



# News from the

## EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

March 1971

Volume 1, No. 2

### REPORTS OF THE 107<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

This issue of the NEWSLETTER will be devoted to the reports given at the annual meeting, held in Philadelphia, Pa. October 17, 1970. Since we plan to mail the NEWSLETTER three times a year, Fall, Spring, and Summer, this is the first opportunity to report to our readers the activities of the Society.

### WHERE WILL THE NEXT ANNUAL MEETING BE HELD?

The Executive Committee would be happy to receive invitations by churches or by communities to hold the 108<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in connection with any local historical observance that has been planned. The normal time for the meeting is the second weekend in October but the time can be changed. Address your invitations to the Executive Secretary.

### THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIETY

The Executive Committee for the coming year is as follows: Charles D. Spotts, president, Theophil W. Mengel, first vice-president; Lowell H. Zuck, second vice-president; Philip W. Weiss, third vice-president; Rudolf G. Schade, secretary; George H. Bricker, treasurer, Herbert B. Anstaett, executive secretary; members-at-large: I. C. G. Campbell, Frank W. Snider, Nevin E. Schellenberger. Those residing in the Lancaster area compose the Steering Committee.

### MINUTES OF THE 107<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Society was convened at 10:00 a.m. by the President, Charles D. Spotts, at the newly restored Old First Reformed Church, Fourth and Race Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The opening prayer was offered by Lowell H. Zuck, Second Vice-President. Minutes of the 1969 meeting at Elon College in North Carolina, recorded by Rudolf G. Schade, Secretary, were approved.

George H. Bricker, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's report for 1969 and also for the period from January 1 through October 12, 1970. He pointed out that in about a year the Society's balance of reserve funds will be exhausted unless ways are found to increase the income.

Herbert B. Anstaett, Executive Secretary, submitted a summary of his report.

Reports on the Archives and Libraries were presented: George H. Bricker, Librarian, for the Lancaster Central Archives and Library; Lowell H. Zuck, Librarian, report-

ing verbally for the Eden Archives and Library; and Frank W. Snider, a Member-At-Large of the Society's Executive Committee, also reporting verbally on the materials at Catawba College, Salisbury, North Carolina. Mr. Bricker's report is attached.

There were reports from the three Regional Chapters: George H. Bricker for the Eastern Chapter; Lowell H. Zuck for the Western Chapter; and Robert F. Godfrey for the Southern Chapter. The reports of activities varied. Best results in the Western area have been obtained by working through the local Ministerium; for example, the observance of the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Kirchenvereins des Westens at Mehlville, Missouri, October 13, 1970. Harry Ott reported that in the Eastern area field trips have been most successful, citing one event in the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference in which one hundred and fifty persons participated, with a field trip planned for next Spring. The Southern area is active in supporting the work of the Society.

A report from the Nominating Committee was submitted by John B. Frantz, and accepted as follows, the present officers being reelected: Charles D. Spotts, President; Theophil W. Menzel, First Vice-President; Lowell H. Zuck, Second Vice-President; Philip W. Weiss, Third Vice-President; Rudolf G. Schade, Secretary; George H. Bricker, Treasurer; Herbert B. Anstaett, Executive secretary. Twenty-four of the twenty-five Members-At-Large of the Advisory Council were reelected: A. Lucile Brackbill; Scott F. Brenner; Dobbs F. Ehlman; John B. Frantz, Jr.; Gerald W. Gillette; Louis W. Goebel; Mrs. Henry L. Haines; Philip B. Harner; Charles S. Hartman; Theophilus F. H. Hilgeman; Elmer H. Hoefer; Gertrude B. Hoy; Elizabeth C. Kieffer; Frederic S. Klein; Braynard E. Kurkowski; Paul M. Limbert; John B. Noss; Paul A. Rasche; Nevin E. Schellenberger; Theodore C. Seybold; Louis F. Suedmeyer; Theodore L. Trost; James E. Wagner; and Fred D. Wentzel. The twenty-fifth member elected was John B. Frantz, Sr., replacing David Dunn, deceased.

The program for the morning consisted of two presentations. Owen L. Fox, a member of Old First Reformed Church, Philadelphia, and Chairman of its Restoration Committee, gave a fascinating account of the complicated task of restoring the oldest German church in the city, founded in 1727, and now finding an honored part in Independence Mall. The entire project of restoring this church has involved an expense of nearly one half million dollars.

Donald E. Harpster, a graduate student at Yale Divinity School, presented a well defined paper on "The History of the German Reformed Community in Philadelphia, 1727 to the Present."

The meeting was then adjourned with the closing prayer in German by Philip W. Weiss, Third Vice-President.

#### MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee met at 9:00 a.m. in Old First Reformed Church, Fourth and Race Streets, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

President Charles D. Spotts welcomed the guests from the Congregational Christian Historical Society who had come to Philadelphia for the meeting of the Historical Commission of the United Church of Christ on Friday, October 16th, in the new quarters of the Presbyterian Historical Society, 425 Lombard Street, adjacent to Independence Mall. Each member present introduced himself.

The Rev. and Mrs. Merle U. Fox spoke to the committee about the possibility of developing work among young people. Their report was received with thanks and with the hope that more definite action could be taken at a later time. The increased development of field trips for young people was noted as a hopeful sign.

Dr. Herbert B. Anstaett, Executive Secretary, reported an increased response to the financial appeal of the United Church Historical Commission.

It was voted to establish Memorial Memberships in the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society at fifty dollars and to announce this fact in the NEWS from the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society.

George H. Bricker commented on a renewed interest from various angles, with an increased use of the facilities of the Society at Lancaster and the anticipated organization of field trips to historic sites.

The matter of salary adjustments was referred to the Steering Committee for action.

It was reported that St. Paul's United Church in Baltimore, recently dissolved, allocated three thousand dollars of its remaining assets for the use of the Society.

#### HIGHLIGHTS IN THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The report submitted by Herbert B. Anstaett, Executive Secretary, contained several highlights of activities and accomplishments since the last meeting eighteen months ago. Heading the list was an announcement made at the Executive Committee meeting and at the Annual Meeting on October 17<sup>th</sup> of a substantial financial gift. St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 620 South Beechwood Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland, has been dissolved and its members and resources have been deployed. At a meeting of members of the congregation on July 26, 1970, it was voted to allocate the sum of three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) to the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society "to be placed in a fund to be invested to assure some regular income, to facilitate in the very worthwhile function of the Historical Society." This action was recommended by its Committee for Analysis of Disbursement of Cash Assets, Edwin J. Twelbeck of Towson, Maryland, Chairman, after a visit to the Society's headquarters and subsequent correspondence with the Treasurer and the Executive Secretary of the Society. The transfer of the money will be forthcoming after the settlement of the sale of the church property has been made.

The Society owns microfilms of more than one hundred church records, most of them of Reformed churches in Southeastern Pennsylvania, covering the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, that were transcribed by William J. Hinke. The National Genealogical Society published an article in its Quarterly, volume 48, number 3, September 1960, entitled "Genealogical Resources of the Historical Society of the Evangelical and Reformed Church..." which included the list of these churches, giving the inclusive dates of each record. The list was republished in the D.A.R. Magazine, February, 1970. The reissuing of the list has stimulated increased use of the microfilms which are lent directly to the correspondent requesting them for a fee of one dollar per reel to help absorb handling costs. During the past eighteen months one hundred and fifty-one reels were lent to fifty-six borrowers from twenty-five states. The most popular reel circulated fifteen times.

Nearly every mail brings genealogical inquiries. The present policy is to refer the correspondent to a competent local genealogist if the inquiry requires extensive searching. Occasionally it can be answered, and is, by a quick reference to available data. Many times suggestions are made leading the inquirer to sources unknown to him.

Annual membership in the Society for the year 1969 totalled 293. This count includes 40 non-voting members, i.e., those who contributed less than five dollars. With the 150 active life memberships, the grand total of memberships for 1969 was 443. This number is 35 less than in 1968. However, many more persons gave five dollars, or

more, during the year. Before the first Historical Commission Appeal in 1966 the annual dues were one dollar. From 1966 to 1969 the members have improved their giving so that the latest figures show less than seven per cent of the members (40 in all, as mentioned previously) contributed less than the five dollar minimum necessary to become a voting member. A complete report of the 1970 memberships will be given in the next annual report.

Two names were added to the life membership roll during the report year: Mrs. Alfred Jasper Herman, in memory of her husband the Reverend Alfred Jasper Herman (1883-1965), and Reverend Howard Schley Fox, D. D. Two life members died: The Reverend David Dunn, D. D., for many years active in the administration of the Society, died September 4, 1970, and Reverend David J. W. Noll died January 16, 1970.

#### REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN OF THE LANCASTER CENTRAL ARCHIVES AND LIBRARY

During the past year, we have made an exerted effort to sort and catalogue such materials that had accumulated over a number of years. When we moved into the Philip Schaff Library, nearly a hundred boxes of assorted sizes were moved. I am happy to say that most all of these boxes have been opened, the material sorted, duplicates disposed of, and the material that we desired to save, cataloged and placed on the shelves. We still have a shipment of boxes from Elmhurst College to open and sort.

This work was done by the librarian, by Miss Brackbill the cataloguer, and we were assisted by Miss Gertrude Hoy. This was a big job but one that had to be done.

Miss Hoy, a retired missionary, has been working part-time for the past year. Her services have been invaluable. She has collated, and marked many drawers and packages of photographs of our Chinese and Japanese missions. I know of no one else who could do it, for she is the only living person here in the States who could recognize many of the people in the photographs. This work is continuing but most of it is completed.

When the files came to us from the offices of the Evangelical and Reformed Church which were situated in Philadelphia, we found that there were many categories of ministerial files. Some drawers contained forms of pastoral changes, others of pastoral deaths, and others as ordinations, etc. Miss Hoy has collated, and continues to collate, all these materials in one folder for each pastor. In other words, when this project is completed, pastors living and dead, will be found in the name file under the pastor's name in one folder. This has already proved valuable for researchers.

We are also continuing to put material in the name files. Each week we receive anniversary booklets, ordination programs, special services, etc. of local churches. These are entered under the location of the church (city, town, or county) and the name of the congregation. Some of this material has been coming to us in the form of newspaper clippings from conference offices. This is the kind of local history that is often lost, and we are very happy to have it to place in the name file, when it is no longer of any use in conference offices.

The librarian spent an interesting half day with a German religious press news photographer who visited Lancaster with a tour group which spent several days at the Seminary. Herr Hans Lachmann of Dusseldorf was surprised and overjoyed with many of the artifacts and manuscripts and old German books in archives. He spent hours photographing all sorts of things that he said would be of interest to the German religious press.

Researchers continue to use the library, and our service to patrons and to the United Church of Christ, its members and its congregations, is only limited by the time we have to spend and to the funds provided for the development of the archives and the collection and cataloging of materials.

During the past year our guest book records 104 visitors from outside the Lancaster area. They came from the following states: Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio, California, Rhode Island, Kentucky, District of Columbia, North Carolina, Delaware and Illinois. Confirmation classes and youth groups, as well as delegations from local churches continue to visit the Society rooms when they tour the Seminary. We have no count of how many groups were on conducted tours.

Attached to this report is a list of accessions to the archives and library during the past year (a list of the accessions will be mailed to those who make requests). Formerly gifts were reports each year but I feel that an annual list of accessions will be most helpful to the members of the Society. Notable gifts will be continued to be reported but no attempt will be made to publish a complete list.

As a closing note let me say we have tried to keep our expenditures this past year to a minimum because we are using reserve funds for operational expenses. We do need more equipment, such as filing cabinets, manuscript boxes, etc., but we must know where the funds are coming from before we purchase.

#### SUMMARY OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance, January 1, 1969 \$ 3,317.28

##### INCOME

Executive Council of the U.C.C.	7,583.33	
Conferences and Associations	704.70	
Dues rec'd thru Lancaster	255.00	
Historical Commission Campaign	1,303.42	
Interest on Investment and Misc.	303.72	
		<u>10,150.17</u>
		13,467.45

##### EXPENDITURES

Lancaster Central Archives & Library	3,964.68	
Eden Archives & Library	3,781.65	
General	2,687.09	
		<u>10,433.42</u>

Balance, January 1, 1970 \$ 3,034.03

A detailed financial report will be sent to those who request it. Please make request of the treasurer.

#### HISTORICAL COMMISSION ANNUAL APPEAL

If you have not already responded to the Commission's latest appeal of some months ago for funds to operate that Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society and/or the Congregational Christian Historical Society you are urged to do so. The need is great, and the Society is grateful for support received in this way since 1966. Contributions may be sent to the Office of the Treasurer, United Church of Christ, 297 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y., 10010, and designated for either Society. Undesignated amounts sent in will be divided equally between the two Societies after necessary solicitation expenses have been deducted. If you prefer, direct gifts to the Society will be thankfully received by George H. Bricker, Treasurer, 555 West James Street, Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17603.

To become a voting annual member of either Society the donor must contribute five dollars. If he sends that amount, or more, to the Commission undesignated, he automatically becomes a member of both Societies. An analysis of the list of donors and the amounts given to the 1969 appeal (October, 1969 - September 30, 1970) showed four hundred and eighty-six contributions totalling \$4,539.25. The net receipts for distribution (after Commission deductions for solicitation expenses) were \$3,364.35, of which the Society received \$1,567.43 and the Congregational Christian Historical Society \$1,796.92. It is interesting to note that: Thirty-six churches gave \$116.25; thirty-three Associations \$765.00; sixteen Conferences \$1,495.00; two other organizations designated exclusively for the Congregational Christian Historical Society.

#### MEMORIAL MEMBERSHIPS

The Executive Committee requested that an announcement of its action to establish Memorial Memberships in the Society be made in this Newsletter. The sum designated for each membership of this kind is fifty dollars, the same as the life membership fee. The money received by this method will be used to carry on the important work of the Society in preserving the heritage of the United Church of Christ and its predecessor groups, and in making the extensive facilities in Lancaster and in Webster Groves available to all who wish to use them.

The Society is presently carrying on its activities at two locations with part-time personnel. But the budget is insufficient. George H. Bricker, Treasurer of the Society, has reluctantly drawn upon its limited reserve funds for operational purposes. So additional funds via Memorial Memberships would be most welcome.

#### WE WELCOME NEWS OF LOCAL CHURCH OBSERVANCES

Please send us news of local church anniversary observances that have been held or will be held. We want to make the matter of local observances a feature of the Summer edition of the NEWSLETTER. And don't forget to send us bulletins and special brochures of observances to be placed in our vertical files of historical material under the names of pastors and local congregations.

PLEASE SEND US YOUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS. Address them to:

George H. Bricker, Editor  
Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society  
555 West James Street  
Lancaster, Pa. 17603