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SYNOPSIS

OF

PROF. O. SEIDENSTICKER'S

ADDRESS.

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## SYNOPSIS OF PROF. O. SEIDENSTICKER'S ADDRESS.

THE PROFESSOR SPOKE SOMEWHAT AS FOLLOWS:

**W**ITH great pleasure I have heard of the organization of your Society. I consider it the duty of the Germans to take an active interest in the history of their fellow countrymen in America. If they are indifferent to the part which their kinsmen have acted in the development of our adopted country, what right have they to complain that others do not display more zeal? As German-Americans we, in a certain sense, enter upon the inheritance left by those, who came to this country before us and it is our duty to inquire, who they were, what they aimed at, what they suffered, what they achieved. Would it be becoming for us, for instance, to be acquainted only with the old story of the Hessians, who, sold by their own Sovereign, fought as hirelings in the ranks of the enemies of our liberty, and not to know anything of the valor and endurance, with which German-Americans fought FOR the independence and the liberty of this country during the Revolutionary War ? It is not my intention on this occasion to enter more fully upon this subject, but since I am speaking to Maryland Germans, I will at least mention, that at the beginning of the war on May 25th, 1776, Congress in compliance with the urgent request on the part of Germans, resolved to accept a regiment consisting exclusively of Germans. At the same time, be it remarked, the Germans were numerously represented in other organizations of the American army.

The above regiment was to be made up by four Pennsylvania and four Maryland companies. But so great was the rush of volunteers, that Pennsylvania on June 17th, 1776, was ready to offer *five* companies for service, and all were accepted. The Maryland Germans arrived in Philadelphia September 18th. On the 25th of the same month the regiment was mustered into service in the

army of Gen'l Washington, and at Gen'l Washington's departure from Philadelphia was, at first, with others ordered to protect the city against the enemy from without as well, as against the rapidly increasing party of mal-contented within. In December the regiment joined Gen'l Washington's army at Bristol and shared in the glory of that bold surprise at Trenton on December 26th, 1776. The German regiment was, at first, commanded by Col. Hausegger, later by Baron von Arendt, and finally by Major Ludwig Weltner of Baltimore, who continued in command to the end of the war.

I must, however, continued Prof. Seidensticker, refrain from dwelling upon the history of this regiment, nor can I enter upon the participation in the Revolutionary War on the part of the Germans in general, since I have selected for my theme this evening a different subject. I merely intended to show by the above how proper it is for us Germans to concern ourselves with the history of immigration, and at the same time to call attention to the fact, that the Maryland Germans gave proof of their love for liberty, and of their loyalty to their adopted country, not only during the great rebellion, but also in the war for independence.

Among the sources which furnish us intelligence of the past, the newspaper is one of the most important. Apart of the information on cotemporaneous events, the newspaper by its very existence, its circulation, character and partisan-ship is a speaking witness of its time. According to "Rowell's Newspaper Guide," there appear at present, more than seven hundred German periodicals within the U. S., while only forty-three are published in the French language. A glance at their circulation in the different States and Territories, at their aims, partisan-ship, etc., will give useful clues as to the distribution, the influence, the pursuits and leanings of the Germans within the U. S. The remarkable development of the German-American Press of the present day cannot but awaken in us a desire to learn something of its beginnings and earlier history, so much the more as we may expect to glean from these papers some information concerning the condition of the earlier German immigrants.

The speaker then alluded to the perishable character of paper and the habit of people to cast aside as of no further value the newspaper when once read. Hence much valuable material has

been destroyed and is utterly lost to us. — In the last century there appeared in the United States twenty-nine newspapers, exclusive of two magazines and two papers, supposed to have been published in Baltimore and Fredericktown. Of eighteen, out of these twenty-nine newspapers, single copies and files have "been preserved, the rest are known to us only from advertisements and other references. On June 11th, 1737, Benjamin Franklin gave notice in his "Gazette," that he would publish a German "Philadelphische Zeitung." And this is the only knowledge that we have of it. Christoph Saur's "Hochdeutscher Pennsylvanischer-Geschichtsschreiber," which was begun in 1739, met with better success than the former. In 1746 its title was changed to "Pennsylvanische Berichte" and later into "Germantowner-Zeitung." The paper came to its end in 1777. As successful papers deserve further to be named: H. Miller's "Staatsbote" 1762 to 1779; M. Steiner's "Philadelphische Correspondenz" 1781 till about 1796 Albrecht's "Lancaster Zeitung" which continued to appear under different names from 1787—1808, and the Reading "Adler," which was started in 1796 and is still in existence. It is a significant fact and characteristic of the German immigration of the last century, that all newspapers, of which we possess any reliable information, appeared in the State of Pennsylvania. — Nicolaus Raitenbauer, Nicolaus Tschudi and John Schultz were known at 1776 as booksellers and newspaper agents in Baltimore City.

The speaker next discussed at some length the stand taken by German newspapers, with regard to important events of the times, politics and party issues. The papers coming under consideration were Christoph Sauer's *Germantowner Zeitung*, B. Franklin's and A. Armbrüster's *Philadelphische Zeitung*, H. Miller's *Staatsbote*, M. Steiner's *Philadelphische Correspondenz*, *Die unpartheyische Readinger Zeitung*, *Der Readinger Adler* and *Die neue unpartheyische Lancaster Zeitung*.

The lecture closed with an account of the first German printing establishment in Baltimore. It appears, Prof. S. said, that the honor of having carried German printing to Baltimore is really due to Nicholas Hasselbach, who in 1763, and perhaps a few years after that date, was a printer and publisher in Chesnut Hill near Philadelphia. According to a statement in Thomas' *History of Printing*, he removed from there to Baltimore, where

he resumed his business of a printer and publisher. By the same authority we learn, that on a trip to Europe he was lost at sea and that his widow in 1773 sold his stock and printing material to Wm. Goddard. But no Baltimore imprints of Hasselbach have turned up and all our information about his establishment in Baltimore is confined to the meagre notice just alluded to.

Better known and, in fact, the first German printer of Baltimore, who rises distinctly into view was Samuel Saur or Sower, as he spells his name in English prints. He was the youngest of the ten children of Christoph Saur, the pioneer printer of Germantown, and there born on the 20th of March 1767. He had, at first, chosen the trade of a carpenter, but subsequently followed his father's pursuits, as did so many others of the same family. In 1791 he set up a printing and publishing office in Chestnut Hill, in 1794 he removed to Philadelphia and 1795 to Baltimore. How industriously Samuel Saur plied his craft may be seen by the subjoined list of his publications.

In Chestnut Hill:

1791. *Das kleine Davidische Psalterspiel der Kinder Zions.* 594 pages. With an appendix: *Die kleine Harfe.* 65 pages.
- " *Ein ganz neu eingerichtetes Lutherisches A. B. C. Buchstabier und Namenbuch.*
- 1791—1794. *Die Chestnuthilller Wochenschrift.*
- 1791— ? *Der neue Hochdeutsche Amerikanische Calende.,* 4to. Appeared regularly in Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia and Baltimore, till at least 1807.
1792. *Geistliches Wetterglöcklein oder christliche Donner und Wettergebäuer.*
- " *Die Wege und Werke Gottes in der Seele.*
- " *Auserlesenes und gemeinnütziges Handbüchlein,* von Tobias Hirte.
- " *Verschiedene alte und neue Geschichten von Erscheinungen der Geister,*
- " *Ein Gespräch zwischen einem Pilger und einem Bürger,* von Valentin Mack.
- " *Kurze Beschreibung einer langen Reise von Babylon nach Bethel.*
1793. *Kurzer Bericht von der Pest, deren Ursprung, Zeichen und Eigenschaften.*
- " *Geschwinder Rechner oder des Händlers nützlicher Gehilfe.* "The Ready Reckoner."
1794. *M. Carey's Nachricht von dem, böartigen Fiber, welches kürzlich in Philadelphia grassirt, samt Nachricht Von der Pest in London.*

In Philadelphia:

1794. *Prophetische Muthmassungen über die Französische Revolution. — Erzählungen von Joseph II.*  
" *Das Philadelphier Wochenblatt.*

After his settlement in Baltimore S. Saur published in

1795. *Johann Lassencius' Politische Geheimnisse vieler hin und wieder heutigen Tages einreisenden unartigen. Atheisten, Gedruckt von S. Saur und Jones.*  
" *Der heilige Krieg, wie derselbe geführt wird von Christo Jesu wider den Teufel.*  
" *Count Roderick's Castle. 2 vols. in one. Printed by Sam. Sower and S. Keating.*
1796. There also appeared published by Keating in Baltimore and probably printed by S. Sower:  
" *Dem Andenken Deutscher Dichter und Philosophen, gewidmet von Deutschen in America. — It contains Gessner's Tod, Abels and other poems.*  
" *Der Psalter des Königs und Propheten David.*  
" *A, B, C, Suchstabir- und Namenbuch.*
1798. *Der merkwürdige Lebenslauf, die sonderbare Bekehrung und Endzüchungen des verstorbenen Dr. De Benevile.*
1799. *Christliches Handbüchlein von Jeremias Telbinger.*  
" *The Citizen's and Countryman's experienced Farrier.*
1800. *Washingtoniana, containing a biographical sketch of the late Gen. Geo. Washington, etc., with portrait.*
1801. *Der geschwinde Rechner.*

Sometime previous to the last publication, Sam. Saur combined with his printing establishment a type foundry in partnership with a Mr. Wm. Gwinn. This branch of his business seems to have henceforth occupied most of his time and attention. This, no doubt, explains the cessation of further publications, except that of the Almanach. His types were much sought after, as a letter of his, dated Dec. 7th, 1808, shows. In it he says: "I am chained down (to business) closer than ever, for I am employing the two Kempfers, a journeyman and a young learner, besides the stamp cutter, and six or seven apprentices, and expect to employ one or two more journeymen. — My partner will not bother him-

self with business, having invested between \$7000 and \$8000 in the business and built for me a home costing at least \$3000. I see him not more than once a month and he leaves everything in my hands to manage, saying if he had not the utmost confidence in me, he should not have gone into it. — The business of type founding is making great strides, — orders are pouring in from everywhere, so that we cannot fill the half of them. We have undertaken to cast the smallest type that have yet been used in the world. You may judge of its fineness when it takes 4--5000 spaces to weigh one pound. Of this type we have an order from New York for 300 pounds for a Bible. — I send Brother David a Catalogue containing almost all the type we have had engraved and you may never have looked upon a neater specimen of type. We have received an order from Albany for a note-type for a book of hymns, 1500 pounds for \$2587. If we could get Antimony enough, we could have work for twelve founders. I am working night and day. We have eleven boys and sis journeymen at work and orders for 5000 pounds type."

During the invasion by the British in 1812 Samuel Saur partly removed and partly hid his types, etc., in the ground for safety sake. Being, like his father, a man of deep religious convictions and of strictly peaceable principles, he looked upon war only with feelings of abhorrence. The bombardment of Fort McHenry near Baltimore, he describes as having been "terrific."

During the year 1813 he was called to the ministry by his Dunkard brethren, even as his father had been before him. (It will be remembered, that this religious sect will select any one from their number for the sacred office, who, in their opinion, is both worthy and able to be their teacher.)

Samuel Saur was married three times. But one child was born to him, a daughter, Maria. She married Richard Spalding, a Roman Catholic and soon after joined that denomination herself. This naturally caused her father, with his strong personal religious convictions no small amount of grief, though he readily admits that his son-in-law was a respectable, industrious, home-loving, sober and honest man. He was educated as a lawyer, but preferring business to law, became a merchant. Bodily afflictions, the failing of his eyesight, and poor health were added to Samuel Saur's inward sorrow, yet he is cheerful in the midst of all his



trials. "Jesus and my small chamber are a world to me," is his confession. The connection of his daughter with the Catholic Church isolated him from his own kin; he boarded with strangers and utters the pathetic lament: " I have a wife and no wife; a daughter and no daughter; a home and no home." Yet in a later letter he speaks of his daughters filial conduct toward him and his own undiminished love for his wife.

His business during the latter years of his life, as well as his property became somewhat reduced in extent as well as value, nevertheless, he continued to live in comfortable circumstances up to the time of his death, which occurred in Baltimore, October 12th, 1820. There is sufficient ground for believing that Samuel Saur published in Baltimore a German newspaper, but as none of the numbers, said to exist, could be procured for inspection, the matter must remain in abeyance for further inquiry.



