

# THE REPORTER

of the Historical Society of the Evangelical and Reformed Church

Editor: DR. WILLIAM TOTH, *Franklin and Marshall College*

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Number 1

## RECENT ACCESSIONS

From gifts to the Society we single out a few noteworthy items.

The original farewell sermon in German script preached by Rev. John Christopher Gobrecht (1733-1815) in the Tobickon Church—the gift of Mrs. Martha Gobrecht Darr, his great, great, great granddaughter.

The original Minutes of the East Pennsylvania Classis, 1893-1910, two volumes—through courtesy of Dr. Dale H. Moore. This completes the Minutes from 1842 to 1910.

Papers and books pertaining to the Society for the Relief of Ministers in the Reformed Church—bequest of Dr. Eugene L. McLean, a life member.

Letters written to and by Rev. Peter S. Fisher (21 in German and 37 in English; also 5 sermons)—by Mrs. Nellie Fisher Simpson.

Dr. Charles T. Zahn presented bound, typewritten copies of the Church Record of the Reformed Congregation of Saint Mary's Church at Silver Run, Maryland, covering the years 1812-1865, and the First Record Book for the Reformed and Lutheran Congregation at Manchester, Baltimore Co., Md., 1760-1863.

## SOUTHERN CHAPTER ORGANIZED

Through the efforts of the Rev. Frank W. Snider, Lexington, N. C., approximately forty-five interested people gathered together at Catawba College, Sunday afternoon, November 30, 1958, and organized the first regional chapter of our Society.

Dr. Charles D. Spotts, our secretary-treasurer, had been invited to discuss the objectives of our society and help in the plan of organization. Present also were the following members: Dr. Harvey Fesperman, Rev. Melvin T. Hamm, Rev. Ivan R. Morrin, Rev. Aubrey W. Hedrick, Rev. David E. Faust, Rev. Frank W. Snider, Rev. Allan L. Rohrbaugh, Marlin Schaeffer and Sam Rowe.

Dr. Bruce A. Wentz of Catawba College was elected president, Frank Clapp, Newton, N. C., vice-president, Mrs. Fred Kepley, Lexington, N. C., secretary, and Dr. Jacob A. Palmer, Thomasville, N. C., treasurer. There are 26 members of the Chapter and the Society.

Dr. Keppel, President of Catawba College, reported that there is a mass of unopened manuscripts and papers in the college library. He is willing to turn this over to the new chapter and hopes that someone will begin cataloguing this material.

Historian Snider reported that he has a collection of colored slide pictures of all the church buildings and parsonages in Southern Synod. It was agreed to send copies of these to the archives at Lancaster.

We hail the appearance of our first regional chapter as a significant step forward in the life of the Historical Society. This example is worthy of emulation in other sections of the country.

## WHAT OTHERS ARE DOING

Last Fall the Disciples of Christ dedicated a million-dollar library and museum for their historical society in Nashville, Tenn. The magnificent Tudor Gothic structure was the gift of the Phillips family in Pennsylvania and contains ultra-modern library facilities with air-conditioning throughout and moisture-controlled stacks and vaults guaranteeing maximum care for all manuscripts, documents, books, pictures and relics. There are facilities for microfilming, projection and visual instruction, work rooms for cleaning and repairing and cubicles for writers and researchers. The Disciples have set a high standard, indeed.

*The Church Historical Society* of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the U.S.A. last year opened its new headquarters in Austin, Texas. Their new building is a fireproof and air-conditioned structure and is reported to be a most attractive and impressive one. With a total membership of 1,173 this society looks back only to 47 years of existence. It has an impressive list of publications to its credit in the field of Anglican history in our country. Members are posted on activities by a periodical entitled *The Historiographer*. In addition, the Protestant Episcopal Church supports the quarterly, *Historical Magazine*, which is one of the foremost journals of historical scholarship today.

Last year's report of the *Congregational-Christian Historical Society* reveals that 1,050 are on the roll of members. Nearly all of the 34 Conferences support the work with contributions and the number of member churches has increased to 284. Receipts for last year were \$8,487.19 and expenses \$7,236.07. The society is now endeavoring to build up a small reserve for emergencies and to carry the society over the slack periods of the year.

## ARCHIVIST APPOINTED

At a recent meeting of the Executive Committee, Miss Elizabeth C. Kieffer was appointed archivist on a part-time basis.

Miss Kieffer comes to us with a rich background of library work, having been employed in the Fackenthal Library of Franklin and Marshall College for over thirty years, and as director of the Lancaster County Historical Society more recently. She is a descendant of Dr. J. Spangler Kieffer and Dr. Joseph H. Dubbs, who had done much to build up our Society in the past. She has written and lectured extensively in the field of Reformed Church history and is known particularly as the author of an excellent biography of Henry Harbaugh and a history of First Church, Lancaster.

Her specific responsibility will be to provide guidance to researchers. Thoroughly conversant with our collections, Miss Kieffer will be able to render valuable service to those who come to us from far and wide for historical information.



## **TYPICAL ACTIVITIES**

For lack of space we merely mention a few of the things that have been done by Synod presidents and historians. They are typical.

Dr. Paul T. Slinghoff, President of Reading Synod, presented biographical sketches of the late Rev. Harvey Joseph Miller and Dr. Elmer Samuel Noll.

Rev. William S. Gerhard, Lancaster Synod historian, gave his biographical account of Dr. J. Rauch Stein and Dr. Paul T. Stonesifer, also a history of Lancaster Synod published in the Synod's Minutes in 1957.

Dr. J. P. Alden, Synod Historian for Southwest Ohio Synod has presented historical data on 48 churches representing nearly half of the churches in the Synod. The information was gathered on questionnaires asking for name and place of the church; information on its organization and building or buildings; names of pastors with years of service; brief sketch of outstanding personalities; sources of men or women as ministers, missionaries, or in full-time Christian service; and anniversaries or other significant events.

Brochures were sent from ten churches.

Synod news bulletins are being received regularly from Lehigh Synod, Northeast Ohio Synod, and Philadelphia Synod.

The guest registrations for 1957 totalled 256, representing persons from 11 states. Approximately 90% of the registrants used the collection and 10% were visitors. An unrecorded number also visited the Society's quarters but did not register.

## **FOREFATHERS' DAY**

A worthwhile custom of long standing in the Congregational Christian Church has been the observance of Forefathers' Day. A service on the Sabbath, usually in the autumn season, is set aside to recall the past. Sometimes an event in the history of the denomination, at other times perhaps some phase of local church life is stressed. Always in sermon and in prayer, undergirded by hymns about the God of history and the historical Jesus who walked the lowly, dusty paths of Galilee, the people are brought face to face with religious values of abiding significance. Some of the most powerful sermons of the incomparable Jefferson were based on this theme.

Our conviction is that we of the Evangelical and Reformed tradition would profit immensely from borrowing this custom and adapting it to our own peculiar use. No one need be reminded that our history is replete with religious suggestions. Our continental background and our pioneer past transpired on a stage upon which walked giants of the faith. Their examples continue to inspire and to challenge in times like our own. The meaning of our heritage is found in people whom we now know. But it confronts us also in people whom we can get to know from the pages of our history. Our denomination has a goodly company of these people; so has each congregational history.

Let us search out those of the past who speak to the present. Theirs is a significant message. The past is truly prologue. Our annals are rich in tragedy, comedy, greed, heroism, sacrifice and devotion. What is imbedded in history should be brought to the surface. The generation entrusted to our care can discover in it a wellspring of inspiration.

## **THE SCHINDLER DOCUMENT**

Now and again a document from the distant past comes to light and finds its way into our archives. Recently, we were delighted to receive from Dr. Sheldon E. Mackey, Secretary of the E and R Church, the most valuable Schindler document dated February 24, 1770, written in German script. This is a certificate of good conduct issued to the Rev. Abraham Blumer by Captain Schindler. The document was accompanied by Dr. William Hinke's translation and his letter of explanation written to Dr. William Lampe on January 23, 1946.

## **WORTHY OF REMEMBRANCE**

The work of our Society would be immensely aided by bequests made for the continuation and expansion of our work. Such remembrance in your will would be a perpetual testimony to your belief in the importance of all that the Society stands for: the preservation and publication of historical documents connected with our church, the investigation of its history, and the development of interest in all relevant historical research.

"A society without history cannot understand what it is doing; and a history without scholarship cannot understand itself," said Gilbert Murray. A bequest in your will can help us further what is very close to our hearts, and yours.

## **HISTORY IN THE MAKING**

Every moment of the contemporary scene enters the stream of history. Part of the responsibility of present-day historians is to preserve all that is worthy evidence of what transpires in our time.

In this spirit our librarian, Mr. Herbert B. Anstaett, has arranged with the Christian Education Press, Philadelphia, to have our Society designated as a depository for all the publications of our denominational press. Miss Helen E. Groninger has expressed a hearty willingness to make available to us all of the items published from time to time having any association with our church and items of like character previously published that are still in print.

We are happy to report that in the last few months no less than 39 items, still in print, have been sent to us.

Sometimes our ministers and members have books published by other concerns. We would greatly appreciate receiving such books for our deposit.

## **ANNUAL SPRING MEETING**

The annual spring meeting will be held on Tuesday morning, June 2, 1959 in connection with the commencement exercises of the Theological Seminary in Lancaster.

The paper will be read by Miss Elizabeth Kieffer, archivist. Her subject will be "The Contributions of George Merle Zacharias to the Historical Society." We hope at this time to be introduced to the fascinating historical materials included in the Zacharias Collection, a case of books and manuscripts relating to the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries of early Reformed Church history. This includes a large group of volumes of transcribed church records from Holland.

Keep the date open on your calendar!



**DR. FAGLEY DIES**

Dr. Frederick L. Fagley, devoted and beloved Secretary of the Congregational Christian Historical Society from the time of its organization, passed away last August 25th.

Dr. Fagley was the "founding father" of this organization as well as its guiding spirit over many years. His wisdom, patience and vision resulted

in making it one of the best denominational historical societies in the country. He will be deeply missed but plans are being laid by the Society to carry on the work so splendidly begun.

The sympathies of our Society were conveyed to our sister organization in a letter by president Dr. David Dunn.

**MEMBERS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1958**

Alcorn, Edwin M.  
Alden, Joseph P.\*  
Alspach, T. A.  
Alt, Irvin C.  
Althouse, Harry D.  
Anspach, Marshall R.\*  
Anstaett, Herbert B.\*  
Appel, Anthony R.\*  
Appel, Roberts R.  
Aulenbach, Richard H.

Bachman, Adam R.  
Bailey, Mead Miner  
Barley, Alton W.  
Barthelemeh, Donald J.  
Bartholomew, Alfred C.\*  
Baughman, S. W.\*  
Baumer, Harry W.  
Bausch, Robert A.  
Bayard, Charles O.  
Bickel, George W.  
Bieber, Wallace J.  
Bingaman, George C.\*  
Binkley, Luther J.\*  
Bitner, George H.  
Blatt, Frank H.  
Boszormenyi, Stephen M.  
Boyer, Dale E.  
Brackbill, A. Lucile\*  
Bready, Guy P.\*  
Bredeweg, Harry W.  
Breiningner, Harlan A.\*  
Breisch, Warren A.\*  
Bricker, George H.\*  
Bright, James W.\*  
Bromer, Frank S.  
Brown, William S.  
Brueseke, Edward W.  
Brugh, Charles W.†  
Brumbach, John C.  
Bucher, Norman B., Jr.  
Buffington, Charles W.\*  
Burrichter, Emil  
Byer, Paul H., Jr.

Carolus, Harry C.  
Carvell, W. Wilson  
Check, A. Wilson  
Coleman, Glenn E.  
Corl, Claude H.  
Cornely, Jesse E.  
Crusius, Paul N.  
Csla, Kalman  
Custer, Russell D.

Daniels, William H.  
Daugherty, Francis R.  
Davis, Hiram E.  
Deardorff, J. Warren  
Deitz, Purd E.\*  
Dennis, I. Lester  
Dietz, Alvin F.  
Dietz, Roderick A.  
Dilliard, Robert A.  
Dippell, Victor W.  
Distler, Theodore A.\*  
Dittmer, Lowell L.  
Dobstaff, Harold F.  
Doellefeld, James  
Dotterer, Ray H.\*  
Dumin, August  
Dunn, David\*

Eberts, Paul M.  
Engler, Winfield E.

Erdman, Lee M.\*  
Everline, Lewis E.  
Eyster, Frederick D.

Fabian, Eli R.  
Fackre, Gabriel  
Felton, Lawrence L.  
Fiegenbaum, J. W.  
Fisher, William H.\*  
Flucke, John W.  
Fox, Merle U.  
Frankenfeld, Raymond F.  
Frantz, John B.\*  
Frantz, Oswin S.  
Fresen, Edward H.\*  
Fretz, Arthur\*  
Freudenberg, C. J.  
Friedli, Josias\*  
Frohne, Gilbert P.  
Frohne, Victor P.

Gable, Lee J.  
Geiman, Ralph S.\*  
Gerhard, William S.  
Geschwindt, Donald F.  
Glass, Richard\*  
Glessner, Cyrus T.\*  
Gobrecht, Loy C.  
Gockley, M. E., Jr.  
Goebel, L. W.  
Gold, James H.\*  
Gonser, Albert G.  
Goodling, Richard A.  
Greeb, Alexander  
Groff, Addison H.  
Groff, Elvin J.  
Gunnemann, E. B.

Haack, Gustav A.  
Haas, Paul P.  
Hafer, B. Frank\*  
Hafer, Paul R.\*  
Hamm, Melvin T.\*  
Harriy, Grant E.  
Harsh, Arthur H.  
Hartman, Albert A.  
Hartmann, H. A.  
Hawk, Ernest M.  
Hayes, J. Clark  
Heisey, George A.  
Helfrich, Reginald H.\*  
Helfrich, Herman J.\*  
Heller, Clark W.\*  
Helmbold, Andrew\*  
Hennessey, Joseph B.  
Herman, Alfred J.  
Herrmann, Robert G.  
Hess, Warren C.  
Hicks, Gale D.  
Hilgeman, Theophilus F. H.  
Hinkle, Gerald H.  
Hoefler, Elmer H.  
Hoefler, Elver H.  
Holt, A. Gail  
Hosler, George C.  
Huffman, Charles H.  
Hunyady, Laslo L.  
Huyette, Charles A.

Irion, Paul E.  
Isenberg, Carl W.  
Jeffers, Merritt J.  
Jones, Harvey D.

Keefe, Paul F.

Keen, Edward O.\*†  
Kerschner, W. Sherman\*  
Kieffer, Elizabeth C.\*  
Kim, Joseph McC.\*  
Kissel, William F.  
Klein, Ernest C.\*  
Klein, H. M. J.\*  
Klein, Richard H.\*  
Klemme, Armin F.  
Kley, Roland  
Klingel, E. Harold  
Kluge, Ralph W.  
Knieriem, Frederick P.  
Koch, R. David\*  
Koch, Henry C.  
Koenig, John C.  
Koenig, Robert E.  
Kohler, J. Kenneth  
Konrad, James  
Korn, Dorothy  
Kraemer, L. R.  
Kramer, Frederick  
Kreps, Carl C.  
Kresge, E. E.  
Kressley, Clement D.\*†  
Krueger, Arthur W.  
Kuhlenschmidt, Raymond C.  
Kunz, John A.\*  
Kutz, LeRoy M., Jr.

Lahr, W. F.  
Langerhans, C. David  
Lark, H. Wilson\*  
Laudenslager, E. B.  
Lauer, E. H.  
Lehman, Donald F.  
Lehmann, Timothy  
Leinbach, Roy E., Jr.\*  
Lentz, John\*  
Leonard, Billy Joe  
Leonard, Larry Philip  
Lequar, Horace R.  
Light, Harvey M.  
Light, John M.  
Limbort, Roy W.  
Long, Wilmer H.  
Longsdorf, William T.  
Lutz, Earlin H.  
Lutz, Wayne A.\*

McCall, Frank W.  
MacNeal, George D.  
Maeder, Henry G.  
Marks, Earl R.\*  
Marshall, Thomas R.  
Mast, Andrew  
May, Milton A.  
Meck, Allan S.  
Merhling, Walter D.  
Menzel, Theophil W.  
Merkel, Karl  
Merzdorf, Walter  
Meyer, Paul J.  
Miko, Ernest  
Miller, Allen O.  
Miller, David A.\*†  
Miller, Laurence C. T.  
Miller, Orville E.  
Miller, Paul E.  
Molnar, August J., Jr.\*  
Mornhinweg, R. H.  
Morrin, Ivan R.  
Moyer, Clarence T.\*  
Moyer, Franklin H.\*  
Moyer, George W.

Moyer, Guy J.\*  
Moyer, H. Clayton, Jr.  
Moyer, James W.\*  
Moyer, L. Eugene  
Mueller, John W.\*

Nace, I. George  
Nace, Robert K.  
Naftzinger, Herman J.\*  
Neff, Guy M.  
Newell, Arthur W.  
Newgard, Joseph M.  
Niedermeyer, Paul\*  
Niehaus, Robert S.  
Noll, David J. W.\*  
Noss, John B.\*  
Nusbaum, J. Franklin

Paine, R. Howard\*  
Papenmeier, Arthur W.  
Petzold, M. G.  
Phillips, Elias H.  
Plott, G. Ermine  
Pontius, Paul R.\*  
Ports, M. S. Jan  
Powers, Donald L.

Radcliffe, Richard\*  
Raetz, John C.  
Rahn, Paul L.  
Rapp, David H.\*  
Reller, J. Otto  
Ressler, Merrill Q.  
Reynolds, Frank E.  
Rezash, Lawrence J.  
Rezash, Robert H.  
Ringer, Carl  
Ringer, Francis E.\*  
Ringer, Lester L.  
Rodenberger, Charles D.  
Rohrbaugh, Allan L.  
Rohrbaugh, Archie C.  
Rosenberger, Frank A.  
Roth, Charles E.\*  
Rowe, G. Sam, Sr.  
Rupley, Frederick A.\*  
Rupp, Paul B.\*  
Rupp, William J.\*

Sanders, John C.  
Sayres, Alfred N.  
Schaeffer, Charles E.  
Schaeffer, Daniel E.\*  
Schaeffer, Henry A. W.  
Schaeffer, Robert L.  
Schauer, John W., Jr.  
Scheer, Walter A.  
Schlegel, F. Nelsen  
Schmoyer, Paul E.\*  
Schneider, Carl E.\*  
Schnell, Sterling  
Schroeder, Paul M.  
Schroer, A. Hale  
Schultz, Harold P.\*  
Schweinfurth, Fred C.  
Seiple, William G.  
Shellenberger, Richard H.  
Shelley, Herman S.  
Shelly, Edgar W., Jr.  
Shenberger, Albert E.  
Shepley, Edith  
Shetter, John C.  
Shimler, Donald H.  
Shuford, R. L.\*  
Shultz, George, Jr.\*



Sills, Horace S.  
 Simonson, Richard E.  
 Singley, Dewees F.  
 Slinghoff, Paul T.  
 Smeltzer, John F.  
 Smith, Carl T.\*  
 Smith, E. Eugene  
 Smith, George A.  
 Smith, Maurice R.  
 Snead, Paul B.  
 Snider, Frank W.  
 Snyder, Guy S.  
 Snyder, William A.  
 Sollinger, Merle F.  
 Sommerlatte, John†  
 Spotts, Charles D.  
 Spotts, George W.\*  
 Stahr, Henry I.  
 Stanger, Robert C.

Steinberg, Victor  
 Steinert, Joseph M.  
 Sterner, Frederick A.  
 Szabo, Stephen  
 Sziarto, Stephen  
 Takaro, Geza\*  
 Thompson, A. C.  
 Toth, William\*  
 Townsley, Robert K.  
 Tretow, Harley C. W.  
 Trexler, Wilbur E.\*  
 Twente, Theophil H.

Ulrich, Reinhard  
 Vassady, Bela  
 Vieth, Henry P.  
 Volle, Alvin F.

Vollmer, Philip, Jr.  
 Wagner, James E.  
 Wagner, Mark G.  
 Wanner, Daniel K.  
 Webber, Harold F.  
 Wegener, A. H.  
 Weiler, John R.  
 Weiss, Philip W.\*  
 Werkheiser, Bertram M.  
 Westermeyer, John E.  
 Wetzel, Daniel J.\*  
 Wetzel, J. C.\*  
 Wetzel, Willard W.  
 Wickham, Terry  
 Wiest, Elam G.  
 Wildasin, John E.  
 Wilhelm, K. M.  
 Wills, C. A.\*

Wimer, William E.\*  
 Winter, John Ellsworth\*  
 Worthman, Kenneth H.  
 Wynn, Bert E.

Yoder, Paul D.\*  
 Yoh, Paul W.  
 Young, Henry J.\*  
 Yount, John A.

Zechman, Herbert B.  
 Ziegler, Howard J. B.  
 Ziegler, Reynold K.  
 Ziegler, Warren O.  
 Zimmerman, C. E.  
 Zinn, John B.  
 Zuck, Lowell H.

† Deceased

\* Life Member

The paid-up membership count by Synods is as follows: California, 5; Central Pennsylvania, 20; East Pennsylvania, 9; Kansas City, 6; Lancaster, 50; Lehigh, 15; Magyar, 3; Mercersburg, 21; Michigan-Indiana, 5; Midwest, 5; Missouri Valley, 19; New York, 9; North Illinois, 8; North Wisconsin, 5; Northeast Ohio, 12; Northern, 4; Northwest Ohio, 6; Pacific Northwest, 1; Philadelphia, 30; Pittsburgh, 19; Potomac, 17; Reading, 20; Rocky Mountain, 2; South Illinois, 4; South Indiana, 4; South Wisconsin, 3; Southeast Ohio, 4; Southern, 19; Southwest Ohio, 4; Susquehanna, 14; Texas, 4; and West New York 5; and Congregational Christian Church, 1.

Of the paid-up members 90 are life members. Twenty-four life members were enrolled during 1958. At the organization of the Southern Chapter the following were elected to 1959 membership: David E. Bowers, Richard A. Cheek, Frank Clapp, Ann Cline, David E. Faust, Mrs. E. W. Haines, A. W. Hedrick, Harry Ingold, Mrs. Fred Kepley, Titus Leonard, J. A. Palmer, Mrs. J. A. Palmer, Mrs. Vance Patterson, E. F. Sells, Mrs. E. F. Sells, Banks Shepherd, Wade H. Shuford, Jr., David R. Snider, Bruce Wentz, and Mrs. Bruce Wentz.

## A prayer for the Church Historical Society

*Almighty God, who of old didst inspire Thy servants to record by monument and manuscript Thy mighty acts in the history of Thy people; We thank Thee for the surviving records of the life of Thy Church through the ages, which today serve to increase our knowledge and confirm our faith. Bless the efforts of our CHURCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY, and give us, we pray Thee, the Spirit of wisdom and zeal, to write and to preserve the records of Thy Church in our own time, that generations yet unborn may, through knowledge of the story of our day, perceive more clearly Thy continual presence among Thy people; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.*

The above Prayer was written by the Rev. G. MacLaren Brydon, D.D.,  
 Historiographer of the Diocese of Virginia, of the Episcopal church.