THE REPORTER

of the Historical Society of the Evangelical and Reformed Church

Editor: Dr. WILLIAM TOTH

Volume 6

SPRING, 1963

Number 1

A HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN THE CONGREGATION

Every historian knows that the cells of general history exist and are nurtured locally. A historical society could not perform its significant and inevitable functions unless there were dedicated individuals scattered everywhere on the grass-roots level, who preserve the heritage of the past. It is important to maintain a denominational society, as our century of existence has amply demonstrated, but, it seems to us, it is equally important to mobilize loyal enthusiasts on the local level—in the congregations.

Every pastor would do well to become aware of the historically minded individuals in his congregation. They should be given encouragement to meet together and share their enthusiasm. They should be charged with collecting and preserving records related to the congregation and its members—letters, diaries, journals, newspaper clippings and other archival materials. They should keep their eyes on furniture and other things distinctively connected with the ongoing life of the congregation. They should see to it that proper photographic records are kept of pastors, people and events, which vividly reflect the actual conditions within which the emerging life of the congregation moved through the years. Above all, they could keep in mind the matter of erecting historical markers and of commemorating anniversaries. Through such varied activities any historical group in a congregation may serve as an instrumentality for fostering a spirit of loyalty incalculable in value.

When is the best time to organize a local historical society? Naturally, there is no set rule but the moment when the proper mood presents itself is always a good time. This may be a centennial celebration or any historical reflection that presents itself. The backward glance will alert the entire congregation to its history and all sorts of memories will be quickened in the hearts of church members. Whatever the case, capitalizing on the mood is a felicitous beginning.

The organizational group will very likely be small. That is an advantage. Enthusiasm is more important than size. Members of the nucleus group will know one or two people who should be interested in becoming members or who should be called upon to further the objectives of the group. These supporters usually come from the most unlikely directions. It may disarm you to learn that for years the sexton has been collecting artifacts of his own!

If the group becomes large, it may be advisable to set up a more formal structure of organization. This will call for a constitution and by-laws, officers and committees. Among the standing committees we may suggest, for example, the following: Library Committee—responsible for the collection, cataloging, care, arrangement and repair of books, manuscripts, newspapers, and other library materials; a Museum Committee—in charge of historic objects as well as arranging museum exhibits somewhere in the church or even in a downtown store-window or the local public library; Publication Committee for placing items in the local paper or preparing programs and pamphlets; committees for historic sites, membership, finance, nominations and so forth according to needs.

"History, to be above evasion or dispute, must stand on documents, not on opinion," said the great English historian Lord Acton. Our denominational history, similarly, must be rooted in the local congregations. Let the local congregations equip themselves to cultivate this history to the fullest!

OUR ONE HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY

On the 22nd of October of 1863, that great year in the history of the Reformed Church in the United States, as well as in that of these United States, pursuant to a recommendation of a synodappointed committee (Drs. Thomas G. Apple, Thomas C. Porter and Henry Harbaugh), historically interested ministers and laymen of the denomination organized our Historical Society.

A century and a week later, on October 29, 1963, the Centennial Observance of that beginning will be held on the Seminary and College campuses at Lancaster. The daughter organization, the Historical Society of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, will hold its business meeting in the morning and, after the Schneder Lecture on Missions by Dr. Alford Carleton of the World Ministries Board, United Church of Christ, at 2:00 p.m., Dr. Charles D. Spotts, treasurer of our society, will present a paper on its beginnings. These addresses will be delivered in Santee Chapel, following which the Anniversary Dinner will be held at 6:30 in the Franklin and Marshall College refectory, at which time a leading church historian will speak.

The seminary is co-operating with the officers of the Society in planning and publicizing this important event. So, underline October 29 in your datebook and plan to come. More details will reach you later.

David Dunn
President of the E. & R.
Historical Society

WE RECALL THE CATECHISM

Of course, we mean the Heidelberg Catechism, which appeared four hundred years ago and came to achieve a prominent place in the religious thinking of those who have followed the Reformed tradition through these past four centuries. Celebrations of this event are going on in many places of the world. Our own remembrance will be in connection with the centennial celebration of the founding of our own society—next autumn.

At this time we shall put on display some of the rich materials we have on hand in the Archives. Off hand, we are thinking of such things as the following:

- Ein kurtze und Christeliche inleitung. The first official statement of Reformed doctrines. Prepared by Zwingli by order of the Council of Zurich, 1523. Published by Froschauer.
- (2) Facsimile of the first edition of the Heidelberg Catechism, 1563. Facsimile published at Bonn, 1864, as part of the Tercentenary Celebration.
 - Balthasar Copius. LIV Sermons on the Heidelberg Catechism. Neustadt, 1588. One of the earliest commentaries on the Catechism. First edition of Outrein's *Gulden* Kleinod, 1721. (Henry Harbaugh says: "Justly regarded as the best work extant on the Catechism.")
- (3) First English translation of the Heidelberg Catechism (translated from the Latin translation). The translation, alone, was published in 1591; this edition with notes in 1595.
- (4) Amberg edition of 1602. Contains selections from the Palatinate Liturgy, and answers by Ursinus, and other Heidelberg theologians, to criticisms of the Catechism.
- (5) First American edition of the Palatinate Catechism, the annotated Heidelberg Catechism, Philadelphia, 1762.
- (6) First American English translation of the Palatinate Catechism, translated by J. H. Good and Henry Harbaugh, 1849.
- (7) 200th Anniversary edition, Heilbronn, 1763.
- (8) 200th Anniversary edition, Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania, 1763.
- (9) Tercentenary edition, 1863. Usually spoken of as the finest edition ever published.
- (10) Tercentenary Monument. Addresses at the celebration in Philadelphia. The bulk of this edition was burned in the print shop of Moses Kieffer, in the burning of Chambersburg, 1863. Only those copies which had already been sent in response to orders were saved.
- (11) 20th Century edition, 1905. Standard English version until 1963.
- (12) 400th Anniversary edition, 1963.
- (13) 400th Anniversary edition, 1963, with commentary.

Mou will want to feast your eyes on these valuable items in the possession of our Society. Plan to attend the celebration, and do not forget to visit the Archives on the second floor of The Fackenthal Library.

EASTERN CHAPTER MEETS

The Eastern Chapter held its annual meeting at the Lancaster Theological Seminary on the morning of June 5, 1962, preceding the Seminary Commencement.

The chief items of business included a discussion of ways and means of interesting the Synods and their officers in preserving Synod official and printed minutes as well as writing histories of Synods in the Evangelical and Reformed Church. The continued financial support of the Historical Society at the Synod level emerged in several comments as a deep concern.

The secretary was directed to send a letter of sympathy to the Anspach family on the sudden death on April 26, 1962, of Marshall R. Anspach, President of the Chapter. He was also a life member of the Society.

The Rev. William J. Rupp was elected Acting President and Dr. James W. Moyer, Secretary-Treasurer.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH

Lancaster Central Archive and Library %Fackenthal Library Franklin and Marshall College Lancaster, Pennsylvania

and

Eden Archives and Library %Eden Theological Seminary 475 East Lockwood Avenue Webster Groves 19, Missouri

President-David Dunn

Vice-President-Carl E. Schneider

Secretary-Rudolph G. Schade

Treasurer-Charles D. Spotts

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Archivists-Elizabeth C. Kieffer (Lancaster) Hilda Huefe (Eden)

Secretaries—Alice F. Anstaett (Lancaster)

Edith Koons (Eden)

Executive Committee—David Dunn, Carl F. Schneider, Rudolph G. Schade, Charles D. Spotts, Josias Friedli, Theophil W. Menzel, William Toth.

Regional Chapter representatives: Eastern, William J. Rupp; Western, Lowell H. Zuck; Southern Synod, Robert F. Godfrey.

THE SOCIETY MEETS IN SOUTH

For the first time Southern Synod was host to the Annual Meeting of the Historical Society. The meeting was held at the Blowing Rock Assembly Grounds, Blowing Rock, N. C., on June 26, 1962, at 2:00 p.m. In the absence of Dr. David Dunn, president, Dr. Charles Spotts presided. Dr. Rudolf G. Schade acted as secretary.

The opening devotions were led by the Rev. Frank Bostian, Raleigh, N. C. The Rev. Frank Snider, historian of the Southern Synod, introduced the guests. These were the Rev. Frank Clapp, vice-president of the Southern Chapter, Mrs. Oma Johnson, Elon College, curator of the Congregational Christian Historical Society of the Southern CC Conference, Dr. Harvey A. Fesperman, president of the Southern Synod, and Dr. T. H. Spence, director of the Historical Foundation of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches at Montreat, N. C.

The paper was read by Mrs. William Barnhart, wife of the Rev. William Barnhart of the Circular Congregational Church of Charleston, South Carolina. The paper, entitled "The Circular Congregational Church and the early Reformed Churches and Ministers in South Carolina," portrayed the beginnings of the Reformed Churches under the leadership of the Swiss Reformed brethren and the subsequent struggles of the Circular Congregational Church in Charleston. The Society decided to have the paper mimeographed for circulation.

Reports were given by Dr. Spotts on the financial condition of the Society and by Dr. William Toth, editor of the *Reporter*, relative to the growth of membership and the general functions of the houseorgan of the Society. Dr. Lowell Zuck sketched the yearly activities of the Western Chapter in Websters Grove, Missouri.

In response to a request by Dr. Ben Herbster, president of the United Church of Christ, it was decided to have a historical exhibit at the 1963 General Synod meeting in Denver. Various other items of business were attended to.

The meeting was closed with prayer and benediction given by Dr. H. A. Fesperman.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee, preceding the annual conclave, reports were given by Rev. Frank Snider for the Southern Chapter, by Dr. C. H. Huffman, Synodical Historian of the Potomac Synod, by Dr. Theophile Menzel of the Michigan-Indiana Synod and by Rev. M. U. Fox of the Lehigh Synod.

DR. CHARLES E. SCHAEFFER GIVES ITEMS

The Society is indebted to Charles E. Schaeffer, General Secretary of the Board of Home Missions of the Reformed Church in the U. S. from 1908–1940, for the gift of many manuscripts and a large group of printed materials published by the Board and its officers.

Among the manuscript items which are particularly noteworthy were the following: The journals

of Rev. William K. Zieber, during his two years as Superintendent of Missions, August 1, 1857-July 14, 1859, and of Rev. Thomas M. Yundt, October 1, 1905-March 12, 1907, for most of the brief period he served as Superintendent and Secretary of the Board; the record of executive meetings kept by Rev. Adam C. Whitmer in eight small booklets while he was Superintendent of Missions from 1886 to 1914; and also his notebook, interspersed with printed clippings, entitled Twenty-nine Years in Office: Historical, Explanatory, Personal, Meditative; a volume dated 1868 listing seventy missionaries with their locations and salaries; three books of accounts with missionaries, 1874-1888; thirty-two bound volumes of annual reports, 1909-1940, to the Board of Home Missions, made by each of the mission churches, giving pertinent statistics on a single printed sheet with appropriate comments written in on the back of the sheet, and unbound sheets for the years 1950 to 1956 and 1959; a volume of 484 testimonials to Charles E. Schaeffer upon the completion of twenty-five years as Secretary of the Board, 1908-1933; and numerous envelopes and packets of letters and papers of various kinds, mostly of the late 1800's and early 1900's.

Included among the printed items were: A small packet of material, the only full file of the Board's Church-building Fund in existence; partial files of the triennial reports of the Board of Home Missions and the Board of Foreign Missions, Acts and Proceedings of the Women's Missionary Society of Eastern Synod and Minutes of the Cabinet of the Women's Missionary Society of General Synod; two complete files of the Home Missionary Bulletin of the Reformed Church in the United States, 1903-1909 [merged with the Outlook of Missions in 1910]; two complete bound sets of the Reformed Missionary Herald, 1880-1890, published under the direction of the Board of Home Missions; a file of Reformed Church Tidings, new series, volume 1, October 1896 -volume 3, June 1899 [preceded by the Reformed Missionary Herald, 1880-1890, and the Missionary Guardian, 1890-1896], published jointly by the General Synod's Board of Home Missions, Foreign Missions and Sunday School Boards; and the Reformed Church Herald, organ of the Synod of the Interior, volume 1, January 3, 1895-volume 5, November 1,

SYNODICAL HISTORIANS ACTIVE

During the past year fifteen Synodical Historians supplied materials to our Archives. They were Donald J. Ely and Clarence A. Hawk, East Pennsylvania; Merle U. Fox, Lehigh; Nevin R. Frantz, Mercersburg; Theophil W. Menzel, Michigan-Indiana; Joseph M. Newgard, Midwest; Roland G. Kley, North Wisconsin; Fred R. Iseli, Northern; George A. Smith, Philadelphia; Don C. Markham, Pittsburgh; Charles H. Huffman, Potomac; Frank W. Snider, Southern; and Clark W. Heller, Susquehanna.

Four Synod Presidents who sent items regularly were James W. Moyer, Mercersburg; Elam G. Wiest, Northeast Ohio; Paul T. Slinghoff, Reading; and Arthur H. Harsh, Southeast Ohio.

OUR GUEST BOOK

Guest book registrations for the past year included one hundred and forty-five persons. They came for various types of services rendered by our Society. There were some visitors among them. Nineteen states were represented with the breakdown as follows: Colorado, I; Connecticut, 2; Florida, 1; Illinois, Indiana, 1; Iowa, 3; Kansas, 1; Louisiana, 3; Maryland, 16; Massachusetts, 2; Michigan, 1; Missouri, 1; New Jersey, 8; New York, 18; North Caroline, 1; Ohio, 8; Oklahoma, 1; Pennsylvania, 71; Virginia, 1; and 2 from the District of Columbia. There were two guests from Japan, one from Germany, and one from Greece. In addition, ten recorded confirmation classes visited, some registering as a group, with a few registrations as individuals which were omitted from the count but which would have increased it by more than a hundred and fifty. Three people who used the archives rather extensively for research were candidates for their doctorates.

INCREASED STAFF

The increased activity of the Historical Society is reflected in the number of persons who are currently employed. It will probably be surprising to the readers of THE REPORTER to learn that eight persons are participating in the formal work of the Society.

In the Webster Groves Archives and Library Dr. Carl E. Schneider, Professor Emeritus of Church History of Eden Theological Seminary, is the Librarian. In this capacity Dr. Schneider is the overseer, with authority to make the decisions relevant to the mass of materials especially those which tell the story of the former Evangelical Synod of North America. Assisting him are Miss Huefe, Archivist, and Mrs. Edith Koons, Secretary.

The Lancaster Central Archive and Library are presided over by Professor Herbert B. Anstaett, who has been the Librarian of the Fackenthal Library. Franklin and Marshall College for more than a quarter of a century. Miss Elizabeth Kieffer brings to the office of Archivist professional training and a varied experience, including the Lancaster County Historical Society. Mrs. Alice F. Anstaett is Secretary.

The recent acquisition of the Archives of the Board of International Missions of the Evangelical and Reformed Church has required a great deal of new cataloging. This work is being done by Miss I ucille Brackill, who has had experience in cataloging—Princeton University, Union Theological, and Divinity School, Lancaster Theological, and Dianklin and Marshall College.

WOMEN'S GUILD MATERIALS

"We are now history!" writes Ruth M. Auchenbach, who was secretary of Literature for the Women's Guild of the E & R Church.

In order to set up the new instrumentality for the United Church of Christ a great deal of house-cleaning went on in Cleveland. As in any similar undertaking in a home, very valuable materials were discovered. These could not be discarded. Thus, they were graciously sent to the archives of our Society.

The first box sent contained the following items: Annual Kits from 1945-1963; Minutes Books from 1943-1962; constitutions, handbooks for Leaders and Prayers for Women; the Quadrennial Report and Handbooks for 1953, 1957, 1962; Banquet Program Book, report of the November 1939 Merger Convention; and materials related to the First General Meeting of November 1941. We were delighted also to find copies of the Minutes of The Women's Missionary Society as well as a report of the November 1939 Merger Convention. Seven scrapbooks of Summer Conferences and of Quadrennial Meeting Events will be a goldmine of information to some historian of the future. Several filmstrips with scripts, the Women's Guild Seal and Banner and well-written and documented histories of the Merger Convention and the Women's Guild complete the contents of the first box.

We are awaiting the remainder of the materials!

FINANCIAL WINDFALL

The fiscal problems of the Society have been relieved by two recent contributions to the work of the Society.

From the officers of Philadelphia Synod we received a contribution of \$124.87, representing the residue of an Old Tohickon Classis fund entrusted to Philadelphia Synod.

The Treasurer of the former Lancaster Synod sent us a contribution of \$500.00, part of the distribution of the residue of Lancaster Synod.

-C. D. S.

-H. B. A.

A REQUEST

Requests for complete files of THE REPORTER are received from time to time. The following issues are needed to satisfy the demand:

Volume 2, no. 1, Spring 1959 Volume 2, no. 2, Fall 1959

You will be doing a great favor if you can supply either of these numbers. They should be addressed to the Society in Lancaster.

OUR MEMBERSHIP—1962

1962 has been a record year for memberships, with a gain of 97 for a total of 681, of which 151 are life members and 530 are annual members. There were 353 annual and life members in 1958, 455 in 1959, 507 in 1960, and 584 in 1961, all record years too. During 1962, 8 life members were enrolled.

Renewal memberships for 1963 are now due. An application blank is enclosed to be used for a renewal or a new membership. If you have recently paid your dues for 1963, or if you are a life member, disregard the blank or, better still, give it to a prospective member. In a bulk rate mailing this insertion had to go in all copies.

(* following name indicates a life member and † following name indicates member died in 1962.)

Arthur R. Achtemeier, Ariel H. Achtermann, Robert C. Ahrendt, Joseph P. Alden,* Rudolph B. Alexander, George P. Allen, T. A. Alspach, Irvin C. Alt, Ralph D. Althouse, C. W. Angerman,* "Anonymous", Marshall R. Anspach,†* Herbert B. Anstaett,* Anthony R. Appel,* Roberts R. Appel, Don E. Arey, William H. Armstrong, J. William Arnold, Elmer E. Aughenbaugh,* Henry I. Aulenbach, Richard H. Aulenbach.

Adam R. Bachman, Frederick H. Bachman,* Henry P. Bachman, Thomas H. Bachman, Carl A. Bade, Harold C. Baer, J. Martin Bailey, Richard F. Banzhof, Russell Brown Barbour, Alton W. Barley, Arthur W. Barley,† Mrs. Vincent J. Bartell, Donald J. Barthelmeh, Alfred C. Bartholomew,* Ardeen H. Bauch, S. W. Baughman,* Vernon H. Baum, Otto E. Baumann, Walter Baumgartner, Charles O. Bayard, C. Richard Beam, R. Pierce Beaver, R. G. Beack, William C. Beckmann, Mrs. Fred F. Berry, Albert Beutenmueller, Wilbert L. Biasch, George W. Bickel, Wallace J. Bieber,* George C. Bingaman,* Luther J. Binkley.*

George H. Bitner, Wilson M. Bixler, Harvey W. Black, Paul J. Bock, Erwin H. Bode, Boehm's Church, Blue Bell, Pa.,* Adan A. Bohner, G. Robert Booth, Edward A. Borger, Joseph A. Bosserman, Frank K. Bostian, Stephen M. Boszormenyi-Bessemer,* A. Lucile Brackbill,* Guy P. Bready,* Harry W. Bredeweg, Harlan A. Breininger,* Warren A. Breisch,* Earl Bricker, George H. Bricker,* Edwin D. Bright, James W. Bright,* Ernest W. Brindle, Albert J. Brinker, Oscar C. Brizius, Frank S. Bromer, William S. Brown, Edward W. Brueseke, Richard S. Brueseke, John C. Brumbach, J. Theodore Bucher, John R. Bucher,* Norman B. Bucher, Jr., Donald R. Buckthal, Charles W. Buffington,* Donald J. W. Burkhalter, Emil Burrichter, Paul H. Byer, Jr.

J. Richard Carson, W. Wilson Carvell, David F. Cervantes,* A. Wilson Cheek, Frank Clapp, John Clausing, Ann Cline, Mrs. M. I. Cline, J. Vernon Coblentz, Eber Cockley, Glenn E. Coleman, John Wendell Cooper, Don E. Creager, Frank M. Cressman,* Truman A. Crist,* Richard Crowe, H. A. Crusius,* Theodore P. Crusius, Kalman Csia, Russell D. Custer.

William H. Daniels, John T. Darmour, Mrs. John T. Darmour, Laverne R. Dauderman, Paul R. O. Daussman, Mrs. E. W. Davis, Herbert R. Davis, Hiram E. Davis, Mrs. Laurene Davis, Martin P. Davis, Elmer A. Dech, Purd E. Deitz, Walter D. Delsite, Lester Dennis, Paul E. Dershem, Karl M. Detroy, Mrs. E. J. F. Dettbarn, Richard E. Dettrey, Mrs. William A. Dietrich, Robert A. Dilliard, Victor W. Dippell, Theodore A. Distler, Rex O. Dobey, Harold F. Dobstaff, C. Dwayne Dollgener, Ray H. Dotterer, August Dumin, David Dunn, H. Stanley Dunn.

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Paul Robert Hafer,* Melvin T. Hamm,* Ira R. Harkins,
Grant E. Harrity,* Albert A. Hartman, Charles Stahr
Hartman, Joel A. Hartman, R. Vincent Hartman, Ward
Hartman, Herman A. Hartmann, Herman K. Hartmann,
Ernest M. Hawk, J. Clark Hayes,* Aubrey W. Hedrick,
John Heinbuch, Jr., John M. Heinl, George A. Heisey,
Arthur G. Heisler, Henry G. Held, Donald L. Helfferich,
Reginald H. Helfferich,* Herman J. Helfrich,* Clark W.
Heller,* George F. Hellick, Jr.

Andrew K. Helmbold,* Calvin F. Helming, Joseph B. Hennessey, Alfred J. Herman, Mrs. Alfred J. Herman, Robert G. Hermann, Richard D. Hetrick, Theophilus F. H. Hilgeman, Gerald H. Hinkle, Elmer H. Hoefer,* Thomas E. Hoffman, Edgar F. Hoffmeier, Will Hofmeister,* David Larrimore Holland, Ralph L. Holland, Lawrence T. Holmer, A. Gail Holt,* George C. Hosler,* Theophil H. Hosto, Emil F. Hotz, Ruben H. Huenemann, Stanley S. Huesemann, Charles H. Huffman, Anna Hunsberger, Laslo L. Hunyady, Harold Hutt, Emerson E. Hutzel, Charles A. Huyette.

Ivan D. Immel, Harry Ingold, Julius H. Irion, Paul E. Irion, Frederick R. Iseli, Carl W. Isenberg, James L. Ishler, Eugene C. Jaberg, Emanuel Jasmann, Merritt J. Jeffers,* Channing R. Jeschke,* George R. Johnson, Robert Lee Johnston, H. LeRoy Jones, Mrs. H. LeRoy Jones, Harvey D. Jones, Milton D. Jones, Allen L. Kallenbach, William F.

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