

NEWS

from the **EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED HISTORICAL SOCIETY UCC**

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DR. FAUTH'S DISCOVERIES IN THE VAULT

In reviewing the contents of the vault following the demise of Mr. Earl Koelling, Business Manager of Eden Seminary, Dr. Robert Fauth, President of the seminary and Mrs. Margaret Donovan, his secretary, were surprised and delighted to find among other things a record book bearing the heading "Verhandlungen des Deutsch-Evangelischen Kirchenvereins des Westens." The original "Minutes of the German-Evangelical Church Society of the West." This was the beginning of what became The German Evangelical Synod of North America.

This meeting took place on 15 October, 1840, at Gravois Settlement (later changed to Mehlville) in St. Louis County, Missouri.

Members present: E. L. Nollau, Gravois Settlement, Mo., Carl Ludwig Daubert, Quincy, Ill., Herman Garlichs, Femme Osage, Mo., Philip Jacob Heyer, St. Charles, Mo., Johann Jacob Riess, Centreville, Ill., and Georg W. Wall, St. Louis, Mo.

During this meeting a constitution of 24 articles was drafted. To this constitution the six ministers mentioned above signed their names and Rev. Joseph Rieger and Rev. John Gerber later affixed their signatures.

This book includes minutes of meetings through 17 June, 1851.

Among other finds was a gold watch inscribed To Heinrich Fricke upon completing 25 years work as Sunday School Teacher at Evangelische St. Johann Gemeinde, and several gold wedding rings.

MICROFILM CAMERA PURCHASED

In compliance with the decision of the Eden Archives Committee a Microfilm Camera was purchased in December. We are now in a position to serve the congregations who have record books either frying in their bell tower room or molding in their basement vault by microfilming these record books at cost. one stipulation we make is that

we be permitted to have a copy of the microfilm. We will also store the record books, if requested, here in the air-conditioned, humidity controlled archives where they will be preserved much longer.

WALL STAUMBAUM OR FAMILY TREE RECEIVED

The Eden Archives recently received a copy of the Georg

RESEARCH IN EDEN ARCHIVES ON MISSIONS

Among visiting scholars doing research in the Eden Archives during the past year, three foreign visitors found helpful materials regarding foreign missions while working in the Eden Archives.

Dr. Manfred Laun, a German medical doctor and twenty-year missionary in charge of the Evangelical Hospital in Khariar, Orissa state, India, did research at the Eden Archives while on furlough on the establishment of his hospital by the former Evangelical Synod of North America.

Prof. Shigeru Honda of North Japan University, Sendai, Japan, did research in the Eden Archives on the General Synod of the Reformed Church in Japan, where his university is one of the institutions still related to the United Church of Christ.

Prof. Markus Bishwas of the Lutheran Church in India also engaged in a week of research on the Christian churches of north India, using the mission history resources of the Eden Archives.

The Eden Archives gratefully
(Continued on page 2)

Wendelin Wall Staumbaum or Family Tree from Mrs. Carl Rasche. Mrs. Rasche springs from one of the branches of the Wall Family Tree.

EDEN ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

The Eden Archives Committee met in the office of President Fauth, Wednesday, November 14. Present were Chairman Allrich, Grunewald, Fauth, and Zuck - members of the Committee - and Wilferd Bohley, Archivist.

The Chairman announced that Illinois South Conference Minister Koshewa had appointed the Rev. Dr. John Schmidt to represent the Conference on the Committee, but that the appointee was unable to be present for this meeting.

Zuck reported on the relationship between the Eden Archives, the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, and the Historical Council of the United Church of Christ. He noted that the recently distributed folder on the historical societies seemed to overlook the Eden Archives as a component of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society. George Bricker has suggested that the next issue of the E & R Historical Bulletin be edited by the Eden Archivist to demonstrate the systematic relationship of the Eden Archives to the E & R Historical Society.

Zuck also announced that the U.C.C. Historical Council will begin publication of a journal to be called "Historical Intelligence."

Archivist Bohley introduced six items for discussion and decision:

1. Should the Eden Genealogical listings be expanded to include all ministers of the United Church of Christ? Frequent requests for information would make such a listing exceedingly valuable. The decision of the Committee was that this listing be limited to E & R clergypersons up to the time of the formation of the United Church of Christ, and that in the years since 1957 it include Eden graduates who have been ordained in the United Church of Christ. This decision, however, is not to be interpreted so rigidly as to exclude local ministers who may not fall into the above-mentioned categories.

2. Should we purchase a microfilm camera (used equipment costing about \$1,300)? This would enable us to microfilm church records, and we would assume that local churches would pay for the cost of mater-

ials and would have a choice of retaining either the microfilm or the original records. It was voted to purchase the camera when funds are available (with inquiry regarding the possibility of the E & R Society paying part or all of the cost).

3. What should be done with the gold watch, rings, and Kirchenverein minute book found in the Eden Seminary vault? The decision was that such valuable objects be retained in the Seminary vault, with appropriate information filed in the Eden Archives.

4. What should be done regarding items missing from the Archives? It was suggested that a mimeographed list be prepared and that this be circulated among appropriate people in the hope that some of the material might be reclaimed.

5. What is the status of the lineotype machine at Emmaus? Lowell Zuck is making arrangements to bring it to Eden.

6. How can we get more light in the Archives? It was suggested that Bohley inform Mr. Lasley of the need.

JUNE 1980 U.C.C. MID-AMERICA THEOLOGIZING EVENT

A theological panel made up of professorial representatives of Chicago Theological Seminary, Eden Theological Seminary, United Theological Seminary, and the U.C.C. Office for Church Life and Leadership is preparing a "theologizing event" for June 1980 designed for pastors, lay persons, conference staffs, and seminary people around the theme of "Unity and Diversity in the United Church of Christ." The purpose of the event is "to provide a significant opportunity for U.C.C. church people in mid-America to engage in reflection and dialogue about the theological meaning of unity and diversity in the United Church of Christ." The Event has been initiated by the U.C.C. Office for Church Life and Leadership.

RESEARCH IN EDEN Continued

remembers the generous gifts toward maintenance of its mission records by its longtime secretary and supporter, Miss Hilda L. Huefe, who died at the Good Samaritan Home in St. Louis in September 1979. She lacked five days of attaining her 90th birthday.

EDEN ARCHIVES COMMITTEE RECONSTITUTED

The Eden Archives Committee has been reconstituted as the local steering committee for the Eden Archives and Library of the E & R Historical Society, sponsored by the Historical Council of the U.C.C.

Members of the Committee are the Rev. Harold Grunewald, representing the former Evangelical Synod, the Rev. Fred Allrich, representing the Missouri Conference, U.C.C., the Rev. John Schmidt, representing the Illinois South Conference, U.C.C., Dr. Lowell H. Zuck, representing the E & R Historical Society, and Dr. Robert T. Fauth, representing Eden Theological Seminary.

The former Archivist, the Rev. William Chrystal, compiler and editor of the book "Young Reinhold Niebuhr, His Early Writings - 1911-1931," is now pastor of First Congregational Church of Stockton, Stockton, California. Mr. Wilferd W. Bohley has been serving as Eden Archivist for the past two years. Dr. Lowell H. Zuck of the Eden Seminary faculty continues as Librarian of the Eden Archives.

THE WORK GOES ON AND ON AND ON IN THE EDEN ARCHIVES

During the past year we have rearranged the entire Eden Archives to gain more floor space. While rearranging the books and papers a complete inventory was made. Unfortunately a few items are missing. An attempt has been made to locate these.

Several ladies of the Friends of the Archives have worked diligently on Thursday mornings to help make the Archives more efficient and update certain records. These workers are Mrs. Robert Fauth (Edith), Mrs. Henry Duhan (Alma), Mrs. Elmer Arndt (Irene), and Mrs. August Burckhardt (Catherine).

Three Eden Seminary students have been assigned part time work in a Federally Funded Student Assistance Program. Barry Schaefer and Mark Burns have been compiling alphabetical indexes of church record books in our collection. This will greatly reduce time required in genealogical research. Miss Lisa Bridges has worked as typist during the Fall Semester but had to quit because of a change in her school

plans and has been replaced by Miss Shari Maddox.

Rev. F. J. Mittler and Rev. Walter Kleffman, both retired, were engaged in reading old German records in genealogical research.

GERMAN BIBLE PRINTED IN 1696 PRESENTED TO EDEN ARCHIVES

According to Rev. Ralph W. Wedeking, donor of this Bible, it was picked up by his Great-Grandfather, Fredrich Rothchild, in the late nineteenth century, in a grocery store in the village of Marklohe, near Nienburg, (Wessen), Germany. He said the grocer was going to use the Bible by tearing out the pages and forming them into cones to contain products he had for sale in his store. Great-Grandfather said he did not want to see a Bible used in that fashion and purchased the Bible.

It was one of the few possessions the Rothchild family brought with them when they came to America. The Bible became the property of Sophie Rothchild Wedeking, Grandmother of Rev. Wedeking, who in turn passed it on to him.

THE NIEBUHR CELEBRATION AT EDEN SEMINARY CONVOCATION

A special Niebuhr Celebration featuring four lecturers honoring the Niebuhrs was held at the Eden Theological Seminary Annual Convocation on April 17 through 19, 1979, in Webster Groves, Missouri.

Dr. Richard R. Niebuhr, professor of theology at Harvard Divinity School and son of H. Richard Niebuhr, presented three lectures at the Convocation, including a discussion of H. Richard Niebuhr's conversation with Jonathan Edwards.

Prof. Paul L. Lehmann, long time associate of Reinhold Niebuhr, gave three lectures relating pietism and faith, will and power, and love and justice in Reinhold Niebuhr.

Prof. M. Douglas Meeks, of Eden Seminary, lectured twice on H. Richard Niebuhr, including a discussion of the theme, history and the kingdom of God.

Finally, the Rev. Joan Beebe of Los Ange-

les, California, former faculty member at Eden, illuminated the significance of Hulda Niebuhr, referring to her as a light for church education.

During this Convocation, on April 17, the Eden Archives held an Open House which was attended by more than a hundred persons. This open house was a success in that we have received many church anniversary booklets containing histories of their congregations and many ministers contributed their dossiers as a result of their becoming acquainted with the Archives.

CONFERENCE ON THE EVANGELICAL TRADITION

In June 1979 Eden Theological Seminary sponsored a conference which pondered the heritage of the Evangelical tradition. The following persons prepared papers which were read at the conference and have been circulated. Dr. Eugene S. Wehrli commented upon "The Use of Scripture in the Eden Tradition". The Rev. Frederick R. Trost, pastor of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Chicago, Ill., examined "The Gift of the Evangelical Tradition". Dr. M. Douglas Meeks probed into "The Evangelical Tradition and the Future of the United Church of Christ".

BOOK AVAILABLE ON EVANGELICAL 'FESTIVAL OF THE CHURCH'

In September, 1977, St. Paul's Church, Chicago, hosted a "Festival of the Church" celebrating the centennial of the formation of the German Evangelical Synod of North America. The annual meeting of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society at St. Paul's Church, St. Louis, commemorated the same event a few weeks later.

Persons gathered at the two events for worship and fellowship. Five addresses were given on the history and development of the Evangelical Synod, and its influence in the United Church of Christ. Two of those papers were presented by Walter A. Brueggemann and Lowell H. Zuck of Eden faculty, and the sermon at the Chicago festival was delivered by President Robert T. Fauth of Eden.

The Office for Church Life and Leadership has now published the addresses, including

those by Gabriel J. Fackre, Barbara Brown Zikmund, Arthur D. Gray, and Avery D. Post, along with Dr. Fauth's sermon from the Chicago worship service, Dr. Brueggemann's address, and two papers on the Synod's history by Profs. Zuck and Rudolf G. Schade of Elmhurst in a book entitled "Festival of the Church".

This book is one that you will want to read and to keep as we move toward another hundred years of church history. The book may be purchased by sending a check for five dollars to: Church Leadership Resources, P. O. Box 179, St. Louis, MO 63166.

UCC-EKU (GERMAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH) NEWSLETTER

In December, 1979, the first issue of an E K U - U C C Newsletter appeared at Eden Theological Seminary, edited by Prof. M. Douglas Meeks, Chairperson of the UCC-EKU Working Group. The Newsletter and the Group seek to encourage relations between the Evangelical Church of the Union (EKU) in East and West Germany (the German parent of the former Evangelical Synod of North America) and the United Church of Christ (USA). Those who are interested in the Newsletter are invited to correspond with Prof. Meeks at Eden Seminary, Webster Groves, Missouri 63119.

EVANGELICAL SYNOD COMMITTEE REORGANIZED

The committee which continues to oversee the affairs of the Evangelical Synod of North America filled its ranks and reorganized in December 1979. The present board and elected officers are:

President - Rev. Henry Duhan
Secretary - Rev. Richard Crusius
Treasurer - Dr. Charles Lockyear
Members - Rev. John Schmidt
Rev. Herbert Wintermeyer
Rev. Paul Surkey
Rev. Harold Grunewald
Mr. Russell Gieselmann
Mr. James Zemenick
Accountant - Mr. John Klick

A study is being made of the investment portfolio as well as the property still held by the Synod. The Board was informed the completion of the closing out of Eden Publishing House awaits the I.R.S. ruling

on the excess funds in the employees pension reserves. The records of the Publishing House and the Synod were moved to the Evangelical Archives at Eden Theological Seminary.

E. LOUIS NOLLAU MEMORABILIA

During this past year the Eden Archives received a wicker basket from the great-grandchildren of Rev. E. Louis Nollau.

The reeds for this basket were gathered in Africa and Rev. Nollau wove the basket to serve as a cradle or bed for his first child. We are most grateful to these descendants of Rev. Nollau for this gift.

The desk around which the six ministers sat while discussing the organization of the Kirchenverein in Rev. Nollau's home at Gravois Settlement is also in the Eden Archives.

When the building at Gravois Settlement was razed someone had the foresight to save some of the boards. Out of these boards a Schatzmeister Stuhl (Treasurer's Chair) was built. This too is now in the Eden Archives.

ANOTHER EDEN ARCHIVES OPEN HOUSE HELD ALONG WITH SPRING CONVOCATION AT SEMINARY

In connection with the Forty-Sixth Spring Convocation at Eden Seminary, the Eden Archives held another Open House on April 8. Many familiar faces attended and a goodly number of new faces were seen sipping coffee and nibbling cookies while viewing the museum articles on display. Mrs. Henry (Esther) Damm, Mrs. Robert (Edith) Fauth, Mrs. Carl (Ruth) Rasche, Mrs. Henry (Alma) Duhan, Mrs. Harlan (Ruth) Hashbarger and Mrs. Wilferd (Virginia) Bohley served as hostesses and guides.

The following persons lectured during the Convocation: On Tuesday, April 8, Dr. Richard L. Scheef, Jr., Professor of New Testament at Eden Seminary lectured on "The Ways of Life and Death." Dr. Don S. Browning, Professor of Religion and Personality and Dean of the Disciples Divinity House of the University of Chicago lectured on "The New Interest in the Moral Context of Care," and Dr. Henry H. Mitchell, Baptist Minister and Radio Preacher on NBC's

National Radio Pulpit lectured on "The Souls We Seek and Save."

On Wednesday Dr. Mitchell spoke on "Preaching a New Methodology," Dr. Scheef spoke on "New Life in the Human Environment," and Dr. Browning spoke on the question "Is Practical Theology Possible?" Dr. Scheef spoke on "Life in the Midst of Death."

Thursday Dr. Browning's topic was "Some Principles of a Practical Theology of Care," Dr. Mitchell's subject was "Celebration: Literal and Relevant."

DR. LOWELL H. ZUCK ON SABBATICAL, STUDYING IN WEST GERMANY

Dr. Lowell H. Zuck, member of the Executive Committee of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society and Professor of Church History at Eden Seminary, on sabbatical, is presently in Marburg and Kassel in Hessen, West Germany. He is studying the writings of Heinrich Hepp and August Vilmar, History and Theology Professors at Marburg University in the 19th century, dealing with the Evangelical and Lutheran elements of the Evangelical tradition.

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

The NEWS has been edited at the Lancaster headquarters of the Society since the beginning of its publication.

Wilferd W. Bohley, archivist of the Eden Archives, St. Louis, Missouri, was asked to serve as guest editor for this issue.

Mr. Bohley is a former newspaperman and is giving excellent direction to the Eden Archives. He has done an excellent job as guest editor and we hope to hear from him again in future issues.

His editorship of this issue emphasizes that the Eden Archives is an integral part of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society. That fact is too often forgotten by all of us.

The Eden Archives hold the primary source material of the former Evangelical Synod of North America which in 1934 joined with the Reformed Church in the United States to form the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

We appreciate your work, Mr. Bohley.

THE 1980 ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

The Annual Meeting this fall will be held in the First Plymouth Congregational Church 20th and D Streets, Lincoln, Nebraska, on Sunday afternoon, October 12th, at 2:30 o'clock.

The ERHS is a national society and we wish to honor our roots that are in the Mid-west and acknowledge the fine work that the denominational historians of the Nebraska Conference are doing.

Plymouth Church is situated in a residential area about 10 blocks from the downtown area. The Executive Committee which will meet Saturday evening will be staying at the Lincoln Hilton which is some distance from the church.

The September issue of the NEWS will carry the official call to the meeting and further details on accommodations.

Those who wish further details immediately should write to the Rev. I. C. G. Campbell, R.R. Box 200 G.G., Weeping Water, NE 68463. He is a member of the ERHS Executive Committee and archivist of the Nebraska Conference.

CHURCH RECORDS INVENTORY

For several years Mrs. George H. Bricker, assistant archivist of the Lancaster Archives, has been working on an inventory of all the church records in the archives arranged by geographical location.

In most all instances she has checked the original record or its transcription to verify dates, location by state, county, township or town/city. The official name as well as the popular name of the congregation has been recorded.

The first manuscript which consists of 60 pages of single typescript lists nearly 700 separate congregations and pastoral records.

We are now ready to type the final copy. It was our intention to publish the inventory. Because of the financial situation of the Society, we may have to wait until someone subsidizes the printing.

INDEXING OF THE REFORMED CHURCH ALMANAC, 1864-1934, BEGUN

When the General Synod was organized in 1863 that brought together in one synod all the "district" synods, the Reformed Church began the publication of an Almanac that included not only monthly calendars but short articles of an inspirational nature and historic facts about the Reformed Church.

Before the turn of the century woodcuts and later photographs of new churches built were included, along with biographies of pastors.

Researchers have found the Almanac an invaluable resource for the kind of ephemeral material usually not included in the histories of local churches.

OFFICE MOVES SEND MUCH MATERIAL TO THE UCC ARCHIVES

The move of the executive offices of the UCC and of the UCB for Homeland Ministries from Park Avenue South, NYC, to their new locations at 105 Madison Avenue and 132 West 31 street, resulted in over 100 cartons of material sent to the UCC archives at Lancaster.

Presently this material is stored in our receiving room and gradually moved to the archives for sorting and calendaring. Since the archives staff consists of one full-time secretary and three part-time persons, the assimilation of this material will take considerable time.

In most cases every folder and sometimes every paper has to be handled and examined before it can be processed. This is the kind of archival work we are trained to do but our staff is absolutely too small to service all the "paper" produced by the United Church of Christ. In the meantime we do the best we can and we ask all who depend on us for information to have patience.

The UCC archives receives from the Executive Council of the UCC through the Historical Council budget \$9,100 for staff and \$1,800 for operational expenses. The remainder of the cost of the UCC archives is paid by the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society.