

Rev. Catherine Oatman,

Thinking about my 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of joining United Evangelical led me to recall some facts about the Lehmans that I'm sure will be of interest to you. This is a good time to put this in writing because I'm not getting any younger and it should be passed on for future generations.

Titus Lehman was born in Ostheim, Russia on Jan. 19, 1890. His father Carl was German and a minister in the German Evangelical Church. He was a missionary, and his work took him and his wife Amelia as well as their 8 year old son Timothy to Russia. In 1895 they moved to the Gold Coast of Africa. By 1898 they came to America and moved to Ohio. In 1909 Titus began his ministerial studies in a college in New Orleans, La. It was there that he met and fell in love with Irene Hildegard Seybold. She was the daughter of Gottlob Seybold and Louise Wellman. (The Wellmans were a prominent family in New Orleans) They were married on Feb. 26, 1914 in New Orleans, and moved to Erie, NY. From there they went to Missouri where Titus was a "circuit rider". His stay in Baltimore is well documented.

I would bet you cannot find anyone in the congregation who would know the first name of Mrs. Lehman, let alone her family name.

Another item of note: when the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in the early 50s, the Smithsonian sent transportation to pick up Lehman many times. He was one of the few people who could read ancient Hebrew. Amazing!

I was fortunate to spend enough time to get to know Titus Lehman as a personal friend and as a man of God. My respect and admiration will always be with me.

Yours,



Thomas P Bocek