

*News
from the
Evangelical
and Reformed Historical Society*



**THE ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2016
LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
HAFFER CENTER, SCHAFF LIBRARY
555 WEST JAMES ST, LANCASTER, PA 17603



**KEYNOTE ADDRESS ON THE 1866 LITURGY
BY REV. DR. LINDEN DEBIE**

**“Unless A Grain of Wheat Fall to the Ground and Die: The Remarkable Liturgical
Fecundity of Mercersburg.”**

Linden J. DeBie has taught at Seton Hall University and New Brunswick Theological Seminary. He is the author of *Speculative Theology and Commonsense Religion: Mercersburg and the Conservative Roots of American Religion* (2008), and the editor of the most recent edition of John Nevin’s, *Mystical Presence* as well as *Coena Mystica* (2013), which features the debate of Charles Hodge and John Nevin. He is the author of numerous articles on Mercersburg, many of which appeared in the *New Mercersburg Review*, which he edited for a number of years. Most recently he co-authored “Reformed Eucharistic Theology and the Case for Real Presence” with Bradford Littlejohn which appeared in *Theology Today* (January 2015). He is currently working on Nevin’s biography and on a history of the Palatinate Liturgy. He is ordained in the Reformed Church in America and serves a parish in Queens, New York.

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 12:45PM ☞ MEETING COMMENCES AT 1:00PM.
\$10 (Cash or Check Only, Please) at the door; Seminary students free with ID.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am honored to be the new President of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society. It is a special honor for me because I did not grow up in an E & R congregation. Nurtured in my early years in a New England Congregational Church, I first encountered the Evangelical and Reformed heritage at college and seminary. I came to appreciate and value the beauty and integrity of both major traditions in the United Church of Christ. We are each enriched by this intimate encounter with each other. I don't want any tradition in the UCC to be swallowed up by the larger entity. We celebrate all the ways the Holy Spirit has brought new life into the church.

The Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society is in a difficult position. We preserve the records and promote the integrity of an entity that no longer exists. With each passing year, fewer of our members have any idea of what "E & R" means. This is good if we are growing in our identity as UCC; it is not good if we lose our history. I look on the heritage of each part of the UCC as the heritage of all of us in the UCC. It is important for the whole of our denomination to know our whole story.

The ERHS looks in two directions. 1) As a heritage society of the United Church of Christ, we seek to serve the UCC, including congregations organized since the union. The stories of our churches since the union are important to us. 2) We also wish to be the archival center and story teller for churches from the E & R tradition that have left the UCC. This is an integral and important part of our story, as well. We pray that, by the grace of God, we may be faithful to the Christ of the past, the present, and the future.

CHARLES MAXFIELD

Dr. Charles A Maxfield, an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ for over 45 years, has served churches in Maine, New York, Massachusetts, North Dakota, and Pennsylvania. He has degrees from Penn State (B.A. 1966), Lancaster Seminary (M.Div. 1970) and Union Seminary of Virginia (now Union Presbyterian Seminary, Th.M. 1991, Ph.D. 1995).

The ERHS Board of Directors has proposed revisions to the Society's bylaws. A .PDF of the proposed changes can be viewed online at: <http://erhs.info/2016/06/news-june-2016/>. If you would like to be mailed a hard copy of the proposed bylaw revisions, please contact the office by phone (717)-290-8734 or by email erhs@lancasterseminary.edu.

Please review the proposed revisions and be prepared to vote on them at the annual meeting.

NEW ERHS BOARD MEMBERS

In addition to president, Rev. Dr. Charles Maxfield, the ERHS is pleased to welcome three additions to the Board of Directors.

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Rahn Clemens is Senior Pastor of New Goshenhoppen United Church of Christ, East Greenville, PA. A third generation clergyperson, she claims Grace (Alsace) United Church of Christ, Reading, PA, as her home congregation. She is a graduate of Reading Sr. High School, Ursinus College, Moravian Theological Seminary, and Drew University (Ph. D. in Liturgics). Her dissertation was entitled “Foundations of German Reformed Worship in the Sixteenth Century Palatinate.”

She has served Boehm’s UCC, Blue Bell, PA; Zwingli UCC, Souderton, PA (interim); Friedens UCC, Sumneytown, PA; and New Goshenhoppen. She has a long history of UCC involvement, including Camp Mensch Mill, Bethany Children’s Home, Mercersburg Society, Ursinus Association (Moderator), General Synod Delegate, etc. She is a participant in the Princeton Center for Theological Inquiry Pastor/Theologian Program and has nine years of service in international teaching in Micronesia, Indonesia, and Cuba.

Lorin W. Cope is the Director for Advancement for UCC Church Giving at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri.

A native of northeast Ohio, Lorin has been active in the United Church of Christ in a variety of settings: As Consistory President at Bethel United Church of Christ in Beloit, Ohio; as program staff at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Greeley, Colorado; as a member of the Western Reserve (Ohio) Association staff; and as the Minister for Conference Relations at the national setting of the church in Cleveland. Lorin has also served on the development staffs for Hope Homes in Ohio and for the Crossroad-Fort Wayne (Indiana) Children’s Home.

In addition to his work at Eden Seminary, Lorin is the Church Secretary at St. Paul United Church of Christ in St. Louis, where he is a member; is the Wedding Coordinator at St. Johns Evangelical Church of Christ in Mehlville; is the Clerk of the St. Louis Association; and is serving on the Conference Minister Search Committee in the Missouri Mid-South Conference.

The Rev. James Semmelroth Darnell is senior associate for development research at the United Nations Foundation in Washington, DC. He is a member of The United Church + Die Vereinigte Kirche, also in Washington, where he was ordained in 2011. He previously was pastor of St. John United Church of Christ in St. Clair, Missouri, and served internships at Plymouth United Church of Christ, Des Moines, Iowa; New Church United Church of Christ, Peoria, Illinois; and Bethesda United Church of Christ, Bethesda, Maryland. He served on the board of Justice and Witness Ministries from 2005 – 2011, and as a delegate to five General Synods. He has a B.A. (2006) in theatre history from Illinois State University and M.Div. (2011) from Wesley Theological Seminary.

REV. SAMUEL SUTHER

by

Rev. Banks D. Shepherd*

Introduction

The 200th Anniversary of New Gilead Reformed United Church of Christ, Concord, North Carolina was the inspiration for Rev. Banks D. Shepherd, President of ERHS–Southern Chapter for twenty-five years and ERHS Board member, to research and write a paper on Rev. Samuel Suther, which was presented at the Historical Society of the Southern Synod on November 11, 1967 at Catawba College. It was most recently read at the Annual Meeting of the ERHS–Southern Region at Hedrick's Grove UCC, Lexington by Mrs. Eulene Shepherd, widow of the late Banks D. Shepherd (1928-2015). Rev. Samuel Suther resided in Cabarrus and Alamance Counties of North Carolina from 1768-86, leaving several children in North Carolina when he returned to South Carolina where he died in 1788. Rev. Suther was a “teacher, preacher, patriot and pastor” during the early days of the German Reformed Church in North Carolina.

Rev. Lawrence Bolick, ERHS Board Member and
Acting President of ERHS—Southern Region for 2016

* Note: This essay was transcribed from Rev. Shepherd’s typewritten copy and retains all original spellings, punctuation, and capitalization.

The life and labors of Rev. Samuel Suther make an exciting study. This writer may have become more interested in the work because so little material existed with which to begin. Nearly all the information on Suther seemed to be based on a single item—an obituary notice of his son David, in the WEEKLY MESSENGER OF THE GERMAN REFORMED CHURCH, in 1843. So, much of this work was “new ground” endeavor. Because of the scarcity of primary source material on the Rev. Mr. Suther and an aim to be as factually accurate as possible, this paper will be shorter than might be desired. This writer was able to uncover valuable information with the generous assistance of Mr. Bernard Cruse, of Bolivia, N.C.; Mr. J.K. Rouse, of Kannapolis, N.C.; and the resources of the N.C. and S.C. Departments of Archives and History, the Southern Historical Collection of the Library of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the Catawba College Library. In addition, the interest of a number of members of the Suther family in the New Gilead Church at Concord, N.C. stimulated more thorough research than might otherwise have been undertaken.

Rev. Samuel Suther was probably the first resident German Reformed pastor in North Carolina. There were men who served the pastoral needs of the Reformed people in this state prior to Mr. Suther’s coming, but it does not appear that they resided here. THE COLONIAL CLERGY OF VIRGINIA, NORTH CAROLINA AND SOUTH CAROLINA (by Rev. Frederick Lewis Weis, Th.D., 1955) lists one Bartholomew Zauberbuhler, Sr. who is said to have settled at New Windsor, N.C. from 1736 – 1738. There is, however, no other mention of him among the German Reformed pastors in North Carolina. Rev. Christian Theus, who resided in South Carolina, visited a number of congregations in this state before Suther’s time. And two men named Martin and Dupert are mentioned in connection with some churches’ histories, but

they seem to have been itinerant preachers, not permanent resident pastors of congregations. Suther was certainly the first resident Reformed pastor of any influence and effectiveness.

It is known that Rev. Samuel Suther was pastor in Mecklenburg (later Cabarrus) County in 1768. In August of that year Governor William Tryon recorded in his Journal that he heard Mr. Luther (assumed to be an error in transcribing, since no minister by that name was in the area at that time), a Dutch minister, preach. Later in the year (September 1768) Tryon ordered “that the Rev. Mr. Suther preach tomorrow to the Rowan and Mecklenburg regiments...” Tryon must have been considerably impressed by Suther’s preaching to make him a chaplain to part of his troops. (Later Suther would not stand in the same favor with the British).

As early as 1769 Rev. Samuel Suther bought land on Dutch Buffalo Creek in what is now Cabarrus County. So, by two pieces of documentary evidence (Tryon’s Journal and a deed in Mecklenburg County) he is established as a preacher and a resident of North Carolina.

G.D. Bernheim, noted Lutheran historian, is quoted in the Appendix to Volume 8 of the COLONIAL RECORDS (of N.C.) as follows: “Coldwater Church was at one time the oldest German religious organization in Western North Carolina; it had a pastor even before the Rev. A. Nussman (pioneer Lutheran pastor) came to America in 1773; this pastor was the Rev. Mr. Suther, a German Reformed minister...” (Coldwater was the name given to a church located by a creek by that name, east of the present city of Concord. Originally a Lutheran and Reformed union church, in 1851 it separated into two congregations- Coldwater Lutheran and Mt. Gilead, later New Gilead, Reformed).

So, it appears that Suther was not only the earliest Reformed preacher in North Carolina, but he seems to have been the earliest resident pastor, either Lutheran or Reformed.

Samuel Suther was born in Switzerland may 18, 1722. Joseph Henry Dubbs, in HISTORICAL MANUAL OF THE REFORMED CHURCH IN THE U.S. (Lancaster, Pa., 1885) gives the name of the town as St. Gallen. However, no other source at this writer’s disposal names a town, and Dubbs fails to document his statement. One might assume that the Suther home was probably in the Palatinate region of middle Europe, the area from which a large number of Reformed immigrants came to this country in the early eighteenth century. Suther left with his father and a large number of brothers and sisters (12 or 13) for America March 28, 1738. On January 5, 1739 the ship on which they sailed wrecked on the coast of Virginia, and Samuel was the only member of his family to survive. The VIRGINIA GAZETTE, dated January 12, 1739, tells of a ship “with about 500 Protestant Switzers, who were coming to settle the Southern boundaries of the colony; and who sailed from England about the beginning of August.” It was reported that only about 60 people survived the hardships of the trip and the wreck. They were cared for when they got ashore by “the Gentleman and other inhabitants of that neighborhood.” Although the names of the passengers are not given, the dates and circumstances correspond with those given for Suther’s shipwreck.

There is no record, of Suther, then, for ten years. On October 26, 1749 the following advertisement is reported in the PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE, in Philadelphia:

“Samuel Suther, schoolmaster in Cherry Street, hereby gives notice that he teaches in the High German language and those who have aimed to learn the same, may be informed of him by Michael Slater, High German minister.”

For a year and half there is another gap in Suther's life as we know it. On April 2, 1751 his name first appeared on the records of Rev. John Giessendanner, pastor of Orangeburg (S.C.) Church. From then until April 5, 1760 he and his wife Elizabeth are mentioned about 20 times as witnesses at weddings, sponsors at baptisms and when three of their children were baptized- Johann Henry, Jacob and Elizabeth.

A.S. Salley in his Book THE HISTORY OF ORANGEBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA (Orangeburg, S.C., R. Lewis Berry, Printer, 1898) writes, on page 118, that Mr. Suther "probably sojourned awhile in Orangeburg before receiving his license to preach in this country."

Apparently Suther was licensed to preach while in South Carolin. It is not clear what body granted him ministerial stand. Some sources say he was ordained in Pennsylvania, but no record is available to support his assumption. Rev. Christian Theus had been licensed and ordained by the "English Presbyterian Ministerium", apparently in South Carolina, about 1739. Suther may have been licensed and ordained by the same body. He was not listed as a sminister in the Coetus of Pennsylvania (the official Reformed body in the United States at that time), according to William Hinke's listing in MINISTERS OF THE GERMAN REFORMED CONGREGATIONS IN PENNSYLVANIA AND OTHER COLONIES IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY (Lancsater, Pa., Historical Commission of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, 1951).

The next word on Suther is the entry in Governor Tryon's Journal, dated August 21, 1768, stating the he (Gov. Tryon) "attended divine service with Mr. Suther (a Swiss) tho' generally a Dutch minister recommended with warmth a due obedience to the laws of the country, and a union of heart to support the peace and tranquility of the province". (This was at Coldwater Church in what is now Cabarrus County. The Reformed congregation was later re-named New Gilead).

Suther acquired at least two tracts of land while he was in the Coldwater area- 125 acres on Dutch Buffalo Creek in June 1769, and a State Grant for 138 acres on Coldwater Creek in 1787.

Rev. Samuel Suther's name appears on a number of church records in North Carolina between 1768 and 1782- Coldwater; Grace-Lowerstone, in Rowan County; Pilgrim, in Davidson County; Savitz (Mt. Zion) in Rowan County; Brick, in Orange (now Guilford) County; Frieden's (Lutheran Church), in Guilford County, which church he served before a Lutheran pastor was available.

On March 27, 1771 Suther bought a tract of land in Orange County, on Alamance Creek. At about this time he began his association with Brick Church (earlier called Clapp's Church or the Church on Beaver Creek).

In 1775 Samuel Suther, of Orange County, sold 125 acres of land on Dutch Buffalo Creek, in Mecklenburg County. It appears that he intended to stay in Orange County, at Brick Church, for a long time. He might have done so had he not switched political loyalty. At least, it is reported that he had to flee for his life because of the British soldiers' devastation of his farm and destruction of his grain and cattle on their way to Guilford Court House. (It may be that the close proximity of his home to the Alamance Battleground and the inspiration of the Patriots' stand changed Suther's thinking).

Suther is reported to have made a trip to Pennsylvania in 1774 in company with George Cortner (or Gustner), Esq. of Guilford County, to collect money to build the first German Reformed Church in Guilford and Orange Counties. It is not reported how successful they were.

The Reverend Mr. Suther must have been a man of some standing in his community. In the minutes of the Inferior Court of Orange County, N.C., February 1780 term, there is this reference- "Wm. Courtney license granted tavern in his own house in Hillsborough. Bonds Samuel Suther or Christian and Catherine Wiseman." (Information supplied by J.K. Rouse).

It is not clear exactly when Suther returned to Mecklenburg County and Coldwater. His name appears as a witness on a document in Rowan County in September 1782, conveying land from Lawrence Lingle to Jacob Yost. He is listed- "Samuel Suther, V.D.M." (verbi Dei minister- Minister of the Word of God).

In 1786 Suther moved to Orangeburg District, South Carolina. In March of 1788 he bought 335 acres of land in "the District of Orangeburg on second Branch bill Bull Swamp waters of North Edisto River."

Again, it appears that Suther intended to settle down in his new home. The Reformed and Lutheran churches were fairly numerous in South Carolina at that time. And churches needed pastors. However, Suther's life was cut short by his untimely death in September 1788.

Legend has it that Suther was traveling on horseback to a preaching appointment when he was caught in a storm and killed by a falling tree. Research has failed to locate the grave of this energetic pastor. It would seem to be in the Orangeburg District of South Carolina, somewhere in the several counties surrounding Orangeburg.

Samuel Suther was undeniably responsible for the nurture of many Reformed and Lutheran churches in colonial North Carolina. He may have founded a number of them. His compassion as a pastor is shown through the letter he wrote in behalf of one Susanna Elizabeth Beringer, who wished to travel back to her homeland on the Danube. The letter, in Suther's own handwrite, commands Susanna Elizabeth Beringer to the care of the Lord, and recommends her as "a good example to others", The letter bears the date of October 22, 1784, and is signed "Sam'l Suther, V.D.M."

Too long neglected among the great clergyman of our State, the Reverend Samuel Suther deserves a place of honor and esteem. He was the spiritual father of many German pioneers. His descendants still lends their support and strength to New Gilead United Church of Christ and Trinity United Church of Christ, at Concord, the place he must have called home in North Carolina. Teacher, preacher, patriot and pastor- Samuel Suther was a great leader in the German Reformed Church in North Carolina.

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RECENTLY CATALOGED COLLECTIONS

Collections cataloged in the first half of 2016 and now available to researchers include:

Fourteen boxes of church records and artifacts from St. Luke's United Church of Christ (Lancaster, PA), which merged with Trinity UCC in East Petersburg, PA in 2015.

Two boxes of church records from Friedens UCC in North Tonawanda, NY.

One box of church records from Birmingham UCC in Pittsburgh, PA.

Five boxes of church records and artifacts from Dubbs Memorial UCC in Allentown, PA, which closed in 2015.

Seven boxes of church records from St. John's Evangelical Church in Coshocton, OH.

UNIQUE FUNDRAISING EFFORT

ERHS was contacted by a local company that operates two diners in Lancaster and Lititz, and offered the opportunity to participate in a fundraiser. We will receive a small percentage as a donation when people use a swipe card (similar to those for a grocery store) as they pay their restaurant bill. There is no charge to us. So far, this program has earned ERHS almost \$90.00.

If you would like one of these cards to share with family, friends, and colleagues, or if you will be visiting the Lancaster area and would like a card, please contact ERHS.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2016 Annual Meeting

September 24, 2016

Hafer Center, Philip Schaff Library

Lancaster Theological Seminary

555 W. James St.

Lancaster, PA 17603

Keynote speaker: The Rev. Dr. Linden

DeBie, Vice President of The

Mercersburg Society.

Registration begins at 12:45pm, and meeting commences at 1:00pm.

Rev. Henry Koch, Pioneer Minister of the German Reformed Church

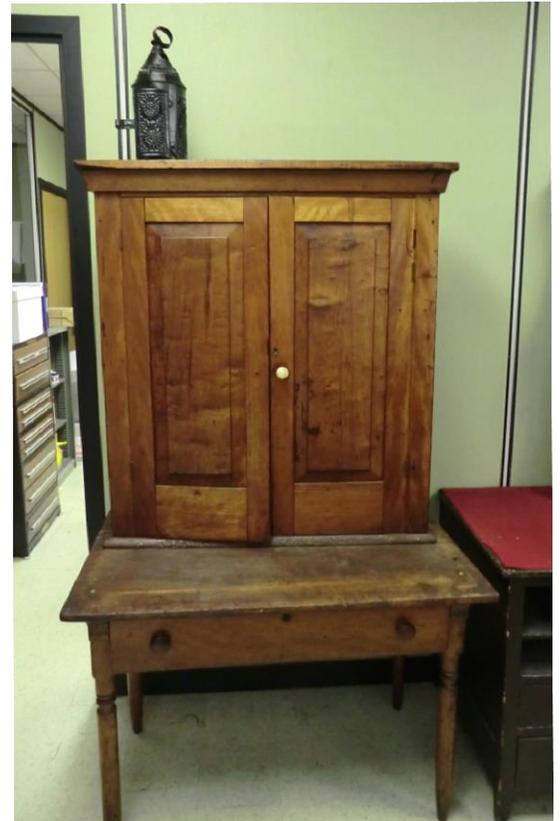
In the spring of 1819, two recent seminary graduates, Henry Koch and Nicholas Hacke, set out on horseback from Northampton County, for the long and tedious journey over the Alleghany Mountains. On the second day they reached Reading. The heavens opened and showered a continuous, drenching rain, which soaked the travelers to the skin. It was before the day of macadam or concrete roads. The already bad roads were made almost impassable. The long and muddy ride, through rain and gloom no doubt disheartened the young soldiers of the cross. When the mountain was reached, the clouds scattered. The sun shone forth in all its brilliance and glory. The gloomy spirits of the young men were dispelled. By the time Greensburg was reached the hardships of the week's journey had made them stronger. With certain inward joyful anticipations they entered the town.

This quote comes from the Koch family history preserved by Estelle and Charles Koch (1908- 1983) who were lifelong Clarion County, PA, residents. The story of the Koch family in Clarion County began with a fateful decision in 1819 when there was a need for two ministers in the wilds of western PA. The family historian continues:

Mr. Hacke preached trial sermons in the city of Greensburg and neighboring congregations. To quote his own words: 'I trembled in my boots, afraid I should be elected to go to the back woods to preach.' Mr. Koch, learning the preference of his friend said: 'Stay here, Brother Hacke, and I will go the wilderness.'

Rev. Koch (1795 – 1845) preached in the German Reformed churches in Clarion County, which are now part of the United Church of Christ. He was the grandson of the well-known German minister **Reverend John Egidius Hecker** (1726 - 1773). He completed training under **Reverend Doctor C.L. Becker** at Stone Church parsonage in Northampton, PA in 1819. In the early 1800s, parishioners met outside or gathered in one room schools in the winter until rough log churches were built.

Henry began by walking on trails through the woods between churches until the people bought him a horse; the distance between the two farthest flung churches was about 53 miles. He was sometimes paid in leather goods or produce, such as buckwheat, rye, or barley. He donated two years of salary towards the purchase of the property where the Jerusalem Church now sits on Main St. in Rimersburg. One story describes how he had to cross the Clarion River in the winter by jumping across ice floes. Parishioners kept his horse until he returned, while his wife, Mary, and four children huddled at home wondering why he was so long in returning.



I trekked with Rev. Henry's great grandson, Drew Koch, to discover what happened to the churches that our ancestor was instrumental in founding after almost 200 years. This took us on muddy back roads guided by maps from 1877 as we visited the locations of all nine churches. We were happy to discover that seven of the nine churches that are a part of Henry's legacy are still living faith communities. However, a monument for Rev. Henry's grave in Rimersburg cemetery erected by the **Clarion County Association of Reformed Churches** is slowly eroding to the point where its inscriptions are nearly illegible. His primitive wooden desk survived to sit in the Koch family hunting camp until it was given to his great grandson, Richard Koch. It is scarred where mice tried to eat into it to get at the soap bars inside. Now it gains a new life in the ERHS Center.

Who will remember an ancestor who was admired for his leadership, dedication, generosity, and courage when his monument has eroded into oblivion? Rev. Henry's tale is a story of community building that is good for us all to hear especially during tough times when we hunger for good news:

The family of this pioneer clergyman shared the hardships with the early settlers. There were times when some of them had nothing to eat. Then they followed the cattle into the woods to see what plants they would eat. More than once the early settlers made potato soup by robbing the potato hills, three weeks after the planting season. When crops were a failure, the faithful pastor would tell his people to come to the parsonage and get wheat of the salary grain in the attic. Many a family was tided over a food crisis by doing so.

The Koch family was known for having good voices and in the evenings their singing could be heard across the valley as they sang on the front porch. If you listen carefully today, do you think you'll hear their songs echoing off the green hills of Clarion County?

Dr. Branton Shearer, Rev. Koch's 4th Great Grandson



Rev. Koch's desk was delivered in two parts.



Dr. Shearer assembles the desk in its new home next to Rev. Harbaugh's desk and portrait.

IN MEMORIAM

The Rev. Richard Berg remembers The Rev. Linda Springer Gruber, OCC

No one could be within hearing of Linda's infectious laugh and not at least smile, if not join in the laughter. With her striking white hair, she was always easy to pick out at meetings and gatherings of people. Her unexpected death was a severe loss to her family, to the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, and to the other organizations to which she belonged and for which she provided able leadership. Linda provided insightful and enthusiastic leadership for the E & R Historical Society since her involvement as a Board member and particularly serving as president since 2003. During a period of transition in staffing and financial concerns she led the Society in a process of long- and short-range planning to reestablish the Society's mission; to increase its visibility to historians of religion in America as well as to genealogists and family historians; to illuminate the influence of German culture in America and upon the contemporary church; and to place the Society on a more solid financial foundation. The work begun under her leadership is being continued by the Board of Directors, the office staff, the Development Committee, and the Advisory Committee.

Linda's dedication to the Society and its purposes demonstrated the value she place on history and the church. She thought of history not as something dead and in the past, but as a living organism that constantly speaks to and influences the present and is vital to planning for the future. She looked at the Society's collection of denominational, church records and personal papers not as accumulations of dusty, worthless paper, but as the key to seeing and understanding the real life stories, struggles, and triumphs of women and men dedicated to lives of faith, hope, and Christian discipleship. The stories told in letters, sermons, meeting minutes, reports, and photographs are not separate from, but the continuation of, the stories of the women and men of the Bible and early Christianity. These documents record the bold work of pastors and laypeople struggling in the wilderness of colonial America to establish churches and bring love and hope to early settlers, of Christian people in 19th and 20th century America so dedicated to working for social justice that they endured little pay, long hours, and much deprivation, of clergy and laity working together to continue the tradition of rich worship, music, and cutting edge theological ideas of Christian unity, organic development of the church in every age, and incarnational Christology. Such voices Linda recognized as just as important for the church and society today as they were in their own time. There is much to be learned from these voices, for just as God is still speaking, these voices still speak.

Linda's dedication to and work for the Society is greatly missed but she has built a firm foundation upon which we can continue build. As a living legacy in recognition of Linda's belief in the importance of the Society and her dedicated leadership, the Board of Directors has established The Rev. Linda Springer Gruber Memorial Fund. The Fund will be used to continue the work of the Society as it continues to build upon the momentum begun under Linda's leadership. Ongoing contributions in memory of Linda and for the work of the Society are always welcome.

We have also learned of the deaths of the following ERHS members and UCC clergy:

Herman C. Ahrens, Jr. (1924 – 2016)

Dr. Ahrens was the long-time editor of the UCC publication Youth Magazine, and was honored as one of the 50 people who contributed greatly to shaping the denomination at the 50th Anniversary celebration of the UCC.

Rev. William H. Albright (1924 – 2016)

Rev. Albright served Olivet Reformed Church, Reading, PA from 1946 until his retirement in 2007.

Rev. Anna D. Lutz (1929 – 2016)

Rev. Lutz was the first woman to receive a Master of Divinity degree from Moravian Theological Seminary in Bethlehem, PA. She served First United Church of Christ in Quakertown, Pa for 30 years, retiring in 1994, and was a lifetime member of the ERHS.

Please contact ERHS at erhs@lancasterseminary.edu if you have news of Caravaners or ERHS members to report.

CONTRIBUTIONS IN MEMORY OF REV. LINDA SPRINGER GRUBER

We are grateful to the following who have donated in memory of Rev. Gruber or have contributed directly to the Rev. Linda Springer Gruber Memorial Fund of the ERHS.

Dr. Gene W. Aulenbach and
Vivien Aulenbach
Rev. Evelyn J. Aurand
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Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner
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Robert and Karen Diguseppe
Ms. Joy Dressel
Michael and Marilyn Duffy
Tony Ermovick, on behalf of
the Department of Energy
Office of Project Management
and Assessments (PM)

Rev. Michael W. Evans
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Trinity Reformed Church UCC,
Collegeville, PA
Rev. John R. Weiler
Roger and Frances Wentz
Mr. Terry L. White
Rev. Richard H. Whitney
Mr. David J. Wilkin

NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES

The ERHS Archives has had **25 in-person researchers** and **over 60 research requests** via snail mail and email so far this year. Research request forms are available on our website: www.erhs.info/home/research-services-permissions.

We're pleased to have **Dianne Russell** back in the archives as a volunteer collections processor.

The **Development Committee** submitted a proposal for a capacity building grant from the Lancaster County Community Foundation. The proposal requested funding to redesign the Society's website and provide training for the staff to better maintain the site. Grant recipients will be announced July 22, 2016.

Meghan Phillips, office administrator and archives assistant, was selected as a Community Organization National Endowment for the Humanities fellow at the Lancaster County Historical Society. She is using the combined resources of LCHS and ERHS to research the Nevin family, specifically Blanche and Alice Nevin.

Meghan also participated in an emergency preparedness workshop presented by the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts. During two days at the B & O Railroad Museum in Baltimore, MD, she drafted an emergency response plan for the ERHS and gained hands-on experience salvaging damaged materials. Meghan has also represented the ERHS at the first two meetings of the South Central PA Alliance for Response, a coalition of regional cultural organizations that has been formed to offer emergency preparedness response training and support.



FIND ERHS ONLINE

The ERHS website is: www.erhs.info.

Have you seen Tumblr? It is primarily a visual site, and we have a page there too where we show some of the items from the ERHS archives: www.erarchives.tumblr.com. You do not have to have a Tumblr account to see the page, but you can create an account if you want to "follow" us.

THE EVANGELICAL & REFORMED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

ERHS is open to the public Monday and Wednesday, 9 am – 4 pm.

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

717-290-8734 • erhs@lancasterseminary.edu

THE ARCHIVES AT EDEN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

The archives are located on the lower level of the S.D. Press Education Center on the Eden Theological Seminary campus, 475 Lockwood Ave., Webster Grove, MO 63119. For more information, please visit: <http://www.eden.edu/s/1645/index.aspx?sid=1645&gid=1&pgid=547>

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

Access to the archives is by appointment only.

314-252-3141 • sholl@eden.edu

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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

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

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

ERHS

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership in the Society is open to all who are interested in preserving our heritage. The following categories of membership are available. Fees are on an annual basis.

Please consider making an additional contribution to ERHS to help us continue our mission.

- Individual (\$35)**
- Student (\$20)**
- Institution (\$60)**
- Sponsor (\$150)**
- Lifetime (\$500)**
- Additional donation _____**

In memory / honor of _____

Name: _____

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(for occasional correspondence only – this helps us cut postage costs)

___ **ok to email newsletter** ___ **prefer print copy of newsletter**

Please mail with a check made payable to: ERHS

And send to: ERHS, 555 West James ST, Lancaster, PA 17603