



News from the

EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 1970

Volume 1, No. 1

THE 107th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

The 107th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society will be held in Old First Reformed Church, Fourth and Race Streets, Independence Mall, Philadelphia, Pa., on Saturday, October 17, 1970, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Old First Reformed Church which was founded in 1727, has worshiped in five different buildings situated in various sections of Philadelphia. In 1969 the congregation moved back to the site of the original church located in Independence Mall, and into a restored building erected in 1837, which had served as the third house of worship. The present pastor is the Rev. Walter M. Trogler.

The Historical Commission of the United Church of Christ will meet the preceding day, Friday, October 16th, in the new quarters of the Presbyterian Historical Society, 425 Lombard St., which is adjacent to Independence Mall.

The Executive Committee of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society will meet at 9:00 a.m. and the Annual Meeting will convene at 10:00 a.m. Following the business session, the Society will be addressed by Mr. Donald Harpster, a graduate student at Yale Divinity School who is completing his doctoral dissertation at Pennsylvania State University on "The History of the German Reformed Community in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1727 to the Present." He will speak on some interesting events in the continuing life of the Philadelphia churches.

The afternoon will be free for historical tours around Independence Mall and Society Hill.

Those desiring overnight accommodations should write directly to the Benjamin Franklin Hotel, 9th & Chestnut Sts., Philadelphia, Pa. Telephone 215-922-8600. Single rooms, \$19.00-\$21.00; double rooms, \$25.00-\$27.00.

The Annual Meeting is open to all members and friends of the United Church of Christ. We would be very happy if all pastors would put an announcement in their weekly church bulletin concerning this important meeting.

"WE WILL LOOK FOR YOU AT OLD FIRST CHURCH, OCTOBER 17, 1970"

ARCHIVAL WORK RESULTS IN FIRST HISTORY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN THE GERMAN LANGUAGE

Hanns Peter Keiling, a graduate student in church history from Göttingen University, Germany, worked several years ago for months in the Eden and Lancaster Archives, and at Hartford and Boston on his doctoral thesis concerning the founding of the United Church of Christ.

The Lettner Verlag in Berlin published Dr. Keiling's completed 290-page thesis in

1969 under the title, DIE ENTSTEHUNG DER 'UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST' (USA): FALLSTUDIE EINER KIRCHENUNION UNTER BERÜCKSICHTIGUNG DES PROBLEMS DER ORTSGEMEINDE (The Founding of the United Church of Christ: A Case Study of a Church Union Centering on the Problem of the Local Congregation).

Dr. Keiling's work is done with thoroughness and objectivity, although his sympathy toward church union of this type is evident. His thesis also reveals that the German church shows more interest in church union (difficult as it is for them) than the apathetic American church manifests.

130th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE EVANGELICAL KIRCHENVEREIN

The St. Louis Ministerium of the United Church of Christ plans a 130th anniversary celebration in honor of the founding, at Gravois Settlement, Missouri, of the Evangelical Kirchenverein des Westens, on Tuesday, October 13, 1970. This group was the parent body of the Evangelical Synod of North America, the "E" part of the "E & R" Church, which is now part of the United Church of Christ.

A Festival Communion Service, using the liturgy and the common cup of the old Evangelical Synod will be held in St. John's Church, Mehlville, Mo. (suburban St. Louis) at 10:30 a.m. Dr. Carl E. Schneider, emeritus professor of church history at Eden Seminary and historian of the Evangelical Synod will deliver a 20 minute address on the events leading up to the October 15, 1840 founder's meeting. Luncheon will be served by the ladies of the church.

The Rev. Richard S. Brusele, synod historian for the Missouri Conference, invites all in the St. Louis area to be present at the celebration. A display of interesting items from the Eden archives will be featured.

ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOLARS USE LANCASTER ARCHIVES

Research for two doctoral dissertations on Catholic appraisals of Mercersburg theologians was done in the Library and Central Archives in Lancaster.

Fr. John T. Cardoue's THE ECCLESIOLOGY OF JOHN WILLIAMSON NEVIN: A CATHOLIC APPRAISAL and Fr. John C. Meyer's PHILIP SCHAFF'S CONCEPT OF ORGANIC HISTORIOGRAPHY AS RELATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF DOCTRINE: A CATHOLIC APPRAISAL are available in either microfilm or xerox from University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, Mich. The degrees were awarded by the Catholic University of America.

LOVE IN THE ARCHIVES

Two years ago Miss Sandra Nagy, secretary to the Lancaster librarian was married to Dr. Jack Maxwell of Princeton Theological Seminary, who did his research for his doctorate in the Lancaster Archives. They met amid the dusty records of the Mercersburg liturgical controversy.

This summer the efficient secretary in the Eden Archives, the former Sister Rose Marie Weller, was married to a middler student at Eden Seminary, Russell J. Knoth of Chesterton, Indiana.

It appears that archival work has some life left in it!

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION about the ANNUAL MEETING, or the work of the Society, write to The Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, Philip Schaff Library, 555 West James Street, Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17603.