

Rev. William Heim Diven, (4 Apr 1832 – 23 Oct 1908), Minutes of the 1909 Convention of Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Central Pennsylvania held at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Blain, Perry County.

Report of Committee on Necrology.

It becomes our sad duty to record the death of one of our ministerial brethren, **Rev. William Heim Diven**, which occurred at Newport Pa., on Friday evening October 23rd, 1908, shortly after the meeting of our last Synod. **Rev. W. H. Diven** was born in Juniata County, at Mexico, April 4th, 1832. In infancy he was baptized by **Rev. John William Heim**, the noted pioneer of our Church on this territory, after whom he was named. His early training was received in the public schools of that day and later in Airy View Academy at Port Royal.

In 1852, he entered Pennsylvania College at Gettysburg continuing, to the senior year. He studied theology privately under the direction of **Rev. D. H. Focht** and was licensed by the Ministerium of this Synod in May, 1858. He took up pastoral work at Duncannon August 22d, of the same year. On May 14th, 1860, he was ordained by this Synod in Christ Lutheran Church, Duncannon, of which he was then pastor. It is worthy of note that he was born, licensed, ordained and spent all his ministerial life, and died within the bounds of this Synod.

He served in the following pastorates: at Duncannon from 1858 to 1862, at Liverpool from 1862 to 1870, and at Salona from 1870 to 1884, preaching also while at the latter place on alternate Sundays from 1877 to 1878 at Bellefonte, then a mission. From 1884 to 1890 he served as Financial Secretary of Susquehanna University at Selinsgrove, Pa.

He was President of this body in 1866. He served as Treasurer of this Synod 29 years, was director of the Theological Seminary at Gettysburg from 1861 to 1870, and from 1876 to 1882, a Trustee at Tressler Orphans Home from 1868 to 1871, and from 1890 to 1893. He served on the Education Committee of Synod for 16 years, and for 13 years on the Advisory Board of Home Missions. Five times he was elected a delegate to the General Synod. Owing to his long official connection with the Synod he was an assistant at the ordination of 36 pastors.

On December 29th 1857, he was married to **Miss Sarah Stroup** of Mifflin County, by Rev. Dr. Henry Baker, then pastor at Lewistown, Pa. Six sons and two daughters were born to them, one of the sons being **Rev. George S. Diven**, pastor at Ickesburg, and a member of this Synod.

The funeral service was held at his late home in Newport on Monday morning, October 26th and was conducted by the pastor of the church, Rev. J. B. Baker who was assisted by Rev. A. H. Spangler, D.D. of Yeagertown, Pa., and Rev. M. S. Cressman, D.D. of Lewistown, Pa., both of whom were friends of many years' standing of the deceased. Rev. William Dorwart, Rector of the Episcopal Church of Newport, also assisted in the service.

In stature, **Rev. Diven** was of commanding appearance, standing 6 feet 2 inches, and weighing about two hundred pounds in the vigor of his manhood; of a gentle and social disposition he made numerous friendships which lasted throughout life. He was a preacher of more than ordinary ability and served with fidelity in the pastorates of which he had the oversight as

spiritual leader.

As we here record our last tribute of respect to the memory of our departed brother, let us each and all strive earnestly to prove ourselves worthy of the high calling to which we have been called in the ministry of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and in anticipation of the coming of that summons which came to our brother, and must come to each of us sooner or later, let us set our houses in order and be prepared that we may hear Him say, 'Well done thou good and faithful servant.' Respectfully submitted, W. D. E. Scott, M. S. Cressman, C. Luther McConnell.

On motion the report was adopted by a rising vote with prayer by Rev. E. H. Leisenring, D.D.

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