

Heritage Horizons

...a memorial book was written in His *presence*, recording those who revered Him and those who had the highest respect for His name...Malachi 3:16



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“You can make a difference by challenging the next generation to also make a difference in today’s world.”

Rev. George W. Lang, Archives Director

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Point of View *by Lenore Lang*

We are happy to report the 125th anniversary of the First Baptist Church of Ellinwood, Kansas, held June 12 and 13th, 2004. Read the story on page 2. The 100th anniversary of the McClusky Baptist Church was celebrated on July 11th, 2004. See page 3.

There is always something to learn from books you need to know about. Look on pages 2 and 3.

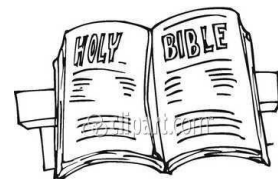
Find out interesting information from “Armchair Traveler,” written by Associate Archivist Berneice Westerman. Perhaps you can help us find a German book that we need for our Archives. See page 4.

DISPLAYS— by Ernie Zimbelman, Board Chairman

Two new displays are being developed in the Seminary complex: **THESE MADE A DIFFERENCE**. One is NAB People in Urban Philadelphia (Pulpit Furniture from the Fleischmann Baptist Church) and the other is NAB People in Rural North Dakota (Stained-glass windows from the Cathay Baptist Church.) These displays are in progress on the campus of the NAB Seminary in Sioux Falls, SD to celebrate the lives and work of NAB people who have **Made a Difference** — in God’s Kingdom.

Other displays are being planned to focus on those who have **Made a Difference** in various dimensions of NAB’s impressive ministry through the years. One is already in place at NAB Seminary, celebrating its beginning in Rochester, New York.

The children of Reverend Arthur J. and Lenora Fischer already have committed themselves to help fund the Rural Church Display in honor of their parents. Arthur Fischer pastored a number of NAB churches in the rural Dakotas.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OBSERVES 125th ANNIVERSARY

A church by the side of the road? That is what the Great Bend Tribune wrote about the First Baptist Church of Ellinwood, Kansas, commending the church for being a vital and active one throughout its 125 year history. Linda Kenyon, staff reporter, indicated that the members have added onto the current building three times, and now have three full-time pastors with approximately 200 people attending Sunday services.

The church has a rural location, and was the second rural church built in Barton County there in Kansas. Organized in May 28, 1879 under the leadership of the Rev. Henry Wilms, Senior, the congregation met in homes until 1886, paying then for the use of the Herter school house. By 1893 the members bought two acres of land for \$25 — the site of the present church. In that year of 1893 a white, wooden church and parsonage were dedicated.

In 1940 the Congregation changed the name from the German Baptist or South Side Baptist Church to First Baptist Church, and seven years later dedicated a new church building. This new building was constructed during World War II when building supplies were scarce. Darla Carson, chairman of the anniversary committee, commented that “there was nothing else to spend money on.” Lead was scarce for stained glass windows, so the first windows were clear glass, later replaced by stained glass. Somehow the records of this stained glass replacement were lost over the years.

New additions to the church building include an educational wing in 1967, with remodeling of the sanctuary, and a new fellowship hall in 1997.

Originally the services were conducted in the German language but in 1920 the members decided to have English services two Sunday evenings a month. A German Sunday school class was finally disbanded in 1944. Today the church program is vital and growing, including an active AWANA program for 120 children, a women’s organization, Sunday school and youth ministry, prayer ministry and home Bible studies. This strong Bible-believing church is active in its support of missions, as it has been since its beginning 125 years ago, a blessing to all, — “a church by the side of the road.”



Look: new books! There has been a delay in the publication of Clarence Walth’s book, Heroes of the Faith, originally hoped for by the end of July 2004. The book will sell for \$5.95. To procure your own copy, you may e-mail or telephone Clarence Walth. E-mail: clarencand-dorene@hotmail.com. Telephone: 916-965-6900. If you had hoped to have your own copy by now, please be patient for a while longer.

The Rev. Don Miller has a second book out, called Under Arrest. (See page 4.) The price is \$30 (US) plus \$5 for postage and handling. Checks or money orders should be made payable to Donald N. Miller, 12814 NW Bishop Road, Hillsboro, OR 97124. His phone number is 503-647-5858. (His first book, In the Midst of Wolves, is also available.) Both are riveting accounts.

Dr. Albert W. Wardin has an important book out also. See the details of this book on page 3, together with information about how to obtain your own copy.



GOTTFRIED ALF, PIONEER OF THE BAPTIST MOVEMENT IN POLAND

This book is an important biography written by Dr. Albert W. Wardin, about his great-great grand-uncle, who not only began Baptist work in Poland but also helped to establish it in **Volhynia**, Ukraine. Many German Baptists in this period migrated to America. As a matter of fact, this migration was important in helping to establish German Baptist work in the Dakotas. Also, three of Alf's sons were Baptist ministers in the USA.

You will note that Donald Miller also writes about the area of **Volhynia**. (Two of his books are mentioned on page 2.) It is fascinating to learn about those who have gone before us, working hard in the Lord's harvest fields, sometimes under very difficult conditions, but remaining faithful to the Lord Who called them. Let us not fail to give thanks for these "pioneers of the faith."

For copies of Dr. Wardin's book, please write to the Baptist History and Heritage Society, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728, or call toll-free: 800-966-2278. The cost of the book including postage and handling, is \$20.95.

MC CLUSKY BAPTIST CHURCH OBSERVES ITS 100th ANNIVERSARY

On July 11th, 2004 many former and current members and friends gathered for morning worship, a centennial banquet and an afternoon service to praise the Lord for His mercies and grace in bringing the church to this point in its history. Dr. Ernie Zimbelman, the chairman of our Archives board, and his wife, Dorothy, were in attendance. A son of the church, Ernie spoke at the morning worship service: "The End of the World as We Know It". In our Archives we have a copy of the Anniversary booklet that was published in honor of the occasion. The pastor is Rev. James R. Grupp who together with his wife, Rosemary, has served the church since 2001 and is now in a yoked ministry between McClusky and Goodrich, North Dakota.

In 1903 a group of people immigrated from Plum Creek and Menno, South Dakota to what is now Sheridan County, North Dakota. They met on January 3, 1904 to discuss the possibility of organizing a Baptist church and decided to meet again 2 days later, weather permitting, as they feared the severe weather. Nineteen people came to the schoolhouse for the meeting on January 5th, with three people sending written notices that they also wanted to be part of the newly-organized church. These twenty-two voted unanimously to organize the Erste Deutsche Baptisten Gemeinde (First German Baptist Church of Denhoff.) Two acres of land were donated by Simon and Katherine Huether, and in 1907 Andrew Miller built the country church at a cost of \$2200, dimensions being 36 by 56 feet.

The first pastor was August G. Liebig, serving from 1904 to 1913. He lived three miles east of the church and drove a one-horse buggy through the hills to get to church. One time he was found by neighbors after he had fallen from the buggy. Taken back to his home, he passed away from injuries. During Pastor Liebig's ministry, revival services were held and many in the community were saved at those services, including E.P. Wahl, the first son to go into the ministry, and the one who later began CTI in Edmonton, Canada. Now that school is Taylor University College and Seminary!

THE ARMCHAIR TRAVELER

by Associate Archivist Berneice Westerman



We in the Archives have been busy. If I am not careful, I might get a speeding ticket for moving this armchair too fast! Contacts I have made reached as far as West Surrey, England; Texas; California; Iowa; Illinois – (the NAB Conference office); Pennsylvania; South Dakota and the NAB Seminary in Sioux Falls.

In all these “travels,” here are some questions I have answered: “What was my great-grandmother’s maiden name?” “What happened to a Seminary professor who taught from 1887-1890?” “Can you help me get the obituary of a former Seminary student?” (Because of that obituary, the inquirer will make a trip to the USA to see two relatives, one of whom was mentioned in the obituary.)

John Siewert and Daphne Dunger are still working on their Cameroon project, making use of some of our archival resources, including translated materials.

Translators have been working hard, and more than once we have found the translated material very helpful. So far we have had these books translated from German to English: The History of the Iowa Churches, by H. Dallmann; William Kuhn’s Fifty Years of United Mission Work; and Volume I of Missionary Jacob Hofmeister’s Experiences in Mission Service in Cameroon, which was translated by former missionary William Rentz. Professor Donald Madvig has sent to us a draft of the first three chapters he has translated of George A. Schulte’s Remembrances. We are very glad for these volunteers who help in translation, even though they live quite far from our Archival offices.

An important note for you readers: We have only **one** copy of a German book, Geschichte der deutschen Baptisten (“History of German Baptists”) written by Joseph Lehmann. It would be of great value to us to have this translated into English, but since we have only one copy, we need to do photocopying before sending the original copy for translation. If any one has this German book to donate to Archives, we would be grateful.

UNDER ARREST—Repression of the Russian Germans in the Zhitomir Region, Ukraine in the 1930s

This book written by Donald N. Miller and published in the Ukraine this year, (2004), brings to light for the first time in history the plight of the Russian Germans in that particular region. These people were arrested, falsely accused, tortured, humiliated, deported, shot, starved or worked to death in brutal *Gulags* and *Trudamees*, under the Soviet regime. The book is based on files found in the former Communist Party archives, evidence about Stalin’s victims told in top-secret documents, newspaper accounts, oral reports, private letters and family histories. The account also exposes some of the inner workings of the Communist (Bolshevik) Party and the dark side of humanity. The book contains numerous archival exhibits and more than sixty unique photos. See page 2 for information on ordering a copy for yourself. What has been hidden for so long has come to light at last!

