

Luther Rice (d. 1836) the famous missionary leader and statesman.

(4) The revolution would find the baptist bodies almost totally on the side of the colonials. In their vigor they mounted companies of volunteers from Virginia to Rhode Island. Common dislike of the British made them fellow travellers with all other colonials at that time.

I may pause here and note that in terms of polity, virtually no church in the revolutionary period (prior) practiced what we will call open communion. Few, apart from the revivalists, crossed from one discipline to another to preach and even the revivalists who did were subject to severe criticism by their brethren. Strong feelings existed between the congregationalists and the baptists because, on one hand, they had a lot in common and on the other the differences were irreconcilable. It is that old story of seeing that your friend has a lot of truth but not quite enough! But as is often the case, the war did a lot to loosen up the denominational strings. It is true that Whitfield, Davies, et al regularly denied the validity of denominations as such and championed a pure Christianity...but they were lonely voices, I fear. Participation in a common cause tends to do much more for making varied members aware of their response to and need of one another.

e. The Lutherans

We will note onlyh briefly this segment as the importance of the body did not become marked until after the revolution. Moreover the Lutheran churches were marked with a high degree of ethnic preference and tended to remain aloof to one another for a good many years. They were part of the mass of Germanic peoples mentioned earlier in our study and, like some of the British migratees, were very different from other parties of a similar ethnic origin

(1) The first Lutheran bodies were Swedish and Dutch in few numbers in the middle of the 17th century. Churches were build in New Amsterdam and in modern Delaware and New Jersey. These did not prosper well. It was difficult to obtain ministers and growth was mostly regressive.

(2) German Lutherans settled in larger quantities in the early 18th century in Pennsylvania and the first organized German Lutheran congregation was formed there in 1703. The movement gained direction and leadership from Henry Melchior Muhlenberg who arrived in Philadelphia in 1742 and quickly made order out of the Lutheran bodies. A pietist of the Halle school, Muhlenberg was supported by the Francke institute and others and in 1748 was successful in forming the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, the first