



Shenandoah Mennonite Historian

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Editors: Harold D. Lehman and Ruth K. Lehman

John W. Wayland (1872-1962) Educator, Valley Historian, Author

John W. Wayland was born in Shenandoah County, Virginia, on December 8, 1872. He grew up on a farm and at age eighteen passed the teacher's examination. John W. Wayland married Mattie V. Fry and they were the parents of two children. He received the A.B. degree from Bridgewater College (1899) and the Ph.D. degree in history (1907) from the University of Virginia.

As a young man Wayland was a teacher in Shenandoah County public schools and at the Jefferson School for Boys in Charlottesville. He taught history at Bridgewater College (1896-1906) and at the University of Virginia (1906-1909). That year he joined the first group of fifteen teachers at the newly opened Normal School (now James Madison University) in Harrisonburg, Virginia. He served as professor and head of the history department until his retirement in 1931.

Dr. John W. Wayland was a prolific author of books and articles. Students in Virginia elementary schools in the 1920s and 1930s were introduced to Virginia history through the brown-backed official state text written by Wayland, A History of Virginia for Boys and Girls (1920). His love for the Valley and its people is reflected in his published doctoral dissertation, The German Element of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia (1907), Guide to the Shenandoah Valley, Art Folio of the Shenandoah Valley (1927) and Historic Homes of Northern Virginia (1934).

Among Wayland's religious works were Paul, the Herald of the Cross (1901), The Twelve Apostles (1905), Christ as Teacher (1919) and Chapters in Church History (1930). Wayland was an authority on Lincoln and on the Civil War and was a founder of the Rockingham Historical Society and the Shenandoah Valley Civil War Roundtable.

At the official opening of the State Normal School at Harrisonburg on September 30, 1908, the program began with the singing of America and a devotional led by Dr. Wayland. His prayer opened with these words:

"Bless all who have labored for this school hitherto, and all who shall labor for it henceforth in any capacity. Bless this school; may it become a sacred place--a shrine devoted to liberty and to truth."

Students of history under Dr. Wayland remember how, on historical occasions, or when a song was connected with the subject of study, he might reach into his pocket, pull out a tuning fork from which to get the key and lead the class in an appropriate song. A typical assembly held in the early years of the college was opened by a hymn led by Dr. Wayland.

In 1932 at the 100th anniversary of the publication of General Church Music, later called Harmonia Sacra, Wayland addressed the audience in the chapel at Eastern Mennonite School on the life and work of Joseph Funk (1777-1862). He gave special recognition to the publishing work in Singers Glen which made available to the public about 80,000 copies in the first seventeen editions of the Harmonia Sacra from 1832-1878.

John W. Wayland died of a heart attack while shoveling snow at his home on Weaver Avenue in Harrisonburg on January 10, 1962.

Sources used:

History of Mennonites in Virginia (1900-1960)
by Harry A. Brunk.
Madison College, the First Fifty Years (1908-1958)
by Raymond C. Dingleline, Jr.
Biographical Dictionary of American Educators. Entry on John W. Wayland,
written by Harold D. Lehman.

From the Editors

Notes and Queries

The Shenandoah Valley Mennonite Historian is published quarterly using the calendar year as a basis. This Winter issue therefore is Volume 5, Number 1. Librarians and others concerned with the sequence of numbering will note that Numbers 3 and 4 have been omitted in order to conform to this revised schedule of publication.

We see the purposes of the Shenandoah Valley Mennonite Historian as follows:

1) To publish historical sketches of persons, events and places which are of interest to Shenandoah Valley Mennonites.

2) To publicize current happenings within our Mennonite communities and congregations which celebrate historical happenings or have potential historical significance.

3) To highlight the organizational actions of Shenandoah Valley Mennonite Historians.

4) To encourage persons to submit items for publication: news, queries, research, historical sketches, book reviews, etc.

The "Notes and Queries" section of this newsletter is meant to be a forum whereby the reader can obtain information about Shenandoah Mennonite families and happenings. If you have a need for such information, send us a letter with your inquiry. We also will consider short notes which may be of interest to others. Be sure to send your name and address so that others can reply to you. We will attempt to print as many queries as space on this page allows. Send to: Harold D. Lehman
1068 College Avenue
Harrisonburg, VA, 22802

A Correction Received:

I appreciate the Shenandoah Mennonite Historian and was glad to receive my summer issue recently.

However, I want to call attention to a mistake I noticed in the article about Henry Rhodes. "They also felt that Frederick (Rhodes) was associating with the Brethren Church too much and was now preaching like a Brethren." In the History of Mennonites in Virginia (1727-1900) by Harry Anthony Brunk, page 81, it is said that the charge against Frederick was that he preached like a United Brethren preacher, not Brethren. And, of course, Brethren and United Brethren are two different denominations.

Virginia Weaver Driver
Route 5, Box 68
Waynesboro, VA 22980
October 12, 1997

Can you answer this query?

I started out with a query and seeing blanks lately, I'd like to ask again. If Benjamin Wenger was fairly famous ("Preached in German--Claw Hammer Coat"), then somebody ought to know the answer. (I even joined the Mock Family Newsletter to no avail).

Query:

My wife's GGGF Benjamin Wenger (C99 Wenger Book) married Mary Ann Mauck b.1782, d.1850 C, Rockingham County, VA (possibly "Ann Marie"). Her parents were?

C.R. (Charlie) Almstedt
5222 Poinciana Drive
Houston, TX 77092-5625
October 13, 1997

Minutes of the Annual Meeting

October 25, 1997

Trissels Mennonite Church

Abbreviated Minutes

The Treasurer, Elroy Kauffman, presented a written report of the finances of the Association. He stated that the present bank balance was \$1368 in checking and \$32.00 in savings.

Cal Redekop presented the newly published brochure for the Historians. Brochures were distributed to the membership for distribution in churches and to friends. There were expressions of approval for the attractive and well-written brochure.

A written report from the Site Selection Committee was given to the members. Cal Redekop, reporting for the Site Selection Committee, stated that Der Dutchman Corporation's plans for developing an Inn/Restaurant/Conference Center were on hold for two or three years.

Action I: That we look with favor on the direction the Site Selection Committee has suggested in their report, and further that we continue the conversation with Der Dutchman Corporation, recognizing that they are a preferred potential participant in the Heritage Center related developments, and further that we continue to search for other participants in the developments related to the Heritage Center, and further that the Executive Committee appoint a Steering Committee to begin looking at possible program and structure of the SVMH.

The Nominating Committee's report was given by Committee Chair Laban Peachey. He was assisted in the search for officers by Virginia Grove Weaver and Gerald Brunk.

Action II. That the following persons be elected to the offices of the Shenandoah Valley Mennonite Historians: Steve Shenk, Chairman; Harold Lehman, Editor of the Newsletter, and Lois Bowman, Sixth Member of the Executive Committee.

--H. Michael Shenk, Secretary

Recent Acquisitions

To the EMU Archives as of 1/5/98:

John R. Mumaw Collection, five boxes, primarily correspondence, much of it from the 1920s. The Mumaw Collection is our largest collection.

George R. Brunk II Collection, 12 boxes. Several very significant boxes that include files and photographs from major Brunk Tent Evangelism Crusades of the 1950s and 1960s, as well as some boxes of tapes of recent broadcasts over WAZT, Woodstock. The Brunk materials, together with the dozen boxes received earlier from Myron Augsburg on his community and city-wide crusades, clearly mark the EMU Archives as having the most major collection on the Mennonite mass evangelism phenomena from the 1950s through the 1970s.

Books Abroad Files, an independent work begun by Elizabeth Showalter and continued by Betty Drescher and more recently by Jessie Hamilton.

Fredericksburg Mennonite Church Records (the congregation has ceased to operate).

Various congregations keep sending significant materials. Other congregations are encouraged to do the same.

Shem Peachey Materials, including a good bit of correspondence.

--James O. Lehman, Archivist

Mennonite Heritage Center News

At the annual meeting of the Shenandoah Valley Mennonite Historians in October, Cal Redekop reported on the work of the Site Selection Committee. Der Dutchman Corporation, a preferred potential participant, cannot consider an Inn/Restaurant/Conference Center at Harrisonburg for the next two or three years. It was decided to continue conversations with Der Dutchman Corporation but to explore other possible participants in the Center's development.

The Executive Committee was asked to appoint a Steering Committee to begin plans for the program and structure of the Heritage Center. The current vision includes a central complex serving as a museum and research center, a conference room accommodating

500-600 people, a large restaurant, and an inn with 20-40 rooms connected to the restaurant and conference room.

Look for updates on the progress of the plans for the Center in upcoming issues of the newsletter and other Mennonite publications. To provide ideas and input on the Heritage Center contact Steve Shenk, SVMH chairman, or any member of the Executive Committee.

--Angela Showalter

Membership

To become a member of Shenandoah Valley Mennonite Historians and to receive future copies of this newsletter, send name and address and 1998 dues (\$10 per couple, \$6 per single) to:

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