

of the
Brethren in Christ
Historical Society

Index to *Brethren in Christ History and Life* Published

A n index to the Historical Society's journal, *Brethren in Christ History and Life*, is now at Evangel Press for printing. A copy of the Index will be sent without charge to each member of the Historical Society.

This self-standing book of 130 pages indexes all articles and reviews published by the journal from its beginning in 1978 to the December 2009 issue. Articles, together with

their bibliographical information, are listed by authors in alphabetical order. A following section provides ten categories of subjects into which articles are placed, thus making the Index easier to search by subject areas. Book and media reviews are listed both by authors and reviewers.

The Index will be mailed with the April issue of the journal. Additional copies are available on request. **BICIS**

Reprint of *Fire in the Mountains*

This book, written in 1976, has been out of print for several years. A married couple, members of the Brethren in Christ Historical Society, has provided funds to cover the cost of reprinting the book. The book has been edited and will be available by mid-year.

The book, written by E. Morris Sider and containing approximately 150 pages, tells the story of a revival movement in central Pennsylvania in the 1930s, led by Brethren in Christ ministers, evangelists, and lay people. The late Bishop Charlie Byers, who arranged for the story to be written, wrote of the book, "It almost sounds like a chapter from the Acts of the Apostles.... This book will take its place along with other revival literature"

Funds from sales of the book will be divided equally between the Brethren in Christ Historical Society and Roxbury Holiness Camp which many of the people featured in the book attended.

A pre-publication offer of \$5.00 a copy is available until May 1. Included in the pre-publication offer is the opportunity to purchase additional copies at \$4.00 a copy. After May 1, a copy will cost \$6.00, additional copies \$5.00. Add \$2.00 to the first copy purchased (\$1.00 for each additional copy) for handling and postage, whether at the pre-publication rate or the post-publication rate.

Checks may be made payable to "Brethren in Christ Historical Society" and sent to the following address: E. Morris Sider, Editor; Brethren in Christ Historical Society; P. O. Box 310; Grantham, PA 17027. **BICIS**

Complimentary Copies For Congregations and Pastors

All congregations will receive a complimentary copy of the April issue of the journal *Brethren in Christ History and Life*, as well as a copy of the Index to the journal covering thirty-two years of articles and reviews. The April issue contains the papers on the authority of Scripture given at the November 2009 conference sponsored by the Sider Institute for the Study of Anabaptism, Pietism, and Wesleyanism. These papers should be of interest and concern to all denominational members and leaders.

Other items in the April issue illustrate the typical contents of a journal issue—a biography, the work of an artist, and reviews. An article on attending the cinema (theater) and three responses to the article is an example of how the journal speaks to the present as well as to the past.

It is our hope that congregations and individuals will consider joining the Historical Society, for which they will receive three such issues of the journal a year and three issues of the Newsletter—all for only \$10. See the "Renewal Reminder" on page 2 for subscription information. **BICIS**



E. Morris Sider
Editor

Glen A. Pierce
Contributing Editor

The Newsletter of the Brethren in Christ Historical Society is published three times a year. No subscription charge. Comments, ideas, article suggestions, and letters may be directed to the Editor, Brethren in Christ Historical Society, P.O. Box 310, Grantham, PA 17027, (717) 766-7767. E-Mail: msider@messiah.edu Web: www.bicweb.org/ministries/histsoc

Roxbury the Site of the Historical Society's Annual Meeting


The annual meeting for this year will be held at Roxbury Holiness Camp near Chambersburg, PA, on Saturday, July 31, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Roxbury Holiness Camp celebrates its 75th anniversary this year. The

Historical Society and the Camp are joint publishers of a new book telling the Camp's story. In this way and by holding the annual meeting on the grounds of the Camp during the week of camp meeting, the Historical Society

joins with Roxbury Holiness Camp in celebrating the Camp's history and current life.

Details of the annual meeting remain to be fully decided. However, one of the main parts of the program features a presentation by E. Morris Sider, the book's author, entitled, "Writing the Roxbury Holiness Camp Story."

Unlike most annual meetings, this year's event will not include a dinner. However, meals following the program are available in the Camp's dining room on a free-will offering basis. Reservations for the meeting and the meal are not needed.

For further information, contact Glen Pierce at Messiah College P.O. Box 3002, Grantham, PA 17027, or by email at GPierce@messiah.edu. 



The main auditorium at Roxbury Camp in the 1940s, where the 2010 Annual Meeting will be held.


Lehman Autobiography Published

Simon Arthur Lehman, Jr., for many years a bi-vocational minister in the Brethren in Christ Church, shortly before his death in January wrote a book-length account of his life entitled *Ever Green ... Ever Fruitful*. In it he tells of his Pennsylvania background, his call to the ministry, and his work as

pastor, church planter, and evangelist. Also included in the book are chapters on his marriage and family life, and many inter-related stories. The book contains approximately 250 photographs.

The book sells for \$14.95 (soft covers) plus \$5.00 for shipping and handling. A limited number of hard cover copies is available. To order one or more copies,

the Lehman family asks that checks be made payable to Simon A. Lehman, Jr., and mailed to Unigraphics, 703 West Simpson St., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.

Income from sales of the book will be divided equally between Equipping Leaders for Tomorrow (Brethren in Christ Church) and Mowersville Christian Academy. 


Ringgold Heritage Service Set for June 6

The annual Heritage Service will be held at the historic Ringgold Meetinghouse on Sunday, June 6, starting at 3:00 p.m. The main speaker for the service will be Terry Brensinger, former pastor of the Grantham congregation and now serving as

pastor/teacher with the International Brethren in Christ Association. Drawing on Deuteronomy 8, he will speak on the topic, "Selective Recall."

Devin Thomas, a recent graduate of Messiah College, will trace his growing interest in the history of the Brethren in Christ Church, and Esther Ebersole will share some of her experiences of Kentucky mission work in the 1940s

and '50s. Congregational singing and an offering for the upkeep of the Ringgold Meetinghouse will round out the afternoon program.

For more information or directions to the meetinghouse, contact Glen Pierce, Brethren in Christ Historical Society, Messiah College P.O. Box 3002, Grantham, PA 17027, or email GPierce@messiah.edu. 

Renewal Reminder

Please check the mailing label on this *Newsletter*. If it has "10" on the upper-right corner, that means your membership has been paid through calendar year 2010. If your label reads "09," our records indicate that your membership expired at the end of 2009. In order to continue receiving the Journal and this Newsletter, please send your renewal check as soon as possible. The cost of an annual membership is \$10.00; contributions above that amount receive a tax-deductible receipt.

In the U.S., make checks payable to "Brethren in Christ Historical Society" and mail to: Brethren in Christ Historical Society; Messiah College P.O. Box 3002; Grantham, PA 17027.

In Canada, make cheques payable to "Canadian Conference BIC Church," and on the memo line, write "Historical Society." Mail to: Leonard Chester; 209-400 Steele St.; Port Colborne, ON L3K 5Z7.

news and notes

FROM THE BRETHREN IN CHRIST HISTORICAL LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

With regional conferences holding their annual meetings this spring and looking forward to General Conference convening at Messiah College this summer, our thoughts turn to the theme of "church conferences."

On Tuesday, May 10, 1910, General Conference convened at the Air Hill church building in Franklin County, Pennsylvania. In the May 30 issue of the *Evangelical Visitor* (excerpted below), editor George Detwiler reflects on the conference.

"It was evident in the first meeting that the pilgrims had come expecting the season would not be confined to dry legislation, but that it would be an opportunity of spiritual uplift in which expectation they were not disappointed judging from the many spiritual testimonies given, and the warmth of the devotional seasons, being entered into with enthusiasm and vim...."

"...As regarding the Bible-school [Messiah College] which has hung fire so long already, and which is considered by many of the brethren as being an essential to the further progress of the church, while by many others it is regarded as being not only not a necessity to the spiritual well-being of the church but, rather, positively a menace to its continued existence as a spiritual body of believers, for which reason they naturally rather discourage than encourage the undertaking, yet, in spite of these discouragements, Conference, considering that the institution is in existence already by virtue of what was done in former

years, decided that a new effort be made to secure the necessary funds and to launch the work with all possible speed...."

"...A question which had in it seemingly the elements of disturbance of the pleasant spirit of the body came from Kansas asking for a definition of the scriptural requirements of candidates for baptism and church membership. Conference wisely decided to give it into the hands of a select committee and report a year hence. The work of the committee appointed a year previous, to bring to this Conference such an elucidation, scripturally, of the grace of sanctification executed its work satisfactorily, for the report was accepted unanimously by the body of Conference after it had been scrutinized by all the elders present. The article as prepared by the committee will appear in the minutes and will also be issued separately [sic] in pamphlet form for general distribution...."

As Carlton Wittlinger notes in Quest for Piety and Obedience (p. 246), "Prior to open debate on [the committee report on sanctification], Conference granted a petition to form the bishops present into a committee to examine it. This implied that the issue was too sensitive to handle in open Conference session, an inference supported by the fact that the bishops

continued in private session until one o'clock in the morning. An examination of the document reveals that it was a compromise, which probably explains why it came to the floor claiming unanimous approval by the committee of bishops and why ... it passed the Conference as a whole without opposition."

The following is excerpted from the Ringgold District Minutes Book, reporting on the Saturday evening council meeting held October 23, 1923, at the Hollowell church. As one reads the terse recording of several council actions involving "Brother Harry C. Shank," one wonders about the tone and content of the discussion that evening.

Considerations...

- II. Bro. Harry Shank
Concerning Love Feast at Hollowell, also for being too hasty to take Archie Varner in fellowship with the church: Pardoned.
- III. Bro. Shank was thought too hasty in building a church in Waynesboro and is pardoned....
- V. Concerning Bro. Harry Shank going to Samuel George and asking him concerning a sub bishop for Samuel Wingert. [no action is minuted]
- VI. Bishop H. C. Shank has received pardon for all offenses toward Ringgold District. Also received a welcome to his office as Bishop by the Ringgold Dist.
- VII. Bishop H. C. Shank's three requests:
 1. That the district carry out Matt. 18 more perfectly? It was promised.
 2. That the district be more active in business meetings to vote for or against any business or action taken in consideration by the district? Perfectly understood.
 3. That there be a secretary for Ringgold District? Granted: Samuel I. Myers.

Evidently Brother Shank was perceived as being responsible for several "offenses," was pardoned, and was welcomed as bishop - all in the same evening.



A number of the sisters attending the 1910 General Conference at Air Hill. This is from a picture postcard mailed from Pennsylvania to California on May 19 - a surprisingly quick photographic "turn-around" since Conference convened only nine days earlier.

THE Newsletter

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Brethren in Christ Church

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Images from the Past

From the photograph collection of the Brethren in Christ Historical Library & Archives



The Archives is “home” to thousands of photos related to the church or college. Many are well-documented in terms of date, subject, and photographer. Others, such as this winter scene, provide only partial (and sometimes questionable) information.

Penned on the back: “Martha Sentz, Naomi Wolgemuth, Rev. Emmanuel [possibly Rhorer or Khorer], Barrville

Church 1929.” Martha Sentz and Naomi Wolgemuth were Home Mission workers during the 1920s and '30s. However, “Barrville” does not appear in lists of Sunday schools, congregations, or home mission assignments. Emanuel Rohrer was a minister in Ohio in 1929, but several people who knew him doubt that he is the man pictured.

Labeling Photographs

This serves as a reminder of the importance of labeling photographs with as much information as possible. Print the information on the back of the photo (preferably in the margin) using a pencil (#2 or softer), making sure to write lightly on a clean, hard surface so that the pencil does not leave an impression on the photo. Very old or valuable photos are best preserved in clear polypropylene sleeves, with caption information attached to the outside of the sleeve. Avoid use of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) sleeves, sometimes marketed for photo storage pages, as they damage photographs over a surprisingly short period of time.