. Jones	J. G. Clinkscales	The Presiding Eldership from a Layman's Standpoint.
66	1921	St. George	W. H. Hodges	D. D. Jones	T. E. Morris	By-Products of Methodism.
67	1922	Marion	W. H. Hodges	R. R. Tucker	M. M. Brabham	The Hand of Providence in the Methodist Movement.
68	1923	Kingsree	W. H. Hodges	R. R. Tucker	J. W. Daniel	The Background of Methodism in America.
69	1924	Dillon	W. H. Hodges	R. R. Tucker	B. R. Turnipseed	James Jenkins, a Pioneer Knight of the Saddle Bags.
70	1925	Darlington	W. H. Hodges	R. R. Tucker	W. I. Herbert	Woman's Missionary Work in S. C. Methodism.
71	1926	Bennettsville	W. H. Hodges	H. L. F. Shuler	L. P. McGee	Francis Asbury.
72	1927	Bishopville	W. H. Hodges	H. L. F. Shuler	W. H. Hodges	The Contribution of Methodism to the Spiritual Life of the World.
73	1928	Orangeburg	J. M. Rogers	H. L. F. Shuler	A. M. Trawick	Methodism, a Religion for Plain People.
74	1929	Charleston	J. M. Rogers	H. L. F. Shuler	W. C. Kirkland	The Scotch Contribution to the S. C. Conference.
75	1930	Mullins	J. M. Rogers	A. F. Ragan	W. A. Fair	Women in the Church.
76	1931	Sumter	J. M. Rogers	A. F. Ragan	J. M. Rogers	Our Conference Historical Societies.

# ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE UPPER SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

No.	Year	Place	PRESIDENT	SECRETARY	LECTURER	SUBJECT
1	1915	Spartanburg	M. L. Carlisle	A. E. Driggers	E. T. Hooges	The Life of Methodism.
2	1916	Greenville	M. L. Carlisle	A. E. Driggers	D. D. Wallace	Historical Background of Religion in South Carolina.
3	1917	Clinton	M. L. Carlisle	A. E. Driggers	D. M. McLeod	Church Extension.
4	1918	Chester	M. L. Carlisle	A. E. Driggers	J. C. Roper	The Historical Basis of a Methodist Theodicy.
5	1919	Greenwood	M. L. Carlisle	A. E. Driggers	W. A. Massebeau	The Camp Meeting in South Carolina Methodism.
6	1920	Union	M. L. Carlisle	A. E. Driggers	J. G. Clinkscales	The Presiding Eldership from a Layman's Standpoint.
7	1921	Lancaster	M. L. Carlisle	A. E. Driggers	T. E. Morris	By-Products of Methodism.
8	1922	Gaffney	M. L. Carlisle	A. E. Driggers	M. M. Brabham	The Hand of Providence in the Methodist Movement.
9	1923	Newberry	M. L. Carlisle	R. L. Holroyd	J. W. Daniel	The Historical Background of Methodism in America.
10	1924	Laurens	M. L. Carlisle	R. L. Holroyd	B. R. Turnipseed	James Jenkins, a Pioneer Knight of the Saddle Bags.
11	1925	Abbeville	M. L. Carlisle	R. L. Holroyd	W. I. Herbert	Woman's Missionary Work in South Carolina Methodism.
12	1926	Rock Hill	J. W. Kilgo	F. C. Beach	L. P. McGee	Francis Asbury.
13	1927	Greenville	J. W. Kilgo	F. C. Beach	W. H. Hodges	The Contribution of Methodism to the Spiritual Life of the World.
14	1928	Anderson	J. W. Kilgo	F. C. Beach	A. M. Trawick	Methodism, a Religion for Plain People.
15	1929	Columbia	J. W. Kilgo	F. C. Beach	W. C. Kirkland	The Scotch Contribution to the S. C. Conference.
16	1930	Spartanburg	J. W. Kilgo	H. E. Bullington	W. A. Fairy	Women in the Church.
17	1931	Greenwood	J. W. Kilgo	H. E. Bullington	J. M. Rogers	Our Conference Historical Societies.

## **Article VI. Property, Museum, Etc.**

Section 1. The property of this Society shall be deposited at Wofford College in a room maintained by this Society for its purposes, and kept by the Curator. Each article shall be properly numbered and labeled, the name, date, etc., to correspond with a like entry upon a register to be kept for that purpose by the Curator. All the property of the Societies shall be in charge of the Curator, who shall make an annual report to the Society of the general condition of said property, etc. No property shall be sold or given away or any wise disposed of except by order of this Society.

Section 2. The property of this Society shall be open to inspection, under such rules and regulations as may be adopted by the Board of Managers; and in no case shall any article of any kind be removed from the museum except by written consent of the Board of Managers; and a book shall be kept by the Curator showing receipts for all such borrowed articles, and the date of their return.

## **Article VIII. Change in Constitution**

This Constitution may be altered or amended at any annual meeting of the Society by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

# **CONSTITUTION OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE UPPER SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE**

## **Article I. Name**

This Association shall be called the Historical Society of the Upper South Carolina Annual Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

## **Article II. Membership, Dues, Etc.**

Section 1. Every preacher in full connection with the Upper South Carolina Conference shall be eligible to membership in this Society, and may be elected, by acclamation, at any meeting. Each member shall pay an annual fee of twenty-five (25) cents for the maintenance of the work of the society.

Section 2. Any layman, living within the bounds of the Conference, shall be eligible to membership, and may be elected by acclamation, at any meeting upon the payment of twenty-five (25) cents; and his membership may be continued by the annual payment of a similar sum.

## **Article III. Officers, Managers, Etc.**

Section 1. The interests of this Society shall be under the supervision of a President, two Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer and a Curator for both Conferences in South Carolina, who shall discharge the duties usually pertaining to such offices; said officers shall be elected quadrennially at the sessions of the Annual Conferences next preceding the sessions of the General Conference.

Section 2. The officers of this Society shall also constitute a Board of Managers, who shall have charge of all the interests of the Society ad interim, and shall arrange for the annual meetings, nominate the annual lecturer, and attend to all matters usual to Executive Boards.

#### **Article IV. Meetings**

Section 1. This Society shall meet at least annually, during the sessions of the Upper South Carolina Conference, for the purpose of hearing lectures, sermons, etc., and transacting the business usually pertaining to such organizations. All papers read before the Society shall be considered its property and held as such. The time and place of meeting shall be designated by the President.

Section 2. The President, upon the request of ten members, may call a special meeting, designating time and place, whenever the interests of the Society may be promoted thereby.

Section 3. The meeting at Conference shall be the regular annual meeting of the Society.

#### **Article V. Object**

The object of this Society shall be to collect and preserve all valuable information in connection with the rise and progress of Methodism within the bounds of the Upper South Carolina Conference and elsewhere; also objects of curiosity and interest in the form of manuscripts, books, pamphlets, medals, portraits, and anything else that may be of interest or value.

#### **Article VI. Property, Museum, Etc.**

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