

# NEWSLETTER

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## Save this Date!!

### LHSMA Fall 2010 Program

Saturday, October 23, 2010

**Presenter:** Dr. Nelson T. Strobert, Professor of Religious Education and Director of Multi-Cultural Studies, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg

### Topic: Daniel Alexander Payne

“Payne became the premier bishop of the AME Church and was in some ways the most influential African-American Christian in the 19th century. He worked as a teacher, a minister, wrote the first history of the AME Church, and founded Wilberforce University, the first black owned and operated institution of higher learning in the country.” (*This Far By Faith*, 2003). Payne was trained as a Lutheran pastor at Gettysburg Lutheran Theological Seminary in 1834.

**Location:** To be announced at the Spring Program, April 20, 2010

## LHSMA Spring Program Date Aligns with Seminary Spring Convocation

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

For the second year, the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic will hold its Spring Program just prior to the opening of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg's Spring Convocation. Participants may gather in Valentine Hall's auditorium and coffee shop at 9:30 AM on Tuesday, April 20, 2010 for registration and coffee hour. The program, entitled *Lutheran Youth Movement*, will begin at 10:00 AM in the auditorium and will feature Dr. Maria E. Erling, Asso-

ciate Professor of the History of Christianity in North America and Global Missions and Director of Teaching Parish at Gettysburg Seminary, as speaker. Dr. Erling is also a member of LHSMA's Board of Directors.

Dr. Erling's presentation, "What Happened to the Luther League?" will explore youth work and youth ministry in 20<sup>th</sup> century American Lutheranism and will discuss its contribution to Lutheran leadership and to Lutheran unity efforts.

The Society has called for multimedia presentations on congregational youth history from Lutheran youth in Region 8. Winners in both middle school and high school categories will be awarded monetary prizes and will be invited to present their projects on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Submissions for the Lutheran Youth History Contest must be postmarked March 1, 2010. Forms, rules, and details about the contest are available on the LHSMA website: [lhsmid-atlantic.org](http://lhsmid-atlantic.org).

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**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- *Congregations encouraged to archive church records*
- *LHSMA welcomes six new members*
- *Dr. John Frantz reviews Singmaster book written by Susan Hill*
- *1926 U.S. Census Survey identified more than 20 established Lutheran church bodies*
- *LHSMA Board recently learns of the death of Renate Wilson*

## President's Corner

The congregation I serve in Gettysburg, Christ Lutheran Church, recently began observing its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Preparations for this observance commenced some time ago and perhaps one of the most significant preparations began almost six years ago. It was then that the congregation undertook the task of organizing its archival material. While some items were already in the ELCA Region 8 Archives housed at the A.R. Wentz Library on the campus of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, there were forty-four boxes of scattered material throughout the church's facilities. These materials were in desperate need of being organized and preserved. Five years after the project began it was completed and yet as all archivists know it continues to be an on-going process. One of the exciting features of the congregation's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary has been the involvement of members in this preservation effort as well as the renewed interest in the history of the congregation by many who now come to research in the archives.

Stories such as this are plentiful in the Mid-Atlantic region and more such stories are yet to be written. Our society encourages all congregations, no matter how long they have been in service to our Lord Jesus Christ and His Church, to invest energy, time, and resources to preserve their records and celebrate their history. Such work serves both as an opportu-

nity to give thanks to God for the blessings of the past and as inspiration for current and future ministry. If you know of a congregation which could benefit from the advice and resources of the society do not hesitate to place them in contact with us.

I continue to urge members of the society to invite others including their congregations to join the society. Each membership helps the society fulfill its mission "to preserve, to document, and to stir interest in the rich Lutheran traditions which are the foundation of the church. Specifically, the Society intends to foster knowledge and use of Lutheran history in the synods and congregations and among individuals."

As I write this the society is sponsoring three contests in historical research and writing (the Lutheran

Church History Contest for Youth, the A.R. Wentz Prize, and the St. Paul, Biglerville Prize.) Visit the society's website ([www.lhsmidatlantic.org](http://www.lhsmidatlantic.org)) for more details.

In closing I want to note that the Board of Directors at its January meeting noted with sadness and Christian hope in the resurrection the deaths of Miriam Glatfelter, wife of LHSMA board emeritus Charles Glatfelter, and Marion "Mani"

Wentz, wife of LHSMA board member emeritus, Frederick Wentz. Both Miriam and Mani supported the society and attended the society sponsored trip to American Lutheran Heritage sites in Germany in 1992 led by Pastors Fred Weiser and Larry Neff. May God grant them rest eternal and may light perpetual shine upon them.

I hope to see you all at the Annual program and meeting on Tuesday, April 20 on the campus of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg.

Sincerely in Christ,  
**Stephen Herr**  
President

*"I continue to urge members of the society to invite others including their congregations to join the society. Each membership helps the society fulfill its mission..."*

### Welcome New Members

LHSMA welcomes the following new members:

#### New Members:

John Fehringer - *Gettysburg, PA*  
Nelson Strobert - *Gettysburg, PA*  
Jean LeGros - *Gettysburg, PA*

#### New Institutional Members:

St. Matthew Lutheran Church -  
*Hanover, PA*  
Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church -  
*Lebanon, PA*

#### New Contributing Member:

Christ Lutheran Church - *York, PA*

## LHSMA 2009 - 2010 Board of Directors

### Officers

Stephen Herr  
*President*

John Deeben  
*Vice President*

Donald Housley  
*Secretary*

Lee Knepp  
*Treasurer*

### Other Board Members

Maria Erling

George Handley

Susan Hill

Barbara Luebbe

George Mocko

### Board Emeriti

Charles Glatfelter

Michael Kurtz

Fred Wentz

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

## Spring 2010 Event

Registration and coffee hour begin at 9:30 AM in Valentine Hall  
Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg

### Lutheran Youth Movement: "What Happened to the Luther League?" Rev. Dr. Maria E. Erling, *presenter*



Dr. Erling will explore youth work and youth ministry in 20<sup>th</sup> century American Lutheranism and will discuss its contribution to Lutheran leadership and to Lutheran unity efforts.

Meet the winners of LHSMA's first annual *Youth History Contest*

To register, please complete the form below and send it to Lee Knepp, P.O. Box 76, McClure, PA 17841

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*There will be no charge for the Spring Program but please include \$10 per person for lunch reservations.*



KEYNOTE SPEAKER Tuesday afternoon was League President Gordon Lathrop, 21, Sherman Oaks, Calif., who spoke on "The Resurrection Confession." Photo shows about half of total congregation.

*ALC Luther League convention, Miami, 1960 (ELCA archives, Chicago)*

## Dr. Maria Erling to Present at Spring 2010 LHSMA Event

*(Continued from Page 1)*

The Society's annual meeting and luncheon will immediately follow the Spring Program. The day's

events will adjourn at 1:30 PM.

The program is open to the public. A catered lunch will be served. Lunch reservations must be made

prior to the program @ \$10 per person. Please use the registration form printed above to make your reservation.

*Susan Hill*

## Book Review

### HEART LANGUAGE: ELSIE SINGMASTER AND HER PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN WRITINGS

(*University Park: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2009. Pp. 281, illustrations, endnotes, forward, acknowledgements, bibliography, Cloth, \$40.00.*) Susan C. Hill, ed.

This volume is another in the outstanding series published by the Pennsylvania German Society since 1897. It features Susan Colestock Hill's edition of Elsie Singmaster's writings. Her study began with research for her master's thesis at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg.

In a concise, informative introduction that is carefully documented Susan Hill explains that Elsie Singmaster was a popular writer whose works circulated widely during the early decades of the twentieth century. Although she wrote several volumes on historical topics, she is best known for her short stories about the Pennsylvania Germans. Having them as her forbearers and having grown up among them, she is eminently qualified to portray them.

The Zangmeisters, later known as Singmasters, emigrated from the duchy of Wurtemberg in what is now Germany. They arrived in Philadel-

phia in 1749 and settled in upper Bucks County near the village of what became Trumbauersville. The family later moved to Millerstown, the name of which was changed to Macungie in the 1870s. It is this area of Lehigh County that is the scene of Elsie Singmaster's most distinctive stories.

She was born into a prominent family in 1879. Her grandfather owned several farms near Macungie, was a merchant and a bank president, and served as Macungie's first burgess. Her father was raised in Macungie, was educated at the Lutheran college and seminary at Gettysburg. After leaving his first pastorate in and around Macungie, he took his family to Brooklyn, New York; Allentown; and Gettysburg. In Gettysburg, he served as a seminary professor and president. There, Elsie Singmaster married Gettysburg Professor Harold Lewars in 1912. In 1915, they had a son who died at birth. Lewars had died two months earlier. She remained a widow until she died in 1958. Although she spent most of her adult life in Gettysburg, her heart remained in Macungie. She lived there as a child and returned to spend summers with relatives.

It was not common but was pos-

sible for women in Elsie Singmaster's youth to obtain higher education. Her father recognized her talent and encouraged her ambition to become a writer. She had won a prize for her short story when she was eleven. She loved to read and absorbed the books in her father's library – novels, classics, and even theological works. She enjoyed her father's stories and claimed that he could "tell a better story in three sentences than most people can in many pages!" (p. 17). She inherited her father's storytelling ability. She nurtured her talent at West Chester Normal School (now University), Cornell, and Radcliffe. Between 1905 and 1950, she "published some 350 short stories and articles and more than forty books" (p. 18).

Susan Hill includes sixteen of Elsie Singmaster's stories and provides a prologue to many of them. Although the stories are fiction, they present accurately Pennsylvania Germans of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Several of her stories describe the Pennsylvania Germans as living in their own world. "To Martin [Ebersole] Philadelphia was as distant as... Paris" (p. 210). Other stories portray them as "living on the margins of a more sophisticated world" (p. 190). Mary Kuhns

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## Call for Church History Profiles

### Church Archives



on historical profiles of ELCA Region 8 congregations.

*In the spirit of promoting and disseminating more information about our Lutheran heritage, the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic would like to start a regular feature in the society's newsletter*

*on historical profiles of ELCA Region 8 congregations. If your congregation is preparing or has already published a church history, please consider submitting a brief historical sketch of 1000-1500 words to the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic, Attn: President Stephen Herr, 61 Seminar Ridge, Gettysburg, PA 17325.*

*All submissions will eventually be posted to the Society's web site at [www.lhsmidatlantic.org](http://www.lhsmidatlantic.org).*

## American Lutherans in the 1920s: Statistics from the Census of Religious Bodies

*John Deeben*

In a previous article I discussed the 1926 Census of Religious Bodies, specifically the nature of the data gathered during the enumeration and how it reflected historical information about local congregations from the early twentieth century. Shortly after the completion of that survey, the Bureau of the Census in 1930 produced a statistical overview and analysis of the census information. The summary of statistics revealed interesting trends about Lutherans across the United States in the late 1920s, including the status of the denomination compared to other national religions, and differences among various organizations within the larger Lutheran body. This article summarizes a few of the more interesting findings of the Census Bureau.

In 1926, the Census of Religious Bodies defined Lutheranism generally as a system of faith based on the Augsburg Confession of 1530 and supplemented by the catechisms or religious writings of German theologian Martin Luther. Among Lutherans nationwide, the census identified 22 separate organizations, the largest being the United Lutheran Church in America. (In 1918 the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the U.S.A., the General Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in North America, and the United Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the South merged to form the United Lutheran Church; all three bodies had been enumerated separately in previous censuses.) The Evangelical Lutheran Jehovah Conference represented the smallest organization with only three churches containing a combined 851 members.

Other changes in Lutheran bodies following the religious census of 1916 included the formation of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, a denomination that incorporated a merger in 1917 of Hauge's Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Synod, the Synod for the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, and the United Norwegian Lutheran Church in America. The Norwegian Synod of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church also joined in 1920 with the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference. The Evangelical Lutheran Augustana Synod, formerly a part of the General Council, remained independent after the latter became part of the United Lutheran Church in America. The Immanuel Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in North America disbanded completely and was removed from the 1926 census. For the first time, miscellaneous independent Lutheran congregations were added to the religious census as a separate, generic category.

In 1926, then, the complete listing of established Lutheran bodies in the United States included the following organizations:

- United Lutheran Church in America
- Evangelical Lutheran Augustana Synod of North America
- Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of America (which included the following bodies):
  - Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States
  - Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Wisconsin and Other States
  - Slovak Evangelical Lutheran Synod of the United States of America
  - Norwegian Synod of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Norwegian Lutheran Church of America
- Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Ohio and Other States
- Lutheran Synod of Buffalo
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (Eielsen Synod)
- Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Iowa and Other States
- Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- Icelandic Evangelical Lutheran Synod in North America
- Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, or Suomi Synod
- Lutheran Free Church
- United Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- Finnish Evangelical Lutheran National Church of America
- Finnish Apostolic Lutheran Church
- Church of the Lutheran Brethren of America
- Evangelical Lutheran Jehovah Conference
- Independent Lutheran Congregations

Among the top twenty Protestant and Catholic denominations nationwide, the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod ranked 13th in the total number of congregations (3,917), followed by the United Lutheran Church in 14th place (3,650 churches), and the Norwegian Lutheran Church in America in 18th place (2,554 churches). In total membership, however, the United Lutherans held 11th place nationally with 1,214,340 members, while the Missouri Synod ranked right behind them with 1,040,276 members. The next largest body, the Norwegian Lutherans, stood in a distant 16th place with 496,707 faithful. A new demographic in the 1926 census also distinguished

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## Lutheran Statistics

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between rural and urban populations (urban territories being defined as all cities and incorporated places with 2500+ inhabitants.) In this respect, United Lutherans reflected a decidedly metropolitan nature with 816,839 urban members to 397,501 rural ones. Missouri Synod Lutherans broke almost even with 567,569 urban and 472,706 rural members. Norwegian Lutherans remained predominantly rural (374,519 to 122,188), however the Icelandic Evangelical Lutheran Synod, despite their small membership, proved the most rural (2,066 out of 2,186 members, or 95%).

Financially, the United Lutheran Church also maintained a noticeable edge. The value of 3,516 church buildings, excluding parsonages, held by United Lutherans nationally totaled \$114,526,248, ranking 10th behind the Roman Catholic Church with \$837,271,053 in reported property. Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod property assets among 3,148 reporting churches equaled \$65,318,781. These totals translated into an average in property value of \$32,573 per church for United Lutherans, compared to \$20,749 per church for the Missouri Synod. In between stood the Slovak Evangelical Luther-

ans, who held an average property value of \$25,186 on just 43 church buildings! Concerning property debt, United Lutherans maintained \$14,273,177 in outstanding mortgage debt on 1,028 churches, compared to \$8,556,000 for 1,012 Missouri Synod churches. The Norwegian Lutheran Church of America followed distantly behind with \$2,298,537 in debt on 475 buildings. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (Eielsen Synod) held the lowest debt, owing a mere \$300 on one church.

The value of parsonages reflected more parity, with United Lutherans holding \$14,701,040 in property (9th highest in value nationally) to \$12,448,574 for the Missouri Synod (10th nationally). Norwegian Lutherans placed a distant third with \$4,617,621 in housing assets. Concerning financial debt and expenditures, United Lutherans also demonstrated a little more depth in resources. Although they held a slightly higher balance on parsonage mortgage debt (\$1,782,443 to \$1,253,519), United Lutherans outpaced the Missouri Synod in current expenses and improvements (\$17,509,300 to \$13,405,593) as well as in benevolence and mission contributions (\$3,641,048 to \$2,940,104).

How did Lutherans compare regionally? According to membership, United Lutherans again held a consider-

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## Book Review

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was uncomfortable at the county fair in Allentown. (See pp. 85-94.) Religious differences are evident in her stories. Lutherans worshipped in church buildings and were more worldly than the strict New Improved Mennonites who held their services in meeting houses and Amish who worshipped in members' homes. Long-held prejudices persisted, such as against professional physicians. Mrs. Kalkbrenner implied that they were not worth what they charged (p. 242) and asked for a powwower whose treatments she considered more effective (p. 236). Nevertheless, several stories indicate that changes were occurring. Women were becoming adventurous as Jovina Neuwieler led a reluctant Benjamin Gaumer to Phillipsburg, New Jersey, to be married (pp. 104-13). At Zion (Lutheran) Church, new people were taking

charge (p. 172). Her experience as a pastor's daughter and her Christian belief in redemption are evident as she describes the controversy in the church (pp. 170-76).

Elsie Singmaster writes in a realistic narrative style. It is not analytical or critical and certainly not condescending. Her characters are quite believable. They have typical Pennsylvania German names, including Herr, Funk, Bowman, Beiler, and Fischer. They speak in English now, not German, but with their Pennsylvania German accent and word order. They use familiar Pennsylvania German expressions, such as "Gott im Himmel" (p. 235). Throughout Elsie Singmaster's stories, the Pennsylvania Germans are depicted as religious, honest, frugal, industrious, and conservative, though slightly open to change.

In addition to Susan Hill's introductory biography of Elsie Singmaster and her compilation of stories, this

volume contains other features that enhance the reader's understanding. Charles H. Glatfelter wrote a forward (pp. ix-xiv) that places these stories in the context of literature on the Pennsylvania Germans and the literary "local color school" (pp. xii, xiv). Interspersed in the "Introduction" are illustrations of the Singmaster family, of Elsie Singmaster at various stages of her life, and some that accompanied her stories when they were published originally. There is a lengthy list of her publications, and a thorough index.

Susan Hill concludes her "Preface" by emphasizing that Elsie Singmaster and her work "deserve to be remembered and re-examined for their artistic, ethnic, and historical contributions to American life" (p. xvi). The contents of this book validate her conclusion.

*Reviewed by Dr. John Frantz, a retired professor of history at Pennsylvania State University and a member of the Lutheran Historical Society.*



## *Renate Wilson, Scholar and Friend*

The LHSMA Board of Directors recently learned of the death in December 2008 of Renate Wilson. Dr. Wilson was a respected friend and colleague of the Society and it is with great sadness that we reprint her obituary from the December 15, 2008 edition of *The Baltimore Sun*.

Those who attended the LHSMA Spring Program in April 2008 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, will remember Dr. Wilson's informative and animated lecture: "The Linnaeus Americanus of the new republic: Gotthilf Heinrich Ernst Muhlenberg and his Atlantic Network."

Dr. Wilson's book, *Pious Traditions in Medicine: A German Pharmaceutical Network in 18<sup>th</sup> Century America*, won LHSMA's 2003 Biglerville Prize. The Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic awards the St. Paul's, Biglerville Prize for a publishable work of mature scholarship in the field of Ameri-

can Lutheran church history. The prize was awarded to Dr. Wilson at the Society's Spring Program 2003 held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lutherville, Maryland.

From *The Baltimore Sun*, December 15, 2008 by Laura Smitherman, [laura.smitherman@baltsun.com](mailto:laura.smitherman@baltsun.com):

### **Renate Wilson**

A social and medical historian and German film actress, she studied health services and worked on international projects.

Renate Wilson, a social and medical historian and former German film actress who immigrated to the United States after World War II, died of cancer Dec. 7 at Gilchrist Hospice Care. She was 78.

Dr. Wilson, a longtime adjunct professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, was well-known for her research on

the history of medicine and cross-cultural studies of health services. She spoke English, German and French, and she often made appearances at international conferences, only recently canceling an engagement in Vienna, Austria, because of illness.

"We're getting e-mails from around the world from people saying they worked with her and that she was a tremendous force of nature," said Peter Wilson, her son and a Baltimore architect. "She was a gentle soul and fiercely intellectual."

Born Renate Fischer in Berlin, her Jewish family survived World War II partly through her father's association with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. Known as one of the best in Europe, the orchestra became a part of Adolf Hitler's propaganda machine, but conductor Wilhelm Furtwangler was able to

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## **Lutheran Statistics**

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able edge, with 742,153 members concentrated mainly in the Middle Atlantic (Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey). They were followed by the Missouri Synod (494,086 members) in the East North Central states (Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin), and the Norwegian Lutherans (334,442 members) in the neighboring West North Central states (Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas). The Finnish Apostolic Lutheran Church had the smallest enclave (11 members) in the Mountain states (Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Nevada), all of them affiliated with the same congregation in Montana.

Comparing Lutheran membership by state, Pennsylvania held the single-largest population—551,202 United Lutherans—followed by 182,034 Missouri Synod Lutherans in Illinois and 168,622 Norwegian Lutherans in Minnesota. In a comparative survey of the top three denominations by state, no Lutheran denomination achieved a first place ranking, but the United Lutherans in Pennsylvania placed second behind Roman Catholics (2,124,382 members) and were followed by Methodist Episcopalians (452,145 members). The Lutheran populations of Minnesota, North and South Dakota (74,301 and 41,778 Norwegian Lutheran members respectively), and Wisconsin (146,373 members of the Wisconsin Lutheran Synod) also ranked second after the Catholics. Missouri Synod Lutherans achieved a third-place ranking in Wisconsin (123,346 members), Minnesota (92,538 members), Michigan

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# Prominent Early American Lutherans

[www.lhsmidatlantic.com](http://www.lhsmidatlantic.com)

## Henry Melchoir Muhlenberg

Henry Melchoir Muhlenberg, considered to be the patriarch of the Lutheran Church in the United States, was born September 16, 1711 in Einbeck, Hanover, Germany. A graduate of the Georg-August University of Göttingen in 1738, Muhlenberg studied theology at the University of Halle. In 1742 he immigrated to Philadelphia in response to an official request from Pennsylvania Lutherans for professional clergy.

He organized the Lutheran congregation at Trappe, Montgomery County, and in 1748 established the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, the first permanent Lutheran synod in America. He helped to prepare a uniform Lutheran liturgy, and also put together basic tenets for an ecclesiastical constitution which most of the American churches adopted in 1761.

Muhlenberg also traveled extensively along the east coast, serving as the leader of new congregations from Maryland to New York. His family had a significant impact on colonial life in North America. In addition to Henry's role in the Lutheran church, his children became pastors, military officers, and politicians. Henry Muhlenberg died October 7, 1787 at Trappe, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

*John Deeben*

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## John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg

John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg was born in Trappe, Pennsylvania, on 1 October, 1746. He was ordained in 1768 and served as pastor of Lutheran churches in New Germantown and Bedminster, New Jersey, before removing to Woodstock, Virginia, in 1772.

Besides his new congregation, he led the Committee of Safety and Correspondence for Dunmore County, Virginia. He was elected to the House of Burgesses in 1774, and was a delegate to the First Virginia Convention. During the Revolutionary War Muhlenberg led the 8th Regiment of the Virginia Line and eventually rose to the rank of major general.

After the war he was elected a member of the Pennsylvania Council, was in 1785 chosen vice-president (equivalent to lieutenant governor) with Benjamin Franklin as president, and served as presidential elector in 1797. He served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1789–1795 and 1799–1801. He entered the U. S. senate in March 1801, but resigned after President Jefferson appointed him supervisor of the revenue for the District of Pennsylvania. In 1803 he was made collector of the port of Philadelphia. Muhlenberg died near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on 1 October, 1807.

*John Deeben*

## William Alfred Passavant

William Alfred Passavant (1821-1894) was the zealous home missionary who became the great 19<sup>th</sup> century pioneer in social services among American Lutherans. Born in Zelenople, Pennsylvania, Passavant was for decades involved in forming synods and establishing congregations.

But his heart went out to the poor and suffering of the communities in which he worked, largely in western Pennsylvania and the states immediately west of Pennsylvania. In 1846 his visit to deaconess institutions in Germany turned his ministerial zeal toward helping the poor, the suffering, the orphans and the whole range of concerns for the most needy people in American communities. With scarce resources (small gifts from Christians to whom he appealed), and with zeal and strong faith that "the Lord will provide," he established numerous hospitals and orphanages, starting with his home community at Zelenople and extending as far as Chicago and Milwaukee in the west and Mt. Vernon, New York in the east. He introduced deaconesses from Germany to work in these institutions. His publications, *The Missionary* and later *The Workman* were widely read and influential.

To sum it up, by his zeal, by his ability to inspire people, by his vision of Christian service to the needy ones, by his confidence in the Lord's guidance and support, Passavant became the pioneer leader and builder in the continuing-to-this-day strong tradition of Lutheran Social Services.

*Frederick Wentz*

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## Charles Philip Krauth

Charles Philip Krauth was born May 7, 1797 in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. In 1819 the Ministerium of Pennsylvania licensed Krauth to preach. After serving Lutheran congregations at Martinsburg and Shepherdstown, Virginia, he was called in 1827 to Philadelphia to take charge of the recently organized English congregation.

He became a trustee of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg in 1826 and of Pennsylvania (now Gettysburg) College in 1832. At the college, he served as professor of Intellectual and Moral Science, then in 1833 he was elected professor of Biblical and Oriental Literature at the seminary. The following year, in 1834, Krauth was unanimously elected president of Pennsylvania College, a position he held until 1850 when he resigned to devote his time exclusively to duties in the theological seminary. From 1850 - 1861 Krauth also edited the *Evangelical Review*. Krauth died at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on May 30, 1867.

*John Deeben*



## Renate Wilson

(Continued from Page 7)

protect Jewish members.

That let Ernst Fischer, Renate's father and the first clarinetist, to sequester her and her sister, Inge, in Silesia, then a rural province of Germany.

After the war, Renate Fischer graduated from Humboldt University and worked as an actress. In her most well-known role, she played the female lead in *Der Untertan*, a film based on the novel by Heinrich Mann and a satirical look at nationalism in Germany.

Deciding to pursue "more intellectual endeavors," she went to work for the U.S. Embassy in Berlin as a translator, Mr. Wilson said.

Dr. Wilson's first husband, to whom she was wed seven months, died of leukemia.

When she endeavored to learn French, she met her second husband in tutor Max William Wilson, a Haitian studying philosophy in Berlin. They were married in 1957 and immigrated to the United States almost a decade later.

As she began her career at Johns Hopkins, Dr. Wilson worked with renowned health services researcher Dr. Kerr White and co-edited a volume that compared health systems around the world. She was a Fulbright Fellow and wrote *Pious Traders in Medicine: A German Pharmaceutical Network in Eighteenth-Century North America*, a book about the role of German immigrants in the development of medicine and pharmaceuticals in the U.S. She received

the Thyssen Fellowship for historical studies of cross-cultural medical care this year.

Dr. Wilson received her doctorate in history from the University of Maryland, College Park in 1988. Her husband, who worked at Morgan State University and as chairman of the Philosophy Department at Howard University, died that year.

"I always remember going into their home, and they would be carrying on lively conversations and switching from one language to another in a way that was fascinating," said Judith D. Kasper, a professor at the Bloomberg School of Public Health. "They were both large personalities."

"Renate was always just a great friend to talk to," Dr. Kasper added. "She had very, very strong opinions about almost everything."

## Lutheran Statistics

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(90,851 members), Nebraska (53,397 members), and North Dakota (16,265 members). In all of those states, the Roman Catholics also held the largest populations.

In one final interesting statistic, the Census Bureau also compiled a ranking of denominations according to the number of congregations located in the 50 largest cities across the United States. In this survey, Lutherans placed in the top three in only two urban centers: Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Toledo, Ohio. In Milwaukee, the Wisconsin Lutheran Synod maintained the second-highest presence with 26 congregations, followed closely by 22 churches of the Missouri Synod. The Catholics once again held the top spot with 59 congregations. In Toledo, United Lutherans operated in third place with 13 congregations. The Catholics and the Methodist Episcopal Church ranked ahead of them with 35 and 21 congregations, respectively.

These are just a sampling of the varied statistics compiled by the Census Bureau from the survey of Religious Bodies in 1926. The full published report can be viewed or downloaded in pdf format from the Census Bureau website:

[www2.census.gov/prod2/decennial/documents/13949806v1\\_TOC.pdf](http://www2.census.gov/prod2/decennial/documents/13949806v1_TOC.pdf)

*Please join us*  
*Lutheran Historical Society*  
*Of the Mid-Atlantic*  
**Spring Program 2010**  
*Tuesday, April 20*



ALC Luther League convention, Miami, 1960  
 (ELCA archives, Chicago)

LHSMA NEWSLETTER

Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic

61 Seminary Ridge  
Gettysburg, PA 17325

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*“Preserving, documenting,  
and sharing the history of  
Lutherans and Lutheranism in  
the Mid-Atlantic and  
surrounding areas.”*



**Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic Newsletter**  
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The Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic, in the interest of the preservation and cultivation of Lutheran history in Central and Western Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, and the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. area issues this newsletter two to three times a year.

Notes of announcements, projects, historical celebrations, genealogical concerns, notes of church or Synodical activities, and notes from other historical societies are solicited.

**Address corrections are helpful. Send replies via email to: Stephen Herr**  
[pastor@christgettysburg.org](mailto:pastor@christgettysburg.org)  
**Subject: LHS Newsletter**



VOLUME 21, NUMBER 1

**LHSMA Membership Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Congregation (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
For **Family Memberships** only: Please list spouse and all children under 18 to be included in membership: \_\_\_\_\_

I desire membership in LHS as a: \_\_\_\_\_ New Member or, as a: \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 250 Life Membership  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 50 Contribution Membership  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 40 Family Membership (*two persons in the same household and any children under 18 years of age*)  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 25 Individual Membership  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 15 Senior (62+) Membership  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 15 Student Membership  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 25 Institutional Membership (*i.e., libraries, colleges, seminaries, etc.*)  
(All memberships, except Life, are renewable annually.)

\_\_\_\_\_ I wish to give a Special Gift. Please send me more information on the Special Gift Program of the society.

I am interested in:  
\_\_\_\_\_ Research  
\_\_\_\_\_ Reading  
\_\_\_\_\_ Publishing  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form and your check made payable to **LHSMA**:  
Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic  
61 Seminary Ridge  
Gettysburg, PA 17325