

# Early German Printers of Lancaster.

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I regard it as not a little to the credit of Lancaster city that twenty-one years after it was organized into a municipality, in 1751, a German printing press was set up within its limits. This contrasts very favorably with what occurred in the city of Philadelphia in its early days along the same lines. There a period of forty-eight years intervened between the founding of the city and the publication of Franklin's German newspaper, the Philadelphia Gazette (Philadelphische Zeitung), in 1730. Besides, we must not forget that Lancaster, in 1751, was a place of perhaps 2,000 inhabitants, while Philadelphia contained a population of perhaps 8,000 in 1730. Then, too, ours was largely a German community, while Philadelphia was founded by English-speaking people.

Lancaster has, for a half-century, enjoyed the reputation of being a literary community; of having a decided literary flavor, as shown by her schools of every grade and of many

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Note.—A word of explanation seems necessary in view of the many letters the writer of this paper has received since it was publicly read. The writers of these letters state that they possess certain books, of which they give the titles, and inform me they have been omitted in my enumeration of the publications of the German printers of Lancaster. This paper deals only with the publications in the "German language" that came from their presses, and "omits their English ones." Some of these printers, like Hamilton, the Dicksons and Baileys, were English, but they printed German books and were thus entitled to a place in the list of German printers. All the titles of books given are translated from the German.

F. R. D.

kinds, from the humble Kindergarten to Franklin and Marshall College and the Theological Seminary. It is eminently a reading community, as is evidenced by its four daily newspapers, its weeklies, and many other periodical publications, to say nothing of the metropolitan journals received here daily. To those conversant with the social and domestic life of our people, it is well known that there are collections of books, of greater or less extent, in almost every household, running in many instances into private libraries of very creditable dimensions. As readers of the current literature of the day, they are certainly behind no other, almost all the new books as they come from the press being put into prompt circulation. Nor is this book-buying proclivity confined to comparatively inexpensive single volumes. It is a well-known fact that publishers who issue single volumes, or costly sets of books, by subscription have always found this city a very productive field in which to carry on their operations.

### **The Newspaper Press.**

Impulse and direction was given to this literary tendency during the early period of our history by the newspaper press. Beginning with that little bi-lingual paper (it was only 13x8 inches in size), printed by Miller & Holland, there has been a steady succession of both German and English newspapers ever since, until the total number started in Lancaster borough and city up to the present time has been about 175. That, mind you, takes no account of those published in Lancaster county, outside the city limits, which number 100 or more, making a total for city and county of 275, a record which, I believe, exceeds that of any community in the United States,

having no larger population than ours, say, 160,000 souls.

The more immediate purpose of this paper, however, is to bring into prominence the German press of the county, and its issues, since the first issue of the "Lancastersche Zeitung," in 1752, down to the end of the first quarter of the nineteenth century. No one who has not personally investigated the question can have any idea of the literary activity which prevailed among the German population of this county during that period. Thanks to the investigations of Prof. Seidensticker, Charles R. Hildeburn, Abraham Cassel, Governor Pennypacker and others, we are enabled to form a correct estimate of what was done by the early German press in this and in other localities, every file of papers, and even single numbers, having been searched for with a keenness that cannot be excelled and an activity that knew no weariness. Dr. Seidensticker especially has been laid under contribution in the preparation of this article.

### The Ephrata Press.

While, as already stated, the first publications in the German language in Lancaster borough bear the date of 1752, it may be mentioned en passant that the earliest newspaper press brought into the county was that of the Cloister Brotherhood, at Ephrata, in 1743. It is true, that no book, leaflet or broadside printed on that press has been found bearing an earlier date than 1745, but it is not to be inferred that their press remained idle and unused for two long years after they had it, simply because nothing bearing the date of 1743 or 1744 has been found. Previously unknown issues from that rude press have been brought to light within the past two or three years, some without date, and there is, there-

fore, a strong presumption that others may have been printed of which no copies have come down to us. The *Chronicon Ephratense*, which gives us the best insight into the doings of the monkish brotherhood we have, while discussing the events of the year 1743, says: "Soon after a printing press was put up in the settlement" (see Hark's translation, p. 152). The *Chronicon* further has this: "Soon after a printing press was set up in the settlement, and there, by the Prior's orders, the same writing had also to be printed in the English language; but, because he had done this arbitrarily, and soon after left the Order, all his acts were annulled, and also the English prints (three in number) condemned to the flames."

### Its Early Activity.

Ten several books and pamphlets are known to have been printed on the Ephrata press in 1745. Among them was a work in quarto of 294 pages; another of 293, one of 166, a 24-mo. of 120, and a 12-mo. of 519. Is it conceivable that an association of learned men, inspired with great religious activity and zeal, and who, in 1745, sent out ten separate publications from their printing press, should have left that press standing unused during the previous two years? The thought is not to be entertained for a moment. How actively those men used their press after they got it may be seen in the number of publications that came from it. How many books and pamphlets were printed there is not known. Some have undoubtedly been lost. Governor Pennypacker's collection of Ephrata imprints is the largest known. He has told me within a year that it numbers 150 different examples. However interesting the story of the Ephrata press may be—and its

history is of exceeding value to the student of our early German literature—it forms no part of the German Lancaster press, and to the latter I shall now proceed to direct my attention after this digression.

### From 1751 to 1830.

Between 1752 and 1830, a period of seventy-eight years, there were in Lancaster twenty-seven individuals and firms that were engaged in the printing of newspapers, pamphlets and books in the German language. Their names were as follows: The first one was James Chalten, who came in 1751; Henry Miller & Holland, in 1752; S. Holland, in 1753; Francis Bailey, from 1774 to 1784; Matthias Bartgis, from 1776 to 1777; Theophilus Cossart, from 1778 to 1782; Jacob Bailey, from 1784 to 1790; Steimer, Albrecht & Lahn, in 1787; Albrecht & Co., from 1790 to 1799; William & Robert Dickson, 1796; Christian Jacob Hutter, from 1799 to 1802; John Albrecht, from 1800 to 1806; George and Peter Albrecht, from 1806 to 1808; Henry and Benjamin Grimler, from 1804 to 1814; Hamilton, Albrecht & Ehrenfried, in 1809; Hamilton & Ehrenfried, from 1808 to 1810; W. Hamilton & Co., from 1810 to 1817; John S. Ehrenfried, from 1810 to 1817; Anton Albrecht, from 1800 to 1819; Benjamin Grimler, from 1815 to 1830; S. Kling & J. Baer, 1817; John Baer, 1818 to 1830, and Baab & Villee, 1829. It is a goodly list, and they deserve to be held in grateful remembrance for their successful efforts in arousing their German fellow-citizens to the value and importance of a more general education of the masses and the spread of a more generous appreciation of the value of newspapers and books. Their influence was unquestionably great, as we know from the very general circu-

lation of their weekly papers, and from the further fact that there is hardly a family in the county to-day, whose history goes back a hundred years or more, that has not a number of old books printed in the German language, and bought from the printers already named. It does not matter that a majority of these were hymn-books, books of devotion, and religious essays and discussions. They were read by the people, and thus and then the foundations were at least in part laid for the generous culture which prevails among our people to-day.

### **Franklin Sets Up the First Press.**

It is a noteworthy fact that that greatest of all Pennsylvanians, Benjamin Franklin, was the promoter and proprietor of the first printing establishment in the City of Lancaster. His name was not known in the matter at the time, and only came to light a few years ago through the discovery of certain legal documents drawn up at the time. Franklin had been doing much of the printing for the Ephrata community before it procured its own press, and for the other religious sects in the State. Lancaster county was the home of these people. He wished to retain their patronage, and not caring to wait until it came to him at Philadelphia, he resolved to go to it in Lancaster. He was also, no doubt, fearful that the Ephrata Brethren and Christopher Saur would secure the greater portion of it unless he made special efforts to retain what he already had, hence the establishment of an office in this city to do German as well as English printing. James Chatten was sent here by Franklin with a printing outfit in 1751. All the issues of his office so far as known were almanacs. Then Miller & Holland were put in charge. The enter-

prise does not seem to have been a paying business, so in 1753 Franklin sold the entire plant to Holland for £200. Evidently Holland could not pay the bond he had given for the purchase money, and Franklin in 1754 put one William Dunlap in charge. He rented the establishment to the latter from February, 1754, to April, 1757, at the rate of £20 per annum.

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## MILLER & HOLLAND.

1752—1753.

Henry Miller and S. Holland were, however, the ostensible founders and proprietors of the Lancaster Gazette, begun in 1752. The first column was in the German language and the second in English, and so the two languages alternated through the four small pages of the paper. The first eleven numbers were printed somewhere on King street. From the twelfth to the thirty-first and last number the paper was issued "at the postoffice, in King street," by S. Holland alone. Miller withdrew after eleven numbers had been issued, and it was continued only for twenty additional numbers. The last issue bears the date of June 5, 1753.

In addition to their newspaper, Miller & Holland printed in the German language a circular of eleven pages only, which, as it is the first document in book form known to have been printed in this city and is exceedingly rare, I shall give the title in full, which is as follows: "(A) Circular Letter of the United Reformed Preachers (pastors) in Pennsylvania to all the Reformed Congregations (situated) there, in which they briefly set forth how the great Jehovah has in mercy blessed the commission undertaken by S. E. Mich. Slatter (Schlat-

ter), V. D. M., to our Christian Church fathers for their aid and deliverance; and how he should be duly recognized and received with thanksgiving. Published by G. M. Weiss, T. P. Leydich, quarto 11 pages." There is a copy of this rare pamphlet in the Reformed Library at The Hague. Whether there are any in this country I do not know. Dr. Dubbs has given a facsimile of the title page of this rare circular letter in his recently-published excellent history of the Reformed Church in Pennsylvania.\*

Of Miller & Holland, the printers, very little is known; of the latter, nothing in fact. Prof. Seidensticker says Heinrich Miller was born in 1702, in the Principality of Waldeck, Germany. He was a practical printer, and, like most of the craft, both then and since, an ardent traveler, and, during the course of his career, worked at his trade in Zurich, Leipzig, Altona, London, Hamburg, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Antwerp, Brussels, Paris, Philadelphia in 1742, then again at Hamburg, England, Scotland, Philadelphia in 1751, Lancaster in 1752. For a time he was in the employ of Franklin. He returned to Germany, set up a press of his own in London, and in 1760 came to Philadelphia for the third time, where he established himself as a printer. From that year until he re-

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\*The following is the original German title of this, so far as known, the earliest publication printed in the German language in the city of Lancaster: "Circular-Schreiben der Bereingten Reformirten Prediger in Pennsylvanien an die dasige sammtliche Reformirten Gemeinen, darin sie Kurtzlich darlegen, wie der grosse Jehovah die von S. E. Mich. Slatter, V.D.M., an unsure Christl. Kirchenvater uebernommene Commission zu ihrer Rettung und Hulfe in Gnaden gesegnet und wie solches von sothanen Gemeined sall gebuhrend erkant, mit Danksagung angenommen werden. Zu allegemeiner Nachricht herausgegeben von G. M. Weiss, T. P. Leydich, T. Lischy, 4to 11 S."

tired from business, in 1779, he issued a great many books and pamphlets. He died at Bethlehem on March 31, 1782. In his religious convictions he was a Moravian.

When the Lancaster Gazette went out of existence Miller returned to Philadelphia, whence he came. What became of his partner, S. Holland, I do not know. His name disappears from the list of German printers in this State. Whether he died or left the State I have been unable to learn.

From 1753 until 1774 there is an interregnum in the succession of German Lancaster printers and publications. During the long period of twenty-one years there appears to have been no printing press of any kind in Lancaster. Ephrata, of course, was busily engaged in sending out her deluge of books on all manner of subjects, but darkness had fallen upon the art preservative in our city, which no printer had the courage to try to dispel for nearly a quarter of a century. The active press of Christopher Saur, at Germantown, and the one at Ephrata no doubt were sufficient to supply the needs of the people, aided by Franklin's press in Philadelphia.

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## FRANCIS BAILEY.

1774—1784.

But in 1774 the coming man arrived. His name was Francis Bailey, and from the year mentioned until 1783, inclusive, he was identified with the craft in this city. He was born in Sadsbury township, this county. He was the son of Robert Bailey, who bought a large farm on the road leading from the Gap to the Copper Mines, where he built a large mansion. Young Bailey was a practical printer. He was, like his father, a zealous

patriot, and stood high in the favor of the State authorities during the Revolutionary era, and for many years thereafter. He did most of the printing for the Provincial Council, and for the State, also, until 1790. His residence in this place was not of long duration—ten years—when he returned to his old home in Sadsbury township, where, about 1800, he built a large stone printing office, and where he followed his craft until 1815. The early volumes of the Colonial Records show the favor in which he stood with the Colonial authorities. An order was drawn in his favor on December 2, 1779, for £4,873.6, for work done for the Council.

Francis Bailey published no newspaper when he first came here, but he seems to have had his hands full of other work. Many orders were drawn on the State Treasury for printing and binding done by him for the State. He printed a "Journal" for the use of the members of the Legislature. Most of this work was done in his office in Sadsbury township. The pamphlet laws of the State were printed by him until the administration of Governor Simon Snyder. He also acted as a commissary for the purchase of supplies for the patriot army and large sums of money were entrusted to him for that purpose. In his old age he removed to the city of Philadelphia, where he died.

Mercantile printing seems to have been a large part of his business, but in the same year he opened his office, 1774, he issued two publications. One was the "Narrative of Samuel Brand, detailing the Inhuman Deeds done by him, and his Execution," a thin octavo volume of 34 pages. The other was the "History of the Palatine Countess Genoveva," a story much admired and read one hundred years ago by our

grandfathers, and which was to be found in almost every household in the county. I remember reading it myself when a lad, and believe I still have a copy.

In 1775 he issued the first number of his "Entirely New and Improved North American Almanac," a publication in the well-known quarto form of thirty-six pages, for the year 1776. This almanac he continued to publish annually, without interruption, until 1783, when he seems to have turned it over to Jacob Bailey, probably a relative, by whom it was published under the old title until 1787, when it again changed owners, passing into the hands of Messrs. Albrecht & Lahn, then into those of Johannes Albrecht by himself, by whom it continued to be issued into the early years of the nineteenth century, and later still by George and Peter Albrecht, until 1820, when still another Albrecht, William, carried it forward to at least 1831; how much longer I do not know.

### A Notable Almanac.

The best-known and most highly-prized of all Francis Bailey's almanacs was the one for the year 1779, where he gave expression to his patriotism by designing a cut for the cover page, on which certain historical and other scenes were represented. One was an allegorical picture of Fame, represented by a winged female flying through the air. In one hand she holds a medallion picture of General Washington and in the other a trumpet, into which she is speaking, and out of which issue the words "Des Landes Vater," "The Father of His Country." The expression was, perhaps, not original with Bailey, as the same title is said to have been given to William of Orange two hundred years before. However that may be, there is no record that

Des Landes Water.

Washington

1779.



FAC-SIMILE OF TITLE PAGE OF  
BAILEY'S ALMANAC, FOR 1779.  
(By courtesy of *The North American newspaper.*)

the term had even been applied to Washington before, in print, and to Francis Bailey, a Lancaster printer, and a Lancaster county man, must be awarded the credit of having done so. While Bailey's 1779 almanac cannot be said to be very rare—I have seen three copies myself—it is, nevertheless, scarce enough to make it valuable and highly-prized by those who own it.

The further publications of Francis Bailey while in Lancaster were as follows: In 1777, a translation into the German of the proclamation of General Washington at Valley Forge, on December 20, 1777, relating to the threshing of grain for the American army, and an address "To the Honorable Members of the Pennsylvania Assembly."

In 1778 he published "Articles of Confederation and perpetual covenant between the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. Translated from the German, 1 vol., 16mo., 16 pages." In this year he also issued his only newspaper, "The Pennsylvania News-sheet, or a record of foreign as well as of domestic news." The first number of this paper made its appearance on February 4th, and the last on June 24th of the same year, a period of four months and twenty days. The time of its publication was within the period of the occupation of Philadelphia by the British. In all probability it was issued at the instigation of the Provincial Council, which was holding its sittings in Lancaster at that time. On the petition of prominent German citizens, the Supreme Executive Council paid for 500 copies.

In 1780 he is believed to have printed two little things of a single page

each, called respectively, "A Beautiful Hymn" and "A New Hymn." These were the last of his special publications in this city. As already stated, he issued his almanac regularly every year until he left the place in 1784.

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## **MATTHIAS BARTGIS.**

1776—1777.

Matthias Bartgis made his appearance as a printer in Lancaster in 1776, and began his career by issuing "The Newest North American Almanac for the year 1777. Issued for the first time." In 1778 he reissued his almanac with a very long and humorous title, supposed to be intended as a burlesque on the numerous other almanacs published in the State. In 1779 the third issue appeared. That for 1780 appeared in Frederick, Md., to which place he had no doubt removed.

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## **THEOPHILUS COSSART.**

1778—1782.

Theophilus Cossart appears upon the scene in 1778. He followed the course of most of the other German printers in sending forth an almanac with the following title: "The Republican Almanac, for the year of our Lord 1779. Published for the first time. Printed and to be had of Theophilus Cossart and Company, in Lancaster, near the jail, and directly opposite the Three Green Trees." The second issue of his almanac appeared in 1780. The one for 1781 and 1782 was published by Theophilus Cossart & Company. After the latter year he disappears from this locality; whither he went I do not know. During the past summer, in answer to a request, I wrote a brief article about Lancaster Almanacs for the Philadelphia Press. It was quickly

followed by a letter of inquiry from one of his descendants, a lady, living in Reading, if I remember aright.

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### **JACOB BAILEY.**

1784—1790.

This printer made his appearance here in the same year, 1784, that his namesake, and no doubt relative, left us. In that year he printed "The New and Improved North American Almanac for 1785," which had, for the previous nine years, been issued by Francis Bailey. In the same year he printed a volume of 247 pages octavo, with the title of "The Gospel Nicodemus, or Historical Statements relative to the life of Jesus Christ, written by Nicodemus, a Jewish Rabbi. Many important statements not to be found in the Evangelists are here to be found." He also continued the publication of his almanac in the years 1786 and 1787. After that period he drops out of sight and does not re-appear again. Where he went or what became of him I have been unable to learn. In 1790 an edition of the story of the "Blameless and Saintly Genoveva" came from his press. In 1791 he issued a new edition of the book Nicodemus, a 12mo. of 95 pages and a 12mo. of 113 pages, with the title "The Testaments and Copy of the Twelve Patriarchs of the Sons of Jacob."

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### **STEIMER, ALBRECHT & LAHN.**

1787—1788.

With the coming of Steimer, Albrecht & Lahn, in 1787, came also the New Non-Partisan Lancaster Gazette, which was the first German paper printed in this city that was destined to live beyond the probationary period.

I have lying before me as I write a copy of the prospectus issued by the publishers, addressed to the German people of the community and others. It bears the date of June 5, 1787. It conveys the information that the proposed paper would be the third German paper in the State at that time. Among the arguments set forth for a German paper in this place were the following: "Lancaster, where we have set up our printing press, lies not only more in the middle of the country, by which quite a considerable sum of money for postage will be saved, but it also has a peculiar advantage in that it is almost entirely German and surrounded by German settlers, and even now has been selected as the site of a German High School." Of the two other German papers alluded to as being published at that time, one was The Germantown Newspaper and the other the *Gemeinnutzige Correspondenz*, of Philadelphia. In 1778 they published a small 16mo. volume of 167 pages, with the title: "The Illustrations of the wholesome words of Faith and Love as they are in Christ Jesus. Compiled by John H. Reitzen."

The partnership was soon broken by the death of Mr. Anton Steimer, who died in the following year. His partners, Albrecht & Lahn, continued the publication until 1790, when Albrecht & Co. became the publishers. Mr. Lahn was born at Frankfort, Germany. He had taught the "languages and sciences" in Philadelphia before coming to Lancaster. He was also a book-seller and advertised about 800 of the "latest and best German works," all imported by him. The third partner, John Albrecht, was born at Bethlehem, in this State, and learned the printer's trade in the office of Christopher Saur, at Germantown. He died

in 1805 and his sons continued his business.

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## ALBRECHT & LAHN.

1787—1790.

Albrecht & Lahn, as already stated, continued the business after the death of Anton Steimer, and in 1788 published an almanac for that year in their printery, on Queen street. In the same year they sent out Lavater's "Recollections of My Own Life," a 12-mo. of 43 pages, and the Lancaster Gazette. Their only publications in 1789 were the almanac and the newspaper.

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## JOHANN ALBRECHT & CO.

1790—1799.

The firm of Johann Albrecht & Co. succeeded that of Albrecht & Lahn, and in 1790 issued both the almanac and the newspaper of the firm they succeeded. In addition, they published a 12-mo. volume of 232 pages, with the title, "Jesus and the Power of His Blood Particularly Glorified in John Yost Weygand, a Poor Sinner Who Committed Murder."

In 1791 they continued their newspaper and almanac, and, in addition, a volume of 266 pages with the title: "Doring, Frederick Christlieb. That the gospel of Jesus Christ, according to Romans 1: 16, is still the inward power of God, illustrated by the example of his own brother, August Solomon Doring."

In 1792 they published only their almanac and newspaper, and, in 1793, in addition to the same, a book entitled: "A conversation in the Kingdom of the dead concerning those most favored on earth and concerning the happiness in Heaven, between two highly enlightened and blessed men

of God, Gerhard and Jacob of Bergfelen."

In 1794 the newspaper and calendar were continued. Besides these, two volumes came from their press; one with the title: "A Fugitive letter of evangelical words to young men concerning the blessedness of such children and young people as are early converted." Also, the following work by Menno Simon, in a volume of 675 pages: "A foundation and clear instruction concerning the blessed doctrine of our Lord Jesus Christ, &c. By M. S. Printed in Europe 1575. Printed in Pennsylvania in the year of Christ 1794." This work by Menno Simon has often been reprinted in this country. An edition was published by John Baer in this city in 1835.

Only the almanac and newspaper came from their press in the year 1795.

In addition to issuing their almanac and Gazette in 1796 they also published the following books: A small volume of 48 pages, 12mo., under the title, "The Christian Family. Translated from the Greek original;" and "The Religion of Jesus, a gentle Religion set forth according to the doctrines of the German Reformed Church in Lancaster, by Dr. C. L. Becker." This book has a special interest from the fact that the Dr. Becker was the pastor of the First Reformed Church in this place from 1795 until 1806. His ministry here was a very successful one. I believe the translation of all the records of the church from the original German into English, now owned by the church, were made by him. He was born in Germany in 1756 and died in Baltimore in 1818.

In 1797 this printing house, as usual, sent out its almanac and continued its weekly paper. The only additional publication by them was "The Daily Record of the Eighth Session of the

House of Representatives of the Republic of Pennsylvania."

In 1798 the almanac was published as usual. This year saw the name of the "Non-Partisan Gazette" changed to that of "The German Porcupine;" with the change of name went also a change of politics. It was no longer non-partisan, but adopted violent Federal principles. A book called "The Remarkable Life, Sickness, Death and Burial of French Freedom and likewise the funeral discourse over the same, etc., as pronounced by an honest German."

The publications of the firm for 1799 were a political pamphlet, with the title, "An Earnest Call to the Germans in Pennsylvania," the "Daily Record of the Tenth Session of the State Legislature," and the annual almanac and newspaper.

The issues of 1800 were the "Record of the Legislature," the almanac and the newspaper, which dropped the name of "German Porcupine" for that of "The American Staatsbothe and Official Journal."

In 1801 the name of Johann Albrecht alone appears, his partners having dropped out. He continued the publication of the almanac, issued the "Record of the State Legislature for 1800 and 1801, the Record of the Twelfth Session of the Legislature," the almanac and newspaper. In addition, he sent out a duodecimo volume of 500 pages, under the title: "The Way of Truth as it is according to Godliness, consisting of twelve pieces (articles) and Tracts, composed on different Occasions, together with a Supplement. Sixth (and the first American) Edition."

He continued the publication of his almanac and newspaper in 1802. He also issued a book of 269 pages, called "Earnest Christianity, or Thomas Matsu's forcible Exhortation," and "The

## Daily Maxims and Precepts of the United Brethren (Unitas Fratrum) for 1803."

Only the almanac and newspaper came out from his press in 1803.

The year 1804 was more productive. In addition to his newspaper and almanac, the following were issued from his press: "The Undenominational Hymn Book. Printed by request of the Mennonites. 8 vo. 415 pages;" "Geihard Terstegen's Way of Truth, that leads to Godliness."

Nothing but the newspaper and almanac were given out in 1805.

The almanac, newspaper and the Record of the Seventeenth session of the Legislature came from his press in 1806. John Albrecht died on the 15th day of August, that year. He was born in Northampton county in 1745, learned the printing trade with Christopher Saur, and came to this place in 1787. He was the father of nine children. His sons, George and Peter, followed their father's trade.

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## WILLIAM AND ROBERT DICKSON.

1796.

William and Robert Dickson opened their printing office in Lancaster in 1796. Their only German publication was "Joseph Allein's Foundation of Effective Christianity, Translated from the English," in a 12-mo. volume of 322 pages. The Dickson brothers were among the best-known of Lancaster publishers. They founded the Lancaster Intelligencer in 1799, and it was published by them until William Dickson's death, in 1823.

In 1806, William Dickson was tried on a charge of libel on Governor McKean, having said in his paper that the Governor had made corrupt overtures to Senator Wertz, of Bedford county. Dickson, in fact, proved what he had

charged, but was found guilty under the then libel law, and was sentenced to pay a fine of \$500 to the State and undergo an imprisonment of three months in the county jail. His friends paid the fine and costs of the suit and Dickson went to jail, where he was daily visited by members of the Legislature (Lancaster was the State Capital at that time) and other citizens. His Democratic adherents honored him with a supper in jail. His imprisonment was generally regarded as a piece of political persecution. His wife refused to ask a pardon for her husband from Governor McKean on the ground that he had done no wrong.

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## CHRISTIAN JACOB HUTTER.

1799—1802.

Christian Jacob Hutter founded a German newspaper in Lancaster in the same year, 1799, that the Dicksons founded the English Intelligencer. Its name was The Lancaster Correspondent. Its motto was, "Outspoken, Steadfast and Moderate." The paper first appeared on May 25, 1799, and was discontinued September 3, 1803. The Mechanics' Library contains a complete file. In 1800 he began the publication of "Universal People's Almanac." His printing office stood at the corner of West King and Market streets. It appears he followed the general custom of his day and kept a book store in connection with his printing establishment, as he advertises 8,000 of the latest and best German books for sale. In the same year (1800) he issued "Washington's Arrival in Elysium. A Dialogue in Poetical form." In 1801 only his newspaper and almanac were issued. In 1802 only the newspaper, and with the issue of September 3, 1803, he ceased

the publication of that paper, remarking in a parting editorial that the experiment left him poorer by \$5,000. It is pleasant to know that at Easton, whither he went, better fortune awaited him.

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## HENRY AND BENJAMIN GRIMLER.

1804--1814.

In 1804 Henry and Benjamin Grimler set up their press in Lancaster. These men were brothers and strong Democrats. They at once started a German Democratic sheet with the name of *The True American*. Both were able men and fluent writers, but Henry was the abler of the two. He died at the early age of thirty-seven. His education was that procured in the local schools, and added to in after years through study, industry and energy. He is buried in the Trinity burial ground, and Pope's well-known line, "An honest man's the noblest work of God," is engraved on the marble slab that marks his resting place. Henry, the younger brother, was not so able as Benjamin, but, being of a more social disposition, was more popular. He was elected to the State Legislature from this county. He died at the age of 54 and is, like his brother, buried in the Trinity Lutheran ground. The mother of the late Judge Henry Grimler Long was a sister of the Grimler brothers. The *True American* newspaper was  $10\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$  inches in size. In 1806, in addition to their newspaper, they published the "Daily Record of the Senate of Pennsylvania, for 1805 and 1806." In 1807 they continued their newspaper, and in addition "Records of the State Senate for 1806-1807," and the "Proceedings of the Eighteenth House of Representatives of Pennsylvania." In 1808 the

newspaper and proceedings of the State Senate. In 1809, they, as usual, issued their newspaper, and in addition printed a book under the title: "The Mystery of Evil uncovered to its very depths; besides a notice of the Means of Deliverance of the Church. In an Explanation of the Revelation of Jesus Christ made to John. By Ignaz Romer, 1 vol., octavo, 239 pages."

In 1810 they continued their newspaper and put out a book of 122 pages of "Spiritual Hymns, by Henry Bernhard Saffe." In 1811 they printed their newspaper and published a work called: "Christian Conversation from the Spiritual and holy making faith. 1 vol., 241 pages."

Their only publication in 1812 was their newspaper. In 1813 Benjamin Grimler's name alone appears. His publications were his newspaper and "Records of the State Senate for 1812-1813." In 1814 both names again appear, but Henry died in this year. Benjamin published the newspaper. It was continued in 1815. Also, in 1816, but in the latter year he published in addition the Records of the 27th House of Representatives of Pennsylvania. In 1817 the newspaper was continued, but it does not appear thereafter.

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## HAMILTON & EHRENFREID.

1808—1810.

Hamilton & Ehrenfreid began their newspaper, "Der Volksfreund," "The People's Friend," in August 9, 1808. The motto of the paper was, "Read and Think for Yourselves." This is the only German newspaper of that early time which survives until the present day. It passed through various hands until 1817, when John Baer got possession of it and united it with the "Beobachter," "Observer," in 1838,

and under the consolidated name it is still published under the firm name of John Baer's Sons.

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## HAMILTON, ALBRECHT & EHREN-FREID.

1809—1810.

In 1809 Peter Albrecht entered the firm which then became Hamilton, Albrecht & Ehrenfreid. He remained in it one year, during which the publication of the *Observer* was continued, as it also was in 1810. In the latter year the firm put out a small pamphlet of sixteen pages, with the title of "A Short Sketch of the Christian Doctrine, by Christian Ludwig Becker." After a quarrel, the firm of Hamilton & Ehrenfreid was dissolved, two firms growing out of it: that of Hamilton & Company, and Joseph Ehrenfreid, who went into business for himself. Both firms issued books in that same year (1810). Hamilton & Company put out an edition of Thomas à Kempis' "Of the Imitation of Christ," and "New Discoveries for the Planter and Farmer." Ehrenfreid put out a little volume of 132 pages, called "The Destruction of Jerusalem," translated from the English by William Reichenbach; and also an edition of Thomas à Kempis, doubtless his share of the same work issued by Hamilton & Co. before the dissolution of the firm. In 1811 Hamilton & Co. published only their newspaper, while Ehrenfreid issued "Haberman's Christian Prayer-Book," a "Collection of Spiritual Hymns," and William Dietrich's book on "Christian Instruction and Religion," in a goodly octavo of 568 pages. In 1812 Ehrenfreid published Jeremy Taylor's "The Great Exemplar, or the Life and Death of Jesus Christ," in an octavo of 209 pages. In the same year William Hamilton, individually,

issued "The New Testament" in a duodecimo of 572 pages, and also the most important work from a typographical standpoint that had so far made its appearance from the Lancaster printers; I allude to "The German-English and English-German Dictionary, by Rev. Dr. Henry Muhlenberg and Benedict J. Schipper, Professor of Languages in Franklin College." This was the first German-English dictionary published in America, and was a most creditable production. It appeared in two volumes and was not paged, although the pages exceeded 1,500. The book is still useful, and copies are occasionally seen. In 1813 Ehrenfreid published a small volume by Professor Reidenbach, on "The True Divine Service," a work with Swedenborgian tendencies. William Hamilton & Co., in the same year, published a farewell sermon delivered by Preacher John Plitt to the Lutheran congregation at New Holland, in 1813, and also a volume on "The Christian Religion for the Unlearned," by Frederick V. Melsheimer, who was one of the best-known teachers in Franklin College. In 1814 Joseph Ehrenfreid published a folio edition of the famous "Martyr Book," in 948 pages. The still larger edition of the same book had been published at Ephrata in 1748. Hamilton & Co. published only their newspaper in 1814. In 1815 Hamilton issued "The Opening Lily, a Theological Discourse," of 204 pages. In the same year Ehrenfreid published a book called "Certain beautiful Hymns as they appear in the Basel book by the Swiss Brethren." This was a favorite book among the Mennonites, and Saur published no less than four editions between 1742 and 1785. It was a book of 812 pages. In the same year he issued the Rev. John Herr's "True and Holy Way, or Foundation

Doctrine of God's Word." This book is said to have caused a dissension among the Mennonites. In 1816 Hamilton & Co. issued their newspaper, while Ehrenfreid issued a little work called "A Short Addition to the Opening Lily." In 1817 Ehrenfreid published a thin octavo under the title, "To the God Living and Christ Seeking Souls." In the same year Hamilton failed, and his paper, "The People's Friend," was sold by the Sheriff. Four years later, in 1820, Hamilton died. In 1818 Ehrenfreid issued another edition of Reichenbach's "True Divine Service," making the second edition in five years. At this point Ehrenfreid disappears as a Lancaster publisher.

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### **ANTON ALBRECHT.**

**1809—1819.**

Anton Albrecht began his career in Lancaster on his own account in 1809 by continuing to publish the calendar and newspaper previously issued by George and Peter Albrecht, who, no doubt, were brothers. He continued to publish both until 1819, inclusive, when he disappears.

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### **SAMUEL KLING AND JOHN BAER.**

**1817.**

When William Hamilton was sold out, his paper was bought by Samuel Kling, who published it for a brief period, when the firm name of S. Kling and John Baer appears from November 25, 1817, until March 31, 1818. In the latter year Kling dropped out, and on April 7 John Baer became the sole owner, and the office was removed to North Queen street, where, under the firm of John Baer's Sons, the newspaper, with an additional title, is still published.

Of all the Lancaster printers and publishers, German or English, none had a more honorable career. He was born of Swiss ancestry, in 1795, and learned the printing trade first in Columbia and later in Harrisburg. He was twenty-one years old when, as already told, he formed the partnership with Samuel Kling for the publication of the "People's Friend" (Volksfreund), of which he became, a few months later, the sole proprietor. In 1834 he purchased the "Lancaster Observer" (Lancastersche Beobachter) from Samuel Wagner and united the two publications under the general name of "The People's Friend and Observer" (Der Volksfreund und Beobachter), a newspaper which has been published continuously for nearly a century, and which at all times exerted a powerful influence upon the German population of the county. In 1828 he began the publication of the "Agricultural Almanac," which had previously been issued by William Albrecht, and in 1833 began the publication of the "German Pennsylvania Almanac," both of which have been continued until the present day. Like his newspaper, they have been very successful, attaining a wide circulation in this and some of the Western States. The recently published voluminous "History of Pennsylvania," edited by Howard M. Jenkins, in speaking of the press of Pennsylvania, has this paragraph:

"The two most conspicuous and potent of the weekly newspapers of that time were the Reading Adler and the Lancaster Volksfreund, one the German Democratic Bible of Berks, and the other was the German Bible of Lancaster; and Baer's Lancaster German Almanac was equal in importance in the German homes of the Old Guard to Franklin's 'Poor Richard's Almanac' of the olden time."

As John Baer's career as a publisher extended beyond the period I have allotted to myself in this paper, I cannot go into the details of the many issues of his press. His German ancestry secured for him the patronage of the Mennonites, and he became the publisher of many of their books. Of the many books printed by him I will only mention the folio German Bible issued by him in 1819. It was the largest Bible printed in America up to that time, having 1,095 pages. It was a costly and risky piece of work and beset with many difficulties, owing to the primitive character of the printing machinery of those days, and, although the type was inked by the old-time hand-balls, and the book printed a few pages at a time on an old Ramage press, it is a most creditable piece of work, and compares favorably with more modern printing. Our Society has a handsomely bound copy of it in its library. John Baer died in 1858.

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### **WILLIAM ALBRECHT.**

1820—1830.

William Albrecht succeeded Anton Albrecht in 1820, and published the almanac and newspaper which had been so long issued by the latter. He continued the publication of his almanac until 1830 or longer, but ceased to issue his newspaper, "The American Staatsbothe," in 1825.

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### **BAAB & VILLEE.**

1826—1830.

The publishing firm of Baab & Villee made its appearance in 1826 and commenced the publication of a German monthly, called "The Lancaster Eagle." Mr. Baab seems to have dropped out of the firm after the first year, and the

Eagle was published by H. W. Villee until 1830 and perhaps longer. It is worthy of note that at this time there were three German newspapers published in the country by the title Eagle —the one in Lancaster, one in Reading and a third in Lancaster, Ohio. Villee's other issues were, in 1828, "The Poetical Way to Heaven, compiled by Daniel Hertz," 1 vol., 295 pages, and "On the Amusements of Sin: An address delivered in the Capitol, at Washington, by F. Fisk, 1 vol., 18 pages," and, in 1829, "The German Theology;" a noble booklet of the right Understanding, with Dr. Luther's and Arnd's Introductions: and the General Utility Domestic Medicine Book, compiled from Useful Manuscripts, by Daniel Schmidt." Second edition, 1 vol., 192 pages.

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### JOSEPH EHRENFREID.

1826—1827.

In 1826, after a disappearance of nine years, Joseph Ehrenfreid again made his appearance. This time his enterprise was a German monthly, called "The Religious Family Friend." It proved a short-lived venture; the first number made its appearance in April, 1826, and the last in March, 1827. With his name our list closes, although the German printers kept at work to a much later period.

Not only was the German press of this city noted for its extent, but also for the quality of its work. I have already noted the excellent workmanship displayed in Baer's fine folio Bible. As early as 1794 an Association of Philadelphia, known as the Pennsylvania Manufacturing Society, awarded the first premium for excellence in printing to the printer of a German book in this city. Who that printer was is not known. Most prob-

ably it was John Albrecht & Co., who issued a German book of 226 pages in 1793 and one of 218 pages and another of 675 pages in 1794. That was the only German printing firm here in those years.

In 1809, in 1826, in 1829 and again in 1830 there were three German papers, weeklies, published in this city. In 1779 and during several other years three several almanacs were issued in Lancaster. Strange to say, the Sect people appear to have been the strongest supporters of the German printers. The Mennonites and Dunkers were among the earliest patrons of the Lancaster press. Hymn books, reprints of famous theological works and controversial pamphlets were printed for them. How stupid the thousandth time repeated slander that these people cared nothing for reading, books or education. The many books printed for them by Christopher Sauer at Germantown, by Franklin at Philadelphia, by the Ephrata press and the Lancaster printers refutes the accusation in the most decisive manner. All the facts that I have tried to set forth go to show that our literary foundations were well and truly laid at an early period, and that Lancaster's present eminence as a reading, bookish and cultured community has come to her through a line of natural inheritance.

Incidentally I may mention that there were German printers and publishers of German books in the following places in this State between 1728 and 1828: Allentown, Carlisle, Chambersburg, Chestnut Hill, Doylestown, Easton, Ephrata, Friedensthal, Germantown, Gettysburg (1830), Hamburg, Hanover, Harrisburg, Kutztown (in 1829), Lancaster, Lebanon, Marietta (1829), New Berlin (1829), Norristown,

Oeconomie, Orwigsburg, Philadelphia (47 of them), Pittsburg, Pottstown, Reading, Schellsburg, Selin's Grove (1830), Somerset, Summytown (1829), Waterloo and York; thirty-one places in all. The number of publishers was nearly two hundred.

F. R. DIFFENDERFFER.

Author: Diffenderffer, Frank Ried, 1833-1921.

Title: Early German printers in Lancaster / by F. R.  
Diffenderffer, Litt. D.

Primary Material: Book

Subject(s): Newspapers--Pennsylvania--Lancaster County.  
Printing--Pennsylvania--Lancaster.  
Printers--Pennsylvania--Lancaster.  
Lancaster (Pa.)--Biography.

Publisher: Lancaster, Pa. : Lancaster County Historical Society,  
1903/1904

Description: [53]-83 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.

Series: Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society ; v. 8,  
no. 3

Call Number: 974.9 L245 v.8

Location: LCHSJL -- Journal Article (reading room)

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