

ARCHIVES

IOWA DISTRICT EAST

Pastor Herman P. Greif and Pastor Julius Studt

Within the IDE Archives file for Trinity Lutheran at Davenport, Iowa there is a three page handwritten document which identifies no author, but contains information about Pastor Herman P. Greif and Pastor Philipp Studt. The information is written up in brief statements and sometimes the handwriting is unclear. However, to give our IDE membership a chance to know a little about these pioneering pastors of the Iowa District, your IDE Archivist is making this document available to you for your information.

Introduction to Pastor Herman P. Greif

Rev. Herman P. Greif was born at Giddings, Texas on 20 June, 1874, son of Rev. Albin D. & Louise Grief. He completed his studies at Concordia Seminary-Springfield, Illinois in 1895. He was serving as pastor at Greens Creek and Warrenton, Texas when he accepted the call to Trinity Lutheran in Davenport and was installed on the 18th Sunday of Trinity, 1897. His father was the senior pastor of the congregation. Rev. Herman Greif served as assistant pastor and was also given the added tasks of assisting in teaching at the parochial school and serving as missionary to the city of Davenport. The result of his missionary work in Davenport was the founding of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, of which he was called to serve as pastor in 1900. Pastor Greif accepted a call to St. Paul-Williamsburg in 1913, where he served until 1935, at which time he resigned due to poor health and continued living in the Williamsburg area. In 1939, he became the pastor at Trinity-Conroy, where he served until 1945, at which time he resigned due to poor health and old age. Pastor Herman Greif died at West Allis, Wisconsin on 06 July, 1959, and was buried at the Fairmont Cemetery in Davenport.ⁱ

Introduction to Pastor Julius Studt

Rev. Philipp Studt was born at Belleville, Illinois on 07 January, 1841, son of Philipp & Margarete Studt. While studying for the ministry at Concordia Seminary-St. Louis, he was assigned as a vicar to Rev. J.J. Döscher in Iowa in 1866. He did not return to St. Louis to finish his studies, but, due to the great need for laborers in the field of Iowa, received a colloquy interview and ordained and installed as pastor in Luzerne on 07 May, 1866. Out of Luzerne, he assisted in establishing a number of mission congregations in the surrounding area. Due to health issues, he ended his pastoral service in May of 1905 and moved to Rock Island, Illinois. Regaining strength again, he served various churches until 1907. Pastor Studt died on 20 November, 1913. Burial was at Luzerne, Iowa.ⁱⁱ

TRANSCRIPTION OF DOCUMENT

Herman Greif

Assistant at Trinity Davenport. Founded by Prof Selle of Addison. Vom Hof followed him. Then Streckfuss, A.D. Greif. Trinity founded near the railroad track. First had an old building which was used as a school. First church building was finished when Greif came. \$40 a month salary. Used a horse and buggy. Had to have double header ~~services in the morning~~ sermon in the morning & evening. Then went to Buffalo in the afternoon often would preach after eating a piece of bread and drink a cup of coffee. Herman Greif assisted at Trinity 2 years, then became missionary to Scott County. 14 ministers in Southeastern Iowa at that time. Factories, like cigar factories, glucose, saw mills, made prospects for the church. When people would go to church from among the Holsteiners working at the factory they would be kidded: "Are you so dumb that you'd go to church." This caused many a timid soul to quit going. Had streetcars drawn by horses and mules. Steamboats on the river regularly. When A. Greif came to Davenport about a block from the parsonage there lived an old man who would say each time the minister went "Damned old Preacher." About 10 years after he became a ~~member of the church~~ Christian. A Greif received several letters warning him to get out of town in 24 hrs. Nothing ever happened. Police did guard the place a while. Had adult membership classes, one numbering 17. (Herman Greif was born in a log cabin in Serbin, Texas. Father died few weeks before he was born. Mother had typhoid. And Greif took him a few months after he was married.) A. Greif was president of the District. A. Greif went to Charter Oak rural.

H. Grief started with 3 in Davenport rented a Methodist Chapel. Started a Sunday School. Ordered to either stop the S.S. or quit the church. Had German S.S. Had to move so rented a vacant Grocery store until the \$10.00 a month was below the rent that could be had. Then rented 3rd story of a dance all. When it became too difficult for older ones to climb steps, District Syn. Decided to build a church. A church was organized with 3 voting members. Had SS of 90 Holy Cross Ch. Had a preaching station in the West end. Had 7 places. Buffalo, Blue Grass, Durant, Eldridge, Pleasant Valley. Last 5 were lost because no help was available. At Durant preached on Tuesday eve. Alternating with Eldridge. West end died out and was later started by A. Bostelmann. Greif 16 yr in Davenport. H. Greif was ordained on his father's 25th anniversary in the ministry.

Baumhoefner started Homestead and also Immanuel Wmsbg. [Williamsburg] Started in town of Wmsbg. Also. In Wmsbg. started in the city hall. All three started with schools. In Wmsbg. School was in the rear of the church. Started under Baumhoefner at Conroy with a school. Oxford was tried but it did not flourish. Worked this area among farmers. Williamsburg a town of retired farmers.

Studt

Sent from St. Louis to help Doerscher. Reported at State Center Fall 1865. Found Doescher husking corn. Asked him if he cld [could] husk. Ans. [Answer] That is not why I came. Helped Doescher shl [?] time. Original Luzerne church at cemetery. Wanted to call him. Had not completed his course. Compromised with St. Louis to make colloquium under Buenger at Rock

Island. Became local pastor. Came to Luzerne and stayed in Conrad Tatge house. Lived in a log cabin. Married daughter of Conrad Tatge. Married 1869 by driving to Homestead in a lumber wagon married by Rev. Schuermann. First parsonage built where now Tatge donated all church property. Salary 300.00. After 38 yrs. when he quit in 1906 received \$500.00. Helped out by incidentals. July 4, 1866 preached near Atkins. Traveled on Indian pony furnished by Mission Bd. Then Prairie north here. Had to swim [unclear] with high water. Abt. yr. [About year] later started Eldorado N. of Newhall. Later St. Clair twshp [township]. Had an ass't [assistant] by name of Rev. Herman for a while. He taught school and assisted. Started School right away which Studt taught. Had a teacher most of time. Mission festivals started out in ch. [church]. Crowd too lge [large], so hld [held] outside. Communion set came thru confirmation class. R.R. [Railroad] came thru 1868-1869. Trains stopped here. Occasionally an attempt was made at ~~attempt~~ S.S. in Public School. Area settled by German & Frish. [Frisians=Dutch/Danish] Catholic church started West of here. Failed. 5 mi. North a Catholic settlement. Town of Luzerne once had 300 now 100. A Keller at Luzerne invented the drive chain link out of wood. South of Luzerne all timber. North was plains. People settled amongst trees so they had fuel. Traded at Iowa City in the 50s. Bucheye was first near trading point. Homes were frame buildings of modest size. Always has been farming area. A mill was here. A wagon maker was also here. School has as high as 60-70 pupils taught by one teacher two languages. In God forsaken Iowa he did not want to be and in this area Studt didn't care to stay. Studt was only one who could use English and that poorly. Had a cemetery before Studt came. Much more trouble in the district then now. Work was mostly in German. Did confirm some in English. A Danish settlement South of Luzerne used Studt when they needed a pastor. A Bohemian settlement S. of Luzerne which he also served in German when needed. Luzerne had several saloons. Quite a wild town. Tried one of members for playing cards on the Sabbath days. Hitching racks in front of the church. Had a young peoples society which met in the school house. Courted from there. Studs together quite a bit. Y.P.S. [Young Peoples Society] was principally choir, orchestra or band. Putting on entertainment. Bible study never very strong. First teacher got \$200 a year. A teacher drifted in and asked to be hired. Had no teacher so he was hired. Could play organ without notes. Left one night without notice because a girl would not marry him in the congregation. Organ in the church since 1890. Had a reed organ in early days. Janitor service & organ playing, altar clothes laundered by the pastor's wife. Pastor's boys had to ring the bell and bring in wood & pump organ & play organ. Ladies Aid not until after 1906. Prairie chickens used to be trapped around here. Deer. Wolves howled around the log cabins.

Transcribed by Allen E. Konrad
 IDE Archivist
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ⁱ Compilation of information from *Excerpts from the History of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church—Davenport, Iowa* (IDE Archives folder for Trinity-Davenport); *Golden Jubilee 1904-1954, A History* (IDE Archives folder for St. Paul-Williamsburg); and Herman P. Greif Obituary (*Zum Gedächtnis*) in *Der Lutheraner*, Vol. 115:21, 1959, p.369.
ⁱⁱ Obituary of Philipp Studt, *Todesanzeigen—Der Lutheraner*, Vol. 69:26, 1913, p.412-13.