

THE REPORTER

of the Historical Society of the Evangelical and Reformed Church

Volume 1

SPRING, 1958

Number 1

GREEN LIGHT AHEAD

The General Synod at Lancaster in 1956 took significant steps to put the preservation of our historical archives on a sound basis.

It recognized the Historical Society as "the official custodian of the historical records of the entire denomination." It approved its expansion "as a Church-wide organization," commending its endeavors to the cordial support of all our people. It authorized the financial support of its work. It called upon synodical historians and other interested persons to send materials to its archives at Lancaster or Webster Groves. It authorized the reorganization of the Society with a combination of the officers of the independent Historical Society and the members of the Historical Committee, which was to constitute the executive committee of the new organization.

This reorganization has taken place. At present the Historical Society, now for the first time "the official historical agency of the entire denomination," is ready to move ahead with the green light. The goal is to make the Society truly a "Church-wide organization."

This objective will become a reality if we succeed, in the first place, in enlisting the interest and cooperation of our ministers and lay people. We are, therefore, appealing to our denominational constituency to enroll as members of the Society. An annual membership is one dollar; a life membership fifteen dollars.

An application blank is enclosed with this first copy of THE REPORTER. It may be returned to Mr. Herbert B. Anstaett, Librarian, Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pa., or to your Synodical Historian.

We are launching a serious drive to strengthen and enlarge our organization. Synodical historians are key persons to ensure its success. Ministers, likewise, can be of tremendous help by bringing this cause to the attention of historically minded individuals in our congregations throughout the country. Surely we have many people who delight to "remember the former things of old" (Isaiah 46: 9) and to know how "in many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers" (Hebrews 1: 1).

NEXT ANNUAL MEETING

The next annual meeting of the Society will be held at the Theological Seminary in Lancaster, Pa., on Tuesday morning, June 3, 1958. Dr. Carl E. Schneider, emeritus professor of Church History at Eden Theological Seminary, will read a paper on the European backgrounds of the E&R and CC churches.

In the afternoon the Executive Committee of the Society will meet. It is expected that Dr. Frederick L. Fagley, secretary of the Congregational Christian Historical Society, or his representative, will be present.

OUR ARCHIVES

Our archives are located in the Fackenthal Library of Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pa., and in the library of Eden Seminary, Webster Groves, Mo. We cordially invite you to visit them.

Even a brief tour will be illuminating and rewarding. Our depositories represent a genuine labor of love. In the past years—nearly one hundred years in Lancaster—many have loved the stuff out of which our history is written and have contributed generously in terms of money, work and materials.

Our historical depositories may proudly be put alongside of similar ones in other denominations of this country. There is romance and inspiration in every single item. Without this material we would scarcely know, least of all understand, the labors of those who went before us in our beloved Zion. Our consciousness of the strength of our Church is rooted, in great part, to what evidences have here been collected. These documents justify their preservation because in and around them the course of our history revolves. They bridge the past with the present.

As has been aptly put before by the leaders of this Society, we repeat: "The Historical Society, with its Museum, its Library, its dreams of the past, its visions of the future, is *yours*, part of the wealth of the Church of which you share a portion. It is yours as ministers and members of the Church."

WHAT OTHERS ARE DOING

The Disciples of Christ are currently engaged in planning a new \$500,000 building program for their society. The project was underwritten by the Phillips family of Butler, Pa.

The Missouri Synod of the Lutheran Church dedicated a new building for the Concordia Historical Institute at a cost of \$120,000. A full-time curator has served since 1943.

The Mennonite Historical Society, located at Goshen College, Indiana, publishes a scholarly journal, *The Mennonite Quarterly Review*, which is now in its 30th volume. Eight special studies of Mennonite history are listed in the July 1955 issue.

The Presbyterian Historical Society has a staff of seven—two research historians, two catalogers, a typist-receptionist, a secretary and the director. Its budget of \$50,000 is supplied by the General Assembly. An excellent journal is now in its 35th volume.

The Congregational Christian Historical Society was organized at Boston in the fall of 1952. It has offices in New York City with Dr. Frederick L. Fagley as secretary. It publishes a quarterly Newsletter. Its list of enrolled local church historians increased from 214 to 713 during 1956. These persons aim to be "centers of interest in the history of their own churches and active in collecting and preserving records and other items of historical interest," Dr. Fagley reports. He adds, "We operate on a very modest budget of \$7,100."

REPORTING NEWS FROM THE PAST

To provide current intelligence about our past is the humble aim of this little publication. What accessions have come into our archives, what literary activities have taken place among those interested in the history of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and what our Synodical historians have been doing will be reflected in our periodic dispatches.

It is hoped that THE REPORTER will appear at least quarterly. If the increased size of our membership warrants it, the next step will be to publish a historical journal. This, of course, is a considerable undertaking and demands very careful study. A committee of the Society is engaged in this exploratory study.

For the time being, THE REPORTER alone will have to serve as a link between the Society and its membership. The first issue is being sent to all our ministers, active and inactive, but subsequent issues will go only to those properly enrolled as members.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dr. Carl E. Schneider, for many years in charge of the historical records at Eden Theological Seminary, has been designated by the Executive Committee to work out plans for a more formal organizing of the Western Section of the Society. Meetings from time to time are expected to be arranged in the western area.

The Promotional Committee of the Society consists of Dr. William Toth, chairman, Dr. Theophil W. Menzel, Dr. H. M. J. Klein, Dr. Josias Friedli and Dr. Paul N. Crusius.

Under the authorization given by General Synod, the officers of the Historical Society and the members of the Historical Committee met on November 26, 1956, in the rooms of the Society at Lancaster as "the Executive Committee of the expanded Society." The following officers were elected: President, Dr. David Dunn; Vice-President, Dr. Carl E. Schneider; Secretary, Dr. Paul N. Crusius; Treasurer, Dr. Charles D. Spotts; Librarian, Prof. Herbert Anstaett.

Other members of the Executive Committee are: Dr. Josias Friedli, Dr. H. M. J. Klein, Dr. Theophil W. Menzel and Dr. William Toth.

The Rev. William S. Gerhard, Lancaster Synod historian, in a letter to the members of his synod asked a very challenging question: "Would it not be fine if Lancaster Synod would be 100 per cent in membership in the Historical Society?" Indeed, it would be! How about other Synods?

The Librarian reports: "The Fackenthal Library at Franklin and Marshall College has for a number of years made certain items of equipment available to the Society. The Executive Committee authorized the librarian . . . to replace them with new equipment." Purchases include a pedestal typewriter desk, posture chair, correspondence typewriter, six library chairs without arms, and two 27-foot double-faced ranges of book shelving at a total cost of \$1,566.26 paid for entirely from the Society's assets. The crowded condition of the shelves will be relieved by shifting the less used items to the new shelving.

The Rev. Guy P. Bready has completed his work on the *Fathers of the Reformed Church*. His work,

completed in less than three years, includes a biographical sketch of every minister of the Reformed Church in the U. S. who died between January 1, 1881, and December 31, 1941. The project, in type-written form, bound as volumes seven to twelve in the series, contains 1,176 biographies with a cumulative index to the twelve volumes.

USE OF THE LIBRARY'S FACILITIES

Our Guest Book records registrations during the last eighteen months from fourteen states, as follows: California, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Dr. James Nichols, Federated Theological Faculty, University of Chicago, made the most use of the collection in his study of the Mercersburg Theology and related subjects. Fourteen students from the Lancaster Theological Seminary used the Society's facilities, some of them many times. Material consulted most frequently included the files of the *Reformed Church Messenger* and the Hinke Collection of transcriptions of Reformed Church records of the Eighteenth and early Nineteenth centuries, principally of southeastern Pennsylvania.

THE WESTERN ARCHIVES

The western archives were established following the creation of a Historical Commission by the Conference of the Evangelical Synod in 1925. Located at Eden Seminary they contain a general historical library and fireproof vault facilities for manuscript materials such as correspondence, minutes of disbanded Districts and old or extinct congregations, rare books, etc.

Among the important holdings at present is a large collection of photostat reproductions of correspondence of the early pastors of the Synod with German and Swiss missionary societies and with the American Home Missionary Society. Microfilm copies of the main publications and of the minutes of District and General Conferences, as also microfilm of pertinent materials found in various continental archives are available for research purposes.

The James I. Good Library with its important materials dealing with the history of the Reformed Church, as an independent unit, is also housed here.

DUTIES OF SYNODICAL HISTORIANS

The duties of the Synodical Historians have been defined as follows:

1. To solicit and collect all historical material available, especially when (as in the case of a Church dissolving) there is danger of valuable records being lost.

2. To foster a general interest in the history of local Churches, Church supported institutions, and the Synod, as well as the denomination.

3. To cultivate the spirit of research with the object of encouraging amateurs as well as the trained historical students to write articles for publication.

A HISTORY OF THE E. AND R. CHURCH

Several years ago the General Synod authorized the Historical Committee to prepare a joint history of the Reformed Church of the United States and the Evangelical Synod. Various sections of the project have been assigned to Dr. Carl E. Schneider, as chairman, Dr. David Dunn, Dr. Paul N. Crusius, Dr. Josias Friedli, Dr. Theophil W. Menzel and Dr. William Toth. This group of scholars has been engaged on the project, which is hoped to be completed by 1959.

SYNODICAL HISTORIANS

Synod	Historian
California	Rev. Jason Hoffman
Central Pennsylvania	Mr. Marshall Anspach
Dakota	Rev. Herman K. Hartmann
East Pennsylvania	Rev. Stanley B. Leiby
Kansas City	Rev. Henry P. Vieth
Lancaster	Rev. William S. Gerhard
Lehigh	Rev. Thomas R. Brendle
Magyar	Rev. Aaron Elek
Mercersburg	Rev. Nevin R. Frantz
Michigan-Indiana	Rev. Theophil W. Menzel
Midwest	Rev. Joseph M. Newgard
Missouri Valley	Dr. Carl E. Schneider
New York	No appointment
North Illinois	Dr. Paul N. Crusius
North Wisconsin	Rev. Roland G. Kley
Northeast Ohio	Rev. John E. Sommerlatter
Northern	Rev. Otto J. Vriesen
Northwest Ohio	Rev. G. J. Boettcher
Pacific Northwest	No appointment
Philadelphia	Rev. George A. Smith
Pittsburgh	Dr. Albert M. Wright
Potomac	Dr. C. H. Huffman
Reading	Rev. W. Ronald Yocum
Rocky Mountain	Dr. Max Schoenhaar

South Illinois	Rev. H. H. Wintermeyer
South Indiana	Rev. Fred J. Mehrrens
South Wisconsin	Rev. Ralph P. Ley
Southeast Ohio	No appointment
Southern	Rev. Frank W. Snider
Southwest Ohio	Dr. Joseph P. Alden
Susquehanna	No appointment
Texas	Rev. Robert Mohr
West New York	Rev. Theodore L. Trost

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1957

Receipts

Balance (checking account)	\$ 338.36
Appropriations:	
East Penna. Synod	\$ 50.00
Central Penna. Synod	25.00
Pittsburgh Synod	50.00
Lehigh Synod	50.00
Philadelphia Synod	75.00
W. New York Synod	25.00
General Synod	4150.03
	\$4425.03
Dues	90.00
Life Fees	78.00
Transferred from Savings	500.00
	\$5481.39

Disbursements

Honoraria	\$ 125.00
Salary—Librarian, 7 mos.	466.62
Annual Meeting	38.60
Cataloging	185.80
Stenographic Help	77.00
Repairs	222.20
Travel to Dr. Schneider	88.00
Appropriation to Western Section	600.00
Salary, Secretary, 1957	100.00
Balance in checking account	3578.17
	\$5481.39

CHARLES D. SPOTTS

1957 MEMBERSHIP LIST BY SYNODS

California

Flucke, John W.
Glass, Richard*

Central Pennsylvania

Anspach, Marshall R.*
Carolus, Harry C.
Cornely, J. E.
Dietz, Alvin F.
Dietz, Roderic A.
Dilliard, Robert A.
Dotterer, Ray H.*
Hartman, Albert A.
Hess, Warren C.
Klein, Ernest C.*
Kunz, John A.*
Nace, Robert K.
Neff, Guy A.
Rupley, Frederick A.*
Shultz, George, Jr.*
Steinert, Joseph M.
Webber, Harold
Wynn, Bert E.
Zechman, Herbert B.

Eastern Pennsylvania

Bingaman, George C.
Blatt, Frank H.

Hawk, Ernest M.
Helfferich, Reginald H.*
Longsdorf, William T.
Miko, Ernest
Schaeffer, Henry A. W.
Ziegler, Howard J. B.

Kansas City

Englemann, Alvin O.
Hauck, Theodore
Vieth, Henry P.
Wegener, A. H.

Lancaster

Anstaett, Herbert B.*
Alspach, T. A.
Appel, Anthony R.*
Appel, Roberts R.
Bachman, Adam R.
Bartholomew, Alfred C.*
Billman, A. M.
Binkley, Luther J.*
Brackbill, A. Lucile*
Bricker, George H.*
Bromer, Frank S.
Bucher, Norman B., Jr.
Carvell, W. Wilson
Crist, Truman A.

Daugherty, Francis R.
Dennis, I. Lester
Dippell, Victor W.
Dunn, David*
Ellsworth, William, Jr.
Forney, Cameron J.
Frantz, Oswin S.
Gable, Lee J.
Gerhard, William S.
Groff, Elvin J.
Hinkle, Gerald H.
Holt, A. Gail
Isenberg, Carl W.
Jeffers, Merritt J.
Kieffer, Elizabeth C.*
Klein, H. M. J.*
Korn, Dorothy
Kresge, E. E.
Marks, Earl R.*
Moyer, George W.
Noll, David J. W.*
Noss, John B.*
Paine, R. Howard*
Pentz, Fred D.
Phillips, Elias H.
Raab, Henry S.
Raezer, John C.
Rapp, David H.*
Sayres, Alfred N.
Schlicher, Donald W.

THE REPORTER

Shelley, Herman S.
Smeltzer, John F.
Snead, Paul B.
Snyder, Guy S.
Spotts, Charles D.
Spotts, George W.*
Toth, William*
Trexler, Wilbur E.*
Vassady, Bela

Lehigh

Haas, Paul P.
Kressley, Clement D.*
Miller, David A.*
Moyer, Franklin H.*
Rodenberger, Charles D.
Schaeffer, Robert L.

Magyar

Boszormenyi, Stephen M.
Molnar, August J., Jr.*

Mercersburg

Fisher, William H.*
Geschwindt, Donald F.
Heisey, George A.
Keen, Edward O.*
Light, Harvey M.
Moyer, H. Clayton, Jr.
Moyer, James W.*
Rezash, Robert H.
Rohrbaugh, Archie C.
Sanders, John C.
Smith, Maurice R.
Winter, John Ellsworth*
Yoder, Paul D.*
Young, Henry J.*
Zimmerman, C. E.

Michigan-Indiana

Menzel, Theophil W.

Midwest

Newgard, Joseph M.

Missouri Valley

Helmich, Hartland H.
Kohler, J. Kenneth
Miller, Allen O.
Mueller, John W.*
Schneider, Carl E.*
Zuck, Lowell H.

New York

Check, A. Wilson
Custer, Russell D.
Knieriem, Frederick P.
Nace, I. George
Stahr, Henry I.

North Illinois

Crusius, Paul N.
Hotz, Oliver C.
Goebel, L. W.
Stanger, Robert C.
Wickart, William H.

North Wisconsin

Hilgeman, Theophilus F. H.

Northeast Ohio

Baughman, S. W.*
Bright, James W.*
Sommerlatte, John
Wenner, Jerome A.
Wiest, Elam G.

Northwest Ohio

Brugh, Charles W.

Philadelphia

Buffington, Charles W.*
Dillinger, George E.
Frantz, John B.*
Fretz, Arthur*
Glessner, Cyrus T.*
Gould, W. A.
Harwick, Ray L.

Jones, Harvey D.
Kerschner, W. Sherman*
Laudenslager, E. B.
Lentz, John*
Long, Wilmer H.
Miller, Laurence C. T.
Nielson, Maurice J., Jr.
Radcliffe, Richard*
Rupp, William J.*
Schaeffer, Charles E.
Schaeffer, John N., Jr.
Smith, Carl T.*
Smith, George A.
Steinberg, Victor
Wagner, James E.
Wanner, Daniel K.
Weiler, John R.
Weiss, Philip W.*
Werkheiser, Bertram M.
Wildasin, John E.

Pittsburgh

Fabian, Eli R.
Gobrecht, Loy C.
Kim, Joseph McC.*
Papenmeier, Arthur W.
Pontius, Paul R.*
Ringer, Lester L.
Shellenberger, Richard H.
Wright, Albert M.
Zinn, John B.

Potomac

Brady, Guy P.*
Bright, Edwin D.
Distler, Theodore A.*
Lehmann, Timothy
Mehrling, Walter D.
Sziarto, Stephen
Willis, C. A.*

Reading

Breisch, Warren A.*
Erdman, Lee M.*
Hafer, B. Frank*
Hafer, Paul Robert*
Hosler, George C.
Moyer, L. Eugene
Rahn, Paul L.
Rosenberger, Frank A.
Roth, Charles E.*
Schmoyer, Paul E.*
Slinghoff, Paul T.
Snyder, William A.
Stern, Fred A.
Townsend, Robert K.
Wetzel, Daniel J.*
Yoh, Paul W.
Ziegler, Warren O.

South Illinois

Moyer, Guy J.*

South Indiana

Bredeweg, Harry W.

South Wisconsin

Gonser, Albert G.

Southeast Ohio

Harsh, Arthur H.

Southern

Alcorn, Edwin M.
Althouse, Harry D.
Goodling, Richard A.
Hamm, Melvin T.
Hiatt, Charles E.
Kreps, Carl C.
Martin, Carl R.
Mensendiek, Richard A.
Moose, Tom L.
Morris, Ivan R.
Myers, Harold
Leinbach, Roy E., Jr.*
Peeler, Banks J.
Rowe, G. Sam
Scott, William T.

Sills, Horace S.
Snider, Frank W.
Sollinger, Merle F.
Whisenhunt, Roy C.

Southwest Ohio

Alden, Joseph P.*
Helfrich, Herman J.*

Susquehanna

Aulenbach, Richard H.
Barley, Alton W.
Breining, Harlan A.
Felton, Lawrence L.
Harrity, Grant E.
Heller, Clark W.*
Klein, Richard H.*
Lark, H. Wilson*
Light, John M.
Lutz, Wayne A.*
Moyer, Clarence T.*

Texas

Rupp, Paul B.*

West New York

Kutz, LeRoy M., Jr.
Reller, J. Otto
Rezash, Lawrence J.
Schroeder, Paul M.

* Life member



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PAID

UP

ANNUAL

MEMBERS



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LIFE

MEMBERS

ARE

YOU

ONE?

JOIN

NOW!

