

Inventory of the

United Methodist Church
Batavia, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 160

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Don Freyer for the Board of Trustees deposited the United Methodist Church of Batavia records in the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on March 29, 1983. Additional materials were added at a later date.

Property rights in the collection are held by the United Methodist Church of Batavia; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 3.5
Number of containers: 4
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 160

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The records for the United Methodist Church of Batavia concern the operation of the church in Batavia. Most of the documents in this collection date before 1950. Coverage, in most series, is incomplete. No other historical records are believed to exist. The first two folders of the collection contain written histories of the church and researcher's notes.

The Quarterly Conference and Minutes series is the largest and most complete series in the collection. Quarterly Conference Reports span the years 1844-1972, with few or no reports for the 1870's, 1920's, 1930's and 1940's. The reports from before 1920 include minutes of the proceedings of the Rock River Conference. Reports dated after 1949 consist of annual reviews of activities for committees and social groups in the Batavia congregation. These annual reviews were presented in a report given at the conference.

The following materials from series I and all material from series II are on permanent loan to the United Methodist Church of Batavia. Minutes of the Official Board of Trustees include correspondence about business handled by the trustees. The minutes span the years 1857-1976, with incomplete coverage for the 1970's. Minutes for the Official Board of Trustees from 1972 until the present remain with church officials. Series II contains the Real Estate and Furnishings series the building fund information contains deeds, as well as money-raising information. The bills and receipts found in this part of the collection are for upkeep and furnishing of the church and parsonage. Note that the real estate taxes are arranged according to lot description and purpose of tax.

Series III contains Membership Records are all contained in bound volumes. The volumes overlap in the years covered. They contain records of baptisms, marriages and deaths among members of the congregation.

Series IV contains most of the Financial Records pre-date 1950. Payments made by individuals to the church are recorded in the first three volumes of this series. Pew rentals can be

found in the Slip Book. Wills of deceased members who left money to the church are included in this series.

Series V consists of the Sunday School Board minutes are included in the Secretary's Record. The Church Library Lending Book is included in this series because the books were lent to Sunday School teachers and students. In 1940, the Women's Foreign Missionary Society merged with the Ladies' Aid Society to form the Women's Society for Christian Endeavor. This series contains records of all three organizations.

Series VI is the Printed Material, Clippings and Photos, while Series VII contains the Swedish Methodist Episcopal Church records. The Weekly Bulletins span the years 1938-1972 but do not include bulletins for the 1960's. Special Interest Bulletins cover such subjects as Mother's Day and church history. Other sources of church news are The Batavian Methodist and From the Tower publications. Among the photos are pictures of the church and a photo of the French church the Batavian structure was modeled after.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The first regular services of the church were held in 1835 at the home of Mr. William Van Nortwick. It was known, then, as the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Batavia. A limestone church building was constructed on the corner of First and Lincoln Streets in 1852. This building housed the congregation until 1887 when the present church was built. The current building was given to the church by Mr. E.H. Gammon and Mr. D.C. Newton. They had the \$25,000 French Romanesque structure built upon the design of a church they had seen while visiting France.

A building fund for the parsonage was begun in 1903, and a lot and building were purchased in 1905. The parsonage was damaged by fire in 1925 but another building fund soon raised the money necessary to complete repairs.

The Swedish Methodist Episcopal Church began regular services in 1871. In 1875, Mr. Joel McKee donated to the church a lot on McKee Street in Batavia. After constructing a building on this site, the church became alternatively known as the McKee Street Church.

In 1971, upon the 100th anniversary of the Swedish Methodist Episcopal Church and the 135th anniversary of the First Methodist Episcopal Church, the two churches merged to become the present United Methodist Church of Batavia.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Batavia
 First Methodist Episcopal Church, Batavia
 Immigrants, Swedish
 Methodists

Rock River Conference
 Swedish Methodist Episcopal Church, Batavia
 United Methodist Church, Batavia

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Series I. Quarterly Conference and Minutes		
1	1	History of Church
	2	History of Church, notes
	3-10	Quarterly Conference Reports, 1844-1860, 1881-1920
	11	Quarterly Conference Reports, 1922
	12-13	Quarterly Conference Reports, 1949-1954
	14-26	Quarterly Conference Reports, 1957-1969
	27	Quarterly Conference Reports, 1972
		Minutes of Official Board [on permanent loan to church]
Series II. Real Estate and Furnishings [on permanent loan to church]		
Series III. Membership Records		
	28-30	Church Record, 1845-1871, 1867-1889, 1890-1910,
2	1	Church Record, 1910-1925
	2	Historical Record of Permanent Data, 1924-1964
	3	Membership Record, 1946-1950
	4	Register of Church Membership, 1945-1961
	5	Our Guests, 1957-1974
Series IV. Financial Records		
	6	Payment Book, 1910-1916
	7	Duplex Individual Record Book, 1915-1918
	8	Duplex Alphabetical Church Treasurer Record No. 2, 1931-1935
2	9	Ledgers, 1868-1881, 1888-1891, 2 volumes
	10	Journal, 1898-1908, 2 volumes
	11	Ledger, 1908-1916

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	4
	12	Order Book, 1929-1930	
	13	Slip Book, 1858	
	14	Subscription Lists, 1874, 1879, 1881, 1882	
	15	Promissory Notes, 1824-1927, 1948, 1962, 1965	
	16	Correspondence, 1921, 1962, 1968	
	17	Wills, 1956-1957, 1968, 1976	

Series V. Sunday School and Social Groups

	18	Roll Books, 1874-1976, 1898-1899, 1912-1913, 3 volumes	
	19	Sunday School Record, 1894	
	20-21	Secretary's Record, 1915-1922	
3	1-3	Secretary's Record, 1923-1929	
	4	Minutes and Annual Report, 1900, 1949	
	5	Treasurer's Cash Book, 1917-1924	
	6	Bank Statements and Cancelled Checks, 1924-1926	
	7	Permanent Register, 1947	
	8	Church Library Lending Book, 1855-1856	
	9	Minutes of the Methodist Young People's Society for Christian Endeavor, 1898-1890	
	10	Minutes of Batavia Junior League, 1893-1894, 1895-1904, 2 volumes	
	11	Minutes of the Epworth League, 1890-1897	
	12	Roll Book of the Epworth League, 1898-1902	
	13	Minutes of the Epworth League, 1904-1908	
	14	Minutes of Women's Foreign Missionary Society, 1912-1915	
	15	Minutes and Roll Book of Ladies' Aid Society, 1918-1923, 1923-1928, 1928-1933	
	16	Minutes of Women's Society for Christian Service (W.S.C.S.), 1953-1959	
	17	W.S.C.S. History, Guide and Installation of Officers, 1966, 1942, 1944	
	18-21	W.S.C.S. Yearbooks, 1938-1966	
	22	Bulletin of the Methodist Women's Association, 1931, 1940	
	33	Minutes for RFU, 1955-1963, 4 volumes	

Series VI. Printed Material, Clippings and Photos

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
3	24	Weekly Bulletins, 1938-1958
	25	Weekly Bulletins, July, 1970-December, 1972
	26	Bulletins on Committees and the Budget, 1937, 1941-1944
	27	Special Interest Bulletins, Announcements and Activities, 1902, 1916, 1917, 1925, 1929, 1950, 1976
	28	Postcard Bulletins, October 1952-August 1953
	29-30	<u>The Batavian Methodist</u> , April 1948-June 1961
4	31	<u>From the Tower</u> , July 1940- June 1971
	1	<u>From the Tower</u> , July 1971 - July 1971
	2	Anniversary Publications, 1926, 1936, 1938, 1961, 1971
	3	Church Directories, 1917-1974
	4	Catechism and Directory, 1929, 1931
	5	Clippings, 1943-1982
	6	Photos, 189?-1976

Series VII. Swedish Methodist Episcopal Church

7	Legal Documents, 1879-1950
8	Quarterly Conference Reports, 1957-1961
9	Church Treasurer's Record, 1961-1964
10	Minutes of the Ladies' Aid Society, 1933-1940
11	Minutes of the Martha Society, 1936-1941

Oversize

Drawer 17, Folder 5

Plat of survey, 1911
Classroom drawing, 1961
Furnas Educational Building drawing, 1963

ADDENDUM

4	12	<i>The Past is Prologue: History of the United Methodist Church of Batavia, Illinois at its 175th Anniversary, 1836-2011</i>
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