

News from the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society



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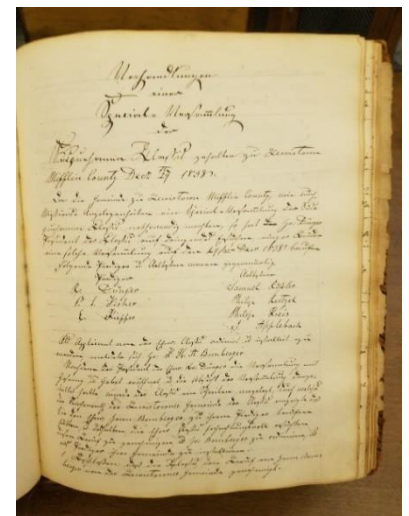
Happy New Year!

The Society Receives Two Grants!

The Arcadia Foundation has awarded a grant of \$160,000 to hire the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Societies first executive director for two years.



The E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation has awarded the Society a \$10,000 grant to purchase archival shelving and to hire interns for the translation of historical hand written German records.



These are wonderful gifts to begin a new year and a new future for the Society.

Thank you to both of these foundations for their generous support!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I greet you with hope and prayers this new year of 2020. This year will be an exciting one for the Society as we rejoice in receiving two generous grants that help advance its current and future work. We want to express our thanks to the Carpenter Foundation and the Arcadia Foundation for their generous grants.

Through the persistence and hard work of Caroline Dunleavy, Keith Tussing and other members of the Development Committee and staff, the Society has been awarded a grant of \$10,000 by the Carpenter Foundation.

While working at ERHS during Thanksgiving week, we received the welcome news that the Arcadia Foundation has awarded the Society a grant of \$160,000 to be used to fund the position of director for two years. For additional information on these grants please see the bottom of this page.

In other news: With the unanimous approval of the board and the membership at their September 2019 meetings, the transition in governance from membership to board was completed. The board will now have responsibility for establishing the mission and goals of the Society, for long and short range planning, for program planning, for fund raising and for financial planning and monitoring. Of course, the board will depend upon the support of you, the friends of and donors to the Society, through your comments and suggestions and will keep you updated through the newsletter. There are many ways in which the Society needs your help: suggestions for programs, volunteering at the archives, lending your expertise in German translation, identifying collections for potential inclusion in the archives, writing articles for the newsletter, providing comments and suggestions about the future of the Society, its mission and work. You are the means by which the Society receives its support and encouragement to continue its work of collecting, preserving and advocating for the importance of the E & R heritage. We treasure and thank you for your support.

We will continue to report to you the exciting developments as we work on and initiate the specified uses of the grants as well as other developments in the life and work of the Society. Please do not hesitate to contact me (bergdom14@gmail.com) or Alison Mallin (erhs@lancasterseminary.edu) if you have questions, comments, or suggestions about the Society or its work.

Dick Berg, President and Archivist

Carpenter Foundation Grant

Through a grant of \$10,000 from the Carpenter Foundation, the Society will hire two interns to translate German language manuscript proceedings of various Reformed classes in the 1820-1870 period which have never been translated. This project will make these valuable records of the work of the regional classes accessible for research. The Carpenter Foundation required us to have a sponsoring agency in order to receive the funds and we are grateful to the Penn Central Conference for their willingness to provide this service. Another part of the funds will be used to replace the narrow shelving at the Society with proper archival shelving so that record boxes will not be sticking into the aisles causing damage. Caroline Dunleavy and Keith Tussing, both members of the Development Committee, were the primary persons responsible for writing and submitting this grant proposal. Our thanks to the Carpenter Foundation for this grant which will make the ERHS collections known to a wider audience and provide safer and more adequate shelving for record storage.

Arcadia Foundation Grant.

The Society expresses its heartfelt thanks to the Arcadia Foundation for their generous grant of \$160,000 to fund the position of executive director for two years. Keith Tussing, a member of the ERHS Development with input from committee members and Alison and I, wrote the proposal and submitted it to the Arcadia Foundation. The Board of Directors realized that the future of the Society would best be served by creating the position of executive director whose work will include raising funds for the general operating budget as well as soliciting major gifts for the endowment fund. Next steps toward hiring an executive director include writing a job description and contract, appointing a search committee to review resumes and conduct interviews, and presenting a candidate to the full board for approval. These steps are currently underway and will take place during the next several months. We are grateful to the Arcadia Foundation and Ms. Marilyn Steinbright for their support of the Society and its work through this generous grant.

The Archives Where I Can Be a “Treasure Hunter”

Whenever I visit the E & R Historical Society (ERHS), I am able to find new and valuable materials. As a researcher at Tohoku Gakuin Archives Center in Sendai, Japan I had the good fortune to stay at the Lancaster Theological Seminary campus to collect materials related to our school foundation over the past two summers.

Our school, originally a small Theological Training School in Sendai, was founded in 1886 by William Edwin Hoy, a Lancaster Seminary graduate who was sent as the third missionary to Japan from the German Reformed Church in the U.S., with the cooperation of a Japanese convert to Christianity, Masayoshi Oshikawa. One year later David Bowman Schneder, also a graduate of the Seminary, joined the work. Our school has now grown into Tohoku Gakuin (North Japan College), the largest private Christian university in Northern Japan, serving 12,000 students. We remember these prominent people as the “Three School Founders”.

ERHS is preserving the materials related to the founders and other missionaries who have contributed to education, especially in Northern Japan. Using these materials, Dr. William Mensendiek, a missionary of E & R and a professor of our University, wrote the life story of David Schneder, “A Man for His Times: The Life and Thought of David Bowman Schneder”, in 1972 and for William Hoy, “Not Without Struggle: The Story of William E. Hoy and the Beginning of Tohoku Gakuin”, in 1986.

Moreover, Dr. Akira Demura, a prominent Theologian and a professor of our University, stayed two entire summers at ERHS in 1981 and 1982, accomplishing his writing of the “Centennial History Book of Tohoku Gakuin” in 1989, which was highly appreciated among all Christian universities in Japan. I was fortunate to be on staff at the Centennial Preparation Office at that time, working with Dr. Demura for almost ten years. Recently, I came back to the Archives Center after my retirement to help keep the materials: such as round-trip letters, Mission proceedings, journals of the German Reformed Church, and so on.

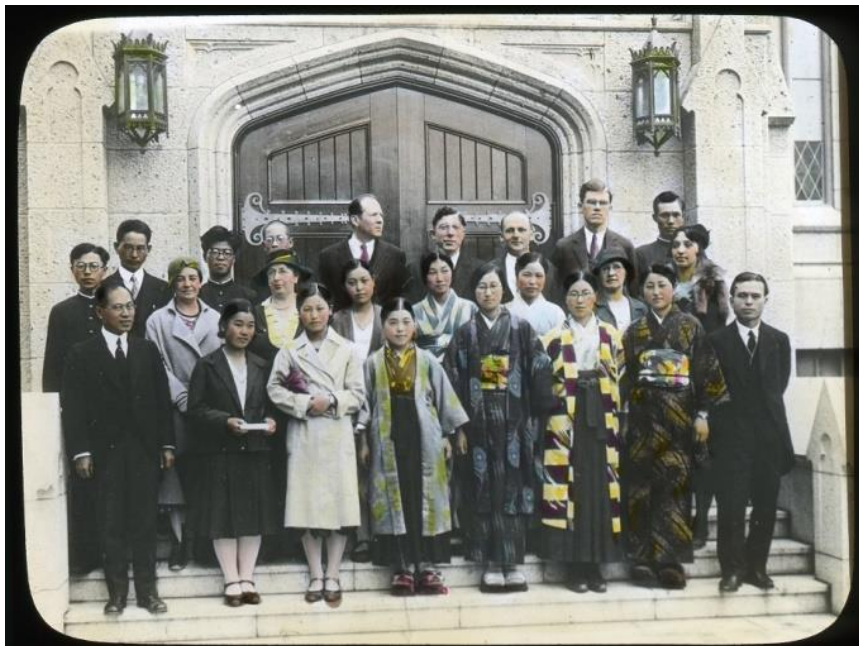
Previously, I had only ever visited ERHS three times, but only for a short amount of time. In August 2018, for the first time in 35 years of Dr. Demura’s research there, I was able to stay for a week with Dr. Michitaka Suzuki, a professor of our University.

We brought our laptops and scanners into the archives and successfully brought back copies of many historical materials, including pictures we saw for the first time. Even if some pictures are the same as the ones we already have in our archives, they are still valuable to us because we can identify the names of people in the pictures and also the dates or places where they were taken, granting there was a note of the back of the pictures written by missionaries.

This past August, I was able to visit again and stay longer than the last summer. Before leaving Japan, Ms. Mallin, the Office Manager of ERHS, let me know that there were more new things that we did not see last year. Upon my arrival, she took me to the next room of the archives we usually use, and I finally found the hidden treasures there among the miscellaneous materials. There were many colored slides and also 16 mm films which were taken almost 80 to 100 years ago. I immediately picked up only the 30 slides I thought were most



meaningful to our school history and asked her to take me to the photo shop in downtown to digitize them, and then reported this good news to our Archives.



Tohoku Gakuin College Church Choir

Regarding the 16 mm films, most of them seem to be taken for introducing the evangelistic work of missionaries sent to the various countries including Japan and those cultures. One of the films was entitled “An Educational Jubilee in Japan: North Japan College 50th 1936”. It could be no doubt quite rare and the most valuable one, which was taken on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of our school, when Dr. Schneder resigned as president of Tohoku Gakuin (North Japan College) after serving 50 years, in 1936. At the memorial service, our 80-year-old president made a long-remembered sermon, which was broadcasted throughout the country by NHK national radio, under the title of “I am not ashamed of the Gospel” (Romans 1:16).

We are very pleased to know that ERHS is applying for a grant to have all of the film in the archives digitized, including this film of extremely great historical and cultural value that dates back to the mid-nineteenth century in Japan.

I am sure that there are treasures still hidden in the ERHS archives and I can only be a treasure hunter when I visit there.

Satoshi Hino
Researcher
Tohoku Gakuin Archives Center

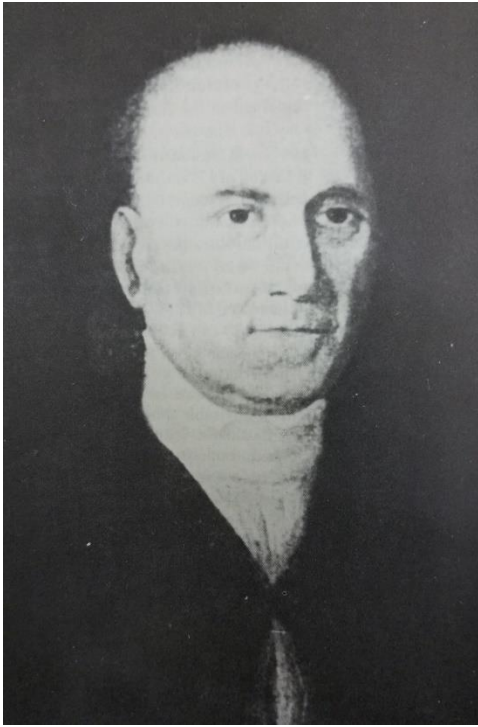
Discovering Benedict Schwope's Later Life

One of the most interesting Reformed ministers in the colonial period is Benjamin Schwope (1730-1810)¹. He was closely involved with the Pietist leaders in the Church, but also had close contacts with the founders of the Methodist and United Brethren churches in the United States.

A native of York, Pennsylvania, he spent some time in the Goshenhoppen area before moving to Maryland, where he became a ruling elder at Benjamin's Church near Westminster, Maryland in 1763, and a trustee of the union church from 1765. He had grown up under Jacob Lischy, and met and befriended William Otterbein. In 1769 he applied to the Reformed Coetus for ordination.

Schwope began preaching around Baltimore in 1770. Realizing the “scarcity of faithful ministers especially in Maryland,” the Coetus ordained Schwope in 1772. He had begun preaching in the Baltimore area around 1770 and a division developed in the Baltimore Church, the more evangelical party favoring Schwope, and the other supporting Christopher Faber, who had recently come from Europe without recommendation from the Dutch authorities. In 1771 Schwope's faction separated and built their own building. The next year Schwope met Methodist leader Francis Asbury newly come

¹ This spelling for his name is that he used. Originally Schwab, the Coetus uses Schwob, while most of his descendants use Swope, while Schwop also appears.



to America. Soon Schwope's church became the site for the organization of the Lovely Lane Methodist Church, whose own later building hosted the founding of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Eager to end the split in Baltimore, the Coetus asked both Faber and Schwope to leave the city. Both did. Schwope became pastor of the Benjamin's Church. But Faber's group then hired another minister newly arrived from Germany. Schwope then encouraged his Pietist friend William Otterbein to take over the newer Church. Unable to heal the split, Coetus permitted Baltimore to become the first American city to have two recognized Reformed churches. Schwope introduced Asbury to Otterbein and that friendship played a significant role in leading to the formation of the United Brethren in Christ denomination.

After the split Schwope continued to serve at Benjamin's Church as pastor. While there he became clerk of a group of six Pietist Reformed clergy that met in Maryland from 1774 to 1776 (In addition to Otterbein and Schwope, Frederick Henop, Jacob Weymer, William Hendel, and Daniel Wagner). They encouraged the formation of lay groups within each congregation and preaching station. The lay groups would encourage each other in the faith, watch over each others conduct, and support family worship. The meetings ended at the start of the Revolution. Some of the lay leaders that attended later became Reformed or United Brethren ministers.

Although ordained by the Coetus, the Holland fathers refused to recognize Schwope, and he was dropped from the roll in 1776. Some Reformed sources say they don't know what happened to him after that. Dubbs suggests he served some churches in east Tennessee which is not likely, as there is no knowledge of any specific churches there at that time. If he was responding to a call from the Holston's River churches that had requested help from the Coetus, it was probably those along that River's section in western Virginia, where Asbury says he saw him in 1776. Charles Glatfelter found that Schwope was back in Baltimore on March 5, 1778 when we took an oath to the new Revolutionary government. But we also know that some of Schwope's sons began to settle in Kentucky in 1776, and some sources suggest he traveled with them then, or even as early as 1774.

But we do now know that the first Reformed minister settling in the new states west of the mountains was Benedict Schwope. He moved near to Logan's Station Kentucky in 1780. While there he continued to preach in both German and English. In 1788 he provided credentials and a bond in Lincoln County (renewed in 1792), for permission to perform weddings. He did many, but is referred to as a "Presbyterian."

In 1792 he was elected as an "anti-slave delegate" to the State Constitutional Convention. One of the first acts of the new legislature was to authorize Schwope and others to raise funds for the "German Presbyterian Society (Dutch, High Dutch)" in Lexington. He then became a member of the Church's "vestry." English speaking government officials, often even in Pennsylvania, referred to German Reformed congregations as "German Presbyterians." Schwope apparently still thought of himself as Reformed.

Schwope seems to have had connections in the areas where the other early Reformed churches in the State were formed. In 1789, Samuel Mau, a Lutheran licentiate from Pennsylvania became the first Lutheran pastor in Kentucky, riding a circuit that included Danville, Bardstown, and Brunerstown (later Jeffersontown near Louisville). "German Presbyterian" churches appeared in these three communities as well. The one near Danville was about ten miles from Schwope's home. Bardstown is in Nelson County, where Schwope's son Benedict Jr. had taken over some property in 1797, and where Asbury was surprised to meet Schwope Sr. in 1808. The "German Reformed Presbyterian" Church in Brunerstown built a building in 1796 where they were soon joined by the Lutherans. The Church's still extant cemetery is described as the "fourth oldest cemetery in the State." When Asbury passed through Brunerstown in 1812 (after Schwope's death in 1810), he reported preaching to some followers of Otterbein and Schwope.

The overwhelming English-speaking population of Kentucky meant that two of the four early churches had died by 1820. The other two, Bardstown and Brunerstown, became members of the Ohio Classis in 1823, but both were often served by Lutheran pastors. The last mention to the Bardstown Church in Reformed records is 1827, and 1832 for Brunerstown.

Richard H. Taylor
November, 2019

Thank you! To Our Supporters!

Annual Appeal Contributions for 2019

Individual and Family Gifts 1934 circle (\$1,000 and up)

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A Review of Richard H. Taylor's The United Church of Christ Historical Map Set

The United Church of Christ is a unique body in the history of Protestantism in the United States. Composed of four church traditions – Congregationalist, Evangelical Synod of North America, German Reformed, and the churches of the Christian Connection – the UCC is a merger of a variety of worship forms, polities, and theological views. Founded in 1957, the denomination began as an experiment in ecumenical endeavor, coming together as one body prior to working out differences, including waiting until after the merger to write a statement of faith.

Richard H. Taylor, with a long and thorough background in research of congregations around the country, has put together a unique tool for students of U. S. religious history, indeed for anyone interested in understanding the history and development of American Protestantism and the UCC in particular. There are ten maps in the collection, providing information not only of the history but also of the present-day situation of the denomination. The maps show how the four traditions spread and where the influence of each was strong. Using them, interested persons will be able to 1) discover the historical growth and development of the four UCC traditions, 2) discover the roots of their own home congregation, and 3) compare the church in their home area with other parts of the country.

All in all, this is a highly useful tool which can be utilized by local historians, students of UCC History and Polity, local congregations interested in their own roots and development, and historians of American religion. A study guide is included to help churches discuss differences among the four traditions and how they impact one's own experience of the church. It will help people to see and understand some of the differences within the United Church of Christ in worship, organization, and theology.

Anyone interested in the history of Protestantism in the United States will find this to be a valuable resource portraying an intriguing example of the development of American religion.

Rich Christensen, Ph. D.
Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religion (ret.)
Ephrata, PA

The United Church of Christ Historical Map Set consists of ten maps to survey the geographic distribution and strength of the United Church and its four historic traditions across the United States. A study guide for History and Polity classes, or a one session discussion is included, along with a PowerPoint® presentation of the maps. The maps and supporting materials are on a USB drive, from which they can be printed. The drive also includes a PowerPoint presentation of the maps.

**The United Church of Christ Historical Map Set is available for \$15
plus shipping by contacting**

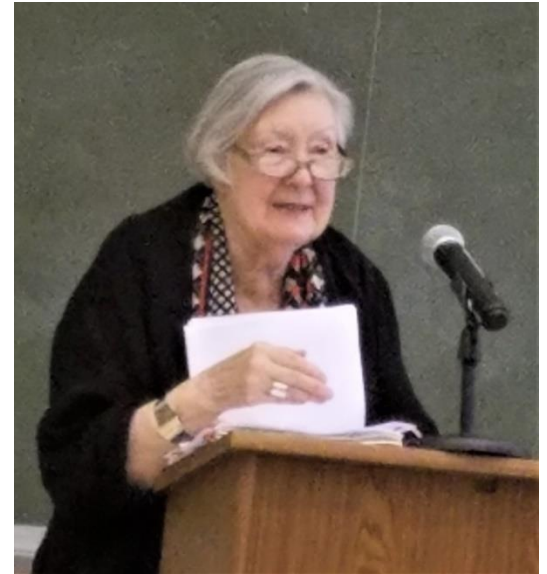
**The Rev. Richard H. Taylor at www.rhtpublishing.com
phone 610-438-3771 e-mail pilgrimrht@rcn.com**

**ERHS Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, September 21st at
Lancaster Theological Seminary Hafer Center
Celebrating the Bicentennial of the birth of Philip Schaff (1819-1893)**

The keynote speaker for the ERHS annual meeting, **Elizabeth A. Clark, John Carlisle Kilgo Professor Emeritus of Religion at Duke University presented “Transatlantic Mentoring: Philip Schaff and Arthur Cushman McGiffert”. Dr. Clark is the author of numerous articles and books on early Christian history, women and religion.**

Dr. Lee Barrett, Professor of Theology at Lancaster Theological Seminary also presented a sketch of the life of Philip Schaff which set a context for this bicentennial celebration.

A large framed portrait of Philip Schaff ca. 1860-1870 was donated to the Society by Mr. and Mrs. David Schaff of Chadds Ford, PA.



Proposed new bylaws were approved and adopted to change the governance of the Society from membership based to Board based.

Board of Directors;

President: The Rev. Richard Berg

Vice President: The Rev. Dr. Richard Christensen

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Rahn Clemens

Mr. Lorin Cope

The Rev. James Semmelroth Darnell

Mr. Matthew Wagner

Mr. Scott Meyer Kukan

The Rev. Melinda Quelhorst

Secretary: The Rev. Judith Meier OCC

Treasurer: The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Call

The Rev Dr. Barbara Kerchner Daniel

Ms. Joy Dressel

The Rev. Chris Rankin

Mr. Jeff Remelius

The Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel

NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES

The ERHS archives is a busy place. We saw a significant increase in the number of visitors from last year. Not everyone comes in to do research. Many were individuals and groups who heard about us and wanted more information about donating records. Some were curious about the records we keep, were visiting the seminary and stopped by or were from churches whose records we were storing and wanted information for events or anniversaries. For two weeks in August we had visitors from Tohoku Gakuin University and Miyagi College in Japan. Two schools started by missionaries from the Reformed Church. A group of High School Students from Japan visiting the seminary also came for a tour of the archives.

40 separate record groups, personal papers and institutional files were processed and cataloged in the past year.

Acquisitions;

- 20 Tuscarawas County Ohio Church Books, early records translated from original German script, donated by Richard Taylor;
- Rev. George Jacob Laubach, Personal Papers
- Zion U.C.C. New Providence, PA original church records. 1744-1976
- Zion Reformed Church, Pottstown PA original church records 1870-1972
- Emmanuel Reformed Church, Bluffton IN church records
- Evangelical Reformed Church, Frederick MD original church records
- St. John's German Reformed Church, Frederick MD original church records
- Two original oil paintings donated by Rev. Brad Lutz of East Vincent Church Spring City, PA and St. Vincent Church, Phoenixville, PA
- 1st Reformed UCC, Lexington NC
- Ledgers kept by Dr. Jacob Calvin Leonard; Church Register 1902-14 contains baptisms, confirmations, marriages and funerals. financial records. A notebook containing the story of the life and ministry of Dr. Jacob Calvin Leonard 1869-1943
- Ridge Valley Reformed Church, Sellersville, PA Records 1881 -Record Book of Rev. Simon K. Gross 1857-1892, Church Membership, Communicants and Baptisms Book 1855-1880
- Framed Portrait of Philip Schaff donated by Mr. and Mrs. David Schaff
- Trinity United Church of Christ, Collegeville, PA church records
- Rev. Anthony Houtz and Family Scrapbook

Volunteer Projects

“Promise Kept with a Paintbrush” by Martha Kreibel represents 261 volunteer hours of work to save and publish the story of the paintings of the “Life of Christ” by artist Jacob. \$800 in book sales were contributed. **Translation Project;** Bob Hunsicker has spent an inestimable number of hours translating some of the German text to English. Currently the minutes of the Synod held at York PA September 1817, Hagerstown MD 1820, Lancaster 1819, Baltimore MD 1824 and Philadelphia 1818 have been translated. The immediate goal is to translate some of the minutes of the Susquehanna Classis 1839-1843(that were not previously translated). The Virginia Classis 1825-1829 and the West Pennsylvania Classis 1820-1837. If anyone is interested in typing these translations we could use the assistance.

In addition, volunteers Homer Royer, Keith Tussing, Scott Kukan, Emma Jones, Rebecca French, and Jay Mentzer contributed over 140 additional hours of service to the ERHS. They assisted with processing collections, genealogical research, creating a new brochure, updating the website, displays for conferences, newsletters, mailings, facebook posts and email marketing.

Grant Applications;

Salisbury Community Foundation awarded the ERHS \$500 to replace current library shelving.

Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission, grant request for \$4,676.50 was submitted by Caroline Dunleavy and Alison Mallin, for the purchase of flat files to house oversized documents but was denied.

Recordings at Risk. Caroline Dunleavy, Alison Mallina and Dick Berg are currently completing a grant proposal to CLIR for the preservation of rare and unique audio and audiovisual items (film, audio tapes, slides) in the ERHS collection.

Paid internship position available to translate German script. If you or someone you know is interested in this position please contact the archives at erhs@lancasterseminary.edu for more information and to apply.

FIND ERHS ONLINE

DONATE directly on our Facebook page or website : www.erhs.info.

Follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/erhslanc/

We are located on the second floor of the Philip Schaff Library, on the campus of the Lancaster Theological Seminary, 555 West James Street, Lancaster, PA 17603.

ERHS is open to the public Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 9 am – 3 pm.

Please call or email in advance of your visit so that we may better assist you.

717-290-8734 • erhs@lancasterseminary.edu

THE ARCHIVES AT EDEN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

The records of the Evangelical Synod of North America and Eden Theological Seminary are located on the lower level of the S.D. Press Education Center on the Eden Theological Seminary campus, 475 Lockwood Ave., Webster Grove, MO 63119. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.eden.edu/s/1645/index.aspx?sid=1645&gid=1&pgid=547>

Scott Holl, the archivist, is currently available Monday and Thursday, 8:30 am – noon.

Access to the archives is by appointment only.

314-252-3141 • sholl@eden.edu

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

- Have you used the archives to research your family genealogy?
- Did you participate in the Caravan movement or attend one of the church camps?
- Is there a pioneering E&R figure that you'd love to learn about?

Let us know! We'd like to feature more content from our donors and friends that celebrates and explores the Evangelical and Reformed heritage. Articles, interviews, essays, and photographs are all welcome.

If you would like to contribute something to the newsletter or the website, please contact the office by phone 717-290-8734 or email erhs@lancasterseminary.edu.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

ERHS depends upon financial support from individuals, institutions, contributions, inheritance or legacy gifts, and investment income from all who are interested in preserving our heritage. Your support of the Society through giving helps assure the continuation of its mission.

All contributors to the society receive the ERHS Newsletter twice a year and have access to the archives, where they can conduct genealogical and church historical research.

INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY GIFTS:

- 1934 CIRCLE (\$ 1,000 and up)
- SCHOLAR (\$ 500 to \$ 999)
- FELLOW (\$ 250 to \$ 499)
- HISTORIAN (\$ 125 to \$ 249)
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CHURCH, GUILD, ASSOCIATION, CONFERENCE, and INSTITUTIONAL GIFTS:

- BUILDER (\$ 500 and up)
- SUSTAINER (\$ 250 to \$ 499)
- SUPPORTER (\$ 100 to \$ 249)
- CONTRIBUTOR (Up to \$ 99)

Contact us if you would like information on how to set up a Charitable Gift Annuity for the Society with United Church Funds.

Contact us if you have remembered the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society in your will or estate plan, or would like information on how to do so.

Send Donations to: E&R Historical Society 555 W. James Street Lancaster, PA 17603
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