

1857 Died June 23
in the City of Reading Pennsylvania

Anna Maria Geissenhainer

Widow of the Rev^d. Frederick William Geissenhainer D.D. She was the youngest Daughter of Michael and Eve Elisabeth Reiter a pious old lutheran family contributing to the Independence of the United State [sic] residing in Upper Hanover township Montgomery County State of Pennsylvania; and was born December the 16th 1775. Her parents being regular and active members of the Luther [sic] church had her early dedicated to the Lord by Baptism and afterward she was confirmed by her Brother in law the Rev^d. George Roeller of old Goschepoppen. On the 27th of May 1794 she was married to the Rev^d. Frederick W. Geissenhainer D.D. Possessing a brilliant mind, a retentive memory, extraordinary good heartedness and an untiring industry, prudence & genuine piety she und...ed her house a place of instruction & happiness. Accustomed from her youth up always to be usefully employed she was constantly working something good, as St. Paul saith. Her heart overflowed with feelings of Charity to the poor during her long life, even sometimes beyond measure. At a certain time when from home she saw a very poor woman without shoes, which so affected her that she took off her own shoes and gave them to her & returned home without shoes. Many instances of her great benevolence could be mentioned. She was a consistent, faithful and devoted member of the Christian Church, always ready to contribute to every good object according to her means and setting a good example to others. She possessed a quick sense of Justice & right & disapproved of every thing evil, but had a good word for every one & spoke evil of no one – and knew how to excused the weak with the most charitable construction upon the Actions of all men. The Bible and prayer Book were her daily and dearest Companions and God the Savior her delight and Trust.

She had 6 children, Anna Maria, widow of the late Red. Jacob Miller DD of Reading Pennsylvania born Feb 1795. Rev^d. Frederick William Geissenhainer of New York born June 28th 1797. Sophia Juliana born _____ 1800. George Augustus born in New York March 1 1810. Theodoria Augusta born in New York September 14, 1812 and one stillborn. Three of these children died in the Summer of 1813 which was a severe trial to such a fond Mother but she sorrowed not as those who have no hope, resigning herself to the Will of God our heavenly Father, she even comforted her distressed husband. She proved herself to be a most excellent wife and a mild and affectionate Mother – a kind sister, a true friend and neighbour – especially to the sick. During the protracted sickness of her Husband she ministered to him day & night, and after his death, time never obliterated his image from her mind nor diminished her affection to him. All that had belonged to him she cherished with a Sacred fondness, preserving it most carefully during the 19 Years of her widowhood, and at last bestowing it upon her two remaining children Mrs. Anna Maria Miller & the Rev^d. F. W. Geissenhainer. Her children & grandchildren were her delight and to them she was ever mild and kind.

After the death of her husband she purchased a house and several Lots at Reading Pennsylvania, where her daughter resided. And although she stayed with her Children sometimes for Months, she was nevertheless fond of having her own house to invite & welcome her children and friends. And her house was not only a home for her relatives indeed – but the seat of Hospitality to numbers, who almost daily visited her. Her great kindness procured for her the friendship & love of all who knew her – and caused them to call her Grandmother.

On Easter 1855 she was taken very ill and never fully regained her Strength. She suffered much but never complained. When asked how do you feel, she would answer: badly! but say no more. About March 1857 she began to grow weaker & was confined to her bed; but even when Yet well she longed and prayed that the Lord might take her from this world to himself and his Saints in heaven. With the same strong affection that she was attached to her long departed Husband & her children, she rejoiced in the hope of soon seeing them at the Saviours throne.

At the beginning of June her Son and his wife Mary, whom she loved with all the affection of a Mother visited her. (Perhaps few Mothers & daughters in law were more attached to each other than they were.) She received them with much pleasure, as she had always done – but when after a week on a Friday morning they prepared to leave, she became very sad – and her son said to cheer her up Mother, in two weeks I will visit You again. Yes, she replied, and perhaps sooner. Alas already on the following Tuesday a telegraph Despatch reached him, with the sad intelligence, that his kind Mother was very ill – and he & his wife returned to her already on Wednesday – but found her much changed and weak. She at first scarcely knew them, but after a little while felt very happy to see them and seemed to rally again – the Doctor however said that she would not last long, her system being worn out. And few persons have a greater desire to depart. Her sickness had developed itself as the Dropsy – so that she was forced to sit up day and night and still no complaint escaped from her lips. She arranged her earthly affairs and remembered in it some of her poor friends, and then seemed to have relinquished her hold on earth & to feel nor more interest in worldly matters. But religion was her chief delight, the Bible and prayer were always welcome to her – her son often read to her and she always listened with much pleasure. Even her Physician remarked with her is the peace of God, the fruit of a long Christian life so seldom met with. (Few persons are so universally esteemed and beloved as she was.) On the very last day her son asked her, Mother how do You feel – she replied badly! but this is my last day – and seemed to rejoice in that thought. He read to her Hymns in German and the one of [title in German] she repeated entire and aloud. A few minutes before she expired, when she appeared to have lost her consciousness – her son seated himself near to her, at her bed side, to which she had been lifted a little before, and read the Hymn: “...”. He commenced reading she folded her hands & turned her placid countenance to him, listened with composure & when he had finished, then she turned to die.

She departed this life on Tuesday the 23^d of June at ½ past 1 o’clock 1857 – aged 81 Years 6 Months and 7 days. She had always desired and directed to be buried in the family Vault of her Son on the Lutheran Cemetery near New York on Long Island where the Remains of her dear Husband are deposited. It being Summer the funeral Services

had to take place next Morning already at 8 o'clock; for this purpose the Rev^d. Mr. Hoffman and Rev^d. A. M. Keller and other Clergymen were invited. Rev^d. Hoffman delivered in her house an appropriate address in German on Job 5.26 and Rev^d. Keller made a prayer in English – the friends assembled then accompanied her remains in Solemn procession to the Rail Road Depot & there parted with many tears.

The same evening her son, daughter, & daughter in law reached New York, where for the last time she was brought into the house of her Son. The Rev^d. Joseph Harrison her old neighbour & friend, who also attended the funeral of her Husband was invited – together with a few friends who came on Thursday morning at 9 o'clock the 25th of June. Rev^d. J. Harrison made a prayer at the house No. 76 East 14th Street – and after the family had gazed once more upon her placid countenance, which Yet appeared beautiful in death, the little funeral train consisting of a Hearse & 4 Carriages proceeded to the Lutheran Cemeteryn – where she was first taken into Luther Chapel & Rev^d. J. Harrison delivered an address – and when the family had taken leave of her, her remains were deposited in the family Vault of her son near the Chapel aside of them of her Husband the Rev^d. Frederick W. Geissenhainer DD. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. Apocal. 14:13.

February 3, 1872

Mary Louisa daughter of Jacob F. and Mary Louisa Hunter and Granddaughter of Rev^d. F. W. & Mary Geissenhainer died [of] Croup February 3, 1872 age 4 Years 5 Months & 14 days. Being born August 19, 1867 & interred in the Vault at the Lutheran Cemetery on February 7, 1872.