

News from the Evangelical & Reformed Historical Society

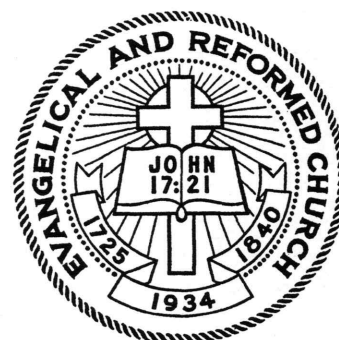
Fall Annual Meeting To Be Held At St. Luke's UCC, Trappe, PA

The Annual Meeting of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society will take place on Saturday, October 12, 2002, at St. Luke's United Church of Christ, Trappe, Pennsylvania. St. Luke's is celebrating its 260th anniversary this year. The Lutheran Historical Society of Eastern, Pennsylvania will also hold its annual meeting alongside the ERHS at St. Luke's. The two business meetings will be held separately in the afternoon, but both societies will meet together for worship

and the program in the morning and share lunch. This is the first time the two societies have held their annual meetings together.

The program for this joint meeting is an appropriate one. It concerns the relations between Reformed and Lutheran pastors and people in eighteenth century Pennsylvania. The speakers are Dr. John C. Shetler and Dr. Charles Glatfelter. Dr. Shetler will address the topic, "Ecumenical Acts of Boehm and Muhlen-

berg in Trappe and the Perkiomen Valley in the Eighteenth Century." Dr. Shetler is the former Conference Minister of Pennsylvania Southeast Conference. He is currently the Director of Muhlenberg House and Historian of the Historical Society of Trappe as well as the Historian of St. Luke's UCC. Dr. Glatfelter will speak on the subject, "The Union Church: Yet Another Look." Dr. Glatfelter is Professor of History Emeritus, Gettysburg College, (continued on page 2)



July 2002

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2003 Annual Meeting To Be Held At Franklin And Marshall College

The Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society will hold its Annual Meeting on October 11, 2003, at Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

The college will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2003, which is also the year marking the 200th anniversary of the birth of John Williamson Nevin, who

served as Professor of Theology at the Reformed Seminary (1840-1851) and as the President of Marshall College (1841-1853) at Mercersburg, (continued on page 2)

2003 Annual Meeting To Be Held At Franklin And Marshall College (continued from page 1)

Pennsylvania, and later as the President of Franklin and Marshall College (1866-1876). To honor these two anniversaries, the program will consist of two presentations, one concerning the history of Franklin and Marshall College by Dr. Sally Griffiths, the historian of the college, and the other concerning the early life, work and thought of John W. Nevin by Dr. John B. Payne, Diefenderfer Professor of Mercersburg and Ecumenical Theology and Professor of Church History Emeritus at Lancaster Theological Seminary.



Fall Annual Meeting To Be Held At St. Luke's UCC, Trappe, PA (continued from page 1)

and the author of "Pastors and People: German Lutheran and Reformed Churches in the Pennsylvania Field, 1717-1793."

Following the separate meetings members of the two societies will have the opportunity to visit, in addition to St. Luke's Church, the Muhlenberg House across the street and historic Old Augustus Lutheran Church founded in 1743.

Block reservations have been made at the Hampton Inn &

Suites, Route 422 & Egypt Road, 100 Cresson Blvd., Phoenixville, PA 19460; 610-676-0678. They are listed under the code name: ERHS. When making your reservation please inform the clerk of this code. Deadline for reservations is September 20, 2002.

Directions to Hampton Inn & Suites: From PA Turnpike take Exit 24 (Valley Forge) and follow signs to Route 422 West. From 422, take the Oaks Exit. Turn left at the end of the ramp. The inn is

on the left.

Directions to St. Luke's Church from the Hampton Inn: Proceed West on 422, turn right (North) on Route 29 to East Main St. in Collegeville. Turn left (West) and go past Ursinus College on the right and the Trappe Shopping Center on the left toward St. Luke's Church which is on the left at 200 West Main Street. There is parking behind the church.

Annual Meeting Schedule For Saturday, October 12, 2002

9:00 a.m. Registration and coffee at St. Luke's United Church of Christ, 200 West Main Street, Trappe, PA.

9:30 a.m. Greetings and Worship in the Sanctuary.

10:00 a.m. Lecture: "Ecumenical Acts of Boehm and Muhlenberg in Trappe and the Perkiomen Valley in the Eighteenth Cen-

ture" by Dr. John C. Shetler.

10:45 a.m. Break

11:00 a.m. Lecture: "The Union Church Yet Another Look:" by Dr. Charles Glatfelter

11:45 a.m. Discussion

12:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30 p.m. Annual Business Meeting of the Evangelical and Re-

formed Historical Society in Moyer Hall and Meeting of the Lutheran Historical Society of Eastern Pennsylvania in the Sanctuary

3:00 p.m. Tour of the Muhlenberg House and Old Augustus Lutheran Church

See page 8 for registration form.

Catawba College—A Southern Appendage of the German Reformed Church. The Early Years At Newton, North Carolina

By William F. Palmer, retired professor, Catawba College, Salisbury, NC.

Catawba College came into existence for one basic reason: to prepare ministers for the German Reformed Church. The traditional histories of the College attribute this conception of the College to a statement made in 1849 by Judge M.L. McCorkle, at the time a young attorney fresh from Davidson College: "Why not found a college of our own in our midst?"

During the first half of the nineteenth century, and earlier, there was a major shortage of educated ministers for struggling German Churches in the South. Indeed, the Reformed Church movement died early in South Carolina for this reason. For whatever reasons, the church held on, although tentatively, in North Carolina, while other movements, which did not require the ministry of a classically educated minister, burgeoned.

However, in 1849, even this shortage of ministers had more complex causes than is readily apparent. Some of the ministers available in North Carolina had been exposed to an education in northern church schools which bothered southern sensibilities. So the statement, "Why not found a college of our own in our midst?" apparently had deeper implications than just guaranteeing the availability of educated ministers. What also was implied was the availability of educated ministers with a definite southern attitude.

A decision to begin was made, and fund raising began. The location selected was the little village of Newton, located among one of the denser areas of German religious activity. By April of 1851, enough scholarship funds had been raised to start and to entice students to attend. However, the efforts to raise money for the needed campus were not as successful. According to one account, \$675 had been raised by June 6, 1851, for the building and contingency fund. At the meeting of the North Carolina Classis of the Reformed Church on August 12, 1851, the committee charged with raising \$5,000 towards the building fund had to report that it had not been able to raise even \$2,000. Although the college was intended to serve all of North Carolina, it was soon realized that the churches of the Classis most likely were not going to raise the necessary funds. Whether in desperation

or not, the committee turned to the citizens of Newton, asking them to convey to the Classis 10 acres of land at a suitable location, erect a two-story brick frame house for the principal, and build a 70 by 30 foot, two-story classroom with a basement. The classis was ready to start the school immediately if the people of Newton would do their part. Eleven "obligators" came forward pledging to get the land and build the buildings. Catawba College was ready to begin its 150 year existence.

Classes actually began December 3, 1851, in an old one-room school building. Within a year, classes were moved to the old Reformed Church building, then only two-years-old. This was the first church building of any denomination actually erected in Newton, still a very small village. Meeting their challenge, within three years the "Obligators" had erected a substantial brick building and the dwelling for the President. These buildings, later expanded and modernized, served the Newton campus until its end in 1923.

Today, accreditation teams for colleges and universities do not look kindly towards faculty teaching out-of-field. Today's faculty members are specialists, often in a very narrow sense. But in the early years of Catawba College, the few professors were expected to impart knowledge in many areas. Granted, the curriculum was limited, much of it classical in nature, oriented towards the Greek and Latin languages and literature. But it was assumed that any well-educated person, with at least a college degree and good character, could teach mathematics and some science, and whatever else was needed. And since the college was founded presumably to ensure a supply of educated ministers for the Reformed Church, and since ministers were quite often the only college educated persons around, this meant that the early faculty at Catawba usually consisted primarily of persons themselves educated for the ministry. To further complicate the picture, these few early faculty were also the administrators, fund-raisers, and disciplinarians, usually living within short walking distance of the campus, and, in the earliest years, sometimes

Catawba College—A Southern Appendage of the German Reformed Church. (continued from page 3)

expected to open their homes to students, even to the extent of letting them room there. When the college opened in 1851, there was a principal and an assistant. The title of the first head, Reverend Charles H. Albert, was Principal of the school and Professor of Belles Lettres and the Latin and Greek Languages. For much of its early history, the entire faculty consisted of two or three persons.

Even those professorial titles conceal a confining educational reality. Education in North Carolina at that period was very limited. So much of the so-called college program had, of necessity, to be remedial, especially in such areas as English grammar, composition, and mathematics. Students could start, or leave, the program at almost any time, often having to return home or arrive late because of the crops. The setting was informal, with what today would be considered an "individualized curriculum." So much of the program was remedial that there is no record of more than one Bachelors Degree being granted during the first 35 years of the college's existence.

The turmoil of the 1860's put many of the plans for the college on hold. Most of the young men of college age had marched off to war. The institution became known as Catawba English and Classical High School. Although Latin and Greek were still supposedly stressed, the curriculum as described in the limited publications of that era listed such courses as Reading, English Grammar, Penmanship, Geography, History, Elocution, Rhetoric, Logic, Composition, Book-Keeping, and Declamation. The mathematical curriculum included Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Surveying and Navigation, Analytical Geometry, Calculus, and Astronomy. The Scientific Programs listed Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, Geology, Mineralogy, Moral Philosophy, Mental Philosophy, and Physiology. Courses in French, German, Latin, and Greek were listed, usually by the books and the various reading that were to be studied. The College program started again in 1885, still maintaining a preparatory program until the end of its Newton existence. For many years, a primary department also provided necessary income.

Student life was restricted and Spartan. Alcohol was strictly forbidden. In fact, the early state charter of the college was soon amended by the North Carolina General Assembly of 1852-1853 to forbid the sale of spirituous liquors within two miles of the college. The earliest students lived and boarded in private homes, there being no dormitory facilities until later years, and were expected to maintain strict study hours when not in classes, with their landladies to report them if they did not follow these rules. Social life at Old Catawba appeared to operate under the assumption that it was not safe for a young man and a young lady to have any significant contacts on or off the campus. Gambling, card playing, and other such vices were strictly forbidden. According to some stories, it was assumed that the best way to avoid trouble was to provide lots of hard work. For example, in the earliest days, cutting down trees and chopping them into firewood was both an expectation and a punishment. When the first dormitory space became available, what heat was provided came from open fireplaces in the rooms. Apparently, the students were responsible for obtaining their own supplies of firewood. As for water, there eventually was a hand pump installed in the yard. We assume that there was at least one well even earlier.

Today, colleges depend on athletics to keep students occupied and out of trouble. Today, when we think of athletics, we think of football, basketball, baseball, and a myriad of other team sports. These sports eventually appeared at Catawba College, but not in the early years of the college. According to reports of persons who remembered, Professor Smith, usually considered to be the first real President of the college, was a wonderful athlete, and taught the college boys boxing and fencing. One eye-witness told of going with her parents to an exhibition in the 1850's on the campus. She mentioned that she was "Frightened to death by the boxing and fencing," thinking that the participants would kill each other. In the 1880's, calisthenics was found as a primary physical activity. In fact, an exhibition by the calisthenics class was part of the 1890 commencement activities. The word "athletics" was first used in a college catalogue in 1904-1905. Baseball was listed as a major sport, with tennis also being popular. Football was mentioned

Catawba College—A Southern Appendage of the German Reformed Church. (continued from page 4)

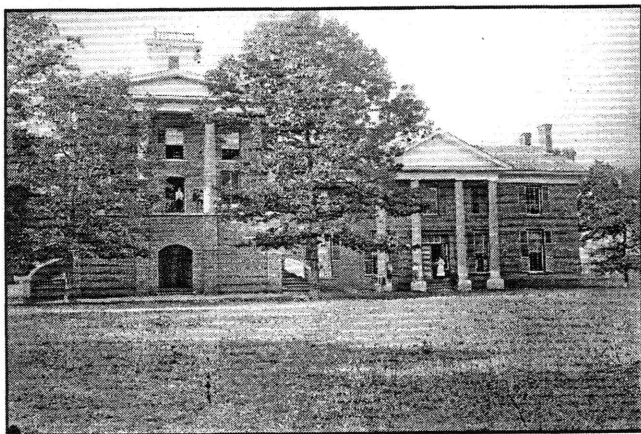
in an 1881 student publication, but the first official mention of football was in 1906. A newspaper article discusses the first football game ever played in the county on November 15, 1906. By 1910, athletics had grown to the point that, according to some contemporary reports, some modern problems of athletic financing, control and scholarship abuse had already begun.

Financial resources were always a serious problem. There never was enough money to set up a significant endowment fund. At many times, the survival of the college seemed to depend on the personal sacrifices of the president and the small faculty. Fees were kept as low as possible. Tuition in 1860 was \$24 to \$30 per year, depending on the course of study. In 1883, tuition was charged by the month, ranging from \$1.20 to \$4.50 per month. However, farm land in central North Carolina was selling for fifty cents an acre, land that today sells for \$5,000 or more per

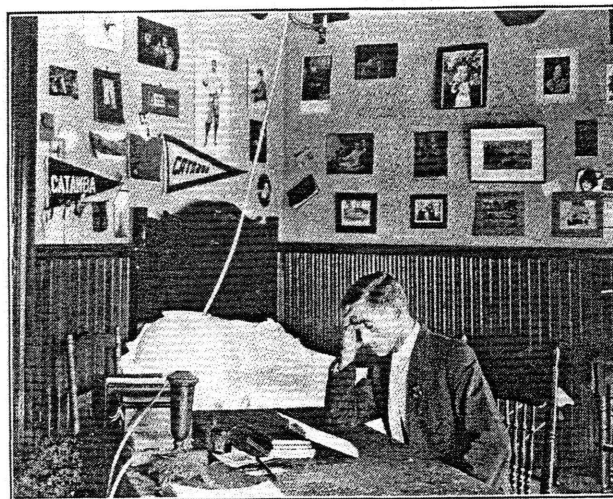
undeveloped acre. Board ranged from \$5 to \$9 per month. At that time, it appears that it cost far more to eat than to study.

Old Catawba, as we think of it today, came to an end in 1923, the victim of several social changes, but primarily the victim of serious financial problems. The student body was always small, at its maximum numbering fewer than 200. The largest graduating class numbered 17. It simply could not compete in a new era of state-financed education and a different cultural and economic environment.

Old Catawba at Newton died, but like the proverbial phoenix, arose from the ashes as a totally new school in Salisbury, North Carolina in 1925. Although "new" Catawba has had its financial problems, today it continues as a strong and proudly recognized institution still serving the needs of its students.



Taken in 1900, this photograph of the main building of Catawba College shows the original classroom building on the right and the "newer" building added in 1880 on the left. The primary school division at this time met in this building.



Dormitory life around 1908 featured well-decorated walls and heavy furniture along with "state-of-the-art" gas lighting. This well-dressed Catawba student appears to have taken his studies seriously.

Fall Heritage Tour From St. Louis To Annual Meeting

Plans for the second Fall Heritage Tour from St. Louis to attend the October 2002 Annual Meeting of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society meeting in Trappe, Pennsylvania are underway. The tour will leave from St. Louis on Monday, October 7, with an overnight stop in Columbus, Ohio and then the next day on to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania where the group will tour the battlefield and visit the Hoffman Home.

They will spend two nights in Lancaster, Pennsylvania with the plan to visit the seminary and tour Amish country. One day will be spent seeing the historic sights of Philadelphia before going on to the Hampton Inn in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania to attend the Annual Meeting of the Historical Society. After attending church on Sunday morning, the group will leave for home with a stop in Wheeling, West Virginia. The tour will return to St. Louis by Monday evening, October 14.



Persons interested in joining this tour should immediately call Lolly Wehrli at (636) 861-0287.

Fall Bus Tour Planned For ERHS Southern Chapter

The Southern Chapter of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society is sponsoring its annual bus tour to the annual meeting at St. Luke's United Church of Christ, Trappe, Pennsylvania during the week of October 7-14, 2002. Hosted by Reverend Larry Bolick, Ms. Ruth Parks, Rev. and Mrs. Banks Shepherd, the tour will include sight-seeing at United Church Retirement Home, Lake Prince, Suffolk, Virginia, MacArthur Memorial Museum, Norfolk, Historic Yorktown, Eastern Shores Natural Wildlife and spots along the Eastern Shore of Virginia, Maryland and Delaware as well as Ocean City, Maryland. Other sites will include Historic New Castle, Delaware; Nemours Mansion and Gardens, Brandywine River Museum, Franklin Mint Museum, and Valley Forge Na-

tional Historical Park. The tour will also include stops at First UCC, Hampton Virginia; Ursinus College and Trinity Reformed UCC, Collegeville, Pennsylvania; and Emmanuel UCC (Union Church), Westminster, Maryland.

Highlights of the tour will include attending the ERHS meeting on Saturday, October 12, at St. Luke's Church in Trappe, Pennsylvania, participating in the afternoon tour, and attending St. Luke's UCC Church Homecoming -125th Anniversary Service on Sunday, October 13th.

Persons interested in joining this tour should immediately call The Rev. Lawrence Bolick at (610) 847-5941



Action Concerning The Board Of Director's Proposed Changes In Election Policy

At its last meeting on October 12, 2001, the Board of Directors proposed these changes in election policy:

- 1) That the term of officers be 5 years, renewable once.
- 2) That the term of directors be 3 years, renewable twice.
- 3) That the office of archivist be perpetual but subject to election each year.
- 4) That there be two vice-presidents, one representing the Eden Archives Committee and the other representing the Southern Conference Historical Society; the vice-president representing the Eden Archives Committee would be nominated by that body; the vice-president representing the Southern Historical Society would be nominated by that body; both would be subject to reelection at the ERHS Annual Meeting. That the following criteria be taken into account for the nominations: age, gender, geographical location, and costs.

The proposed election policy differs from present practice in two respects. Currently, officers and directors are elected annually but can be re-elected perpetually. This proposal calls for term limits for officers and directors with the exception of the archivist. At the present, there is one vice-president who represents the Eden Archives. The new proposal calls for two vice-presidents, one representing the Eden Archives, the other representing the Southern Conference Historical Society.

The proposal is being submitted to the membership for ratification in this newsletter and at the Annual Meeting on October 12, in Trappe, Pennsylvania.

Ballot To Vote On The Proposed Election Policy Changes

PLEASE PLACE AN X BEFORE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS:

☐ **I VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES IN ELECTION POLICY.**

☐ **I VOTE AGAINST THE PROPOSED CHANGES IN ELECTION POLICY.**

PLEASE CLIP AND MAIL YOUR BALLOT TO:

**THE EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED HISTORICAL SOCIETY (ERHS)
555 WEST JAMES STREET
LANCASTER, PA 17603**

Evangelical & Reformed
Historical Society

555 West James Street
Lancaster, PA 17603

Nonprofit Organization
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**We're on the
Web:
www.erhs.info**

Annual Meeting Registration Form

**REGISTRATION FOR LUNCH AT ANNUAL MEETING
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2002
TRAPPE, PENNSYLVANIA**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Please make reservations for ____ (number) persons at lunch, Saturday, October 12, 2002. Please return by October 1, 2002. Cost of lunch is \$7.00 per person.

Make check payable to **St. Luke's UCC**. Enclose payment with this form and mail to:
St. Luke's United Church of Christ, 200 W. Main St., Trappe, PA 19426.