



Institute Receives Crämer Letters

In November 2006 Concordia Historical Institute received an interesting addition to its collection of papers of August Friedrich Crämer, founder of the Lutheran colony at Frankenmuth, Michigan, and long-time president of the Missouri Synod's seminary at Springfield, Illinois (now Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana).

The donation consists of copies of fourteen letters written by Crämer to his brother, Carl von Crämer, between 1840 and 1877. The letters, in the form of scanned images of the originals and annotated transcriptions, were a gift from Prof. Wolfgang Crämer of Rosenheim, Germany. Prof. Crämer contacted the Institute in the hope that we might have related correspondence from Carl to August in our collection. Unfortunately, such is not the case.

The letters in this donation were written from Munich (1840) and Neuendettelsau (1843) in Germany before August Crämer's emigration to the United States and from Frankenmuth, Michigan (1846-1850); Fort Wayne, Indiana (1851, 1860); Saint Louis, Missouri (1862-1874); and Springfield, Illinois (1877). In addition, Prof. Crämer has provided us with an extensive genealogy of the Crämer family back to about 1600, pictures of some of the family members in Germany and other family history documents.

The letters offer important information on the Crämer family as well as August's insights into the life of the seminary that he served, the Missouri Synod and the national situation, particularly before and during the Civil War. For example, in a letter written on 5 December 1860 Crämer comments on the impending split between the North and the South, a situation he finds to be influenced to some extent by the presence in the U.S. of some of the revolutionary element that fled from Germany after 1848. Not knowing what to



August Friedrich Crämer

expect, he comments that perhaps "we should flee to Canada in the next year." He goes on to report on the Missouri Synod's plans to move the practical seminary, which he heads, to Saint Louis to join with the seminary there, while keeping the two programs distinct. He notes that this will take him 400 miles further west. A letter of 8 November 1862 from Saint Louis comments on the war-related experiences that had taken place there the previous year regarding the federal arsenal.

August Friedrich (also sometimes given as Friedrich August) Crämer was born on 26 May 1812 in Kleinlangheim, Bavaria. In 1830 he began his studies at the University of Erlangen. Due to his political activities in a movement that attempted to unify Germany, he was imprisoned from 1833 to 1839. After his release he entered the Philology Seminary under Dr. Thiersch and graduated in 1841. He served as a tutor to several houses of the nobility in England and Germany before he came under the influence of Wilhelm Loehe and began to work with Loehe in 1843. Crämer was ordained in 1845 and left for America as a missionary to the Indians. When he arrived in New York, he married Dorothea Benthien, one of his fellow passengers. They settled in the area that is now Frankenmuth, Michigan, and founded the Lorenzkirche (Saint

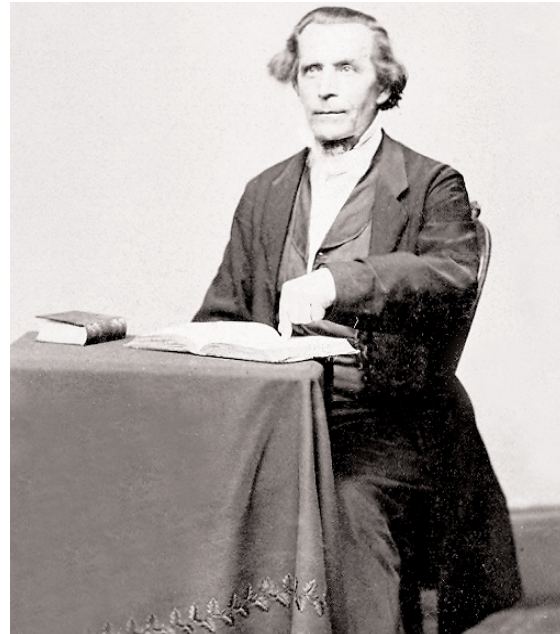


Carl von Crämer

(Continued from page one)

Lorenz Lutheran Church) there, also carrying out missionary activities among the Indians in the area. In 1850 Crämer was elected professor at the Missouri Synod practical seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana, which had been started through the efforts of Loehe. In 1861 he moved with the seminary program to Saint Louis, Missouri, because of the Civil War. In 1875 the practical seminary was transferred to Springfield, Illinois. Crämer died on 3 May 1891. Of his eight children, three became pastors and two were teachers. A grandson, Justus F. Craemer, was a candidate for the U.S. Senate from California in the 1930s.

The August Friedrich Crämer Collection at the Institute includes personal documents relating to his education, his certification for ordination signed by Wilhelm Loehe, additional correspondence, class notes, sermons and other writings and correspondence of the Collegium Fratrum, an organization of seminary students and graduates formed to provide mutual support.



August Friedrich Crämer was ordained in 1845 and left for America as a missionary to the Indians.

Institute's Research Department

“Concordia Historical Institute, Research Department. How may I help you?” The next few minutes are always interesting as we are privileged to learn how we may help others answer any number of questions. Of course people also make these requests via the post office or e-mail, but the curiosity is always the same. E-mail is our favorite way to correspond, because it gives us a written record of requests, and yet has more of the immediacy of phone conversations than the post office allows.

What kinds of questions do we tend to get? Because we are the depository of records from LCMS churches that have closed, we receive many requests to look into those official acts for genealogical research. Researchers also commonly inquire about information on a pastor, usually either for a genealogy or a church anniversary.

The wealth of information held here extends so much farther than these typical requests. Our collection contains answers to questions about the history of the LCMS and other Lutheran church bodies in America. Stack after stack in the archives holds files detailing the history of Lutheran organizations such as the LWML or the Walther League. One floor of the archives holds numerous old Bibles in German and other languages, church agendas, and hymnals. These short descriptions hardly do justice to the comprehensiveness of the collection in our archives and library. As researchers, we have the privilege of actually experiencing history firsthand through this immense collection of materials.

Perhaps if we each share a story on our most interesting request, that might shed some light into our work here.

[Laura:] One morning there was a message from someone in Hollywood, California. He needed copies of authentic German services for a wedding and baptism that would have occurred in Germany in the 1800s. I was able to locate an 1822 Lutheran Agenda from Berlin. I sent the copies to him. It was to be part of a play opening on Broadway this fall. Interestingly enough, it was the adoption of the 1822 Agenda that prompted the group from Saxony to leave Germany and come to Saint Louis.

[Tim:] Researching is often like solving a mystery. Following the paper trail and even a little bit of guesswork are involved before the culprit is found. A Synod employee once asked if we knew when the LCMS seal was adopted since the information was not on the Web site. On a hunch, I looked through the 1947 convention proceedings, because this was the Synod's centennial. I found that Synod had resolved that a seal should be made under the oversight of the Board of Directors. I then went to the minutes for the Board of Directors and found that The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's seal was officially adopted on August 13, 1948.

[Bill:] Some things happen merely by chance. A retired professor asked about an LCMS missionary to Brazil in the 1930s. He thought this missionary led an interesting life and wanted to write about it. By chance, this missionary's widow had sent in a collection of his old photos from Brazil, showing the ship they traveled on, the par-

(Continued from page two)

sonage, church building, and countryside, as well as some letters and sermons. The professor had all that he needed to write a very interesting article about this LCMS missionary.

Perhaps we can help you find what you are looking for. Please call, write or send an e-mail to reference@chi.lcms.org and we will do our best to serve you.

Chaplain Raymond C. Hohenstein: From Pearl Harbor to Tokyo Bay

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod had a navy chaplain who was wounded at Pearl Harbor and then was in the Tokyo Bay area at the end of World War II. His experiences epitomize the danger chaplains can be in while ministering to the soldiers and sailors in the military. The chaplain was Raymond C. Hohenstein and this is his story.

Raymond Charles Hohenstein was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, on August 13, 1907, to August and Harriet (Weyl) Hohenstein. He attended Concordia Seminary in Saint Louis and graduated in 1930. He served as a pastor at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Chicago, Illinois, before becoming the pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Park Ridge, Illinois, in 1931. He remained at Redeemer until he was commissioned into the United States Navy as a chaplain in 1940.

Chaplain Hohenstein began his service stationed on the *USS Boise* from 1940 to 1941, when he left to serve on the *USS California*. He was stationed on the *USS California* at Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii, on that fateful day in December 1941 when Japan attacked and the war began for the United States. Here is Chaplain Hohenstein's account taken from Chaplain Milton S. Ernstmeyer's book¹:

Death on a Pearl Harbor Battleship

While I stood and watched, general quarters was sounded aboard. I proceeded immediately and on the double to my battle station [forward battle dressing station] on the third deck just aft turret number 2. I shouted, "This isn't practice! This is a real raid!" to everyone I passed.

When I reached my battle station, the men were already closing the watertight doors. A few moments later the ship shook violently from an explosion that seemed to come directly beneath us. Before long, we smelled fumes. No one knew what they were, but we all felt dizzy. We must find our gas masks!

We broke open the watertight door on the starboard side to the passageway around the bar-

bette (armor shield) of turret number 2. But once the door opened, we forgot all about the masks. We saw men knee-deep in fuel oil, some already overcome by the fumes. We worked to help these men over the high coaming (a raised frame around the hatchway) into our compartment, where the starboard side was still dry. The ship already had listed to port.

Before long, though, the fumes affected us all. When my legs no longer supported me, I tried to get out of the way so others could work. I lost consciousness.

I don't know how much time elapsed. When I came to, I was lying on the starboard quarter-deck directly outside the door of the crew's lounge. I remember someone saying that all the injured must be moved inside. The Japs² were strafing the ships.

In the passageway stood one of our Guamian mess boys, also semiconscious from the fumes. When he recognized me, he clung desperately to me. In that moment, all color, creed, and military differences vanished. We were simply two Christians praying for God's mercy and professing our common Christian faith in the Apostles' Creed.

During this moment of prayer, another terrific explosion shook the ship (evidently the bomb amidships) and filled the passageway with smoke and debris. I lost consciousness again.



Pearl Harbor Raid, *USS California* after being hit by Japanese aerial torpedoes and bombs, December 1941. (US Navy Photo)

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When I awoke, I was lying again on the starboard quarterdeck. Thinking the ship might capsize (as someone said the *USS Oklahoma* had), I kicked off my shoes, ready to leap into the water. But we, the injured, were taken off ship.

The *USS California* was severely damaged and eventually sank. Chaplain Hohenstein's injuries consisted of flash burns to the face, scalp, and right arm. He was awarded the Purple Heart in 1943 for wounds received at the attack on Pearl Harbor. He was the first living navy chaplain to receive the award.



Chaplain R. C. Hohenstein conducting a service aboard the *USS Wisconsin* during WWII.

Chaplain Hohenstein went on to serve at the Submarine Base at Pearl Harbor, the Naval Training Center in Great Lakes, Illinois, the Naval Operating Base in Key West, Florida, and as senior chaplain on the *USS Wisconsin* during World War II. He served on the *USS Wisconsin* from 1944 to 1946; this service included being ashore in the Tokyo Bay area on September 2, 1945, when Japan officially surrendered. He was the only navy chaplain to be present at both the beginning and end of the war with Japan.

Following WWII, Chaplain Hohenstein continued his chaplaincy ministry by serving as assistant district chaplain to the 5th Naval District, Norfolk, Virginia; force chaplain, Cruiser-Destroyer Force, Pacific Fleet; academy chaplain, U. S. Coast Guard Academy, New London, Connecticut; senior chaplain at the Naval Training Center, San Diego, California; and force chaplain, Naval Forces in Japan. After retiring from the navy chaplaincy in 1961, he served the LCMS as the director of special services for the Armed Services Commission and associate secretary for the Lutheran Service Commission. In 1965, after structural changes, he became the executive secretary for the Lutheran Service Commission. He later became the assis-

tant executive secretary for field services in the Division of Services to Military Personnel for the Lutheran Council in the USA (LCUSA) after the inter-Lutheran council was formed and took over the service center duties from the Lutheran Service Commission. He retired in 1972.

Following his retirement from the military, Chaplain Hohenstein served for some twenty years as associate pastor of Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Bethesda, Maryland, and helped to start mission congregations in the Washington, D.C., area. Chaplain Raymond Hohenstein died of a heart attack on December 3, 1983, in Bethesda, Maryland, after a long service to God, church, and country.



Chaplain Raymond Charles Hohenstein

¹ M. S. Ernstmeier, ed., *They Shall Not March Alone: Glimpses into the Life and History of the Chaplaincy of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*, (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1990), 27-28.

² In order to maintain the original tone of these reports, now-embarrassing pejorative terms have not been changed.

Memorials

Selma Unterseher by Rev. Eugene and Mrs. Dorothy Juergensen.
 Rev. Harry R. Thiess by Rev. Eugene and Mrs. Dorothy Juergensen.
 Troy Goodin by Dr. William E. Holt.
 Rev. Frank J. Bauer by Rev. and Mrs. Louis H. Bier.
 Louis Krieger by Mr. Arthur Eiffert.
 Rev. Henry John Weseloh by Rev. Melvin L. Weseloh.
 Jo Labrousse by Mr. and Mrs. Paul L. Boehne.

Honors

Donation given by Dr. and Mrs. Scott J. Meyer in commemoration of Dr. Martin R. Noland's 50th Birthday.
 Donation given by Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in commemoration of their 70th Anniversary in 2007.

BOOK REVIEWS



Wittenberg, Missouri: In Touch with the Past

By Mary Beth Mueller Dillon

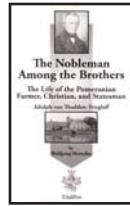
(n.p., 2006), 315 pages, 8.5 x 11", spiral bound, \$60.00 including postage. The subject is the town of Wittenberg, Missouri, founded by the Saxons of Perry County. The town suffered devastating floods in 1927 and 1943, and is abandoned today. This beautifully printed book features photos on every page, including many in color, all from the 20th century. All aspects of town life, including church and school, are included. More a pictorial than a narrative, the photos and other graphics are alone worth the price. Anyone whose ancestors lived in Wittenberg will want this book, as well as anyone interested in Perry County town life in the 20th century. To order, contact the author at: Mary Dillon, 2075 S. Lynhurst, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46241-4600; (317) 244-7513; e-mail: mary2075@sbcglobal.net.



A History of the Hispanic Missions in the Pacific Southwest District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

By Michael Doyle

(Upland, California: Dragonflyer Press, 2006), 460 pages, 8.5 x 11", photos, hardbound, \$34.95 plus \$4.00 per book shipping. The subject is the congregations of the Pacific Southwest District, which were carved out of the California and Nevada District of the LCMS in 1930. The book begins with a discussion of the founding of Los Angeles by the Spanish, and continues with the first Missouri Synod congregation in Southern California in 1882. Featured is the work among Spanish-speaking peoples by the Missouri Synod, trying to discern causes and results of this significant and growing work of ethnic ministry. Michael Doyle is known to CHI members as a recipient of the CHI Award of Commendation. To order, you may contact Dragonflyer Press at: www.dragonflyerpress.com; or Dragonflyer Press, 592 N. Euclid Ave., Upland, California, 91786; or fax: (909) 982-0869.



The Nobleman Among the Brothers: The Life of the Pomeranian Farmer, Christian, and Statesman-Adolph von Thadden-Trieglaff

By Wolfgang Marzahn

tr. A. Ihlenfeldt, ed. Royal Natzke (Bloomington, Indiana: AuthorHouse, 2006), 77 pages, 6 x 9", paperback, 33 images, maps, descendant chart, \$12.00 plus \$3.00 per book shipping. ISBN # 1420871102. This short biography gives an excellent background to the early history of the Buffalo Synod and the Breslau Synod, seen through the eyes of a faithful Lutheran aristocrat, Adolph von Thadden-Trieglaff. His estates were northeast of Stettin, on the delta of the Oder River. The book demonstrates how many Lutherans remained faithful to their confession within the state church throughout the nineteenth century. Adolph's son Reinhold started the Kirchentag after World War II, and the estate house is preserved today. To order, contact AuthorHouse at: www.authorhouse.com/bookstore; or ask for "Print on Demand" from Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble, or Borders; or contact Royal Natzke at: (262) 334-9811; e-mail: rdnatzke@execpc.com.



Menius, Open to Change: A Biographical Historical Sketch of the Menius' Name

By Joseph Menius

(n.p., 2006), 104 pages, 8.5 x 11", numerous images, maps, charts, \$25.00 plus shipping and handling. The author is a direct descendant of Justus Menius (1499-1558), who became a student at Wittenberg in 1519. Upon graduation, Justus served congregations in the greater Saxony/Thuringia region, received his doctorate, and is most known for his signature on the Schmalkald Articles in 1537. The author includes the history of the Menius family up to the present in Germany and America. To order, contact the author at: Joseph M. Menius, 4302 Barth Drive, Saint Louis, Missouri, 63125, (314) 487-6274; fax (314) 487-6227; e-mail: JoeM4302@aol.com.

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For additional information about the Institute and its services call (314) 505-7900 or consult its Website: <http://chi.lcms.org>
For historical or research questions call (314) 505-7935 or send a message to: reference@chi.lcms.org

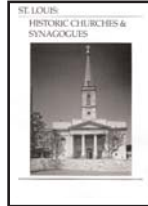
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German Immigrants in American Church Records, Vol 1: Indiana Protestant

By Roger P. Minert

(Rockport, ME: Picton Press, 2005), 873 pages, 6 x 9". ISBN 0-89725-759-6. The editor is an associate professor of Family History at Brigham Young University, who has also published books on doing ancestor research in Germany, on Hesse place names, spelling variations in German names, and on German handwriting. His newest book is the first volume in a series that will eventually include all fifty states in the USA. The purpose of the series is to publish the vital records (or official acts) found in church records of those persons who emigrated from Germany and Germanic areas of Europe to the United States. The period covered is from the earliest years until 1920 (for birth, confirmation, or marriage records) and 1940 (for death records). The book includes a 200-page "every name index" in the back. The greatest value of this series is that it will provide reliable evidence of ancestral hometowns in Central Europe, eventually for all German immigrants for whom church records were available to Dr. Minert and his staff. This is a mammoth undertaking, of great service to German ancestry family historians. I suggest that such persons first check their local county or genealogical library for this book. If the director responsible for acquisitions has not ordered it and does not intend to, then purchase it yourself and donate it to

that library when you have extracted your relevant family data. To order, contact Picton Press, PO Box 250, Rockport, Maine, 04856-0250; phone (207) 236-6565; fax (207) 236-6713; e-mail: sales@pictonpress.com; web: www.pictonpress.com



St. Louis: Historic Churches & Synagogues

By Mary M. Stiritz

(Saint Louis: St. Louis Public Library and the Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc., 1995), 8 x 10", quality B & W photos of every sanctuary, master list of churches, map, index. ISBN 937322-10-5. Although not a new book, this has recently become available again through a new printing. It is limited to the churches and synagogues in the City of Saint Louis. Articles of several paragraphs with photos are included for a total of 77 congregations, with eight featured Lutheran churches: Zion, Holy Cross, St. Stephen, Trinity, Immanuel, Faith, Mount Olive, and Our Savior. For those who are interested in how Christian churches were historically interwoven into the urban fabric, this is a fascinating book and the perfect resource for taking tours of the city. You should be able to order this through any major book outlet.

Incentives for Gifts to the Institute

Individuals or organizations that donate \$5,000 or more to the Institute's "Museum and Building Expansion Project" will be recognized and remembered with their name on a permanent donor plaque that will be installed at the museum at The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's International Center. The donor recognition plaque may also, at the donor's request, include a one-line memorial, e.g. "In memory of John Doe," next to the name of the donor.

Individuals or organizations that donate \$200,000 or more to the Institute's Museum and Building Expansion Project may be recognized and remembered with their name on a permanent gallery plaque that will be installed in one of the five rooms that will constitute the museum at the LCMS's International Center. This gallery plaque may also, at the donor's request, include a one-line memorial next to the name of the donor.

The Institute has been extremely blessed to receive a \$250,000 matching funds grant from an anonymous donor, designated for the Museum and Building Expansion Project. This means that your gift will, in effect, be doubled.

All donations to the Concordia Historical Institute are eligible for the Thrivent "Giving Plus" program. In order to activate this program, you must own an insurance or annuity product or a mutual fund account with Thrivent. You must then submit a completed application form to the Institute with your donation. Application forms are available at Thrivent's website: www.thrivent.com; or you may contact the Institute for a form at: 314-505-7900; e-mail: chi@chi.lcms.org. The Institute's ID number for the program is: 504753124. For eligible donations, Thrivent will contribute \$1 for every \$2 donated, up to a total of \$300 per organization per year.

Correction:

The Winter 2006 issue of *Historical Footnotes*, p. 2, failed to include Dr. James L. Brauer of Saint Louis, Missouri, in the list of awardees. Dr. Brauer received an award for "Trusty Steed or Trojan Horse?" (in *Logia*, Holy Trinity 2005), a scholarly examination of the Common Service, its history, and its music, as used in the English-language hymnals of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

CONCORDIA HISTORICAL INSTITUTE AWARDS PROGRAM NOMINATION FORM

Each year, Concordia Historical Institute honors individuals and groups who have rendered significant service to the mission of preserving our American Lutheran history and heritage during the previous year. The CHI Awards Committee will be meeting in the coming months to consider publications that appeared and activities that were carried out in the calendar year 2006 that meet these qualifications. The committee will also consider nominations for the Distinguished Service Award for people who have made outstanding contributions to American Lutheran history and archives. To place an individual or group in nomination for any of the categories, please complete this nomination form and return it to CHI by April 1, 2007.

Name of Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Title of Work (article, book, project, etc.): _____

Nominated by: _____

Address: _____

Phone number and/or email: _____

Documentation submitted with the nomination will become part of the Institute's collection, unless other arrangements are made. Please supply sufficient documentation for the Awards Committee to make a judicious decision. Please send two copies when submitting a publication or other media.

Categories (check one):

- Distinguished Service Award—This award is granted to an individual "whose contributions and service to the cause of American Lutheran history and archives is exemplary."
- Congregational Anniversary or History—historical work that covers one congregation or parish, or the products of a congregational anniversary, including all materials and activities produced by the anniversary committee
- District or Regional History—historical works that cover a group of congregations within a church-body, such as the LCMS districts or circuits or ELCA synods, or geographical regions, such as states, counties, or cities, etc.
- Institutional History—historical works that cover a particular agency of a church, such as an auxiliary, social ministry organization, college, parish school, or a general ministry, such as the chaplaincy
- Family History—historical works that deal with families that are either predominantly Lutheran or which contain unique biographical information about a major American Lutheran person
- Major Publications—books, either popular or scholarly, dealing with a major topic or serving as a reference work
- Journal Articles and Other Brief Publications—articles in professional journals and popular magazines will be considered, as well as essays published in brochure or tract form
- Non-Print Media, Events, Displays, and Performances—any presentation of historical materials using non-print media, e.g. film, video, audio, multi-media presentations, computer programs, Web sites, displays, performances, parade floats, or historic celebrations
- Historic Preservation—Submissions are for programs for, or specific instances of, historic preservation, including archives, museums, manuscript collections, art collections, historic artifacts, historic buildings, or historic properties.
- Other—any entry not described in the previous eight categories
- Youth—This award is granted to an individual of age 17 or younger, in any category listed above.

Description for Nomination of an Unpublished Program or Project:

On a separate piece of paper, summarize the program for which nomination is being made. Describe in detail the program and the person's special contribution to it, giving appropriate names and dates. Include a discussion of supporting documentation in your description, if necessary. Documentation may include photos, news clippings, brochures, testimonials, scrapbooks, slides, tapes, etc.

Mail or deliver this nomination form and supporting documentation to Concordia Historical Institute

Historical Footnotes

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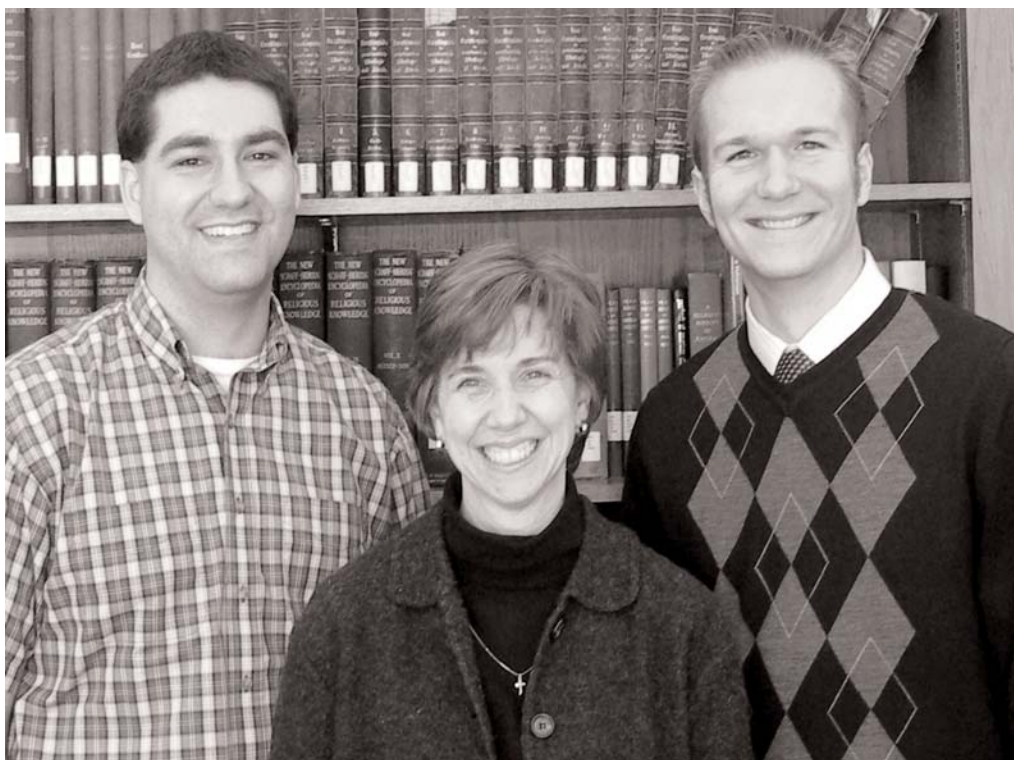
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TO OUR FRIENDS OF HISTORY:



SPRING 2007 ISSUE



Institute's Research Staff (l-r): Timothy Appel, Laura Marrs, William Wangelin
(See article beginning on page 2.)