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## From Kriegsheim to Pennsylvania

*Origin and Career of the Brothers Peter and George Shoemaker, of Kriegsheim, in the Palatinate.  
And also a contribution to the inquiry as to the origin of the Palatinate Mennonites.*

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Translation by Edward W. Hocker

THE AMERICAN Colonies became the asylum for people who turned their backs on Europe for various reasons. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries many were forced to leave their old homes because they could no longer adhere to their faith and were subjected to considerable oppression. For such reasons members of the family of Schumacher (Shoemaker) left Kriegsheim, in the Palatinate, in the last third of the seventeenth century and found a new home in North America.

Inquiries from America have asked about the ancestry of Peter and George Shoemaker who emigrated from the Palatinate to America about 1685; but all investigation proved fruitless. Laws pertaining to the Baptists, preserved in the General Archives of Karlsruhe for 1664-5<sup>1</sup> have information about these men, but not about their parents and their ancestry. Thus the opinion developed that most Palatinate Mennonites, if not all, came from Switzerland. Dr. Bender wrote in the preface to Mennonitenverzeichniss: "So far as is known, all the Mennonites of the Palatinate originally migrated into that region from Switzerland after the year 1650."

Here only an accidental discovery brought light. This resulted when Dr. Walther Risler of Krefeld searched the records in the State Archives of Düsseldorf concerning the Mennonites of Siebengebirge, submitting his abstracts to the author of the present work. In these abstracts was found repeated mention of the names Schumacher, including Peter and George.<sup>2</sup>

That there were Baptists already in the sixteenth century in the mountainous districts of Löwenburg (at Siebengebirge) is shown in the Concept of Cologne by the fact that the Baptist groups of Friesland and

High Germany united. Their confession was signed, among others, by Jan Koch, for the congregation in Hauffen (Honnelt), and Casper von Dollendorf. Honnelt and Dollendorf are localities on the Rhine. At that time they belonged to the government of Löwenburg, in the Dukedom of Berg. (Löwenburg is today a ruin in the Southern Siebengebirge.)

In a Visitation of the Archbishopric of Cologne in 1569 numerous Baptists were found in the Cologne section of Siebengebirge.

Through a descendancy controversy Wolfgang Wilhelm of Pfaltz-Neuburg acquired the Dukedom of Jülich and Berg and became a Catholic. Then the oppression of the Baptists was renewed. In 1623 and 1624 and often before, the Baptists of the Siebengebirge assembled at night in a thicket. Armed officials scattered them. Some were arrested. These revealed the names of the others. There had been more than fifty in these assemblages. Among the names that of Schumacher did not appear. But in a list of Baptists of October 25, 1638, were named, among others from Dollendorf and Oberkassel, Arnold Reusen and Johann Schumacher.

This Arnold Reusen (or Rösen) is identical with Arret (Arnold) Schumacher, who married Neesgen (Agnes) Rösen and lived on land in Niederdollendorf which he had inherited after the distribution of the Rösen estate from his father-in-law; and thus, according to the custom of the time, he took the name of Rösen. In Dollendorf he owned a house, land, garden and vineyard. The Mennonites were still permitted to live in this locality.<sup>3</sup>

The successor of Wolfgang Wilhelm, named Philip Wilhelm, issued, December 30, 1659, a sharp order



that those resident Anabaptists who engaged in trade or possessed considerable property must leave the land within two years or if not possessed of wealth then they must leave within six months. This applied to the widow of Arndt Schumacher. He had died in 1652.

Prior to the issuance of this order a record was made of the Anabaptists in 1652 in the government of Löwenberg, together with their possessions, and this was submitted to the rulers. In this were listed:

Niederdollendorf—Niesgen Reusen, with all her possessions and 710 Thaler Cologne debts, and Peter Schumacher (her son), who lived on the magistrate's estate in Hangelar and had no property of his own.

Oberdollendorf—Johann Schomecher, Gottert Schomecher, Theil Schomecher, Peter Schomecher, all with their property and their debts.

Apparently Arnold Schomecher also was from Oberdollendorf and came to Niederdollendorf through his marriage relationship. But his connection with the Schomechers of Oberdollendorf is not clear, his parentage not being known.

The widow of Arnold and her children now had to roam the land after they had sold their possessions in Siebengebirge. On February 15, 1655, there appeared before the court of Oberdollendorf Agnes, widow of Arnold Schumacher, deceased; Theiss (Mathias) Bonn, her son-in-law, and her children, Peter and George Schumacher, both of age; and minor children, Arnold, Catherine and Adele, (Arnold was the child of Arnold and Agnes; Adele the child of Theiss Bonn; there is some doubt about Catherine). They sold to the Ducal Inspector Gerhard von Bonn all their possessions in Ober- and Niederdollendorf and in the Sovereignty of Königswinter.<sup>4</sup> Besides the sum of 1440 Thaler paid them, the buyers agreed that the mother and the six children were to have free passage in the ship to Mainz. This indicates the direction toward the Palatinate.

Are the sons of Arnold Schumacher, Peter and George, the persons of like names who later lived in the Palatinate?

Peter who emigrated to America in 1685 was a Quaker. In 1659 there appeared in Kriegsheim an Englishman named William Ames, missionary for the Quakers. He won some Mennonite families to his way of thinking. Among these listed in the General Archives of Karlsruhe are the names of George and Peter Schumacher.<sup>5</sup>

In 1679 appeared two Quaker ladies from Holland who in Kriegsheim distributed a Quaker tract printed in Amsterdam in 1670. One of the women undertook to preach, to the annoyance of the town's clergy. Five Quakers subscribed for the tract, including Peter Schumacher and Jörg (George) Schumacher.

A record of Mennonites in the government of Alzey, in 1664, does not mention Peter and George Schumacher. (A Jorg Schuhmacher was not the George Schuhmacher already mentioned.) It may be understood why their names are not in the Mennonite list

when it is recalled that they were Quakers at that time and not Mennonites. They had not hesitated to pay the tax imposed for being permitted to reside in the land, and also one-tenth of the high rate required in Worms and on claims by the local pastors but they did make objection to the payment of a special Turkish tax and did not take their turn at standing guard as did members of the recognized congregations.

Then the government began confiscating their cattle, wine and produce and sold them, and their neighbors envied them because of their riches, so that the differences between them, the Palatinate officials and their non-Quaker neighbors became keener.

While the record of 1664 did not include the Quakers, the record of 1685, under Kriegsheim, has these names, identified as "Quakers here":

19—Georg Schuhmacher

20—Peter Schuhmachers Wittib. (widow)<sup>6</sup>

This is incorrect because in 1685 Peter's wife was dead and therefore he was a widower. (Witwar.) George was not living in 1684, for on August 11, 1684, an official in Hochheim reported to the Alzey government concerning the Quakers in Kriegsheim, reckoning the taxable possessions of Peter Schumacher at 450 florins and of George Schumacher's widow at 626 florins.<sup>5</sup>

Perhaps the word "Wittib" after Peter's name in the record of 1685 is a misreading and should apply to the previous individual—George Schumacher.

Until 1685 Peter Schumacher and George's widow lived in Kriegsheim. On May 8 of that year three Quakers made a visit to the government of Hochheim, to which Kriegsheim belonged. One of them was Peter Schumacher, widower, aged in his sixties. They sought permission to leave the country and go to Holland, with their possessions.

Peter Schumacher arrived in Pennsylvania in October, 1685. There he died in 1707, at the age of 85.

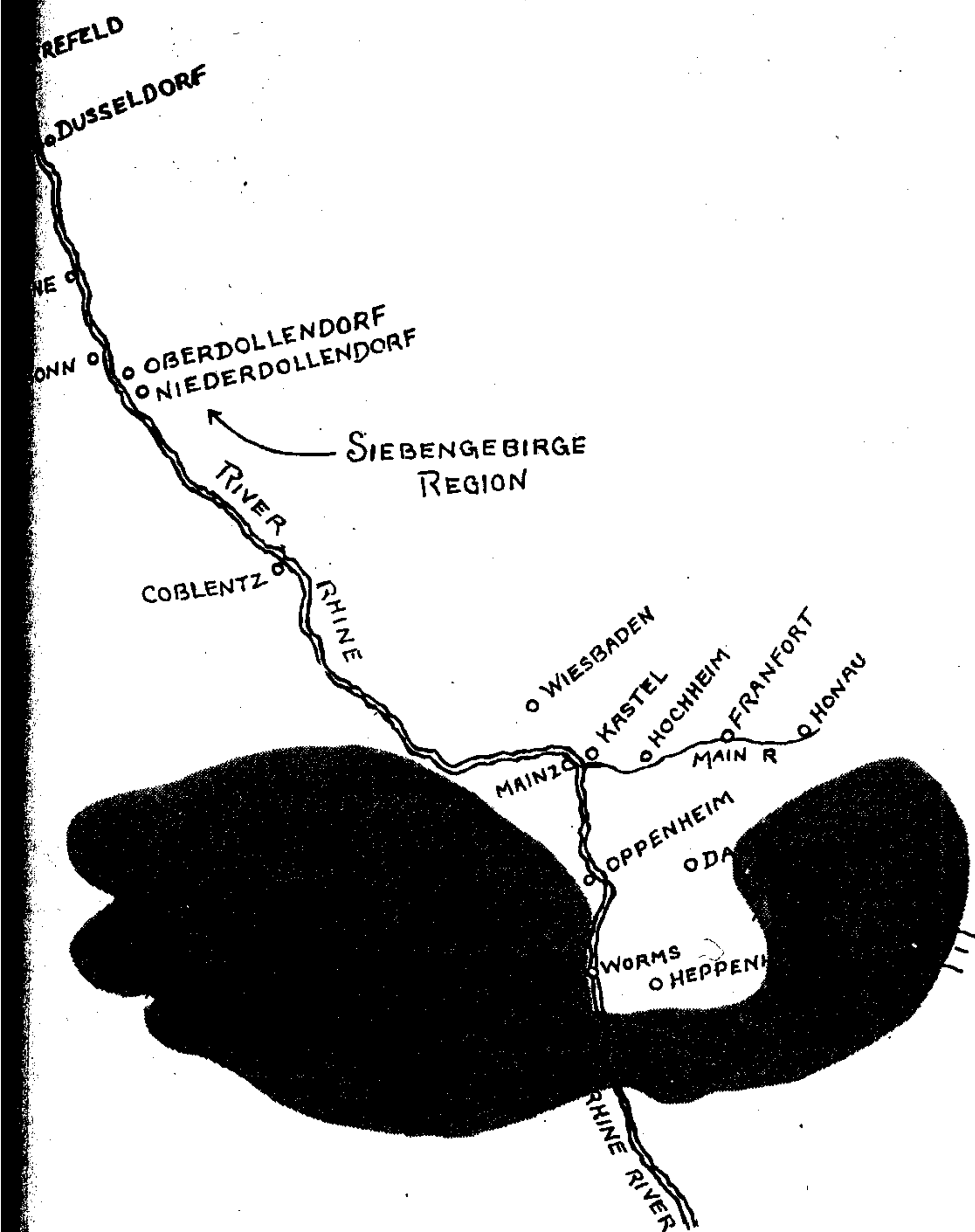
His sister-in-law, Sarah, widow of his brother George, followed him to America, with her children, arriving in Pennsylvania 20th of First Month, 1686. Her daughter Sarah had come over with her uncle Peter, in 1685.<sup>7</sup>

A Quaker, Jacob Schumacher, came to Pennsylvania in 1683, with Francis Daniel Pastorius, and became Pastorius' servant. He was unmarried at that time. That he unquestionably came from Mainz suggests he was one of the Kriegsheim Quakers and perhaps a relative of Peter and George. Further than this nothing positive is known about him.

Conclusive evidence has not yet been presented at this point to show that Peter and George were sons of Arnold Schumacher, of Siebengebirgen. To endeavor to answer this question baptismal records of the Palatinate in the General Archives of Karlsruhe may help. Examination of these records shows the following:

In 1664 these Mennonites were living within the





## THE PALATINATE AND NORTHERN STRETCHES OF THE RHINE

domain of the government of Alzey, they or their ancestors having come there from the government of Löwenburg about 1655:

Kriegsheim—Oswald Schumacher (Probably Arnold), Peter Ottges, Matthes Bonn.

Osthofen—Peter Schumacher.

Wolfsheim—Thomas Rohr, Stephan von Niederdollendorf, a courtier.

Harxheim, near Zell—Jörg Schumacher.

Heppenheim, auf der Wiese—Gerhard Schuhmacher, Thiel Schuhmacher.

After the laws against the Anabaptists were enacted in Hesse, the State Archives of Darmstadt listed these Mennonites in Heppenheim: Gerhard Schuhmacher, Thiel Schuhmacher (he came to this land thirteen years ago), Joh. Schumacher.<sup>8</sup>

Lists for 1665:

Kriegsheim—6—Matthias Bonn; 14—Arnold Schuhmacher; 16—Peter Schuhmacher's adopted son, Rohr Otto (or Peter.) Quakers here: 19—George Schumacher; 20—Peter Schuhmacher's Wittib.

Wolfsheim—24—Thomas Rohr; 25—Johannes Schuhmacher; 29—Tilman Kolb.

Osthofen—59—Peter Schuhmacher.

After scanning the Mennonite and Quaker names for the government of Alzey for 1664 and 1685, it may be stated that all or nearly all the Schumachers

of 1652 and 1655 living in the two Dollendorf regions are now placed in Alzey by the later reckoning.

1. The now rather numerous Quakers, including Peter and George's widow, are in Kriegsheim. Peter's adopted son, Rohr, apparently came from Löwenburg.

2. Peter Schumacher, in Osthofen, named in 1664 and 1685, is a Mennonite and cannot be considered identical with the Quakers of that name. He is the Peter listed in Oberdollendorf in 1652.

3. Jorg Schumacher, in Harxheim, and Gerhard, in Heppenheim, it may be surmised, were near relatives, while Thiel and Johannes, in Heppenheim, under Wolfsheim in 1685, still lived in Upper Dollendorf in 1652.

4. Arnold Schumacher is the younger brother of Peter, being a minor in 1655.

5. Matthias Bonn, in Kriegsheim, is a valuable clew. He is surely the brother-in-law of Peter and George Schumacher who in the sale of 1655 is termed the son-in-law of Niesgen Rösen, (Agnes Rösen) mother of Peter and George.

It is therefore proved that all or nearly all the Schumachers came from the government of Löwenburg in the Palatinate. Persons of other families took a like course. In 1664 a Stephen of Niederdollendorf appears. Rohr and Peter Ottges, who were in Kriegsheim in 1664, came from there. In 1656 subscribers at a visit to the Duke of Berg included Theiss Beckers, an Anabaptist, previously a subordinate in Löwenburg, later living in the Palatinate.

It can no longer be said that all Mennonites of the Palatinate came from Switzerland. Many were from Siebengebirge, particularly the Schumachers, Peter and George's widow, who became Quakers and left for America in consequence of the persecutions.

As the privileges of the Mennonites were not renewed in 1717, the mass migration began to Pennsylvania. Tilman (Dielman) Kolb, the Mennonite in Kriegsheim in 1685, had married a daughter of Peter Schumacher, the Quaker. Four of their sons became Mennonite preachers in Pennsylvania. The inducement for the migration may have emanated from Tilman's brother Martin, for he left for Pennsylvania in 1707, with three younger brothers.

It was a long and laborious journey for the Mennonites—from the Siebengebirge, through the Palatinate, leading to America, after persecution and suffering attaining rest at last.

NOTE. This article, is slightly abbreviated from that which appeared in the February, 1956 number of "Der Mennonit," organ of the German Mennonite Church, published at Frankfurt on the Main. Peter Schumacher settled at Germantown in 1685 and Sarah, widow of his brother George, in Cheltenham Township, Penna. in 1686 or shortly thereafter. There are many descendants of these two early immigrants still living in the area.

There has always been a controversy as to the origin of the Quakers at Kriegsheim, as it has been known

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## From Kriegsheim to Pennsylvania (Continued from page 9)

for some time that they were newcomers to the region. Some outsiders claimed they came there from Switzerland; others from Holland. This article would appear to disprove, at least as far as the Shoemakers are concerned, that they came from either Switzerland or from the land now included under the sovereignty of the Netherlands. Many immigrants from this region did, however, speak the "Platt Deutsch" or low German dialect. There was no Kingdom of the Netherlands in existence in those days, and the Low German dialect was in common usage all the way down the Rhine from its estuaries to the Palatine Electorate.

### REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Harold S. Bender's paper in The Mennonite Quarterly Review, 1940, Vol. XII, No. 1, on Christian Neff's sketch of the Palatine laws as to the Baptists.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Walter Risler's paper in Mennonittschen Geschichtsblattern, 1955, p. 6, 21, and 1956, p. 31 and 46, a notable work on this subject.

<sup>3</sup> The record of the Baptists in the government of Löwenburg, in the State Archives of Dusseldorf, in Aktenstück Julich—Berg II, No. 255.

<sup>4</sup> State Archives of Dusseldorf, History of Berg. Government of Löwenburg, 4 I, p. 277 ff.

<sup>5</sup> Mennonittische Blätter, 1911, No. 10, p. 74 ff.

<sup>6</sup> General Land Archives of Karlsruhe, in the Palatinate. Generalia 4337, p. 69 ff.

<sup>7</sup> Information from Benjamin H. Shoemaker, 3d, Germantown.

<sup>8</sup> Mennonitisches Lexicon, II, p. 285.

<sup>9</sup> Benjamin H. Shoemaker, 3d, and Robert Kay Shoemaker, Germantown, have issued a manuscript titled "Shoemaker Pioneers. A Guide to the Shoemaker Families of Colonial America," including Peter, George and Jacob Shoemaker and their Descendants. It is in preparation for a forthcoming book.

## Women's Permanent Emergency Ass'n (Continued from page 10)

complete them." The Bedding Committee had collected its own fund with which to buy materials and apparently is not included in the total mentioned above. At the June 13th meeting, Mrs. Rumney announced that 120 sheets and 200 pillow cases from St. Peter's Church were at the disposal of the Committee.

At the last meeting held at this time on June 19th, it was unanimously voted to form an independent organization so on this date in 1889 the Women's Permanent Emergency Association of Germantown came into being with the officers of the Relief Committee continuing to serve. Mrs. William Wister of Belfield gave the first donation toward a fund to be used in future emergencies. The new organization has continued to the present time and was destined to be active through three wars and in many other minor catastrophes.