

NEWS

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

Sponsored Agency of the Historical Council, United Church of Christ

ANNUAL REPORTS ISSUE

December 1980

Volume 8, No. 3

117th ANNUAL MEETING HELD IN LINCOLN, NE

For the first time in its long history the Annual Meeting was held west of St. Louis. In accepting the invitation of the Midwest UCC Historians to meet in the First Plymouth Congregational Church on October 12th, the Society desired to emphasize the national character of the Society and to recognize our historic ties with the early German churches of the constituent bodies that merged to form the United Church of Christ.

The annual address given by the Rev. Henry A. Vieth of Ft. Morgan, Colorado on the "Ecclesiology of the Prayer Meeting Movement" emphasized the unique church structure of those Germans of Lutheran and Reformed background who came to America from Russia in the middle of the last century.

Historical circumstances caused them to leave Russia and to become Congregational when they settled in our mid-west. There are still many congregations who maintain this tradition in the mid-west.

The annual reports given at the meeting will be found on the following pages.

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MAILING LIST TO BE REVISED

At the present time there are over 1400 addresses on our mailing list. Due to the increased costs of printing and mailings we are revising our mailing list and will send the N E W S during 1981 only to those who have contributed during the last three years and/or those who are life members.

We urge you to send in your membership contribution now for the 1981 year. It may be sent to the Historical Council or to the ERHS UCC. See membership form on page 2.

MISS BRACKBILL RETIRES AS CATALOGER

Miss Lucile Brackbill of East Petersburg, a suburb of Lancaster retired as cataloger of the Society in December, 1979 after serving 63 years as a professional cataloger. She did all our cataloging and drove her car to the archives until she was nearly 90 years old. A serious fall resulted in a stay at the hospital but she is now living alone in her beautiful home filled with antiques. She continues to be actively interested in community and church affairs.

She began her library career at Union Theological Seminary, New York City in 1916. In 1921 she became a member of the staff of Princeton University Library. After two years at Princeton, she returned to Lancaster to help with the recataloging of the Lancaster Seminary Library collection which was a two year project. During the spring term of 1925 she returned to Union Seminary for special work and during the summer of 1927 did special cataloging at Yale Divinity School.

She was an authority on the Union Seminary Classification system for she worked under Miss Pettee at Union who was the originator of the system which is used by many theological schools.

In 1928 she joined the staff of Franklin and Marshall College Library to help with a special project of recataloging and remained at Franklin and Marshall until 1955. In the 1960's she became the official cataloger of the Historical Society. Miss Brackbill was a noted cataloger of special collections. For a twenty year period, 1920-1940 she was consultant on a voluntary basis to Miss Charlotte Appel, Curator

(Continued on page 2)

of the Society. She cataloged the 1400 volumes of the Allen R. Bartholomew Library of Missions which was given to the Society by the Board of International Missions of the Evangelical and Reformed Church in 1962.

She served for a time on the Board of the Lancaster YWCA and is presently on the Board of Directors of the Easter Seal Society for Crippled Children and Adults of Lancaster County, which position she has held for many years.

EDEN ARCHIVES (Continued from page 8)

8. Mr. Bohley asked the Committee to approve Seminary Work-Study students for the coming academic year.

9. Mr. Zuck announced that he will give the historical address at the 140th anniversary of the founding of the Evangelical Kirchenverein on October 14, 1980, 10:40 a.m. at St. John's U.C.C. Mehlville, MO. He also announced the forthcoming meeting of the E & R Historical Society at Lincoln, NE on October 12, 1980.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

-- Selected from the minutes by Robert T. Fauth.

Lowell H. Zuck

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MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please enroll me as a member of the CCHS and the ERHS for 1981. Enclosed is my check.

_____ Individual Memberships
_____ Sponsor (\$100 or more)
_____ Supporting (\$50 to \$99)
_____ Sustaining (\$25 to \$49)
_____ Individual (\$10)

(Continued bottom of next column)

HISTORICAL NOTES

Karl Marx was born in Trier, part of Rhenish Prussia on 5 May 1818. His father a lawyer converted to Christianity from Judaism and received a position in the Prussian government. Two biographies of Karl Marx differ on the father's conversion. Saul Padover stated it was a religious conversion and Isaiah Berlin stated it was a political conversion, as his object was to receive a government position.

The Prussian Union was formed as Lutheran and Reformed Churches on 1 Nov. 1817, the 300th Anniversary of the nailing of 95 theses by Luther. Much of the adaption of both Evangelical and Reformed Churches in America was to preserve their biblical and theological heritage independent of the establishment of the church. Is it fulfillment or irony that Wittenburg, Luther's home today is in Communist East Germany.

When Trier was returned to Germany, and made part of Prussia by the Congress of Vienna, the shetto abolished by Napoleon was reinstituted. Isaiah Berlin states Communism is a society lacking rabbi and banker, the two honored professions of the ghetto.

Christopher Niebuhr

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HISTORICAL NOTES will be a regular feature of the NEWS. We invite our readers to submit articles of not more than 200 words for this feature. We cannot promise that all submitted will be published.

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MEMBERSHIP FORM (Continued)

Name _____

Address _____

Please detach and return to either the Historical Council UCC, 105 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016 or
Evangelical & Reformed Historical Society
555 West James St., Lancaster, Pa. 17603

MINUTES OF THE 117TH ANNUAL MEETING

The 117th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society was held at First Plymouth Congregational Church in Lincoln, Nebraska on October 12, 1980. Dr. George H. Bricker, president, opened the meeting at 2:30 P.M. and greeted those in attendance. More than 100 had come with the Reverend Frank W. Snider and Banks D. Shepherd from South Carolina.

Dr. Bricker introduced the Conference Minister, Dr. David J. Jamieson, who brought greetings on behalf of the Nebraska Conference to those gathered. George Bricker also introduced Dr. Otis Young, pastor of the host church, who welcomed all to the church and gave a brief account of the history of the church.

Dr. Rudolf G. Schade as secretary of the Society was invited by George Bricker to make a brief statement concerning the work of the Society.

George Bricker spoke about membership in the Society and encouraged all present to join. He also stated that all members will receive a membership card and the journal, "The Historical Intelligencer," as a gift.

The Rev. I.C. Gordon Campbell introduced the speaker of the afternoon, the Rev. Henry Vieth. The topic of his presentation was "The German Brotherhood Movement."

Rev. Vieth's presentation of the issues surrounding the founding and the maintenance of the German-Russian Church movement in Russia and in America was historically amazing and religiously inspiring. The lively discussion following his presentation suggested how much he had stimulated the people.

The meeting closed with a Benediction in German by Dr. Philip Weiss.

Respectfully submitted,
Rudolf G. Schade, Secretary

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Executive Committee of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society met at the Conference Office of the Nebraska Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska on Saturday, October 11, 1980. The meeting was opened at 7:30 P.M. with the following members present: George H. Bricker, I.C. Gordon Campbell, Owen L. Fox, Rudolf G. Schade, Banks D. Shepherd, Frank W. Snider, Philip W. Weiss, Lowell H. Zuck. Guests present were: David J. Jamieson, Conference Minister, and Mrs. Doris E. Chatfield, State Historian of the Nebraska Conference.

Dr. Bricker presented the request of the Historical Council that the Society nominate two persons to serve on the Council in behalf of the E & R Historical Society.

Lowell Zuck moved that Ruth Rasche (Mrs. Carl) be elected to serve on the Historical Council. Her term would become effective in 1982, after General Synod.

Discussion centered around the implementation of the new constitution. Changes have been made according to the discussions and suggestions at the Executive Committee meeting of March 12, 1980. Attention was also given to the fact that a Board meeting twice a year may be too costly. Thus the idea was expressed that the full Board would meet once a year, at the annual meeting, and the Executive Committee would meet separately in the Spring. The new constitution may not be put into force until it has been approved by the Internal Revenue Service.

The idea of the value of the local archival committee to assist in the work of the Archives

was discussed. The Eden Archives and the Catawba Archives have such committees. George Bricker stated that the Lancaster Archives will make plans for the establishment of such a committee.

The question concerning the ownership of the Archives arose again. It was stated and agreed upon that the Archives are the archives of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society irrespective if they are housed at Eden Seminary, Lancaster Seminary, or Catawba College.

George Bricker informed the committee that registration forms will be distributed at the annual meeting. By doing this a better count of attendance can be kept, and we may also increase thereby the number of paying members of the Society.

Myron E. Wolf, the treasurer, was not present, but George Bricker presented the financial report (see attached). It was moved by Philip Weiss and seconded by Owen Fox to accept the report. The footnote to the report by Myron Wolf suggests the Society's financial situation: "It should be noted that without the generous \$10,000 gift and generous \$5,00 gift listed on the Statement of Income and Expenses, the Society would have incurred more than a \$10,000 deficit during the first nine months of the current year."

In order to make contributors more aware of their membership in the Society it was proposed by George Bricker that membership cards be issued. All agreed this should be done.

Remarks were made by the two guests present, Dr. David Jamieson the Conference Minister, and Mrs. Doris Chatfield the Conference Historian.

The meeting was closed with prayer at 9:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Rudolf G. Schade, Secretary

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT/ARCHIVIST

During the past two years we have been in the process of incorporating the Society as a non-profit corporation. Because of some changes in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania corporation laws and the requirements of the Internal Revenue Service the process is unduly slow. However we hope this task can be completed by the spring of 1981.

Incorporation will mean that there will be some changes in our structure although not in our function. The governing body of the Society will be a Board of Directors which will be composed of the officers and not less than seven nor more than ten directors-at-large. The official name of the Society will be the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society of the United Church of Christ.

All archives officially related to the Society (presently, Lancaster, Eden, and Southern Chapter) shall establish local committees to advise and support archival work.

Membership in the Society (Corporation) will be based on an annual contribution but the new constitution provides for a long standing tradition that the officers may declare that non-contributors at the annual meeting be advisory members with the privilege of speaking and voting.

The Society continues to do non-genealogical research for individuals and local churches. Although most of our visitors to the archives and inquiries by letter are interested in genealogy we do not do any genealogical research. We make our large collection of over 700 local church records available free of charge to those who come to the archives and we assist them in finding the records they desire.

Mrs. Bricker, the assistant archivist, has been working for several years on an inventory by geographical location of our local church and pastoral records. The manuscript is now being prepared for printing. This will be done as soon as funds are available.

We have begun indexing the Reformed Church Almanac, 1864-1934. This publication contains many historical articles, pictures of local churches and pastors, scenes from our various mission fields and other material not available elsewhere. It is an invaluable source of historical material.

Miss Mary Margaret Rupp, a volunteer worker, continues to sort and calendar deeds and wills, and the recently acquired Schaff, Wolf, and Appel papers and correspondence.

The archives of the Society continue as the official depository of United Church of Christ historical matter. The move of the offices in New York City resulted in our receiving over 100 cartons of papers.

The Society has helped subsidize the publication of volume 1, number 1 of the Historical Journal of the United Church of Christ, Historical Intelligencer.

The staff of the Society and Archives consists of the following part-time persons: George H. Bricker, President/Archivist, Herbert B. Anstaett, Executive Secretary of the Society, Florence M. Bricker, Assistant Archivist, Elizabeth K. Sanders, Researcher, Josephine Roye, Cataloger, Mary Margaret Rupp, Volunteer Worker, and Connie M. Stetter, full-time Secretary.

During the Spring Term, two students of the Seminary, Jeffrey Dicks and John Binkley completed a research project under the supervision of the Archivist sorting the papers and correspondence of Dr. Robert V. Moss, former President of the United Church of Christ.

I am greatly concerned with the lack of contributions to the Society through the Historical Council Appeal. This matter is mentioned in the Executive Secretary's Report and so I will not comment further except to say that the Society will conduct a letter campaign for contributions before the end of the current year.

Respectfully submitted,
George H. Bricker, President/Archivist

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

During the report year the Society published three numbers of the NEWS From the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, issued as volume 7, no. 1, November 1979, and volume 8, no. 1, April 1980, and volume 8, no. 2, September 1980. Mr. Wilferd W. Bohley, Archivist of the Eden Archives, acted as guest editor for the April issue and most of the six pages related to the Eden Archives and its activities. Dr. George H. Bricker, President of the Society, has edited all of the other issues published during the past ten years.

At last year's annual meeting Dr. Sheldon E. Mackey delivered his essay entitled Some Reflections On The Evangelical And Reformed Experience which was later published by the Society in pamphlet form and included in the mailing of the NEWS..., volume 8, number 2, to the Society's mailing list of 1632. Dr. Mackey served very efficiently as Secretary of the Evangelical and Reformed Church for twenty-four years.

It is disheartening to have to report that the Historical Council Appeal results for the financial benefit of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society and the Congregational Historical Society, from October 1979 - July 1980 show that the total contributors compared to the previous year (when there were 450 contributors) dropped to about half that amount

for the current appeal. If there is to be an Appeal later this year and the results fail to improve, it is likely that the Societies will try to solicit memberships directly. In spite of this disappointing situation the Societies are grateful to the individuals, and the institutions that made contributions and thank them heartily. The Societies are also indebted to Florence Coppola of the New York Office of U.C.C. whose responsibility it has been to handle this mailing to 10,000 individuals and institutions and to record the financial contributions, reporting them to the two Societies. The contributions received directly by the Society have all been acknowledged by letter, but the Society wishes to thank again the individuals and institutions who sent their financial support by this method. Two sources of income in this group deserve special mention. The Society is deeply indebted to the Arcadia Foundation, through the courtesy of Mrs. Harold D. Steinbright and her daughter, Miss Marilyn Lee Steinbright, for a \$10,000 grant made on March 7, 1980, thus continuing annual grants first made in 1972. Dr. Bricker continued his annual contribution begun in 1970, to the memorial membership fund in memory of his mother Erma Rebuck Bricker. This endowment, known as the Erma Rebuck Memorial, now totals \$800.00. When this fund was established in 1970, publicity was given to it in the Society's newsletter as follows:

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. Only two things have changed since this statement was published. The memorial membership is now one hundred dollars, and George Bricker is now President of the Society.

The duties of the Executive Secretary remain the same as last year and are repeated for this report. He is responsible for reporting required data, throughout the year, to the Internal Revenue Service for the staff members. He writes all vouchers which are submitted to the Treasurer. He attempts to keep the addresses of members in the membership file up-to-date and checks various sources in order to remove the cards of deceased members from the file. He writes thank you letters for financial contributions made directly to the Society. He assists in the Reference work given to those who come to use the Society's library and to others who write for various kinds of information relating to the contents of the collection.

Respectfully submitted,
Herbert B. Anstaett, Executive Secretary

ADDENDUM TO REPORT ABOVE

The same day after the above report was typed the Society received an unsolicited gift of five thousand (\$5,000) dollars. This benefaction came in the form of a personal check from Edith C. (Mrs. H.D.) Steinbright with the stipulation that it is "to be used where necessary".

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES -- OPERATING ACCOUNT

Nine Months Period -- January 1, 1980 - September 30, 1980

INCOME

Executive Council -- U.C.C.		\$ 3,000.00
Conferences: Indiana-Kentucky		200.00
Associations:		
Lincoln, Nebraska	\$ 25.00	
Hudson-Mohawk, N.Y. Conference	25.00	
Susquehanna, N.Y. Conference	<u>50.00</u>	100.00
Dues Received Through Lancaster		175.00
Historical Council Financial Campaign		-0-
Interest on Investments		1,805.13
Miscellaneous Income (photocopies, microfilm rental, etc.)		787.15
Memorial Gifts and other Gifts:		
The Arcadia Foundation	\$ 10,000.00	
Edith C. Steinbright	5,000.00	
George H. Bricker	100.00	
Eden Archives contribution	100.00	
St. John's U.C.C., St. Louis, MO.	50.00	
1st Congregational Church, Montclair, N.J.	50.00	
Others	<u>124.75</u>	15,424.75
Historical Council -- Archives -- Reimbursement		1,800.00
TOTAL INCOME		<u>\$ 23,292.03</u>

EXPENSES

Lancaster:		
Salaries	\$ 5,692.75	
Supplies	239.69	
Equipment	103.95	
Postage	397.76	
Telephone	176.44	
Miscellaneous	<u>598.10</u>	\$ 7,208.69
Eden:		
Salaries	\$ 3,581.92	
Supplies	84.15	
Equipment	400.00	
Postage	10.00	
Miscellaneous	<u>12.90</u>	4,088.97
General:		
Salaries	\$ 1,867.64	
Meetings and Travel	1,192.46	
Printing and Postage	1,353.96	
Miscellaneous	<u>73.56</u>	4,487.62
Historical Council -- Archives		3,151.47
TOTAL EXPENSES		<u>\$ 18,936.75</u>
Surplus to Date		4,355.28

BALANCE SHEET -- OPERATING ACCOUNT

September 30, 1980

ASSETS

Cash	\$ 3,033.55
24-Hour Statement Savings Account -- Hamilton Bank	20,365.52
First Federal Savings & Loan Assoc. -- Savings Account	29.13

First Federal Savings & Loan Assoc. -- Certificate of Deposit	\$ 4,400.00
Hamilton Bank -- Certificate of Deposit	10,000.00
Wellington Fund (Book Value)	1,008.00
St. Paul's Preservation Fund -- Hamilton Bank Certificate	3,000.00
	<u>\$ 41,836.20</u>

LIABILITIES AND PRINCIPAL

Liabilities

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Principal -- 12/31/79	\$ 37,480.92	
Plus: Surplus 1/1/80 - 9/30/80	<u>4,355.28</u>	\$ 41,836.20
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND PRINCIPAL		<u>\$ 41,836.20</u>

Respectfully Submitted,
Myron E. Wolf, Treasurer

It should be noted that without the generous \$10,000 gift and generous \$5,000 gift listed on the Statement of Income and Expenses, the Society would have incurred more than a \$10,000 deficit during the first nine months of the current year.

REPORT OF THE EDEN ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

The Eden Archives Committee met on June 30, 1980 at the archives. Present were Chairman Allrich, Harold Grunewald, John Schmidt, Lowell Zuck, Robert T. Fauth, and Wilferd Bohley, Archivist.

The treasury, thanks to gifts from Mr. Fleer and Harold Schultz, shows a balance of \$1,239.16.

Mr. Bohley reported on items of old business, as follows:

1. The microfilm camera was purchased with financial assistance of \$400.00 from the E & R Historical Society. This covered almost half the cost of the equipment.
2. The open house at Convocation (Eden Seminary) was well received. There are plans to have the Archives open throughout the Convocation period next year.
3. Mr. Bohley has developed a "tour" of the Archives, primarily for young people of confirmation classes. In this tour he stresses the artifacts that are part of the Archival collection.
4. The present microfilm reader is worn out. Two sizes are needed (1) a 16 mm. to accommodate the film used in the new camera, and (2) a 35 mm. reader for other film. Mr. Grunewald suggested that he has such a reader which he would donate to the Archives if it is suitable. (It was later found suitable, and is now being used in the Archives).
5. It was voted to send a token contribution of \$100.00 from the Eden Archives Committee to the solicitation conducted by the E & R Historical Society. Mr. Zuck reported that he had asked both the Missouri and Illinois South Conference to include the E & R Society in their budgets, and it was his understanding that the Missouri Conference had done this.
6. Mr. Bohley was invited to address a class from the Missouri Baptist College on the subject of comparative American Christianity. The students also visited the Archives.
7. Mr. Bohley has submitted 4½ pages of material for the forthcoming issue of the E & R Historical Society Newsletter, but the publication has been delayed.

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