

# News from the Evangelical & Reformed Historical Society

Annual Meeting To Be Held At Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, PA



Old Main, Franklin and Marshall College

The Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 11, 2003, at 9:00 am in Miller Lecture Hall at Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The meeting will honor the 150th anniversary of Franklin and Marshall College and the 200th anniversary of the birth of John Williamson Nevin. Nevin served as the second president of Franklin and Marshall from 1866 to 1876. He had previously served as president of Marshall College in Mercersburg from 1841 to 1853. In addition, he was the first president of the Historical Society of the Reformed Church

which was founded in 1863. Two lectures will be presented at this event: "Mercersburg Theology and the Liberal Arts" by Dr. Sally Griffiths and "John Williamson Nevin: The Early Years" by Dr. John B. Payne. Dr. Griffiths is an independent historian who is writing a history of Franklin and Marshall College. Dr. Payne is Diefenderfer Professor Emeritus of Mercersburg and Ecumenical Theology and professor emeritus of church history at Lancaster Theological Seminary. Lunch will be served in the Booth Ferris Room in the Steinman College Center. After the business meeting in the afternoon there will be a (continued on page 2)



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## Inside this issue:

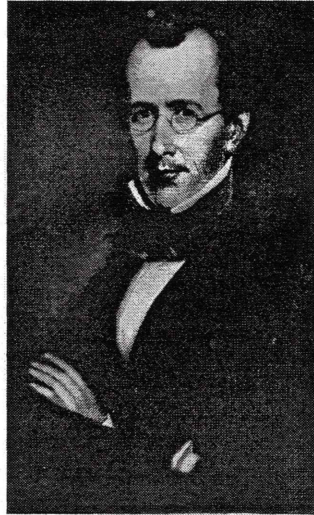
<i>2003 Annual Meeting Schedule</i>	2
<i>The Union Church : Yet Another Look</i> By Dr. Charles H. Glatfelter	3-4
<i>Lancaster Literary Guild Uses Archive for Bausman Project</i>	5-6
<i>Lancaster Archival Activities</i>	5,8
<i>Eden Archives news</i>	6
<i>Annual Meeting Registration Form</i>	7
<i>Accommodation and Direction Information</i>	7
<i>First German Reformed Sermon West of the Mississippi</i>	9



## Annual Meeting At Franklin And Marshall College (continued from page 1)

Tour of some of the new facilities of the college and of Lancaster Theological Seminary across the street, including the ERHS Archives on the second floor of the Philip Schaff Library.

Please send luncheon reservations by Wednesday, October 1, using the form on page 7, to the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, 555 West James Street, Lancaster, PA 17603-2830.



John Williamson Nevin



Overnight accommodations and direction information can be found on page 7 of the newsletter.

### Annual Meeting Schedule For Saturday, October 11, 2003

**8:45 a.m.** Registration and coffee in the Hafer Center, second floor of the Philip Schaff library, Lancaster Theological Seminary, 555 W. James Street, Lancaster, PA. The seminary parking lot faces College Ave. across from Franklin and Marshall College.

**9:15 a.m.** Greetings and Worship in the Miller Lecture Hall in Old Main.

**9:45 a.m.** Lecture: Dr. Sally

Griffiths: "Mercersburg Theology and the Liberal Arts"

**10:30 a.m.** Break

**10:45 a.m.** Lecture: Dr. John B. Payne: "John Williamson Nevin: The Early Years"

**11:30 a.m.** Discussion

**12:30 p.m.** Lunch in the Booth Ferris Room, Steinman College Center

**1:30 p.m.** Annual Business Meeting of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society in the Booth Ferris Room

**2:30 p.m.** Tour of the Campuses of Franklin and Marshall College and Lancaster Theological Seminary

**See page 8 for registration form.**



## The Union Church: Yet Another Look

By Dr. Charles H. Glatfelter, Professor Emeritus of History, Gettysburg College,  
Gettysburg, PA

More than half a century ago, I presented as my doctoral dissertation a study of the colonial German Lutheran and Reformed clergyman in what I called the Pennsylvania field, which included five provinces in British North America, from New York to Virginia.

An important part of that study was an investigation of the union church as it developed in that field. I defined the union church as one in which separate Lutheran and Reformed congregations jointly own church property, land and buildings, and share the use and upkeep of the facility according to the terms of a written or oral agreement. Each congregation retains its own identity and has its own pastor.

The Lutheran church of the eighteenth century still has that name. The Reformed is now represented by the United Church of Christ.

There were times in the later eighteenth century when between one-third and one-half of the people of Pennsylvania were of German or Swiss origin. In religion, among them were Mennonites, Brethren, Amish, Moravians, and Catholics, but probably close to 90 percent were Lutheran and Reformed, at least in background.

When the Germans and Swiss arrived in Pennsylvania, they found a relatively new province in which substantial religious liberty prevailed. The first arrivals found no churches awaiting them. The provincial government would not hinder them in setting up such institutions, nor would it lift a finger to help them. Mennonites, Brethren, and some others found this situation to their liking. They simply repeated in Pennsylvania what they had done in Europe: raise up from their own members pastoral leadership and use their houses and barns for holding meetings. Life was different for Lutherans and Reformed. They were accustomed to having trained, ordained, and paid pastors. Probably most wanted to continue to have them. And, while they were willing for a time to meet in houses and barns, sooner or later they wanted a building which, however simple, they could call a church.

The first task for an immigrant family was to provide food, clothing, and shelter for themselves. Until markets were developed, the living was near subsistence. The money was scarce.

Most Lutherans and Reformed, although probably not particularly pious people, did want the services of church and school, as soon as possible after they arrived. The work to provide those institutions belonged to them. Their achievement was remarkable.

By 1776 there were 126 Lutheran and 123 Reformed congregations in Pennsylvania. Measured by the number of congregations, these were the two largest churches in the province. There were four times as many congregations as there were pastors in the field. Free Pennsylvania was not the most desirable place for many European pastors. A large number recruited by European religious authorities and sent to Pennsylvania did not stay very long. To use an expression common at the time, they were not able to adapt to "the customs of the country."

To the newness of the land, the small money income of the people, and the severe shortage of trained pastors must be added another reason for the development of the union church. It existed from the beginning. Early leaders in the two churches observed that in most communities there were many intermarriages. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg wrote that people "are so intermarried in this country that here you will find a Lutheran husband with a Reformed wife and there a Reformed husband with a Lutheran wife." This widespread practice cannot be overlooked as one of the major reasons for the creation of the union church.

In 1776, 60 percent of the Lutheran and Reformed congregations in Pennsylvania worshiped in union churches. There were such churches in New Jersey, Maryland, and Virginia.

The impetus to form new union churches continued well into the nineteenth century. For example,  
(continued on page 4)



## The Union Church: Yet Another Look (continued from page 3)

on the territory of the Lutheran Ministerium, in eastern Pennsylvania, there were more than one hundred between 1801 and 1900. During the same period, there were many proposals to unite these two churches, none of which succeeded. It was one thing to favor union in principle, but quite another to effect it in practice.

Not all of the union churches formed before 1900 still existed in that year. On the fringes of the Pennsylvania German country, the smaller congregation, usually the Reformed, had died out. Many of them in towns had come to an end. Sometimes there were local reasons for the breakup.

By 1900 the desire to form new union churches had ended. In York County the last such church was formed in 1882. In Eastern Pennsylvania there were only three new ones after 1899.

As both churches in Pennsylvania expanded their own denominational programs in the twentieth century, some leaders argued that the union church had become a problem. Since most existed in the country, they believed that the union and the rural church were one and the same problem.

In 1948, Lutheran and Reformed representatives met in Reading and organized the Commission on the Welfare of the Union Church. Its stated purpose was to "increase the response of the union church to the cause of Jesus Christ." Between then and the time it quietly went out of business in the mid-1970's, this body issued statements, held meetings, and designated staff members to engage in serious discussions of alternatives for congregations. The commission had to work through the synods and was authorized to visit congregations only by invitation and in pairs, one Lutheran and one Reformed.

During the years the Commission functioned, Americans experienced the longest and greatest period of prosperity in their history. Population increased as many so-called baby boomers were

born. At a time when there was wide public acceptance of organized religion, most parents wanted their children to participate in church activities. As people built houses and moved out of the center of cities, some union churches found themselves in newly created suburbs with more potential members than ever before. Many of these possible members had no previous experiences as part of a union church and little desire to join one now. Here were real prospects for two viable separate congregations, each of which could easily carry out its own denominational program. Eventually seven union churches in York county dissolved as population increased around the city of York.

In 1945, there were more than 250 union churches in Pennsylvania and Maryland. In the summer of 2002, 44 remained, more than half on the territory of the Lutheran Northeast Pennsylvania Synod. More than one third of the remaining union churches were in what is known as a shared ministry, in which the two congregations remain, but with one pastor.

The reasons for establishing the union church in the eighteenth century no longer exist, but there is nothing to prevent a Lutheran or a Reformed congregation whose members choose to pursue their mission together in the twenty-first century from doing so. Nor is there anything to prevent either Lutherans or Reformed from working together with members of other churches in a relationship which resembles the union church of years ago.





## Literary Guild Uses Lancaster Archives For Bausman Project

Three research assistants for the Lancaster Literary Guild have been using the Archives this summer to gather material for a book on the Rev. Dr. Benjamin Bausman, a prominent German Reformed clergyman who lived from 1824 to 1909.

Dr. Bausman's lifetime coincided with the formative years of the Reformed Church in the United States. A contemporary called him "the greatest influence for good in the Reformed Church during this nineteenth century."

And Dr. George Richards, former professor of church history and president of the Seminary, made this statement at the unveiling of a bust of Bausman in St. Paul's Reformed Church (Reading) sanctuary: "He was a historic character in the Reformed Church. We speak of Rauch, Nevin, Schaff, Harbaugh, as a distinguished group of ministers in the nineteenth century. With all but one of these (Rauch), Dr. Bausman was personally and intimately acquainted. Each one represents a specific type of work. One was the philosopher, another the theologian, a third the historian and a fourth the poet. I should add the name of Dr. Bausman to this galaxy of historic persons in the Reformed Church as the preacher-pastor."

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## Lancaster Archival Activities

The Evangelical and Historical Society recently acquired the following:

### ARCHIVES

A number of local church bulletins celebrating anniversaries, dedications, ordinations, installations, etc.; newspaper clippings about local church events; obituaries and memorial service bulletins of deceased pastors; and several books, all donated by Richard Crusius.

Karmel United Church of Christ, Philadelphia, PA. Consistory minutes, financial records, baptisms, marriages, deaths donated by the church through the Philadelphia Association, Ms. Nancy E. Krody.

Records of the Evangelical and Reformed Church Board of National Missions including minutes, reports, and files donated by Local Church Ministries, United Church of Christ.

Allen K. Faust typescript notes, clippings and brochures relating to the Japan Mission of the Reformed Church in the United States.

Leitner, Pauline, translator and transcriber. Salem Reformed Church Marriages (1824-1849, 1855) and burials (1824-1852). Donated by Pauline Leitner.

Transcription of the pastoral records of Rev. William Hendel, Rev. Daniel Ulrich, Rev. Frederick A. Herman (Marriages, 1817-1828, Baptisms, 1795-1841) during their pastorates at Zion Lutheran and Reformed Church, Womelsdorf, PA. Donated by Henry I. Bishop.

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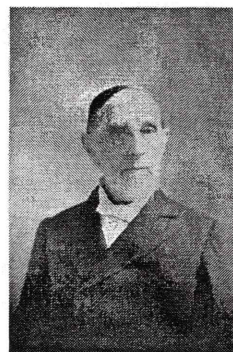
## Literary Guild Bausman Project Continued from page 5

Dr. Bausman was a great-great-uncle of Elizabeth Hurley, founder and director of the Lancaster Literary Guild. The Guild brings outstanding authors to Lancaster to lecture each year, publishes a journal and sponsors other projects to promote an appreciation for literature. This is the first book to be undertaken by the Guild, but Mrs. Hurley believes it is an important and appropriate project and "the kind of work the Guild should be doing."

The researchers are investigating six boxes of Dr. Bausman's papers in the Archives, including his diaries, letters and sermons. They are also reading his published works as well as a 1912 biography by the Rev. Henry H. Ranck.

The researchers are Sandra Fees, a 2003 graduate of Lancaster Theological Seminary; Michelle Jenkins, a 2003 graduate of Franklin and Marshall College; and Nancy Payne, a semiretired writer and editor.

Dr. Bausman served churches in Lewisburg and Chambersburg before going to First Reformed Church in Reading. He spent most of his career as pastor of St. Paul's Reformed Church in Reading,



Dr. Benjamin Bausman

which he founded as well as several other churches in that city. He chaired the board of trustees of the Bethany Orphans' home, now Bethany Children's Home, in Womelsdorf for many years. A graduate of Marshall College who attended the Seminary when it was in Mercersburg, Dr. Bausman was later a trustee of Franklin and Marshall College and Lancaster Theological Seminary. He also served at various times on every board of the Reformed Church in the U.S. and was editor of all the major Reformed Church publications.

## News from the Eden Archives

The former Eden-Webster Libraries cooperation continues, but Webster University books have been moved to the beautiful new Emerson Library on the Webster campus while the Luhr Library is now entirely the Eden Theological Library. There is now much more space which has made possible the moving of the Eden Bookstore and a new snack bar into the building.

Library renovation has been necessarily slowed because of financial reasons. While the library staff has been much reduced in this new situation, Eden is pleased to have acquired the Reverend Allen Mueller, an ELCA minister, as its librarian. He had previously directed the Chicago Jesuit-Krauss McCormick Library Consortium. On June 27 he made a presentation to the ATLA Annual Confer-

ence in Portland, Oregon on "Curricula and Congregational Resources in the Theological Library." He is overseeing the new Eden library arrangement as well as the Archives with minimal staff. Lowell Zuck is the only person working in the archives and he is working part-time. He is carrying on a busy e-mail and regular mail correspondence and responds to many telephone inquiries. These requests for information are surprising in their origins and the complexity of the questions. Eden Archives is very crowded but one hopes for more space and financial support in the future.

Lowell H. Zuck, Senior Research Consultant



# Annual Meeting Registration Form

**REGISTRATION FOR LUNCH AT ANNUAL MEETING  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2003  
FRANKLIN AND MARSHALL COLLEGE  
LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

Please make reservations for \_\_\_\_ (number) persons at lunch, Saturday, October 11, 2003. Please return by October 1, 2003. Cost of lunch is \$8.00 per person.

Make check payable to **E & R Historical Society**. Enclose payment with this form and mail to: **E & R Historical Society, 555 West James Street, Lancaster, PA 17603.**

## ACCOMMODATIONS

Block reservations have been made at the Westfield Inn (717-397-9300) at 2929 Hempland Road. They include 9 non-smoking king suites at \$74.00 and 11 non-smoking queen suites at \$69.00. The block reservations will be held until Monday, September 8. Please make your reservations before this date.

## DIRECTIONS

Proceeding west of Lancaster City on Route 30, turn left on Centerville Road after coming up the ramp and drive to the second light and turn left on Hempland Road to reach the Inn. Franklin and Marshall College is located on College Avenue between Harrisburg Pike and Buchanan Avenue. Exit the Route 30 bypass at Harrisburg Pike and drive east to College Avenue. Miller Lecture Hall is on the second floor of the Old Main Administration Building facing College Avenue, directly across the street from Lancaster Theological Seminary.







## Archival Activities (continued from page 5)

### BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

History of the German Reformed Church in Loudon, Franklin County, Pennsylvania. Photocopy transcribed by Gertrude R. Ward and copied with permission. Donated by Judith Vulgamott, Historian, Fort Loudon Historical Society.

Sibert, Cynthia. St. John's Memories: 1748-2003. A history of St. John's UCC, Hamburg, Va. Donated by the author through Rev. Robert A. Lewis, pastor.

The History of St. Luke's Church, North Wales, Pennsylvania: A 225th Anniversary Supplement. Donated by the church.

Wilson, C. Ronald, compiler. Historical Sketches of the Churches of the Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ. Donated by the compiler.

Hartman, Don and Jeanine, compilers. The Glatfelters in America. Donated by the compilers.

Flick, Donald P. Realizing a Dream:Pursuing a Vision:United Church Retirement Homes. Donated by Rev. Larry Bolick.

A College of Our Own: The First 150 Years of Catawba College. Donated by Rev. Larry Bolick.

Williams, F. Colin. The Chronicles of a Reformed Church in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. 2003. Includes the history of First Reformed, St. John's, St. Paul's, St. Andrew's, Church of the Apostles, and Homestead Village. Donated by the author.

### OBJECTS

Commemorative plate of St. Peter's Evangelical and Reformed Church, Middle Lancaster, Butler County, PA. Donated by Rev. Dale Greene.

### OPEN FOR RESEARCH

Records of Karmel United Church of Christ, Philadelphia, PA.

Records of Trinity United Church of Christ (Reformed), Allentown, PA.

Papers of Rev. Dr. Horace Sills (1922-2000) including sermons, lectures, workshops, biographical and genealogical information, published and unpublished writings, and memorabilia donated by Mrs. Louise Sills.

Papers of Lela Wasser, Evangelical and Reformed Church missionary to India including, correspondence, teaching materials, sermons and lectures, photographs, Oberlin School of Theology notes and papers, travel related papers.





## The First Protestant Sermon Preached West of the Mississippi

The Rev. Samuel Weyberg (b. 1773), a German Reformed clergyman was the first Protestant to preach a sermon west of the Mississippi. The son of the well-known pastor of Old First Reformed Church, Philadelphia, Caspar D. Weyberg, Samuel served first in North Carolina and then traveled with a group from there to the Midwest and settled in Cape Girardeau County, Missouri. In a house one mile below Jackson, Missouri he is said to have preached that sermon.

Five German Reformed congregations were established in the Whitewater river area, but they later died out and at present the former German Reformed people in Missouri and Southern Illinois are few in number.

We thank Mr. Hartle J. Fadler of St. Peters, Missouri, a descendant of Samuel Weyberg, for reminding us of this interesting piece of German Reformed history.

### Membership Form

Please enroll me as a member of the ERHS for 2003. Enclosed is my check for the following amount:

#### MEMBERSHIPS

\_\_\_\_\_ DONOR (Individual) \$25

\_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor \$100

\_\_\_\_\_ Student (Individual) \$7

\_\_\_\_\_ Institution \$50

\_\_\_\_\_ Life Member (Individuals Only) \$250

Please include check made payable to: Evangelical & Reformed Historical Society, and mail to: **EHRS, 555 West James Street, Lancaster, PA 17603-2830.**

If you wish membership in both the Congregational Christian and Evangelical & Reformed Historical Societies, make your check payable to: UCC Historical Council, and mail to: UCC Historical Council, 700 Prospect Ave. Cleveland, OH 44115



# Evangelical & Reformed

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