



News from the

EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

December 1975

Volume 3, No. 2-3

The NEWSLETTER has been published on an irregular schedule over the past years because of circumstances over which we have had little control. It is our hope to continue to publish three issues each calendar year, but the increased cost of publication and of mailing may result in only two each year. The next issue will be mailed after the spring meeting of the Executive Committee. Dr. George H. Bricker, President of the Society, will continue as editor for the coming year.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

The Annual Meeting of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society was held at the Falkner Swamp Reformed Church of the United Church of Christ, Gilbertsville, Pa., on October 15, 1975, and was part of the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the first German Reformed Communion Service held in America. Dr. John B. Frantz, Jr. presented an historical paper on "Growth Through Controversy" which was followed by a discussion chaired by the president of the Society. The paper dealt with the life and work of John Philip Boehm, the founder of the Falkner Swamp Church and of the German Reformed Church in America.

A celebration of the Holy Communion in which the Palatinate Liturgy was used followed and brought the meeting to a close.

After lunch, the annual meeting was formally opened by the president, George H. Bricker. He called upon the secretary of the Society, Rudolf G. Schade, to open the meeting with prayer in German.

The minutes of the last meeting held at Ursinus College on November 15, 1974, were read and accepted. Announcement was made concerning the Historical Tours which would follow the meeting and would give opportunity to view the historical landmarks in the area important for the history of the Reformed Church and the Bicentennial of our country. The reports of the Executive Secretary, Dr. Herbert B. Anstaett; Mr. Myron Wolf, Treasurer; and Dr. George H. Bricker, librarian of the Society and archivist of the United Church of Christ were presented.

Dr. Harold F. Worthley, Executive Secretary of the Congregational Christian Historical Society and a member of the Historical Commission of the UCC, brought greetings from our sister Society and the Commission.

Dr. William T. Parsons of Ursinus College reported on the progress he has made in his research of the Reformed Church in the colonial period.

Rev. Frank B. Snider reported that the Southern Chapter of the Society has instituted historical tours in order to make the people aware of the history of the church and the contributions made by the churches to the early days of our nation.

The President reported and elaborated on the changes in the United Church of Christ regarding the Historical Council. The Historical Commission was dissolved by the 10th General Synod and has been replaced by the Historical Council which has not

been appointed as yet. The Council will be composed of twelve members, six appointed by the Executive Council and six elected by the Societies; three from each. Since the names of our "elected" members had to be reported to the Executive Council early in September, the President appointed with the "advice and consent" of the Society the following: for a two-year term, Dr. George H. Bricker, President of the Society; for a four-year term, Dr. John B. Frantz, Jr., a layman, Department of History of the Pennsylvania State University; for a six-year term, Rev. Harry G. Royer, a pastor from Reading, Pa. Dr. Bricker pointed out that he appointed himself but that if Dr. Lowell H. Zuck, the previous chairman of the Historical Commission and presently Vice-Chairman of our Society was not appointed by the Executive Council as a member-at-large, he would withdraw and have Lowell Zuck serve in his place.

The Nominations Committee presented the following nominees for officers for the coming year:

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| Dr. George H. Bricker | President |
| Dr. Lowell H. Zuck | First Vice-President |
| Dr. Philip W. Weiss | Second Vice-President |
| Dr. James E. Wagner | Third Vice-President |
| Dr. Rudolf G. Schade | Secretary |
| Mr. Myron E. Wolf | Treasurer |
| Dr. George H. Bricker | Librarian |
| Dr. Herbert B. Anstaett | Executive Secretary |

The report of the committee was accepted by motion and the secretary was asked to cast a unanimous ballot.

The meeting was closed by the president who called upon Dr. Philip Weiss to offer a closing prayer in German. Before Dr. Weiss offered his prayer, he announced that in November the President of the Society, George H. Bricker, will receive an honoris causa Doctor of Letters degree from Ursinus College. This news was received by all with great joy and applause.

- Respectfully submitted,
Rudolf G. Schade, Secretary

THE FALKNER SWAMP CELEBRATION - COMMUNION SERVICE MARKS 250 YEARS OF GERMAN REFORMED HISTORY IN AMERICA

Church bells rang at noon through-out a seven-county area on Wednesday, October 15, as members of congregations of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ marked 250 years of the German Reformed tradition in America. On October 15, 1725, an unordained school-master, John Philip Boehm, administered Holy Communion to 40 poor German farmers, artisans, and indentured servants at Falkner Swamp, thus beginning regular German Reformed celebration of the sacraments in the new world.

A day-long celebration took place at Falkner Swamp Church, Gilbertsville, near Boyertown, with a number of distinguished visitors joining the local congregations and people from throughout the Pennsylvania Conferences in commemorating this historic occasion.

The convocation of pastors and lay people heard Dr. John B. Frantz, Jr. of Pennsylvania State University speaking on "Growth Through Controversy," a history

of the Reformed Church from its beginnings to the present United Church of Christ. Dr. Frantz is a grandson of the late Rev. John F. Frantz, a former pastor of the Falkner Swamp Church.

At 11:30 a.m. the Sacrament of Holy Communion was celebrated using an adaptation of the Palatinate Liturgy of 1563. Since many of those early pioneers came from the Palatinate region of Germany, and because Boehm favored the usage of the Palatinate Liturgy, this was undoubtedly the service used at the first celebration at Falkner Swamp and then later in that same year at Skippack and Whitemarsh. The Rev. Dr. James E. Wagner, former president of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, co-president of the United Church of Christ, and vice-president of Ursinus College, preached the communion sermon. Two early eighteenth century pewter chalices from the archives of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society were used in the service. It was during this service that the churches throughout the Conference rang their bells.

Following the luncheon, the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society held their annual meeting at Falkner Swamp and toured nearby historic sites.

Communicants of the Falkner Swamp Church and their families held a service at 6:30 p.m. for members of the church. The Falkner Swamp congregation, led by Pastor Gary C. Hauze, had spent the past year preparing for the celebration. An historical pageant in colonial costume, "Is This Not the Promised Land?"; "the Return of the Gift," of the Dutch Reformed Synods in 1752, in the form of special benevolent giving; and the "adoption" of a Vietnamese refugee family were among the activities of the founding church during the Anniversary Year.

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND DEDICATION HELD AT URSINUS COLLEGE

Four thousand voices were raised in song as the colorful banners of 36 historic churches were carried into Helfferich Hall, Ursinus College, for the celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the first German Reformed communion in America. Announced by a fanfare of heraldic trumpets, the procession into the Sunday evening program held on November 19 included the officers, staff, and the board of directors of the Pennsylvania Conferences of the United Church of Christ; the pastors, presidents, and banners of the congregations founded prior to 1800; representatives from Lancaster Seminary, Ursinus College, the Metropolitan Council of Philadelphia, the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, and banners from the Creative Arts Project.

Following the invocation by Dr. John C. Shetler, Pennsylvania Southeast Conference Minister, the Rev. Gary C. Hauze of the Falkner Swamp UCC Church read a letter from President Gerald R. Ford, congratulating the historic congregation on the anniversary of the first communion and noting the importance of the dedication and determination of the German Reformed people to the moral fibre of the country.

Dr. Robert V. Moss, President of the United Church of Christ, in bringing greetings to the capacity audience in the Ursinus Fieldhouse, remarked that the accomplishments of John Philip Boehm and the beginnings of the German Reformed Church in America were being celebrated. In recounting the arduous pastoral labors of the early 18th century cleric, Dr. Moss said that one was reminded of the trials and hardships of St. Paul. The early German Reformed settlers in Pennsylvania saw the Holy Communion as the manna which God provided them in their wilderness.

A panoramic review of the history of the German Reformed Church in America was presented in a multi-media pageant entitled, "The Years Between...1725-1975." The production, written by the Rev. Martha B. Kriebel and directed by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Sinclair, included historical dramatizations, slide projections, ethnic singing groups, and two stirring anthems by a 700 voice choir under the direction of Mildred Schnable.

Dr. George I. Oeste, chairman of the ongoing Anniversary/Bicentennial Celebration Committee, and his wife, Florence Oeste, chairman of the Community Action sub-committee, served as host and hostess for the entire day's activities. Visitors to the Anniversary festivities in Collegeville were treated to a concert by the Soul Brass of Quakertown, tours of the campus, and historical displays.

As part of the preparation for the Sunday of Remembrance and Dedication, the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference sponsored a Creative Arts Contest. The prize-winning hymn, "United We Stand," by the Rev. Alfred L. Creagor and Irene M. Storey of Trinity UCC, Collegeville, was given its inaugural performance in the Sunday evening program. Bern Church, Leesport, won first place in the Banner Contest; St. Paul's UCC, Summer Hill, second place, and third place was won by East Vincent and St. Vincent, Phoenixville; St. Paul's, Whitmarsh, wone the Handwork Contest for a banner done entirely in needlepoint; New Goshenhoppen UCC, East Greenville, took first place for the best display and Old First Church, Philadelphia, received honorable mention. First place winner for his water color was Okimoto. Nick Mascaro, Christ UCC, Indian Creek, won second place for his oil painting of a log church; James Ott was the third place winner with his primitive painting of St. Peter's UCC, Milltown.

250th ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE IN MISSOURI

The Missouri observance of the 250th Anniversary of the first celebration of the Lord's Supper in colonial America according to the German Reformed Rite, was held at Faith-Salem Church, 7348 West Florissant Avenue in St. Louis County---on Tuesday, October 14, 1975, starting at 10:00 A.M.

In attendance were more than 150 persons---146 of whom received Communion in the traditional German Reformed manner (loaf bread, common cup).

The Palatinate Liturgy of 1563 was used. The Rev. Ruben H. Huenemann of Portland, Oregon (and a former pastor of the old Salem Reformed Church in the city of St. Louis) was the preacher. The Rev. Richard S. Brueseke was celebrant. Serving as master of ceremonies for the event was the Rev. Richard E. Crusius. Professor Allen O. Miller presented a paper on the "Heidelberg heritage," as now found in the United Church of Christ. Greetings were brought by a number of persons with a Reformed background. Fraternal greetings were read from officers of the Eureka Classis of the Reformed Church in the U.S. (a body which did not enter the Evangelical and Reformed union of 1934). There were a number of interesting historical displays.

Members of the committee which planned this celebration included:

Richard S. Brueseke, pastor of Prince of Peach Church
Richard E. Crusius, pastor of Mount Tabor Church
Eugene W. Schupp, pastor of Faith-Salem Church
Allen O. Miller, professor at Eden Seminary
Lowell H. Zuck, professor at Eden Seminary

Pastor Schupp was called to his eternal reward in September, and the observance on October 14 included a tribute to his memory.

R. S. Brueseke

Missouri Conference Historian

GERMAN REFORMED LIFE IN MISSOURI AND SURROUNDING STATES

This celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the first communion of the Reformed Church in the U.S. at Falkner Swamp, Pennsylvania, in 1725, reminds participants in this happy occasion that the Reformed tradition is also part of our tradition in Missouri and surrounding states.

We here are an integral part of the Reformed Church traditions, both as part of the nineteenth century German Evangelical Union history and founding here in St. Louis, and as result of early westward migration of German Reformed people to this area from the East.

It is not generally known that Samuel Weyberg, a German Reformed clergyman from North Carolina, is said to have preached the first Protestant sermon west of the Mississippi River in 1803, one mile below Jackson, Missouri. Early Reformed congregations were begun at that then remote spot, but were later discontinued because of lack of ministers.

A German Reformed minister, Henry Kroh, preached as early as 1836 at Mount Carmel, Illinois, in Wabash County. Churches were begun in that area in 1847. It was not until 1855 that a German Reformed Illinois Classis was formed.

An early pastor of Holy Ghost Church, still in existence in Saint Louis, was Johann Buttner, in 1834, from the German Reformed Church.

Among the charter members of the German Evangelical Kirchenverein des Westens in 1840, the parent organization of our Evangelical Synod, was the Rev. Karl Daubert, from the German Reformed Church at Quincy, Illinois. A Missouri Classis of the German Reformed Church was not formed until 1880, probably because of the predominance of Evangelical organizational interests in this area.

Nevertheless, a few congregations of specifically German Reformed background took root in Missouri. Salem Reformed Church, at 14th and Sullivan Streets in St. Louis, was organized in 1888. Among its pastors was the Rev. Ruben Huenemann. Salem Church merged with the new Faith Evangelical and Reformed Church in 1949 to become Faith-Salem Church at 7348 W. Florissant Avenue in Jennings, Mo.

St. Paul's Reformed Church in Kansas City, Mo. was organized in 1886. At Cosby, near St. Joseph, Mo., forty Swiss immigrants from Bern organized what became Hope Reformed Church, although for ten years from the founding in 1854 the Cosby people worshipped without benefit of having a Reformed minister or without having heard of the Reformed Church in the United States! Uniting later with a group of like-minded worshippers at Amazonia, Mo., both churches have continued in fellowship through the formation of the United Church of Christ.

When the Evangelical and Reformed Church was formed in 1934, Eden Theological Seminary in Webster Groves, Mo., benefitted from union with the former Central Theological Seminary of Dayton, Ohio, which was a seminary of the Reformed Church.

Thus all of the members of the United Church, whether of Evangelical, Congregational, Christian, or Reformed background join in remembering with respect and affection the worthy pioneers who first celebrated the Palatinate Liturgy (derived from the magnificent Heidelberg Catechism) 250 years ago in a small church in colonial Pennsylvania. May all of the traditions of the United Church of Christ fruitfully strengthen each other, in order that the divine purpose might be realized among God's people.

L. H. Zuck

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, HERBERT B. ANSTAETT

The office of the Executive Secretary is located in the suite of the Lancaster Central Archives of the Society on the second floor of the Philip Schaff Library of the Lancaster Theological Seminary, 555 West James Street, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 17603. Six and one-half years ago the move was made from the Fackenthal Library of Franklin and Marshall College where most of the activities of the Society had been carried on for thirty-one years, i.e., since 1938. The Library, known as the Lancaster Central Archives and Library, which presently includes the Archives of the United Church of Christ as the officially designated depository for such material, was moved during the summer of 1967 when the Schaff Library was occupied. Previous to 1938 the Society and its Library were housed at the Seminary. The Eden Archives and Library, consisting in large part of Evangelical Synod of North America material, is housed in separate quarters in the library at Eden Theological Seminary, Webster Groves, Missouri. There is also archival material housed at Catawba College, Salisbury, North Carolina, and the Southern Chapter of the Society is in the process of having this collection cataloged.

The Tenth General Synod meeting in July established an Historical Council to take the place of the Historical Commission. The Council will continue the function of the Commission as the sponsoring agency of the two Societies.

The Historical Commission, through the Office of the Treasurer of the Church, has sent out an annual financial appeal (to aid in the support of the two Societies) for the past ten years to the Church's mailing list of pastors and others, including last year for the first time the lay members, as listed in the Lay Members Directory of the Year Book, as well as to all Conference and Association Offices. The contributor has the option of designating his gift for the Congregational Christian Historical Society or the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society or for any combination of these two organizations. To be a voting member of either Society, the donor must contribute ten dollars. If a person donates that amount, or more, undesignated, that constitutes membership in both Societies. The latest completed Historical Commission appeal for funds for supplementary support for the two Societies, this past year covering the period from July 1974 through June 1975, with 358 contributors, netted the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society a total of more than \$1,800 - about the same amount as the year before. The current yearly appeal has been somewhat delayed caused by the restructuring of the Commission but is being made as previously through the Office of the Treasurer in New York.

The latest Memorial Membership was received this past summer from Mrs. Lester (Myrtle C.) Fidler, Laureldale, Pennsylvania, in memory of her father, Howard L. Irwin. Mr. Irwin served for many years on the Consistory of the Rosedale Church in Laureldale. The fifty dollars received from this type of membership is the same amount as the life membership fee. Space permitting, a complete list of Memorial Memberships received since the establishment of this kind of membership in 1970 by the Executive Committee will be published in the forthcoming newsletter.

News from the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society was issued twice during this report year as volume 2, no. 3, November 1974 and as volume 3, no. 1, September 1975. Both issues were edited by Dean George H. Bricker, the Society's President.

An adaptation of the Communion Service of the Palatinate Liturgy of 1563 for use in our churches was made by Dean Bricker, and published by the four Pennsylvania UCC Conferences. Copies may be procured from the Society for five cents a piece plus postage of ten cents before December 28 and thirteen cents thereafter. They are also available in quantities of one hundred, while the supply lasts, for four dollars, plus postage. More details concerning this liturgy are contained in the News... mentioned above.

The Statement of Income and Expenses - Operating Account for the Period January 1, 1975 - September 30, 1975 - lists a gift of \$10,000 from the Arcadia Foundation. This foundation through Mrs. Edith C. Steinbright, Treasurer and her daughter, Marilyn Lee Steinbright, has given a total of \$29,000 to the Society since 1972 (September 1972, \$5,000; October 1973, \$6,000; February 1974, \$8,000; and April 1975, \$10,000). Both are life members of the Society and members of the Society's Advisory Council.

Dr. Gertrude Hoy, a member of the library staff at Lancaster, resigned in January. Miss Hoy gave dedicated service during the few years she served on a part-time basis. The Society is excellently staffed under the progressive leadership of Dean George H. Bricker, President, who also serves as Director of the UCC Archives at Lancaster and as Editor of the Society's Newsletter. Myron Wolf, Business Manager of the Lancaster Theological Seminary, is the newly elected Treasurer, who assumed his duties in January from George Bricker, former Treasurer.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN AND ARCHIVIST - GEORGE H. BRICKER

The 250th anniversary of the founding of the German Reformed Church and the Bicentennial emphasis of the nation have increased the number of researchers coming to our library and archives and the correspondence concerning colonial congregational history nearly 100%. During the past six months our visitors book has been signed by 221 patrons for 14 states and from Japan and Germany. This does not include many of our regular researchers from the area who do not sign the guest register every time they use the archives.

Our crying need is for at least one staff member who could be on duty full-time to help our patrons. Presently the archives are open only when the part-time staff is working. At other times patrons come to the circulation desk of the Philip Schaff Library and I open the archives for them and try to explain our resources.

Our part-time staff includes Miss Lucile Brackbill, cataloger; Mrs. George H. Bricker, assistant curator; and Miss Mary Margaret Rupp who is doing volunteer work in indexing one of our genealogical collections.

Recently we received from Franklin and Marshall College the Unger collection of genealogical material. During the summer Miss Brackbill with the help of a high school student collated and alphabetized the collection which has been placed in vertical files. This is the material that Miss Rupp is indexing.

The work of compiling a geographical index to all the church records; original manuscripts, microfilms and transcriptions, held by the Society continues under the direction of Mrs. Bricker. We have discovered that the task is much larger than we anticipated when we began about a year ago. No date has been set for publication but the material in file boxes by state, county, township, and town is in constant use.

We are encouraged by the amount of historical material that is being sent to the archives by local congregations, conferences, and the instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ. There are about forty transfer files and cartons of material in the receiving room to be processed at the present time. We are happy to report that the amount of unprocessed material has been substantially reduced during the past year.

The archival work is severely limited by the lack of sufficient funds for staff and equipment. Yet we are not discouraged. We are making progress in building and maintaining an archival collection that attracts more researchers every year. The growing awareness of the importance of archival work in the United Church of Christ is most gratifying. The conscientious work of many dedicated people in our 112 years of service to the church has laid a foundation that challenges us to continue this important work in the years ahead.

GERMAN REFORMED LEADERSHIP IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

A Bicentennial Symposium on the subject, German Reformed Leadership in the American War for Independence, met in Bomberger Auditorium, Ursinus College, Collegeville, PA, on Saturday morning, November 1, 1975, with Dr. John C. Shetler, Conference Minister, presiding. The purpose of the gathering was to note some of the personalities of the German Reformed faith (now a component of the United Church of Christ) and their contributions to American Independence. Dr. Shetler called attention to the problems of research and the need for more extensive projects and for new interpretations.

Richard K. Fair, of Center Valley, PA, an Ursinus graduate in 1975, and currently in business, read a paper on the Reverend Dr. John Joachim Zubly, Chaplain to the Continental Congress. That notable clergyman lived in South Carolina and Georgia and was a delegate to the Georgia state convention, then to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. He was selected Chaplain by the Congress and John Adams and John Dickinson paid tribute to his abilities. But Dr. Zubly was a moderate who asked British concessions, but stopped short of advocating revolution. On his return to Georgia, he was accused of Tory sympathies when he became further embroiled in provincial politics and local recriminations. In fact, he encountered difficulties with both Loyalists and Patriots.

Dr. Edith von Zemenszky, of Philadelphia, and on the faculty at Morgan State College, Baltimore, read her paper on Baron Friederich Wilhelm von Steuben, in which she cited manuscript sources to examine his broad career. The speaker emphasized his status as professional soldier and decried the notion that he was simply a hard-drinking, rough-talking soldier of fortune. A man of perception, Steuben noted that to European soldiers one simply issued orders and they were obeyed, but to the Americans, one had to explain why actions should be taken. Dr. von Zemenszky is working in the extensive manuscript correspondence of Friederich von Steuben; several of her articles on aspects of his life have already been published.

The Reverend H. Daehler Hayes, pastor of First Reformed Church, Philadelphia (U.C.C.) and a graduate of Harvard College and the Harvard Divinity School, took as his topic, The Reverend Casper Weyberg, Chaplain of Philadelphia County Militia. Parra Weyberg was one of Hayes' predecessors at First Church. In fact, Weyberg, who saw both sides of the struggle, preached to Hessian soldiers of British Forces during the occupation of Philadelphia, as well as to his own largely Patriot congregation. Hayes emphasized that Weyberg was German-born (not Swiss as in several accounts) and that essentially he was simply trying to serve the several needs of his varied parishioners. He objected vigorously to the British depredations when First Church was used as a military hospital and extensive damage resulted.

Then the wide-ranging works and interests of the Reverend Philip Jacob Michael, Chaplain, Berks County Militia, was analyzed by the Reverend David H. Rapp. The Shoemakersville Charge served by Pastor Rapp includes Die Liebe Nichelskarrich, one of the many up-country churches founded or served by Michael. Dr. Shetler pointed out that the name St. Michael's was lovingly adopted by its church members, in honor of the elderly pastor. Most impressive in David H. Rapp's presentation was his attempt to discover how military leadership and church membership were interrelated (if at all). He concluded that some Berks County militia units were not only identifiable by township of origin, but by membership in a particular Lutheran or Reformed congregation. Rapp indicated he hopes to pursue the same sort of investigation relative to the many other churches Parra Michael served.

Dr. William T. Parsons of Ursinus College, contributed the final paper on the Reverend Abraham Blumer, Pastor and Patriot. That Swiss German Reformed pastor was Chaplain in the First Battallion, Northampton County Militia. Colonel Stephen Balliet, one of his parishioners at Neffs, was commanding officer of the County Militia. Emphasizing the committment of the Blumer family as pastors in Canton Glarus, the speaker also pointed out that, just after Blumer's ordination, fresh from the University of Basel, he signed on as Chaplain in the Seiss Regiment Meyer, on contract service to the King of Sardinia. Three of his older brothers were commissioned officers in the same outfit.

That service, which earned him a fine letter of recommendation from Colonel Meyer, also gave Blumer a repertoire of sermons. He used them to advantage while serving his four-point charge at Zion Church, Allentown; the Egypt Church; the Church at the Jordan; and Schlosserskirche, later Union Church, Neffs, PA. Indeed he carefully marked at the head of each sermon when and where it was recycled.

Late in April 1775, he heard the news from Lexington and Concord. The following Sunday at Jordan Church, Reverend Blumer chose to preach on the text, Matthew X:16, "Behold I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents and harmless as doves." Later in the sermon he spoke of contingencies, "even if Kings go on some evil way," and near the end (on the dangers of sin and the devil), said, "the chief danger we fear comes from man."

Of course, it was his Zion Church which served as hiding place for the Liberty Bell in 1777-1778. How many persons were aware of the bell is not now known. By comparing his location during the years of his militia service, it is easy to see that his units were on a sort of home guard service, for Mr. Blumer was able to conduct services on most Sundays in his regular congregations.

All participants spoke of values and assessments based on some new research and previously unworked materials. Moreover, on the whole, this symposium certainly demonstrated the inaccuracy of the old complaint that Pennsylvania's German

population did little in the American War for Independence. The truth is that they served in larger proportion than their portion of the population.

This Bicentennial Symposium was sponsored jointly by the Ursinus College Bicentennial Committee, the Pennsylvania South East Conference 250th Anniversary/Bicentennial Committee, and the Collegeville Borough Bicentennial Commission. The addresses with Dr. Shetler's comments will be published as an item in the Pennsylvania Dutch Studies series of the Penna. Dutch Studies Program at Ursinus College. Proceedings of the symposium will be published early in 1976 as an item in the series of Pennsylvania Dutch Studies of the Institute on Pennsylvania Dutch Affairs, Collegeville, PA.

PLEASE SEND US NOTICE OF YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Many copies of the NEWS is returned to us after each mailing by the post office with the notation, "Address Unknown." We search the UCC YEARBOOK to try to find the correct addresses, but many times we are unsuccessful for these addresses are usually a year "late." Please drop us a card when you move so that we can keep our mailing list up-to-date. Thank you!

MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY

This issue of the NEWS is being mailed to all who were present at the Falkner Swamp Annual Meeting. If you are not a member of the Society, we invite you to join.

The annual membership dues are \$10.00 a year. You may designate your contribution for membership in the Historical Council in which case it is divided between the Congregational Christian Historical Society and the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society or you may designate that your contribution should be for membership in just one of the Societies. Please indicate on your check how you wish it credited.

Membership dues for the Historical Council may be sent to Lancaster. We will forward your check to the treasurer of the Historical Council for distribution to the Societies.

If you do not desire a full membership, we solicit any amount of contribution for the work of the Society and the archives of the United Church of Christ.

WE INVITE YOUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS. PLEASE ADDRESS THEM TO:

Dr. Herbert B. Anstaett, Executive Secretary
Dr. George H. Bricker, Editor and Archivist
Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society
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