

MICHIGAN LUTHERAN SEMINARY'S SECOND DIRECTOR:

FERDINAND HUBER

Philip Heyer
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Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Library

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Michigan Lutheran Seminary's Second Director:
Ferdinand Huber

The instructor mentioned as possible subjects for the paper early history of Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw. Being an alumnus of that institution, the idea sounded interesting. But what portion of early MLS history to take? The suggestion was made by the author's mother to perhaps look into one of the early professors there, the school's second director, Pastor Ferdinand Huber. This intrigued me. Although the instructor informed us "the more obscure the subject matter is to me the better," I suspect this isn't all that obscure. However, it appeared to me that this would be an opportunity to dig into the past and learn more about the early history of the school where I spent four enjoyable years of my life. It has also provided me with an opportunity to go back into my own family history to see what, if anything, of interest is there.

So I have chosen to study Pastor Ferdinand Huber, a man not too well known in our circles, who played a role in the development of Michigan Lutheran Seminary and in the affairs of the Michigan Synod in the 1890's.

Ferdinand and Anna Huber were no doubt no different than any of the other people in the German farm town of Emmingen. They were

farmers like the rest of the people there. (Pastor Huber's daughter recalls her father telling after a return visit there in the 1920's that it hadn't changed from the time he was a child, still ~~totally~~ a farm town.) They had been married on August 24, 1837, and settled down to begin a family. The Lord blessed their marriage with their first child in 1838, Gottlieb Ferdinand. The Lord continued to increase their family, giving them eight more children, the last one being born on November 28, 1859. They named him Ferdinand. Father Ferdinand died in 1875, followed by his wife Anna in 1895. So Ferdinand Huber grew up in a large farming family, the youngest of nine children.

At the age of fourteen, in 1873, Ferdinand joined his brother John for a journey to the United States. They arrived and settled in Washtenaw County, Michigan. John set himself up farming in the Ann Arbor area, an area that had a large concentration of Swabians. According to Ferdinand's daughter, Ferdinand stayed with the Schaible family while brother John got his farming operation underway. So Ferdinand no doubt would have been attending worship services at Salem Church in Scio Township, Pastor Friedrich Schmid's first congregation in Michigan. It is also thought by Huber's daughter that the Schaibles footed a good share of Ferdinand's educational costs in future years.

It was also during this time that he spent with the Schaible's in Scio that he probably met his future bride, Pauline Gartmann. At any rate, not long after he and John arrived in Ann Arbor Ferdinand was heading to Fort Wayne, to attend Concordia College, the Missouri Synod prep school. This would have been the closest school since the Michigan Synod did not open it's seminary untill 1885 in Manchester.

For his seminary training he transferred to the Ohio Synod's seminary at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio. This was possibly for distance reasons, Columbus being closer to the Ann Arbor area than St. Louis. No doubt his affiliation with the Ohio Synod during these years would be an influence in his decision on where to go when he would leave the Michigan Synod some sixteen years down the road.

Huber finished his theological training in 1881. He then returned home to the Michigan Synod to enter the parish ministry. He was assigned to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church of Tittabawassee, Michigan, near Saginaw. His doctrinal examination was conducted by Pastors St. Klingmann and Christoph Eberhardt, and on November 10, 1881 he was ordained and installed as pastor of St. Matthew's congregation.¹ He remained as pastor there until 1885.

During those years in Tittabawassee Huber was single but that situation changed in 1884. On September 4 of that year he returned to Salem Church of Scio to be united in marriage with Pauline Gartmann of Freedom, Washtenaw County. Preaching for the occasion was Pastor C. Eberhardt who based his message on Psalm 23:1. Performing the marriage ceremony was Pastor St. Klingmann.² The Lord blessed their marriage with ten children, one of whom died at birth.

The following year, 1885, the Huber's moved from Tittabawassee to Zilwaukee, Michigan. He was installed as pastor of St. John's congregation there in May. Here the first two Huber children were born.

A couple years later the young seminary of the Michigan Synod was moved to Saginaw and Huber, being nearby, was able to assist with some

teaching.³ In 1888 he received and accepted the call to serve as director of the seminary.⁴ Why Huber was chosen to be director is a good question, since he was only 29 years old at the time. I imagine they wouldn't want to burden Pastor Eberhardt anymore since he was the synod president and also was already teaching some classes. Huber, being in the area and also already doing some teaching at the seminary, was perhaps the most logical choice. Maybe it helped being from the Scio - Ann Arbor area where Pastor Klingmann was from, a man with whom Eberhardt seems to have been a good friend from the early days of the Synod. At any rate Huber assumed his duties as director in November of 1888.⁵

Judging from the Seminary reports in Synodical proceedings Huber taught a wide variety of subjects. In the 1893 Synod proceedings the section "Schulbericht über unser Seminar" listed the classes. In the '93-'94 school year he taught the Old Testament religion course for Quartaners which involved a study of I & II Samuel, I & II Kings and Jeremiah 1-16. He also had Quarta Latin; Quarta Greek, which was a study of the first twelve chapters of the Gospel of John; and Quarta German speech. In addition to this he taught Quinta religion and Latin and Sexta English, Latin and penmanship (going through some of his class notes revealed that he himself had beautiful penmanship, both in the German script and the regular script).⁶

No doubt it was during these years that Prof. Huber became a good friend of President Eberhardt. Working together training men for the ministry surely brought them close together. The two families were apparently quite close. Prof. Huber's daughter tells how her older

brothers and sisters spent much time at the Eberhardt home. According to her, Eberhardts had no children of their own so they took a liking to the Huber children. When I visited with Esther Huber she showed me a possession which had been given to one of the Huber children and which she now has. It was a silver cup and pitcher set on which was an inscription saying that it was a gift to Pastor and Mrs. Eberhardt from the St. Paul's Ladies Aid on the occasion of the Eberhardt's 25th wedding anniversary. So apparently there was a close relationship between the two men and their families. So much so that it was apparently all arranged that Huber would assume the pastorate of St. Paul's after Eberhardt's death.

When that happened Huber did take over as pastor of St. Paul's congregation in 1894.⁷ He did still have some teaching assignments at the seminary, however. He continued to teach Catechetics, Greek, Religion, Geography, and penmanship.⁸ Also that year he had some Synod duties. He was elected "Zweiter Sekretär" of the Synod that year.⁹

The next year his duties remained basically the same with a few course changes. That year, 1895, he taught Pastoral Theology, Greek, religion, geography, and U.S. History.¹⁰

However, it was in that year that the Michigan Synod got a little upset about being asked to turn MLS into a prep school by the Wisconsin and Minnesota Synods. The Synod ultimately split, with only about ten pastors remaining in the Michigan District-Synod, among whose names Ferdinand Huber's was not listed.¹¹ According to Koehler it was the faculty of the school and the Synod praesidium who were for the most

part responsible for the split. At the time Huber was vice-secretary of the Synod and a member of the seminary faculty as well. Koehler says that these leaders influenced the young pastors in the synod whom they had trained at MLS. And now they had them all upset about the proposed change for the school. "The attachment of the largely still immature element for their alma mater was exploited by Boehner, Linsenmann, Merz, and Huber."¹² Koehler didn't have too much of an opinion of these men, as far as their theological and teaching abilities went.

His (Boehner) three partners were men who had attained to positions to which they were in no wise equal. They themselves did not realize their shortcomings but were rather filled with self importance. . None of them was competent to teach a Sexta, still they were supposed and undertook to teach theology.¹³

The year 1898 brought some changes in the now split Michigan Synod and Ferdinand Huber was very much involved. The praesidium was ousted as the Synod was growing more and more dissatisfied with the way things were being run.¹⁴ And according to what Huber's daughter had heard, Rev. Huber met with opposition in his own congregation. Whether this is what caused the next happening, or whether there were other things playing in, whatever the case, by the middle of 1898 Ferdinand Huber had left the Michigan Synod and his place was taken at St. Paul's by Pastor J. Westendorf.¹⁵ Huber then apparently headed back to the Ann Arbor area for a short time. The family Bible indicates that the sixth Huber child was born on April 7, 1898 in Freedom, Washtenaw Co., Michigan.

He then turned to the church body from which he received his seminary training, the Ohio Synod. He became the pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Racine, Wisconsin, which was a member of the Ohio Synod. There he conducted a long and joyful ministry, one which lasted

more than thirty years. Also there in Racine the Huber family grew, as three more children were born by 1904. Pastor Huber completed his public ministry when he retired in 1936 after 55 years of service. His daughter Esther recalls that for about two years after that Pastor Huber continued to conduct German services at St. Paul's, but finally had to give that up also. The Huber's remained in Racine for the remainder of their lives. They were privileged to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary in 1944. On December 21, 1947 Pastor Huber died at the age of 88 years.

Throughout his life Rev. Huber was privileged to serve the Lord and his fellow men. He served the Lord as a pastor and professor. He served his fellow men in the same capacities, but he also served a few others in a very special way. He apparently sponsored a couple of people from the German homeland as they immigrated to the United States. One of those people was his nephew, John Gauss, the son of his sister Caroline and her husband. He came to America at the age of 16, lived with the Hubers and attended MLS. He was graduated in 1895 and served congregations in Lapeer, Michigan and Jenera, Ohio, as well as serving the Michigan District of the Joint Synod in various capacities. When he brought his mother over from Germany she also spent periods of time living in the Huber home. Several other people Huber also sponsored as they moved to this country.

A special talent that Rev. Huber had was that of writing poetry. He composed poems for just about every occasion. I was shown and permitted to borrow a book in which Rev. Huber had written a good number of selections, many of them recollections of his years in

Washtenaw County, others remembrances of people with whom he had been associated such as family members and also his colleagues in the ministry. On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the first settlers in Washtenaw County he printed several of them in a small book entitled Zum 100 Jährigen Jubiläum Der Schwäbischen Ansiedlung zu Washtenaw Co. Im Staat Michigan. I have included a couple of these at the end of the paper. With several of the poems he incorporated the history of a person or place, thus making them of some historical value.

Although Huber was a part of the problems in the Michigan Synod in the late 1890's, there was much good that he did for the church body. The problems of that time no doubt overshadow the positive parts of his ministry in that body. Obviously the pride of him and the other leaders was hurt by the Joint Synod's decision to use MLS as a prep school, and they then caused dissension in their own body. This is what we generally find concerning Huber, as a look at the section on MLS in Koehler's book shows. But there is something positive that we can say. The Michigan Synod was endeavoring to hold onto the Lutheran faith by training their own pastors. Ferdinand Huber was a large part of that. And although he maybe wasn't totally qualified to teach at the Seminary level, as Koehler proposes, he was however, given a task to do, and he did it. So we thank the Lord for the work he did as a preacher and teacher of the Gospel, and as one who trained Lutheran pastors. And I guess we use the MLS episode as a warning not to let such things as our pride interfere with the preaching of the Gospel.

ENDNOTES

1. Michigan Synod Proceedings, 1882.
2. Appendix I
3. Michigan Synod Proceedings, 1887, p. 41.
4. Michigan Synod Proceedings, 1889, p. 14.
5. Ibid.
6. Michigan Synod Proceedings, 1893, "Schulbericht über unser Seminar," pp. 16-17.
7. Michigan Synod Proceedings, 1894, p. 12.
8. Michigan Synod Proceedings, 1894, p. 57.
9. Michigan Synod Proceedings, 1894, p. 2.
10. Michigan Synod Proceedings, 1895, p. 44.
11. Michigan District-Synod Proceedings, 1896.
12. Koehler, A History of the Wisconsin Synod, p. 192.
13. Ibid.
14. Koehler, p. 222.

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Koehler, John, A History of the Wisconsin Synod, Sentinel Publishing Company, St. Cloud, Minnesota, 1970.

- , Michigan Synod Proceedings, 1882.
- , Michigan Synod Proceedings, 1887.
- , Michigan Synod Proceedings, 1889.
- , Michigan Synod Proceedings, 1893.
- , Michigan Synod Proceedings, 1894.
- , Michigan Synod Proceedings, 1895.
- , Michigan District-Synod Proceedings, 1896.

Most sincere thanks to Miss Esther Huber of Racine, Wisconsin for spending an afternoon with me and allowing me to borrow and look through many personal belongings which had been Pastor Huber's or concerned him. Much of the information for this paper was received from Miss Huber or from her scrapbooks, etc.

Also thank you to Mrs. Toni Brenner, also of Racine, for putting me in touch with Miss Huber and for helping on that afternoon of digging through books and scrapbooks.

And a thank you also to Mrs. Gerda Heyer for suggesting the topic and for telling what she knew about Pastor Huber and for helping contact others who could tell me more.

Hochzeitsglocken.

Am Donnerstag, den 4. Sept. Vormittags um 10½ Uhr luden die kräftigen Glockentöne der wohlbekannten ev. luth. Salemkirche in Scio zu einem schönen Festgottesdienste ein. Sollte doch eine Hochzeitfeier ihre würdige Weihe im Hause des Herrn erhalten, zumal der jugendliche Bräutigam selbst als ein Diener des Evangeliums seit halb drei Jahren im Saginaw-Thale, 9 Meilen von Saginaw City, in der ev. luth. Matthäusgemeinde zu Littabawassée rüstig und segensreich gewirkt hat. Herr Pastor Ferdinand Huber war dieser Glückliche, der mit seiner holden Braut, Fräulein Pauline Gartmann, der jüngsten Tochter von Hrn. Gartmann in Freedom, Washtenaw Co., zur genannten Zeit mit vielen Verwandten und Freunden in die heiligen Räume feierlich gestimmt einzog. Herr Pfr. C. B. Eberhardt von Saginaw City hielt die Hochzeitspredigt über Ps. 23, 1: „Der Herr ist mein Hirte; mir wird nichts mangeln,“ und Herr Pfr. St. Klingmann vollzog den Trauakt, an welchen er in herzlicher Weise noch eine väterliche Abschiedsrede angeschlossen und mit dem Segen des Herrn die Neuvermählten entließ. Am Nachmittag fand für die zahlreichen Hochzeitsgäste — unter denen sich nebst Herrn Pfr. Baumann auch die beiden genannten Pastoren befanden — das Festmahl im Gasthause der lieben Braut statt, wobei es an nichts fehlte, Hunger und Durst angenehm und reichlich zu stillen. Auch war für eine schöne Unterhaltung gesorgt durch den Vortrag einander der Gedichte verschiedener Autoren. Ein väterlicher Freund des Bräutigams, der mit dessen Verhältnissen während seiner langen Wartezeit wohl vertraut ist, eröffnete diese Vorträge mit einem entsprechenden Hochzeits-Carmen. Vielleicht wäre manchen gelehrten Lesern und Lesefrauen der „Washtenaw Post“ es nicht unangenehm, dasselbe hier zu finden; denn im Druckgedruckt hat im Allgemeinen etwas Anmuthendes. So folgt es denn als ein Nachklang dieser schönen Hochzeitfeier:

Nach langer banger Wartezeit
Steht hier der Bräutigam,
Der aus der öden Einsamkeit

APPENDIX I

The Newspaper report on the wedding of Ferdinand Huber and Pauline Gartmann.



Ferdinand Huber, probably during his seminary days at Capital University. (The photographer is listed on the back of the photo as being located in Columbus, O.)

48.

Hausvater.			Eheschließung. Ort, Tag und Jahr.	Hausmutter.	
Ort, Tag und Jahr.	Band und Blatt des früheren Familiens- Registers.	Name, Vorname, Stand.		Vorname und früherer Familienname.	Geburt. Ort, Tag und Jahr.
23 1809	T S. 2	Huber, Karl H. v. Huber F. 31. Jan. 1875	24. Aug. 1837	Anna Kuffa. aus y. Gellend. Kath. F. am 31. Febr. 1805.	20. Aug. 1818

Eltern des Hausvaters.		Eltern der Hausmutter.	
Vater.	H. Huber, Jakob, Bauer	H. Kuffa, Michael, Bauernbesitzer	Vater.
Mutter.	W. Griesinger, Barbara v. Pfingstinger	W. Kuffa, Barbara geb. Griesinger	Mutter.

Kinder:

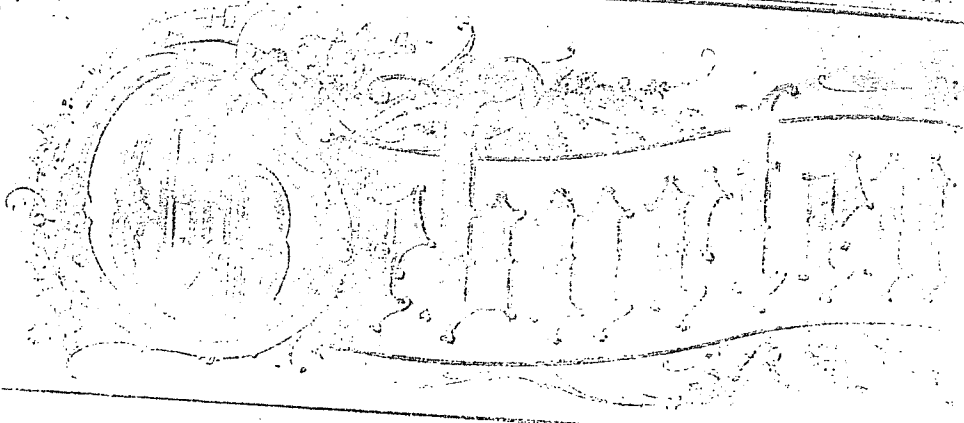
N ^o .	Namen.	Geburt. Ort, Tag und Jahr.	Eheschließung.		Band und Blatt des Familien- Registers.	T o Ort, Tag Jahr
			Ort, Tag u. Jahr.	Name und Stand des Angetrauten.		
1	Gottlieb Lindemann	22. Aug. 1838				Ap 14. U 1840 10
2	Anna Kaufmann	10. März 1840	hier 5. Juni 1865	Wigand Kaufmann		
3	Georgius Lindemann	13. Aug. 1841		Wrau Spur. 4. 47		
4	Georgius Lindemann	4. Mai 1844				2. März 1842
5	Georgius Lindemann	n. l. 1845				
6	Georgius Lindemann	10. Juli 1848	1872	Georgius Lindemann		
7	Georgius Lindemann	17. Sept. 1850	1872	Georgius Lindemann		
8	Anna Lindemann	27. Mai 1850		Georgius Lindemann		

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2. März 1848

Karl Ludwig 28. Okt. 1848

Front page of the Huber Family Bible.



Paulina Kasparina Maria Huber geboren mit ...
zu Gilwaukie, Saginaw Co., Michigan
Josephine Theresia Huber, geb. am 22. Aug. 1888
zu Gilwaukie, Saginaw Co., Michigan
Karl Josef Huber, geb. 2. Aug. 1890
zu Saginaw W. S. Michigan
Theresia Huber, geb. 6. Juli 1893 in ...
zu Saginaw W. S. Michigan
Gustav Maria Huber, geb. 24. Nov. 1895 in ...
zu Saginaw W. S. Michigan
Julia Louisa Huber, geb. 1. April 1898 in ...
zu Freedom, Washtenaw Co., Michigan
Theresa Maria Huber, geb. 20. Juni in Racine, Wis.
im Jahre 1900
Maria Theresia Huber, geb. 11. ...
im Jahre 1900
Maria Theresia Huber, geb. 11. ...
im Jahre 1900

MLS, possibly in 1889, since in that year there were 16 students and here there are 16 students if the 4 men on the front porch are faculty members. This is quite possible since the second man from the left in that group looks like Ferdinand Huber.



Zum 100 Jährigen Jubiläum Der Schwäbischen Ansiedlung zu Washtenaw
Co. im Staat Michigan.

Pastor Christoph R. Eberhardt.

(Klingmann und Eberhardt erhielten ihre Ausbildung auf einer
heutigen Missionsschule und kamen beide zusammen nach Amerika,
um in das weitherbreitete Arbeitsfeld pfarrer (dymnis einzutreten).

Ein edler Freund von Klingmann ward
Der wohlbekannte Eberhardt,
Kerint sie kamen in das Land,
Und wirkten beide Land in Land.

Der erste war vom Stad'ner Land,
Doch Eberhardt vom Stad'ner Land,
Zu Rauffen, wo der Stad'ner flieht,
Das Elternhaus dich freundlich grüßt.

Als Pfarrer, jung und ganz allein,
Kehrt' oft bei Eberhardt ich ein;
Die Stunden bei dem Gottesmann
Sich nimmermehr vergehen kann.

Und seine edle Frau Marie
War immer freundlich spät und früh;
Sie sorgte, sorgte sonder Sohn
Als war der Gast ihr eigener Sohn.

Und Mutter Steinold war noch da,
Sie mochte einst in Washtenaw;
Als Schwabenkind so gut und süßlich
Gut sie das Sicht der Welt erblüht.

Gar frühe kam sie übers Meer,
Galt bei der Arbeit, hart und schwer,
Doch aus des Urwalds Dürst' ward
Ein rosig Seim, ein traurig Seid.

Die Jahre fliehn, man merkt es kaum.
Das Leben ist ein kurzer Traum;
Die Sieben all, ich sah sie gehn—
Doch broden gibt's ein Wiedersehen.

Zum Silbernen Jubiläum.

Pastor Eberhardts und seiner Gattin.
(Besungen von einem Chor der Pastoren.)

Begibst dich du, teures Paar,
Doch liebend dich verband
Und treu bewährte Jahr für Jahr
Der Liebe heilig Band.

Der Regen Gottes sei mit Euch
Und mache Euch an Liebe reich;
Begleite dich, Du teures Paar

Im trauten Mund noch mancher Jahr,
Du teures Paar
Zum Regen immerdar.

Der Friede, gleich dem Sonnenchein
Mus' sich dem Morgenrot,
Der strahle beiden hell und rein

Und bis zur letzten Not.

Begründet auf des Glaubens Grund
Kerintigt durch der Liebe Mund,
So pilgert beide Land in Land
Empor zum ew'gen Vaterland,
So Land in Land
Zum ew'gen Vaterland.

Kehrer Ernst Sperling.

(Starb am 1. Jan. 1933 neunzig Jahre alt.)

Ein des neuen Jahres Abend
Gingst du zu der Seimat ein,
Wo der Jahre Lauf zu Ende;
Dort darfst du auf ewig sein

Selig als ein Liebernder
Im der Ehre der Gotteskinder.

Freunzig Jahre durst du wandern
Auf des Lebens Pilgerbahn,
Land in Land mit vielen andern,
Schonend auf nach Paracat,

Und auf deinem Lebenspfade
Schien so treu des Vaters Gnade.
Im dem Land, wo du geboren
Und die Sagenzeit vollbracht,
Galt du den Beruf erlören,
Der viel Sorgen glücklich macht—
Eine junge Christengemeinde
Bringen zu dem Silberfunde.

Pastor Ferdinand Huber

