

NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

Bartgis Family Came from Kleinich near Bernkastel

A recent check of name lists of emigrants from the Rhenish Palatinate and the Moselle region compiled by Friedrich Krebs from state and municipal archives in that area yielded information on the father of the Maryland printer Matthias Bartgis (see *Report XXXII, SHGM*, 25-30).

Michael Bärtges, a tanner by trade, son of Matthias Bärtges of Kleinich (*Kreis* Bernkastel), and himself of Kleinich, was granted permission to go to Pennsylvania on May 14, 1748, by the Sponheim authorities. Bärtges and several others were allowed to leave "in order to perfect themselves in their chosen trades." His brother, Johann Georg Bärtges received a similar authorization on April 27, 1748. This record should finally settle the question as to whether Bartgis was of French or German stock. Dr. Dieter Cunz proved to be right in assuming that the Moselle area near the Luxembourg border might be the Bärtges home country. (See *Maryland Germans*, 170.)

Maryland German Items in 18th Century Newspapers

Pennsylvanische Bericht, November 1, 1752.

A report received from Annapolis, dated September 28, states that on Monday last Captain Stiel, Ship *Patience*, arrived with 260 Germans at *Pätomeck* (Potomac) but they have been transferred to this place now.

Philadelphische Correspondent, March 8, 1785.

A list of redemptioners who fled from the ship *Capellen tot den Pol*, Captain Hermann Ryding, Baltimore, October 3, 1784:

Johann Jacob Gnawen, German, 34 years old, tailor.

Johann Martin Schmidt, German, 36-38 years old.

Johann Henrich Diehl, German, 28-30 years old, laborer.

Friedrich Elb, German, 26-28 years old, sugarbaker and seaman.

G. R. Ulrich von Castel, German, 36-38 years old.

Also, Philip Ernst Brendel, German, and his wife Catharine Barbara escaped from the ship *North America*, Capt. T. de Haas, Baltimore.

Baltimore Intelligencer, January 26, 1799.

This issue carries an advertisement in German in which Samuel Saur announces that he will again publish a German newspaper, *Baltimore Postbote*. Subscriptions were accepted by N. Tschudy and J. Schulz "in der Marktstrasse."

Schlegel-Slagle Family History

The families of German colonial immigrants have proved a most rewarding and fascinating object of genealogical research in recent decades. While family historians considered themselves fortunate in the past if they could trace the lineage to a known immigrant ancestor, the cooperation of researchers on both sides of the Atlantic has more recently enabled American families to link their findings with those of European genealogists. An

excellent example of the results to which a serious commitment to family history can lead is the well documented work:

The Single Family in America Descended from The Schlegel van Gottleben Family of Germany. (Baltimore, 1967, Copyright by A. Russel Slagle.)

The eminent Austrian genealogist Karl Friedrich von Frank contributed the story of the remarkable Schlegel family of Germany whose place in the history of German intellectual development needs no introduction here. Christoph Schlegel von Gottleben was one of the pioneer settlers of Germantown, Pennsylvania. The Germantown *Rathsbuch* of December 1700 records his election as constable of the young community. William B. Mayre and A. Russell Slagle (a member of the Executive Committee of the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland since 1958) have compiled all available facts pertaining to the large Slagle clan in Pennsylvania, Maryland and beyond.

As any good genealogy should, the Schlegel-Slagle work transcends the confines of family interest and portrays the lives and times of men and women prominent in many walks of life. It is a valid case study for the cultural cross-fertilization that occurs when the scion of a great European family brings to his new country not only the determination to build farms and mills but carries along much of the spiritual heritage and transplants it firmly into new ground. The early period of German migration to Pennsylvania was marked by the presence of numerous men of learning and attainment. They provided the first leadership for the masses of Palatine, Swiss and Suabian peasants who followed them in ever growing numbers during the first half of the 18th century.

Of particular interest to Maryland readers will be the section on the Baltimore branch of the Slagles. They followed the pattern that was set by one of the streams of German on-migration from eastern Pennsylvania. They moved to Baltimore from York County where the Slagle homestead was located in Berwick Township.

The translations from the German records were mostly the work of the late Professor George Althoff Bingley (1888-1966), for many years a distinguished member of our Society and himself a descendant of the York County branch of the Slagle family. The inclusion of the German original of the Schlegel records as they appeared in 1965 in the *Senftenegger Monatsblatt für Genealogie und Heraldik* enhances the value of this handsome volume as a source book both for American and German research.

Colonial Contributions of German Settlers

Charles Francis Stein, Jr., author of the *History of Calvert County, Maryland* (Baltimore, 1960), who served our Society as a Treasurer for three decades, is not only interested in historic data but has attempted to point out social and economic factors in connection with German settlement. In his address "The Germans of Colonial Maryland" on the occasion of the 74th Annual Dinner of our Society Stein noted:

"The German settlers introduced and developed the three great devices which made possible the development of America out of wilderness territory. These three German contributions, (1) the so-called Kentucky Rifle (really developed in Pennsylvania), (2) the log cabin, and (3) the covered (conestoga) wagon, were absolutely essential to the winning of the west.

"The 'rifle' was largely a product of the German settlers of Lancaster County,

Pennsylvania. The German rifle makers were possessed of amazing craftsmanship. These rifles were able to shoot with great accuracy. In the American Revolution the British soldiers, mostly armed with smoothbore muskets were utterly astounded by the deadly accuracy of the rifle fire of the German regiments. The German rifle was not only of vital importance to the success of the War of the Revolution, but in the years thereafter was the decisive factor in the conquest of the vast western territories.

"The log cabin, which became the traditional home of the pioneer, was a development akin to the Swiss chalet. The log cabin was unknown in England, although half-timber construction, a combination of logs and mud or plaster was much used there.

"Likewise the conestoga wagon or covered wagon is the traditional wagon of middle Europe. It was not only unequalled for the transportation of merchandise or household articles, but in addition was a most efficient defense in time of danger. The pioneers crossing the great plains of America, when attacked by Indians, arranged their covered wagons in circular formation, thus providing an effective shelter on all sides. The covered wagons of the pioneers were really mobile forts. It is said that the use of covered wagons in warfare between the settlers and the Indians was borrowed from military procedures developed in Germany and Bohemia in the Hussite Wars of the Fifteenth Century. Actually we know that the covered wagon was used by Teutonic nations from time immemorial."