

# News from the Evangelical & Reformed Historical Society

## NUGGETS FROM THE COLLECTION

By Rev. Richard R. Berg, Archivist

While tracking down some information for a researcher, I came across a book with an unusual binding. The book is a "Marburger Gesangbuch" published in Marburg and Frankfurt, Germany by Heinrich Ludwig Bronner in 1797. The book is bound in what appears

to be vellum. What makes the binding unusual is the design stamped into the vellum and then hand-colored. With a design of flowers and birds typically found on Pennsylvania fraktur and folk-art, I assumed that the book, although published in Germany, must have been bound somewhere in eastern Pennsylvania. My as-



sumption proved incorrect when I saw an entry in an on-line auction catalog for a book with a similar binding. The information in the auction indicated that the book was published in Philadelphia by Ernst Ludwig Baisch in 1774. However, the description also indicated that the publisher, Baisch, while traveling in Germany in 1774 "ordered from certain German printers copies of four German-language religious works...to be issued with title-pages citing Philadelphia as the place of issue and his name as the pub-

lisher. A certain number of these were bound before shipment to Philadelphia in decorative folk bindings...." Also mentioned in the auction description was an article by Frederick R. Goff about these German folk-bindings.

The article by Goff, "German Folk Bindings On 'Philadelphia' books of 1774," listed the four religious books imported by Baisch, depicted and discussed the four different folk-bindings, and listed the libraries having copies of these works. The binding on the book in the Society's collection was the same design as one depicted in Goff's article except for the

spine. The main difference is that the Society's book has the German publisher Bronner and the date 1797 rather than the Philadelphia publisher Baisch with the date 1774. Going back to the stacks, I found a total of eight books with the German folk-bindings. Seven of them are various editions of the "Marburger Gesangbuch" published by the German printer Bronner between 1759 and 1797 with the German folk-bindings. The bindings on five of these are the same or have only slight variations as one of the bind-



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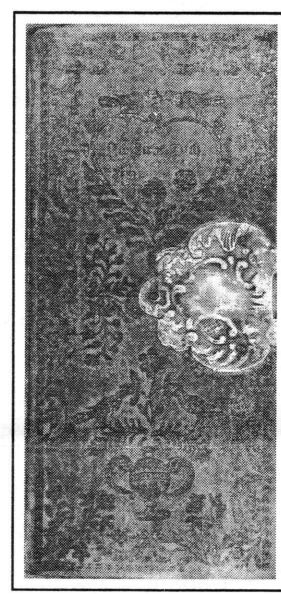
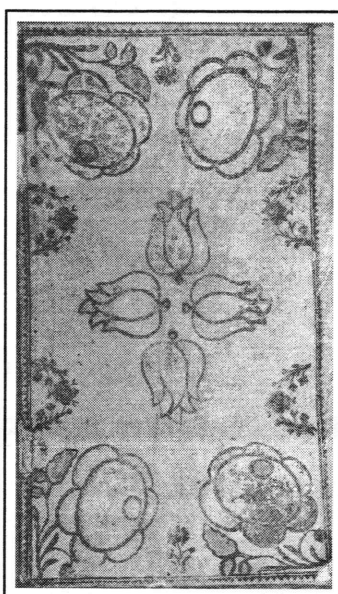
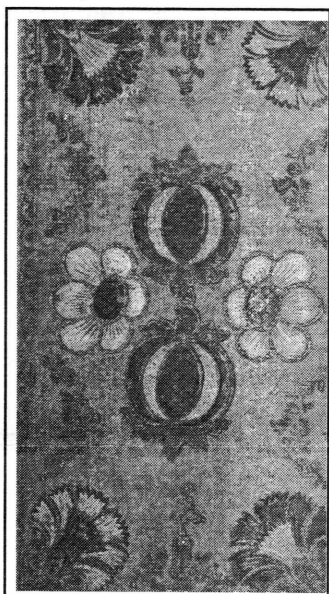
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## NUGGETS, continued

ings depicted in the Goff article. Two of the bindings are totally different from any of the four bindings in the article. The eighth book is a hymnal published in Berlin by Josua David Schatz in 1801 with yet a different folk-binding, brass clasp, and its own fitted box covered in old wallpaper.

How did the Society's books with these colorful folk-bindings reach the United States? Most likely they came with their owners, German immigrants to Pennsylvania, in the last half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The books most likely to be owned by the Reformed and Lutheran immigrants were a Bible and a hymnal. Perhaps, however, the books imported by Philadelphia printer Baisch proved so popular that he ordered additional copies from the German printer Bronner in succeeding years with the title page having Bronner's name rather than changing it to Baisch. In any case, these books indicate the popularity of the "Marburger Gesangbuch" as well as the colorful folk-bindings. These unusual books will be on exhibit at the Society.



## VOLUNTEER CORNER

### George Parrish

On page 4 of this newsletter you will read about the files of historian Claude Unger and the ongoing project of photocopying the files onto acid-free paper. The photocopying of these files (which currently take up two 4-drawer filing cabinets) has been one of the projects of volunteer George Parrish.

George has been volunteering for the Society since January, 2001 when then office manager Diane Rimert recruited George from her husband's church. Although George continues to volunteer his time for Colemansville Methodist Church, we are proud to claim George as our own. Most recently George has been updating our Necrology card catalogue. George spends countless hours cutting and pasting here in the Archives.

George served in the 31st Separate Coast Artillery Battalion in World War II as a radio operator, truck driver and switchboard operator. Most importantly, the army was where George first learned photography. George tells tales of "acquiring" film and developing equipment anywhere they could find it. As George says, "you just couldn't buy a roll of film at the PX!" George's Army scavenging

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## DEDICATED TRANSCRIPTIONIST

### Pauline Leitner

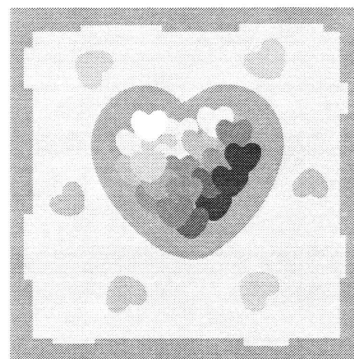
We lost a friend and dedicated church record transcriptionist with the death of Pauline Leitner on November 19, 2003.

An 80-year-old Baltimore native and resident of Hagerstown, Maryland, Pauline voluntarily provided us with her indexed transcriptions of records from First United Evangelical Church, Baltimore, St. Paul's Fifth Reformed German Parish, North Point, Baltimore, and Salem Reformed Church, Philadelphia.

In the year and a half that we knew them, Pauline and photographer husband Robert made several trips by RV to Lancaster to spend days copying and photographing ERHS records.

We are as grateful for the warm relationship we developed with them during that time as we are for the valuable contributions they have made to future researchers.

Bob Leitner called Pauline's genealogy contacts the "bright spots in her days," and we can truly say that the feeling was mutual. Pauline will be missed, and we hope it won't be long before we see Bob in the archives again.



## F. Colin Williams

A good friend of the Society, deeply interested in history and the preservation of historical papers and records, F. Colin Williams died August 25, 2003 in Lancaster, Pa. Colin was an active volunteer with the Lancaster County Historical Society and the Manheim Historical Society and was the historian and archivist for First Reformed United Church of Christ in Lancaster. As part of his archival work at First Reformed, Colin compiled, transcribed and translated the complete baptism, marriage, and death records in 13 volumes and CD-ROM, presenting a set to the Society. The main focus of his work during the past several years has been compiling and writing the history of First Reformed, St. Paul's, St. John's and St. Andrew's Reformed Churches, Church of the Apostles (United Church of Christ) and Homestead Village. This detailed history of almost 1100 pages with many illustrations tells the story of the Reformed Church in Lancaster from the mid-18th to the beginning years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In addition to his research and writing, Colin was instrumental in securing funds which enabled the Society to purchase a microfilm/microfiche reader/printer which is still being used. Born in England, Colin served with the British army for 26 years in telecommunications

and counter-intelligence, retiring in 1974, becoming a U.S. citizen the same year. Colin was a member of St. Paul's UCC, Manheim. In addition to his research and writing in history and genealogy, Colin's smile, subtle British humor, passion for collecting and preserving the records of the past, and his warm and affable personality will be greatly missed. We celebrate Colin's life and remember with compassion and prayer his wife, Carla and family.

### George Parrish, volunteer Continued from page 2

has served him well in his life. After the war George graduated from photography school and eventually worked as a photographer at the Holtwood Dam and then for 32 years at WGAL-TV where he retired in 1985 as Chief Photographer.

George is always cheerful and tireless in his volunteer duties. As he once said, "If you just do things one at a time, you'll eventually finish." Good advice for Archival work and good advice for Life! Thanks, George! We appreciate all you do.



## WELCOME, PRESIDENT GRUBER!

At the Fall 2003 annual meeting, Rev. Linda Gruber, OCC, was elected President of the Society succeeding Dr. John B. Payne who served in that office for twenty years. Rev. Gruber is currently pastor of St. Johns United Church of Christ, Phoenixville, PA. She maintains ecclesiastical standing within the Ursinus Association, Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ. Rev. Gruber is the former Chairperson of the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ; former Dean as well as Moderator of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference. She is a current member of the Mer-

cersburg Society and the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society; Member of the Church and Ministry Committee of the Ursinus Association of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ; and of the Consistory of the Order of Corpus Christi. She is the current second Vice President of the Phoenixville Council of Churches elected in the fall of 2003. She is a former hospital chaplain in Richmond, VA and former hospice chaplain in Phoenixville, PA. The Board of Directors and the archives staff are already benefiting from Linda's able leadership, enthusiasm, and creative ideas.

## THE UNGER GENEALOGY COLLECTION

During his more than 30-year tenure as Librarian and later President of the Historical Society of Schuylkill County, Claude W. Unger (1822-1945) amassed a collection of church and genealogical records relating to German families of eastern Pennsylvania, particularly Schuylkill County.

The collection was purchased by Harvey J. Bassler in 1946 as a basis for the establishment of the Pennsylvania Dutch Folklore Society at Lancaster in 1948. In 1976 Mr. Bassler donated the collection to the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society. Since that time the files have grown steadily, thanks to visiting and corresponding genealogists who have shared their findings with us, and to searches we have performed on their behalf. An ongoing project has been to photocopy the files onto acid-free paper in order to preserve the often brittle handwritten pages and newspaper clippings.

Latest additions to the Unger files are genealogies of the Johann Peter HACHENBERG family, descendants of Prince Peter Hachenberg of Hesse-Nassau, Germany, and the LEFFLER/LOFFLER family, descendants of Johann Adam Loffler of Hohenhaslach, Wurtemberg, Germany. Contact information for the contributing researchers is available in the files.

The Unger Collection also is home to several newsletters published regularly by family genealogical societies. We have received the LONGENECKER FAMILY NEWSLETTER since volume 1, number 1, January 1999; WERTMAN LINES: Newsletter of the Wertman Family Association since volume 1, number 1, June 2001; THE DU-

NGER COUSINS: a publication for the descendants of Reverend Rudolph Duenger, (1808-1902).

Both the LONGENECKER and WERTMAN newsletters contain photographs of family members, heirlooms, homesteads and original documents. Also of note in the LONGENECKER file is a recent email documenting the December 2003 discovery of long-missing ancestors Ulrich and Daniel Langenecker in Swiss records.

During the ongoing recataloging process Archivist Richard Berg discovered a partial run of THE KUNKEL-KUNKLE-CONKLE-GUNKEL SPINDLE which has been published since 1995. The family was happy to provide us with missing issues to bring us up to date and to keep us on their mailing list. This title has been incorporated into our collection of bound family histories. A major advantage of this publication is that it is indexed annually.

We'll keep you posted about future additions to the ever-growing Unger files and hope that you will contact us if you wish to provide or research information about your German immigrant ancestors.

### ALTERNATE WAYS OF FUNDING ERHS

In addition to making monetary contributions to support the Society, perhaps you might consider donating an antique piece of furniture, glassware, silver, oriental rugs, etc. which the Society could then consign to an appropriate auction using the proceeds to help the general fund or the endowment fund. If you would like to discuss this possibility, please contact the archivist, Richard Berg (717-290-8704).

## NEEDS OF THE SOCIETY

Building the research library of the Society is an important facet of providing help to those persons seeking both historical and genealogical information. The number of books being published in the field of genealogy is increasing rapidly as it becomes the number one pastime in the United States. Included in the books being published are transcriptions of original church records from former Reformed churches not currently in the Society's collections, passenger lists, census records, cemetery records, and many others. In order to provide the most help possible to those individuals who either send a genealogical inquiry to the Society or come in person, the staff has been compiling a list of books which would facilitate our efforts. Since the Society's budget is not able to include the purchase of books, we offer a "want list" of titles encouraging you to either purchase a book directly and present it to the Society or to send in a contribution designating it for book purchase. This is a fine way to honor a birthday, a couple's anniversary, ordination anniversary of a pastor, church's anniversary, or to remember a loved one.

1. Ruff, Paul Miller. Early German Reformed in North Westmoreland and Southern Armstrong Counties, Pa., 1822-1859. \$12.50
2. Ruff, Paul Miller. German United Evangelical Protestant Church, Trinity Congregation (a.k.a. Wagner's Church), New Sewickley Twp., Beaver County, 1857-1902. \$10.00
3. Mechling, Allen. The Wolf/Wolfe/Wolff Family of Armstrong County, Pa. \$10.95
4. Copper, Dwight. St. John's (Burry's) United Evangelical Protestant Church Cemetery and Church History, 1835-1935. \$12.00
5. Harmon, Shirley A. Monroe County, Ohio Church Records. \$26.00
6. Pettit, Lena. Monroe County, Ohio Church Cemetery Records. \$10.00
7. Haller, Charles R. The ABCs of German-American Migration: Annotated Guide to German-American Migration Records. \$12.00
8. Burkett, Bridgitte. Nineteenth-Century Emigrants from Baden-Wurtemberg. Vol. 1 "The Enzkreis" \$45.00
9. Burgert, Annette K. Palatine Origins of Some Pennsylvania Pioneers. \$45.00
10. Rice, Phillip A. And Jean A. Dellock. Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania Archives. Vol. 2. \$39.95
11. Johnson, David R. Christian Strenge's Fraktur. \$13.00
12. Ruff, Paul Miller. Old Harrold Cemetery, Lutheran and Reformed, Hempfield Township, Westmoreland County, Pa. 1772-1889. \$12.25

(Another list will be included in the next newsletter)

In addition to the above books, the Society is in need of a photocopier. Now, when staff or researchers want to photocopy they must take the original down to the main floor of the seminary library and use the library's copier. This raises two potential problems -- security, original documents may be stolen, and preservation, documents may be damaged. To better protect the collections, while at the same time serving the needs of researchers and staff, a photocopier at the Society is essential. Cost of a copier which will handle large size documents and both magnify and reduce is approximately \$3,500. If you are interested in funding this need in whole or part, please contact the archivist, Richard Berg (717-290-8704).

Part of the mission of the ERHS is to collect and preserve the records of the Reformed and E & R Churches. In

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## BOOK SALES

As part of its fund raising activities, the Society has begun selling books on the Internet. The books being sold are donations which have not been added to the collection. Currently only books with ISBN (International Standard Book Number) are being offered on Amazon.com and Half.com. We will begin to offer older, collectible books on ebay in the near future. Inserted in all books sold is a small "thank you" indicating that the money from the sale will be used to support the activities of the Society. If you would like to donate books to this project or volunteer to do computer price checking or to package and mail books which have been sold, please contact Beth Bitts (717-290-8734).

# Mercersburg Theology and the Liberal Arts

## At Franklin and Marshall College

### By Sally F. Griffith

The purpose of this paper is to point out the important links between aspects of Mercersburg Theology as developed by leaders of Franklin and Marshall College and their thinking about education, which resulted in a distinctive philosophy of the liberal arts. Like most colleges in the early nineteenth century, Marshall College, and subsequently Franklin and Marshall, offered a unitary classical curriculum dominated by Latin and Greek, mathematics, logic, rhetoric and ethics. It was generally believed that such a curriculum transformed youths into gentlemen, introduced them to a "natural aristocracy" of learning and prepared them for civic leadership. Because Marshall College was founded in 1836 in part to prepare students for the Theological Seminary of the German Reformed Church, the inclusion of German language and literature was an unusual feature of its curriculum. But under the leadership of German-born Frederick Rauch, its whole approach to education was unique in America. He had been immersed in the neo-humanism of German universities in the early nineteenth century, which had been invigorated by the new idea of the university as a place of inquiry where knowledge was not static but constantly in a state of discovery. The ideal of the pursuit of knowledge, commonly described as *Wissenschaft*, connoting a dedicated search not merely for knowledge, but for self-fulfillment through pursuit of ultimate meanings. The teacher's role in inspiring curiosity, passing on habits and tools of thought, and providing a personal example of a *wissenschaftlich* approach to life was as important as his research. Education was linked to the prevailing ideal of cultivation (*Bildung*) because it fostered an organic unfolding of the human personality to its full potential.

At Marshall College, Rauch infused the ideals of pursuit of insight and personal development into the traditional structure and curriculum of the American college. He emphasized the mind's active construction of meaning at a time when most colleges focused on rote memorization. He also was one of the first to introduce new trends in German philosophy to America, particularly the idealism of G. W. F. Hegel. Criticizing the faculty psychology that dominated American colleges, Rauch argued that mind was comprised of different aspects, all organically linked through a dialectical process of development. "The mind does not receive impressions like wax," he insisted. "In receiving it is active; and unless what is committed to memory is understood, nothing is learned." But education did provide the

environment essential for "the harmonious cultivation of the latent faculties of the mind." Children's "manifold and various talents, all the faculties of their minds, are the slumbering seed which the hand of the Lord has scattered, that it may awake, and grow, and ripen, and become beneficial to our race" through education. He emphasized that the College must seek to develop the whole person, not simply the intellect: "The fortune of our lives and our government depends not exclusively on useful knowledge but on our character as citizens, and to form this character by cultivating the whole man is the aim of education in the proper sense." The idea of a "symmetrical cultivation of the whole inner man" would later become the standard defense of classical liberal arts education throughout the country.

Rauch's ideas sparked the development of his colleague John Williamson Nevin's theological ideas. After Rauch's untimely death in 1841, and the arrival of Phillip Schaff, the stage was set for the emergence of what soon became widely known as the Mercersburg Theology. Some of its most prominent and compelling ideas in turn shaped educational practices at the College long after Rauch's death. In keeping with their emphasis on organic development Marshall College and later Franklin & Marshall leaders did not encourage revivals to instill religion into students, but made religion a constant underpinning for the life of the college community. The Mercersburg sensibility was infused throughout the curriculum, not in terms of doctrine but through an emphasis on idealistic philosophy that embraced ethics, aesthetics, and natural science.

Nevin always emphasized the College's "peculiar *genius*" as an "Anglo-German institution." In keeping with Nevin's and Schaff's overriding interest in history, the teaching of history in the College expanded through the decade, until the subject was covered in all four years, well in advance of most American colleges. The fusion of philosophy and history reached its high point in Nevin's series of lectures on the Philosophy of History. Given in the sophomore year, they presented an overarching philosophical framework to integrate all the instruction to come by showing how history was the "*Progression or Onward Movement of Human Life*." He also insisted that liberal education was the preeminent means of forming a mind, or whole personality, capable of perceiving this true "economy of the world." He insisted that history could not be understood as a mere "accumulation of facts." Using science in its older meaning of a system of knowledge, he pointed out, "The main thing always is the life which is thus breathed into the facts, from what we must call the ideal side of their sci-



ence." This ideal side came only from the mind "by which they are apprehended and converted into knowledge." As the linchpin of the College's philosophical curriculum, the course continued to be taught even after Nevin's retirement in 1876; in fact, Henry Harbaugh Apple taught the course in the early 1920s using notes his father Thomas G. Apple made in the 1870s and 80s.

Under Thomas Apple and his successor John S. Stahr, the College continued to emphasize philosophy and history as a means of integrating all knowledge. Franklin & Marshall's strong ties to Mercersburg philosophy enabled its leaders to staunchly refuse to yield to pressures to make the curriculum more vocational. Nevin, in particular, emphasized that it was essential that undergraduate education *not* be practical. He emphasized that "our vocation" was to preserve "education for its own sake and for purely spiritual or inward ends." He believed that no purely "utilitarian, practical, and professional" education could ever be sufficient "to complete the organization of a true human culture." The traditional liberal arts subjects he believed to be best suited to cultivating a mind capable of taking the broadest possible view of knowledge, of transcending narrow and selfish interests, of "*estimating aright the comparative values of the different kinds of truth.*"

Ultimately, in the last decade of the century, Stahr used Mercersburg ideas of development to argue

for the need to expand the curriculum to include modern sciences. "A college course ought to include," he argued, "all those elements, which, harmoniously working together, train the student to observe accurately, reason correctly, express himself clearly and act rightly." These must include the natural sciences, which focused not on the mere accumulation of facts, but the ability to theorize upon them, reflecting a "broad, comprehensive grasp of things." Moreover, the concept of evolutionary change made for greater openness to the scientific currents of the later nineteenth century, and laid the groundwork for the excellence in the sciences that would become one of the College's hallmarks in the twentieth century. Under Stahr, Franklin & Marshall began a gradual process of adaptation to new educational demands, particularly for laboratory education in the sciences, without abandoning its commitment to a philosophically-based liberal arts core. Franklin & Marshall was one of the last colleges to give up a prescribed classical curriculum, moving gradually in the early twentieth century into a system with a disciplinary majors and distribution requirements. One thing that has remained consistent throughout, however, is the College's commitment to fostering a learning dynamic relationship between teacher and student, based on mutual love for knowledge.

## Collecting and Preserving the Evangelical and Reformed Church Heritage

the past, the Society has been fortunate to have people bring items or contact us asking if we wanted certain items. As the staff has been re-processing the collections, we have noted a number of gaps which make the story of the E & R heritage incomplete. In order to fill those gaps, the staff will be attempting to locate items and secure their donation. We need your help. Beginning with this issue, we will include a list of individuals or churches whose records will help fill the gaps. If you have or can help locate any of these, please contact Beth Bitts (717-290-8734) at the Society office. The first list includes individuals whose papers we would like to locate and acquire: Frederic DeHart Wentzel (1895-1977) who served the church as pastor and on the staff of the Board of Christian Education and Publication (1928-1961); Silas P. Bittner (1898-1981) who served the church as secretary/treasurer of the Board of Pensions and Relief (1943-1961); Huber F. Klemme (1909-2001) who served the church as Executive Secretary of the Commission on Christian Social Action; Emil W. Menzel who served the church as pastor, missionary to India, and superintendent and chaplain of Dunkirk Confer-

ence Grounds; Theophil H. Twente (1890-1979) who served the church as pastor, missionary to India, and Associate Secretary of the Board of International Missions (1945-1960).

## ANNUAL MEETING

The Evangelical and Historical Society Annual Meeting will be held on September 24th and 25th in Cleveland, Ohio. This year's meeting will piggy back the Historical Council Meeting which is being held in Cleveland on September 23rd and 24th.

Richard Christensen will be offering a paper on George Richards and Lowell Zuck will be offering a paper on Louis Goebel.

Hotel Reservations can be made by calling Carol Zygmunt (216-736-2130) at Church House in Cleveland. The UCC reduced rate is \$81 per evening (including tax).

Registration and more detailed information will be included in the next ERHS newsletter.

**Evangelical &  
Reformed  
Historical Society**

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555 West James Street  
Lancaster, PA 17603  
(717) 290-8734

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**We're on the  
Web:  
[www.erhs.info](http://www.erhs.info)**

**\*\***Due to past confusion concerning membership dues, we have decided to change our mailings and membership requests. Current members will now receive a mailing in the month their membership is due to expire. Your new membership card will be enclosed and the bottom of the letter can be easily filled out, (your name and address will already be printed there!) cut and mailed with your check.

To reduce confusion, the bottom of your mailing label will have the month and year your membership expires. If you are a lifetime member there will not be a date on your label.

There is not a membership renewal form in this newsletter. If you know of someone who is interested in becoming a new member of the Society please have them contact Beth Bitts (717-290-8734) or email us at [erhs@lancasterseminary.edu](mailto:erhs@lancasterseminary.edu).

We hope this change eliminates a lot of the past confusion concerning membership dues and expiration dates. As always, feel free to give us a call with any questions or concerns!**\*\***