



The Early Teacher Graduates

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

A. C. Stellhorn

The record of early teacher graduates, herewith presented, has to our best knowledge never been written or published. So far as the writer has been able to determine until now, it is complete and authentic, though subject to further investigation. It should, therefore, be published in our periodicals as a source to which future historians will be happy to refer. It is in itself a testimony to the glory of God and the foresight He gave to our fathers to look after the training of reliable, well-indoctrinated Lutheran teachers. It might also be regarded as a contribution toward the commemoration of one hundred years of separate teacher training.

A. Ft. Wayne Pastor-Teacher Seminary

1846-57

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1846: Wolff, Joh. G. | 1852: Schachameyer, Fr. |
| 1848: Ulrich, Casper
Pinkepank, Joh.
(Later a pastor)
Zagel, Andreas
(Later a pastor) | 1853: Kundinger, E.
Ernst, Otto |
| 1849: Seitz, Joh.
Koch, Julius | 1854: Wedel, H.
Luecke, Chr. |
| 1850: Kaepfel, Joh. | 1855: Kirsch, C. H. |
| | 1856: Brandstettner, G. |
| | 1857: Matthes, Chr. Total 15 |

Concordia Seminary Library
6800 N. Clinton Street
Ft. Wayne, IN. 46825

- Abiturienten (Graduates). "50-jaehriges Jubilaeum des Concordia Seminars zu Springfield, Ill., 1846-96," pp. 193-195. St. Louis, Mo.: Concordia Publishing House. 1896.

B. St. Louis Pastor-Teacher Seminary

1850-63

Note. Concordia College, St. Louis, Mo., as it was then called and incorporated, did not publish its teacher graduates; but the following received their training, or most of it, at that institution. They are taken from a list of students for the school years 1850-51 to 1855-56, and their service as teachers established from synodical records.

- Becker, Johann A., began teaching 1863, served 7 years.
 Burgdorf, Aug. C., began teaching 1864, served 50 years; parochial school, 1864-70; Principal, Lutheran High School and Walther College, 1870-1907; continued as faculty member, 1907-14.
 Fischer, Ferdinand, taught 1862-65, at Frohna, Mo., as a called teacher. Began his training at the Perry County College.

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- List of students at Concordia College, St. Louis, Mo.
Lutheraner 12, 140. Other sources.

Bewie, Heinrich W., began his studies here in 1854; graduated in
Ft. Wayne 1859.

C. Milwaukee Teachers Seminary

January, 1855, to October, 1857

1855: Bodemer, Franz. History, Trinity, Milwaukee, Wis., 1897, p. 29.

1856: Deffner, Louis. Minutes, Holy Cross, Wartburg (Waterloo), Ill.
Nickel, Peter. Obituary, Lutheraner 32, 157.

1857: Mueller, Carl. Synodal-Bericht 1857, p. 310 (reprint).

D. Ft. Wayne Teachers Seminary

1857-64

First Graduating Class at Easter Time, 1859

Before or After Easter, 1859

Albrecht, Herman Haertel, Franz
Bewie, Heinrich W. Kohlstock, H. Bertram
Beyer, G. Michael Krumsieg, F.
Eggers, E. A. Nagel, Caspar
Fathauer, F. Nuechterlein, J. Geo.
Feiertag, Benjamin Winter, J. F. August
Glaser, Traugott Zacharias, G. Th.

Emrich, Johann Paul
Roecker, Johann Georg

1860: Griebel, H. W.
Herpolsheimer, Karl
Hoppe, Heinrich Wilhelm
Reifert, Herman E.
Steuber, Georg
Wilk, Wilhelm Friedrich

1863: Gertenbach, Adam Oswald
Krome, August
Mueller, J.H. Philip
Steinbach, Louis
Ungemach, Johann H.
Wambsganss, Georg

1861: Bartelt, Gottfried
Brakesuehler, H. W.

1864: Backhaus, J. L.
Later Addison professor

1862: Garbisch, Samuel
Gruber, J. Leonhardt
Gruber, Joseph
Lindemann, Daniel
Lossner, H. A. S.
Moeller, J. F.
Rix, Friedrich
Seitz, Georg

Dress, Ernst H.
Hoelter, Heinrich F.
Kurz, Johann G.
Lankenau, Heinrich *
Pump, Michael
Riebling, Johann
Wegner, Johann H. W.
Weisel, G. Adolf
Wilde, August W. F.
Zitzlaff, Carl Ludwig Total: 49

* Not certain about year of graduation. First served in the Civil War cavalry, then on a Ft. Wayne newspaper, was a county official, taught public school in Ohio. In our schools (Bingen and Friedheim, Ind.), 1886-1909.

#3.- Early Teacher Graduates

- Sources: List of students, special issue of the Spectator, May, 1932. Synodical reports, Kalender, Lutheraner, Ev.-Luth. Schulblatt, congregational and school histories.

Grand total of teacher graduates, before the opening of the Evangelical Lutheran Teachers Seminary at Addison, Illinois, in 1864, was: 71.

Students Who Transferred from Milwaukee to Ft. Wayne

November 10, 1857

Bellin, August. Died as a Ft. Wayne student in 1861.
Eggers, E. A. Graduated in 1859.
Riebling, Johann. Graduated in 1864.
Schoenfeld, - - -. No record.

Students Who Transferred from Ft. Wayne to Addison

Summer of 1864

Note. Several reports say there were 18, but only the following were found in the Spectator list of students, 1857-64. That list may be incomplete. Where it was obtained in 1932, is not stated. Prof. H. C. Gaertner says in the Lutheran School Journal, Vol. 67 (1932), p. 391; "The Ft. Wayne records were destroyed in the fire of the Administration Building (of River Forest) in 1914."

Denninger, Johann Georg, graduate of Addison 1865.
Hoffmann, Wilhelm F., graduate of Addison 1865; retained as an instructor in Music for about a year; called to Trinity, Milwaukee.
Meier, Fr. J. D., graduate of Addison 1866.
* Mueller, Andreas (possibly in this group), graduate of Addison 1868.
Ohlendorf, H. F. W., graduate of Addison 1865.
Pieritz, Gotthilf Heinrich Friedrich, graduate of Addison 1868.
Steuber, H., graduate of Addison 1866.
* Wilde, August F. W. (possibly in this group), graduate of Addison 1867.

* The Ft. Wayne student list names only a "Miller" (should have been J. H. Philip Mueller, and likely also Andreas Mueller) and one "Wilde" (should have been August W. F. Wilde, and likely also August F. W. Wilde).

Ft. Wayne Students Who Did Not Go into Teaching

Bellin, August. Died 1861
Brutheuser, - -. No record
Gaertner, Karl. No record as teacher
* Keller, - -.
Schoenfeld, - -. No record
Schumann, - -. No record
Stoeffler, - -. No record
** Westrumb, - -. No record

* Pastor C. F. Keller graduated at Ft. Wayne in 1861.
** Probably H. C. F. Westrumb, a passenger agent in Ft. Wayne, mentioned in Lutheraner 28 (4-1-1872), p. 104.

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Difficulties in Establishing This Record

Limited Sources

Our research faculties were strained to the utmost in establishing this record. As stated, the Ft. Wayne Teachers Seminary records were destroyed in the River Forest fire. The Spectator gave only the family names of the Ft. Wayne teacher students, except in a few cases, and some of these are definitely misspelled, like "Rocker" for Roecker, "Emmerich" for Emrich; and the list is evidently incomplete, though we are thankful for its near completeness (nowhere else found). Directors Ph. Fleischmann at Ft. Wayne and J. C. W. Lindemann at Addison, in their Lutheraner and Schulblatt reports, often said how many were graduated in a given year, and discussed numerous other details, down to a monthly menu in the dining hall, but did not say who graduated, except in these rare instances: 1867, 1876, 1879, 1881-84, 1887, 1890-91, 1894, 1897-98, 1902. The Schulblatt did publish a list of Addison students in October, 1866 (added a supplement of newcomers later). In 1869, as a fifth anniversary feature, it published a roster of all students who had attended Addison from Sept. 1, 1864, to June 30, 1869, showing those who had graduated, with place of service; those who had died or left the seminary without going into teaching (very valuable roster). In 1889, as a twenty-fifth anniversary feature, Director E. A. W. Krauss published a list of students from 1864 to 1889, but gave only family names (the list is almost valueless). If five "Muellers" attended, the name "Mueller" occurs five times in a row, and one does not know which Muellers are meant. The Lutheraner published no graduation lists or teacher installations, only pastor and professor installations and changes of addresses for pastors and teachers, until 1902, when a special order of the Synod was given. Obituaries of teachers were not too frequent, and many are not published this day; which is a great loss to the historian. The Schulblatt published quite a number of teacher installations, beginning in 1875, and some obituaries or biographies. The Statistical Yearbook was not published till 1884. The Kalender, published since 1870, was not at our disposal, except the issues for 1876, 1877, and 1888 forward, available at the Bureau of Statistics. District reports from 1855 to 1865 were not available; but our library has a complete set of the Synod's reports from 1847 forward, and they contain a roster of pastors, teachers, and professors, but from 1854 on only every three years, always by Districts.

Errors in the Publications and Records

Behold the typographical errors and misspellings! In Vol. 1 of the Lutheraner (1844-45), Dr. Walther reported that "a Dr. W. Schler" had come to America. In one of the next issues he reported that it should have been "Dr. W. Sihler." This mistake and correction are found only in the original volume, not in the reprint of Vols. 1-6.

But similar "Schler" errors are found in the synodical reports and our other periodicals and magazines. Since the Spectator list of Ft. Wayne students named a "Miller," we pursued him (FBI style) through our periodicals, and found a C. W. Miller, not a graduate of our institutions. His name was variously given also as "Karl W. Mueller," "W. Miller," "C. Miller," and when he had a change of address, he published this note: "Miller, W., frueher Baltimore, jetzt Wm. Miller, St. Charles, Mo." So there was another form of the name. The facts in such a case have to be established by data and dates that all point to the same man.

Take the Wildes. There were four of them in the records, all of them listed as "A. Wilde" or only "Wilde." Through our research we found that their true

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names were: Albert Wilde (a later teacher), August F. W. Wilde, August W. F. Wilde, and F. W. Wilde, whose full records were established.

Or the Backhauses - there were six of them, or, with the changes in their initials and family names, at least a dozen. Two of them were later teachers. But who were the other four? who the student at Ft. Wayne? We found that this student was J. L. (Johannes Leonard) Backhaus, who graduated at Ft. Wayne in 1864, and was the later professor at Addison and River Forest (1884-1915; died 1919). Then there was J. H. Backhaus, probably a brother of the professor (both were born in Amsterdam, Holland, and settled in Laporte, Ind.). It took long to establish his true record, because the records we had were all mixed up among the Backhauses. He finally called himself "Backus," which added to the confusion. But now we have his record clear from his graduation at Addison in 1868, where his name was given as "J. F. Backhaus," to the date of his retirement, March 11, 1901, at Zion, St. Louis, Mo. But neither Zion nor anyone else seems to know anything about his death and burial. Three Lutheran cemeteries in St. Louis were called up, but they have no record of a Backhaus or Backus; a number of people and places were asked, but so far nothing has been learned. You see, no obituary was published! and the man had taught 33 years. - Next, J. H. F. Backhaus, so listed as a graduate of Addison in 1887, but thereupon given only as "H. or Heinrich Backhaus," until he had been in Davenport, Ia., for a while, and changed his name to "Heinrich Bockhaus." Later, at Omaha, he was installed as "H. Bockhaus," but in the address below the installation notice he was called "W. Bockhaus." He is the father of Teachers Gustav and Max Bockhaus in Milwaukee, and of Clara Bockhaus who married Teacher Bernard C. Meyer. - Finally, H. Backhaus, listed as an Addison Student in 1869. At first we dismissed him as probably not having graduated; but further search revealed that he graduated at Addison in 1872, and taught at Conklin, Mich., and Peoria, Ill. His first name was probably "Heinrich" also. He did not change his family name.

Another tussle was had with the name Garbisch, listed as a Ft. Wayne student, who graduated in 1862. We found a Samuel Garbisch in an obituary; it said that he graduated from the Ft. Wayne Teachers Seminary. Before we knew this, we looked at the Synodal-Berichte for 1860 and 1863. In the latter, p. 5, we found an "L. Gerwisch" as received into synodical membership; and in the roster of pastors and teachers, p. 106, same report, he is given as "L. Gerbisch." In the report for 1866, p. 11, he is called "L. Garwisch"; then, finally, in the report for 1869, p. 7, he is listed as "S. Garbisch." To complicate matters, there was an H. Garbisch in our records; he was found to have been a graduate of Addison in 1887, there listed as H. Ch. G. Garbisch. This, we found, was Herman Garbisch, son of the foregoing.

In the process of establishing the record of the 49 graduates of Ft. Wayne, 1857-64, we had occasion to clear the record of 78 early teacher graduates - 29 from Addison. Both the Bureau of Statistics and our School Office have either complete or skimpy, correct or incorrect records on all teachers ever named in our publications, from 1844 to the present time. A temporary helper in the School Office long ago, who was able to read German, compiled our record; Statistician E. Eckhardt compiled that of the Bureau of Statistics. Most index cards have enough data for a good lead. A few have only a name, or only a family name. Thus, one of our cards had only: "Kusch," and it was misspelled. The name was Andreas Kuch, a graduate of Addison in 1870, who taught at Amelith and Sebewaing, Mich., 1870-82, and then resigned.

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Anyone having additional information, or corrections to make, should by all means inform the writer. Even obituaries, often based upon information from the family of the deceased, are not always definite, and contain errors. So do the histories of congregations and of schools. A teacher is reported to have come in 1887, when the installation notice says June 6, 1881. Yes, Master's theses, Doctor's dissertations, and the articles of careful historians contain errors. Often one copies the errors of another, and does not investigate. Every historical article should be superscribed: "These are the facts so far as they could be determined at this time." It certainly applies to this article.

Careers of the Milwaukee Graduates

Franz Bodemer, born Aug. 6, 1831, at Karlsruhe, Baden, Germany, was the first graduate of the Teachers Seminary in Milwaukee. He must have had previous training, for he graduated in 1855, the first year of the Seminary's operation, at the age of 24. He was called to teach the lower grades at Trinity School, Milwaukee, Wis., where the prominent organist Christian Diez had charge of the upper grades. Bodemer served this school 8 years, 1855-63; then the school at Lebanon, Wis., 20 years, 1863-83; and finally a school at Sheboygan, Wis., for 3 years, 1883-86. He retired to Milwaukee after 31 years of teaching, died there Jan. 24, 1910, age 78 years, 5 months, and 18 days. He was buried at Watertown, Wis.

Louis S. Deffner, father of the late Teacher Th. L. F. Deffner, lastly at Lincoln, Nebr., and grandfather of Prof. Emil H. Deffner, now at River Forest, was born Dec. 25, 1826, at Harburg, Bavaria, Germany. He graduated from the Milwaukee Seminary in 1856, at the age of almost 30 years, and taught a total of 42 years at the following places: Holy Cross, Wartburg (Waterloo), Ill., 1856-60; St. John's, Red Bud, Ill., 1866-71; St. Genevieve, Mo., 1871-90; and St. John's, St. Louis, Mo., 1890-98. He retired to the Milwaukee area, and died during a church service outside of Milwaukee on May 14, 1899, age 72 years, 4 months, and 9 days. He was buried in Concordia Cemetery, St. Louis, Mo., where also his wife was buried in 1895. (For a more extensive biography, see Lutheraner 1957, No. 22)

Peter Nickel, father of the late Supt. Wm. Nickel of Kansas and his brother pastors Julius and Martin, grandfather of Pastors Edmund and Theodor Nickel and Teacher Eugene Nickel, was born July 18, 1836, in Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany. He graduated from the Milwaukee Seminary in 1856, age 20, and served at the following places: Zion, Crete, Ill., 1½ year, 1856-58; Zion, Addison or Bensenville, Ill., 9 years, 1858-67, teaching a public school (Schulblatt 2, 191) connected with the local Lutheran school; Rich, or Richton, Cook Co., Ill., 3½ years, 1867-70; and Iron Mountain, No., 6 years, 1870-76, where he died April 28, 1876, at the age of 39 years, 9 months, and 10 days. He left his wife and five small children; these, or some of them, were brought up in the Addison Orphan Home. A beautiful obituary was written by his pastor (Lutheraner 32, 157). Nickel had come to America with his parents at the age of 11. The family joined the church of Rev. L. Dulitz in Milwaukee, and Peter found employment in a hotel. He went so strongly for the English language that he had trouble at the Seminary and in his first schools with his native German. That's why he left Crete so soon, says the obituary, and that's why he taught an English public school at Addison.

Carl Mueller, who is usually not mentioned as a graduate of the Milwaukee Teachers Seminary, was a student there according to Lutheraner 12 (1856), p. 199. He was graduated in 1857, and the same year received into synodical membership by the Northern District (Syn.-Bericht 1857, 310, reprint). Places of service were: Town Theresa, Wis., 1857; Amelith, Mich., 1858; Peoria, Ill., 1858-60; Wartburg (Waterloo), Ill., 1860-62; "Lowell bei St. Louis, c/o Dr. Walther," 1862-66; Port Hudson, Mo., 1866-68; and at a branch school of New Minden, Ill., 1868-78. Resigned in March, 1878. Taught 21 years. No obituary.