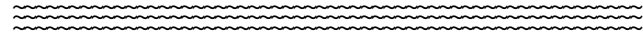


FAMILY RECORDS,

ETC.



FAMILY RECORDS.

THE DIFFENDERFERS AND FRIESES.

Unsere Quellen sind von Zeit zu Zeit eingetragene Familien-Ereignisse, wie sie sich auf den inneren Seiten der Deckel einer Schweizer Bibel (Basel 1729) vorfinden, und andere geschriebene Notizen aus alten Büchern im Besitze der Baltimorer Diffenderfer.

DER Stammvater (aus Heidelberg am Neckar) der Diffenderfer in Amerika, Johann Michael, landete in Begleitung seines kleinen Sohnes, seines Bruders Alexander und neunzig anderer Pfälzer am 21. September 1727 in Philadelphia, vom Schiffe „Wilhelm und Sarah“ aus Rotterdam.— Von Alexander Diftenderfer ist nur bekannt, dass er sich in Berks County, Pa., ansiedelte, Johann Michael kaufte Land in Neuholland, Lancaster Co. In der Steuerliste von 1784 wird seiner als eines hochbejahrten und wohlhabenden Mannes gedacht. Sein ältester Sohn Michael war dreimal verheiratet. Seine erste Frau war Eva Barbara Schack, die zweite eine geb. Rapp, die dritte eine geb. Diller. Neun Söhne und zwei Töchter entsprossen diesen Ehen. Der älteste Sohn verheiratete sich in 1743 und hinterliess zwei Söhne, Michael und Daniel, und eine Tochter Margarethe, die sich mit Jacob Fordney in Lancaster vermählte; die anderen Brüder wanderten ums Jahr 1800 nach Virginien und dem fernen Westen. Michael Diffenderfer, der Neffe, geb. in 1744, heiratete in 1773 ein Fräulein Dorothea Christina Job, und brachte im folgenden Jahre seine Familie nach Baltimore, wohin ihn sein Bruder Daniel und ein Stiefbruder Peter begleiteten. Durch die Vermählung Michael's mit der Dorothea Job traten die Diffenderfer in Verwandtschaft mit den Redenbachs in Lancaster, die zuerst in der folgenden alten Notiz in der Baseler Bibel erwähnt werden :—

„Lancaster. Anno 1714 bin ich, Johann Jörg Redenbach, auf dieser Welt geboren, und ist mein Geburtstag den 18. Tag Juli's. Mein Vater ist Conrad Redenbach, meine Mutter Anna

Barbara. Meine Pathen sind Hans Jörg Miltenberger und seine Hausfrau Anna Christine."

Von den Nachkommen des Daniels Diffenderfer sind keine mehr am Leben. Vom Stiefbruder Peter stammen Frl. Annie Hall, Frl. Horton, Frau Maynard, Frau Bruner und die Brüder John and Douglas Rose in Baltimore.

Michael Diffenderfer verschied plötzlich am 4. Dezember 1829 auf dem alten deutsch - reformirten Kirchhofe, gerade als er einem Freunde die Stelle bezeichnet hatte, wo er einstmals beerdigt zu werden wünschte. Er hinterliess fünf Söhne und fünf Töchter: Johann, Johann Michael, Karl, Friedrich und Nicolaus, welcher jung starb.—Nach einer Notiz aus 1778 in der Baseler Bibel, waren Friedrich Mayer und Frau die Pathen Friedrichs. Die Töchter Michaels hiessen Eva, Sophie, Elisabeth, Catharina und Julianna. —Johann, der älteste Sohn, war zweimal verheiratet. Zuerst an Kitty Rogers von West River, und später an Catharina Cave aus Virginien. Seine noch lebenden Nachkommen in Baltimore sind: Karl, Wilhelm S., und James Diffenderfer, Frau Gibbs, Frau Caldwell und Frau Alfred Buck. Dr. Johann Michael, der zweite Sohn, vermählte sich mit Frl. Salome Decker aus Baltimore. Seine Nachkommen sind: Dr. Wilhelm M. mit vier Söhnen; Heinrich H. mit drei Söhnen und drei Töchtern; Frau Montgomery Johns mit zwei Töchtern und einem Sohn; und Susanne und Georgia Diffenderfer. Die Nachkommen Karl's und seiner Ehefrau Anna Millermann aus Baltimore sind: Frau Georg Herring mit zwei Söhnen und vier Töchtern und Frau James Sewell mit zwei Töchtern. Friedrich, der vierte Sohn Michael's hinterliess keine Erben. Eva, die älteste Tochter heiratete Oberst Sol. Albers aus Deutschland, und ihre Nachkommen sind Fran P. Rose und Familie. Sophie Diffenderfer vermählte sich mit Philip Reigart aus Lancaster, der nach ihrem Tode ihre Schwester Catharina heiratete. Catharina hatte keine Kinder. Von den Erben Sophien's wohnen in Baltimore: Frau Jesse Cassard; Philip, John und Shriver Reese. Elisabeth Diffenderfer war nie verheiratet. Julianna vermählte sich mit Judge Viers in Montgommery Co.; ihre Tochter, Frau Cummins, wohnt zur Zeit in Baltimore.

Von den Baltimore Nachkommen des Philip R. J. Friese wurden der Gesellschaft nachstehende Notizen freundlichst zur Benutzung überlassen:—

PHILIP RUDOLPH JOACHIM FRIESE, the second son of a family of eleven children, was born on an estate called Fresenhede, which had been long in his father's family, in the small duchy of Hoya, in the kingdom of Hanover, about the 20th of October, **A.D.** 1775, and died in the City of Baltimore on the 20th of September, A.D. 1857, aged 81 years and 11 months.

He received a regular mercantile education as a clerk in a very old firm of merchants by the name of Brauer, in Bremen; and also from his father who besides cultivating his estate of Fresenhede, was a wool merchant, having a warehouse on his estate in which he collected the wool of the surrounding district, and sent it by wagons to Holland.

He came to America near the close of the last century as supercargo on a ship bound to Baltimore, where his elder brother John H. Friese had preceded him a few years, and had established a commission and shipping business, in which the younger brother on his arrival became a partner. But he did not first land in Baltimore, as his ship was wrecked on or near Smith's Island without loss of life, although it went to pieces, and its cargo was scattered along the shore. He distinguished himself by the use of very energetic measures to save the scattered cargo from the depredations of the inhabitants, for the benefit of the underwriters. He had also taken the precaution to insure his commission as supercargo; so that he personally suffered no loss from his shipwreck; and he was employed by the underwriters to make the difficult calculation of the "average" involved in the estimate of the relative losses and insurance of the parties concerned.

The firm was carried on under the name of the elder brother John H. Friese. Its original capital was borrowed from a Jewish firm in Braunschweig, which was secured by a mortgage on Fresenhede. It was prosperous and in a few years was dissolved, each of the partners receiving in the final division of the assets somewhat over fifty thousand dollars, early in the present century. John H. Friese returned to Germany with his fortune.

Philip R. J. Friese remained in Baltimore, and with his share of the capital continued the business of the old firm in his own name. He also engaged in manufacturing enterprises after making several trips on business to Europe.

He became a naturalized citizen of the United States, and was strongly attached to his adopted country. He placed much importance on the fact, and often referred to it with satisfaction, that he settled in this country during the life of Washington.

He was married in Baltimore, in A.D. 1805, to Miss Julia G. Aveneaux.

He for some time pursued among other branches of business, the fur trade, in the course of which he made the acquaintance of John Jacob Astor, and was offered by him the management of his expedition to Astoria, but for prudential reasons, which were justified by the event, he declined it.

In Europe he made several business ventures. He went to Leipzig in a post chaise, through the lines of the French army, with forty thousand dollars in gold in his portmanteau. In the burning of Moscow he lost a consignment of furs.

In Baltimore he established a white lead factory and carried it on for some years, and became interested in the subject of manufactures.

He was then induced, under peculiar circumstances, to establish a manufactory of window glass. A German had established such a manufactory in Baltimore, and failed. It was considered a peculiarly German enterprise; and the German colony in Baltimore, much disappointed at its failure, as it was evidently then a profitable business if properly conducted, suggested to Mr. Friese, as a German of known means and enterprise, that he should redeem the credit of the German name by taking up the fallen business and bringing it to a successful issue.

This he was persuaded to do. He examined into all the details, and was convinced that with skilled workmen, abundant capital, and good management, the business must be profitable. Having the necessary capital himself, he at once started for Germany, engaged there the necessary skilled workmen, brought them over, made contract with them carefully drawn, binding both sides, under a heavy penalty, for six years, with stipulations

as to wages and dwellings for the workmen, liberal and entirely satisfactory to all concerned, and erected the necessary buildings, from time to time at an expense of forty thousand dollars.

The business was entirely successful from its commencement. He conducted it for several years, until its annual profit amounted to twenty thousand dollars, when he was compelled by sickness to relinquish it to his younger brother John Fr. Friese, who carried it on with great profit for several years, until he, too, was stricken down by sickness, about the year 1830.

Philip R. J. Friese then, in the interest of his brother and for his benefit, notwithstanding his own disqualification by age and sickness, took hold of the business in his brother's name, to preserve it for him, in the hope that his brother would soon recover; and when this hope failed by his brother's death, he was compelled, against his inclinations, by some legal complications, and the action of his brother's executor, to continue the business on his own account;—and then it soon passed into other hands.

After his connection with the glass business ceased, his life no longer possessed any public interest.

During his active career he aided in supporting the credit of the Government of the United States in the war of 1812, by subscribing to the United States loan. He also indentified his interest with that of many public institutions in this city and in other parts of the country, by becoming a stockholder. Among these institutions were the United States Bank, most, if not all, of the old City Banks, the Frederick and the Reisterstown Turnpike Roads, and the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road, of which he was one of the earliest subscribers and promoters.

His political foresight was shown by his frequent and earnest but very unpopular assertions, that the emancipation of the slaves was inevitable. His own slaves he emancipated several years before his death. His life in a quiet way, illustrated the enterprise, intelligence, and integrity of the German character, and the patient dignity with which he bore his reverses, was as conspicuous as the prudent energy by which he gained his success.

The still living descendants of Philip R. J. Friese are: Philip C. Friese, Harriet C. Friese, Philip H. Friese, Christopher F. Friese, and Mrs. W. E. Curley, all of Baltimore.

"THE WORK GOES BRAVELY ON."

"The Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland" hails with satisfaction the following good news from over the border: —

At the meeting in Lancaster, Pa., in April, of a convention of descendants of the early German and Swiss colonists of Pennsylvania, a constitution was adopted for the organisation, to be known as "The Pennsylvania German Society." The objects of the society are: To perpetuate the memory and foster the principles and the virtues of the German ancestors of its members, and to promote social intercourse among the latter; to discover, collect and preserve documents, monuments, etc., relating to the genealogy and history of the Pennsylvania Germans, and to publish such matter as exhibits their part in the growth and development of American character, institutions and progress; to gather a library for the use of the society, composed of all obtainable books, monographs, pamphlets, manuscripts, &c. relating to the Pennsylvania Germans, and to cause to be prepared and read before the society, papers, essays, &c., on questions in the history or genealogy of the Pennsylvania Germans. The following officers were elected: President, Wm. H. Egle, Harrisburg; vice-president, Hon. Edwin Albright, Allentown, secretary, F. R. Diffenderfer, Lancaster; treasurer, Julius F. Sachse, Berwyn; executive committee, Dr. J. Max Hark, Lancaster; L. L. Grumline, Lebanon; H. A. Muhlenberg, Reading; E. H. Rauch, Manch Chunk; J. S. Hess, Hellertown; E. W. S. Parthemore, Harrisburg; Judge S. W. Pennypacker, Philadelphia; C. Z. Weizer, East Greenville; C. P. Humerick, Carlisle; H. Heistaud Glatz, York.

C. F. R.