

## Cross of Christ Chronicles

### *“New” Photo of an Early Pastor*

An unexpected consequence of attending the annual Scheie Lutheran Church Norwegian Buffet last year was an opportunity to purchase two of their previous church history books. Both proved to be interesting and informative with the earlier booklet providing the photo alluded to in the title of this article.

You will remember that last month we mentioned Rev. Andreas A. Scheie, of Newburg in Fillmore County, who in 1858 helped organize our small St. Peter’s Congregation in town. His picture in the Scheie book was taken a bit later than the one that appears in the center of the Houston pastors photo montage in the narthex display case.

We were also pleased to see that it included a photo of Rev. Scheie’s wife – one of the oft forgotten and under-appreciated *Prestefruer*, as we’ve mentioned before. Since it is rather unusual for the wives of 19<sup>th</sup> Century pastors to be pictured in the typical church history book, we were also a bit surprised. It is not known if his wife, Inger, ever traveled with Rev. Scheie on his twenty-some mile trips to Houston, or had any involvement with our budding congregation, but that shouldn’t diminish the value of having a picture of her. We also have no way of discerning the effect her support and encouragement had on the pioneer pastor.

Accepting the role as a pastor on the frontier was quite a challenge to say the least, especially when they agreed to serve other far flung congregations in their area (like Houston). Judging from his pictures Rev. Scheie appears to be a robust and determined individual and one who could probably deliver a whizbang “fire and brimstone” sermon as well.

Born in 1818, Scheie was no doubt the oldest of all of our pastors, and earliest ordained, in 1848. He was 39 when called from Milwaukee in 1857 by the congregation that would later bear his name. From what we can tell, he was well thought of by his congregations and the Scheie Church book describes him as a very practical man who was of great assistance to the pioneers.

Rev. Scheie resigned from the Houston Congregation in 1869 and seven years later he left Newburg and was off to brave the rigors of the frontier once again at age 58. His 400 mile trip to Norman County in the Red River Valley was not without its harrowing experiences, and he likely agreed to accept a call from so far away since his son Anthony (and perhaps other of his children) had moved up there in 1872.

The Scheie Church book had this to say about his later career: “Rev. Scheie tendered his resignation here in the spring of 1876 and answered a Letter-of-Call to churches near Halstead, Minnesota, where he also became loved and respected by old and young. He died in February, 1885 and is buried in the Augustana Church cemetery, near Halstead, Minnesota.

“Inside the impressive memorial, erected on his grave, is a Bible and Hymn Book. Mrs. Scheie lived until 1899. The children who survived them were John and Anthony, Hannah, Caroline, Ellen and Anna, who became the wife of Samson Anderson. Two children of this marriage have always lived in our midst, namely Miss Ellen Anderson 87 and her brother Ed, 83 of Newburg.

“Blessed be the memory of Pastor Scheie.” —125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary History of Scheie Lutheran Congregation (1982) p. 14

*Jim and Shelley, Cross of Christ Archives, October 2017*

*Facsimile taken from page 11 of the Scheie church history book cited above.*