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## ANNIVERSARY MAGAZINE OF THE TULPEHOCKEN



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TWO HUNDRED FIFTY YEARS  
TULPEHOCKEN

as told in  
articles which appeared in the

Historical Review of Berks County

with a new introduction by  
Frederick S. Weiser

edited by  
Marie Knorr Graeff

Womelsdorf, Pennsylvania

THE TULPEHOCKEN SETTLEMENT  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

• 1973



# THE AUTHORS

**The Rev. Frederick S. Weiser**, is a many time grandson of Conrad Weiser and the President of the Johan Conrad Weiser Family Association. He serves as the Editor of The Pennsylvania German Society's publications. Presently he is pastor of Saint Paul's Church Biglerville, Pa.

**James E. Gibson** (October 1936) was a retired Philadelphia business man who devoted his spare time to Historical research. He had then completed a manuscript for a book on Bodo Otto. The title of the book published in 1937 was—"Doctor Bodo Otto and the Medical Background of the American Revolution."

**Arthur D. Graeff** (April 1940) was an old friend of the Review subscribers. He and Mrs. Graeff spent a profitable summer in Europe pursuing source material about the Palatines.

**Frank E. Lichtenthaeler** (July 1940) was a chemical engineer by profession and stated that "colonial migrations," especially those related to our beloved corner of Pennsylvania are his hobby. Mr. Lichtenthaeler was born in Reading and was graduated from the Boys' High School here. His later years he lived in Stowe, Vermont.

**Paul B. Mattice** (October 1944) is a descendant of the Palatine Emigration of 1710, whose ancestors settled in the Schoharie Valley, New York. His researches on Palatine history have been presented to the Palatine Society of New York. At this date he was residing in Ithaca, N.Y.

**John W. and Martha B. Harper** (Summer 1960)—Mr. Harper, a Pennsylvania native. He was President of the Schenectady (New York) Historical Society. He is keenly interested in the Tulpehocken story. Mrs. Martha B. Harper was the author of several family historical novels—Silk Pantalottes, Bittersweet, and Winter Wedding. She has written a novel on the 1723 Palatine migration—yet to be published.

**Charles Berwind Montgomery** (July 1936) is or/was recognized as one of the authorities on early Pennsylvania History. Because of ill-health he was forced to give up his position as Curator of the Historical Society of Berks County. Later he was doing valuable research work in the Manuscript Department of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania uncovering much hitherto unknown material.

**Charles Adam Fisher** (July 1937) was a resident of Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania and a descendant of Sebastian Fisher and Leonard Reid, two of the Palatines who came to the Tulpehocken Valley. Dr. Fisher was Head of the Department of Economics and Business Administration at the John B. Stetson University in Deland, Florida. He has compiled various family histories and genealogies—also "The Snyder County Pioneers."

**Charles Fisher Snyder** (Winter 1966-1967) — Sunbury, Pa. is Secretary of the Northumberland Historical Society and frequent contributor to historical journals. (Winter 1965-1966) The Rev. Vernon Nelson is chief archivist of the Moravian Archives in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

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# The Registers of Reed's Church

by FREDERICK S. WEISER and VERNON NELSON

Genealogists researching the families of the early settlers along the Tulpehocken Creek are confronted by the fact that the earliest records of births, marriages, and burials from the community begin about 1740. John Casper Stoever performed only seven baptisms (according to his records) for Tulpehocken families before 1740, although he was the officiant at about thirty-five weddings. The often overlooked church book of the congregation known locally as "Reeds Church" (today Zion and Saint John's Lutheran Church) for the years 1742-1747 exists, however, in the Moravian Archives, Bethlehem, and is rich for researchers' purposes because, following Moravian custom, the entire family of members—including those baptised in Europe—was entered into the records.

A portion of the volume in which these entries are to be found has been translated by J. Taylor Hamilton in his article, "The Confusion at Tulpehocken," in *Transactions of the Moravian Historical Society*, IV (1895), 241-260. His concern, however, is with the congregation's history. Part of the remaining material relating to the congregation's life he has summarized in English. Unfortunately, a typed translation of the final portion, the record of ministerial acts, by C. W. Unger, in the Unger Collection at Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, contains some errors in transliteration of names—and of course such a translation can have only limited circulation.

The records of ministerial acts have been freshly translated by the Rev. Mr. Vernon Nelson of the staff of the Moravian Archives, through whose kind permission they are made available here. The translation has been verified and annotated by the undersigned.

A few notes on the original work may be useful. The German is both poorly written and grammatically inaccurate. At some points it is almost impossible to read. These passages are indicated by brackets in the following translation. Names are generally cited here as they are found, with the exception of the feminine "in" endings, which have been deleted. Several terms for baptismal sponsor have been used in the records, chiefly, "Die Taufzeugen," but also even what seems to be "Gotteltern." The records are chiefly the work of Pastor John Philip Meurer, who served the Tulpehocken congregation from the fall of 1742 (He was ordained there by Zinzendorf on December 9, 1742) until March 6, 1746, with the

exception of short periods of time. Shortly after Meurer's departure, the Tulpehocken congregation returned unequivocally to the Lutheran fold. Several families (Michael Reed, widow Walborn, Michael Schaeffer, Caspar Reed, George Loesch) joined the Moravian church outright and genealogical data concerning them are likely to be found in the registers of other Moravian congregations.

In a general way, the Tulpehocken sources are nevertheless rich for genealogists—the Kocherthal, Stoever, and local parish records reducing guesswork to a minimum. It is a pity, therefore, that not more definitive studies on these highly interrelated families have not been made.

FREDERICK S. WEISER

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## ACCOUNT WHEN THE COMMUNION WAS CELEBRATED AND WHO WAS PRESENT

When Pastor Caspar Leitbecker was with us, he often celebrated the Holy Communion. After his death, Bernhardt v. Thüren, living in Anweil, came to us a few times and celebrated the Holy Communion. But when we received a regular pastor again, by the name of Johann Philip Meurer, from the congregation at Bethlehem, through His Reverence, Mr. von Thürnstein, Evangelical Inspector of the Lutheran Churches, he celebrated the Holy Communion for the first time<sup>1</sup> van Die

In the year 1742, the 10th of October, preceded by a preparatory sermon. Present were Michel Schäffer and his wife, and his son Johann Caspar, Nicklaus Schäffer and his wife, Hannes Zerbe, and his wife, Görg Lösch's wife, Friedrich Schäffer's wife, and our Pastor M.<sup>2</sup> Michel Emrich was given Communion at home because he was sick.

In the year 1743, the 30th of January was Communion day. Present were Hannes Zerbe and his wife, old Bernhardt and his wife, Krieger and his wife, Nicklaus Schäffer and his wife, Michel Schäffer and his wife, Michel Rith and his wife, Albrecht Klotz and his wife, Görg Lösch and his wife, Hermanus Walborn, Caspar Rith, Jacob Schäffer's wife, Friedrich Schäffer's wife, old mother Feg<sup>3</sup>, Nicklaus Schäffer, Caspar Schäffer, Harden (the schoolmaster and his wife), Maria Brantner and our Pastor M.

On the 3rd of April, Good Friday, Communion was celebrated. The following were present. Nicklaus Schäffer and his wife, Jacob Schäffer and his wife, Michel Schäffer and his wife, and his two sons Nickolaus and Caspar, with his daughter who participated for the first time and was confirmed, Peter Schäffer, Leonhardt Rith, Caspar Rith, Michel Emrich, Ludwig Klotz, Michel Rith and his wife and his daughter Maria Margretha, Hermanus Walborn and his wife, the old mother Feg, Al-



brecht Klotz and his wife, Krieger and his wife, Görg Lösch and his wife, Jacob [Wolpp], Johann Jacob Kohn and his wife, Gottlib Bezold, Elisabeth Harden, and our Pastor M.

The 24th of July was a Communion day. Present were Hannes Zerbe and his wife, the old Bernhardt and his wife, Nicklaus Schätter and his wife, Jacob Schnauer and his wife, Friedrich Schäffer's wife, Nicklaus Schäffer, Caspar Schäffer, Maria Margretha Schäffer, Michel Emrich, Caspar Rith, Hermanus Walborn and his wife, Ludwig Klotz and his wife, Görg Lösch and his wife, and his son Jacob, likewise his oldest daughter, Philipine, participated for the first time and was confirmed, Maria Margretha Rith, Maria Magdalena Rith, participated for the first time and was confirmed, the old mother Feg, and our Pastor M.

On the 25th of December, Christmas Day, or the Incarnation and Birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, the Holy Communion was celebrated. Present were Bernhard Keyer, and his wife, Adam Helwig and his wife, Nickolaus Schäffer, Caspar Schäffer, Maria Margredta Schäffer, Jacob Schätter's wife, Leonhard Rith, Michael Rith and his wife, Margretha Rith and Magdalena Rith, Görg Lösch and his wife, Jacob Lösch, Philipin Lösch, Peter Krieger, Caspar Rith, Hermanus Walborn and his wife, the old mother Feg, the old Lady Hoffartz and our Pastor M.

1744

The 13th of May the Holy Communion was celebrated by George Niecke. The day before was the preparation. Not many participated. Most were from here, the others from Heidelberg and Mühlbach. Also Sick Communion was held for Emrich. It was very blessed and were people present?

In the year 1744, the 23rd of September, the Holy Communion was celebrated. The people who wanted to go to Communion were spoken to the first days by Joh. Phill. Mäuer as also the preparatory sermon on Saturday. For this time there were no strangers present, but only our congregation who participated. The lamb (i.e. Jesus) also let us feel a blessing in it.

In the year 1745, the 27th of January the Holy Communion was celebrated, and the day before the preparatory sermon was delivered, also the souls spoken to who participated this time in it. There were 23 souls. In this the Savior showed that he was very merciful and the souls felt a special grace in their hearts.

In the year 1745, the 2nd of June, the Holy Communion was celebrated, and the day before was the preparation. 22 persons participated, particularly also Johannes Schäfer and his father Friedrich Schäffer. It occurred to the latter at the preparation, when he got a craving and much wanted to enjoy the same grace with the others. It was very blessed not only at the preparation but also especially at the Communion. There were still many other people present.

In the year 1745, the 1st of December, the first Sunday in Advent, when our newly built church was dedicated by the brethren in Bethlehem with prayer and blessing, the Communion was also held at the same time, by our preacher Johann Philip Meurer, and Abraham Reinecke, a Swedish theologian. 22 persons from here participated and 10 brethren and one sister from Bethlehem. It was a real day of blessing. Over 200 people were spectators.

In the year 1747, the 4th of January old style. The Holy Communion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was celebrated, consisting of 13 persons who participated, to whom it was, however, a true

blessing, and Joh. Brucker as their present preacher served it.

## BAPTISMAL REGISTER OF THE CHILDREN WHO WERE BAPTISED

In the year 1696, the 15th of January, Michel Schäffer<sup>4</sup> was born into the world. His sponsors were Michael Suder and Anna Catharina Schäffer. In the year 1702, the 8th of September, Anna Margretha Gleb was born. Her sponsors were Anna Margretha Morschrode (German: Morschroden). The two were married November 22, 1720. In their marriage they had the following children.

In the year 1722, the 24th of February, Johann Nickolaus was born. The sponsors were Nickolaus Schäffer and his wife, and Hans Adam Stern.

In the year 1724, the 7th of October, Johann Caspar was born. The sponsors were Nickolaus Schäffer and his wife, and Caspar Schäffer.

In the year 1726, the 29th of September, Maria Margretha was born. The sponsors were Michael Rith and his wife.

In the year 1728, the 16th of February, Maria Catharina was born. The sponsors were Nickolaus Schäffer and his wife.

In the year 1730, the 26th of March, Johann Michael was born. The sponsors were Michael Müller and his wife.

In the year 1732, the 4th of April, Anna Barbara was born. The sponsors were Nickolaus Schäffer and his wife.

In the year 1739, the 17th of January, Anna Maria was born. The sponsors were Nickolaus Schäffer and his wife.

In the year 1741, the 21st of March, Margretha Elisabeth was born. The sponsors were Margretha Elisabeth Rith, and Hannes Schäffer.

In the year 1743, the 14th of December, Elisabeth was born. The sponsors were Johann Reinhardt Ronner and his wife.

In the year 1709 Jacob Schäffer was born. He was born February 7, 1709. Married Maria Barbara Kobel June 10, 1735 and had the following children in their marriage.

In the year 1736, the 31st of January, Johann Nickolaus was born. The sponsors were Nickolaus Schäffer and his wife.

In the year 1737, the 22nd of December, Maria Engel was born. The sponsors were Maria Engel Kobel.

In the year 1739, the 25th of August, Maria Catharina was born. The sponsors were Maria Catharina Kobel.

In the year 1742, the 30th of July, Johannes was born. The sponsors were Johannes Zerbe and his wife and Johannes Schäffer.

In the year 1744, the 8th of September, Anna Elisabeth was born, and baptized on the 7th of October. The sponsors were Peter Feg and his wife.

In the year 1746, the 30th of September, early between 6 and 7 oclock, Johann Jacob was born, and baptized on the 5th of October. His sponsor was his own father, Jacob Schaeffer.

In the year 1728, the 10th of July, Hermanus Walborn<sup>5</sup> and Maria Margretha Feg were married, and they had the following children.

In the year 1729, the 4th of April, Leonhard was born. The sponsors were Leonhard Feg and his wife.



In the year 1732, the 8th of April, Christina Elisabetha was born. The sponsors were Görg Lösch and his wife.

In the year 1734, the 12th of October, Maria Catharina was born. The sponsors were Görg Müller and his wife.

In the year 1737, the 1st of July, Johann Christian was born. The sponsors were Christian Walborn and his wife.

In the year 1740, the 15th of March, Johann Görg was born. The sponsors were Görg Anspach and his wife.

In the year 1742, the 24th of November, Johann Michael was born. The sponsors were Michael Rith and his wife.

In the year 1745, the 6th of May, Anna Margretha was born. The sponsors were Caspar Rieth and his wife and the old mother, Anna Margretha Feg.

In the year 1747, the 22nd of January, Anna Elisabeth was born, and baptized on the 25th. The sponsors were Joh. Brucker and his wife Anna Catarina.

In the year 1707 Caspar Rith was born, and his wife Anna Margretha was born in 1709. In their marriage they had the following children.

In the year 1729, the 25th of April, Johann Görg was born. The sponsors were Görg Rith and his wife.

In the year 1732, the 12th of June, Johann Michael was born. The sponsors were Michael Rith and his wife.

In the year 1734, the 6th of October, Elisabetha Catharina was born. The sponsors were Leonhardt Rith and his wife.

In the year 1736, the 16th of February, Maria Barbara was born. The sponsors were Michel Rith and his wife.

In the year 1738, the 2nd of February, Johann Caspar Rith was born. The sponsors were Caspar Leitbecker.

In the year 1742, the 14th of January, Johann Friedrich was born. The sponsors were Hermanus Walborn, Michael Rith and Leonhardt Rith.

In the year 1700 Görg Lösch<sup>6</sup> was born, and his wife was born in 1704. They were married on December 3, 1721 (or 1720), and in their marriage they had the following children.

In the year 1722, the 10th of November, Johann Jacob was born. The sponsors were Johann Jacob Kop and his wife.

In the year 1724, the 12th of June, Susanna Philipina was born. The sponsors were Jacob Kop and his wife.

In the year 1726, the 4th of March, Hermanus Walborn was born. The sponsors were Hermanus Walborn.

In the year 1728, the 12th of February, Maria Elisabeth was born. The sponsors were Martin Battorf and his wife.

In the year 1730, the 24th of February, Maria Catharina was born. The sponsors were Maria Catharina Schell.

In the year 1732, the 14th of January, Christina Elisabeth was born. The sponsors were Philip Braun and his wife.

In the year 1734, the 19th of March, Johann Baltzar was born. The sponsors were Baltzar Anspach and his wife.

In the year 1736, the 20th of March, Margretha Elisabeth was born. The sponsors were Margretha Elisabeth Schell.

In the year 1738, the 13th of February, Johann Gorg was born. The sponsors were Christian Walborn and his wife.

In the year 1741, the 6th of June, Johann Adam was born. The sponsors were Adam Walborn.

In the year 1744, the 25th of September, Maria Barbara was born. The sponsors were Michael Rieth and his wife.

In the year 1703, the 8th of December, Peter Schäffer was born, married Elisabeth Feg in 1729<sup>7</sup>, in their marriage they had the following children.

In the year 1730, the 13th of November, Johann Nickolaus was born. The sponsors were Nickolaus Schäffer and his wife.

In the year 1732, the 8th of December, Anna Magdalena was born. The sponsors were Peter Feg and his wife.

In the year 1735, the 15th of May, Abraham was born. The sponsors were both parents, father and mother.

In the year 1738, the 22nd of December, Petrus was born. The sponsors were both parents, father and mother.

In the year 1740, the 25th of September, Catharina was born. The sponsors were Leonhardt Feg, and Anna Maria Feg.

In the year 1696 Michel Rith was born. He married Maria Barbara Feg on May 15, 1717, and in their marriage they had the following children.

In the year 1718, the 2nd of June, Anna Catharina was born. The sponsors were Johann Nickolaus Feg, and Anna Catharina Rith and Margretha Cass.

In the year 1721, the 20th of March, Margretha Elisabetha was born. The sponsors were Leonhardt Rith and his wife and Anna Margretha Feg.

In the year 1723, the 8th of October, Anna Margretha was born. The sponsors were Jacob Feg, and Anna Margretha Schäffer, and Margretha Feg.

In the year 1725, the 25th of September, Anna Magdalena was born. The sponsors were Conrad Weyser and his wife and Anna Magdalena Zeh.

In the year 1729, the 2nd of February, Johann Caspar was born. The sponsors were Caspar Rith and his wife.

In the year 1730, the 13th of April, Elisabeth was born. The sponsors were Michel Emrich and his wife.

In the year 1732, the 13th of March, Maria Barbara was born. The sponsors were Johann Görg Rith, Jr., and Maria Barbara Feg.

In the year 1733, the 18th of December, Johann Michel was born. The sponsors were Michel Ernst Kraft-hörner.

In the year 1735, the 25th of February, Daniel was born. The sponsors were Hermanus Walborn and his wife.

In the year 1739, the 11th of June, Christina was born. The sponsors were Görg Lösch and his wife.

In the year 1741, the 1st of November, Friedrich Gerhardt's child was baptized. She received the name Anna Elisabeth. The sponsors were Johannes Zerbe and his wife, and N. Fischer [a woman whose first name is unknown]

In the year 1741, the 23rd of December, Ludwig Bottner's child was baptized. She received the name Catharina Barbara. The sponsors were Friedrich Gebhardt and his wife, and Peter Knop's wife.

In the year 1741, the 23rd of December, Nicolaus Gled's child was baptized. She received the name Anna Elisabeth. The sponsors were Fridrich Gebhardt and his wife.