Wesley Historical Society

PROCEEDINGS

An abstract of contents

In each Part there is a Notes and Queries section

Volume 57

Editor E. Alan Rose

Part 1 February 2009

Methodist Entries in the Oxford DNB

Dr John A Vickers – Editor The Dictionary of Methodism in Britain and Ireland

The new Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, published in 2004 in 60 volumes and online. The online version allows you to search the text for names and phrases. The Dictionary is regularly updated. A number of the Methodist entries are by written by outstanding Methodist historians.

Methodist opposition to Britain’s proposed cession of The Gambia to France 1866-76

Rev Dr John H Darch – Director of Ordinands and Initial Ministerial Education for the Anglican Diocese of Blackburn

The article examines events in The Gambia in West Africa, when Britain proposed to exchange this territory with France and examines the response of Wesleyan Methodist Missionaries.

Some Further thoughts on the Irish Wesleys and the Wellesley Connection

Rev Dr Peter W. Gentry – The Church of the Nazarene

The question of the relationship, if any, between the Wesley family and the Wellesley and Colley families is reviewed. The evidence of the long held view by some Methodist Historians that John and Charles Wesley were related to the Duke of Wellington is re-examined.

Book Reviews by

E. Alan Rose Benjamin Rushton, Handloom Weaver and Chartist by John A. Hargreaves (Friends of Lister Lance Cemetery, Halifax, 2006), pp.40, £4.50
Colin C. Short *Cornubia's Son: A Life of Mark Guy Pearse* by Derek R. Williams (Francis Boutle, London, 2008), pp.388, 44 illus, £12.99


D. Colin Dews *A Story to Tell: 200 years of Methodism in Brighton and Hove* by Michael Hickman, (Brighton & Hove Methodist Circuit 2007), pp.148 £7.50

John C. C. Probert *Machin Porcelains and Earthenwares...* by Bill Thorn and Philip Miller (Castlehills Publishing 2008) pp.179 £40

E. Alan Rose *Tavistock’s Methodist Chapels* by Brian W Giles (Tavistock and District Local History Society 2007) pp.76

**Part 2 May 2009**

**Preachers at the Pit**

Jonathan Fryer – Post graduate student at Keele University

The role of the Primitive Methodist and Wesleyan Methodist ministers, local preachers, lay people and trade union officials in the *County Durham Mining Disasters 1880 – 1909* is examined. Prayer meetings led by trapped miners who were Methodist local preachers is highlighted along with above ground pastoral care and finance support given by Methodist and Wesleyan ministers to the miner’s families.

**The 1829 Minutes of the Arminian Bible Christians**

Rev Colin C. Short, Methodist Minister Mounts Bay Circuit, Cornwall

In 1829 the founder of the Bible Christians William O’Bryan had a disagreement with James Thorne and others which led to him leaving the denomination and founding the Arminian Bible Christians. The contents of the recently discovered printed minutes of the AMC found in New Jersey USA are discussed.

**An unpublished Pawson letter**

John H Lenton MA M Phil, Wesley Historical Society Librarian

A manuscript letter written by John Pawson (1739-1804), one of Wesley’s Travelling Preachers, and President of the Wesleyan Conference in 1793 and 1801. The letter, which is in the Sugden collection at Queen’s College, University of Melbourne, is printed in full with comments.
Bibliography of Methodist Historical Literature – Thirty-Fifth Edition 2008

Dr Clive D. Field Research Fellow, Birmingham University

A detailed and carefully researched list of all known publications of Methodist Historical Literature published in 2008

Book Reviews by


Jonathan Rodell The Bousfield diaries. A middle-class family in late Victorian Bedford Ed Richard Smart (Bedfordshire Historical Record Society, 2007) pp. xxi, 214 £25


D. Colin Dews From Pedagogy to Photography: the life and work of John William Righton By Tom Norgate (Petersfield 613 books 2008) pp.152 £14/95


D. Colin Dews Ben Rhydding Methodist Church 1909-2009 by Kathleen Pinder (Smith Sttle, Yeadon 2008) £6

Part 3 October 2009

The Methodist Revival Fellowship 1952-1987

Rev Dr Martin Wellings, Superintendent, Oxford Methodist Circuit

The Methodist Revival Fellowship 1952-1987 traces the history of the MRF from its inception in 1952 to its merger with Conservative Evangelicals in Methodism (CEIM) in 1987, touching on the issues of fundamentalism (1950s), ecumenism (1960s) and theological pluralism (1970s) and assessing the strength, influence and role of the Fellowship.

More Marxism that Methodist

Professor Peter Ackers, Loughborough University

Hugh Clegg, the son of Herbert (Wesleyan Minister) and Mabel Clegg, was one of the two founding fathers of British academic Industrial Relations and a major trade union historian. Hugh Clegg has been described as ‘the most influential academic of the Wilson and Callaghan years ‘ This article is the story of how a nervous outsider became a confident pillar of the Kingswood school establishment, while developing highly deviant political beliefs.

Book Reviews by


D Colin Dews Living the Christian Life: selected thoughts of William Grimshaw, by Paul & Faith Cook (Evangelical Press, Darlington, 2008) pp. 87(2) bib. £7.95
The Long Courtship: Methodist Union in the Whitby Area
Christopher K Metcalfe MA., M Phil, F.H.E.A. Research Student, Oxford Centre for Methodism and Church History, Oxford Brookes University
The purpose of this article is to consider in outline the process by which the 1932 Methodist Union took place in the Whitby area of what was then the North Riding of Yorkshire. The article examines the process that took 12 years for the amalgamation of the Wesleyan and Primitive circuits to form the Whitby Methodist Circuit.

John and Charles Wesley Tercentenary Well-Dressings.
Rev Donald H Ryan M.Th., Former Chairman of the North Wales Methodist District, Registrar, Administrator Wesley Historical Society
The essential element of water to life which has from ancient and Biblical times been a source of veneration, sacrifice and celebration. In the article the medieval and modern tradition of 'Well Dressing' in Derbyshire is examined. In the Tercentenary years of 2003 and 2007 some Derbyshire villages celebrated the life and ministry of John Wesley and Charles Wesley by creating their image in flower petals and placed them by the well to be blessed.

Book Reviews by
Arthur Mignot Chapel and Swastika: Methodism in the Channel Islands during the German Occupation 1940-1945 by David M. Chapman (ELSP, St Helier, Jersey 2009) pp. 256. £10.
Simon Ross Valentine Two Centuries and More, memories of Low Moor Methodist Churches by Geoff & Mary Twentymann (Eds) (n.p. 2009) pp.68 £4
E Alan Rose Worsted to Westminster by J. B. Williams (Darcy Press 2009) pp.i v, + 322 £8.99
The Methodist Revival Fellowship 1952-1987 traces the history of the MRF from its inception in 1952 to its merger with Conservative Evangelicals in Methodism (CEIM) in 1987, touching on the issues of fundamentalism (1950s), ecumenism (1960s) and theological pluralism (1970s) and assessing the strength, influence and role of the Fellowship.

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**Book Reviews by**
D Colin Dews *Living the Christian Life: selected thoughts of William Grimshaw*, by Paul & Faith Cook (Evangelical Press, Darlington, 2008) pp. 87(2) bib. £7.95
Part 5 MAY 2010

“Hat’s Off”: Methodism and Popular Protest in the West Riding of Yorkshire in the Chartist era: a case study of Benjamin Rushton (1785-1853) of Halifax

This article explores Methodist influences derived from Wesleyanism, the Methodist New Connexion, the Primitive Methodists, the Primitive Methodist Revivalists and the Independent Methodists on the radical politics of Benjamin Rushton, a handloom weaver and Methodist preacher. It argues that his anti-clerical preference that no paid minister officiate at his funeral should not be interpreted as evidence of apostasy and challenges meta-narratives of secularisation which may have obscured the religious underpinning of Chartism, which may have owed more than has been hitherto allowed to the culture as well as the organisation of Methodism.

John A. Hargreaves - Visiting Research Fellow in History University of Huddersfield

The Rev. John Stamp: Primitive Methodist Secessionist
D Colin Dews Secretary of the Yorkshire WHS

Bibliography of Methodist Historical Literature-Thirty -Sixth Edition 2009
Dr Clive D. Field Research Fellow, Birmingham University
A detailed and carefully researched list of all known publications of Methodist Historical Literature published in 2009

Book Review by
Part 6 October 2010

**Keeping the Faith: Ireland's Primitive Methodism**

Rev Robin P. Roddie. Belfast, Archivist, Wesley Historical Society in Ireland

For almost ninety years after John Wesley’s death a branch of Methodism in Ireland perpetuated a form of Methodism modelled on Wesley’s design for his Connexion. Following Disestablishment in Ireland and the failure of the original Methodist-Anglican ‘conversations’, the Primitive Wesleyan Methodists united with the Irish Wesleyans in 1878, but a remnant continued within Anglicanism into the twentieth century.

**Laity in Denominational Leadership**

David J Jeremy, Emeritus Professor of Business History, Manchester Metropolitan University Business School.


**Book Reviews by**


Donald H Ryan *A Memoir of Samuel Barber-A black “ranter” from the Mother Town* Forward and introduction by Cedric Barber (Stoke-on-Trent: Tentmaker Publications, 2007) pp 26: No price given

Donald H Ryan *Slaves Sinners and Saints*, by Cedric Barber (Stoke-on-Trent: Tentmaker Publications, 2008, pp 252 £10:49

Notes and Queries 1589 Mrs Anna Onstott - Donald H Ryan