

This publication has come to life, after a period of quietude, at the request of the Board of Governors of the Exile Society in order to inform you and your friends that one of the greatest events in Schwenkfelder history is in the making.

At this point the editor began thinking of the early days of The Exile Herald, of the large cards on which it was once printed, how publication was suspended during the war and of the rumors, yes, even suggestions, that the Exile Society itself, having served a useful purpose for many years, should disband and be numbered among the good things of the past. The Board of Governors, the faithful few who make the plans and provide the ideas (!), talked the matter over for several meetings.

Then came a report of the treasurer that even after the Society had held no meetings for many months, still members paid their dues and acted as though the Society were not moribund. Then up spoke a voice in one meeting, "These times need the message of hope and forwardlookingness that our ancestors had. They came from persecution to these shores and helped work out a nation in this new land. This Society is needed!"

Other members agreed. The old editor was intrusted to issue another edition of the Exile Herald to tell members that the sentiment prevails that the Society should be kept alive and---

The biggest piece of news in the history of the Society may already be known to you:

One of the members of the Board of Governors, four years ago created a building fund for a fireproof building to house all those priceless Schwenkfelder books, manuscripts, etc., now stored on second floor of Carnegie Library of Perkiomen School, Pennsburg.

A separate corporation, known as "Schwenkfelder Library" was formed. Wayne C. Meschter, president, Malcolm Schweiker, vice president, Lester K. Kriebel, Secretary and Wayne H. Rothenberger, treasurer. A plot of ground on west side of Seminary Ave., north of present Perkiomen School building, was secured as a site for the new Library.

Plans and specifications for a modern fireproof building were completed by end of 1949. Bids for erection of same were asked for. Unfortunately, however, the prices submitted were so excessively high that all had to be rejected.

The architect and building committee are now giving further study to project and it is hoped satisfactory arrangements can be made so that construction can be started by spring of this year.

Steps have been taken to obtain a competent librarian. Mr. Andrew Schultz Berky, a senior at Franklin & Marshall College, is preparing himself for such work and the corporation has engaged him to become "Director of Library" as soon as ready. He will classify the material already on hand -- a task impossible in present crowded quarters -- and serve as director of new Library.

The new Library building will be erected whether the Exile Society continues or not, but everyone must agree that after it is completed, it will afford a most appropriate place for the Society to meet.

THE DESCENDENTS OF THE SCHWENKFELDIAN EXILES

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