

# Sunday School Union Missionary Very Active Here

## History Sunday School Union In Nation Is Given

One very important organization which was not very well known in this part of the country until recently is the American Sunday School Union.

Purpose of the organization is to promote Sunday schools, especially in communities which do not have them, and to keep alive and functioning present Sunday schools.

Rev. B. F. Livingston is Sunday school missionary for the Sunday School Union for ten counties in this part of North Carolina and has headquarters in North Wilkesboro. Rev. Mr. Livingston has already organized five new Sunday schools and is working on others.

The following article gives the history and purposes of the organization:

Among the greatest events in the history of Christianity is the magnitude of the growth of the Sunday school. This growth belongs to the 19th century. Along with the remarkable activity in modern missions sprang up an equally widespread movement to search the Scriptures, which in this country led to the formation of the American Sunday School Union.

It was an interesting series of providences, by which God prepared the way for Christians of different denominations to lay aside their differences and to cooperate in promoting the study of



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God's word through a national organization

A company of 12 Christian philanthropists held a meeting in Philadelphia, December 19, 1790, "for the purpose of taking into consideration the establishment of Sunday schools in this city." A large representative meeting was held May 27, 1817, a constitution adopted, and the organization perfected. This society was called "The Sunday and Adult School Union," and Alexander Henry was elected the first President and John P. Bankson, corresponding secretary.

The Society sought to extend the cause in other States, and was soon recognized as the center of Sunday school influence throughout the country. In the year 1821 the Union employed the Rev. Wm. C. Blair as a Sunday school missionary in "establishing Sunday schools and tract societies where there are none," and preventing some already established from being "abandoned as impracticable."

The first report of a Sunday school missionary for the first year was as follows: He traveled 2500 miles, visited 35 of the schools, revived 20, established six tract societies, four adult schools, and 61 Sunday schools, located in six States. Two years later the Union reports the employment of "two missionaries." Rev. Timothy Alden, president of Allegheny college, and a layman, Mr. M. A. Remley, and announced the issue of a monthly magazine devoted to the cause of Sunday schools.

Meanwhile, the call for a more "general Union" grew steadily stronger. The Rev. John H. Rice, of Virginia, in 1820, eloquently commended the Union where "Christians of many different denominations are united and zealously co-operate in this labor of love." The great activity of the Sunday and Adult School Union intensified the desire for a national institution. During the seven years it had grown steadily in numbers and strength from having 43 schools, 556 teachers, and 5,970 scholars in 1817-18 to a total of 313 schools, 3724 teachers, 24,218 scholars. In 1821, with auxiliaries in eleven States, in 1824 it had 723 schools, 7300 teachers and 49,619 scholars in affiliation, located in seventeen States and territories and the District of Columbia. Hence, a plan for a national society was outlined and of a meeting in Philadelphia where 15 to 20 of the 21 States were represented, the name and constitution of this new and national organization, the "American Sunday School Union" were unanimously approved, May 25, 1824.

Among those prominent in this movement were the Rev. Gardiner Spring, D. D., and Divie Bethune, of Delaware; Francis Scott Key (author of the Star Spangled Banner); Hon. John Brownlee, of South Carolina; the Rev. William L. McCalla, of Kentucky; Rev. Dr. Nevins, of Maryland; Ambrose White and Frederick Erringer, of Philadelphia; and many others. The American Sunday School Union, thus auspiciously begun, has been closely identified with the origin and development of juvenile religious literature, education, pioneer missions, and similar great movements in the religious progress of this country.

**BIBLE INSTRUCTION**  
As would be expected the American Sunday school Union pioneered in plans and material for Bible instruction. Appended to the second annual report of the American Sunday School Union is a list of "selected lessons" for 1825. It consisted of 47 lessons divided into four portions, to allow for a "quarterly examination or review." The wider use of the limited lessons in 1826 led to a second edition revision of the plan, so radical as to result in a new list of lessons, for one year,

to which a second year's course was added, and it was announced at the same time that a "five year's course had been outlined, which would include the "principal facts and truths of the Bible." These lessons were unqualifiedly endorsed by prominent ministers, professors, and statesmen. Great as was this advance in methods of instruction, the far-seeing workers of that day conceived yet further improvements. They aimed to have all the classes in a school and all the schools in the country study the same lesson on the same day; in fact, uniform lessons for the whole country. This was largely accomplished and realized following a National convention called for that purpose in the year 1832 and one which followed in 1833. After a later period of reaction due to denominational zeal the present "Uniform Lessons" have been maintained following a conference of 29 publishers at which time they appointed five persons to select such lessons for the year 1872.

### GROWTH OF MISSIONARY ENDEAVOR

At the anniversary, May 25, 1830, a most important missionary scheme was inaugurated with great enthusiasm. It was resolved "That the American Sunday School Union, in reliance upon Divine aid, will, within two years, establish a Sunday school in every destitute place where it is practical throughout the valley of the Mississippi." The meeting was attended by more than two thousand people, and the resolution was adopted by a rising vote amidst great enthusiasm. At a subsequent meeting presided over by Dr. W. A. McDowell, of South Carolina, \$12,000.00 in cash was subscribed in Philadelphia and at meetings in New York nearly \$15,000.00 more were raised. Foremost divines and statesmen in the United States gave it their sanction and warmly advocated the project. Among them were Rev. Dr. Thomas McAuley, of Philadelphia; Rev. Dr. Lyman Beecher, of Massachusetts; Rev. Dr. Milner, of New York; Rev. Dr. Rice of Virginia; Dr. Francis Wayland, the Drs. Alexander, of New Jersey; and among statesmen, Hon. Theodore Frelinghuysen, of New Jersey; Senator Felix Grundy, of Tennessee; Breckenridge of Kentucky; Chancellor Watworth of New York; Daniel Webster of Massachusetts; Hon. William Wirt Attorney-General of the United States; Walter Lowrie, Clerk of United States Senate, and many others of like eminence, all warmly endorsing this bold missionary venture.

Within two years of this action 78 missionaries were sent into the Mississippi valley, 2867 schools organized, and 1121 visited and revived. Thus, nearly half of the 8,000 to 10,000 neighborhoods, then estimated to be within the valley, were supplied with schools. It was said, within eighteen months after the new scheme was actually begun. Moreover, the movement greatly increased the spiritual results. For the next year the Society reported not less than 20,000 teachers and 30,000 scholars in connection with its schools as professing faith in Christ within nine years, and the number for a single year was believed to be over 17,000.

Renewing its decision to continue the work in the Mississippi Valley, the Society in 1833, enthusiastically adopted another resolution, to plant and sustain a Sunday school for five years in every needy neighborhood in the South Atlantic States and the territory of Florida. Nearly 1,500 more schools were organized and revived in the Mississippi Valley in 1833-34, and about 400 in the South the same year.

Perhaps the boldest measure of all was the plan proposed at the May anniversary, 1833, to have every house in every neighborhood visited on the 4th of July following, and the members invited to some place of religious instruction. It was hoped that the sun of that day shall not go down upon a single dwelling in the United States, in which the voice of a kind, judicious Christian friend has not been heard, invited every suitable subject of Sunday school instruction to the place where it may be had freely, as the gift of God. All pastors and persons of every society and denomination were asked to join in this effort. These measures were not mere paper resolutions. They were pushed with such vigor and zeal as to command the attention of the whole country.

The war between the States brought to light the magnificent Christian character and self-denial of its missionaries, and enabled it to continue mission work without seriously increasing its debt, even in the face of one of the most terrible civil wars in history. Many of the missionaries continued to serve without salary, or on greatly reduced income. These struggles brought all the Society's friends into closer association with one another, into more helpful fellowship and cooperation, and into a deeper spirit

of unity in advancing the Redeemer's cause. It is worthy of note that one of the most experienced of the Union's missionaries was allowed to pass back and forth between the Union and Confederate lines—a privilege which was very highly prized, and a confidence which was never betrayed. This gave the Society an open door thruout the whole South. When the war ended the missionary operations in the States redoubled with energy and success.

As in the pioneer days the need for our type of work is as greatly needed as then. Over our land are isolated communities without the radiant cheer of the gospel. More than 160 full time missionaries are at work in the United States under the auspices of the American Sunday School Union. In this District, the Middle Atlantic, comprising the states of Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Georgia there are twelve missionaries. In the state of North Carolina, C. N. Cady is located at Hendersonville, R. H. Hull at Franklin, and B. F. Livingston is located at North Wilkesboro.

## Former Newspaper Reporter Stars In Hitchcock Film

A newspaper man went to Hollywood to get away from writing. He is Joseph Cotten, formerly a notable actor with Orson Welles' Mercury Theatre group in New York and now an important screen player. With Hollywood studios abounding in former newspaper reporters, editors and critics engaged in turning out the film city's scripts and scenarios, Cotten is one Fourth Estater in a thousand. He quit gathering news to act, not to do more writing. His latest role is opposite Teresa Wright in Alfred Hitchcock's new Universal thriller, "Shadow of a Doubt", coming to the Allen Theatre Monday and Tuesday.

Cotten plays a romantic murderer who specializes in killing women. Detectives are closing in on him. He takes shelter with his sister, her husband and children in Santa Rosa, California. They have no idea of his real character, when he arrives but, as the pursuit approaches, suspicion begins to grow. Patricia Collinge plays Cotten's sister, Henry Travers, her husband, Teresa Wright their eldest daughter, Macdonald Carey and Wallace Ford have prominent roles. Much of the picture was filmed in the streets, business buildings and homes of Santa Rosa.

"Shadow of a Doubt" was written as a screen play by Thornton Wilder, Sally Benson and Alma Reville from an original story by Cordon McDonell. The picture is presented by Jack H. Skirball Productions.

## Colored News Items Of Interest

**By BELLE THOMAS**  
The Ladies Mission circle met at the home of Mrs. A. Thomas Thursday afternoon. This was the first meeting of the new year, and a large number attended.

Mrs. Bessie Turner is president. The county union of the different mission circles met at the Pleasant Hill Baptist church Sunday. Each church was well represented and a very interesting program was enjoyed by all. Mrs. C. C. Harris is president.

The W. I. C. circle of the First Baptist church met with Miss Katherine Barber, Sunday afternoon at five o'clock. After the business was discussed, Miss Barber served refreshments. Miss Colleen Harris is president.

Private Arthur Y. Williams, who has been visiting his mother, Mrs. Manie Williams, returned to California Tuesday morning.

Cpl. Obey Horton of Camp Lee, Virginia, is visiting his family and relatives this week.

Misses Thelma Denny, Pauline Welborn, and Mayo Witherspoon had visitors up from Winston-Salem last week-end. They were William Anderson, Robert Danbridge, and Howard Thompson. They were entertained in the home of Miss Pauline Welborn, and were inducted into the Army the following Saturday.

Mrs. Nancy Rhodes and Mrs. Florence Farmer are visiting in Winston-Salem. Born to Mr. and Mrs. Allen Bynum, a son, Arnold Bynum.

Demure Young Thing: "Oh, what kind of an officer are you?" Officer: "I'm a naval surgeon."

D. Y. T.: "Dear, Dear, how you doctors do specialize."

About 300 war plants in the United States help to produce the 45,000 different parts in a heavy bomber and the 40,000 parts in every tank.

BUY MORE WAR BONDS

## Wilkes County Is In OPA Transfer

Charlotte.—The addition of 14 counties to the Charlotte district office of price administration, giving the local office jurisdiction over 52 counties with a total population of 1,900,000, was announced yesterday by Oscar R. Straus, Jr., of Atlanta, Ga., regional OPA administrator.

The transfer leaves the Raleigh office with a territory embracing 48 counties with a total population of 1,700,000.

Counties shifted to the Charlotte district are Rockingham, Guilford, Randolph, Robeson, Stokes, Forsyth, Davidson, Surry, Yadkin, Davie, Alleghany, Wilkes, Ashe and Watauga.

The transfer will become effective next Monday.

## Aid For Expectant Mothers Provided

Raleigh.—As the result of a recent allocation of funds from the United States Children's Bureau to the Maternal and Child Health Service of the North Carolina State Board of Health, it is now possible for this division to provide financial aid for medical obstetric and pediatric care for wives and children of enlisted men and non-commissioned officers in the armed forces. Since the plan was put into effect, many pregnant women have been helped under its provisions.

Expectant mothers who need such assistance and want to apply for aid under this plan should see the local health officers, all of whom are well acquainted with its details. The health officers, in turn, forward the applications to Dr. G. M. Cooper, Director of the Maternal and Child Health Service of the State Board of Health in Raleigh.

"It is felt that this plan has been and will be of a great deal of benefit to both the patient and to the local physicians," Dr. Cooper said. "Deliveries by the physicians in the patient's home is usually performed, but in certain cases, patients may be hospitalized for this service. In cases where this care is authorized through the local health officers, the physician's fee is paid from the Maternal and Child Health Service."

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