

Grantz Barst

NOTES FROM
"HISTORY OF THE BRETHREN"

Dedicated to:

By: - Brother Abraham H. Cassel, great-great-grandson of Christopher Sewer and great-great-grandson of Peter Becker, whose lifelong devotion to the history of the church, and whose unequalled collection of original manuscripts make this volume possible. This work is dedicated as a token of love and gratitude.

The first body of German Baptist Brethren in America was at Germantown, Penn. in 1719 and it was under the leadership of Peter Becker that they started their first church. He was a weaver by trade and owned ~~25~~²³ acres of land in Germantown where he raised Cereals and Flax. In 1720 he had for an apprentice the afterward famous Conrad Bissel. Bissel lived in Becker's house for one year; then left for the Conestoga country and the eventually Peter Becker was married to Anna Dorothy Partman and their children have ^{MANY} descendants among the Churches in Eastern Penn. In his last days he removed to the Skippack and spend his last days in the home of his daughter, Mary, who was the wife of Rudolph Harly. His other daughter, Elizabeth, was married to Jacob Stump. This congregation on Indian Creek was the home of the Prices and others who were dear to him. On the very spot where he preached now stands the home of Abraham H. Cassel, the Antiquarian and one of his descendants. Here he died 19 March 1758, rich in years and richer in good works. He is buried in a graveyard nearby and a simple stone marks the grave. The "Chronicon Ephratense" written by Peter Miller, Scribe and successor of Bissel at Ephrata, printed in 1786 says that Conrad Bissel "visited Peter Becker yet on his death bed and among the rest said to him, 'what a pity it is that there were no wise men among you when the awakening in Conestoga commenced'; how we could now live under your shelter" where upon the latter wept.

Martin Urner was the first Elder of the Coventry Church and was the first Elder ordained in America. He was a son of Ulrich Urner a native of Uri, Switzerland, and was born in 1695. In 1708 Ulrich Urner and his three sons, Jacob, Hans and Martin emigrated to Penn. and settled, perhaps in Roxborough. He lived here as early as 1712. Six years later he purchased 450 acres on the Schuykill on part that now stands the Coventry meetinghouse. He visited Peter Becker at Germantown and became deeply concerned in his souls salvation; on 25 Dec 1723 Peter Becker baptized Martin Urner and his wife and four others in Wisshickon Creek. The first feast was held at the home of John Gomorry in Germantown. On 7 Nov 1724 the Coventry Church was organized; this was the second congregation in America. Nine persons constituted the first organization: Harry Landis and wife; Peter Heffly; Daniel Eicher and wife; Owen Longacre and Andrew Sell (he was baptized earlier at Germantown 1724). Elder Urner was assisted by Caspar Ingles and in 1737 Martin Urner went to the Great Swamp to baptize several persons and he was accompanied by George Adam Martin, who was previously a Reformed. He was married to Catherine Reist. Their children were: Mary, who married Andrew Wolf; Martin, who married Elizabeth Addis (Edis), maiden name was Grubb, as she was a widow; Jacob, who married Barbara Light; Catherine, who never married, and John, who did not marry. His wife, Catherine died in April 1752 and then he married Barbara ?? who survived him. Martin died 8 May 1796, aged 84 years. Elder Urner died 29 Mar 1755 and is buried in the Coventry churchyard.

*Peter Becker bap.
Conrad Bissel made him
Bissel in Conestoga*

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Martin Urner, son of Jacob Urner, was born 4 Sep 1725 and married Barbara Switzer by Elder Christoph Sower, 15 Jul 1751. He was a man of considerable wealth and a preacher of wisdom and power. He was ordained Elder in 1756 (Coventry Church). Martin Urner, son of the Elder Martin, was born 28 Jul 1762, died 4 Feb 1838; his wife, Barbara Baugh was born 6 Dec 1766, died 17 Mar 1842.

COVENTRY CHURCH CONGREGATION

In 1770 the following were members of the Coventry communion: Elder Martin Urner and wife; Peter Rinehart, Minister; Owen Rinehart; Henry Dasker and wife; Nicholas Harwick and wife; Abraham Grubb and wife; Christian Monsieur; Barbara Miller; Barbara Welth; Frederick Rinehart and wife; Barbara Urner; Elizabeth Ingles; Catherine Grumbacker; Catherine Bach; John Eiker; Jacob Pfautz and wife; Abraham Bach; Andrew Wolf; Esther Switzer; Wendel Danfelder; Henry Bear and wife; Jacob Switzer and wife; Maud Rinehart; Jacob Light and wife; Phillip Waggoner and wife; Elizabeth Halderman; Anthony Bernard and daughter; John Light and wife.

GREAT SWAMP CONGREGATION

In the year 1733 the Great Swamp congregation was organized in Bucks Co., Penn. Elder John Naas from Amwell, N.J. preached here and as a result in the above year he baptized Salome Miller, her brother Joseph Miller, John Brech and wife; Peter Longenecker and Peter Rhodes. In this year these brethren baptized Hans Zug (Zuck) and wife; John Slifer, and John Frick and wife. In 1770 the members were: John Frick, Minister, and wife; John Slifer and wife; Henry Kun; Philip Goodman and wife; Philip Deal; Frederick Deal; John Redroch and wife; Egite Christian and wife; Ludowick Christian and wife; Jacob Staut (Stout) and wife; Mary Christian; Widow Rinker; Catherine Rinker; Widow Olinger; Widow Crayling and Franey Trissel.

THE OLEY CONGREGATION

Martin Gaby, Minister, and wife; John Joder, Minister, and wife; Conrad Price and wife; David Price and wife; David Kinsey and wife; Christian Kinsey and wife; Peter Klein; Elizabeth Ellis; Margaret Harpine; Catherine Plank; Daniel Klein and wife.

CONESTOGA CONGREGATION

This was organized 12 Nov 1724 by Elder Peter Becker; Conrad Bissel was chosen the Minister. The members were: Conrad Bissel; Joseph Shaffer; John Moyer and wife; Henry Hohn and wife; and Veronica Frederick. The congregation was soon reinforced by the family of Sigmung Landert and wife. The first meetings were held on Mill Creek and soon removed to the house of Rudolph Nagele in Earl Twp where they worship for seven years.

During this seven years, Bissel developed strange ideas and in 1728 they withdrew from the brotherhood and in 1732 he and his followers went to Ephrata. Those who stayed on were ministred upon as a separate congregation with Elder Michael Frantz as leader. He was ordained in 1735 and had started their independant group 29 Sep 1734. In this original group was Michael Pfautz; Rant Wolf; John Frantz; Emick Reyer (Royer); George Reyer; John Landis; Samuel Goog; Henry Sneider; Philip Rowland; Elder Frantz died in 1748. Before the year of 1734, added the following members: Brother Vogan; Hans George Koch and wife; Joseph Latschan and wife; Ludwig Kalckglasser and wife; Hans Keppinger (Kepplinger) and wife; Brother Luys (Lewis) and wife, Samuel Gut (Good); Hans Hildebrand and wife; Gottfried Geiger and sister Kropf (Krupp). Of these the Kackglassers, Keppingers, Sisters, Latschan and Luys were members elsewhere and moved in the territory.

MICHAEL FRANTZ

He was the first minister of the old Conestoga Church and was born in the Canton of St. Jacob near Basle, Switzerland in 1687; came to America in September 1727 and settled in the vicinity of the Cocalico in Lancaster Co., Penn. Consequently he was received in the little flock which had separated from the parent Church in Ephrata and was baptized 29 Sep 1734, the same day that Conestoga was organized into a separate church. In 1735 he took upon himself the care of the church which he served with exemplary zeal and fidelity until the day of his death, December 1747. His remains are buried in the old graveyard near Cocalico. *the*

Members who joined the church under the Eldership of Michael Frantz: Hanes Stamply and wife; Bartlesig Christ and wife; Sister Eter; Basler Franta and wife; Emich Reyer and wife; Hanes Fogely; Philip Roland; Hannes Landis; Hannes Miller and wife, who removed; Hannes Longenecker who died in 1764; Christian Stander; Hans George Honig; George Basler Reuer; Anton Dorn Bach; Emanuel Bralert; Hannes Schmit; Susan Schwartz; George Reyer and wife; Sister Bolinger. Sister Landis (who was formerly an Ephratite); George Adam Martin, of whom an account is given in the Bermudian and Stony Creek congregations; Jacob Schweiger (Sweigert) and wife; Hannes Lehr and wife.

In 1739 were added: Paul Siegert and wife; Ludwig Mahler and wife; Michael Pfauz and wife; Hannes Huber; Jacob Martin and wife; Jacob Schwartz; Henry Mohler; George Mohler (who died age 79) and wife; Hannes Bernard Wolf; Sisters Faren Frantz and Bruderly Blas (wife of George Blas); Longenecker and Foglis.

In 1740 were added: Jacob Stucky and wife; Hannes Gehr and wife; Jacob Kissel; George Mohler and wife; and Henry Mohler and wife.

In 1741 were added: Frederick Altdorfer and wife; George Schwartz and wife; Christian Stander, Jr.; Joseph Flory; Ulrich Scherck; Henry Dielman and wife; and Sister George Hog (Hoch).

*See original
Bureau
2nd
Dec 1734*



In 1742 were added: Jacob Schautz; Matthes Gish and wife; Brother Dielman, Sr.; Jacob Baer; Ludwig Bender and wife from the Ephratites; Henry Weiss (Weith); Hannes Adam Schneider and wife; George Hog (Hoch); Walter Vonderburg; Hannes Lautermilch and wife; Henry Miller; Hannes Mader and wife; Jacob Biderly and wife and two daughters; Jacob Benedig; Jacob Mohler and wife; Sisters Schwartz; Judid Becker; and Liechtis (Lichty) of the Ephratites.

In 1743 were added: Martin Wetzel; Moritz Mullhauss and wife; Christoph Geiss; Jacob Conrad and wife; Abraham Wendel and wife; Jacob Mayer; Jacob Lichty; Jacob Sontag; Jeremiah Wolf and wife; Jacob Lascher, wife and daughter; Mathew Sedler; and Sisters Frana (a widow), Baer, Lehn (wife of Henry Benedict); Wolf; Huber (wife of Huber); Klackglasser.

16 May 1744 were added: Anton Miller and wife; Jacob Mohlers wife, — Benedict; Michael Pfautz was made Minister, succeeding Michael Frantz.

In 1745 were added: Jacob Dielmans wife; Ernest Stolls daughter, Maria Landes; Catherine Schwartz and six brothers and six sisters who came from the Amwell N.J. and joined the church.

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March 23, 1746 were added: Henry Kufers wife; Maria Koch; Catherina Koch; Maria Frantz, daughter of Michael Frantz; Jacob Spanhauer and wife; Catherine Lehman; Sister Christins servant girl, Sister Neuschwangers; George Beashor; Sister Benedict, and a brother Martinisz and wife from the Skippack.

In 1747 were added: Peter Zug; Joseph Kreibel (Greybill) and wife; Anna Baer; and Hannes Flory (Flohra).

LITTLE SWATARA CONGREGATION

See Nicholas Gerst, Mrs. Batetsant C. V.

In 1770 their names were: (There were 45 members taken in - John N. Gerst and wife being the fourth family taken in). Peter Heckman, Minister, and wife; John Heckman and wife; Michael Frantz Jr. and wife; John Nicholas Gerst and wife (buried Union Cem near Frederickburg, Penn); Jacob Moyer and wife; George Basher; David Marge and wife; Simon Merrich and wife; John Frantz and wife; Christian Frantz and wife; Rose Schnables; Jacob Smith and wife; Eliza Kentzel; Adam Henrich; Mrs. Cryder; Philip Zeigler and wife; Jacob Breneisen and wife; David Kleine and wife; Widow Benedict; Elizabeth Benedict; Sophy Kish; Leonard Sebalt and wife; John Grove and wife; Hans Stohner and wife; Jacob Beashor and wife.

*Put copy in Gerst
See of list Bro of Maria
Not our Michael according to Brethren Encyclopedia. Mr Michael Jr. at Comestoga*

ZINZENDORF AND THE "BRETERN"

On 24 Dec 1741 (Dec. 13 old style), Count Zinzendorf, the head of the Moravian Church arrived from Europe and called a meeting to hold a Synod in Germantown on 12 Jan 1742.

There were more than fifty persons present and those most prominent were: Tunkers — Joseph Miller; Andrew Fry; Abraham du Bois; George Adam Martin; John Peter Jacobs von Larschett (Lawshe), Amwell, N.J.

Lutherans - - Conrad Weiser

German Reformed - - Henry Antes, John Bechtel, John Leinbach

Mennonites - - John De Turk (Oley)

Schwenkenfelter - - C. Weigner

Siebertager - - Prior Onesimus (Israel Eckelin) John Hildebrand, Henry Kalkloser (Kalkglosser - Kalkglasser)

Separatistis - - J.A. Gruber; Theobald Endt; Conrad Matthau

Hermit - - J.G. Steiffel

Moravians - - Count Zinzendorf; John Jacob Muller; Bishop David Nittschamn; Andrew Eschenbach; Pyralaeus Buttner; Rauch and others.

Andrew Eschenbach was ordained to the undenominational church at Oley. This ordination was conducted by Bishop David Nittschman, a Moravian. Christian Henry Rauch was ordained a missionary to the Indians, also Gottlob Buttner and J. Christian Pyrlaeus; the latter, minister elect to the Lutheran congregation in Philadelphia. Christian Henry Rauch brought in three Indians to be baptized and they appointed three men to be their trustees.

These records taken from the Church of the Brethren History. This record is of the first Church Lancaster Co., Penn.

Records, above, compiled and documented by Mrs. Ruth (Powell) Stucky, Montgomery, Michigan 49255.

Believe she is no longer living - She hoped I would share

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