

## SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

CHARLES H. MIEGEL

On January 15 and 16, 1933, the German Society of Maryland observed its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary. Founded in 1783 the Society played an important role in ameliorating the lot of many a German immigrant; sometimes it was a matter of aiding the redemptioner in shaking off the shackles of his bond; often it was a matter of reuniting families; frequently work was secured for those who, without a spokesman, would have been hard pressed to find positions; help was provided in sickness and adversity. Indeed, the fine reputation which the Germans and their descendants enjoyed, as far as thrift, self-sufficiency, and independence are concerned, was in no small measure due to the fact that the German Society stood ready to aid its fellow-racials. The good work of the German Society has continued to the present day.

As a gesture of friendship and appreciation, The Society For The History Of The Germans In Maryland dedicated a festival program to the German Society. Not only did this Society bear the costs of publication of the program, but several of its members contributed items of historical interest thereto.

Dr. Ernst Feise composed a poem in three parts entitled "The Redemptioner." The first dealt with the farewell and sad leave-taking of the emigrant from the old country; the second dealt with the long and dangerous ocean voyage; the third treated of the arrival in the new country, paying tribute to the German Society for extending to the immigrant a helping hand. This trilogy, written in German, and appearing in full in the program, was set to music by three of Baltimore's composers: Theodore Hemberger composed the music for the first part which Dr. Feise named

"Der Abschied;" Franz C. Bornschein, the music for the second part, "Die Fahrt"; while Dr. Gustave Strube set to music the third part, "Die Ankunft."

At the festival concert, held at the Peabody Conservatory of Music on Sunday evening, January 15, 1933, these works were sung. Theodore Hemberger conducted the Harmonie Gesang Verein in part one; John Eltermann directed the Junger Maennerchor in part two; while George W. Poehlmann directed the Arion Gesang Verein in part three.

The Turnverein Vorwaerts presented an exhibition of gymnastics by a select class of young men and women.

Mr. A. Henry Krone, President of the Board of Directors of the General German Aged People's Home, opened the Festival Celebration at the Peabody Institute and after a brief introduction, turned the praesidium over to Mr. Karl A. M. Scholtz, President of the German Society.

A poem, in English, entitled "Salute to the Stalwarts," written by Charles H. Miegel, also appeared in the pamphlet. This was read by Mr. Thomas Foley Hisky, President of the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland, who acted as toastmaster at the banquet held on Monday evening, January 16, at the Lord Baltimore Hotel. At this banquet, the then Governor of Maryland, Albert C. Ritchie, delivered an address bringing the tribute of the State of Maryland to its sons and daughters of German ancestry. Mayor Howard W. Jackson spoke on behalf of Baltimore City. Other honored banquet guests were the German ambassador, Herr Friederich Wilhelm von Prittwitz und Gaffron; the Austrian minister, Herr Edgar Prochnik; and Mr. Pierre de Salis, representing the Swiss legation.

## LÖSCH - MÜLLER - HENNING - SAYLER

Through the courtesy of MRS. ELIZABETH PIETSCH IRVING, who for many years was librarian of the Baltimore and Ohio Employees' Free Circulating Library, we were permitted to view some original papers affecting her pioneer ancestors.

The oldest of these documents is a birth certificate bearing date of 1764, which we will describe as Exhibit A.

Exhibit A consists of an illuminated baptismal certificate, upon rag paper about 16x13 inches, bearing a watermark in the shape of an ornate basket having a small base with the handles arching together at the top with cog-like teeth from the basket part up, not ungracefully proportioned and about 3 inches high and about 3 inches across. On either side running from top to bottom is an ornamental strip about 3 inches wide made up of flowers and birds; one bird in the upper left-hand corner being easily recognizable as of the parrot family, but the two below this and the three birds on the right-hand panel are just birds the genus of which no ornithologist might recognize. At the top of the page between these two side panels is what appears to be the fringed bottom of a curtain with a kind of wall-paper pattern—all this being printed from a wood-cut and afterward tinted in water colors by use of a stencil.

The body of the certificate is printed in a German text letter of various sizes with blank spaces for inserting the names and data in connection with the baptismal ceremony. The whole evidently was a printed form kept in stock by the printers or stationers of that time.

The text as printed with inserts reads as follows:

Diesen beiden Ehgatten, als *Jacob Heyning* und seiner ehlichen Hausfrau *Anna Maria* eine gebohrne *Löschin* ist ein Tochter zur Welt gebohren, als *Sophia Heyningin* ist zur Welt gebohren im Jahr unsers HERRN JESU 1764 den 14 Tag Junii um 3 Uhr Morgens im Zeichen

der *Fische*. G O T gebe Gnad, Kraft und Stärke dass diese *Sophia* in der Furcht zum Lob und Preis des HERRN möge aufwachsen und zunehmen in groser Begierde der vernünftigen lautern Milch, das ursprüngliche Heil der Seelen zu suchen, nach abgelegtem Glaubens-bekänntnis der Sünden durch wahre Reu und Buse, vor der Christlichen Gemeinde. Zur geistlichen Wiedergeburt den Heiligen Tauf befördert, und von *Hr: Wilhelm Steii* Prediger und Diener des Worts, nach Christi Befehl, Mathai 28 v. 19, getauft und in den Gnaden-Bund Gottes einverleibt worden. Diese *Sophia* ist als ein Glied in die Gemeinschaft der Heiligen, durch das Bad der Wiedergeburt und Erneuerung des Heiligen Geistes, wie St. Paulus lehret, Titum 3, v. 5, 6, 7. Zu mit der Luth. Relig. den 28ten Tag Junii 1764 auf und Angenommen, und durch den wahren Glauben an unsern Erlöser JESU Christo, des so theuer erworbenen Verdienstes, der himmlischen Freuden und der ewigen Seligkeit Erben Eingesetzt. Mithin vergiss nicht, wie der Apostel Paulus, Colloser, 1, v. 12, 14, die Pflicht beschreibet. Saget Dank dem Vater der uns Tüchtig gemacht hat, zum Erbtheil der Heiligen im Licht, u. s. w.

Die Taufzeugen waren *Anton Zehmer* dessen *Frau Sophia*.

Diese *Sophia* ist gebohren und getauft in America, in Staat *Pensylvanien* in *Lancäster* County in *der Stadt Taunship*.

Wann wir kaum gebohren werden; ist vom ersten Lebenstritt bis ins kühle Grab der Erden, nur ein kurz gemessener Schritt. Ach mit jedem Augenblick! Gehet unsre Kraft zurück, und wir sind mit jedem Jahre, allzu reiff zur Todten-bahre. Und wer weiss in welcher Stunde, uns die letzte Stimme weckt: Dann GOTT hat's mit seinem Munde, keinem Menschen noch entdeckt. Wer sein Haus nun wohl bestellt geht mit Freuden aus der Welt. Da die Sicherheit hingegen \* Sterben kan erregen.

HEINRICH OTT.

This is followed by the genealogy of the Lösch family so far as it has been ascertained.

The second wife of John Jacob Henning was Ann Maria Lösch. Some of the Lesh or Lösch family came to Pennsylvania via New York. Among these John Adam, John Jacob and John Christian and George, possibly John George, as nearly all of them had John as one of their given names. George came from Worms, Germany, hence we conclude that it was from that locality they all

came. In 1699 George emigrated with other Palatines to England and in 1710 came to New York, settled at Livingston's Manor and later went to Schohari (1713). Here they settled in seven villages on land which the Indians gave to Queen Anne. They were in great poverty.

Conrad Weiser as a lad was among them and lived among the Indians and learned their language. His father was the first of the deputies from the people to confer with the Indians, and later one of three sent to England to plead with George I, when their homesteads were taken from the settlers at Schohari, on the grounds that Queen Anne had no title to the land. Their lands were sold. Some bought them in and others left for Pennsylvania by way of the Susquehanna and settled on the Swatara Creek in 1723. They journeyed to Tulpehocken (now Myerstown) Pennsylvania. In all there were thirty-three families. Conrad Weiser and family came to the place, settling at Womelsdorf in 1729. His son, Frederick, born December 24th, 1728, is mentioned in Adam Losch's will as "his friend and neighbor." They built a Lutheran Church there in 1727.

John Adam Lösch was among those at "Loewenstein's Manor" in 1710-11, and he is listed with those who left Schohari in 1723. And among the members of the Reformed Church of Tulpehocken for 1743-1746 was John Adam Lösch and Jacob Lösch (son of Adam). At the time of his death Adam Lösch lived in Heidelberg Township, Lancaster County. Along the narrow country road that skirts the Tulpehocken Creek, the homestead, east to west, lived Conrad Weiser, Philip Bram, Adam Lösch, Peter Schaeffer, Christopher Keyser, Jacob Schaeffer. George and John Jacob Lösch lived to the north. Adam's will mentions a son, Jacob, and a brother, George. The same will will show how the above families intermarried.

John Adam Lösch is in the tax list of Tulpehocken for 1752. He made his will January 26th, 1768, and died short-

ly afterward. His wife died between April, 1770 (date of her will), and March, 1771 (probated). These wills give the names of the children. He left twenty shillings for the poor.

Johann Adam Lösch married 17. .  
Sophia ....., born .....,  
died 1770. They had eight children,  
Jacob, Susan, Catherine, Christina,  
Maria, Ann, Sophia, Margaret. They  
were all married at his death.

Susan Margaret Vihman or Viehman.

Catherine Lis. (Elizabeth), Erhard or Ehrhard. (Lived far from home).

Christina Neff.

Maria Elizabeth Bayer.

Anna Maria Hinning or Henning, who married John Jacob Hoehning of Bethel Township (see Henning line), had five children. She was born 1728-9, died May 20, 1810. Married January 9, 1759, by Rev. Otterbein, Reformed Church, Lancaster. Lived in Williamsburg, Bethel Township.

Sophia Sheffer or Shaffer.

Maria Margaret (mother's will, Mary Margaret) Keyser.

Jacob or John Jacob, only son, died before his father in 17... Built his homestead (still extant) 1744, on the Rohrsburg Road near the Steigel schoolhouse. He was born 17..., died 17... He was married 17...

"Only child" according to mother's will, Sophia Lösch. (Father calls her "the youngest child of my deceased son Jacob Lösch"). Born 17...

The next is Exhibit B.

This is a multiplex instrument being a certificate of birth and a testimonial of good character as also intended as a pass from the authorities of the town of Rinteln in the principality of Hesse-Schaumburg, given at the request of the father Johan Heinrich Müller, distiller, to Christian Wilhelm Müller, so that he might travel as a journeyman and perfect himself in the praiseworthy craft of a tanner.

Wir verordnete Bürgermeistere und Rat der Fuerstlich Hessich Schaumburgischen Stadt Rinteln, thun allen und Jeden, denen dieser unserer offener Brief vorkommen mag, nach Landesgebühr hiermit Kund und zu wissen, dass vor Uns erschienen Johann Henrich Müller, hiesiger Bürger und Brantwein Brenner, und zu Vernehmen geben, wie sein Sohn Christian Wilhelm Müller zu Erlernung der Löblichen Lohgärber Profession, seiner ehelichen Geburth und redlichen Herkommens halber glaubwürdiger Kundschaft benötigt, mit Bitte Ihm hierüber gerichtlich beglaubte Versicherung und attest zu ertheilen.

Wann Wir nun dessen Suchen statt gethan und zu den Ende nicht nur die gewöhnliche, glaubwürdige Bescheinigung aus dem hiesigen Kirchenbuche von unserem ersten Prediger, dem Doct. und Profess. Theolog. Kahler erhalten, sondern auch noch zum überfluss, die ehren achtbare hiesige Bürger Johann Henrich Homeyer, Schreinermeister hieselbst, und Conrad Henhing, Schneidermeister alhier, als welche dessen gute Wissenschaft hatten, observatis Solennibus consuets, eidlich darüber vernommen und folgende mit Ihren geleisteten Eid bestärkte Aussage erhalten; dass Ihnen Wohlwissend, wie besagter Christian Wilhelm Müller vom Vatter den ehren achtbaren Johann, Henrich Müller, Bürger hieselbst und die Mutter, Wilhelmminen gebohr. Stillen, als seinen eheleblichen Eltern, aus einem reinen unbefleckten Ehebett, recht, echt, und ehelich erzeugt und gebohren, auch kein wendischen noch verwerflichen Geschlechts oder Herkommens, frei und niemand eigen seii, und hätten sich ersagte, seine Eltern, als welche Sie Zeugen, viele Jahre her gekannt und mit Ihnen umgegangen, nebst diesem ihrem Sohn, jederzeit ehrlich und wohl verhalten, dass dahero mehr gedachter Christian Wilhelm Müller mit allen guten zu befördern und in ehrliche Aemter, Zünfte und Versammlungen aufgenommen zu werden, wahlwürdig so wie \* \* \* ein anderes nicht bewusst noch vorgekommen. Als \* \* \* an alle und jede denen, dieser sein Brief zu Händen kommen möge Unsere dienstlich und freundliche Bitte, diesem Unserm Geburths—Brief nicht allein vollkommenen Glauben bezumessen, sondern auch mehr erwehnten Christian Wilhelm Müller seiner ehrlichen Geburth und redlichen Herkommens, auch eigenen Wohlverhaltens geniessen zu lassen, und Ihn mit allen guten zu befördern. Dieses sind Wir einem jeden, nach Standes Gebühr zu erwiedern geflissen. Urkundt dieses haben Wir diesem Geburths-Brief unser gros-seres Stadt-Insiegel beiigedruckt und denselben von dem hiezu verordneten Stadt—Secretario unterschreiben lassen.

Actum Rinteln den 18ten April, 1774.

J. E. ERNST

(SEAL) Secretar: Civil Rintelieng

Exhibit C is a journeyman's certificate setting forth that Wilhelm Christ. Müller has sojourned in the City of Bremen and been ten weeks in the employ of Johan Georg Kindt.

This certificate is printed on good rag paper, is steel engraved and highly ornamental. In the lower right hand corner appears the name of the artist—J. G. Brinckmann, *fecit*. The sheet is 16x11 inches.

Running across the top is a panel some 15 inches long and 5½ inches deep, with an elaborately ornate rococo border with two vignettes near the upper corners. The one on the left, showing the double-headed eagle of the Holy Roman Empire with the crown, sceptre and globe and the one on the right displaying the key of the City of Bremen.

Inside the panel we have a picture of the city with its houses and churches; the river Weser divides the city but is crossed by bridges. On the river sailing vessels by the score float majestically or lie at anchor by the warehouses. In the foreground are the fortress-like walls of the city with a moat between. Today these walls have been razed and together with the Graben form a part of Bremen's park system.

The certificate is a stock form with blank spaces to be filled in with name and dates. The large initial letters and the flourishes and interlaced ornamentations are as elaborate and ornate as those of a medieval monkish scroll. The whole indicates a highly developed sense for the artistic that was characteristic of the baroque period of our ancestors.

At the bottom centre within a circular vignette are the tools of the tanner's trade and around it the inscription "Das Ampt der Lohgärber in Bremen." The text here follows:

Der Geschworne und Meister des Löblichen Handwerks der Roth und Loh Gärber in der Kaiserlichen Freien Reichs - und - Handels Stadt Bremen bescheinigen hiemlt dess gegenwärtiger Gesell, Namens Wilhelm Christ. Müller gebürtig von Bremen Alt 20 Jahr, bei uns alhier zehn Wochen in arbeit gestanden und sich solche Zeit über, treu, fleizig, still, friedsam und ehrlich wie einem schlichten Handwerks Gesellen gebührt, verhalten hat,

welches wir also attestiren und deshalb Un-  
sere sämptliche Mit Meister diesn Gesellen  
nach Handwerks Gebrauch über all, zuförden,  
geziemend ersuchen wollen.  
Bremen den 22 Julii, Anno 1776,

GERHARD W. SELS, *Aeltermann*.

Meisler Johan Georg Kindt wo obiger Gesell  
in Arbeit gestanden.

Needless to say that the German word  
spelling is not of the standard of today's  
Duden.

Mrs. Irving's relationship embraces  
quite a number of early Germans.  
Among these, in addition to the Lösch,  
Müller and the Pietsch families, are  
also the Hennings and the Saylers.

Of the Henning family she says:

The Henning family came from Al-  
sace-Lorraine, early in the 18th century.  
We don't know just when; in 1744 there  
was a will recorded in Pennsylvania,  
and in 1764 one of the heirs had been  
living in or near Lancaster, Pennsyl-  
vania, long enough to have married,  
have twelve sons, the thirteenth child  
being a daughter, hence the great joy  
and wonderful birth certificate. (Exhibit  
A in *quo*).

Four of the sons were in the Revo-  
lutionary War and the two youngest,  
Thomas and Benjamin, came to Balti-  
more and went into the building busi-  
ness as "Henning Brothers." They built  
the old star fort at Fort McHenry, and  
one of Baltimore's first Post Office build-  
ings. Thomas' son-in-law, Nicholas  
Hitzelburger, built our Washington  
Monument and cut and laid the corner-  
stone of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail-  
road. Thomas Miller married Benja-  
min Henning's daughter, Elizabeth, and  
took up the painting end of the business.  
Their daughter, Mary, married Otto  
Pietsch of Franklin Street, the well-  
known jeweler; his daughter, Mary,  
married Prof. William F. Thiede, who  
was the sponsor of the old "Haydn  
Concert Society."

The Hennings lived, while the monu-  
ment was being built, where the Pea-  
body now stands; they then owned some  
fourteen acres of ground there.

Also, my mother was brought a set  
of cut glass by John Henning, but these

were lost in the fire that destroyed the  
Jones chair factory situate in the area  
bounded by Biddle Street, George Street  
and Pennsylvania Avenue, sometime  
about 1845. Mrs. Jones was a Henning  
and also the aunt and mother-in-law of  
the Mrs. Virginia Jones who lived at  
1137 Gorsuch Avenue; she married her  
cousin, and died in 1937 at a very old  
age.

In answer to an inquiry addressed to  
the Department of the Interior, Revo-  
lutionary War Section, it is certified that  
John Henning, in August, 1776, enlisted  
for a period of three years in the  
German Battalion of the Continental  
Troops; his captain is given as Joseph  
Smith, and the colonels, Hansegger and  
Weltner. He was engaged in the battles  
of Trenton, Brandywine, Valley Forge,  
Germantown and Monmouth. He en-  
listed in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. In  
1822 he was seventy-one years of age;  
his wife Hester was sixty-four years of  
age. Living with him at the time in  
German Township, Fayette County,  
Pennsylvania, were three daughters,  
Barbara, Susannah and Hester.

Another Henning sailed the seas. The  
records show that John Henning, lands-  
man, was entered on the roll of the  
Constellation July 8th, 1836, at Norfolk,  
Virginia, and he received his discharge  
March 29, 1839, at the end of his term  
of enlistment.

John Jacob Henning married 17...  
Elizabeth ..... She was born  
..... and died about 1756-58.  
They had seven or eight sons. Matthis,  
born 17... Jacob Henning, son of Jacob  
and Elizabeth, born 17..., baptized by  
Rev. J. Jacob Hock, pastor of Reformed  
Church, Lancaster, December 26th, 1774.

Daniel Hönig, son of Jacob and Eliza-  
beth, born January 10th, 1755, baptized  
November 4th, 1759. On the same date  
John Hönig, son of Jacob and Maria,  
was baptized. Conrad Henning, born  
17...

Records of Reformed Church, Lan-  
caster City, have marriage of Jacob Hen-  
ning to Ann Maria Lösch, January 9,  
1759 (see Lösch family), by Rev. Wil-  
liam Otterbein. After Jacob's death

Ann Maria lived on the farm. Egle's History of Lebanon County gives an incorrect list of their children.

John, born October 21st, 1759, baptized November 4, 1759, by pastor of Reformed Church, Lancaster.

Sophia (only daughter), born June 4, 1762. Her grandmother Lösch was named Sophia. Baptized by Rev. Stey of Lancaster Church. Died single.

John Adam, born 1763 (Egle). (Name of grandfather Lösch).

Thomas, born March 28th, 1766, (according to headstone).

Benjamin, born 1767.

#### JACOB'S WILL

In the name of God, Amen: I, Jacob Henning, of Bethel Township, of County of Lancaster, of Province of Pennsylvania, yeoman, being weak in body but of perfect mind and memory, blessed be God for his mercies, I publish and make this my last will and testament, etc., 11th day of December, 1768.

Bequeath to my eldest son Mathias Henning my plantation where I now live for the sum of three hundred pounds lawful money of Pennsylvania, and the money is to be equally divided among my children from the oldest to the youngest, allowing Matthias five shillings. . . . Over and above an equal share . . . Willed Mary my wife, the little house and meadow and little field; house to be repaired and little stable built and oven and fence and twelve bushels of wheat, five bushels of apples, a quarter acre of good flaxground sowed and that yearly and every year during her dower and she shall have her bed and furniture and two tables and two pewter basons; her choice of one cow, one heiffer, one sheep and one shoat. Two pewter plates; three pewter spoons, one iron pot; one iron pan.

My trusty friend Adam Harper and Peter Byar of Hanover Township sole ex. Subscribed before Nicholas Heberling and Samuel Jones.

#### CHILDREN OF JACOB HENNING

Mathias Henning, son of John Jacob Henning and Elizabeth ..... In 1816 Mathias Henning was living in East Hanover Township, a little west of Jonestown, which was probably Dauphin County. From 1790 Mathias Henning lived in said County and had a family of one male over sixteen, two males under sixteen and three females. So that his family must have consisted

of self and wife, two sons and two daughters. Probably the George Henning, singleman, who lived in East Hanover Township in 1816, was one of his sons.

Mathias Henning took an active part in the Revolutionary War, Pennsylvania Archives. "Officers of First Battalion 1777. Col. P. Greenwalt, Lieut. Col. P. Marsteller."

A descendant of the Müller (now written Miller), whose journeyman's certificate we have seen, Thomas Miller, volunteered for service in Baltimore and served from August 19 to October 18, 1814, as a private in Captain Michael Haubert's company, Colonel Henry Amey's 51st Regiment, Maryland Militia. On July 4th, 1820, he was married to Elizabeth Henning by the Rev. Dr. Kurtz. He died in Baltimore, April 25th, 1849, leaving surviving him his widow, Elizabeth, who was allowed a grant of land in full satisfaction of her husband's service in the War of 1812.

Speaking of the Sayler family, Mrs. Irving says that the family yet possesses an old family Bible printed in 1575. In the municipal records of Nuremburg are set forth the terms and conditions of a public charity—"Church Yard Alms"—founded by Burkhart Sayler.

In the year 1725 Daniel Sayler and his brother, Jacob, emigrated from German Switzerland to Pennsylvania.

Philadelphia, June 8th, 1761.

"Received of Daniel Sayler forty-two pounds, eighteen shillings and two pence in full for thirty-two acres in Lebanon Township, Lancaster County, formerly granted to Herman Long under warrant of 16th July, 1741.

42£, 18s, 2p.

In the spring of 1772 Daniel Sayler moved to Frederick County, Maryland. "For fifty-five years I have been going up there among the family and I don't know yet just what relation they are, but its Henning and Sayler."—So told by MRS. ELIZABETH PIETSCH IRVING.

Note: Italicized parts indicate writing. \* (asterisk) indicates illegibility mostly due to tear or creases in the paper. In the place of the "y" with the diaeresis we use herein the "i."