



# Der Kurier

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## ‘Social history,’ chronologies reveal much about ancestors

Last year’s essay contest continues to pay dividends for *Der Kurier* as we publish the various writings each issue. Ronald H. Limbaugh’s work on his ancestor Frederick Limbach shows what a rich tale can be told about many of our forebears using the church and court records generated by their actions.

Limbaugh shows how historians in the last generation or two have widened their studies from the “great men” used over and over in the previous centuries to looking at the average folk and what lessons their lives can teach us as genealogists.

His piece on Frederick Limbach takes us through the 18<sup>th</sup> century man’s life from the European origins that are believed (but not definitively proven) to belong to him, to his arrival in America, and then through the various records that were created by his land and court transactions.

In doing so, the author shows the value of this type of “social history,” in addition to giving

us another lesson: The value of creating chronologies about our ancestors.

These chronologies can be especially helpful in allowing researchers to ferret out “holes” in their research – while also suggesting hypotheses on what their ancestors were doing during those times when they weren’t generating documents, or at least not ones that have survived.

There was a time when the somewhat primitive researchers of a previous century, upon finding a gap of years between a German immigrant’s arrival and his first appearance on a tax list, immediately filled in that blank with the hasty generalization that the man must have been indentured.

Limbaugh, to his credit, jumps to no such conclusions but rather uses his documentation wisely in support of his conjectures that go beyond the evidence.

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- **Quarterly journal, *Der Kurier***
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**A membership application appears on the back cover of *Der Kurier*.**

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**Submissions to *Der Kurier*.** Articles concerning Germanic genealogy and heritage in the Mid-Atlantic region are welcome, as are "Letters to the Editor." Research articles should document conclusions with appropriate citation of primary sources.

MAGS reserves the right to edit submissions for length and style. Any material published becomes the property of MAGS. Deadline for submissions: the first of January, April, July and October. Submit to: James M. Beidler, PO Box 270, Lebanon, PA 17042. E-mail: [james@beidler.us](mailto:james@beidler.us)

## MAGS German Script Workshop almost sold out

**A**s noted in June 2009 issue of *Der Kurier*, MAGS will sponsor a workshop devoted to learning Gothic script—a skill that is essential for reading early German church records. The all-day seminar will be limited to 15 participants. The date is Nov. 7; the location 7401 Old Sandy Spring Road, Laurel, MD. The cost for MAGS members is \$45 and non-members \$ 55.

The workshop is almost sold out—only three slots remain open as of press time. If you are considering taking this course, you should make your reservation now by sending your check made payable to MAGS to Diane Kuster, Registrar—6411 Town Creek Road, Elm City, NC 27822-8918.

For additional information e-mail [registration@magsgen.com](mailto:registration@magsgen.com).

## ESSAY CONTEST ENTRY

### Frederick Limbach in Revolutionary Pennsylvania

By Ronald H. Limbaugh

Note: This essay was another of the fine entrants in the contest sponsored by MAGS with the theme of “Contributions of Germans to American History and Culture.”

**F**amily and personal history are not new disciplines but have gained new attention and respect in the postmodern world. The revolution in culture that began in the 1960s has awakened academics to the need for historical reassessment of the lifestyles and values of ordinary people and families. Analyzing history “from the bottom up” not only has much greater appeal today among graduate students and active professionals, but is also much easier in the computer age.

Assessment rolls, legal records, personal and private correspondence and other tedious strings of handwritten raw data, once buried and largely ignored, now can be efficiently compiled and analyzed with SPSS and other software programs designed for quantitative analysis. Even more important are the qualitative lessons of the “new history.” Postmodern historical research and analysis have gone a long way to address the fundamental problem intellectual historian Crane Brinton identified a half-century ago: “in the past we have absorbed too many facts and have thought about them too little.”

Frederick Limbach’s political and legal career in Northampton County during the Revolutionary era is a case in point. The role of local militias in stirring the fires of revolt has long been known, but to what extent their leaders contributed to the civil strife that accompanied the imperial conflict is less well understood. The essay that follows provides biographical information that can help explain Limbach’s role as local committeeman and judge. It also offers a broader context for

understanding the motives and actions of contemporary patriots in a turbulent time.

The Limbaugh family has German roots, but definitive statements about Old World origins still await confirmation of the family ties between Frederick Limbach of Upper Milford, Northampton (later Lehigh) County, Pennsylvania, and Frederick Lymbach, born Georg Friderich Lymbach in Hüffenhardt, Mosbach, Baden, 10 October 1734. Nor can we say with certainty that the Upper Milford

Limbach family member is the same person as Friederich Leinbach (Limback, Limbach) who arrived in Philadelphia on the ship "Brothers" 26 September 1753. The first solid information about this Upper Milford immigrant dates from 1758, when Limbach married Anna Catharina Ritter, daughter of Paul Ritter, a large landowner in southeastern Pennsylvania, with property in several townships. His arrival in the 1730s coincided with the first large German immigrant land rush up the Perkiomen Valley north of Philadelphia. Many of these immigrants wanted as much land as possible, leading observers to note, as William Smith did in 1754, that "the generality of these Germans place all happiness in a large farm."<sup>i</sup>

Limbach probably migrated up the "King's Highway," a road constructed in 1755 extending northwesterly through present Lehigh County, about 50 miles north of Philadelphia, along with many other Germans after his arrival in Philadelphia (presumably in 1753 at the age of 19). Most of this land is heavily timbered on rolling hills and shallow valleys, with water plentiful along Perkiomen and Hosensack creeks and their tributaries. Actual farm acreage was small because it took so much work to clear land prior to cultivation. Clearing was a cooperative effort by neighbors and their families coming together in "log-rolling bees" with saws, axes and grubbing hoes to chop and stack brush, dig up roots, cut down and pile up previously-girdled trees that were dried out and ready for burning.<sup>ii</sup>

Limbach may have been working for Paul Ritter clearing land at the time of his marriage to Ritter's daughter in 1758. Over the next few years his activities are unrecorded. He may have worked as a hired laborer, or perhaps as an itinerant schoolteacher to German farm children, since he evidently had been to Gymnasium prior to leaving Germany and was therefore able to read and write well in his native language. These early schools were located in churches, with schoolhouses sometimes preceding the establishment of a church. The structures served both functions in this early period. Until the 3d decade of the 19th century, parish school instruction was entirely in

German. However, there were also a few bilingual Charity Schools established in the 1750s. Designed to train German youth in the English language and the British political and legal system, they were encouraged by colonial leaders with the help of Lutheran and Reformed pastors, all worried by the increasing French influence during the French and Indian War. Between 1755 and 1764, 500 or more German youth received bilingual education from German schoolteachers at these schools. Had he sufficient English skills to train others, Limbach might well have taught in one of these institutions located near him at Easton, New Hanover and Northampton. He also must have begun to learn something about local politics and law in this period, although until the late 1770s his primary occupation was farming. As early as 1768 he is listed as a witness in a Lower Milford land transaction, indicating his connection—however peripheral—to legal matters.<sup>iii</sup>

Frederick Limbach's personal religious affiliations and practices are not entirely clear. Unquestionably he was Protestant, but what particular brand is uncertain. He was married in Augustus Lutheran Church in Trappe, Montgomery County, and his first child was baptized in St. Paul's Lutheran Church at Red Hill, a mile southeast of Pennsburg in the same county, but these could be indications of his wife's preferences rather than his own. His father-in-law was a charter member of the Upper Milford Lutheran Church near Dillingersville, where Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, known as the "father of American Lutheranism," served in the late 1740s. However, the scarcity of church facilities forced these early German settlers to share both pastors and buildings, even to the point of unifying in some cases, as the Grossenhoppen congregations did after the church was founded in 1732, very near Limbach's first Pennsylvania land holdings.<sup>iv</sup> Moreover, there were few doctrinal differences between Lutheran and Reformed congregations, making the sharing of facilities all the easier. Lutherans retained more "high church" rituals than Reformeds and tried harder to maintain doctrinal unity, while Reformeds, with a Calvinist heritage, emphasized individual

worship and Bible-reading at home. As two church elders admitted in 1762, perhaps with tongue in cheek, one variation they could cite was in the Lord's Prayer, where the Lutherans said "Vater Unser" while the Reformed said "Unser Vater." Another was in the way they went about their business: "The Reformed first attend to duty, and then indulge in wine, whilst the Lutherans first sip their wine and then attend to duty."<sup>v</sup> Whatever his membership, in practice Limbach apparently was not very devout. His name does not appear in Pennsylvania church attendance or membership rosters, and the fact that his first two children were baptized at St. Paul's Lutheran Church at Red Hill is inconclusive, since church records show that many pastors baptized non-members of their parish, especially in union churches but also in towns and settlements without union arrangement.<sup>vi</sup>

A better indicator of Frederick Limbach's early life and career in Pennsylvania can be found in land and tax records. As early as 1762 he appears in the Upper Milford tax lists. Upper Milford Township, created in Bucks County in 1739 and transferred to newly created Northampton County in 1752, changed affiliations again in 1812, when Lehigh County was organized. Forty years later it was divided in half, the northwestern section retaining the name Upper Milford, and the southeastern section becoming Lower Milford. During the time of Limbach's residence in Pennsylvania, however, Upper Milford was a single rectangular township approximately 6 miles by 5 ½ miles within the boundaries of Northampton, with the county seat at Easton at the State's eastern boundary on the Delaware River.

As Northampton tax records indicate, Limbach owned and farmed property long before he acquired land from his father-in-law. In 1763 he was assessed £14, a sizeable sum, for the "land he lives on," 150 deeded acres, plus another 50 undeeded acres elsewhere. Whether these deeds were in his own name is still unknown, for no land records have turned up with his name on them before 1770. Affirming loyalty to the King was probably a requirement to own property, and Limbach did not become a

naturalized subject of Great Britain until 1767, when he took the oath in Philadelphia. The county assessment for that year provides more detail about Limbach and his property, showing that he owned 100 acres of cleared land, and another 100 of woodland. He paid about £8 in taxes in 1767, less than previously, but whether this represents deterioration in his economic status or a lower tax rate is not clear. The 1767 tax record also includes personal property assessments on 3 horses and mares, 5 horned cattle and 3 sheep. He continues to appear in the tax rolls at least up to the late 1780s, with assessments varying from 10 to 15 pounds sterling on 200 acres and about the same amount of livestock. A column to record "bound servants, Negroes and Mulettos" remains blank through these years, indicating that Limbach was not a slave owner.

Presumably, the cleared land he lived on was part of the 104 acres deeded to him by his father-in-law in 1770, part of a tract called the "Old Right," which Ritter had acquired from John Stouffer, a neighboring landowner, a decade earlier.<sup>vii</sup> The Old Right tract had a long history of land speculation that began with William Penn's 17th century grant of 2,400 acres of undeveloped woodlands 50 miles northeast of Philadelphia to Colonel William Markham, presumably as a reward for military service. The land eventually passed to Markham's heirs who held it until 1729, when a Philadelphia "gentleman," James Steel, purchased nearly half of the original grant. When German immigrants began pushing up the Perkiomen Valley, Steel had a 276-acre portion surveyed, which he sold in 1747 to a speculator who held it long enough for values to rise, then split the tract in two and sold both parts to other speculators. After passing through several other hands, in 1760 Paul Ritter purchased two of these segments, the largest a 104-acre tract near what is now Krassdale in Lower Milford Township (then Kraussdale in Upper Milford). This was the acreage Ritter sold a decade later to his son-in-law, Frederick Limbach. An adjacent tract of approximately 179 acres came into the possession of the Reverend George Kriebel, a Schwenkfelder soon to be involved in the Test

Oath controversy with his neighbor Frederick Limbach as principal antagonist.<sup>viii</sup>

Limbach's political career in Pennsylvania is still a matter of considerable controversy, as Francis Fox has recently explored in a challenging study of Northampton County during the colonial and revolutionary periods.<sup>ix</sup> A strong defender of minority rights, Fox describes Limbach as a "crony" of John Wentzel, a tyrannical local official whose main objective during the Revolution was to enrich his own personal fortune at the expense of vulnerable neighbors. To understand this viewpoint requires some understanding of regional political culture, as well as some perspective on the status of religious minorities and the divisions among and between patriot and loyalist factions during the Revolutionary era.

**D**aniel Boorstin's multi-volume series on *The Americans* provides a good overview of colonial culture in William Penn's "noble experiment." As one of the strategic middle colonies, Pennsylvania was intensely commercial from its very founding, a major point of interchange between colonial products flowing both north and south along the navigable Delaware and Susquehanna rivers. Its central location and navigable streams also made it accessible to two major Indian populations, the Iroquois Nation, key allies of the British in its colonial wars with France, and the Algonquin tribes of the upper Great Lakes, chief enemies of the Iroquois and key allies of the French before 1763. As a Proprietary Colony, Pennsylvania was also independent of British control, subject only to the policies and practices of its founder. As we remember from our 3rd grade history books, Penn's Quaker father had loaned money to Charles II during the Restoration and in 1660 was rewarded with a generous land grant in America. Following his creative Quaker "inner light," William Penn turned the colony into a commercial and religious haven for small farmers and merchants, Christian Indians, mainstream churches as well as Quakers, Moravians, Mennonites, Schwenckfelders, Amish and other religious minorities escaping persecution both in other colonies and abroad. By mid-18th century Pennsylvania was already

exhibiting qualities that later characterized the nation as a whole: capitalism, pluralism, diversity, individualism, and pragmatic tolerance for different points of view. The flood of German immigrants in the first half of the 18th century caused some backlash among older English settlers, but in 1742 the colonial assembly bowed to the inevitable and passed a law allowing all who took an oath of loyalty to king and commonwealth to become naturalized residents and property owners. At the time some Quakers and other conscience-stricken religious minorities, who thought oath taking of any sort violated one of the 10 Commandments, resisted. They were allowed to "affirm" rather than "swear" their allegiance.<sup>x</sup>

The local political climate changed dramatically in the revolutionary foment leading to war, as tolerant Quaker leadership gave way to intolerant Patriots eager to avenge real or perceived British grievances. British attempts to restore imperial control after the Boston Tea Party in 1775 only escalated the colonial crisis, and Tom Paine's *Common Sense* accelerated the pace toward independence. When delegates from most colonies met in Philadelphia as the First Continental Congress to discuss the imperial crisis, local radicals tossed out Pennsylvania's old government and pressed the Congressional delegates for a declaration of independence. In June 1776, a month before Jefferson's famous document was ratified, radicals in the Pennsylvania Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution establishing a colonial militia of 4,500 men in 6 battalions, and authorizing a Provisional Convention to draft a new State constitution. The radical new organic law abolished the governorship, placed supreme power in the popularly elected unicameral Assembly, did away with many old proprietary privileges and greatly expanded the political franchise. Since German immigrants by the mid-1770s made up half the population, the new constitution in effect turned control of the Commonwealth over to the burgeoning Scotch-Irish and German counties north and west of Philadelphia.<sup>xi</sup>

The new militia law had a direct impact on Frederick Limbach's life in Northampton

County. On May 30, 1776, just a few days before the bill passed, Limbach entered local politics. He was elected to the General Committee of Upper Milford, a revolutionary body organized to ensure Patriot control of local affairs. The job not only kept him out of active military service but also gave him increased political power. Meeting at Easton periodically, the Committee used its authority to requisition property for military purposes, raise taxes for bounties, decide who was eligible for military service and the terms of their enlistment, and impose fines for non-cooperation. That summer, instead of marching off with other Pennsylvania volunteers to help General Washington defend Long Island, Limbach tended to more mundane local matters, either on his farm or in Easton on committee business.<sup>xii</sup> His friends and neighbors who participated in the Battle of Long Island were not so lucky, for the casualty rate was high, and by the time it was over “most of ... [Northampton’s militia] men [were] either dead or wounded,” according to a local chronicler.<sup>xiii</sup>

The toll sobered many tentative patriots who began agitating for laws to keep their boys at home, especially after Lord Howe, the British commander, moved his troops south toward Philadelphia in the fall of 1776, with Washington’s ragged remnants cautiously following in pursuit. Late in December, with most of Howe’s men camped along a broad front centered at Trenton, New Jersey, the American commander issued a plea from his headquarters in Bucks County for Northampton militiamen to join the Continental army in defending Philadelphia from British occupation. Many did turn out, despite the Easton committee’s earlier resolution ordering the county militia not to cross into New Jersey. When Washington famously “crossed the Delaware” to launch a surprise attack against Howe’s Hessian troops celebrating Christmas at Trenton, Northampton troops joined in the fight and rejoiced with the Continental forces in their first victory of the war. A few days later, instead of marching to winter quarters at Morristown after the patriot army slipped away from a counterattack at Princeton, the Northampton regiments returned to their farms and families.<sup>xiv</sup>

As a local political leader, Frederick Limbach kept his own fences mended while others did the fighting. That fall he won re-election to the Northampton General Committee, and in the spring of 1777 he joined a local military unit after the radical Assembly in Philadelphia passed a new Militia Act. The law strengthened the power of county militia leaders over local affairs, including the enforcement of military quotas, the imposition of taxes and fines, and the confiscation of property. Under Lieutenant John Wetzel, an assemblyman who took charge of Northampton’s military affairs under the new legislation, Limbach received a commission as Major in the Second Battalion of the reorganized County Militia. In this staff position, far from the front lines, he served as one of five sub-lieutenants empowered to carry out Wetzel’s orders.<sup>xv</sup>

Northampton County was a hotbed of military activity during the winter and spring of 1777. With Washington’s meager forces entrenched at Morristown, New Jersey, 25 miles west of Manhattan Island, and with British troops occupying the coastal areas and threatening to sail up the Delaware, the only good inland route connecting New York and Philadelphia was the old “king’s highway” that ran through Easton. Frederick Limbach’s star rose rapidly in this period, an indication of both his personal ambitions as well as his excellent political and military connections. Within days after receiving his officer’s commission, he was appointed Justice of the Peace for Upper Milford Township. Since Wetzel controlled the local patronage and may have been able to manipulate local elections as well, clearly Limbach was one of Wetzel’s favorites.

The new job gave Limbach new prestige—hereafter he was deferentially referred to as “Esquire”—but it also placed him in the unhappy role of magistrate and chief administrator of laws more characteristic of a police state than a democratic society. In Fox’s words, the Militia Act of 1776 “opened the door for villainy” by authorizing militia leaders to confiscate and sell the property and chattels of all those who refused to serve or hire a substitute when called to local militia duty. The effects of

this draconian measure, justified as the only way to keep the militia at full strength, became even more oppressive after radicals in the new State Assembly passed a second Militia Act in June 1777. It required all male residents over 18 years old to take an oath renouncing allegiance to King George and swearing allegiance to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Anyone who refused was branded as a traitor or “loyalist.” They could not hold office, buy or sell property, or travel beyond their local city or county jurisdiction. If they did they would be considered a spy and jailed without bail until they took the oath. As proof of compliance every citizen had to carry a certificate signed by a magistrate and produce it if challenged. The paperwork kept scribes busy and clogged the courts. By the end of the war Northampton County officials alone had administered over 4,000 oaths. Justice Limbach signed dozens of certificates in Upper Milford after taking the oath himself on June 28, three days before its public debut.<sup>xvi</sup>

**T**he ultimate in economic warfare came in the fall of 1777, after the British occupied Philadelphia. The frightened legislature, reassembling in Lancaster, passed a Bill of Attainder confiscating all real and personal property of anyone refusing to take the oath. Other former colonies passed similar bills, legalizing what became a massive attack on British sympathizers, real or alleged. By the end of the war nearly 100,000 of these unhappy loyalists, powerless and penniless, driven from their homes and livelihoods, escaped to Canada or other parts of the British Empire.<sup>xvii</sup>

American history is replete with loyalty oaths and other symbolic gestures that cause great personal harm. Most arise during national emergencies, a reflection of popular fears codified into law by officials determined to root out real or perceived enemies of the state. Statesmen who lived through the Revolutionary crisis and saw firsthand the evils of mob rule, outlawed bills of attainder and other acts of vengeance in the Constitution of 1787, but peacetime guarantees have often eroded in times of crisis. Religious heretics in colonial New England, pro-French Republicans in the late

1790s, Copperheads in the Civil War, anarchists and other radicals during and after World War I, Japanese-Americans in World War II, communists in the McCarthy era, flag burners and terrorists after 9-11—all have been targeted, but many innocents have been victimized by attempts to protect America’s “internal security.”

Using militia units and courts to enforce the laws in Northampton County, Wetzel and his fellow patriots aggressively pursued conscientious objectors who refused to bear arms or hire substitutes. Brought before local magistrates to determine their fate, they suffered heavily from fines, property confiscation, imprisonment and banishment. Legal officers made periodic reports on the amounts collected, but all those involved in enforcement were paid out of revenue received, and since no audits were required, the system was subject to abuse.

How much abuse is impossible to determine. Francis Fox’s recent monograph asserts that Wetzel and his men schemed “to get even and get rich” at the expense of “helpless” neighbors. How many victims, who supported and who opposed actions against them, how much was taken and where did it go, how does the Northampton experience compare with other regions—these kinds of questions are not addressed in *Sweet Land of Liberty*. Even Fox admits that Wetzel “managed to wriggle free of financial liability incurred during his term as county lieutenant.” Late in the war he was investigated for allegedly pocketing money belonging to others, his books were examined, and he was sued, but apparently nothing came of these allegations.<sup>xviii</sup>

The most damning evidence of venality shows military and civil officials personally participating in auctions of confiscated property, but the motives for such behavior are unclear. Frederick Limbach’s actions, at least, seem more driven by ideology than avarice. After punishing a group of nonresistant Mennonites by ordering confiscation and banishment, for example, Wetzel, Limbach and other officials bid on “bargains” for themselves while the defendants stood by in tears, watching their



life's possessions picked over by their accusers. With seeming indifference, Limbach bought a dispossessed neighbor's "hand skrew" at one auction, and purchased "half a bushel" of grain at another from a Mennonite whose property he had just ordered confiscated. He was but one of 350 bidders. Such purchases, while predatory, are more symbolic of power than of wealth.<sup>xix</sup>

There are grim moments in any war regardless of causes or participants. During the War of American Independence, atrocities stained the "internal revolution" as armed mobs vanquished real or imaginary enemies, stealing or destroying their possessions, burning their houses, occasionally driving them out with tar and feathers. Some innocents lost their lives, as in the Wyoming Massacre, or Battle as it is now called, when Loyalists and their Iroquois allies slaughtered hundreds of settlers and militia.<sup>xx</sup> Its aftermath was just as bad, when a village filled with Christian Indians was destroyed with all inhabitants at the hands of avenging militia. Limbach took testimony from witnesses to the latter deed, and must have grimaced at accounts of women and children shot or knocked on the head in "slaughter houses" that were then set afire.<sup>xxi</sup> Given the sorry record of genocide and other horrors inflicted upon innocent victims of human fanaticism, past to present, patriot actions against dissenters and nonresistors in revolutionary Pennsylvania are understandable if not excusable.

Whatever their personal motives, Northampton militia leaders and the rank and file zealously enforced the law as they understood it. Though patriots quickly grabbed the reins of power after the war began, for the first three years the outcome was far from certain. Many historians have described the American Revolution both as a civil war and a war for independence, with Americans fighting each other as well as the British. As we are daily reminded by news from the Middle East, civil wars can be murderous affairs. Loyalists in Pennsylvania were too weak to threaten patriot forces after 1777, but those not sympathetic to the patriot cause, regardless of their potential strength or their reasons for opposition, were considered enemies and treated accordingly.

Moravians with extensive land and chattels were especially hard hit. Settling along the Perkiomen at Oley and Skippack in what became Montgomery County after being driven out of Saxony in the early 1730s, they were welcomed at first, but the welcome faded after they began proselytizing other German sects. By the late 1740s some Lutheran and Reformed leaders, Henry Melchior Muhlenberg in particular, were warning parishioners to beware of Moravian "revivalists," "false prophets," and "fanatics." Sectarian squabbles declined somewhat during the next decade, but the lingering resentment helps explain why some Moravian families left Pennsylvania for North Carolina in the mid 1760s, and why others were targeted during the Revolution.<sup>xxii</sup> Armed with punitive laws and the militia to back them up, Wetzel and patriot leaders in neighboring counties constantly harassed Moravian communities with taxes, fines, property confiscations, imprisonment, and forced labor. Opposed to fighting but willing to pay taxes, their rights were severely restricted and they carried a heavy financial burden.<sup>xxiii</sup>

**A**s Northampton county judge and administrator, as well as one of Wetzel's favorites, Frederick Limbach rigorously applied the militia laws during the critical period from 1776 to 1778 when patriot anxiety was at its height. Undaunted by his own lack of judicial training and experience, he boldly asserted the power of his office, even rejecting the advice and counsel of higher authority when he felt he was right on matters of law and principle. He was also courageous, accepting the responsibility of harshly judging his neighbors and fining or jailing those he decided had violated the law. The dynamics of his personality suggest an inflexible idealist, a patriot wedded to rigid principles and firm beliefs, a man unlikely to make friends readily or keep them for long.

One of his first major cases as Justice of the Peace involved his next-door neighbor, George Kriebel, an influential Schwenckfelder pastor, teacher and farmer who had purchased land adjacent to Paul Ritter's property in

1765.<sup>xxiv</sup> On May 1, 1777, a month before the Test Oath became law, some members of the Schwenckfelder church had issued a proclamation by which they declared their willingness to pay taxes but asserted that “for conscience’ sake” it was “impossible for us to take up arms and kill our fellow men.”<sup>xxv</sup> To patriots this was open defiance, and Wetzel’s men rose to the challenge. They identified all those they claimed were eligible for military service, assigned them to militia units, and called them to arms. When Kriebel’s son Abraham ignored the call, Justice Limbaugh issued a warrant for his arrest and imposed a fine of £1/12. A constable brought the young man and his father before the judge July 18, with Wetzel acting as chief accuser and prosecutor. When the elder Kriebel complained that the boy was under age, the magistrate cited the new provisions, in effect since July 1, barring the testimony of anyone not taking the oath. Wetzel thereupon demanded that the father immediately take the oath required by law or go to “goal.” Kriebel’s reply is an interesting equivocation, one not based on freedom of conscience, as he and his defenders claimed, but on the pragmatic realities of the moment. In the summer of 1777, with Washington trying to rally regional defenses as the British threatened Philadelphia, Kriebel hedged his bet, as he explained in his own handwritten statement to higher authorities protesting his arrest:

I have promised allegiance to him [George III] when I was naturalized and I am afraid I might be guilty of Perjury before God and in my Conscience, and more-over it is very uncertain upon which side the Victory will fall out therefore I can't do it [take the oath] for the Present Time.<sup>xxvi</sup>

Given Kriebel’s refusal and Wetzel’s “command,” Justice Limbach signed an order for his arrest, explaining to his neighbor--in words suggesting deference to higher authority rather than arrogance as Fox implies--“well George you See I can't help it.” The judge’s handwritten instructions to the Easton jailer, where

Kriebel was confined, is couched in similar terms: “...Safely keep the s<sup>d</sup> george Kreebel in your s<sup>d</sup>Goal till he shall thence be delivered by due Course of our present Law.”<sup>xxvii</sup>

Fox cites the Kriebel case as an example of Wetzel’s “vendetta against nonresisters”<sup>xxviii</sup> with Justice Limbach a willing co-conspirator. But unlike the Moravians, Schwenckfelder influence kept them from more serious harm at the hands of their protagonists. George Kriebel’s friends appealed to a member of the Assembly who took his case to the Supreme Executive Council, the body that replaced the governor under the radical constitution. While the Council was mulling over the Kriebel matter, two militiaman stopped a Mennonite, Henry Funk, who was riding home after visiting a nearby blacksmith shop. When Funk failed to produce his certificate he was hauled before Justice Limbach, who questioned him and then gave him a day to think about his circumstances. When court reconvened August 9, Funk rejected the oath, citing his devotion to a “higher power,” whereupon the judge, relying on statements from the arresting officers that Funk was suspect because he “travells forwards & backwards” as a spy might, sent him to jail.<sup>xxix</sup> Almost the same day a petition drafted by friends of Funk and Kriebel protesting their incarceration reached the Executive Council in Philadelphia, adding urgency to their deliberations. Six days later that body sent an advisory to “Frederick Limbach Esq.” warning that he had misinterpreted the law, which authorized jail only for those resisters who left the jurisdiction of their town or county. Funk and Kriebel had not crossed jurisdictional lines when they were arrested and therefore should be freed.<sup>xxx</sup>

How this case ultimately turned out is not clear from the fragmentary records left behind. Evidently the two prisoners were soon released, but the misfortunes of the Continental Army that summer raised the anxiety level in southeast Pennsylvania and intensified efforts by Wetzel and the Northampton patriot faction to weed out all who refused to take the oath or support the military. With Washington in retreat after losing the Battle of Brandywine September 11, and

with the British now occupying Philadelphia, Limbach issued new warrants against Kriebel and Funk. Late in February 1778 the judge received a new warning, this time from A. Robeson, an attorney hired by the two defendants. It did not mince words. "If the State of their Cases has been truly related to me your Conduct must be very unjustifiable," Robeson wrote, "and they much injured by the proceedings allready had against them." If the judge would "reconsider the Matter" and "step no further in their Business," the "affair for the present is done." If he would not, the attorney left no doubt that further action against him would follow.<sup>xxxii</sup>

The legal dueling went on for the next 10 months against a backdrop of continued intimidation and prosecution of suspected loyalists at the county level even after the British left Philadelphia in June. A legal fragment in the Northampton County Archives dated 30 July 1778 shows Justice Limbach collecting F40 from Henry Funk, one of the highest fines levied against nonresisters in the period.<sup>xxxiii</sup> In the meantime, prominent religious leaders and their allies increased the pressure on commonwealth officials to stop the overzealous enforcement of the test oath. Following statewide elections in the summer that gave greater voice to moderate opinion, the Assembly passed legislation December 3 that amended the punitive provisions of the militia laws but retained the restrictions on civil rights. After that, radical attacks generally declined on tax-paying Mennonites, Moravians, and other conscientious objectors, though for the next eight years they still could not vote, serve on juries, or hold office.<sup>xxxiiii</sup> The battle between Henry Funk and his adversaries, however, carried on at least until 1781, when Limbach and two other county officials filed slander charges against the embattled Mennonite. Unfortunately, no disposition of that case has been found.<sup>xxxv</sup>

Regardless of codes of honor or rules of law, reputations and careers are often the victims of guilt by association. In Northampton county during the Revolution, one might think that Frederick Limbach's association with vindictive radicals like John Wetzel would have

jeopardized his political stature. But that does not appear to be the case. With few interruptions, Limbach's dual status as militia officer and judge continued at least until 1781, long after Wetzel left office. Early in 1778, as Washington's army rallied to challenge Howe's march on Philadelphia, Limbach's unit was called to Continental service under General John B. Lacey. Whether this put him in harm's way is not clear, but he collected two month's pay as a staff officer in the Continental army before he returned to militia duty. Presumably his militia service ended with the American victory at Yorktown, but his judgeship in Upper Milford continued almost until the day he left the State, with only a brief pause. In the fall of 1782 he was elected, with 434 votes, as one of Northampton's six representatives to the Eighth General Assembly, but for unknown reasons he did not appear when the first session opened in Philadelphia October 30. The Assembly minute book a few days later mentions that "A letter from Frederick Limbach Esquire elected a member for Northampton county, was read, in excuse, for his non attendance," and on November 11 he was listed along with four other members as "delinquent." No other information has been located to explain his absence. Since the session that year was dominated by Republican moderates, perhaps he did not feel comfortable, since he had been closely associated with the Constitutionalist radicals when Wetzel ran Northampton politics. His seat presumably remained vacant until Frederick Antes replaced him in July, 1784. A month later Limbach was reappointed to his old bench as JP for Upper Milford, and for a time later that same year he was also listed as a judge in the Court of Common Pleas, the appellate body for JP decisions as well as a trial court for serious cases.<sup>xxxvi</sup>

The duties of his multiple offices during the war kept him flooded with paperwork. A judge with good penmanship, he documented his work in laborious longhand, serving warrants and subpoenas, conducting trials, witnessing wills and other documents, and administrating test oaths. As militia officer and sub lieutenant he was responsible for ordering periodic muster

calls, screening new militiamen, verifying the militia rolls, and receiving and reporting fines and other collections. He handled enormous amounts of money, but whether he skimmed off some for himself, as Fox alleges, or reported and turned in all he collected, cannot be determined. For services rendered he was apparently well paid. In July 1778, for example, the paymaster handed him £ 250, but for what pay period or term of service is uncertain. On the other hand, as sub lieutenant Limbach, during the period 1780-81, turned over to Samuel Rhea, one of Wetzel's successors, a total of 8983 pounds, 8 shillings and 6 pence, but this was in Continental currency, paper money highly discounted because of inflation. By 1781 it was almost worthless and ceased to circulate as a medium of exchange.<sup>xxxvi</sup>

All this political and legal activity must have taken its toll on the Limbach farm and family, but to what extent is unknown. Limbach's 200 acres remained on the Upper Milford tax lists until at least through 1783 and probably until 1787, although the available documentary record is spotty. In 1782 he had begun to subdivide, perhaps in anticipation of selling small parcels after the war. By the time he assumed public office in 1776 his oldest living son, Frederick Jr., was 15 and doubtless took over much of the routine farm work. There is no indication that the boy was called to muster at age 18 as required. With his father in charge of certifying muster rolls, it was easy either to hire a substitute or simply ignore the summons. Of the 98 officers and 1,727 men in Northampton militia units, only about 40 percent actually served. The rest hired substitutes, many of them Irish immigrants who welcomed the standard rate of £ 40 for a two-month enlistment.<sup>xxxvii</sup>

This essay began with questions about Frederick Limbach's family background, as well as his life and career in Pennsylvania. Until a more thorough search is made for clues to his German roots, we cannot be certain he stems from the Lymbach line of Hüffenhardt, Mosbach, Baden, although nothing I have yet

discovered in several years of research leads me to believe otherwise. But I hope now a better picture emerges of his formative years in America. In this crucial transitional period, when 13 colonies struggled first to forge a new nation and then to keep it from melting away in political factionalism and economic chaos, he proved adaptable to fundamental changes in family, language, occupation and culture. Yet those same years caught him up in revolutionary forces that first favored him, but ultimately undermined his career, left him bankrupt, and finally forced him to abandon whatever hopes and dreams he may have had for success and status in post-war Pennsylvania. In 1787, the same year delegates from Pennsylvania and other states met in Philadelphia to address the national political and economic crisis that threatened the new nation, Limbach and his family rode south towards new lands in North Carolina. The only account of his last days in Upper Milford leaves many unanswered questions. Written in 1884 by a regional historian, it is a pathetic reminder of the unpredictability of the human condition:

[Frederick Limbach] was a very active man, and in some respects a very extreme man for the cause of liberty during the times of the Revolutionary war. He administered his office until December, 1787, but, as he did not live very economically, became deeply in debt. He sold his real property on Dec. 1, 1787, to Daniel Stauffer for eleven hundred and one pounds, and left the following night with wife and children for parts unknown, and forever. On the 12th of December, 1787, a neighbor came to the old log house in which Limbach resided, but found it empty, and the old-fashioned fat-lamp was still standing on the hearth, and still lighted. Such was the end of Esquire Limbach's course in Upper Milford.<sup>xxxviii</sup>

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- <sup>i</sup> Quoted in Charles H. Glatfelter, Pastors and People: German Lutheran and Reformed Churches in the Pennsylvania Field, 1717-1793 (Breinigsville PA: Penn. German Soc., 1981), 6.
- <sup>ii</sup> W. W. H. Davis, History of Bucks County (Doylestown: Democratic Book and Job Office, 1876), 711-12.
- <sup>iii</sup> Glatfelter, Pastors and People, 308-36; Dueffendoerffer Land deed summary sheet, 7 December 1768, Lower Milford Twp, Lehigh Co., in Schwenckfelder Library, Pennsburg PA.
- <sup>iv</sup> William J. Hinke, A History of the Goshenhoppen Reformed Charge, 1727-1819 (Lancaster, PA: Penn. German Soc., 1920).
- <sup>v</sup> Quoted in Charles R. Roberts et al., History of Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. Vol. 1 (Allentown: Lehigh Valley Publ. Co., 1914), 804-05. See also Pastors and People, 14-18.
- <sup>vi</sup> Glatfelter, Pastors and People, 162-63; 247-60.
- <sup>vii</sup> Alfred Mathews, History of the Counties of Lehigh and Carbon, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (Phila: Everts & Richards, 1884), 363.
- <sup>viii</sup> For Ritter and Limbach land transactions, see The Journals and Papers of David Schultze, Volume II, 1761-1797. Translated and Edited by Andrew S. Berky (Pennsburg: Schwenckfelder Library, 1953), 9-10. I am grateful to Noble Limbaugh of Anniston, AL for providing me a copy of Frederick's 1770 deed, now located in the Schwenckfelder Library.
- <sup>ix</sup> Francis S. Fox, Sweet Land of Liberty: The Ordeal of the American Revolution in Northampton County, Pennsylvania (Univ. Park, PA: Penn. State Univ. Press, 2000). Using colonial, state and local resources heretofore overlooked or largely neglected, the book is rich in descriptive detail but limited in perspective.
- <sup>x</sup> Daniel J. Boorstin, The Americans: The Colonial Experience (New York: Random House, 1958); Davis, History of Bucks County, 443.
- <sup>xi</sup> Samuel Eliot Morison and Henry Steele Commager, The Growth of the American Republic (New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1950), 193-95, 238; F. Ellis, History of Northampton Co. PA (Philadelphia: P. Fritts, 1877), 57; Davis, History of Bucks County, 442.
- <sup>xii</sup> William H. Engle, ed., Pennsylvania in the War of the Revolution, Associated Battalions and Militia, 1775-1783. Vol. 2 (Harrisburg: E.K. Meyers, 1888), 547-616.
- <sup>xiii</sup> Ellis, History of Northampton County, 58.
- <sup>xiv</sup> Engle, Pennsylvania in the War of the Revolution, Vol. 2, 613; Ellis, History of Northampton County, 59; Matthew Forney Steele, American Campaigns, vol. 1 (Washington D.C.: Combat Forces Press, 1951), 14-16.
- <sup>xv</sup> Thomas Lynch Montgomery, ed., Muster Rolls Relating to the Associators and Militia of the County of Northampton. Pennsylvania Archives, Fifth Series, Vol. VIII (Harrisburg: Harrisburg Publ. Co., 1906), 102-03; Fox, Sweet Land of Liberty, 84.
- <sup>xvi</sup> Gaylord Griffiths, An Alphabetized Listing of Those Subscribers to the Oaths of Allegiance, Northampton County, PA 1778-1784 (Apollo PA: Closson Press, 1992), 1, 43.
- <sup>xvii</sup> Howard W. Kriebel, The Schwenckfelders in Pennsylvania, a Historical Sketch (Lancaster: Pennsylvania German Society, 1904), 154-55; Fox, Sweet Land of Liberty, 86, 147; Richard B. Morris, ed., Encyclopedia of American History. Revised and Enlarged Edition (New York: Harper, 1961), 110.
- <sup>xviii</sup> Fox, Sweet Land of Liberty, 85, 92, 95, 152-53.
- <sup>xix</sup> [Pennsylvania Archives]; Fox, Sweet Land of Liberty, 147-56
- <sup>xx</sup> Wyoming Valley Massacre, from Wikipedia, at <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wyoming\\_Massacre](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wyoming_Massacre)>.
- <sup>xxi</sup> Autograph statement, Fred. Leimbach [to General Assembly], [April 9], 1782, Records of Pennsylvania's Revolutionary Governments 1775-1790 (Record Group 27) in the Pennsylvania State Archives, Roll 19, Frame 649.
- <sup>xxii</sup> For the Moravian trek to North Carolina, see Laurel Miller, Leinbachs in America: The First Five Generations (Sinking Spring, PA: Westlawn Graphic, 2002). One reason given for leaving Pennsylvania was because "Oley is too worldly." Fred Marshall to Seidel, 31 October 1764, Bethelam Archives as cited in Moravian vertical files in the History and Genealogy Department, Rowan County Library, Salisbury, North Carolina.
- <sup>xxiii</sup> John B. Frantz, "The Awakening of Religion among the German Settlers in the Middle Colonies," William and Mary Quarterly, 3rd Series, Vol. 33, no. 2 (April 1976), 276-81; Glatfelter, Pastors and People, 65-133; Fox, Sweet Land of Liberty, 85-86, 89-91, 94-95.
- <sup>xxiv</sup> Samuel Kriebel Brecht, ed., The Genealogical Record of the Schwenckfelder Families (New York: Rand McNally for the Schwenckfelder Church, 1923), 349.
- <sup>xxv</sup> Kriebel, The Schwenckfelders in Pennsylvania, 152.
- <sup>xxvi</sup> George Kriebel declaration, 1777 (autograph statement), in Kriebel Papers, VS 15, Schwenckfelder Library, Pennsburg PA.

- <sup>xxxvi</sup> Autograph letter (copy), Frederick Limbach to Keeper of Easton Gaol, July 18, 1777, in Records of Pennsylvania's Revolutionary Governments 1775-1790 (Record Group 27), Pennsylvania State Archives, microfilm Roll 12, frame 569.
- <sup>xxxviii</sup> Fox, Sweet Land of Liberty, 88.
- <sup>xxxix</sup> Statement of Henry Funk, ca.8 Aug 1777 (autograph), in Kriebel papers, VS 15, Schwenckfelder Library.
- <sup>xxx</sup> Letter (draft), Supreme Executive Council to Frederick Limbach, 15 August 1777, in Record Group 27, Pennsylvania State Archives, microfilm Roll 12, frame 789.
- <sup>xxxi</sup> Holograph letter, A.L. Robeson to Frederick Limbach, 22 February 1778, document 20 197, Schwenckfelder Library, Pennsburg PA; Kriebel, The Schwenckfelders in Pennsylvania, 155; Fox, Sweet Land of Liberty, 87-88.
- <sup>xxxii</sup> Copy of Appeal, 30 Jul 1778, oversize handwritten document in Marx Room, # H091 M294b No. 23, Easton Public Library. At edge of document, handwritten but not by Frederick: "frederick Limbach Received on Execution against Henry funk for F40 He is of the 2nd Battalion."
- <sup>xxxiii</sup> Fox, Sweet Land of Liberty, 88-95; Steele, American Campaigns, 17-18.
- <sup>xxxiv</sup> Subpoena in the case of Frederick Leimbach [sic], John Schnell and Nicholas Miller v. Henry Funk, returned 6 September 1781, in Northampton County Archives, Easton.
- <sup>xxxv</sup> Montgomery, Muster Rolls, 550; Minute Book 1783-84, Pennsylvania General Assembly, Record Group 7, Penn. State Archives, Harrisburg; Pennsylvania General Assembly roster, 1783-4, at <<http://wilkes-fs1.wilkes.edu/~hcox/legis/indexlegis.html>>; O.S. Ireland, "The Crux of Politics: Religion and Party in Pennsylvania, 1778-1789," William and Mary Quarterly, 3rd Series, Vol. 42, No. 4 (October 1985), 455.
- <sup>xxxvi</sup> Montgomery, Muster Rolls, 35-36, 50-51, 62, 303-365; William H. Egle, State of the Accounts of the County Lieutenants during the War of the Revolution, 1777-1789. Vol. 2 (Harrisburg: Clarence M. Busch, 1896), 719-778; Henry F. Marx, Oaths of Allegiance of Northampton County, Pennsylvania, 1777-1784... from Original Lists of John Arndt, Recorder of Deeds, 1777-1800 (Easton, PA: Easton Publ. Library, 1932), 15-18; 50-55; Mathews, History of the Counties of Lehigh and Carbon, 363; Charles O. Calomiris, "Institutional Failure, Monetary Scarcity, and the Depreciation of the Continental," Journal of Economic History, vol. 48, no. 1 (March 1988),54-59;
- <sup>xxxvii</sup> The Journals and Papers of David Schultze, Volume II, 161; Arthur J. Alexander, "Service by Substitute in the Militia of Northampton and Lancaster Counties (Pennsylvania) During the War of the Revolution," Military Affairs, vol. 9, No. 3 (Autumn 1945), 278-282.
- <sup>xxxviii</sup> Mathews, History of the Counties of Lehigh and Carbon, 363.

## ✱ Attention ✱

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## FRAKTUR FORUM

By Corinne Earnest

### Braun name mentioned in number of sources

Raymond Brown asked if I could find a fraktur that names the parents of Michael BRAUN (1772-1851) of Northumberland County, Pennsylvania. Although I was unable to locate BRAUN's parents, I did find Michael BRAUN and his family mentioned on fraktur. Much of the information is available in J.L. Floyd's book, *Genealogical and Biographical Annals of Northumberland County, Pennsylvania*, but I decided to compare the fraktur I found to Floyd's account of the BRAUN family and to Henry M. Reed's *Decorated Furniture of the Mahantongo Valley*, which mentions the Michael BRAUN family and illustrates fraktur from the family.

Many types of fraktur exist. Readers who follow this column know that *Taufscheine* (birth and baptism certificates) numerically dominate the field of fraktur. But Bible records were often written by major fraktur artists and scribes, so those related to Pennsylvania German families are frequently included in the genre of fraktur. A Bible record in a private collection was made for Michael BRAUN and his family. This record differs in some details from Floyd's history of Northumberland County. On page 843, Floyd says Michael BRAUN married on July 15, 1794. Floyd did not know the first name of BRAUN's wife, but he said her maiden name was CHERRY. On page 680, Floyd says Michael BRAUN married on April 19, 1795, but gives no name for BRAUN's wife. The Bible record agrees with the marriage date of April 19, 1795 and says the wife's name was Catarina SCHÖRRY [CHERRY].

The Bible record might clear up other discrepancies in Floyd. On page 679, Floyd says Michael BRAUN was born March 30, 1770, which is actually the date of Catarina SCHÖRRY's birth. Yet on page 843, Floyd says BRAUN was born in Longswamp Township,

Berks County, on February 16, 1772 — the same date Raymond Brown shows. The BRAUN Bible record confirms that it was Catarina SCHÖRRY, not Michael BRAUN, who was born March 30, 1770.

The children of Michael and Catarina (SCHÖRRY) BRAUN as listed on the family register include Rebeka, born March 10, 1796; Magdalena, born January 19, 1798; Catarina, born July 21, 1800; Johannes, born March 17, 1803; Andreas, born August 16, 1805; Michael, born July 13, 1807 and died in 1892 at the age of 85; Georg, born April 26, 1809; Peter, born August 16, 1811; and Sussanna, born May 5, 1814.

Floyd's date of birth for Catarina differs from the family register. Floyd says she was born June 18, 1800. Also, his date of birth for Susana conflicts with the date shown on her *Taufschein* (singular form of *Taufscheine*). Floyd says Susana was born March 5, 1814 instead of May 5, 1814. Susana's *Taufschein* says she was the daughter of Michael and Catharina (SCHERRI) BRAUN and that she was born May 5, 1814 in Upper Mahanoy Township. Susana was baptized by Pastor SCHINDEL in July of 1814. The sponsors at her baptism were Jacob and Susana ZIMMERMAN. Susana's *Taufschein* is pictured by Reed in *Decorated Furniture of the Mahantongo Valley*.

As an aside, this article about BRAUNs on fraktur is by no means an indictment of Floyd's valuable work, but locating primary sources such as fraktur can be essential to reconciling data. Floyd is a highly esteemed author and historian whose history remains a crucial resource for researchers of Northumberland County history. His conflicting data may have occurred because he was consulting various sources — a common problem genealogists encounter while researching.

The BRAUN Bible record goes on to say that Catarina [SCHÖRRY] BRAUN died February 18, 1844, a date that agrees with Floyd. Catarina died at the age of 73 years, 10 months, and 19 days. According to the record, she lived in marriage with Michael BRAUN for 48 years and 10 months. Other names in this record refer to Philip RÜNKEL, who died July 25, 1881 and "Philip RÜNKEL's wife," who died January 28, 1889 at the age of 74 years, 7 months, and 23 days. Philip RÜNKEL's wife was likely Susana BRAUN, the last child of Michael and Catarina BRAUN. Another name that appears in the Bible record is that of Joseph Franklin PIFER, who was born June 12, 1886 and baptized October 1, 1886.

A handful of fraktur related to the above are known. One is a *Taufschein* made for Andreas BRAUN, son of Michael and Catharina BRAUN. As mentioned in the Bible record, Andreas was born in Upper Mahanoy Township, Northumberland County, on August 16, 1805. He was baptized in September, probably in 1805. No pastor's name was recorded on his *Taufschein*, and the sponsors' names are almost illegible from the poor image I have. The female sponsor may have been Christina SCHMIDT. The current location of this certificate is unknown.

Michael and Catharina BRAUN are mentioned as sponsors on a *Taufschein* made for Johannes, son of Henrich and Dorathae [Dorothy] (SCHAEFER) SCHERRY. Johannes SCHERRY was born January 24, 1819 in Upper Mahanoy Township. He was baptized by Pastor HEMBING [HEMPING], but no date of baptism was given. This *Taufschein* is in a private collection.

Because the name, Michael BRAUN, is fairly common, other Michael BRAUNs appear on fraktur. For example, the September 1986 issue of *The Magazine Antiques* pictures a *Taufschein* that mentions a Michael BRAUN. This example was made for Adam WEBER, son of Johannes WEBER and his wife, Eva Margreth, daughter of Michael BRAUN. Adam WEBER was born in Haines Township, Centre

County, on September 30, 1796. He was baptized by Pastor ESPIG, but no date of baptism was recorded. Georg Michael and Catharina Elisabeth WEBER sponsored Adam's baptism. Added notes say "Elisabeth" was born May 31, 1821. Johannes and Margreth WEBER sponsored Elisabeth's baptism, but no other information concerning Elisabeth was given.

As customary, I forwarded to Raymond Brown data from all the fraktur I found that mention the name BRAUN and BROWN, but I found another example since then. It is a *Taufschein* that says Johannes and Elisabeth BRAUN sponsored the baptism of Esther SCHRACK, daughter of Benjamin and Susana (LOBACH) SCHRACK. Esther was born in Buffalo Township, Union County, on January 20, 1814. She was baptized by George HEIM on August 14, 1814. Esther's *Taufschein* was sold at Horst Auction Center in Ephrata, Pennsylvania, on June 20, 2009.

Those who submit inquiries concerning their family names on fraktur are urged to watch *Der Kurier* for additional examples that become known after my articles are published. Not only did the above-mentioned SCHRACK *Taufschein* that shows the name BRAUN recently become known, almost immediately after publishing the article on LEINEWEBERS (June 2009 issue of *Der Kurier*), a correspondent sent information from another example that mentions this name. The newly discovered *Taufschein* says George and Christina LEINEWEVER were sponsors at the baptism of Henry BOWERSOX. Henry BOWERSOX was the son of Vallenein [Valentin] and Christina (FINFROCK) BOWERSOX. Henry was born in Baltimore County, Maryland, on December 31, 1806. He was baptized by Pastor HARBST, but no date of baptism was given.

*If you have names you wish me to research on fraktur, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your request to Corinne Earnest, P.O. Box 1132, Clayton DE 19938. I research fraktur at no charge for MAGS members.*



## SUCHANZEIGEN / *Queries*

Please mention at least one time, one place, one German surname with known variants. Limit each query to one family. Use no more than fifty (50) words, not counting your name and address. There is no charge for members of MAGS. Non-members please include \$1 (check payable to Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society) per query with your submission.

More than one query may be sent at a time, but each should be clearly written or typed on a separate sheet of 8 1/2 by 11 inch clean, white paper. E-Mail is acceptable. Please indicate desired priority for printing. MAGS reserves the right to edit. Neither MAGS nor Der Kurier assumes any responsibility for accuracy

Send your Queries to Edythe H. Millar, Queries Editor, MAGS, 7102 Cedon Road Woodford, VA 22580 or e-mail: ehoffmillar@netscape.net (Please write 'MAGS Query' in subject line )

### EICHBERG

# 27-2 Seek info Carl Leopold EICHBERG, b 1807 Brandenburg, Prussia. Bpt & mar Lutheran. Occ tanner; div prior to emig Germ to US, 1852; arr NY 22 Dec 1852 on ship "Don Quixote"; Ident on pass list as LEOPOLD EICHBERG.

**Bill Roos 2621 Ferry Road Bellbrook, OH 45305**

**Ph: 937-848-4869 E-mail [williamroos@sbcglobal.net](mailto:williamroos@sbcglobal.net)**

### NEW YORK, NY Records

#27-3 Seek info: availability of rec for indigent burials, hospital & church rec in 1850-60's etc in New York /Brooklyn, NY areas. Internet sites would be very helpful.

**Bill Roos 2621 Ferry Road Bellbrook, OH 45305**

**Ph: 937-848-4869 E-mail [williamroos@sbcglobal.net](mailto:williamroos@sbcglobal.net)**

### FISCHER BERRY BOSCH SCHWELLENBERG

#27-4 Seek info on desc of FISCHER sib, who came fr Landau, Germ area to Long Island, NY 1870's. Sib: John (Johannes), Katherine, Lydia, Heinrich, Jake(Jacob). Surnames of desc: BERRY, BOSCH, SCHWALLENBERG. Do any remain in NY area?

**August Fischer Unit 102 5050 Indigo Bay Blvd Estero, FL 33928**

**E-mail [awfischer3474@yahoo.com](mailto:awfischer3474@yahoo.com)**

## MAGS welcomes new members

A maximum of four surnames being researched by each new member appears *in bold parentheses and italics* following the new member's name. Space does not permit more than four surnames or most spelling variations. MAGS encourages all members to submit free queries to the queries editor regarding specific ancestors.

Maurice M. Burse of Chapel Hill NC (*Altmeier, Rhein, Moyer*)

Ruth C. Emmel of North Fort Myers FL (*Emmel, Wengenroth, Freitag, Wuest*)

Paul Gade of Arlington VA (*Goede, Dietrich, Milbrunt, Fisk*)

Mary T. Lowery & family of Sterling VA (*Lowery/Lowry/Lowrey*)

Marilyn Mautz of Arlington VA (*Mautz*)

John V. Richardson of Inglewood CA (*Weber, Wohlschlager/Wollenschlager, Strickler, Graf/Groff*)

Melanie Ringer of Locust Grove VA (*Ringer, Rupert, Shuler, Sielbaugh*)

## Ortssippenbuch/Dorfbuch Extractions Continued

In the June 2009 issue of *Der Kurier*, the first of several extracts from various Ortssippenbuchs appeared. The data were generously contributed by Barbara Freshwater who extracted the information. It was then typed by MAGS member Mariana Wilke for publication in *Der Kurier*.

Within this September issue, is a continuation of Barbara Freshwater's extracted data. As indicated in the June issue of *Der Kurier*, Ms. Freshwater generously volunteered to respond to MAGS members who may have questions and/or who want additional information that may be available. She indicates that she does indeed have additional information on individuals listed.

All queries must be addressed to Ms. Freshwater at 3650 Murray Road, Fieldbrook, California 95519. This is a change from the earlier addresses given. Her phone number is (707) 840-0927.

In addition, someone wrote Ms. Freshwater in care of Mariana Wilke at Ms. Freshwater's address and the letter was inadvertently returned to sender. Would the individual who sent this request, please rewrite Ms. Freshwater at the above address?

All queries must include the title of the Ortssippenbuch, the page number and listing number indicated in the extract.

### Ortssippenbuch Oberacker. Landkreis Bruchsal in Baden (1711-1964) by Rudolf Herzer

#### Page 26:

Brauch, Georg, single, emig. 20 Feb 1854 to Amer.  
 Burckert, Joh. Michael, emig. 1817 to Amer.  
 Burckert, Luise Christina, emig. 1850 to Amer.  
 Endres, Hans Peter and son, emig. 1711 to Pennsylvania.  
 Hauser, Johann Wendel, emig. 1840 to Amer.  
 Helferich, Jakob-Süpfle, emig. 1845 to Amer.  
 Hess-Ried, Johann Melchior, 3 sons, emig. 1845 to Amer.  
 Hess, Johannes, emig. to Amer.  
 Hess, Georg Michael emig. w/family 1846 to Amer.  
 Hss, Johann emig. 1846 w/family to Amer.  
 Hess, Georg Hartmann emig. to Amer.  
 Hess, Luise, emig. 1871 to California  
 Hess, Johann Hartmann, emig. to Amer.  
 Hlasyschyn, Nikolaus, emig. 1947 to Amer.  
 Ischi, Friedrich, emig. to Amer.  
 Ischi, Martin, emig. to Amer.  
 Ischi, Dorothea emig. 1851 to Amer.  
 Ischi, Johann Martin emig. w/family to Amer.  
 Kiefer, Johann Friedrich, emig. 5 May 1732 to Pennsylvania  
 Kiefer, Hans Jakob, emig. 5 May 1732 to Pennsylvania.  
 Kiefer, Johann Leonhard, emig. 5 May 1732 to Pennsylvania  
 Kirchgäßner, Andres, single, 25 years old, emig. 1868 to Amer.  
 Kolb, Franz, emig. 1887 to USA  
 Langendörfer, Johann Melchior, emig. 1853 to Amer.

Langendörfer, Jakob Friedrich, emig. 1871 to Amer.  
 Langendörfer, Georg Michael, 17 yrs old, emig. 12 Mar 1852 to Amer.  
 Lautenschläger, emig. Feb 1866 to N. Amer.  
 Max, Elisabeth, emig. 1 Nov 1851 to Amer.  
 Max, Johann Christoph, emig. 8 Oct 1848 w/family to Philadelphia  
 Max, Elisabeth, single, emig. 18 Sep 1855 to Amer.  
 Mayer, Georg Philippe, emig. 1790 to Belgrad  
 Mayer, Johann Christian, emig. to California  
 Mayer, Maximilian, emig. to Amer. 3 Mar 1854  
 Mayer, Georg Michel, emig. 1865 to Amer.  
 Mayer, Johann Ludwig, emig. to Amer. 1865  
 Mayer, Jakob Christian, emig. w/family to Amer.  
 Mayer, Hermann Johann, emig. 1925 to N. Dakota USA  
 Mayer, Jakob Friedrich, emig. 1926 to N. Dakota USA  
 Neff, Thomas, emig. to Amer.  
 Neff, Magdalena, emig. w/child 5 Jan 1854 to Amer.

#### Page 27:

Richter, Johann Michel, emig. 1854 to Amer.  
 Rommel, Georg Adam, emig. to Amer.  
 Schäufole, Johannes, emig. 1808 to Poland  
 Scheeder, Rosina Christine, emig. to Amer.  
 Scheeder, Johannes, emig. to Amer.  
 Scheeder, Hartmann Friedrich, b. 1874, emig. 1900 to ??  
 Scheeder, Christine Regine, emig. 1900 to Amer.

Scheeder Johannes, single, emig. 3 Dec 1852 to Amer.  
 Schlager, Georg Jakob, emig. 1832 w/family to Amer.  
 Schlager, Johannes, single, emig. 6 Sept 1850 to Amer.  
 Schlager, Christian, emig. 31 May 1853 w/family to Amer.  
 Schmalacker, Luise Elisabeth, emig. 1856 to Amer.  
 Schmid, Elisabeth Rosine, emig. to Amer.  
 Schneider, Elisabeth, ∞ Kargis, emig. 1848 to Amer.  
 Schnell, Margarete, single, 43 yrs old, emig. 1868 to N. Amer.  
 Schön, Christian, emig. 1871 to California  
 Schön, Hermann, emig. 15 Jan 1873 to Amerika (USA).  
 Schöner, Elisabeth with 6 young children in 1840 emig. to Philadelphia.  
 Schondelmaier, Jakob Friedrich, emig. 1810 w/family to Poland  
 Silber emig with his wife nee Richter in 1854 to Amer.  
 Süpfle, Luise Sophie and Ehemann, Jakob Helferich emig. 1848 to Amer.  
 Süpfle, Sophie, sister of above, emig. 1848 to Amer.  
 Süpfle, Elisabetha nee Bauer, emig. 1855 to Amer.

Süpfle, Johann Jakob, emig. 1 Nov 1855 to Amer.  
 Süpfle, Leonhard and Süpfle, Friedrich Johann, his brother and son emig. to Amer 1 Nov 1855 and 3 Mar 1854  
 Süpfle, Magdalena nee Linck, emig. 1853 to Amer.  
 Süpfle, Liselotte, emig. 1964 to Canada  
 Süpfle, Jakob, emig. 31 May 1853 to Amer.  
 Steinius, Dorothea Rosina, emig. to Amer.  
 Volz, Karl, emig. to Amer.  
 Wacker, Johann, emig. 1818 w/family to Poland  
 Walzer, Johann Andreas, emig. to Amer.  
 Weber, Christian and his wife, nee Schlager emig. to Amer.  
 Weber, Johann Georg, emig. 1843 to Cleveland/Ohio.  
 Weber, Gustav Adolf, and Weber, Hermann, his brother, emig. to Amer.  
 Weber, Pauline ∞ Wörner, emig. to Alsace  
 Weiß, Johann, emig. 1865 w/family to Amer.  
 Winterle, Magdalena Elisabeth, emig. to Alsace  
 Winterle, Maximilian, emig. to Amer.  
 Winterle, Johannes, emig. 1871 t Amer.  
 Winterle, Christoph, emig. 14 Feb 1871 to Amer.  
 Zeller, Johann Hartmann, emig. 1860 to Amer.  
 Zimmermann, Georg Michel, emig. to Poland  
 Zimmermann, Johann Peter, emig. to Amer.

### **Ortssippenbuch der Pfarrei Reinerzau, Kreis Freudenstadt, Württemberg 1558-1860 Herausgegeben von Günther Frey**

p. 77, # 4-8 Pfau, Johann Georg, b. 7 Mar 1825, m. 27 Jan 1852 & to Amer.  
 p. 79, # 9-5 Pfau, Johannes, b. 12 Dec 1824, to Amer.  
 p. 106, # 27-7 Schillinger, Anna Maria, b. 1 Mar 1814, emig. 1833 to Amer.  
 p. 152, # c-1 thru 7  
     Trik (Trick/Trück), Johannes, from Reinerzau to Amer 1833  
 p. 152, # d-1 Pfau, Andreas, b. 6 Mar 1837, was in N. Amer. 1866  
 p. 153, # b-3 Armbruster, Anna Maria, b. 15 Feb 1852, m. 3 Mar 1872 Brooklyn, N. Y., USA to Joh. Schwab von Fluorn  
 p. 169, # c-4 Winter, Dorothea, b. 19 Apr 1857, emig. Nov 1889 to N. Amer.  
 p. 175, # a-7 Heinzelmann, Christina, b. 3 Dec 1831, emig. after 1850 to Amer.  
 p. 175, # a-8 Heinzelmann, Johannes, b. 15 Oct 1834, (Bro. of Christina), emig. 1854 USA, d. 1861 CA, USA of cholera  
 p. 176, # b-2 Pfau, Barbara, b. 30 Aug 1842, emig. 1867 to N. Amer.

p. 181, # b-4 Armbruster, Karl, b. 14 Sep 1866, emig 188\_ to N. Amer.  
 p. 184, # c-3 Heinzelmann, Barbara, b. 31 Oct 1831 Lauterbad, emig. 1852 Amer., d. there 1853  
 p. 184, # c-4 Heinzelmann, Catharina, b. 3 Jun 1836 Lauterbad, (Sis. of Barbara), emig. 1862 to N. Amer.  
 p. 184, # c-4,a Heinzelmann, Jacob, b. 26 Feb 1858 Reinerzau, (Son of Catharina), emig. w/mother to N. Amer.  
 p. 188, # b-1 Nibel (Later Nübel), Christine, b. 1 Oct 1835 Röttenberg, emig. 1849 to N. Amer., m. Buffalo  
 p. 188, # b-4 Nibel (Later Nübel), Anna Maria, b. 30 Mar 1842, (Sis. of Christine), emig. 1863 N. Amer.  
 p. 188, # b-8 Nibel (Later Nübel), Johann Georg, b. 3 Jan 1851, (Bro. of Anna Maria), emig. 1870 N. Amer.  
 p. 188, # b-9 Nibel (Later Nübel), Mathias, b. 14 Jan 1855, (Bro. of Johann), emig. Sep 1872 N. Amer.

## DER KALENDER / *The Calendar*

### 2009

**September 16. Third Annual Ancestry Fair, Bucks County, PA** Visitor Center, Bensalem, PA.

**October 3.** Immigration & Naturalization Records, part of the Family History Workshop Series at the **MD Historical Society**. Presenter: Bob Barnes. Call 410-685-3750, ext. 336 or e-mail [eki-mes@mdhs.org](mailto:eki-mes@mdhs.org) to register. Additional details: <http://www.mdhs.org/>.

**October 10. Virginia Genealogy Society Fall Conference**, entitled "Oh, Shenandoah! Migration and Settlements Across the Valley," will be held at the Winchester Medical Center, Conference Center, Winchester, VA. Program to be announced. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites, 142 Fox Ridge Lane, Winchester, VA 22603. Phone 640-667-7059. For information, see <http://www.vgs.org/events.htm>.

**October 17. MD Genealogical Society Fall Seminar**, Chestertown, MD, to be held in

conjunction with the Delaware Genealogical Society. Details coming soon to <http://www.mdgensoc.org/>.

**October 17. Ohio Chapter, Palatines to America.** Columbus, OH. John T. Humphrey and Ann Miller Scott. More info: Ohio Chapter PalAm, PO Box 141260, Columbus, OH 43214; Web site: [www.oh-palam.org](http://www.oh-palam.org)

**October 24. Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society Fall Seminar** at Comfort Inn and Conference Center, Bowie, MD. Registration: 8:30 am. Conference: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Guest speakers: Thomas Jones, Ph.D and Gary Ruppert, MD. Registration: [registration@magsgen.com](mailto:registration@magsgen.com) or phone Diane Kuster at 252-373-1684.

**October 31. Pennsylvania Chapter, Palatines to America.** New Holland, PA. Yoder's Restaurant. John T. Humphrey among the speakers. Contact PA Chapter PalAm, PO Box 280, Strasburg, PA 17579; e-mail, [james@beidler.us](mailto:james@beidler.us)

## BUCHBESPRECHUNGEN / *Book Reviews*

### Secrets of Tracing Your Ancestors

By W. Daniel Quillen

2009. Available from Cold Spring Press, PO Box 284, Cold Spring Harbor, New York 11724 or website: [Jopenroad@aol.com](mailto:Jopenroad@aol.com). Soft cover. 230 pages. Indexed. ISBN 10:1-59360-115-8. \$12.95 plus shipping and handling.

Quillen has written a book that is a terrific genealogical guide in paperback size – easy to carry and store, and at a very affordable price.

It is a basic book, probably most valuable to beginners in genealogical research; but with a big addition – it contains many useful tidbits for more seasoned researchers. His easy going manner of discussion allows the reader/researcher to put picture him/herself and various personal research problems encountered in each.

Quillen covers everything imaginable about genealogical records beginning with interviewing family members through searching for family Bibles, legal documents, and other personal family records,

on into census records, vital records, and military records. He provides excellent examples of what information may be gained from these sources as well as how to obtain them.

He goes into lengthy discussion and descriptions of the contents contained in and then finding the various forms of information held in state, county, and university libraries as well as the National Archives. He covers the LDS Church records in superb detail. The best part is that he uses his own research queries and findings as examples leading the reader from one fact to another. He shows the reader why and what may be gleaned from the records under discussion.

The author suggests types and styles of record and information organization; when might a professional genealogist be best considered even suggesting approximate costs that might be involved. Valuable information is provided on ethnic research including African-Americans, Native Americans, German, Jewish, Hispanic, Irish and others listing additional resources at the end of the chapter that the researcher might also check.

Internet research is discussed at some length and extremely helpful for those new to family history research and also for those who are used to digging for information using microfilms and archival visits. He offers excellent methods for searching for possible missed information and finding the missing ancestor through use of the Internet.

The reviewer found Quillen's book to be one of the very best sources available for beginning and continuing genealogical research. This book is well worth its price and should be part of every genealogist's library.

**Reviewed by Mariana Wilke**

### **John Brooke (1638-1699) and Frances Morton of Hullock & Hagg, Yorkshire and sons James and Matthew Brooke of Limerick, Pennsylvania**

By William Brooke Fetters

2009. Available from William B. Fetters, 10450 Lottsford Road, # 5017, Mitchellville, MD 20721.  
[Fetters@ccconline.net](mailto:Fetters@ccconline.net). Hardbound, 329 pages. Indexed.

MAGS member William Brooke Fetters has done a superb job with this publication on his ancestors. Fetter's Brooke ancestors are the principal family. The history begins with John Brookes whose origins are documented in Yorkshire, England. Brookes emigrated with his wife and two youngest children in 1699 at the age of 60 to British North America. He and his wife died shortly after their arrival. Several generations of his parentage are given taking the line back to Roger Brooke born about 1460 and died after 1534.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> day of the third month [May] 1700 the land office in Philadelphia ordered Edward Pennington to survey 750 acres of land to James Brooke and his four siblings in the right of their father. The property was located in an area of then Philadelphia County that would become Limerick Township in present-day Montgomery County. Thus the Brooke family settled in an area of Pennsylvania that was settled later many German immigrants.

Early families covered in this text include with origins in Germany included Christman, Hahn, Beidler, Dotterer, Reiff, Schmidt, and Brandt. Members of these families were among the early Palatines who settled in then Philadelphia now Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. It would seem reasonable one or more members of MAGS are looking for information on these early German settlers.

The Notes and References portion of this book found on pages 258-293 furnish family historians searching for their ancestors with a plethora of potential resources useful for finding information on early Philadelphia and later Montgomery County families.

**Reviewed by John Humphrey**

## **Barshingers in America A Genealogical History of Barshinger Families in America since 1735**

Compiled by Stephen Harold Smith

2001. Published by Gateway Press, Inc. Available from the author Stephen H. Smith, 709 Witmer Road, York, PA 17402. Hard cover . 678 pages. Indexed. Cost is \$40.00 plus \$5 shipping and handling.

York County, Pennsylvania is separated from Zumikon, Switzerland, by approximately 4,086 miles, and eight hours' flight time. Seven generations separate Stephen Smith from his Swiss immigrant ancestor, Jacob Bertschinger (Barshinger)—from near Zumikon—who arrived in 1735 in Philadelphia after approximately a five-month journey.

What began as a hobby for Smith has turned into a book of genealogy and a history of York County. It has been extensively researched and meticulously documented. With 2,694 footnotes of documentation, the reader should feel confident that the facts are correct; they can be easily verified. There are numerous photographs which are identified at the end of the book. The book is replete with graphs, charts, copies of documents, and detailed maps. There is even a section showing copies of Barshinger signatures from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

This book is a blend of genealogy and history, and it must be read carefully because much of the local and family history is imbedded in the narratives that accompany each name. There are also historical accounts of one-room schools, markets in York, and the cigar industry of York County.

*Barshingers in America* is composed of nine chapters, each one devoted to a generation. Chapter 10, "Barshinger Heritage," summarizes the genealogy of the author's grandparents, Emanuel and Cora (Raver) Barshinger. This chapter contains thirty-one additional lines, in alphabetical order, with pertinent genealogical and historical information. A few of the families mentioned are: Anstine, Glattfelder, Grove, Hershey, Landis, Myers, Weigel.

Due to the blending of genealogy and history along with the variety of ways in which the author has presented the information, this book is an excellent resource and research aid for anyone researching, not only the Barshinger family and their collateral lines, but York County in general. This is a book which the researcher will return to time and time again.

**Reviewed by Patricia Cramer**

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In the June issue of *Der Kurier*, there appeared two book reviews for which there are now address changes for those wishing copies.

- *Eastern Edition Families of Our Common Ancestors with the Surname KNY/KNIE, and KNEE* by Larry Knee, Robert Pohle, and Jack Knee may be obtained from Jack Knee whose address is now 192 Orchard Pass Avenue, No. 516, Ponte Vedra, Florida 32081.
- Also, *A Freed Family History* by Joyce Wilcox Graft and June Freed Wilcox may be obtained from Ann Hughes at 3507 Newland Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21218.

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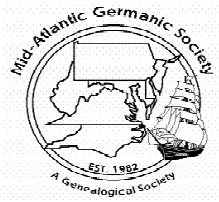
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