

GERMAN BAPTIST BRETHERN (DUNKERS)

GENERAL STATEMENT

The general statement of the early history of the Brethren, Dunkers, or German Baptist Brethren, is presented very largely in the section for the Church of the Brethren (Conservative Dunkers), the oldest and largest of these bodies. In view of the fact that they have been popularly known, not as "German Baptist Brethren," but as "Dunkers," or "Dunkards," that name has been preserved.

The denominations grouped under the name German Baptist Brethren (Dunkers) in 1926, in 1916, and in 1906, are listed in the table below, with the principal statistics as reported for the three periods. The denomination reported in 1916 as German Seventh Day Baptists is now known as Seventh Day Baptist (German, 1728), and the denomination then reported as Old Order German Baptist Brethren is now shown under its correct name, Old German Baptist Brethren; one body listed in 1916 was not reported at the census of 1906.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE GERMAN BAPTIST BRETHERN (DUNKERS), 1926, 1916, AND 1906

DENOMINATION AND CENSUS YEAR	Total number of churches	Number of members	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR		SUNDAY SCHOOLS	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Number of scholars
1926								
Total for the group	1,279	158,248	1,206	\$11,110,013	1,182	\$2,293,622	1,067	133,483
Church of the Brethren (Conservative Dunkers).....	1,030	128,392	968	8,630,499	951	1,744,755	895	109,891
Old German Baptist Brethren.....	62	3,036	59	161,450	53	18,781	-----	-----
The Brethren Church (Progressive Dunkers).....	174	26,026	166	2,274,064	166	523,681	160	22,917
Seventh Day Baptists (German, 1728).....	4	144	4	18,000	3	2,400	3	144
Church of God (New Dunkers).....	9	650	9	26,000	9	4,005	9	531
1916								
Total for the group	1,283	133,626	1,188	5,055,835	1,154	924,630	1,097	136,365
Church of the Brethren (Conservative Dunkers).....	997	105,102	928	3,990,898	911	705,725	899	111,686
Old Order German Baptist Brethren.....	67	3,399	60	107,212	43	7,120	-----	-----
The Brethren Church (Progressive Dunkers).....	201	24,060	184	896,725	185	204,562	183	23,728
German Seventh Day Baptists.....	5	136	3	33,000	4	1,980	3	152
Church of God (New Dunkers).....	13	929	13	28,000	11	5,243	12	799
1906								
Total for the group	1,090	97,144	974	2,802,532	-----	-----	866	78,575
German Baptist Brethren Church, Conservative.....	815	76,547	741	2,198,957	-----	-----	708	66,595
Old Order German Baptist Brethren.....	68	3,388	57	89,800	-----	-----	-----	-----
The Brethren Church (Progressive Dunkers).....	202	17,042	172	472,975	-----	-----	156	11,850
German Seventh Day Baptists.....	5	167	4	40,800	-----	-----	2	130

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: (CONSERVATIVE DUNKERS)

(FORMERLY GERMAN BAPTIST BRETHREN CHURCH, CONSERVATIVE)

STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the Church of the Brethren (Conservative Dunkers) for the year 1926 is presented in Table 1, which shows also the distribution of these figures between urban and rural territory.

The membership of the Church of the Brethren comprises baptized believers who have been enrolled as members upon personal profession of faith. Baptism is by trine immersion.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN (CONSERVATIVE DUNKERS)

ITEM	Total	In urban territory ¹	In rural territory ¹	PER CENT OF TOTAL ²	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations)	1,030	237	793	23.0	77.0
Members	128,392	39,584	88,808	30.8	69.2
Average per church.....	125	167	112		
Membership by sex:					
Male.....	54,145	16,338	37,807	30.2	69.8
Female.....	68,284	21,757	46,527	31.9	68.1
Sex not reported.....	5,963	1,489	4,474	25.0	75.0
Males per 100 females.....	79.3	75.1	81.3		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years.....	7,751	2,702	5,049	34.9	65.1
13 years and over.....	111,233	34,301	76,932	30.8	69.2
Age not reported.....	9,408	2,581	6,827	27.4	72.6
Per cent under 13 years ³	6.5	7.3	6.2		
Church edifices:					
Number.....	1,254	258	996	20.6	79.4
Value—Churches reporting.....	968	225	743	23.2	76.8
Amount reported.....	\$8,630,499	\$3,943,136	\$4,687,363	45.7	54.3
Average per church.....	\$8,916	\$17,525	\$6,309		
Debt—Churches reporting.....	131	68	63	51.9	48.1
Amount reported.....	\$676,584	\$567,451	\$109,133	83.9	16.1
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	732	136	596	18.6	81.4
Parsonages:					
Value—Churches reporting.....	201	88	113	43.8	56.2
Amount reported.....	\$923,820	\$529,300	\$394,520	57.3	42.7
Debt—Churches reporting.....	65	36	29		
Amount reported.....	\$146,710	\$93,225	\$53,485	63.5	36.5
Churches reporting "no debt" on parsonage.....	113	44	69	38.9	61.1
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting.....	951	228	723	24.0	76.0
Amount reported.....	\$1,744,755	\$796,624	\$948,131	45.7	54.3
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$1,214,930	\$628,423	\$586,507	51.7	48.3
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$515,260	\$167,701	\$347,559	32.5	67.5
Not classified.....	\$14,565	\$500	\$14,065	3.4	96.6
Average expenditure per church.....	\$1,835	\$3,494	\$1,311		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting.....	895	222	673	24.8	75.2
Officers and teachers.....	13,021	4,008	9,013	30.8	69.2
Scholars.....	109,891	36,397	73,494	33.1	66.9

¹ Urban territory includes all cities and other incorporated places which had 2,500 inhabitants or more in 1920, the date of the last Federal census; rural territory comprises the remainder of the country.

² Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

³ Based on membership with age classification reported.

The data presented herewith for the year 1926 represent 1,030 active Brethren churches, with 128,392 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by 993 churches and the classification by age was reported by 958 churches, including 745 which reported members under 13 years of age.

Comparative data, 1890-1926.—Table 2 presents, in convenient form for comparison, a summary of the available statistics of this denomination for the censuses of 1926, 1916, 1906, and 1890.

TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1890 TO 1926: CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN (CONSERVATIVE DUNKERS)

ITEM	1926	1916	1906	1890
Churches (local organizations)	1,030	997	815	720
Increase over preceding census:				
Number.....	33	182	95	
Per cent.....	3.3	22.3	13.2	
Members	128,392	105,102	76,547	61,101
Increase over preceding census:				
Number.....	23,290	28,555	15,446	
Per cent.....	22.2	37.3	25.3	
Average membership per church.....	125	105	94	85
Church edifices:				
Number.....	1,254	1,340	1,186	854
Value—Churches reporting.....	968	928	741	
Amount reported.....	\$8,630,499	\$3,990,898	\$2,198,957	\$1,121,541
Average per church.....	\$8,916	\$4,301	\$2,968	
Debt—Churches reporting.....	131	116	84	
Amount reported.....	\$676,584	\$129,705	\$38,109	
Parsonages:				
Value—Churches reporting.....	201	65	33	
Amount reported.....	\$923,820	\$160,300	\$56,600	
Debt—Churches reporting.....	65			
Amount reported.....	\$146,710			
Expenditures during year:				
Churches reporting.....	951	911		
Amount reported.....	\$1,744,755	\$705,725		
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$1,214,930	\$455,581		
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$515,260	\$250,144		
Not classified.....	\$14,565			
Average expenditure per church.....	\$1,835	\$775		
Sunday schools:				
Churches reporting.....	895	899	708	
Officers and teachers.....	13,021	12,629	9,212	
Scholars.....	109,891	111,686	66,595	

State tables.—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the Church of the Brethren (Conservative Dunkers) by States. Table 3 gives for each State the number and membership of the churches classified according to their location in urban or rural territory and the total membership classified by sex. Table 4 gives for selected States the number and membership of the churches for the three censuses from 1906 to 1926, together with the membership for 1926 classified as under 13 years of age and 13 years of age and over. Table 5 shows the value of church property and the debt on such property, for 1926 alone. Table 6 presents, for 1926, the church expenditures, showing separately the amounts expended for current expenses and improvements, and for benevolences, etc., and also gives the data for Sunday schools. Separate presentation in Tables 5 and 6 is limited to those States in which three or more churches reported the principal items shown (values or expenditures), in order to avoid disclosing the financial statistics of any individual church. The States omitted from these tables can be determined by referring to the complete list which appears in Table 3.

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN (CONSERVATIVE DUNKERS) 231

Ecclesiastical divisions.—Table 7 presents by districts the more important statistical data shown by States in the earlier tables, including number of churches, membership, value of church edifices, debt on church edifices, expenditures, and Sunday schools.

TABLE 3.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN (CONSERVATIVE DUNKERS)

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX			
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Sex not reported	Males per 100 females ⁽¹⁾
United States	1,030	237	793	128,392	39,584	88,808	54,145	68,284	5,963	79.3
Middle Atlantic:										
New York.....	3	2	1	262	162	100	112	150	-----	74.7
New Jersey.....	1	-----	1	49	-----	49	24	25	-----	-----
Pennsylvania.....	169	51	118	33,671	14,167	19,504	14,459	18,922	290	76.4
East North Central:										
Ohio.....	109	23	86	14,342	3,261	11,081	6,233	7,709	400	80.9
Indiana.....	121	25	96	14,678	4,975	9,703	5,904	7,207	1,567	81.9
Illinois.....	51	14	37	6,071	2,275	3,796	2,519	3,082	470	81.7
Michigan.....	28	6	22	1,860	608	1,252	810	1,002	48	80.8
Wisconsin.....	7	2	5	580	203	377	272	308	-----	88.3
West North Central:										
Minnesota.....	9	2	7	756	178	578	348	408	-----	85.3
Iowa.....	40	7	33	3,743	669	3,074	1,711	2,032	-----	84.2
Missouri.....	34	7	27	2,445	542	1,903	1,057	1,388	-----	76.2
North Dakota.....	19	2	17	570	61	509	242	328	-----	73.8
South Dakota.....	1	-----	1	60	-----	60	28	32	-----	-----
Nebraska.....	17	4	13	1,388	398	990	351	411	626	85.4
Kansas.....	57	17	40	5,237	1,743	3,494	2,342	2,895	-----	80.9
South Atlantic:										
Delaware.....	2	-----	2	95	-----	95	44	51	-----	-----
Maryland.....	37	8	29	6,613	2,816	3,797	2,723	3,590	300	75.8
District of Columbia.....	1	1	-----	401	401	-----	165	236	-----	69.9
Virginia.....	102	10	92	16,875	1,972	14,903	7,087	8,993	795	78.8
West Virginia.....	49	4	45	4,956	297	4,659	2,092	2,484	380	84.2
North Carolina.....	18	1	17	1,300	84	1,216	526	774	-----	68.0
Florida.....	9	3	6	416	101	315	198	218	-----	90.8
East South Central:										
Kentucky.....	2	-----	2	38	-----	38	15	23	-----	-----
Tennessee.....	24	2	22	1,573	105	1,468	653	790	130	82.7
Alabama.....	2	-----	2	136	-----	136	63	73	-----	-----
Mississippi.....	1	-----	1	9	-----	9	4	5	-----	-----
West South Central:										
Arkansas.....	5	-----	5	162	-----	162	71	91	-----	-----
Louisiana.....	2	-----	2	140	-----	140	59	81	-----	-----
Oklahoma.....	14	4	10	653	135	518	296	357	-----	82.9
Texas.....	5	1	4	332	61	271	145	187	-----	77.6
Mountain:										
Montana.....	4	1	3	152	26	126	26	31	95	-----
Idaho.....	12	4	8	850	347	503	345	408	97	84.6
Colorado.....	12	5	7	1,427	557	870	644	748	35	86.1
New Mexico.....	2	1	1	137	112	25	45	92	-----	-----
Arizona.....	2	2	-----	165	165	-----	73	92	-----	-----
Pacific:										
Washington.....	18	8	10	1,503	928	575	698	805	-----	86.7
Oregon.....	9	4	5	444	183	261	184	260	-----	70.8
California.....	32	16	16	4,303	2,052	2,251	1,577	1,996	730	79.0

¹ Ratio not shown where number of females is less than 100.

TABLE 4.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, 1906 TO 1926, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926, BY STATES: CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN (CONSERVATIVE DUNKERS)

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches in either 1926, 1916, or 1906]

STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926			
	1926	1916	1906	1926	1916	1906	Under 13 years	13 years and over	Age not reported	Per cent under 13 ¹
United States.....	1,030	997	815	128,392	105,102	76,547	7,751	111,233	9,408	6.5
New York.....	3	3	1	262	185	100	4	258	-----	1.5
Pennsylvania.....	169	142	105	33,671	27,457	18,889	1,881	29,507	2,283	6.0
Ohio.....	109	104	90	14,342	11,944	9,076	782	12,783	777	5.8
Indiana.....	121	123	101	14,678	12,558	9,949	740	12,740	1,198	5.5
Illinois.....	51	55	48	6,071	5,029	3,848	441	5,160	470	7.9
Michigan.....	28	27	18	1,860	1,421	914	135	1,664	61	7.5
Wisconsin.....	7	5	7	580	251	253	46	534	-----	7.9
Minnesota.....	9	8	8	756	531	365	48	708	-----	6.3
Iowa.....	40	42	41	3,743	3,688	2,504	362	3,381	-----	9.7
Missouri.....	34	37	41	2,445	1,868	1,881	129	2,316	-----	5.3
North Dakota.....	19	21	17	570	1,053	1,311	25	508	37	4.7
Nebraska.....	17	22	24	1,888	1,254	1,096	62	606	720	9.3
Kansas.....	57	65	62	5,237	4,940	3,905	407	4,617	213	8.1
Maryland.....	37	36	23	6,613	5,397	3,667	372	5,831	410	6.0
Virginia.....	102	78	59	16,875	12,712	9,078	1,117	14,408	1,350	7.2
West Virginia.....	49	43	43	4,956	4,179	3,457	299	4,103	554	6.8
North Carolina.....	18	21	14	1,300	964	744	77	1,216	7	6.0
Florida.....	9	5	-----	416	118	-----	26	390	-----	6.3
Tennessee.....	24	18	16	1,573	1,285	1,104	50	1,353	170	3.6
Arkansas.....	5	8	9	162	149	172	12	144	6	7.7
Louisiana.....	2	1	3	140	129	98	14	126	-----	10.0
Oklahoma.....	14	19	24	653	925	861	18	585	50	3.0
Texas.....	5	9	5	332	333	142	12	320	-----	3.6
Montana.....	4	4	1	152	223	16	3	149	-----	2.0
Idaho.....	12	10	7	850	743	476	54	650	146	7.7
Colorado.....	12	16	6	1,427	956	339	107	1,265	55	7.8
New Mexico.....	2	4	-----	137	201	-----	14	123	-----	10.2
Arizona.....	2	3	1	165	127	36	10	155	-----	6.1
Washington.....	18	16	9	1,503	882	453	101	1,320	82	7.1
Oregon.....	9	11	9	444	353	410	18	426	-----	4.1
California.....	32	32	16	4,303	2,654	1,070	276	3,208	819	7.9
Other States.....	10	9	7	788	593	333	109	679	-----	13.8

¹ Based on membership with age classification reported.

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION¹

DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

Among the various communities which arose toward the close of the seventeenth century for the purpose of emphasizing the inner life of the Christian above creed and dogma, ritual and form, and ceremony and church polity, one of the most influential, though not widely known, was that of the Pietists of Germany. They did not arise as protestants against Catholicism, but rather as protestants against what they considered the barrenness of Protestantism itself. With no purpose of organizing a sect, they created no violent upheaval, but started a healthy wave of spiritual action within the state churches already organized.

¹ This statement, which is substantially the same as that published in Part II of the Report on Religious Bodies, 1913, has been revised by J. W. Lear, general director of the Council of Promotion of the Church of the Brethren, and approved by him in its present form.

TABLE 5.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926:
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN (CONSERVATIVE DUNKERS)

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches reporting value of edifices]

STATE	Total number of churches		VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		DEBT ON CHURCH EDIFICES		VALUE OF PARSONAGES		DEBT ON PARSONAGES	
	Number of churches	Number of church edifices	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount
United States	1,030	1,254	968	\$8,630,499	131	\$676,584	201	\$923,820	65	\$146,710
New York	3	3	3	86,300	1	8,000	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Pennsylvania	169	274	168	2,873,606	29	297,071	50	312,940	18	54,925
Ohio	109	122	106	1,075,100	17	63,135	24	107,330	8	14,350
Indiana	121	133	120	946,400	12	33,538	21	76,500	8	16,300
Illinois	51	57	50	495,600	7	41,500	25	113,500	6	15,300
Michigan	28	26	26	155,000	5	35,975	3	11,000	2	8,000
Wisconsin	7	7	6	12,150	2	2,095	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Minnesota	9	7	7	55,200	1	2,000	3	9,500	(1)	(1)
Iowa	40	41	37	305,323	3	3,400	10	44,100	2	8,800
Missouri	34	37	32	99,550	1	400	5	19,000	2	2,000
North Dakota	19	17	16	31,000	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Nebraska	17	16	15	80,300	(1)	(1)	6	17,500	(1)	(1)
Kansas	57	57	55	461,100	3	5,800	8	20,100	3	1,830
Maryland	37	51	37	331,050	5	16,800	5	37,500	3	4,550
Virginia	102	164	92	755,250	16	104,410	8	32,500	2	6,000
West Virginia	49	76	43	131,360	7	5,690	3	5,000	(1)	(1)
North Carolina	18	16	16	28,200	1	200	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Florida	9	8	6	28,500	3	1,550	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Tennessee	24	21	20	50,800	1	170	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Arkansas	5	3	3	1,700	1	100	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Oklahoma	14	13	12	30,400	2	4,000	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Texas	5	6	5	9,500	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Montana	4	4	4	3,200	1	400	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Idaho	12	11	11	44,500	2	2,100	3	3,200	(1)	(1)
Colorado	12	11	11	53,300	(1)	(1)	3	7,500	2	1,280
Washington	18	16	16	74,690	2	3,800	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Oregon	9	11	9	30,300	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
California	32	30	30	316,320	7	37,650	11	48,500	4	5,875
Other States ¹	16	16	12	64,800	2	6,800	13	58,150	5	7,500

¹ Amount included in figures shown for "Other States," to avoid disclosing the statistics of individual churches.

² The figures for parsonages (value and debt) include data for 6 churches in New York, Wisconsin, Florida, Oklahoma, Washington, and Oregon.

Among their leaders were Philip Jacob Spener and August Herman Francke, who together organized and supervised the mission, industrial, and orphan school at Halle. They gave a great impulse to the critical study of the Bible, struck a plane of moderation in theology, revived an interest in church history, and left a lasting testimony in at least one organization, the Church of the Brethren.

Among the students at the Halle school was Ernst Christoph Hochmann, who, after varying experiences of expulsion, arrest, ascetic life, and confinement in Castle Detmold, retired to Schwarzenau, where he came into intimate association with Alexander Mack, with whom he went on various preaching tours. In 1708, at Schwarzenau, eight of these Pietists went from the house of Alexander Mack to the River Eder. One of them, chosen by lot, led Alexander Mack into the water and immersed him three times in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Then Alexander Mack baptized the other seven and these eight, probably the first to receive trine immersion in the history of the Protestant Church, organized a new congregation which became the basis of the Täufer, Tunkers or Dunkers, Dompelaars, German Baptist Brethren, or Church of the Brethren, as they have been variously called, as a separate church.

TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926:
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN (CONSERVATIVE DUNKERS)

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches reporting expenditures]

STATE	Total number of churches	EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR				SUNDAY SCHOOLS			
		Churches reporting	Total amount	For current expenses and improvements	For benevolences, missions, etc.	Not classified	Churches reporting	Officers and teachers	Scholars
United States.....	1,030	951	\$1,744,755	\$1,214,930	\$515,260	\$14,565	895	13,021	109,891
New York.....	3	3	6,598	5,342	1,256	—	3	32	260
Pennsylvania.....	169	162	494,103	364,373	127,230	2,500	164	3,430	31,287
Ohio.....	109	106	233,783	159,779	69,004	5,000	101	1,440	12,579
Indiana.....	121	113	222,234	144,133	73,675	4,426	107	1,454	11,938
Illinois.....	51	49	115,793	79,519	35,899	375	42	644	4,860
Michigan.....	28	28	27,930	19,047	8,883	—	25	246	1,725
Wisconsin.....	7	7	6,171	5,424	747	—	6	58	368
Minnesota.....	9	9	7,995	5,632	2,363	—	9	91	632
Iowa.....	40	38	64,234	38,119	25,965	150	37	480	3,526
Missouri.....	34	29	30,499	17,609	12,890	—	28	241	1,835
North Dakota.....	19	15	5,621	2,879	2,692	50	11	63	363
Nebraska.....	17	12	12,786	9,154	3,032	600	14	157	1,221
Kansas.....	57	56	118,326	95,778	22,390	158	51	636	4,937
Maryland.....	37	36	59,521	36,973	22,345	203	32	513	5,210
Virginia.....	102	92	111,980	71,971	39,941	68	87	1,318	12,108
West Virginia.....	49	40	19,628	11,163	8,465	—	39	520	4,070
North Carolina.....	18	16	7,676	6,503	1,003	170	12	65	764
Florida.....	9	7	10,753	7,746	3,007	—	8	102	640
Tennessee.....	24	21	6,236	3,507	2,629	100	17	118	990
Arkansas.....	5	3	335	100	235	—	2	11	95
Oklahoma.....	14	10	8,145	6,470	1,675	—	5	50	312
Texas.....	5	3	2,295	1,195	1,100	—	4	34	230
Idaho.....	12	12	13,290	8,156	4,369	765	12	142	983
Colorado.....	12	10	16,577	11,716	4,861	—	11	142	1,255
Washington.....	18	17	21,619	17,691	3,928	—	16	247	1,519
Oregon.....	9	9	5,640	3,858	1,782	—	9	94	534
California.....	32	31	90,024	62,905	27,119	—	30	538	4,439
Other States.....	20	17	24,963	18,188	6,775	—	13	155	1,211

The members of the new organization waived the question of apostolic succession, subscribed to no written creed, differed from other Pietists in that they were not averse to church organization, did not abandon the ordinances which Christianity, as a whole, held to be necessary for salvation, and in general gave evidence that they were men of intelligence and steadfastness. Gradually they worked out their doctrine, polity, and practice, following in many respects the same general line as the Quakers, Mennonites, and similar bodies, though they had no association with them, and are to be held as entirely distinct.

The church in Schwarzenau grew, and other congregations were organized in the Palatinate, at Marienborn, Crefeld, and Epstein in Switzerland, and in West Friesland; all suffered, at the hands of the State churches of Germany, Holland, and Switzerland, the hardships which have been the usual lot of independents and separatists. It was from Crefeld that the first Brethren, under the leadership of Peter Becker, sailed for America, settling in Germantown, Pa., in 1719. The next year, Alexander Mack, with the remaining members of the Schwarzenau community, fled to Westervain in West Friesland, and in 1729, 59 families, or 126 souls, crossed the Atlantic, landing in Philadelphia on September 15. The fate of the Brethren who did not come to America is not known. In all probability the greater number migrated, and thus the nucleus of the church was removed from European to American soil.

TABLE 7.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, VALUE OF EDIFICES, DEBT, EXPENDITURES, AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY DISTRICTS, 1926: CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN (CONSERVATIVE DUNKERS)

DISTRICT	Total number of churches	Number of members	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		DEBT ON CHURCH EDIFICES		EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR		SUNDAY SCHOOLS	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Number of scholars
Total	1,030	128,392	968	\$8,630,499	131	\$676,584	951	\$1,744,755	895	109,891
Arkansas, first, and southeastern Missouri.....	6	207	3	1,700			4	580	3	182
California, northern.....	17	1,706	15	105,620	2	8,150	16	32,180	16	1,884
California, southern, and Arizona.....	17	2,762	17	219,200	5	29,500	17	62,871	15	2,715
Colorado, eastern.....	9	1,162	9	47,000			8	14,021	9	1,012
Colorado, western, and Utah.....	4	290	3	9,300			3	3,056	3	283
Florida and Georgia.....	9	416	6	28,500	3	1,550	7	10,753	8	640
Idaho and western Montana.....	13	876	12	45,500	2	2,100	12	13,290	12	983
Illinois, northern, and Wisconsin.....	30	3,951	29	335,150	8	37,595	30	88,186	28	3,308
Illinois, southern.....	28	2,700	27	172,600	1	6,000	26	33,778	20	1,920
Indiana, middle.....	44	5,609	44	289,450	2	7,300	43	91,798	43	5,229
Indiana, northern.....	49	5,893	48	432,900	6	20,313	45	73,837	41	4,502
Indiana, southern.....	28	2,979	28	215,550	5	6,000	25	54,547	23	2,107
Iowa, northern, Minnesota, and South Dakota.....	20	2,180	17	195,700	1	2,000	19	32,846	18	1,839
Iowa, middle.....	18	1,434	16	114,000	3	3,400	17	22,896	16	1,449
Iowa, southern.....	12	945	11	50,823			12	17,074	12	870
Kansas, northeastern.....	22	1,752	21	171,400	1	600	22	28,356	20	1,748
Kansas, northwestern.....	7	940	7	61,000			6	9,450	7	825
Kansas, southeastern.....	11	713	10	30,200			11	10,799	10	653
Kansas, southwestern.....	18	1,866	18	199,500	2	5,200	18	69,896	15	1,743
Maryland, eastern.....	19	3,500	19	186,500	5	11,200	19	42,931	17	3,008
Maryland, middle.....	11	2,955	11	149,700	1	300	10	17,764	9	2,181
Maryland, western.....	8	678	8	8,350	1	400	8	2,078	7	483
Michigan.....	26	1,769	24	149,500	4	35,900	26	25,832	23	1,585
Missouri, middle.....	13	843	13	37,000			10	5,668	10	373
Missouri, northern.....	9	1,042	9	36,250	1	400	9	21,221	9	859
Missouri, southwestern, and northwestern Arkansas.....	11	515	10	26,300	1	100	9	3,365	8	516
Nebraska.....	17	1,388	15	80,300			12	12,786	14	1,221
North and South Carolina.....	16	925	14	16,550			14	3,529	9	378
North Dakota and eastern Montana.....	22	696	19	33,200	1	400	17	6,201	12	413
Ohio, northeastern.....	34	4,021	33	330,300	3	16,600	33	93,001	33	3,601
Ohio, northwestern.....	25	2,289	25	141,300	3	8,300	25	36,094	23	2,409
Ohio, southern.....	53	8,333	51	618,100	11	38,235	51	108,873	48	6,860
Oklahoma, Panhandle of Texas, and New Mexico.....	15	771	13	36,400	2	4,000	10	9,770	6	470
Oregon.....	9	444	9	30,300			9	5,640	9	534
Pennsylvania, eastern.....	40	8,001	40	577,300	3	26,550	38	121,425	39	7,647
Pennsylvania, middle.....	41	8,495	40	566,093	8	39,421	41	93,412	39	7,147
Pennsylvania, southeastern.....	17	2,883	17	532,033	7	43,300	17	88,964	16	3,046
Pennsylvania, southern.....	24	4,720	24	328,680			22	54,126	24	5,056
Pennsylvania, western.....	56	10,111	56	1,001,800	14	208,010	53	156,654	54	9,030
Tennessee.....	31	1,951	24	63,500	1	170	26	7,191	23	1,353
Texas and Louisiana.....	6	432	5	8,500			5	3,397	5	296
Virginia, eastern.....	17	1,772	15	39,100	2	780	17	9,522	13	1,246
Virginia, first.....	31	3,879	28	299,100	7	93,200	27	44,538	24	3,339
Virginia, northern.....	23	5,247	22	197,260	6	8,820	20	21,820	22	3,403
Virginia, second.....	21	4,559	20	156,200			17	29,698	19	3,454
Virginia, southern.....	27	3,477	23	103,200	4	3,550	24	14,778	22	2,283
Washington.....	18	1,503	16	74,690	2	3,800	17	21,619	16	1,519
West Virginia, first.....	18	2,512	17	65,400	3	3,440	18	12,098	15	2,029
West Virginia, second.....	10	300	7	12,500			6	546	8	260

After the Brethren came to America the details of the organization were developed and individual congregations increased in number—first in the immediate vicinity of Philadelphia; then in New Jersey, southern Pennsylvania, northern Maryland, Virginia, and the Carolinas; then reaching westward over the old Braddock road, immediately after the Revolution, to western Pennsylvania, and from the Carolinas into Kentucky, they were among the first to enter the Ohio and Mississippi valleys, and from 1790 to 1825 the great central plain was rapidly populated by Brethren.

The Brethren of colonial times (then known generally as Dunkers) were for the most part German or Dutch farmers, although they engaged in some other occupations, particularly weaving. They retained their own language, and this created a prejudice against them on the part of their English neighbors, who looked upon them as illiterate, although the Saur presses of Germantown, Pa., were famous in American colonial days. One private library contains over 400 different imprints of these presses, and their output of papers, almanacs, Bibles, and religious and secular work gives evidence not only of a flourishing business, but of a literary appreciation. This would seem to call for the organization of schools, but, aside from the interest of certain members in the founding of Germantown Academy, there is no early school history to record.

There was also a widespread, though unjust, feeling that socially and politically they belonged with the party that had opposed the Revolution, and the result was a mutual dislike, which was probably increased by the fact that, though not essentially selfish, they kept very much to themselves, mingled little with the world, and took little part in the general movements of the times.

The Brethren shared the experience of other religious bodies organized in the early history of this country. As conditions changed they developed different practices and to some extent different conceptions, which resulted in the formation of separate communities. The first to withdraw were John Conrad Beissel and his followers, who founded, in 1728, the famous monastic community at Ephrata, Pa.² In 1848, in Indiana, George Patton, Peter Eyman, and others organized a small group.³ From that time there was no further division until 1881, when a comparatively small company withdrew⁴ in protest against certain modifications which they felt to be inconsistent with their early history. The next year another division took place,⁵ based chiefly upon objection to the form of government which had gradually developed within the larger body. As the years have passed there has grown up a feeling that, with a little more patience on all sides, this division might have been avoided. Recently greetings from the conferences of "The Brethren Church" and "Church of the Brethren" have been exchanged, and efforts have been made to unite these two bodies. In some localities the union is all but effected.

² German Seventh Day Baptists, now Seventh Day Baptists (German, 1728), p. 249.

³ Church of God (New Dunkers), p. 253.

⁴ Old Order German Baptist Brethren, p. 239.

⁵ The Brethren Church (Progressive Dunkers), p. 243.

DOCTRINE

The Church of the Brethren in general terms is classed as orthodox trinitarian.

Baptism is by trine forward immersion, the person baptized being confirmed while kneeling in the water. The rite of foot washing and the love feast or agape immediately precede the communion or eucharist, the entire service being observed in the evening. Sisters are expected to be "veiled" during prayer, and especially at communion services. In case of illness, anointing with oil in the name of the Lord is administered as a means of reconsecration of spirit and healing of the mind and body. The rule of the eighteenth chapter of Matthew with respect to differences between members is observed. Plain attire, excluding jewelry for adornment, is advocated. The civil law is resorted to but little. Taking an oath is forbidden, all affidavits being made by affirmation. Nonresistance is taught, and all communicants are asked to be noncombatants, not because of personal fear nor out of a desire to be disloyal citizens, but because war is outlawed by the teaching and example of Jesus. Any connection, direct or indirect, with the liquor business is prohibited, and there is a corresponding insistence upon total abstinence.

The ideal in all these ceremonies and beliefs is the reproduction and perpetuation of the life and activities of the primitive Christians, and, while its effect is manifest in a somewhat stern and legal type of religious life, mysticism or the Pietistic temper has modified it in the direction of a quiet moderation in all things.

ORGANIZATION

The polity of the church corresponds more nearly to the Presbyterian than to any other specific ecclesiastical form. The local congregation, usually presided over by the bishop of that body, is governed by the council of all the members. The power of discipline, including trial and excommunication, rests with the local congregation.

Ministers are elected by individual ballot by all the members of a congregation, from members of that congregation; but one feeling the call to the ministry may present his desires for acceptance. When appointed by the congregation, he exercises all the duties of the ministry save those especially assigned to the bishop, and in due time is ordained to the bishopric. The bishop of a congregation may or may not be resident. The pastorate and a salaried ministry are being rapidly adopted by the congregations.

The individual congregation elects delegates, lay and clerical, to a State district meeting, connected with which there is also an "elders' meeting," composed of the bishops of the respective congregations. Above the State district meeting is the general conference of all the brotherhood. To this each district meeting elects one or more bishops as delegates, while the local churches elect other delegates. The delegates elected by the State district meetings constitute the standing committee of the general conference, which prepares business for presentation at that meeting. In the general sessions of the conference there is free discussion, and both classes of delegates vote together on the final disposition of a matter. Upon a proper request, a committee may be sent from the general conference to any local congregation for the purpose of settling any difficulties that the congregation itself or the bishops of the adjoining congregations may seem unable to adjust.

WORK

Although the Brethren from the time of the earliest settlements in America pursued a vigorous policy of church extension, moving forward into unoccupied territory, it was not until 1885 that regularly organized missionary endeavor in both home and foreign fields was undertaken.

Home mission work is being done in the United States and Canada. This territory is divided into 50 districts. The general conference elects a general board of five members. This board administers both home and foreign missions. Each district elects a district home mission board. These district boards in cooperation with the general mission board constitute the home missionary organization. About 150 enterprises are under direction of this organization. An average of about \$100,000 is spent each year in equipment and salaries. The program includes work among foreigners, and mountaineers, in city and rural fields.

The foreign mission enterprises of the Brethren are under the care of the general mission board, which in 1926 carried on work in India, China, and Africa, also supervising churches in Sweden and Denmark. In all these countries there are about 25 stations, occupied by 125 American missionaries, with 260 native helpers, and 27 churches, with a membership of about 4,800. There were also reported 180 schools of various grades with about 3,700 students, and 5 hospitals treating more than 50,000 patients. The amount contributed in 1926 for the support of foreign missions was about \$200,000; the value of property belonging to the denomination in foreign countries is estimated at about \$650,000, and there are endowments amounting to approximately \$1,500,000.

The denomination owns 8 senior colleges with an enrollment of 2,020 students, 3 academies enrolling 218 students, and 1 theological seminary and training school with 148 students. The property and equipment was valued at \$2,907,132 in 1926. These institutions have a total cash endowment of \$1,634,539, notes and pledges of \$1,760,678, and annuities and nonproductive endowment of \$631,561.

The total offerings of the Sunday schools is over \$265,000 annually, of which \$105,000 goes to missions. Over 2,500 teacher-training credits are awarded annually in the international standard course.

There are 509 young people's departments, 336 young people's organizations, 138 junior church leagues, and 310 Christian workers' societies. More than 60 per cent of the Sunday schools use graded lessons.

Many institutes and schools of method are provided. There are five well organized and maintained camp sites, which provide for about one-third of the summer conferences and other special assemblies.

The church seeks to take care of her own poor and homeless by establishing and maintaining comfortable homes for them. There are 15 such institutions in the United States.