

THE REPORTER

of the Historical Society of the Evangelical and Reformed Church

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

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PRESIDENT DAVID DUNN COMMENTS

The current issue of THE REPORTER . . . reflects the activities of the three recently organized regional chapters of the Society. Ministers and lay persons who have had a part in organizing, as well as those who have been active in these new groups since their inception, are to be commended. More groups of this kind are urgently needed to help fulfill the Society's chief functions, which are: (1) To stimulate and cultivate interest in the heritage of the Reformed Church in the United States, the Evangelical Synod of North America, and the Evangelical and Reformed Church; and (2) To collect and preserve historical material of the churches and to make it accessible to all who are interested.

WESTERN CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND AIMS

(Reported by Lowell H. Zuck, President)

Responding to an invitation from Paul Crusius, Theophil Menzel, and Carl Schneider, about twenty-five persons, meeting on April 2, 1959, at the close of Eden Convocation, voted after discussion and a helpful presentation of the activities of the Society by David Dunn to form a Western Chapter of the Historical Society of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Lowell H. Zuck was chosen President of the Western Chapter and Representative of the Chapter on the Executive Committee of the Society. Fred Mehrtens, South Indiana Synod, was chosen Secretary, and Henry Wintermeyer, then of South Illinois, now of Texas Synod, was chosen Treasurer. Persons were present at the organization meeting from Missouri Valley, North Illinois, Southeast Ohio, and Kansas City Synods.

It was urged first of all that those present not then members of the Society send in their one dollar membership fees to Herbert Anstaett, Librarian at Franklin and Marshall College. Eight dollars for Society membership fees were received by the Chapter President and were forwarded to Mr. Anstaett. In addition a one dollar membership fee was to be donated to the Western Chapter. Five dollars were received by the President of the Chapter for chapter membership fees.

The main purpose of the Western Chapter is to stimulate historical interest regarding Evangelical and Evangelical & Reformed Churches, pastors, and institutions in its area. This emphasis is especially desirable since one of the two main archive centers of the Society, directed by Carl Schneider, is located at Eden Theological Seminary. While as yet no

limits to the bounds of the Western Chapter have been set, for the present it welcomes members from all synods reaching out from Eden in a rather wide geographical area. The constituencies represented will be mainly those of Missouri Valley and South Illinois Synods.

In addition to encouraging membership in the Society, the Western Chapter also aims to present an annual meeting of the Chapter devoted to discussion of activities of historical interest along with the reading of historical essays and a business session. The 1960 annual meeting of the Western Chapter has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 3, in connection with a regular meeting of the St. Louis United Church of Christ Ministerium. Members of the Chapter will be invited to this meeting, as well as other interested persons.

In the opinion of the officers of the Western Chapter, the further organization of historical interests within the Evangelical & Reformed Church ought not to be construed as an undue narrowing into denominationalism over against the interests of the United Church of Christ. It is rather a balanced concern for remembering the rich heritage of the past, for bringing historic interests into fruitful connection with present concerns, and for developing an attitude of flexibility and hope for greater unity to come. The Chapter looks not only to the past but also to the present and to the future.

LAY INTEREST STRONG IN THE SOUTHERN SYNOD CHAPTER

(Reported by Robert F. Godfrey,
Southern Synod Chapter Representative)

The lay people of Southern Synod are taking an active part in the program of the Historical Society! Since the Southern Synod Chapter was organized in November 1958 (See THE REPORTER . . . , Volume 2, Number 1, Spring, 1959, p. 1), the membership has reached the total of forty belonging to both the synodical and the denominational Society. The Synod Historian, Rev. Frank W. Snider of Lexington, North Carolina, has done much to inspire the interest of the Synod in the work of the Society. The progress of the Historical Society and certain recommendations for the future were presented during the 1959 Spring Session of Southern Synod.

A three-man committee was appointed by Synodical Council to investigate the possible cost and other necessary items concerning the printing and publishing of "a new and up to date *History of Southern Synod*" and to report the findings at the Spring Synod of 1960. The following recommendations

were adopted by the Synod: (1) That the sum of one hundred dollars be placed in the budget of Southern Synod for The Historical Society of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and that this item be paid in the Spring of each year to the denominational Society for its support; (2) That congregations and pastors be urged to continue sending the Synod Historian copies of all printed materials pertaining to the history of local congregations. Copies of such materials should also be sent to the Historical Society of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, Franklin and Marshall College Library, Lancaster, Pennsylvania; (3) That the office of Synod Historian be an elective office and action be taken at this Synod to nominate, elect and set the term of office. Rev. Frank W. Snider was elected Synod Historian. The Synod was informed that the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars was allocated to the Southern Synod Chapter by the Executive Committee of the denominational Society for the purpose of cataloging some manuscripts and papers stored at the Catawba College Library.

The second annual meeting of the Southern Synod Chapter was on November 29, 1959, in the lecture room of Catawba College Library. Dr. Bruce Wentz, President of the Chapter, presided. Rev. Frank W. Snider, Chapter Representative on the Executive Committee, presented several items of local interest, including a report of the denominational Society annual meeting in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, the previous June. A young man, Larry P. Leonard, from historic Daniel's Reformed Church of Lincolnton, North Carolina, presented an interesting historical sketch of Daniel's Church and related his methods of obtaining sources for historical information: Consistory records, history books, deeds from various court houses, and available published family genealogies. Larry, a budding historian at seventeen years of age, once took money designated for a coat to purchase genealogy books instead. Another young member, Miss Ann Cline, was elected Librarian for the Southern Synod Chapter. These two young people typify the growing interest in historical matters shown by the lay people of Southern Synod. The people of the Catawba District sent a contribution to the Southern Synod Chapter from a special offering received at the annual Reformation Service. Another highlight of the second annual meeting included the adoption of a constitution conforming to the spirit of the denominational Society. Dr. Bruce Wentz, of Catawba College, called for the election of officers. He stated that it would be impossible for him to serve next year as president. The following officers were elected for one-year terms: Mrs. W. C. Lyerly, President; Mr. Frank Clapp, Vice-President; Mrs. Fred Kempley, Secretary; Dr. J. A. Palmer, Treasurer; and Miss Ann Cline, Librarian. Rev. Robert F. Godfrey was elected as Southern Synod Chapter Representative on the denominational Society's Executive Committee for a term of two years.

The Southern Synod Chapter is looking forward to the collection of historic materials from every congregation in the Synod in order to preserve evidence of its precious Christian heritage and to promote academic study of historic documents. In this manner it hopes to contribute to the on-going work of the Historical Society of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORT FROM EASTERN CHAPTER

**(Reported by James W. Moyer,
Secretary-Treasurer)**

The organizational meeting of the Eastern Chapter was held on June 2, 1959, immediately after the Society's annual meeting. The following officers were elected: Marshall R. Anspach, Esq., President; William J. Rupp, Vice-President; and James W. Moyer, Secretary-Treasurer. On November 5, 1959, the Executive Committee was graciously entertained by Dr. and Mrs. David Dunn at an informal luncheon in their home in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. On this occasion H. M. J. Klein was elected Eastern Chapter Representative on the Society's Executive Committee. Some valuable suggestions of topics and speakers for future meetings were considered. It was agreed that the Chapter would meet jointly with the Society at the annual meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Rt. Rev. Kenneth G. Hamilton, President of the Moravian Church in America, North Province, will speak at the annual meeting of the Society, June 7, 1960, at 9:15 a.m., on the topic "The Moravian Archives in America." This meeting will be held in the Santee Chapel, Lancaster Theological Seminary.

OUTLINE OF THE HISTORY OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH

by Charles D. Spotts

The minutes of the Executive Council of the Historical Society of the Reformed Church, meeting in the Reading Room of the Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, September 26, 1918, contain the following reference: "A copy of the report of the Society prepared by the President, Dr. (James) Crawford, was presented and the Secretary instructed to send a copy to the three Synods, the Eastern, Potomac, and Pittsburgh." This report covers pages 44-48 in the first minute book of the Society. It consists of printed pages clipped from the minutes of Eastern Synod and pasted in the Society's Minute Book. This is probably the first printed history of the Society and contains very valuable information, not all of which is contained in the Minute Book.

The report referred to above contains the following description of the origin of the Society:

"The year 1863 is memorable in the history of our Church, not only because it marked the commemoration of the tercentenary anniversary of the adoption of the Heidelberg Catechism, but also as the year which gave birth to the Historical Society of the Reformed Church. Under the inspiration of the proceedings of the General Convention which met in the First Reformed Church, Philadelphia, in January, 1863, a strong historical feeling was awakened. At a

most impressive moment during the sessions the Reverend Professor Theodore Appel arose and said: "Mr. President, with a view to perpetuate the historical feeling here awakened, I propose the following resolution: 'Resolved, that a committee be appointed to consider the importance and propriety of establishing an Historical Society in the German Reformed Church, and to report at the next meeting of Synod.'"

The favorable report of this committee was adopted by the Synod, meeting in the church at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, October 22, 1863. The report included a suitable Constitution, which suggested the title, "The Historical Society of the German Reformed Church in the United States." This report was signed by Theodore Appel, Professor of Mathematics and Mechanical Philosophy, and Librarian, at Franklin and Marshall College, and Thomas C. Porter, Professor of Natural Science at the college. The following persons were elected as officers: President, Rev. Prof. John W. Nevin, D.D.; Vice-Presidents, Rev. Prof. Philip Schaff, D.D., Bernard C. Wolff, D.D., Daniel Zacharias, D.D., B. S. Schneck, D.D., J. H. A. Bomberger, D.D., S. R. Fisher, D.D.; Recording Secretary, Prof. W. M. Reilly, A.M.; Treasurer, Prof. Thomas C. Porter, A.M.; Librarian, Prof. Theodore Appel, A.M. The Executive Committee in addition to the officers consisted of E. V. Gerhart, D.D., Henry Harbaugh, D.D., A. H. Kremer, and J. S. Leonard.

Dr. Nevin was Professor of Philosophy at the college. Dr. Schaff had just terminated his professorship at the Theological Seminary at Mercersburg and had decided to move to New York City. Dr. Wolff presented his resignation as a professor in the Seminary at this meeting of Synod but continued his work until April of 1864, when he moved into retirement at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, with his daughter Sue, the wife of Dr. Theodore Appel. Professor Reilly was the theological tutor at the Seminary. Professors Porter and Appel were also on the college faculty. Dr. Gerhart was President of the college, and Dr. Harbaugh was elected at this meeting of Synod to succeed Dr. Wolff on the faculty of the Seminary. This meant that eight of the fourteen members of the Executive Committee represented the college and seminary.

The original Constitution had provided for twelve vice-presidents, but this was amended to six. The dues were set at one dollar and ten dollars for life fee. At the first meeting of the Society, fifty-two members were enrolled from various parts of the church.

The enthusiasm of this beginning was followed by four annual meetings and the accumulation of a number of historical documents. Then followed seven lean years from 1867 to 1874, during which no meetings were held and no dues were paid.

The reorganization took place in Bethlehem, October 23, 1874, when the following officers were elected: President, J. H. Dubbs; Vice-President, G. B. Russell; Recording Secretary, Professor John Stahr; Corresponding Secretary, W. H. H. Snyder. It was voted to publish one thousand copies of Dr. Dubbs' address, five copies to be given to each member, and the remaining copies to be sold "for the benefit of the Society." This spurt lasted only one year, ending with the annual meeting held in the basement of First Church, Lancaster, November 9, 1875.

The third period began with a meeting at the Theological Seminary in Lancaster, May 6, 1902. In spite of any recorded action the minutes of this meeting refer to "a general desire for the revival of the Historical Society of the Reformed Church in the United States." There seems to be no official record of when the title dropped the word "German." At this meeting the following officers were elected: President, Dr. James Crawford; Vice-President, J. W. Santee; Secretary, J. H. Dubbs; Treasurer and Curator, Prof. G. W. Richards; Executive Committee, J. S. Stahr and Ellis N. Kremer. Another annual meeting was held at the Seminary, May 13, 1903, after which the third spurt came to an end.

Following a lapse of four years, the next annual meeting was held May 6, 1907, after which there followed a long, lean period of more than a decade, for which there is no record of any activities of the Society.

The next annual meeting, held in Santee Hall at the Theological Seminary, Lancaster, May 8, 1918, is the beginning of the Society's longest continuous uninterrupted activity. The reorganization included the following officers: President, James Crawford; Vice-President, George W. Richards; Curator, Irvin Hoch DeLong; Recording and Corresponding Secretary, Daniel G. Glass; Treasurer, T. Roberts Appel; Executive Committee, John C. Bowman, J. W. Meminger, W. F. Lichtler, W. Stuart Cramer, C. Nevin Heller, E. M. Hartman, H. M. J. Klein, and John Baer Stoudt.

The earnestness of this period is reflected in the minutes of two meetings of the Executive Committee, September 26, 1918, and April 22, 1919. The latter minutes contain twelve recommendations by the president. At an Executive Committee meeting held September 29, 1919, the following committees were appointed: Library; Museum; Finance; Membership; Liturgies and Devotional Literature; Hymn Books, Catechisms; Histories of the Reformed Church; Reviews and Magazines; Church Policy; Synodical Minutes; Theology; Biographies; Histories of Congregations; Catalogues, Almanacs or Year Books; Sermons, Letters, Pamphlets; and Pictures, Portraits, Photographs.

A revised constitution was adopted at the annual meeting of May 11, 1927. The name was changed to "The Historical Society of the Evangelical and Reformed Church" at the annual meeting of May 12, 1948.

The first proposals for the expansion of the Society were presented to the annual meeting of May 19, 1954.

The following have served as Presidents: John W. Nevin, 1863-1867; Joseph H. Dubbs, 1874-1875; James Crawford, 1902, 1907, and 1918-1924; W. Stuart Cramer, 1924-1928, and 1929-1931; Elmer L. Coblentz, 1928-1929; H. M. J. Klein, 1931-1956 (25 years); and David Dunn, 1956 to date. Secretary-Treasurers were: D. G. Glass, 1918-1940 (22 years); and Charles D. Spotts, 1941 to date (19 years to date). The Curators were: G. W. Richards, 1902-1903; I. H. DeLong, 1918-1919; Lottie Bausman, 1919-1920; D. G. Glass, 1920-1924; Charlotte Appel, 1924-1940 (16 years); and Herbert B. Anstaett, 1941 to date (19 years to date). G. W. Richards served as Vice-President from 1918 to 1955 (37 years). Periods of activities were: 1863-1867; 1874-1875; 1902-1903; 1907; and 1918 to date.

SOCIETY MEMBERS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1959

Asterisk following the name indicates a life member.

Arthur R. Achtemeier, Joseph P. Alden,* T. A. Alspach, Irvin C. Alt, Ernest F. Andrews, C. W. Angerman,* Marshall R. Anspach,* Herbert B. Anstaett,* Anthony R. Appel,* Roberts R. Appel, Elmer E. Aughenbaugh,* Richard H. Aulenbach, Adam R. Bachman, Thomas H. Bachman, Lawrence E. S. Bair, Jr., Alton W. Barley, Donald J. Barthelmeh, Alfred C. Bartholomew,* S. W. Baughman,* Harry W. Baumer, Charles O. Bayard, R. Pierce Beaver, L. M. Becker, William C. Beckmann, W. Jorris Beckmann, Albert H. Behle, Fred F. Berry, George W. Bickel, Wallace J. Bieber, George C. Bingaman,* Luther J. Binkley,* George H. Bitner, Gustav E. Bloom, Stephen M. Boszormenyi-(Bes-semer),* David E. Bowers, Dale E. Boyer, A. Lucile Brackbill,* Guy P. Bready,* Harry W. Bredeweg, Harlan A. Breininger,* Warren A. Breisch,* Thomas R. Brendle, Earl Bricker, George H. Bricker,* Edwin D. Bright, James W. Bright,* Frank S. Bromer, William S. Brown, Edward W. Brueseke, R. S. Brueseke, John C. Brumbach, John R. Bucher,* Norman B. Bucher, Jr., Charles W. Buffington,* Emil Burrichter, Paul H. Byer, Jr.

Royald V. Caldwell, Donald T. Calvert, W. Wilson Carvell, David Cervantes,* A. Wilson Cheek, Richard A. Cheek, Frank Clapp, Ann Cline, Mrs. M. I. Cline, Eber Cockley, Glenn E. Coleman, Prosper C. Confair, Frank M. Cressman,* Truman A. Crist,* Donald N. Crusius, H. A. Crusius,* Kalman Csia, Russell D. Custer, John T. Darmour,* Mrs. John T. Darmour,* Francis R. Daugherty, Hiram E. Davis, J. Warren Deardorff, Edward S. DeChant, Purd E. Deitz,* Lester Dennis, Roderic A. Dietz, Robert A. Dilliard, Victor W. Dippell, Theodore A. Distler,* Harold F. Dobstaff, Ray H. Dotterer,* David Dunn,* C. William Ebbert, Elden E. Ehrhart, Winfield E. Engler, Lewis E. Everline, Frederick D. Eyster, Eli R. Fabian, Gabriel J. Fackre, Lawrence L. Felton, Harvey A. Fesperman, George P. Fetterolf, J. W. Fiegenbaum, William H. Fisher,* Harry A. Focht, William E. Foose, C. J. Forney, David E. Fouts, Merle U. Fox, John B. Frantz,* Nevin R. Frantz, Edward H. Fresen,* Arthur Fretz,* Josias Friedli,* Gilbert P. Frohne, Victor P. Frohne.

Lee J. Gable, Robert M. Gast, Chester W. Gaum, Ralph S. Geiman,* Donald F. Geschwindt, Charles F. Glass, Richard Glass,* Cyrus T. Glessner,* Loy C. Gobrecht, Walter R. Gobrecht, Milton E. Gockley, Jr., L. W. Goebel, James H. Gold,* Albert G. Gonser, Jay L. Goodin, Harry T. Goodling, Carl H. Grathwohl, Alexander Greeb, Charles F. Greevy, Jacob W. Grether, Elvin J. Groff,* William H. Groff, Oscar C. Grueninger, Gustav A. Haack, Oscar Haas,* B. Frank Hafer,* Paul Robert Hafer,* Mrs. E. W. Haines, Melvin T. Hamm,* Louis M. Hammerschmidt, Joseph T. Hammond, Jr., Ira R. Harkins, Grant E. Harrity, Arthur H. Harsh, Albert A. Hartman, R. Vincent Hartman, Ward Hartman, Ray L. Harwick, Ernest M. Hawk, J. Clark Hayes, Aubrey W. Hedrick, George Heilman, George A. Heisey, Reginald H. Helfferich,* Herman J. Helfrich,* Clark W. Heller,* Ralph W. Heller, Andrew K. Helmbold,* Calvin F. Helming, Joseph B. Hennessey, Alfred J. Herman, Gale D. Hicks, Theophilus

F. H. Hilgeman, Gerald H. Hinkle, Elmer H. Hoefler, Will Hofmeister,* J. Gerney Holshouser, Mrs. J. Gerney Holshouser, A. Gail Holt,* George C. Hosler, J. Russell Hostetter, Charles H. Huffman, Laslo L. Hunyady, Harold Hutt, Charles A. Huyette.

Harry Ingold, Paul E. Irion, Carl W. Isenberg, Eugene C. Jaberger, Emanuel Jasmann, Merritt J. Jeffers,* Channing R. Jeschke, George R. Johnson, Robert Lee Johnston, Harvey D. Jones, John W. Keener, D. E. Keller, Ronald J. Keller, Fred Kephley, Mrs. Fred Kephley, W. Sherman Kerschner,* Nevin L. Kershner, Elizabeth C. Kieffer,* Robert C. Kienle, Joseph McC. Kim,* Adrian O. Kipp, William F. Kissel, Ernest C. Klein,* H. M. J. Klein,* Richard H. Klein,* John A. Kleinginna, Armin F. Klemme, Roland G. Kley, George H. Klinefelter,* E. Harold Klingel, Henry C. Koch, R. David Koch,* Robert E. Koenig, J. Kenneth Kohler, James H. Konrad, Howard A. Kosman, Leonard R. Kraemer, Frederick Kramer, Carl C. Kreps, E. E. Kresge, Henry G. Kroehler, Raymond C. Kuhlenschmidt, John A. Kunz,* LeRoy M. Kutz, Jr., Charles D. Langerhans, Elmer E. Laudenslager, Ernest H. Lauer, Donald F. Lehman, Timothy Lehmann, Amandus S. Leiby, Roy E. Leinbach, Jr.,* John Lentz,* Larry P. Leonard, Titus Leonard, Ralph P. Ley, Harvey M. Light, John M. Light, Roy W. Limbert,* Arthur E. Limper, Wilmer H. Long, William T. Longsdorf, Earlin H. Lutz,* Wayne A. Lutz.*

Frank W. McCall, George D. MacNeal, Matthew McNary, Mrs. Carl J. Madlinger,* Henry G. Maeder, Don C. Markham,* Earl R. Marks,* Thomas R. Marshall, Allan S. Meck, Walter D. Mehrling, Fred J. Mehrtens, Theophil W. Menzel, Walter Merzdorf, J. P. Meyer, John D. Meyer, Ernest Miko, Allen O. Miller, Joseph H. Miller,* Laurence C. T. Miller, Melvin J. Miller, Orville E. Miller, Paul E. Miller, August J. Molnar, Jr.,* R. H. Mornhinweg, Ivan R. Morrin, John C. Motter,* Clarence T. Moyer,* Franklin H. Moyer,* Guy J. Moyer,* H. Clayton Moyer, Jr., James W. Moyer,* L. Eugene Moyer, John W. Mueller,* Thomas B. Musser, I. George Nace, Robert K. Nace, Herman J. Naftzinger,* Guy M. Neff, Arthur W. Newell, Joseph M. Newgard, Paul Niedermeyer,* Robert S. Niehaus, Maurice J. Nielson, David J. W. Noll,* John B. Noss,* J. Franklin Nusbaum, R. Howard Paine,* Harry E. Paisley, Jacob A. Palmer, Mrs. Jacob A. Palmer, Arthur W. Papenmeier, Mrs. Vance Patterson, Neil J. Pergande, Milton G. Petzold, Elias H. Phillips, Paul R. Pontius,* M. S. Jan Ports, Donald L. Powers, J. Stuart Prentice.

Richard Radcliffe,* John C. Raezer, Paul L. Rahn, David H. Rapp,* H. W. Rath, W. D. Reimert, Arthur E. Reiss, J. Otto Reller, Merrill Q. Ressler, Frank E. Reynolds, Lawrence J. Rezash, Robert H. Rezash, Herbert L. Rice, Carl Ringer, Francis E. Ringer,* Lester L. Ringer, Katherine Roberts, Charles D. Rodenberger, Allan L. Rohrbaugh, Archie C. Rohrbaugh, Charles E. Roth,* G. Sam Rowe, Sr., Frederick C. Rueggeberg, Frederick A. Rupley,* Paul B. Rupp,* William J. Rupp,* John C. Sanders, Curtis A. Sandrock, Thomas Sands, Alfred N. Sayres, Rudolph G. Schade, Charles E. Schaeffer, Daniel E. Schaeffer,* Henry A. W. Schaeffer, Robert L. Schaeffer, Walter A. Scheer, F. Nelson Schlegel, Roy R. Schmid,* Edgar Schmidt, Paul E. Schmoeyer,* William A. Schnader,* Carl E. Schneider,* Sterling Schnell, Frederick W. Schroeder, Paul

M. Schroeder, Daniel H. Schultz,* Harold Peters Schultz,* William G. Seiple, LeRoy Sellenschutter, E. F. Sells, Mrs. E. F. Sells, Roy H. Sengstock.*

Theo. C. Seybold, William R. Shaffer,* Val Shearer, Ethel Shellenberger, Richard H. Shellenberger, Herman S. Shelley, Edgar W. Shelly, Jr., Albert E. Shenberger, Banks D. Shepherd, John C. Shetler, Terrell M. Shoffner, R. L. Shuford, III,* Wade Shuford, Jr., George Shultz, Jr.,* Horace S. Sills, Richard E. Simonson, William H. Simpson, Dewees F. Singley, Paul T. Slinghoff,* Calvin Smedley, John F. Smeltzer, Carl T. Smith,* George A. Smith, Marion E. Smith, Maurice R. Smith, Paul B. Snead, D. R. Snider, Frank W. Snider, Roy C. Snyder, William A. Snyder, Merle F. Sollinger, William H. Solly, Edwin H. Sponseller, Leonard S. Sponsler, Charles D. Spotts, George W. Spotts,* Henry I. Stahr, Robert C. Stanger, Victor Steinberg, Mrs. H. Dixon Steinbright,* Marilyn Lee Steinbright,* Joseph M. Steinert, Boyd D. Stepler, Frederick A. Sterner, Fred L. Stiegemeier, Frank E. Stucki, Pierce E. Swope, Geza Takaro,* Henry Tani, Albert E. Teske, Aaron R. Tosh, William Toth,* Robert K. Townsley, Harley C. W. Tretow, Wilbur E. Trexler,* Theophil H. Twente, George R. Ulrich, Reinhard Ulrich, Ray S. Vandever, Bela Vassady, Henry P. Vieth, Donald C. Vogel, Arthur Vogtsberger, Alvin F. Volle, Philip Vollmer, Jr., Henry T. Vriesen.

James E. Wagner, Mark G. Wagner, Roderick J. Wagner, Robert S. Warren, Harold F. Webber, Herbert P. Webbink, Arthur H. Wegener, John R. Weiler, Philip W. Weiss,* Bruce A. Wentz, Mrs. Bruce A. Wentz, Bertram M. Werkheiser, Herbert H. Wernecke, J. C. Wetzel,* Mrs. Lena Whittock, William Terry Wickham, Elam G. Wiest, John E. Wildasin, K. Max Wilhelm, C. A. Wills,* William E. Wimer,* John Ellsworth Winter,* Henry H. Wintermeyer, Kenneth H. Worthman, Bert E. Wynn, Harry G. Yaggi, Paul D. Yoder,* Paul W. Yoh, Henry J. Young,* John A. Yount, Herbert B. Zechman, Howard J. B. Ziegler, Reynold K. Ziegler, Warren O. Ziegler, Clarence E. Zimmerman, John B. Zinn, Lowell H. Zuck.

The list of 455 members constitutes the largest membership in the Society's history. There were 192 members as of December 31, 1956, 235 at the end of 1957, and 353 in 1958, all record years. Of the 1959 members, 341 are annual and 114 are life members. During 1959, 29 life members were enrolled, and one so far in 1960. Renewal memberships for 1960 are now due. An application blank is enclosed to be used for this renewal or for a new membership.

All Synods except one were represented on the membership roll, as follows: California, 2; Central Pennsylvania, 21; East Pennsylvania, 9; Kansas City, 14; Lancaster, 49; Lehigh, 19; Magyar, 3; Mercersburg, 27; Michigan-Indiana, 10; Midwest, 8; Missouri Valley, 26; New York, 8; North Illinois, 11; North Wisconsin, 9; Northeast Ohio, 10; Northern, 5; Northwest Ohio, 6; Pacific Northwest, 1; Philadelphia, 58; Pittsburgh, 24; Potomac, 19; Reading, 20; Rocky Mountain, 3; South Illinois, 7; South Indiana, 4; South Wisconsin, 6; Southeast Ohio, 6; Southern, 41; Southwest Ohio, 6; Susquehanna, 16; Texas, 4; and West New York, 3.

HOW TO WRITE THE HISTORY OF A CHURCH

(Abridged)

by Charles A. Anderson, Former Secretary,
Presbyterian Historical Society†

By writing its history a Church sets up a permanent record of its life. To write such a history a person need not be a trained historian, but he will benefit by an insatiable curiosity, some ability to express his ideas, and enthusiasm. He may compress the story within a few pages or extend it to the length of a book, depending on how many details he introduces.

The portrayal of a particular Church will appear in truer perspective and prove to be more interesting to the reader if it rises against a broad background. Protestants all too frequently hold the notion that their Church originated with the Reformation in the sixteenth century instead of realizing that the Protestant Church is part of the stream of Christianity which has flowed through the years since Apostolic times. The life of the Mediaeval Church is as much the heritage of Protestants as it is of Roman Catholics. The Reformers sought to purge the Church of unchristian practices and restore the Bible to its place as the guide to true Christian living. Harsh measures of the Reformers scattered the Protestants, many of whom sought refuge in America. At this point the historian may picture conditions in America preceding the founding of his Church, showing attitudes both favorable and unfavorable in the region, state and national area. This may be general and brief or specific and detailed.

The writer is now ready to discuss the founding of the local Church. Present definite factors regarding the nature of the community, whether it was an eastern seaboard colonial village, a prairie town in the midwest, a Rocky Mountain settlement, or a Pacific Coast city. Mention distinctive features of community life and the nature of the population. If other Churches already existed, describe them and the extent of their memberships. Give the reasons why this Church sprang into being. To what extent was it needed? How wise was this action? Narrate the events leading to the decision to organize your Church.

Every new movement originates in the minds of a small number of persons. Sometimes one person is the moving genius, the driving force in the organization of a Church. It is always interesting to learn distinctive facts about founders, their names, their occupations, the motivation behind their actions. Frequently a minister becomes the founder of a Church, but on the other hand again and again, a layman or group of laymen, by enthusiasm and magnetic personality draws people together to form a Church. It is a distinct service to posterity to portray the personal factors that launch a Church and propel it forward. An investigation of the charter members of your Church will often bring to light names which have been obscured by time, but whose owners may have rendered distinctive service to the community or occupied honored places. Sometimes a perusal of early newspapers will un-

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cover striking facts about some charter members. The minutes of the official boards contain the most authentic information. The place and date of the first meeting is important. Some Churches needed several meetings to perfect the organization. It is well to name the minister who presided at or moderated the congregational meeting and any other clergymen who cooperated together with the group under whose authority they acted. What members were elected to the official boards and who were the first officers? Next comes the search for a pastor, the decision to invite him, and the terms of the call.

How was the lot acquired for the first building, where was it located in relation to the center of the community, what was its size and how much was it worth? When was the first building erected, of what style was the architecture, what materials were used and where were they secured? What was the size of the building, how much did it cost, what methods were used to finance it? If possible, give a description of the facilities in the building and an explanation of the extent to which they were used. A diagram of the floor plan helps the reader to understand the story and pictures of exterior and interior add to the interest. Only a few Churches have found it possible or desirable to use the original building throughout their history. Because of limited finances the first building a congregation erects is likely to be small in size and built of materials which deteriorate with the passage of years. The normal growth of a congregation usually requires a larger house of worship with the addition of a parish house to provide for an expanding educational and social program. The history of the Church should accordingly portray the changing circumstances which led up to the erection of a new building. Here is a fresh story beginning with the need, calling for the appointment of a building committee, carrying through a financial campaign, erecting and dedicating the new structure. Try to capture the spirit of the leaders and make the whole event a living experience. Again the record should contain the facts of real estate, architecture, construction, floor plans and other pertinent information. A similar procedure should apply to all later buildings.

Having detailed the physical facilities and equipment of the Church, the writer may turn to a consideration of the actual program of preaching activities and service through the years. He may wish to treat the material in the form of a biographical sketch of each minister in relation to the life and work of the Church during the term of his

pastorate, detailing the growth and activities. Or he may wish to survey the entire work of the past under various subjects, such as preaching, the Sunday School, young people's work, women's societies, men's clubs, community projects, missionary interests, both national and foreign, and interdenominational relationships. In the latter plan a paragraph or section may explain the achievements during each pastorate in relation to each of the above subjects. Most histories of individual Churches stop at some such point as this. But the historian could render a great additional service to his readers if he would tie up the story by evaluating the past. Tell the story of the Church as the inspirer of scouting, the stimulator of good reading through the public library and through groups, the encourager of public health nursing, the champion of the Red Cross, the supplier of leaders for the Community Chest campaign, and the voice calling people to give themselves in countless ways for human welfare. Recreate the picture of work in some field of National Missions supported in part through the years by the contributions of your Church. Sketch the helpful influence which has flowed to some foreign field through its benevolent gifts. Bring into the picture outstanding laymen who have rendered service within the Church and also on the outside. Tell about the members who have gone forth from your Church into various forms of Christian service. These are the stories which reveal the power of the Christian Church to transform and mold the life of the community and the world. Discuss the Church's influence for the betterment of social conditions. Point out how it has lifted moral standards. Indicate the spiritual vision which people have found through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Your history will have great value for references if you place in the appendix a list of pastors with dates and biographical sketches, a list of elders, trustees and Sunday School superintendents with dates if possible, a list of present officers and perhaps a list of present members. An index at the end will make this treatise far more useful.

EDITOR FOR THIS ISSUE

In the absence of the editor, Dr. William Toth, who is in Europe for the college year, 1959-60, this issue was edited by Herbert B. Anstaett, Librarian, Franklin and Marshall College, and Librarian of the Society at Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

ESTIMATED SOCIETY BUDGET FOR 1960

Income	
Balance Carried Forward	\$ 630.00
Appropriations	6,600.00
Annual Dues	300.00
Life Fees	150.00
Interest	100.00
TOTAL	\$7,780.00

Expenditures	
Salaries (for 4 part-time)	\$4,500.00
Cataloging & Binding	1,780.00
Supplies	500.00
Travel	1,000.00
TOTAL	\$7,780.00