

THE EXILE HERALD

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Plans for Our Great Celebration

Two hundred years ago this minute what was your grandfather, several times removed, doing about coming to America? He likely was packing a few sandwiches for that longish trip from Silesia to Holland, and he was planning how best to get his family to the port of departure. He was almost six months on his journey from Saxony to Holland and sailing across the Atlantic.

What are you going to do to commemorate the great event that placed you in this land of the free and brought you to Penn's great state instead of landing in Georgia?

The Society of the Descendants for the most part is merging its program with the rather extensive plans of the committees representing the Schwenkfelder churches. After all is said and done this migration of our ancestors was a movement with a religious motive. If they had not taken their religion seriously no one would have cared how the babies were baptized in Harpersdorf. But because those ancestors did care intensely about religion, they did something about their indignities, but not by accumulating ammunition and guns. They went to other climes, and here we are!

The program for the two hundredth celebration of their landing will be a notable occasion. Every Exile Descendant will wish to have a part in it. He will be proud to tell his children or grandchildren that he was present when the 200th anniversary was observed, and there *will* be opportunity to share in the program.

This number is sent to many who are not members of the Society

During the summer, early in August, there will be a pageant at Salford, one of the oldest churches of the faith. There in the beautiful grove given to the church by Wayne Meschter and his wife will be a perfect setting for a pageant with monologues giving in four scenes the story of the flight and arrival in America. Several writers are now at work on the script for this performance which will be worth a long journey to see. An efficient committee is now at work on the details for this event. Readers will recall that the Society sponsored a pageant at Perkiomen School several years ago.

There will be three days of celebration in September. The program will begin on Saturday the 22nd in the old meeting house of the Friends at Fourth and Arch Streets, Philadelphia. Permission to use the Meeting House for this purpose has already been graciously given by the Friends. It was somewhere near this spot, according to tradition, that our ancestors first met after the landing.

Sunday, the celebration moves to the Upper District, where in the commodious and hospitable church at Palm there will be a meeting in the afternoon when the combined choirs of the Schwenkfelder churches will give The Messiah. That evening there will be a special speaker of prominence.

Monday will be the anniversary of the Memorial service and this will be held in old Towamencin, in whose churchyard a number of emigrants lie buried. Here will be served the usual Memorial day lunch of bread, butter and apple butter. There will be several exceptional addresses.

In connection with the program, plans are being made for the erection of memorial stones in each of six cemeteries with the names of the emigrants there buried. In addition, smaller stones with the number of the emigrant according to the records of the ship list of the St. Andrew, on which the trip was made, will be placed on individual graves. These stones will be a permanent record of the interest the descendants have in the celebration of the anniversary. Opportunity will be given for contributions to the cost of erecting these stones. This offers a definite way in which Exiles, although unable to attend the exercises can yet be represented.

Investigation by the committee in charge of this phase of the work has uncovered the fact that there are graves of thirty of the emigrants which are yet unmarked. Others are marked only with crude field stones. Here is another opportunity for the descendants of these Exiles to honor the memory of those who endured the pioneering work in this country.

Plan to Join the Pilgrimage

One of the most interesting phases of the celebration this year of the 200th Anniversary of the arrival of the main body of the Exiles in Pennsylvania centers around the trip abroad—the return visit of the Descendants of the Exiles to the towns whence their ancestors came to the hills of Pennsylvania. This delegation will be led by Wayne C. Meschter and his family. The complete list of those who expect to go is not yet available. Many who hope to go are still accumulating the cost of the trip, about \$500. Information concerning plans may be obtained from Wayne C. Meschter, 126 Roberts Ave., Glenside, Pa.

Exiles Will Place Tablet

For a number of years there has been discussion among the members of the Exile Society about the placing of a marker of some sort in Philadelphia near the spot where the St. Andrew landed when most of our forefathers arrived in Philadelphia. The exact spot has been fairly well determined as at the S. E. Corner of Walnut and Front Streets. But there is not a suitable place to attach a bronze tablet marking this spot.

The governors of the Society have considered placing such a marker in some nearby public spot where there is a fair certainty that it will remain for many years undisturbed. Washington Square and the vicinity of the meeting house of the Friends at Fourth and Arch have been mentioned, as well as other less desirable places. A committee of the Board of Governors is investigating possible spots, the Board having decided to erect this marker as one of its tangible contributions to the year's activities.

We Accept the Invitation of Frederick the Great

Yes, we are going to accept the invitation of Frederick the Great to come back home, but not to stay. When this invitation to return to the land of our forefathers was issued by Frederick the Great on March 8, 1742 he had no idea that it would not be accepted for two hundred years.

For more than twenty years we have planned this trip and now we are going about July 1st, but are to return about August 15th. We have not yet worked out all the details, but from investigations made we can assure our readers that we shall be welcomed by the authorities. The definite itinerary is being arranged. The larger the party the less the cost per person, but we can announce that if twenty-five make the pilgrimage the cost will be only \$500 including all expenses. A group of fifty will reduce the cost per person considerably, but we hope to have a party of at least one hundred, and then the cost will be still less.

The year 1934 should be a sacrificial year for the Schwenkfelders. Our forefathers left all their possessions that they could not carry with them. They sacrificed their all for us, their descendants. We can honor them by making this pilgrimage.

Dr. Jones at Coming Meeting

The Spring meeting of the Exile Society will be held at Salford, Saturday afternoon, May 26th. Dr. Rufus Jones, who is just retiring from his place as Professor of Philosophy at Haverford College, will be the Speaker. He is an outstanding Friend and one of the world's greatest mystics. Better mark the date now, there probably will be no other issue of THE EXILE HERALD. The usual announcements will be sent out however.

The program will be of a historical nature, as is fitting the nearness to the 200th Anniversary of the Arrival of the Exiles in Pennsylvania. A committee headed by Dr. S. K. Brecht is making plans for this meeting as well as the one in the fall.

A number of interesting possibilities for the programs of the two meetings were discussed by a full meeting of the Board of Governors on February 17th. Next Fall there will undoubtedly be a report to the Society from those members who this summer make the pilgrimage to Silesia. Those who are unable to go will be eager to hear what the favored ones saw and heard on their trip.

LIST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE DESCENDANTS OF THE SCHWENKFELDIAN EXILES

JANUARY 1, 1934

Adams (Mrs.), Frieda Kriebel, 2122 Highland Street, West Lawn, Reading, Pa.	
Amonson, Mrs. Emma.....	922 West Marshall Street, Norristown, Pa.
Anders, Andrew A., M.D.....	1706 Diamond Street, Philadelphia, Pa.
Anders, Daniel M.....	11 East Airy Street, Norristown, Pa.
Anders, Mrs. Eveline S.....	Curren Terrace, R. F. D. 4, Norristown, Pa.
Anders, Mrs. J. Leidy.....	1118 West Airy Street, Norristown, Pa.
*Anders, James M., M.D.....	250 South Seventeenth Street, Philadelphia, Pa.
Anders, Monroe H.....	Ardmore, Pa.
Anders, Morrell Z.....	4935 Pulaski Avenue, Germantown, Pa.
Anders, Russell.....	R. F. D. No. 2, Norristown, Pa.
Anders, Warren Z., M.D.....	Collegeville, Pa.
Barrett, Mrs. Laura A.....	30 East Freedley Street, Norristown, Pa.
Bean, Theodore Lane.....	317 Swede Street, Norristown, Pa.
Beyer, Alvin D.....	1809 DeKalb Street, Norristown, Pa.
Beyer, Emma C.....	1809 DeKalb Street, Norristown, Pa.
Bobb, Miss Minnie.....	Lansdale, Pa.
Brecht, Arthur M.....	83 Eagle Road, Manoa, Upper Darby, Pa.
Brecht, George K.....	926 West Marshall Street, Norristown, Pa.
Brecht, Harold W.....	201 Cricket Avenue, Ardmore, Pa.
*Brecht, Samuel K.....	83 Eagle Road, Manoa, Upper Darby, Pa.
Breitenbaugh, Mrs. Annie.....	501 North Broad Street, Lansdale, Pa.
Buckenham, Miss Adelaide Marion.....	Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, Pa.
Buckenham, Miss Clara Virginia.....	Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, Pa.
*Buckenham, John Edgar Burnett, M.D.....	Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, Pa.
Cassel, Harry.....	307 Linden Avenue, Haddonfield, N. J.
Cassel, Oscar Heebner.....	14 Park Avenue, Millbourne, Upper Darby, Pa.
Clark, Mrs. Elmira Heebner.....	4605 North Tenth Street, Philadelphia, Pa.
Clothier, Mrs. William J.....	Valley Forge, Pa.
Cole, Mrs. Samuel V.....	6141 Oxford Street, Overbrook, Philadelphia, Pa.
Cook, Mrs. Helen Shultz.....	243 High Street, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.
Craven, A. Sanford.....	505 Independence Avenue, Oak Lane, Philadelphia, Pa.
Crawford, Mrs. Martha H.....	623 Swede Street, Norristown, Pa.
Danehower, Mrs. H. B.....	1032 West Marshall Street, Norristown, Pa.
Daub, Miss Sadie Seifert.....	20 Huron Avenue, Norwood, Pa.
Daub, Samuel S.....	Green Lake, Maine
Day, Mrs. Alexander S.....	2321 West Tioga Street, Philadelphia, Pa.
Doll, Mrs. Amanda K.....	511 Mohawk Avenue, Norwood, Pa.
Dresher, Mrs. Ella.....	523 Columbia Avenue, Lansdale, Pa.
Dresher, Raymond.....	523 Columbia Avenue, Lansdale, Pa.
Ettinger, James A.....	414 Merchant Street, Audubon, N. J.
Evans, Hon. Burd Patterson.....	"Fairfield Farms," Trappe, Montgomery Co., Pa.
Farrell, Mrs. John L.....	20 Huron Avenue, Norwood, Pa.
Fisher, John S.....	4632 North Warnock Street, Logan, Philadelphia, Pa.
Fry, Mrs. Alma Schultz.....	1321 Markley Street, Norristown, Pa.
Genszler, Mrs. Florence S.....	R. F. D., Barto, Pa.
Gerhard, Homer S.....	1024 West Marshall Street, Norristown, Pa.

Gerhard, Josephus Clayton, Pa.
 Gerhard, Marvin S. 735 Noble Street, Norristown, Pa.
 Gerhard, Samuel P., M.D. 639 North Sixteenth Street, Philadelphia, Pa.
 *Getelman, Ralph, M.D. 2011 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.
 Glass, Mrs. Marion Weber 39 North Whitehall Road, Norristown, Pa.
 Groff, Henry C., M.D. Broad and Venango Streets, Philadelphia, Pa.
 Groff, J. W., M.D. 3500 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pa.
 Hartranft, John Harrison 1824 Ruscomb Street, Philadelphia, Pa.
 Heebner, Charles K. 543 West Ellet Street, Philadelphia, Pa.
 Heebner, Earl W. R. F. D. 5, Norristown, Pa.
 Heebner, Miss Ellen K. Pennsburg, Pa.
 Heebner, Ernest A. R. F. D. 2, Norristown, Pa.
 Heebner, George K. 1337 Hunting Park Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa.
 Heebner, Rev. Harvey K. 2509 North Thirtieth Street, Philadelphia, Pa.
 Heebner, Miss Ida J. 4605 North Tenth Street, Philadelphia, Pa.
 Henwood, Mrs. Sarah B. 43 North Whitehall Road, Norristown, Pa.
 Heydrick, Mrs. Sophia K. 77 North Highland Avenue, Norristown, Pa.
 Heydrick, Miss Stella 77 North Highland Avenue, Norristown, Pa.
 Hickman, Mrs. Leila F. 4934 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.
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 Hoffman, Rev. Levi S. 739 West Main Street, Lansdale, Pa.
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 Johnson, Rev. Elmer E. S., Ph.D. Hereford, Pa.
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 Kriebel, Miss Lillian R. 244 Jacoby Street, Norristown, Pa.
 Kriebel, Mrs. Nora Meschter 1022 West Main Street, Norristown, Pa.
 Kriebel, Mrs. Nora Meschter Hereford, Pa.
 Kriebel, Rev. E. Wilbur 2004 Hanover Street, Allentown, Pa.
 Kriebel, William S. 6121 McCallum Street, Germantown, Pa.
 Kurtz, Edgar H. 122 High Street, Pottstown, Pa.
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 *Little, Mrs. Eleanor Slingluff 1700 DeKalb Street, Norristown, Pa.
 Lloyd, Mrs. Annie B. 405 Derstine Avenue, Lansdale, Pa.
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 Longaker, Miss Mae. "The Tracy," 36th and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia, Pa.
 Lowrie, Mrs. Robert N. 210 Hawkins Avenue, North Braddock, Pa.
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 *McHarg, Mrs. Elizabeth R. F. D. 1, Norristown, Pa.
 Mathias, Miss Ethel Hamilton Apartments, Norristown, Pa.
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 Maxwell, Mrs. Irene Longaker, "The Llewellyn," Park Place, Atlantic City, N. J.
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 Meschter, Prof. Charles K. 1221 Loraine Avenue, Bethlehem, Pa.

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 Porter, William Hobart 1500 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.
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 Rudy, Mrs. Alice Meschter 1731 W. Huntingdon Street, Philadelphia, Pa.
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 Schultz, Oscar S. 142 Reading Avenue, Boyertown, Pa.
 Schultz, Raymond A. Mt. Penn, Pa.
 Schultz, Walter A. 246 State Road, Highland Park, Upper Darby, Pa.
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 *Seipt, Miss Mary 2035 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.
 Seipt, Samuel Wyndmoor Avenue, Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, Pa.
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White, Clarence E. 923 Wilde Avenue, Upper Darby, Pa.
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 Wolford, Mrs. Alice Stahlnecker 1323 Locust Street, Norristown, Pa.
 Wright, Mrs. Franklin L. R. F. D. 4, Norristown, Pa.
 Yeakel, Miss Sarah Jane 280 Roseville Avenue, Newark, N. J.
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 Yeakle, Walter A., M.D. 600 DeKalb Street, Norristown, Pa.
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