

# Church of God Historian

Historical Society of the Church of God Vol 7 No 1 Fall 2006



Jerold Frederic  
with F.G. Smith  
documents and  
photos and Sidney  
Warner materials

## AN ODYSSEY OF DISCOVERY

Who would have thought early Church of God historical treasures had been lying for decades in an old mansion in Pennsylvania on the Delaware River? Or that the eldest son of a prominent early Church of God leader could still be alive and getting around so well nearly sixty

years after his father's death? Or that I would have the privilege of spending time with him and acquiring that historical treasure for the Historical Society? Yet that happened this past Summer.

This adventure began one evening this past June when Arlo Newell came by and in-

formed me that he had learned that F.G. Smith's eldest son, Gerald Frederick (who had changed his name to Jerold Frederic early in his professional music career), was still living and had just returned from a fishing trip to Florida. That set the agenda for the rest of my Summer. I knew I had to contact this man and spend some time with him if possible.

After several telephone conversations with him (a few of them quite long) and a long drive to Philadelphia I found myself at the door of his mansion on the Delaware. He and his wife, Grattis, met me at the door and welcomed me to their home. How warm and gracious they were! They had not had contact with the Church of God for many, many years and I was the first Church of God person ever to visit them in their home. What a treat it was to be there!

For four days I was their house guest. The reminiscing about the early days of the Church of God never stopped. The first evening, their son Myron and his wife joined us for dinner. I was given a beautiful guest room over looking the river where George Washington made his famous crossing. The next day I was given the 'grand tour' of the 150 year-old mansion—all the way down to the basement and its steam engine that had at one time provided the electric power

(Continued Page 7)

## *Church of God Historian*

*Newsletter of the Historical Society of the Church of God (Anderson)*

Vol 7 No 1 Fall 2006

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All correspondence should be addressed to: Historical Society of the Church of God, P.O. Box 702, Anderson, Indiana 46015. Email should be sent to *Merle D. Strege*, Society President, at: [mdstrege@anderson.edu](mailto:mdstrege@anderson.edu).

*Church of God Historian* is managed by the Executive Committee of the Society. Merle D. Strege, President, Dale E. Stultz, Vice-President, and Sadie B. Evans, Secretary-Treasurer. Others serve on the Committee as requested by the President.

### **The Historical Society**

The Historical Society of the Church of God (Anderson) exists to encourage the collection and preservation of artifacts and documents relating to the history of the Church of God; to encourage historical research and the writing of Church of God history; and to provide a forum for like-minded people interested in participating in and furthering the study of Church of God history.

Membership is open to all who are vitally interested in what the Society desires to accomplish. Membership dues are \$15 per year (\$10 for students.) Checks should be made out to *Historical Society of the Church of God* and sent to Box 702, Anderson IN 46015.

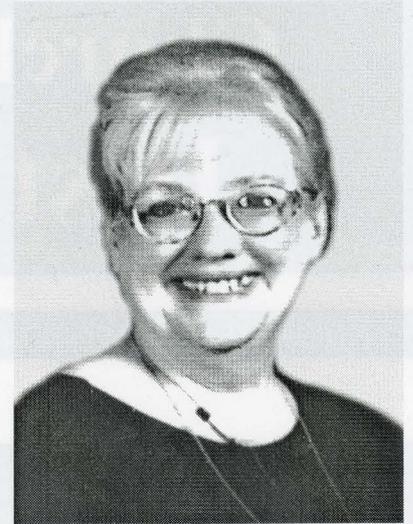
## **WHO AM I?**

Simply to say, "I am Sadie Evans, the new Secretary-Treasurer of the Historical Society of the Church of God" really doesn't tell you very much. So let me take this opportunity to tell you some of my story.

I am a third-generation product of the Church of God. Both of my grandfathers were Church of God ministers. Grandfather Roy Collins was won from the Baptist denomination to a small Church of God congregation in Gallipolis OH in the very early teens of the last century. When my prim, proper English grandmother found out about his new church affiliation, she hid his Sunday suit, thinking that would cure him of wanting to attend the little storefront church. He attended anyway in his overalls and work shirt. In 1921, as a result of healing from tuberculosis, she began attending church with him.

My Evans grandparents both attended the 19th and Jefferson Street Church of God in Louisville KY. They pastored congregations in Kentucky, southern Indiana, and Illinois. Grandfather was also the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds for Anderson College in the late 1930s.

My parents met and courted in Old Main. On Christmas Eve, 1937, Father showed Mother a copy of a book by John A. Morrison,



*The Preacher of Today*, in which there was a chapter entitled "The Queen of the Parsonage," and asked her if she would be the queen of his parsonage. They were married in 1938.

I became a Christian at the age of seven through the ministries of my father, Rev. Walter Evans, Jr. and Tom and Jean McCracken, who followed my father in the pastorate of the congregation in my home town of Hoopeston, Illinois.

I attended Anderson College from 1969-1974, earning a degree in Elementary Education. I am now beginning my 33rd year as a Title I Remedial Reading and Math Teacher in Grades K to 6.

I attend First Church of God in Hoopeston, where I am actively involved as a Sunday School teacher, youth director, worship leader, pianist, and serve on the Board of Trustees, Spiritual Life Council, and several committees. I am also Spiritual Life Director for our local W.C.G.

## MUSIC AND THE CHURCH OF GOD

We are rapidly approaching a non-event in the life of the Church of God. I am aware that the prediction of a “non-event” may require some explanation. I means to suggest that within the next few years, if prior historical patterns hold, we should expect the repetition of something that has happened periodically in the past. However, signs are increasing that what we might have expected to occur likely will not.

In 1911 the Gospel Trumpet Company published what might fairly be called its first major hymn collection, *Select Hymns*. Slightly more than twenty years later the publishing house produced its second major hymnal, *Hymns and Spiritual Songs*, followed in 1953 by the first *Hymnal of the Church of God*. In 1971 the successor *Hymnal of the Church of God* was published. That collection was succeeded in 1989 by *Worship the Lord*. We are now late into 2006 and I know of no plans to publish a new collection. It may be that a committee has been formed, but I am unaware of one. What are some of the implications of this looming non-event?

Music and the church are almost inseparable. Many of us learned to sing in worship, and that experience is common. Aretha Franklin, the “queen of soul,” learned to sing gospel music in church. A generation earlier a trio of sisters from Miamisburg, Ohio grew up singing in the First Church of God where their mother, Lillie McGuire, served as pastor. Christine, Dorothy, and Phyllis,

the McGuire Sisters, started singing in church when Phyllis was four years old. After they appeared on Arthur Godfrey’s Talent Scouts in 1952 they became featured performers on his programs.

In the early Church of God reading music was second in importance only to reading the Bible. Early hymnals and songbooks were printed with ‘shaped notes,’ a systematic approach to learning music while singing; it was a ‘learning by doing’ method. We also learned to sing and read music in choirs, including children’s choir.

At the apex of the congregation’s music ministry stood the adult choir. Participation demanded a serious commitment on the part of the members, with rehearsals lasting an hour or longer after Wednesday night Prayer Meeting. No matter the size of the local congregation, every effort was made to form a choir. In the mid-1970s more than half the congregation of the little Church of God in Walnut Creek, California sang in the choir. Easter is the high moment of the Christian year and choirs across the church rehearsed for months to sing the Resurrection faith in the annual cantata.

Many Church of God congregations featured choirs and smaller ensembles, but congregational singing from the hymnal was the musical mainstay of their life. That a numerically small group such as the Church of God would go to the time and expense of publishing five major hymnals within a span of ninety years testifies to the im-

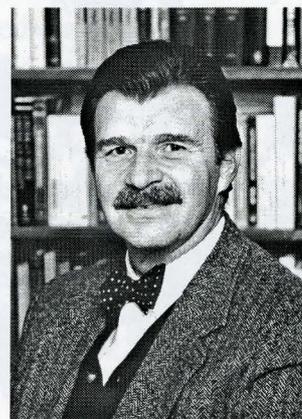
portance of music among us. And music remains important among us—but it is less and less the music of the hymnal.

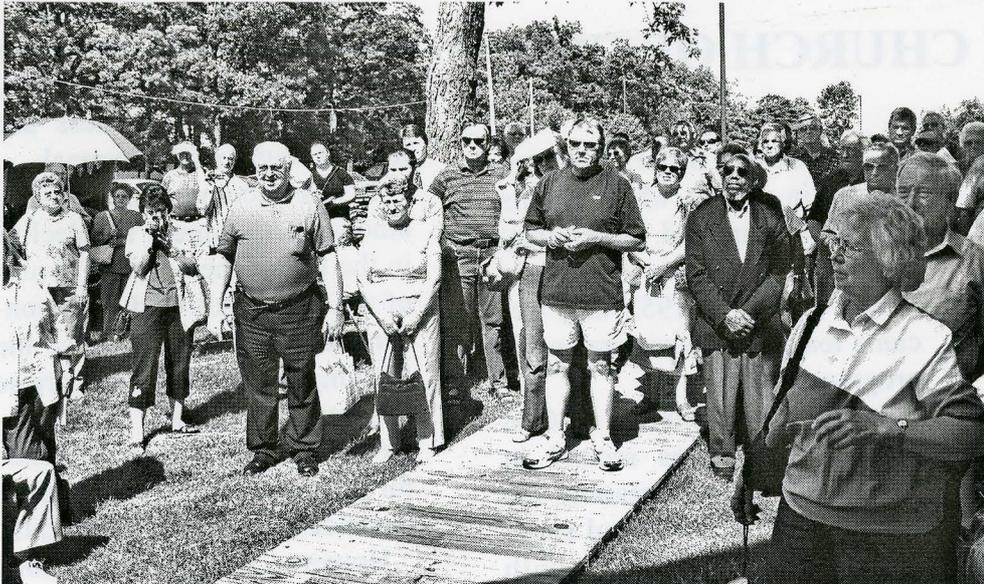
It has become commonplace among us to lament the decline in the use of the heritage hymns of the Church of God. We wonder—and rightly so—what the growing preference for praise choruses and other contemporary Christian music portends for a movement that has been so dependent on singing their faith.

However, the hymnal contains more than heritage songs. It rests on a conception of worship that addresses the whole of human life from birth to death in all rhythms and seasons. The abandonment of the hymnal signifies more than an increasingly tenuous hold on the theological tradition of the Church of God, crucial though the issue may be.

Too often the abandonment of the hymnal also suggests a narrowing of worship to something called ‘celebration.’ No doubt the church is called to celebrate in worship the joy of the gospel. But life is much more than celebration and this breadth should be reflected in the church’s worship. The impending non-event in our future suggests the time is ripe for a serious discussion among us of these issues.

— Merle D. Strege, Historian

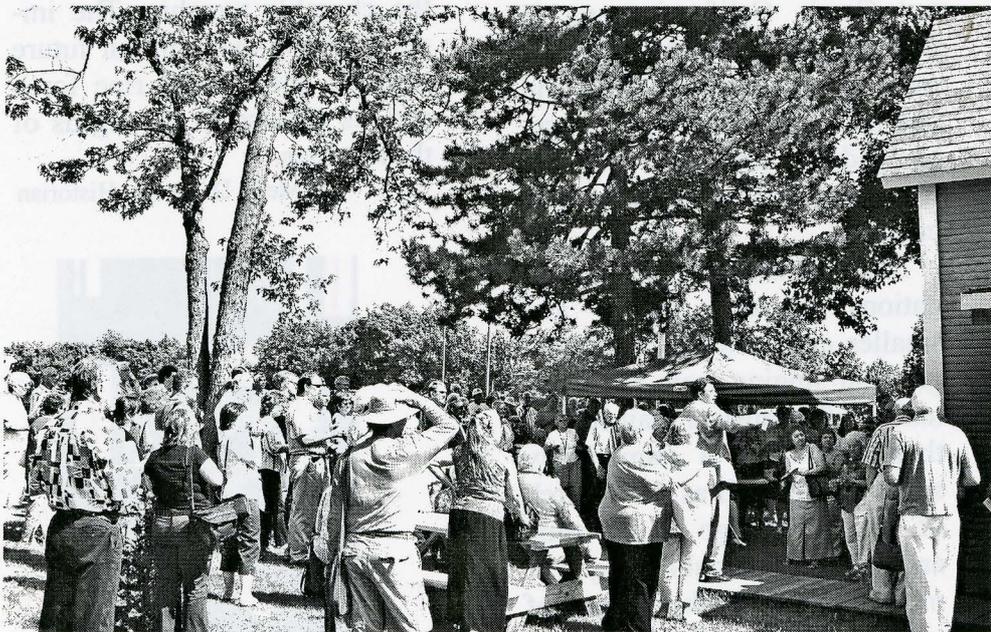




## WARREN CABIN CELEBRATION

During the North American Convention of the Church of God this past June more than two hundred people gathered together at the Barney Warren cabin on the grounds of Anderson University to celebrate both the successful project of moving the cabin from Springfield OH to its present site and the life of this great Church of God song writer. The enthusiastic singing of several favorite Warren songs from memory indicates just how popular and beloved his songs are among us yet today.

The photos on these two pages show some of those who so joyfully participated in this event. In the bottom photo on the left, Society President Merle Strege (pointing to the cabin) addresses the assembly. The photos on the right picture Robert Reardon introducing Dale Stultz, project initiator and manager. The second is of Robert Nicholson leading the participants in singing several of Warren's songs. The third photo indicates some of the gusto with which congregants participated. It was indeed a joyous celebration!

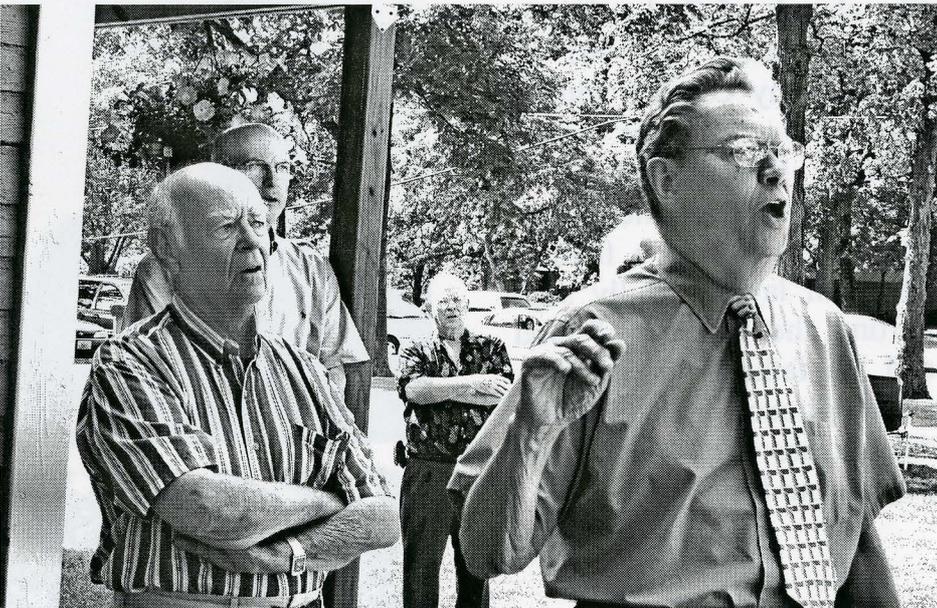
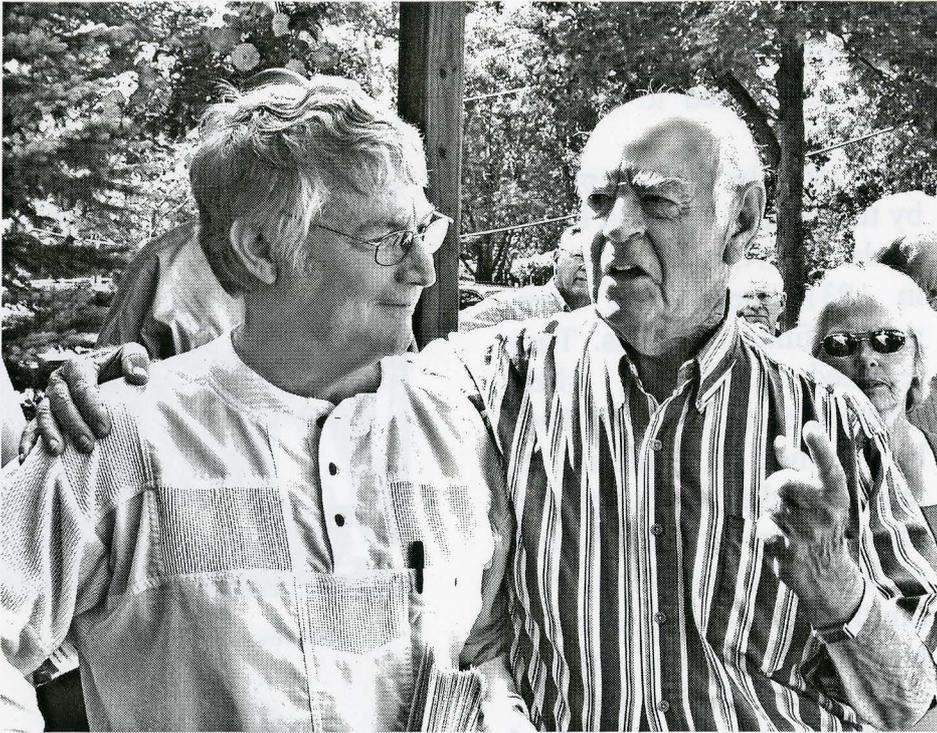


## SERENDIPITY

You may have heard of the ancient Persian fairytale of *The Three Princes of Serendip* who, as they traveled in search of a special camel, kept making interesting and important finds that were often every bit as important as the camel they sought. On the basis of this tale, an 18th century English writer, Horace Walpole, coined the word *serendipity*. By that he meant making accidental discoveries of things you were not in quest of.

Often serendipitous discoveries can be every bit as important and exciting as whatever it was you started out to look for in the first place. In our work of searching for particular historical documents and photographs we often stumble across important historical material we had no idea even existed.

In July, Dale Stultz traveled to Philadelphia PA to visit Jerold Frederic (Gerald Frederick Smith), the eldest son of F.G. Smith. We expected he would find a great deal of documentary material relating to his father's later life. Jerold had already informed us of this. But what we did not expect to find (because we had no knowledge it even existed) was a collection of papers, letters, and diaries that had belonged to D.S. Warner's son (Daniel) Sidney Warner, who had married F.G. Smith's widow, Birdie, in 1948. (Cont'd p. 6)



(Continued from Page 5)

Several times over the past few years we have been asked the question: "Whatever became of D.S. Warner's son, Daniel Sidney?" Very little information was to be found anywhere. With these diaries, letters, and photographs in hand we are now in position to answer this question definitively.

Sidney, who was born in 1881, lived in Grand Junction MI following his father's death in 1895. He was living with his stepmother, Frankie, but it is not clear what he did for a living—if anything. In 1900 he moved to Moundsville WV to work at the Gospel Trumpet Company, which had moved there in 1898. He remained there for a year, then moved to northern Ohio, where he worked at a variety of manual and clerical jobs.

It is apparent from his diaries that he had abandoned the Church of God—and in fact became a Freemason. In 1916 at the age of 35 he married a well-to-do widow. In time they moved to Canton OH, where he and 'Abbie' were 'fully saved' and baptized in the Church of God community there in 1928. He appears to have been quite musical and was soon singing solos, as well as singing in the choir and a male quartet. For many years he assisted Pastor Warren Roark with a weekly radio broadcast from Akron OH, as well as teaching a Sunday School class on

occasion. A few times he even tried his hand at preaching, but seemed to have no gift for it.

In 1929 he was employed by the Gospel Trumpet Co. in Anderson IN, but was laid off in 1931 due to the Company's financial crisis. They returned to Canton, where Abbie died in 1947. In 1948 he returned to Anderson to marry Birdie Smith, mother of Jerold Frederic and widow of his boyhood friend, F.G. Smith. Sidney lived in retirement in Anderson until his death from cancer in 1968.

When Sidney disavowed 'the church of God reformation movement' in 1901 he avoided any contact with it until 1928—or so his diaries indicate. It is gratifying to know that he lived the second half of his life as a faithful Christian laymen, fully supporting the Church of God and his father's teaching. A serendipitous find in Philadelphia has filled in a blank page in our history.

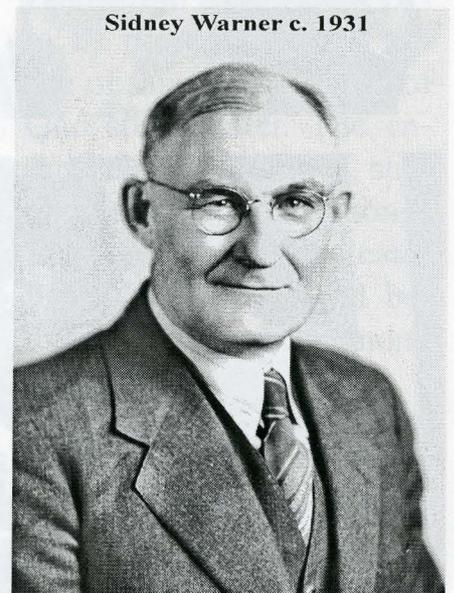
— D.E. Welch



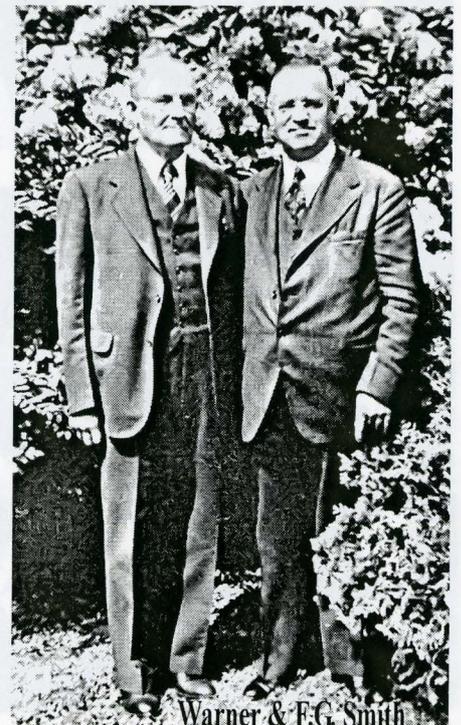
Sidney Warner c.1897



Sidney & Abbie Warner 1916



Sidney Warner c. 1931



Warner & F.G. Smith

for the twenty-rooms above it. It was like living in another world!

On the third day we finally made it to the attic storage room on the third floor. What treasures, boxes and boxes of them, lay waiting: early family photos; original manuscripts of F.G. Smith's books; 16mm films beginning with the homeplace in Grand Junction; personal papers from both Anderson and the Akron, Ohio years; and artifacts brought back by F.G. Smith from his trip around the world with E.A. Reardon in 1919-1920. A most unexpected bonus was finding some original D.S. Warner gifts and items inherited by Warner's son, Sidney, as well as some papers, letters, and thirty-eight diaries from Sidney himself.

I returned home very thankful and excited about what I had discovered. The Frederics were wonderful hosts and I could hardly believe the vanload of boxes of documents, photographs, diaries, and curios I came away with.

— Dale Stultz

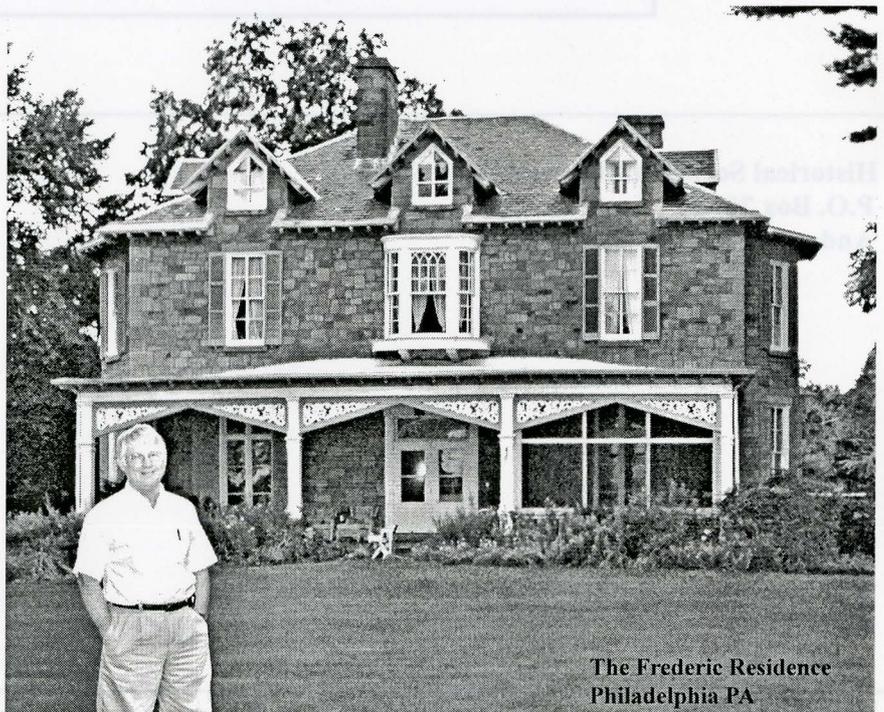
And to think how easily we could have missed all this! The importance of this find for Church of God history cannot, at the moment, be calculated, but it is quite likely very considerable. F.G. Smith's private correspondence files, for example, fill in a number of blanks in our knowledge of the years between 1930 and 1947 as they relate to his ministry and the life of the Church of God. The generous spirit of his son has put us all in his debt.



**Jerold Frederic  
World Renowned  
Concert Pianist**



**Gerald Frederic  
Grattis Frederic  
Myron Frederic  
Dale Stultz**



**The Frederic Residence  
Philadelphia PA**

**THE ARCHIVES**  
*of* CHURCH OF GOD *and* ANDERSON UNIVERSITY  
**NEEDS YOUR HELP**

It is our desire to preserve and maintain our unique history as completely as possible. In an effort to fulfill the responsibilities as endorsed by the General Assembly, we invite those with pieces of church or early university history to donate to the Archives the following items:

**CONGREGATIONAL HISTORIES** ↻ **STATE NEWSLETTERS (CURRENT AND PAST)**  
 ↻ **1947-48 ANDERSONIANS** ↻ **PRE-1900 GOSPEL TRUMPETS** ↻  
**LETTERS AND DIARIES OF PAST CHURCH LEADERS** ↻ **PHOTOGRAPHS**  
 (WITH IDENTIFICATIONS, IF POSSIBLE)

All materials will be housed in our climate-controlled archives and may be accessed upon request. *If you can help, please contact Vivian Nieman at 765-641-4285 (Archives) or Trish Janutolo at 765-641-4275 (Nicholson Library) or e-mail archives@anderson.edu.*

**NOTICE**

**THOSE DESIRING GIFT RECEIPTS FOR TAX PURPOSES FOR MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY SHOULD SEND THEIR GIFTS TO *CHURCH OF GOD MINISTRIES* AND INDICATE ON THE CHECK THAT THE MONEY IS DESIGNATED FOR THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY. AT THE SAME TIME, PLEASE NOTIFY THE SECRETARY-TREASURER OF THE SOCIETY THAT YOU HAVE DONE SO.**

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