The Leebrick Saga

by David Leebrick "Liebrich/Leebrick Families in America"

Chapter 1

The German Experience

The City | Liebrichs in Butzbach | Seeds of Discontent

As the sun dropped out of sight beyond the city walls of Butzbach, Germany, on January 15, 1702, the strong little voice of Johannes Phillip Liebrich was heard within the city. As his parents looked on, they no doubt hoped that this little boy's life in Germany would be easier than theirs had been. But he faced an uncertain future.

Liebrichs had been in this area of Europe since at least the 1200's, perhaps earlier¹. Liebrichs can be found in the Worms area until about 1500, when the family then appears in the Wetzlar and Krofftelbach area. By 1600 the family is found in Butzbach, where it resided until at least 1800.

The first event where the Liebrich name gained any kind of attention was the result of Martin Luther's 95 theses, which appeared in 1517. Martin Luther's action sparked the Reformation, but his actions were motivated as much by reforming the financial and political behavior of the Catholic Church as it was to express theological differences with the church. The Liebrichs quickly allied themselves with the Lutheran movement and found a measure of political power. More details are found in the endnote. The Liebrich coat of arms was awarded during this time in appreciation of their support by the Count of Solms.

The City

By the time the Liebrichs arrived in Butzbach, it had been a "free town" for nearly 300 years. On 10 August 1321 the later Emperor, Ludwig the Bavarian, granted the same liberties enjoyed by the city of Frankfurt/Main to Philipp von Falkenstein's little village of Butzbach; Butzbach was elevated to city status². This is a significant fact, because as a free town, it was able to set up its own government, build defenses and administration buildings, and enjoy a measure of independence from the state government. The market place, city hall, court house, market house and wedding house, still in existence today, were build in the 50 years following.

During this time, the 25 foot tall city walls were also built, with its three gates to the outside world³. It has been estimated that around 36,000 ox cart loads of stones were necessary to build this wall. In addition, the old

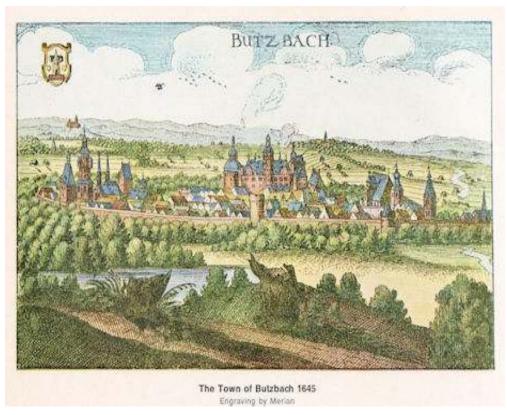
cart loads of stones were necessary to build this wall. In addition, the old St. Mark's Church, was enlarged and is pretty much unchanged since 1520 or so.



Liebrichs in Butzbach

Butzbach was known during this time for its textile production, and Valentine Loberich (1575-1631) was known as a tuchmacher (cloth maker)⁴. In the hierarchy of occupations in that time,

cloth maker was not high on the list. However, in 1599, at the age of only 24, Velten was awarded citizenship in Butzbach (was named a Burger). To be named a Burger, one had first to apply to the ruling council of the town and be examined by them. If one was judged to be an asset to the town, and if he was able to pay the application fee, then one could become an official citizen of the town. Being a citizen allowed one certain privileges and also carried responsibilities to help maintain the character of the town.



Valentine's son Springel (1612-1681) improved his skills to become a sockenstricker (sock maker)⁵ Like his father, Springel was granted Burger status in the city. Going beyond his father's accomplishments, Springel gained the position Zunftmeister (guild master) in sock making. By this time, guilds occupied a position of substantial power within German towns. The Zunftmeister was able to decide who and how many could practice his skill within that town. He was responsible for training of new apprentice sock makers as well as providing advanced training for journeymen sock makers. In addition to his role in the local town economy, the Zunftmeisters were usually key members of the city council. In that role, they acted on applications for new citizenship, managed the finances of the town and helped to enforce the laws and customs of the town.

The tradition continued with Springel's son Johan Balthasar Liebrich Sr (1648-1721)⁶. Johan Balthasar also worked as a sockenstricker and held Burger status. No doubt partially due to the success of two previous generations of Liebrich's in Butzbach, Johan Balthasar was able to win the position of BurgerMeister in Butzbach. This is akin to being mayor of a modern city. In a German city of the day, the chief of the Inner (ruling) Council was the BurgerMeister⁷. Serving with him would be the Schultheiss (chief officer of the court), several Assessors (tax collectors), one or two guild masters and the city clerk. So the Liebrichs had become a family to be reckoned in Butzbach.

Seeds of Discontent Not surprisingly, Johan Balthasar Liebrich's Sr. children were heavily involved in sockmaking in Butzbach. His son Johan Balthasar Jr (1674-1746) continued the Liebrich tradition, as did nearly all his son-in-laws. In fact, only his son Johan Andreas Liebrich did

not follow in the family tradition. Andreas became the Lutheran pastor in Kircheimboladen and was first of many pastors in that line of the family.

This defection (so to speak) of Andreas is important because of what it says about the changing views of guild life at this point in time. Up till now, guilds had been influential in community life by way of economic regulation, political organization and representation and guardianship of social or domestic standards⁸. Up to the end of the Thirty Years War, Butzbach's production of linen and cloth and its dyeing industry were quite considerable⁹. For a short time, the mercers of Butzbach had their own



warehouse in Frankfurt. However, during and after the war, the textile industry suffered a decline and by the eighteenth century, only two stocking-weavers remained in Butzbach¹⁰. Therefore, as time went on, there arose several reasons why a young man might want to pursue a career other than the guilds¹¹: 1) the blocking of economic opportunity by guild monopolies or by state economic regulations 2) decline of the family trade, so that the boy could not look forward to slipping comfortably into his father's place, 3) the wish to avoid military conscription, 4) the growing prestige of the civil service, to which university education was the key or 5) the extensive scholarship opportunities that attracted boys with nowhere else to turn nor place to fill. Becoming a pastor did require university education, so perhaps it was one of these reasons that Johan Andreas Liebrich left the textile industry and pursued the ministry.

The Leebrick Saga

Chapter 2 The Immigrant Generation

<u>Life as a Youth | Reasons for Leaving Germany | The Trip to America | America, at Last! | Johannes' Will and Probate | The Children</u>

Johan Balthasar Jr married Anna Apollonia Zehner in 1699, and they began their family soon after. Johann Andreas was born in 1700, Johannes Phillip was born in 1702, then Johann Friedrich was born in 1708. Then things turned sad for Balthasar and Anna. Little Andreas died in 1709 at the age of 9 years old. Their grief was soon replaced by happiness as a fourth son was born, Nicolaus Hartmann in 1710. Nicolous was followed by their first daughter Anna Apollonia born in 1713. Poor Anna barely lived to her first birthday, dying in 1714. Little Friedrich died the next year at the age of 7, but in November Jacob Friedrich was born. In 1717, Nicolaus Hartmann died, also

at the age of 7, followed by the birth of their last son Nicolaus in March of 1718. So, as 1720 dawned, only Johannes Phillip, now 18, Jacob Friedrich, aged 5 and Nicolaus age 2 were still part of the family.

Life as a youth

Like their uncle Andreas, these sons of Johan Balthasar Jr were thinking about options other than sock making for their life's work. Although Jacob and Johann Phillip's occupations are unknown, Nicolaus went to the big city of Frankfurt, where he worked as a Tabakhändler (tobacco handler).²

No doubt another factor influencing decisions about the future for the Liebrich boys was the fact that they had lived in a state of war for most of their lives. Before they were born, the so-called 30 Years War stretched from 1618 through 1648, ending with the Peace of Westphalia. The 30 Year War started as a conflict between Protestants and Catholics and then as regional powers saw lands starting to change hands, they got involved to protect their interests. Butzbach was fortunate during the early years of this war, because their ruler, Landgrave Philip III was able to keep them somewhat protected from the war.³ Nevertheless, the consequences for Germany were disastrous when the war started in 1618, Germany had 24 million people, and England 12 million. Thirty years later England's population was 13 million but Germany had only 12 million.⁴ Then there was the war of Spanish Succession between 1701 and 1713 and the War of Austrian Succession 1740-1748.

It was in this environment that Johann Phillip married and raised his family. In the uneasy time between the Spanish and Austrian wars, Johannes married Maria Schauer in 1735.⁵ She died four years later in 1739, apparently without children. Johann married the next year Margarethe Catharina Sauerbier, and to that union were born several children. Among them were, Anna Appolonia born in1741, died in 1745. Anna Veronica born in 1745, died the same year. Nicolaus Philipp born 1747 lived to adulthood. Johann Heinrich, born 1749, of whom nothing more is known.

Reasons for leaving Germany

We'll probably never know what the final straw was for this family that had played such a important role in the government and economic health of Butzbach. No doubt the Liebrichs were aware of the flood of immigrants that making their way to the New World. In fact, 1754, the year they left, was the heaviest immigration year up to that time. No doubt it involved a lot of soul searching of who all would go. Would Johann take only his family, or would dad and mom come along also? Would they take the well proven route down the Rhine to Rotterdam, or would they take the less well traveled road to Hamburg? Would they go in the dark of night, or would they ask official permission to emigrate?

In the life of German hometowns, it was not only hard to get into a community; it was also hard to get out. According to Walker⁶, to renounce citizenship in a town, one had to pay an emigration tax: something on the scale of 10% of a citizen's property. The emigration tax was justified on the ground that a citizen's departure removed him from the citizen tax rolls, so that he should leave a

share of his property in the communal town treasury; the same reasoning applied in prohibitions of property sales to outsiders.

What we do know, is that in 1754, probably as soon as the roads were passible, Johannes Phillip Liebrich, his family and his father, made their way to Hamburg, boarded the ship Adventure, and made their way to Philadelphia. Hamburg was nowhere near as popular as Rotterdam as a departure port to Philadelphia. In fact, according to records in Philadelphia for 1752-1754, only nine ships arrived in their port from Hamburg.

The trip to America

Why the Liebrichs chose Hamburg is unknown. One can speculate that if they left their home illegally, then they would have had no papers to show at all the toll booths along the Rhine. It may have just been simpler and safer to go overland to Hamburg. We do know that the Liebrichs probably didn't travel to Hamburg alone, because everyone on their ship was from the same area, also known as the duchy of Franconia. This area extended eastward from the Rhine along both sides of the Main river, above Mannheim to the south and below Worms to the north⁹.

It is likely that there were delays in Hamburg while their ship, the "Adventure," was provisioned and contracts for conveyance were signed. A contract for another ship for the same year included the following provisions¹⁰:

- 1. Shipmaster promises to those persons who wish to be taken to Pennsylvania that he will transport them from Heidelbronn, Neckareltz and Heidelberg through the port of Rotterdam...Each person who has reached the twelfth year is to pay ten Gulden (written 10 fl.); however, in the case of persons under twelve years, two shall be taken at the above price for one; and those who are still drinking at their mother's breast shall travel free.
- 2. The above mentioned Shipmaster Horst promises that the following may be taken for free: for household goods consisting of five or six loads, two chests, each chest loaded as is customary, four and a half to five shoes long, two shoes wide and two shoes high, as well as a half Ohm of wine (Ohm = about 35 gallons).
- 3. The Shipmaster mentioned above will allow to be taken free of charge such provisions as bread, meat, flour and the like so that each will have the necessities of life on the trip.
- 4. Concerning household goods above and beyond those given above, those who wish these shall make an understanding and come to terms with the Shipmaster based on the fraction of the total freight involved.
- 5. The Shipmaster mentioned above promises to provide a properly covered ship and resting places, with 5 « shoes width for each four persons and 6 shoes where the ship makes it feasible.
- 6. The often mentioned Shipmaster promises after a properly carried out trip and landing to stop at Rotterdam for 8 to 14 days so that the people can make arrangements for the continuance of the journey.
- 7. It is hereby and expressed condition, that the people shall pay their freight not with small coins, but with coins of the gold or hard silver type, such freight to be paid immediately upon boarding the ship.

Finally, should one of the other of the two contracting parties break off this agreement, the same

shall protect the other party listed below from resulting harm and proceed in a blameless manner, in good faith, without deceit and causing risk.

For proper record of this, two agreements written the same have been made ready, signed by the agreeing parties on both sides here present, with each to be given a copy thereof, so took place in Heidelberg on the 7th of February 1754.

The "Adventure" was no stranger to trans-Atlantic crossings; it had been making crossings since 1727 at least. Before heading across the Atlantic, the "Adventure" stopped in Plymouth, England. It left Plymouth with 245 passengers, 76 of them men. This was nearly 100 more passengers than any of its earlier trips, so conditions were extremely crowded. One can only imagine the difficulty of making the transatlantic voyage with young children. The need to start a new life in the New World must have been very strong, indeed.

America, at last!

The "Adventure" docked at the port of Philadelphia on September 25, 1754¹¹. The port must have been especially busy that week, since records show that six other immigrant ships also arrived that week. Fortunately, the required medical examination was conducted without delay, and all 76 adult men were found healthy. Later that day, the Oath of Allegiance was administered to all 76 men in

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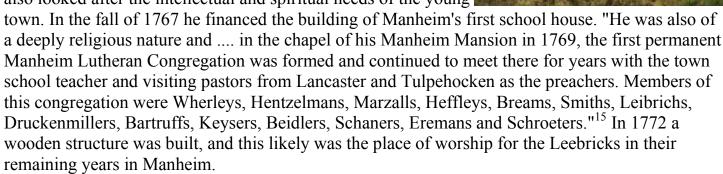
the Philadelphia Court House and they all signed it¹².

How the Liebrichs spent their first few years in Pennsylvania is not known, but they likely did as so many other German immigrants did: clearing land and farming. We know that, for some reason, the Leebrick family ignored the thriving German settlements north of Philadelphia. Instead, they came to what was then the frontier of Pennsylvania: Rapho township in Lancaster County. That area, which was to become home to the village of Manheim, was "a fine natural meadow with few trees except in the surrounding hills. Parts of the land were swampy with wild growths of alder, hazel and blackberry bushes. Travel was along the streams and over narrow winding trails through the forest." The area bears striking similarity to the farmlands near Mannheim, Germany, so it was no doubt an easy choice to put down roots in that place. The area responded well to the attention and persistence of the German farmers. In 1789, Dr. Benjamin Rush wrote the following of the new German farmers.

"How different is their situation here from what it was in Germany! Could the subjects of the princes of Germany, who now groan away their lives in slavery and unprofitable labor, view from an eminence in the month of June the German settlements of Strasburg or Mannheim in Lancaster County, or of Lebanon in Dauphin County, or of Bethlehem in Northampton County,--could they be accompanied on this eminence by a venerable German farmer and be told by him that many of these extensive fields of grain, full-fed herds, luxurious meadows, orchards promising loads of fruit, together with the spacious barns and commodious stone dwelling-houses which compose the prospects which have been mentioned, were all the product of a single family and of one generation, and were all secured to the owners of them by certain laws, I am persuaded that no chains would be able to deter them from sharing in the freedom of their Pennsylvania friends and former fellow subjects". 14

The village of Manheim was formally laid out in 1762 by "Baron" Henry William Stiegel. The Stiegel glass works in town and the Cornwall iron works a few miles north were major sources of non-farm employment in those early years. The Liebrichs built a house on the town square, indicating that they were one of the early village residents.

Baron Stiegel not only had commercial interests at heart, but also looked after the intellectual and spiritual needs of the young



The next record of John Phillip Leebrick that I can find is of his second Oath of Allegiance. It was administered on July 8, 1777 in Lancaster County, no doubt as a defensive measure on the part of the colonial government. ¹⁶The text of that oath is as follows:

"I do swear or affirm that I renounce and refuse all Allegiance to George the Third King of Great Britain his heirs and Successors and that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a free and independent State, and that I will not at any time do or cause to be done any matter or thing that will be prejudicial or injurious to the freedom or independence thereof as declared by congress and also that I will discover and make known to some one Justice of the Peace of the said state all Treasons or Traitorous Conspiracies which I now know of or hereafter shall know to be formed against this or any of the United States of America."

Johannes' Will and Probate

Anticipating his death, Johannes drew up a will in April of 1785. The text in English reads as follows:

In the Name of God Amen. I, John Liebrich of Rapho Township in the County of Lancaster and State of Pennsylvania, being old and weak but, God be thank'd, of sound memory and understanding, I therefore commit my soul into the hands of my Creator trusting upon the mercy of my Redeemer and my Body to the Earth from whence it came. First, I order and direct that my Funeral expenses and just debts shall be paid out of my Estate after my decease. Secondly, I order and it is my will that my beloved wife Catherine shall have all my Estate in her Hands and Possession until after her decease. Further, I give and bequeath to my only son Nicholas the sum of Five Pounds a forehand for his Birth Right which said five Pounds shall not be paid to him until after the decease of my said wife Catharine. Then I give and bequeath unto my fourth Daughter Margret the sum of Five Pounds a forehand which said five Pounds shall not be paid to here until after the decease of my said wife. Then it is my will and order that after the decease of my said wife and not sooner (that is when my son Nicholas and my Daughter Margret each of them have received five pounds as a forehand) the remainder left after the decease of my said wife shall be peaceably divided in equal shares amongst my children, viz, my Daughter Apolonia, second Daughter Mary Elizabeth my son Nicholas my third Daughter Hanetta and my fourth Daughter Margret. Lastly I nominate and appoint my said beloved wife Catharin Executrix of this my last will and Testament making hereby null and void all former and other wills by me heretofore made declaring this and no other to be my last will and Testament. Done this thirtieth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand and seven hundred and eighty five. Signed sealed published pronounced and declared by the said John Liebrich in the presence of us and upon his ... have subscribed our names as witnesses. Godlieb Spohm [and] Charles Smith.

John Phillip Leebrick died in 1785. His gravestone is still identifiable in the cemetery of the Zion Lutheran Church in Manheim, Pennsylvania. It is located in about the middle of the fifth row back from the street. The text of the stone is very hard to read due to the shallow relief of the letters, but the first nine lines can still be made out as follows:

HIER RUHET JOHANNES LIEBRICH GEBOREN 15 JANUARI 1702 GESTORBEN 14 SEPTEMBER 1785

When a man died, it was necessary to take an inventory of his estate, and this was conducted on October 5, 1785. His assets were valued at 323.12.00 (pounds.shillings.pence) and included the following:

Estate Inventory of Johannes Phillip Liebrich

Item	Value	Item	Value
Coat, jacket, breeches	2.00.00	Good bed and bedflatt	4.2.6
4 pair of trousers	6.0	Another bed	3.10.0
4 petty coaths	1.2.6	3 keeberlings	?
Bonnet and beaver hat	5.0	23 pounds of wool	1.11.9
24 women's shifts	6.0.0	3 bed covers	1.0.0
6 different jackets	7.6	44 pair of fulled stockings	6.12.0

2 pair of stockings/2 hatts	5.0	38 pair unfulled stockings	3.16.00
10 short gaunds	15.0	6 bushels of wheat	1.13.0
11 men's shirts	3.0.0	88 pounds of bacon	1.2.0
10 pounds linnen yarn	1.2.6	Copper kettle	2.0.0
23 sheetings	6.18.0	Silver buckle/tea spoons	1.4.0
4 more petty coaths	1.0.0	2 cloacks	0.7.6
1 apron/6 handkerchiefs	0.10.0	1 pair of man's shoes	0.0.6
3 aprons	0.6.0	10 kaaps	0.7.6
2 pair of linen stockings	0.7.0	38 Nettings	2.16.0
4 tables	1.13.0	A barrell with a little salt	0.1.6
2 3/4 lb Flax	0.2.9	A copper kettle	2.0.0
Spinning wheel & Yeal	0.7.6	A cagg with dry apples	0.1.6
2 barrells with flour	0.7.6	Donsdraufs(?) and basket	0.3.0
9 Baggs	0.3.9	Woolen Yarn	0.6.0
24 Table Cloaths	3.12.0	Hand towls	0.6.0
1 Chest	0.2.0	Iron Curtain Sticks	0.0.0
3 pr of Wooll Casts(?)	0.4.0	Little cage/half bushel cage	0.6.0
12/1/2 Hemp Linnen	1.5.0	5 Cheers	0.12.6
1 Ten plate stove	4.10.0	Wooden ware	0.10.0
Pewter Ware	1.10.0	Tin Ware	0.6.0
A pair of Hillyards	0.6.0	Coffe Kettle/Handle/Lamps	0.11.6
2 fire hoals(?) And Mortan	0.4.0	Linnen ware & Koffe Mill	0.6.0
Netting Needles/Siscors	0.2.6	Bible and 3 Him books	0.18.0
23 sheetings	6.18.0	A chest	0.15.0
Bonds and notes	192.7.11	Cash	40.12.4

In addition to these items, iron potts, pans and ladles, shouffell and tonge and a pair of pleating irons valued at 2.0.0 were found, as well as a Continental Loan Office Certificate dated 21 May 1779 for 800 dollars and other miscellaneous items. Whether that was ever repaid by the United States government is unknown.

This is obviously not the inventory of a poor man, but was that of a successful farmer. In fact, his probate records describe Johannes as a "yeoman". Unlike today's association of that term with the navy, the term "yeoman" then described a landowner who farmed his own land and who had respectable social standing. This must have stood in stark contrast to what would have been his lot had he stayed behind the walls of his birthplace. So it seems that Dr. Rush's assessment of the prosperity of the German farmer applies well to John Phillip Liebrich, the first. Johannes' wife Catherina died just a few short months after he did. Her gravestone stands next to that of Johannes in the Zion Lutheran Church cemetary. The text of her stone reads in part:

HIER RUHET CATARINA LIEBRICH GEBOREN 1 FEBRUARI 1717 GESTORBEN 9 DEZEMBER 1785

This completes the known record of Johannes Phillip Liebrich in America. His determination and unrelenting search for spiritual and political freedom, peace and prosperity should stand as encouragement to all of us as a new millenium begins.

The Children

As for the children of our immigrant ancestor, they were named in his will, presumably in birth order: Apolonia, Mary Elizabeth, Nicholas, Hanetta and Margret. John Phillip Nicholas Leebrick will be the focus of the following chapter of this saga. The daughters were noteworthy in their own right, however.

Apolonia, who is sometimes referred to as Abigail, and who is believed to be the oldest, married Valentine Gardner of Manheim in 1764. Valentine was a tanner. After starting their family of eleven children in Manheim, they moved to the city of Lancaster. Based on christening records at the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Lancaster, the family resided there at least from 1770 through 1781. After that, the family can be found in nearby Martic Township, in what is sometimes known as "Conestoga Center". In Martic Township, the family was associated with the Mt. Nebo church. Valentine, Sr. died in October 1804 intestate, that is, without a will. Court documents dated March 25, 1805 ordered an inventory of his estate. 19 It appears that the Gardner children did not agree with the court's division of the estate, so it was eventually sold. One third of the proceeds were reserved for the support of Apolonia and the remainder was divided among the children. For some reason, possibly due to the family strife caused by the settlement of the estate, Apolonia eventually returned to Manheim. There she purchased lot #126, adjoining that of a Leebrick family friend, Benjamin Nauman²⁰, which included a one-story log dwelling. Lot 126 had a 57 foot frontage on Charlotte Street and extended 270 feet back toward Pitt street. Apolonia died in 1812, and like her husband Valentine, she died intestate. Dr. John Eberle, a brother-in-law, was assigned to administer her estate on 14 April 1813. The court found that the property could not be divided between the children, so it was sold at auction for œ86. The children of Valentine and Aplonia are as follows: Joh, born 1765, died 1805, married Isabell Thomson; Mary Salome, born 19 May 1767, married Lewis Stoneroad (Steinweg); Valentine Jr., born 5 Feb 1769, died August 1849, married Elizabeth Good; Catarina, born 4 Nov 1770; David, born 27 Sep 1772, died 29 Sep 1857, married Elizabeth; Heinrich, born 27 Dec 1774; Hannah, born 23 Feb 1777, died 11 Dec 1811, married Adam Litzenberger; Nicholas, born 2 Oct 1781; Joseph, born 23 Nov 1783; Sarah, married Lewis Stonerode; and Phillip.

The second daughter, Mary Elizabeth, married Daniel Nauman (Newman) in 1775²¹ in St. Michael's and Zion Church in Philadelphia. Daniel was born Nov 4, 1747 and died Mar 25, 1787. Daniel and Maria followed Apolonia and Valentine Gardner and moved down to the city of Lancaster and attended the same church, Holy Trinity Lutheran. Daniel was a medical doctor and served as Captain in the 6th Company, 1st Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. Stephen Chambers

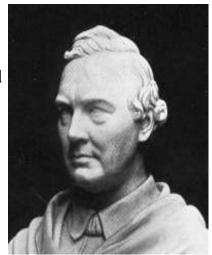
and Major Fredrick Hubley. Daniel also saw service as a surgeon at Ft. Pitt, from 14 April 1777 until 3 April 1778, and also in 1781 as part of the Northumberland Expedition.

Three children were born in Lancaster and christened at Holy Trinity: Daniel Jr, born 23 Oct 1779, Anna Maria, born 30 Oct 1781 and Catherina, born 8 Nov 1783. Catherina lived only 3 months, and was buried at Holy Trinity Lutheran in Lancaster. Johannes and Catherine Liebrich came down from Manheim for Daniel's christening, and were his sponsors. Valentine Gardner and his wife were the sponsors at Anna Maria's christening, and pastor Henr. Muhlenberg and wife were sponsors of Catherine. In addition Daniel and his wife were sponsors of one of Valentine and Apolonia's children, Joseph, born 23 Oct 1783. Daniel and his wife came up to Manheim for the christening of Nicholas and Catherine's daughter Maria at Zion in January of 1786, and were sponsors at the ceremony. Possibly Maria was named after her aunt. So it is clear that the Liebrich family remained close during these years, sharing in important events in each other's lives. Unfortunately, Daniel Sr. met an early death, dying in 1787.

Daniel's death was unexpected, and so he had not prepared a will. Letters of Administration were granted by Lancaster County to his wife on 8 May 1787. It appears that the estate was finally settled in 1792.

After Daniel's death, Mary and her young family moved to Philadelphia, where two other sisters were already living. She established a shop at 176 North 2nd Street.²² When Daniel Jr. was old enough to help, he assisted in the store as a hatter.²³ Mary continued to maintain the shop until her death on 1 August 1810. Unlike her husband, Mary wrote a will before her death. Her probate records refer to a daughter Mary, and to her son Daniel, his wife Lucy and their daughter Mary.

The third daughter was Haneta, or Hannah. Hannah married Charles Wilstach in 1784²⁴ at St. Michael's and Zion Church, and then moved there. Before emigration to the colonies, Charles was a sail cloth weaver. He left London on the ship "Free Mason" between June 14 and 21, 1774 to seek new employment there. He took the Oath of Affirmation of Allegiance to the state of Pennsylvania on October 9, 1786. This was Charles' second marriage. Hannah was by then something of an "old maid" and walking into an existing family was probably something of a challenge for her. Hannah and Charles established a shop at 85 North 2nd street in Philadelphia, where they enjoyed a prosperous business. They moved to 178 North 2nd in 1797, and then to 190 North 2nd in 1808. Their only son was John Andrew Wilstach, who worked as a tin and copper smith, just around the corner from his parents at 2nd and Vine. Charles died in 1807 in Philadelphia.



Upon her husband Charles' death, Hannah apparently ran the business. One finds her listed at the proprietor of the business at 190 North 2nd street from 1810 through 1819. Her estate inventory suggests that the business had become what we would call a dry goods store, with large amounts of yarn, dry goods, thread and ancillaries being inventoried. It is interesting that her sister Margaret and husband Daniel Brautigam lived at 194 North 2nd, and her sister Mary Newman lived at 176 North 2nd, after her husband died.

Anticipating her death, Hannah wrote her will in April 1823. She died in 1824. Only their daughter Joanna survived her parents. Property at the corner of Delaware 2nd and Wood was given to Joanna, as well as all her mother's personal property. Property at 2nd and Vine was given to the two grandsons by Charles Andrew, as well as property at 6th and Callowhere. Among the claimants to the estate was Dr. John Eberle. It appears that Hannah lingered for some time before her death at Philadelphia Hospital, and that Dr. Eberle attended her during that time.

One of her grandsons, William P. Wilstach, became a prominent merchant in saddlery hardware²⁵ in Philadelphia and became an art collectors. Upon his wife's death, the collection was donated to Philadelphia's Fairmont Park Commission, with the stipulation that a suitable building for displaying the art be constructed.²⁶ That building was the first of what is known today as the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Wilstach Collection continues to be an important part of the museum's repertoire. Other Wilstach descendants moved to Washington DC and then to Lafayette and Tippecanoe counties in Indiana, where they were doctors and lawyers. Yet another was the Mayor of Cincinnati, Ohio during the civil war.

The youngest daughter was Margaret. She married Daniel Brautigam, who was born in 1754, and they lived at 194 North 2nd Street in Philadelphia. Therefore, three of the four Liebrich daughters lived on the same side of the street, in the same block, and this continued for almost 10 years. Daniel practiced the publishing trade in Philadelphia. Among the more widely read products of his shop was the "Der Neue hoch deutsche americanische Calender..." for the years 1780 through at 01. This almanac was published several places in Pennsylvania, including in Philadelphia. The Philadelphia printers varied, but they always included Hrn. Daniel Brautigam. According to Philadelphia City directories, about 1800, Daniel moved on to be a bookseller, rather than a bookbinder, but remained at the same address. Listings in city directories continue at that address through at 18. Daniel died in 1830, Margaret in 1838. Both are buried at Laurel Hill Cemetery, St. John's Lutheran Church in Philadelphia. At last two daughters and two sons are known to have lived: Daniel Jr, born 30 Mar 1788, moved to Northumberland county; Elizabeth, born 1790, died 1844; George, born 1796, died 1836; and Anne Margret, born 1800, died 1877.

The Leebrick Saga

Chapter 3 The Second Generation

<u>Life on the Frontier</u> | <u>Property Ownership</u> | <u>War Experience</u> | <u>Church Life</u> | <u>Probate Records</u> | <u>Children</u>

John Phillip Leebrick's son, John Phillip Nicholas Leebrick, was born in the old country in 1748. He was apparently the third child among four siblings, and the only boy. He would have been six years old when his dad brought him to America. We can only wonder what his view of the move to the new world was. Nicholas had no doubt heard many descriptions of the wars which had ravaged their homeland and had been told how precious the frieheit (freedom) that they were enjoying in

Pennsylvania really was. Since Nicholas was the only son and his father was already in his 50s when he arrived in the colonies, he no doubt had a special relationship with his father, knowing that it would be up to him to carry on the family at his father's passing.

One of the first official records of any Leebrick in Pennsylvania is that of Nicholas' marriage to Catharine Franks⁽¹⁾in 1767 in what was later to become Dauphin county. (Nothing is known of the Franks family.) The fact that those records are in Dauphin county tells us that the Liebrichs must not have lingered in Philadelphia, but must have gone with the flow of German immigrants to what was then the state's western frontiers. In 1767, Dauphin county had not been formed yet, and Lancaster was still a young



county, formed in 1729, but land purchases in 1736 and 1749 extended it's reach to the Susquehanna River on the west and to the beginning of the mountains to the north. No doubt the Liebrichs quickly cleared land, built a log cabin (2) and provided for nearly all their own needs.

Life On The Frontier

West of the Susquehanna and all through the Ohio River valley was Indian country. Historically, the Indians provided a buffer between the British to the east and south and the French to the North in Canada. Both British and French had a substantial trade with the Indians, but in 1753, the French grew concerned that the British were out-trading them. To protect their business, the French built a series of forts from Lake Erie to the forks of the Ohio. The British were unwilling to tolerate that situation, so they sent General George Washington to evict the French from Fort Necessity in the summer of 1754. The French repulsed General Washington and the 10 year French and Indian war was started. This event, and General Braddock's defeat in 1755 by the French with much help from the Indians, made the Pennsylvania frontier a much less safe place for pioneers like the Liebrichs. In fact, in 1756, soldiers were being posted to protect farmers during harvest and soon, settlers were building cellars or block houses for their protection⁽³⁾. The next year, British officers began recruiting local talent, and British forces began to prevail. Finally, in 1763, the Treaty of Paris was signed, ending French presence on the continent. No doubt, all the frontier settlers breathed a little easier upon it's signing.

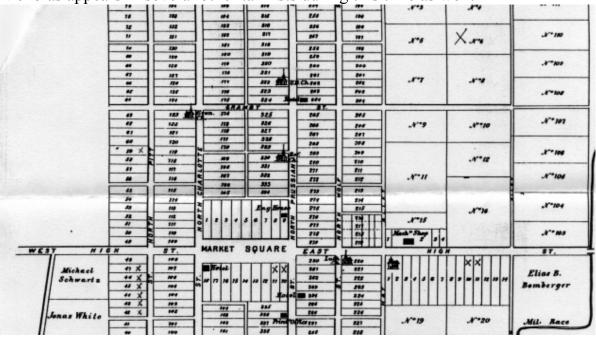
At the time of Nicholas' wedding, one of the major sources of non-agricultural employment in the area was the Elizabeth Steel Furnace, operated by Henry Stiegel, founder of Manheim. Stiegel also pursued glass making, and erected a glass manufactory in Manheim. It is interesting that Nicholas' name appears in a list of employees of the Stiegel Glassworks in Manheim. There are no dates of employment, but the Glassworks was operational between 1764 and 1774, when Stiegel was forced to declare bankruptcy. How much

this employment contributed to Nicholas' prosperity, we can only surmise.

Property Ownership

An examination of tax lists in Lancaster county also suggests that the Leebricks were in Rapho township before 1770, since they already owned property in Manheim by this time. They do not contain any entries for Nicholas' father, but only for Nicholas. The 1770 Rapho township tax list, for example indicates that Nicholas worked as a saddler, owned a horse and a cow and two "in lots". Manheim was laid out by Ann and Charles Stedman, Alexander and Elizabeth Stedman and Henry and Elizabeth Stiegel in 1762. The land was cleared in 1762 and 359 lots were laid out "in town". These were called "in lots" to distinguish them from the "out lots", which were outside of town and averaged about 2 acres in size, but were as large as 10 acres. By 1765, all the lots had been disposed of. The Liebrich name does not appear anywhere on the list of original land owners, so Nicholas' two lots must have been purchased between 1765 and 1770. In 1773, Manheim town tax list shows a horse and cow and one "in lot". The 1775 tax list, Manheim borough, lists 2 "in lots", 2 "out lots" cultivated, 2 corn and a horse and cow. No servants or negroes are listed. He appears again in the 1779 Rapho township tax list and in the 1780 list, is assessed a tax of 14 shillings,5 pence. Nicholas appears in several other tax lists during this time as well.

A search of the Lancaster county deed books sheds more light on Nicholas' land purchases in Manheim and the surrounding area. Two deeds dated February 4, 1774 record Nicholas' purchase of Manheim "out lot" $\#6^{\frac{(5)}{2}}$ and lots #10 and 11 from "Henry Wm.



Stiegel, Glass Manufacturer". On May 14, 1775, Nicholas purchased seven "in lots" Nos. 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 and 47 from Michael Diffenderfer. Then, on February 6, 1776 Nicholas purchased of lot 59 from the estate of Casper Scheibly. The deed books also record the purchase of a "Tenement Plantation" located in the adjoining township of Warwick. The plantation consisted of 180 acres and was purchased jointly between Nicholas, Andrew Hoover and Philiph Brown. They paid 450 pounds in cash and signed a note for 450 pounds due 29 June 1802. So it appears that Nicholas was able to gradually improve his economic condition as time went on.

Nicholas and Catherine began a family in Manheim. ⁽⁸⁾ John, born in 1770, remained single and died in 1804⁽⁹⁾, Daniel Henry, born in 1773 and John Phillip, born in 1775, were born before the country was swept into Revolution. After his return from military service, a son George and four more daughters were born to their family.

War Experience

By this time, however, the spirit of revolution was in the air, and Nicholas immediately took up the cause. His dad may have shuddered at the thought of his family once again being dragged into war. But at least this time, service was voluntary, and it was a cause they both believed in. Nicholas' name appears on the list of men who took the Oath of Allegiance between July 10 and September 13, 1777. (10) By August 16, 1777, a company of volunteer militia had formed from Rapho township (Manheim) and Nicholas had is incolum. Commanded by

At a Meeting of the

COMMITTEE

Of the County of Lancaster, 5th July, 1776.

HE Committee taking into their Confideration the important Buffiness of raising the Quota of Troops in this County:

And being fully satisfied that it will be in their Power to raise one Comany from each Battalion: Therefore,

RESOLVED, That nine Companies of Mulquetry, and two companies of Rifle-men be immediately raised to compose Part of the

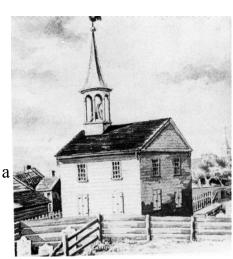
and Nicholas had joined up. Commanded by Captain Abraham Forey, it became part of the Third Battalion under Colonel Alexander Lowery. Nicholas was apparently so anxious to be a part of the action that, when he found he would be late to the company roll call, he asked his sister Hannah to stand in for him. It is Hannah's name that appears on the initial roll call, but it was Nicholas who returned six months later as a Private Seventh Class. (12)

On September 11, barely a month after being formed, this battalion was part of the ill-fated battle at Brandywine Creek, fought just 30 miles, as the crow flies, from Manheim. In that battle, the British General Howe surprised Washington's troops by attacking them from behind and forced them to retreat. Howe went on to occupy Philadelphia by the end of the month, and then defeat Washington's troops yet again in early October at Germantown. It was that winter that Washington's troops spent in hardship at Valley Forge. According to the list of returnees on March 17, 1778, no one was lost from the Manheim unit during that tour of duty. Nicholas held the rank of Private 7th Class.

Nicholas is said to have become a successful merchant in Manheim after the war. Although there is no record of his business, the occupation given in several of the land deeds is saddler, or one who makes saddles.

Church Life

There was more to Nicholas' family than making money and living in freedom: spiritual affairs were also important. Like his father, Nicholas raised his family in the Lutheran church. When Manheim was organized in 1762, there were no organized religious groups, "but a small log building on lower North Charlotte Street was set aside for religious purposes. It was used by the Reformed people, Lutherans, Dunkards and Mennonites. (14) The original Lutheran congregation began to meet in Baron Stiegel's mansion in 1769 and a church of their own was raised in 1772. The present Zion Lutheran Church was built on the property in 1891. The pages of the parish



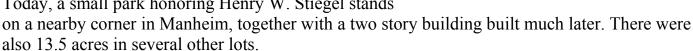
register show that Nicholas and Catherine were active both in baptizing their own children at that church and being the sponsors of other children being baptized from at least 1774. The 1790 membership role includes his widow Catherine and his son John as members, and the 1801 membership role lists John.

The parish register also records that Nicholas was a part of the church Council at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church. The church Council was made up of four Trustees, four Elders and two administrators. On 27 July 1773, Nicholas was elected to an administrator position, to fill the vacancy of Frederick Gay, who had removed from Manheim. Henry William Stiegel was one of the Trustees at this time. On 12 May, 1774, the church Council voted to continue building the new church building, and presented a motion regarding the same to the congregation one or two weeks later. Nicholas was elected to a second term as administrator at that meeting, and the term of office for administrators was formally set at two years. In 1778, after some period of time without a pastor, a new pastor came on the scene. At a congregational meeting on December 6, 1778, Nicholas was elected to the office of Elder. The parish register also records several financial gifts made to the church by Nicholas and several gifts received by Nicholas on behalf of the church, in his role as administrator.

Probate Records

Both of Nicholas' parents died in September of 1785 and both are buried at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Manheim. The following month, the courts (not surprisingly) appointed Nicholas to settle his parent's estate (15) Nicholas set about the task quickly, and the estate was distributed on December 7, 1786. (16)

Compared with his father, Nicholas died as a young man. He died in 1788 and was intestate, that is, died without a will. Because his father had a will, one might have expected Nicholas to have prepared a will. Perhaps Nicholas died unexpectedly. Court records confirm that Nicholas had accumulated several pieces of property in Manheim. They included two adjacent lots on the corner of the Market Place and Main street, one of which had a "mansion" house and a barn and the other having a two-story brick house and a stable. Today, a small park honoring Henry W. Stiegel stands



The 1790 Census⁽¹⁷⁾shows that "widow" Liebrich had two sons 16 and older (John and Daniel), two sons under 16 (John Phillip and George) and five daughters (only four of which I can account for). This is consistent with the birth dates given earlier.

Nicholas' wife, Catherine, submitted an inventory of Nicholas' estate in May, 1786. In 1792, Catherine gave an accounting of the settlement of claims against his account, including rent received from Noah Ceasy for a house in Manheim. In 1792, the cash balance of the estate was

distributed to the family. Catherine received approximately four shares of the account, John, Nicholas' oldest son, received two shares and the remaining seven minor children receiving one share amounting to about £3 each. In 1797, Nicholas' oldest son John petitioned the court for a distribution of Nicholas' property⁽¹⁸⁾. Because some of the children were still minors on this date, the court appointed a guardian for them to protect their interest in the estate. On August 20, 1797, the appraisers of Nicholas' property reported that it could not be divided without injury to his widow, and that it had a value of slightly over £1004. The court directed that John begin paying his mother an annual amount equal to the interest on 1/3 of the estate. Those payments were to be regarded as a lien against the property which would be settled upon his mother's death and before distribution of the property to the children.

John, however, passed away in 1804 (before his mother died), so the court appointed his brother John Phillip Liebrich to assume responsibilities for the estate November 20, 1804. Normally, the next oldest son would have been appointed, but that son, Daniel, had already moved away from home. To assist in the settlement of the estate, Nicholas' widow Catherine renounced her claim to the estate (19) and the court called for another appraisal of the property early the next year. Again, the appraisers concluded that the property could not be divided without injury and gave a value of just over £1752. This time the court ordered Phillip to pay to each of the heirs their rightful share of the property. By this time, all of Nicholas' children were adults, and court actions removed the guardianship of the younger children. It appears that the estate was finally closed in November of 1807.

Children

Nicholas and Catherine's children were all born in Manheim, but they did not remain in Manheim. Instead, they began to spread out across the new young country. John, their oldest, was born 27 May 1770. As mentioned before, he was responsible for settling his father's estate. John died a single person on 9 October 1804.

Their first daughter, Anna Marie, was born November 1771 and died about a year and a half later, on 12 January 1773. Her burial is only the fourth recorded in the Zion Church's parish records.

Daniel Henry Leebrick was born a few months later, on 30 May 1773⁽²⁰⁾. Daniel was christened at Zion Lutheran Church in Manheim on 27 June 1773. Daniel moved to Lebanon, Pennsylvania where he continued his father's trade as a saddler. He married Elizabeth Peters and at least three children were born there. Daniel and Elizabeth then moved to Amherst county Virginia. In December 1805, Daniel purchased 200 acres of land for 420 pounds, on the south waters of the Rockfish river, bordered by Aggey Lavender, Rockfish River, Nelson Anderson, Old Glade Road, Dolly Key, Rich Breedlove⁽²¹⁾. A couple years later, Nelson County was formed and this land was placed in Nelson county. In the summer of 1809, Daniel posted a bond with Nelson County to operate an "ordinary", which was usually a combination tavern and rooming house⁽²²⁾. This business continued at least through 1813. At least five children were born to Elizabeth and Daniel after they moved to Virginia. In 1826, Daniel married Nancy Sandridge Tinsley in Amherst Co, Va. Nancy brought two boys from her marriage to Isaac Tinsley to the marriage. Daniel and Nancy had at least one child after they were married. In the 1832, Daniel bought 117 acres of property in Amherst County from a Sandridge relative. Most of that parcel was disposed of in 1838. Daniel

died after February of 1839, for it was in that month that Daniel bought a cotton wheel at the estate sale of a neighbor. No probate records have been located for Daniel or his first wife Elizabeth.

John Phillip Leebrick was born next, on 7 February 1775⁽²³⁾. He was married in Lebanon, Pennsylvania to Mary Gertrude Cassel in 1798 and raised their family in Hummelstown, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. John Phillip will be the focus of the next chapter of this history.

George Leebrick was born 17 February 1779⁽²⁴⁾ and was christened at Zion the following month, on 27 March. He married Mary Mohr in 1801 and their family of nine children was raised in Halifax, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. They also lived in West Buffalo township, Northumberland Co. Practiced tannery, and in1812, he built a tannery and general store in Halifax. In later years, George also had a general store. "Was strictly upright and conscientious in all his transactions". George died on 12 Mar 1847 and was buried at the Messiah Union Lutheran and Reformed Cemetery in Fisherville, Dauphin County. Fisherville is located several miles ENE of Halifax.

Elizabeth Leebrick was born 13 August 1781⁽²⁵⁾ and she married Jacob Swentzell. She was christened at Zion on 2 September 1781. No subsequent record of this family has been found.

Catherine Leebrick was born in January 1784⁽²⁶⁾ and died on 28 June 1801. She was buried at Zion Lutheran Church in Manheim.

Mary (Maria) Leebrick was born on 14 December 1785⁽²⁷⁾, was christened on 2 January of the following year. The Lancaster county court gave approval for Mary to marry Jacob Urban (Erben) when she was only 14 years old, on 1 Apr 1806 in Lancaster. At least six children were born to this couple.

Nicholas and Catherine's last child, Salome (Sarah), was born 14 December 1787⁽²⁸⁾. Salome married Dr. John Eberle on 1 July 1810. The Eberle's raised a family of eight children. John was one of the leading physicians of the time. He obtained his medical diploma from the University of Pennsylvania in 1809, and began to practice medicine in Manheim. Dr. Eberle also enjoyed writing, so he edited a newspaper in Lancaster for a while. The family moved to Philadelphia in 1815, and he continued practicing medicine there and writing. He was editor of the

quarterly journal, American Medical Recorder and published his first book for students of botany in 1818. In 1823, Dr. Eberle published his "Treatise of the Materia Medica and Therapeutics", which became a standard text-book and went through five editions. He filled the chair of Professor of Physics in the new Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, in 1825. In 1830 he accepted the offer of Daniel Drake (Q.U.) to organize the faculty for the medical department of Miami University, designed as a competitor of the Medical College of Ohio. In 1831 he located in Cincinnati, and was elected Professor of Materia Medica in the Ohio Medical College. In 1832, they founded the Western Medical Gazette. Shortly thereafter, Eberle published his Treatise on the Diseases and Physical Education of Children (1833). He died shortly after his installment in this institution, at Lexington, February 2, 1838. His remains are interred in the Episcopal cemetery, Cincinnati, the spot being marked by a handsome monument.

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