

New World Immigrants  
Vol I

A Consolidation of Ship  
Passenger Lists and  
Associated Data from  
Periodical Literature

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Maria Johanna Liboscha 10 years, sisters of the wife of Rennau: Andreas Volk, husbandman and vinyard, 30 years, Anna Catharina, 27 years, his wife and Maria Barbara, 5 years, Georg Hieronymus, 4 years and Anna Gertrauda, 1 year, their children; Michel Weigand, husbandman, 50 years, Anna Catharina, his wife, 54 years, Anna Maria, 13 years, Tobias, 7 years, Georg, 5 years, their children; Jacob Weber, husbandman and vinyard, 30 years, Anna Elisebetha, his wife, 25 years, Eva Maria, 5 years, and Eva Elizabetha, 1 year, their children; Jacob Pletel, husbandman and vinyard, 40 years, Anna Elisabetha, his wife, 29 years, Margaretha, 10 years, Anna Sava, 8 years and Catharina, 3 years, their children; Johannes Fischer, smith and husbandman, 27 years, Maria Barbara, his wife, 26 years and Andreas, their child, 6 months; Melchior Guleb, carpenter or joiner, 39 years, Anna Catharina, his wife, 43 years, and Magdalena 12 years, and Heinrich, 10 years, their children; Isaac Turck, husbandman, unmarried, 23 years; Josua Kocherthal, minister, 39 years and Sibylla Charlotta, his wife, 39 years, Benigna Sibylla, 10 years, Christian Joshua, 7 years and Susanna Sibylla, 3 years, their children; Peter Rose, cloth weaver, 34 years, and Johanna, his wife, 45 years; Maria Wemarin, husbandwoman, 37 years, widow and Catharina, 2 years, her child; Isaac Feber, husbandman and vinyard, 33 years, Chatarina, his wife, 30 years, and Abraham, 2 years, their child; Daniel Fiere, husbandman, 32 years, Anna Maria, his wife, 30 years, and Andreas, 7 years and Johannes, 6 years, their children and Herman Schuneman, clerk, 28 years, unmarried.



### "PALATINE" EMIGRANTS TO AMERICA FROM THE PRINCIPALITY OF NASSAU-DILLENBURG

By WILLIAM J. HOFFMAN, F. G. B. S., NEW YORK CITY

In the State Archives at Wiesbaden, Germany, among the papers relating to the former tiny, semi-feudal principality of Nassau-Dillenburg, there is a small bundle of forgotten letters, now yellowed with age, which may throw some light on the origin of a number of "palatine" settlers in this country. There are about a hundred petitions written during the months of July and August of the year 1709 to the sovereign, the Count of Nassau-Dillenburg, by his subjects praying to be relieved of their oath in order that they may leave for America, the promised land, to find there the opportunity for gaining a livelihood, which, due to the wretched economical conditions in Germany, they were unable to do in their homeland.

I will quote one of these letters so as to give an idea of their general contents:

"Durchlauchtigster Fürst! Gnädigster Fürst und Herr!

"Demnach Ihre hochfürstl. Durchlaucht wohl bewuszt, dasz viele Leut aus den umliegenden Ländern, Städten und Dörfern in die Insel Carolina ziehen, so bin ich unterthänigster, Gott erbarm's, selber der Meinung mich dahin zu begeben, aus der Ursach, weilen ich mich sammt den meinigen bei dieser beschwerlichen und betrübten Zeit auf meinem Handwerk nicht mehr zu ernähren weisz, so bitte ich Ew. hochfürstl. Durchlaucht, weilen in besagter Insel Handwerksleut mangeln, weswegen es geschehen könnte, dasz ich mich allda besser ernähren

<sup>1</sup>This article is based on a publication which appeared in the German local magazine *Nassovia*, 1903, IV: 194 ff.

könnte, Sie wollen mich armen Untertanen des Eids, welchen ich Ihre hochfürstl. Durchlaucht geschworen habe, entledigen und losgeben, wie auch aus Gnaden mich armen ansuchen den einen schriftlichen Schein mitzutheilen geruhen, damit ich von Ihre Königl. Maiestät möchte angenommen werden.

"Erhoffe gnädigste Antwort, Erlaszz—und Erhörung.

"Ew. hochfürstl. Durchlaucht unterthänigster  
Johann Aszbach  
Tuchmacher in Herborn."

(Translation):

"Most Serene Prince! Merciful Prince and Lord!

"It must be known to your most serene Highness that many people from the surrounding countries, towns and villages are leaving for the Island of Carolina;<sup>1</sup> therefore I, your obedient subject, God have mercy, have likewise decided to go there for the reason that in these difficult and sorrowful times I am unable to provide for myself and mine by means of my trade. I understand that in the above-named Island there is a scarcity of artisans, and it is therefore possible that I might be better able to gain a livelihood, and I pray your serene Highness that you will absolve me, your poor subject, of my oath and pro-

<sup>2</sup>It is curious that Carolina, Pennsylvania and other parts of the mainland of America are indicated as "islands." It is thought to find its origin in the fact that Columbus discovered the West Indian American islands first and that thereafter even the continent was designated in this manner and that it was not due to unfamiliarity with the geography of the New World.

vide me with a written testimonial<sup>3</sup> in order that I may be accepted by her Royal Majesty.

"In the hope of a merciful answer, a release and a hearing,

"Your Serene Highness'

"Most obedient

"Johann Asbach

"Cloth maker in Herborn."

There are pitiful letters giving a vivid picture of the conditions in those parts of Germany, the suffering of its people and the reason why thousands upon thousands left their homeland with the resolve to try to start life anew in the New World.

Upon receipt of the petitions the Chancellery sent these to the local authorities for their advice and comments which were entered on the back of the letters which were then returned. In some cases these remarks give additional information about the petitioners. From the little principality, which consisted only of three small towns: the capital Dillenburg, Haiger and the University town Herborn, and in addition twenty other villages and hamlets, no less than 209 persons, men, women and children, left during July and August, 1709. A minister named Dietz from Emmerichshain went from village to village preaching the Exodus, urging the people to flee "from the Egyptian slavery." He was promptly locked up in the tower of the castle. On May 18, 1709, a decree was issued forbidding the people to leave the country under threat of punishment, but the edict was rescinded in July.

In order to ascertain what the prospects were for the emigrants the following information was obtained from a resident of Rotterdam, the main port of embarkation. He was undoubtedly a native of Germany residing in the Netherlands, for the report is a mixture of almost unintelligible German and Dutch.

*"Rescript over eenige puncten an de Exulanten"*

"1) Ick kann de Resende nicht verseecken, wat de Konigin mit denen

<sup>3</sup>See such a testimonial in Knittle: *Early Eighteenth Century Palatine Emigration*, pp. 48-49.

<sup>4</sup>Queen Anne, who was instrumental in sending large numbers of the emigrants to the American colonies.

Leuten vorhet, marr als die gelt hebben kunnen sie by goeden wind binnen 2 Monat von London in die Insulen Pennsylvanyen od Carolina seeghen, en moet jedes heffet, groot en klein dem schipper 100 fl. Fahrgehalten, so bekommen sie die Kost.

"2) Die landeryen en vihe moeten sie in die insul bethalen, on kunnen a 30, 40, 50 bis 100 fl. dat sie gnoog hebben bekommen.

"3) Sie hebben kene privilegie en de fryheyt, marr se moeten glick denen anderen bethalen en contribueren, en wer so veel gelt vor 10, 20 personen fahrgelt betalet, sind die lijfgeigen en unterthanen, kann alsdann en ryker mann woerden en hebben koene officianten in die insul von doen.

"4) Die onera der goeder syndt wat mynder als in den Konikrick Engel --Schotten--Irlandt.

"5) Het koemt keen Reesender in die Insulen wann he keen gelt hefft, en worden die jungen Leute in Engel --Schotten--Irland om de orlogs schyppe exerciert, die Ambachs Leute in die 3 Konickryke han en weder verthelt, de hoers Leude an die see canten om de wircken aengewiesen.

"6) De Konigin kann onde Reesende niet helppen, wan die herrschap op ihre mobila en immobilia inhibition doen, maer moeten sick selfft helpen.

"7) De arme personen wecke de overfahrt van Roderdam bis London nit bethalen kunnen, moeten weder omkeheren en kostet die overfahrt jeder person 30 styber hollands gelt ohne die kost.

"8) Die Reesenden bekommen kein verlag van die Konigin dat sie anherokommen, en wer gelt het kann sick kohe en perde in die insul koopen.

"9) Die Konigin weet van denen Böökeren ist schrieben in Dütchland nie met all, mar sind ut Pennsylvanyen en koomen in Dütchland in druck gebracht en syndt falsche bööker en van den dyffel erdacht worden om de Leute ut Tüscland

an sick to bringen der Indianer en wilden thiere halven.

"10) De arme ut Dütchland vertrevene Leute damit sie binnen London gar niet hongers starven geft de Konigin ut den collecten en almosen taglich 3, 4 bis 5 stübr, nach advent, bis sie in die Konigryken vertheelt worden, en weilen sie dat lant en hitze niet vertragen kunnen, synd der schoon eue grote Anthal gestorben.

"11) Die Konigin will keene Exulanten en verdrevene mehr innehmen, en ist on den Coervorst van Nybourg geschreeven woorden keene mehr passieren en in die avisen den Exulanten met nachricht bekant gemacht woorden zuruck tu blieben.

"12) In Roderdam ist ook van Magistrat en Borgemester verboden keene scheepen met derglyken Leuten aen Land te bringen, wylen die Borgerschaft van den Leuden met beddelen seer incommodiert woorden, on word den Armen etwas an Brod ut den almosen gerechet, den andern so het bethalen kunnen niem at all gegeven.

"13) Ook bekommen de Reesende van die Konigin keene convoye in die insul zu zihen, wegen der seerauver, maar sie moeten a parte bethalen, dann die Konigin hefft dat Kriegsvolk gegen den feyndt van doen. Rodedam den 12 Aug. 1709.

"Alberty Dooren  
"Coopman in den Wener Haaffen"  
(Translation)

"1) I cannot be certain of the Queen's intentions with regard to these people, but those that have money can, with favorable wind, reach the "islands" of Pennsylvania or Carolina in two months; everyone, grown persons as well as children, have to pay a fare of 100 fl.(orins) each, which includes food.

"2) They have to pay for the land and the live stock in the "islands" (meaning America); 30, 40, 50 up to 100 fl. will suffice.

"3) They have no special privileges or freedom, but they have to pay and contribute the same as others, and those that are able to pay transportation for 10 to 20 persons, be

they formerly free or unfree, can become rich; there are no feudal duties in the "islands."

"4) The taxes are somewhat less than in the Kingdom of England, Scotland and Ireland.

"5) Travelers without money cannot proceed to the "islands." The young men are placed with the navy of England, Scotland and Ireland, the artisans are distributed over the three Kingdoms and the farmers are put to work along the coast.

"6) The Queen cannot help the travelers if their real and personal estate has been attached by their overlords, they have to help themselves.

"7) The poor people who cannot pay for their passage from Rotterdam to London are obliged to return. The trip costs 30 stivers Dutch money without sustenance.

"8) The travelers do not receive any advances from the Queen; those who have money can buy cows and horses in the "islands."

"9) The Queen does not know anything about the books written in Germany, which from Pennsylvania have been published in Germany, but there are false books inspired by the devil in order to bring the German people there at the mercy of the Indians and the wild beasts."

"10) In order that the poor, exiled people do not starve at London the Queen has ordered that daily 3, 4 up to 5 stivers are to be taken from the contributions and alms, according to the amount collected, to be distributed in the kingdoms. A large number have died on account of the heat.

"11) The Queen has decided not to admit any more refugees and has written to the Elector of Nybourg to this effect and asked him to let this be known to prospective emigrants.

Several book and pamphlets setting forth the advantages of settling in America were published at that time. These are mentioned, and some of the title pages shown in facsimile, in Knittle, *Early Eighteenth Century Palatine Emigration*, p. 12 ff.

<sup>5</sup>Mount is John William, Duke of Neuburg, an ally of England in the War of the Spanish Succession.

"12) The magistrate and Burgomasters of Rotterdam have ordered not to let any more people land because the citizens are annoyed by many beggars. The poor are given bread from the alms but those who can pay are given nothing.

"13) The travelers are given no convoy by the Queen against the pirates but they are required to pay their share in the maintenance of the army.

Rotterdam the 12th of August 1709

"Alberty Dooren  
"Merchant on the Wijnhaven"

But notwithstanding the warning of the various governments and the edicts forbidding the emigration, it is well known that large numbers continued to sail down the Rhine to Rotterdam from where even two delegates were sent in ships up the two rivers to try to stop the ever growing number of refugees. The suffering, the hardships, the disillusionments of these emigrants has been told in many books dealing with the Palatine immigration. The voyage by sea was full of perils. In 1754 a ship called the "Flamingsche Hund" (The Flemish Dog) was wrecked on a rock between Holland and England and between four and five hundred were drowned.

From the old papers referred to above the following names have been compiled. Among these, descendants may possibly discover their ancestor and his place of origin in Nassau-Dillenburg:

Johann Aszbach, Tuchmacher in Herborn  
Eberwein Richter, Bürger aus Herborn  
Johann Philipp Buszpetter, von Sinn  
Johann Conrad Petter, von Merckenbach  
Jost Schneider, Bürger und Bäckermeister zu Heiger

Joh. Filt, von Driedorf  
Johann Conrad Petter, zu Oberndorf  
Hans Peter Gring, auss Burek  
Jacob Weyel, von Driedorf  
Johannes Maul, von Hoff  
Hans Heinrich Hinder, von Herborn  
Johann Conrad Weber, von Bicken  
Johann Andreas Schmitt  
Johann Heinrich Schäfer  
Hans Georg Benhold  
Conrad Weber  
Matthias Christ, von Herborn

Johann Heinrich Weiss  
Christ. Petri, aus Mudersbach  
Johann Jacob Womerl  
Peter Funk  
Johann Müller, von Gondersdorf  
Simon Drubing, von Driedorf  
Johannes Stahl, von Driedorf  
Johann Friedrich Maul, von Gusternhain  
Johann Peter Strubing, von Amdorf  
Johann Jost Schmitt, von Schönbach  
Johann Heinrich Brest, von Schönbach  
Johann Heinrich Geiszler, von Steinbach  
Johann Roth  
Johann Heinrich Conrad  
Enners Schäfer  
Andreas Christ. Berg, aus Offenbach  
Johann Nicolas Closz, aus Bicken  
Hans Schäfer  
Johannes Meter  
Hans Georg Schäfer  
Anna, Catharina, Johanna Jost  
Jost Schneider, von Haiger  
Jost Heinrich Göst, von Herborn  
Hans Jacob Beschel, von Herborn  
Peter Rockefüsz  
Johann Polterich  
Christian und Conrad König, von Steinbach  
Tieman Roe, von Allendorf  
Johann Romppf  
Johann Heinrich, von Herborn  
Johannes Maul, von Hohenroth  
Heinrich Thomas, von Rubenscheid (?)  
Johann Heinrich Frantz, von Seilhofen  
(?), gebürtig in Gondersdorf  
Johann Theis Kuhn, von Burbach (?)  
Johann Heinrich Rohrbach  
Johann Kessler  
Eberwein Richter, aus Herborn  
Heinrich Schöning, von Dillenburg  
(There is some additional information about the last four).

## THE OATH OF ABJURATION,

1715-1716

The accession of George I of the House of Hanover to the throne of England on October 20, 1714, and the end of the reign of the House of Stuart with the death of Queen Anne on August 1, 1714, was reflected in the Colony of the Province of New York by an act passed on July 5, 1715, by the General Assembly "for Naturalizing all Protestants of Foreign Birth now Inhabiting within this Colony." The act provided "That every Such persons now alive shall within nine Months after the Publication hereof, take the Oaths by Law appointed to be taken, in Stead of the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy, Subscribe the Test, and make, repeat and Swear to, and Subscribe the abjuration Oath, in any of his Majesties Courts of Record within this Colony" . . .

The Abjuration Oath swore allegiance to King George "Lawfull and Rightfull King" as against all claimants to the Crown in the name of the late King James. The original parchment inscribed with this oath and signed by one hundred and twenty-five persons of foreign birth is preserved among the archives of this Society and a transcript of it is here printed for the first time. It is dated from July 12, 1715, to April 3, 1716, being the nine months allowed by the Act of the General Assembly for such persons to sign the oath and enjoy the same privileges of freedom as natives. These oaths were administered in the Mayor's Court of the City of New York and the names of the persons who signed this original document may be found in the Minutes of that Court, in the County Clerk's Office of this City. In the Mayor's Court Minutes additional information concerning those who signed the parchment is given such as the town where they resided and their occupation or trade. In the following list this information has been included and is indicated by the words in brackets.

RECORDS of the Names of Persons of Forreign Birth who are made his Majesties Natural Born Subjects Pursuant to the Directions of an Act of General Assembly of this Colony made in the first year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George by the Grace of God King of Great Brittan France and Ireland Defender of the