



News from the

EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

September 1974

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PLEASE NOTE

The mailing of the September Newsletter is late because of a change in our method of addressing our mailing list of over 1000 names. Lancaster Theological Seminary has installed a new system which we will use for all future mailings. We are limiting this issue of the Newsletter to one sheet to reduce the cost of mailing.

The November Newsletter will report the meeting of the Historical Commission which was held in Lancaster, October 7-8, 1974 and the coming Annual Meeting of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society.

OFFICIAL CALL TO THE 111th ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Society will be held on Wednesday, November 13, 1974 in Bomberger Hall, Room 014, Ursinus College, Collegeville, Pa. The schedule of the day will be as follows:

- 9:30 a.m. Executive Committee Meeting
- 10:00 a.m. Annual Business Meeting and Discussion of Plans
for the Celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the
Founding of the German Reformed Church in the U.S.
and of the Bicentennial of the Nation.
- 12:30 p.m. Luncheon in the Ursinus College Dining Room
- 1:30 p.m. Continuation of Discussion of Celebrations
- 3:00 p.m. Adjournment

All pastors and lay people are urged to attend. We invite especially all those who are interested in local congregational history and who may have some part in planning Bicentennial celebrations in their communities.

SOCIETY PUBLISHES THE FORGING OF A DENOMINATION

A free copy of Dr. Fred D. Wentzel's THE FORGING OF A DENOMINATION: UNITIVE FORCES IN THE HISTORY OF THE GERMAN REFORMED CHURCHES IN THE UNITED STATES is being sent to all the members of the Society with this mailing of the NEWSLETTER. Dr. Wentzel read his paper at the last annual meeting of the Society held in the Schaff Building, Philadelphia, Pa., October 16, 1973. The officers of the Society felt that the paper was a significant contribution to the history of our denominations and that it should be published in pamphlet form. Additional copies can be secured from the Executive Secretary. The cost is 50¢ per copy.

A SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY ON THE GERMAN REFORMED CHURCH

On October 15, ^{1725,} the first German Reformed Communion Service known to have been celebrated in America was held in the area of what is now Falkner Swamp Church, Gilbertsville, Pennsylvania. Plans are now underway for the celebration of the 250th anniversary of this event that marks the founding of the German Reformed Church in the United States which is not one of the constituent bodies of the United Church of Christ.

There have been many requests for some primary source material for the historical background of this colonial denomination. The books listed in the following bibliography may be borrowed from the Philip Schaff Library if they are not available from local libraries.

- Dubbs, Joseph Henry. THE REFORMED CHURCH IN PENNSYLVANIA. Lancaster, Pa. Pennsylvania German Society, 1902
- Dunn, David. A HISTORY OF THE EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH. Philadelphia, Christian Education Press, 1961
- Good, James I. HISTORY OF THE REFORMED CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES, 1725-1792. Reading, Pa., Daniel Miller, Publisher, 1899
- Good, James I. HISTORY OF THE REFORMED CHURCH IN THE U.S. IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY. New York, Board of Publication of the Reformed Church in America, 1911.
- Hinke, William J. LIFE AND LETTERS OF THE REVEREND JOHN PHILIP BOEHM. Philadelphia, Publication and Sunday School Board of the Reformed Church in the U.S., 1916
- Hinke, William J. MINISTERS OF THE GERMAN REFORMED CONGREGATIONS IN PENNSYLVANIA AND OTHER COLONIES IN THE 18TH CENTURY. Published by the Historical Commission of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Lancaster, Rudisill and Company, 1951.
- Klein, H.M.J. THE HISTORY OF THE EASTERN SYNOD OF THE REFORMED CHURCH IN THE U.S. Published by the Eastern Synod. Lancaster, Rudisill & Co., 1943.
- MINUTES AND LETTERS OF THE COETUS OF THE GERMAN REFORMED CONGREGATIONS IN PENNSYLVANIA 1747-1792. Published by the Eastern Synod of the Reformed Church in the U.S., 1908.
- Richards, George W. HISTORY OF THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF THE REFORMED CHURCH IN THE U.S. 1825-1934. Lancaster, Pa., Rudisill & Co., 1952.
- Richards, George W. "The Synod of the German Reformed Church in the United States of America - 1793-1863" An address printed in the MINUTES OF THE EASTERN SYNOD, 1941.
- Schaeffer, Charles E. "The Eastern Synod from 1863 to 1941." An address printed in the MINUTES OF EASTERN SYNOD, 1941.

WE SOLICIT YOUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS. Please address them to:

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