

Palatine Emigrants to America from the Oppenheim Area, 1742-1749

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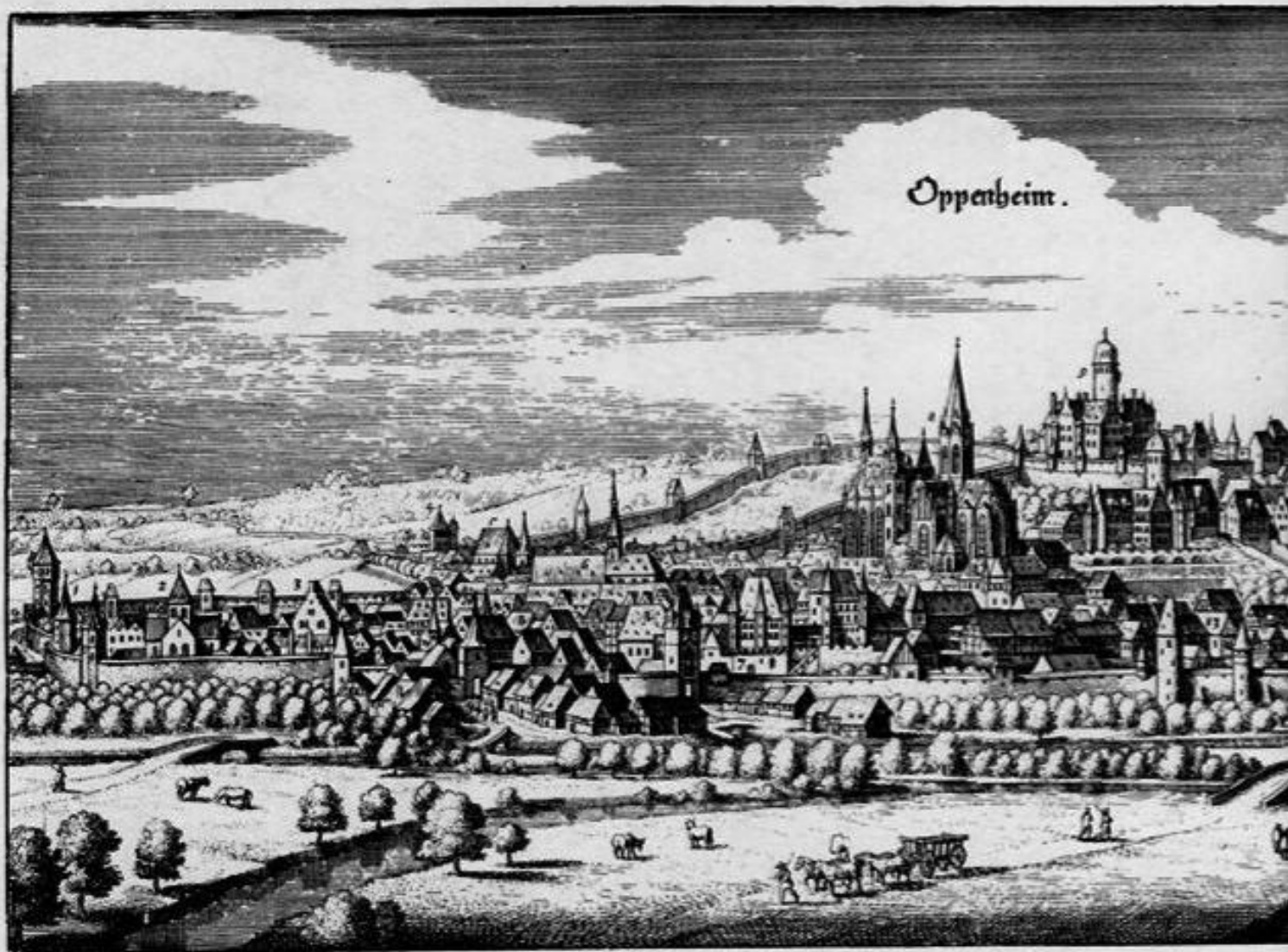
Translated and Edited by Don Yoder

[The following emigrant list is translated from the article entitled "Amerika-Auswanderer aus dem Oberamt Oppenheim 1742-49," in *Hessische Familienkunde*, XXV (1968), columns 342-345. The towns and villages mentioned can be found on the map South of the City of Mainz, in the area known today as Rheinhessen, part of the present German state of Rheinland-Pfalz.—EDITOR.]

The protocols of the former Electoral Palatine Oberamt of Oppenheim, deposited in the City Archives at Oppenheim on the Rhine, contain some names of em-

igrants from the first half of the 18th Century. They specify, however, only the permission to emigrate, not the emigration itself. Most of those who intended to emigrate and who received permission, did in fact emigrate.¹ There were some who in spite of permission received did not manage to emigrate at the time, as the example of Wendel Runckel of Oberingelheim shows. In view of the scarcity of documentation for

¹As usual in this series of articles, the names have been checked against the Philadelphia ship lists as given in Strassburger-Hinke, *Pennsylvania German Pioneers* (Norristown, Pennsylvania, 1934).



Oppenheim, from Merian's Topographia Germaniae (1672)

18th Century emigration, a source as important as the Oppenheim Protocols should not be neglected.

The former Electoral Palatine Oberamt of Oppenheim consisted of the city of Oppenheim, the market town of Nierstein, and the villages of Dexheim, Schwabsburg, Ober- and Niederingelheim, Daxweiler, Sauerschwabenheim, Grosswinternheim, Wackerenheim, Freiweinheim, Bubenheim, Elsheim, Stackeden, and Essenheim. The very numerous emigrants from Essenheim are not included here, since they have already been published.²

EMIGRANTS FROM THE YEAR 1742

1. The Electoral Palatine government granted its subjects in Stackeden *Lorentz Bläss*, *Peter Westerberger*, *Johann Kiehl*, *Friedrich Mengel*, and *Johannes Daum* the permission to emigrate to Pennsylvania, "where they already have relatives living" [*all wo sie schon*

²Friedrich Krebs and Milton Rubincam, *Emigrants from the Palatinate to the American Colonies in the 18th Century* (Norristown, Pennsylvania, 1953).

Freunde wohnen haben], and handed over to them the manumission certificates. *Lorentz Place*, *Johannes Kühl*, *Johannes Domie*, *Frietz Mengel*, and *Peter Wasenburger* landed at Philadelphia on the Ship *Loyal Judith*, September 3, 1742 (Strassburger-Hinke, List 93A-C). In List A Bläss is listed as 44 years of age, Westerberger as 30, Kiehl as 29, Mengel as 48, and Daum as 40.

2. With a rescript dated April 17, 1742, *Friedrich Pfeil*, *Johann Lehn*, and *Jacob Winterheimer*, from Grosswinternheim, received permission to emigrate and landed at Philadelphia on the Ship *Loyal Judith*, September 3, 1742 (Strassburger-Hinke, List 93 A-C). In List A Pfeil is described as 50 years of age, Lehn as 40, and Winterheimer as 40.

3. According to a report from Oberingelheim dating from 1742, four subjects there, *Philips Odernheimer*, *Peter Weitzel*, *Ulrich Strassburger*, and the widow of *Nicolas Dörr*, are said to have "sent their grown sons to the New Land, a few weeks ago, and with the knowledge of the entire village gave each one of them 100 florins and various victuals for the trip. These sons were still subject to vassal duties and were even incorporated into the last conscription of young men" [*vor einigen Wochen ihre erwachsene und in Homagialpflichten stehende auch der letzt eingeschickten Conscription der jungen Mannschaft einverleibte Söhne ins neue Landt geschicket und jedem mit Wissen des ganzen Orths 100 fl nebst verschiedenen Victualien mit auff die Reiss gegeben*]. The village mayor of Oberingelheim had on this account to answer for them. Of the sons of the inhabitants named above, *Johannes Odernheimer*, *Johann Paul Weytzel*, *Johann Henrich Dörr*, and *Johann Andreas Strassburger* can be found as passengers on the emigrant ship *Loyal Judith*, arriving at Philadelphia, September 3, 1742 (Strassburger-Hinke, List 93 A-C).³ List A gives Odernheimer's age as 22, Weitzel 26, Dörr 23, and Strassburger 25.

EMIGRANTS FROM THE YEAR 1743

4. On February 25, 1743, *Philips Hardt* of Niederingelheim received permission to emigrate upon payment of the tithe (tenth penny). He landed at Philadelphia on the Ship *Loyal Judith*, September 2, 1743 (Strassburger-Hinke, List 97A-C). List A gives his age as 50.

5. On the same day also *Nicolaus Runckel* and *Nicolaus Keller* of Wackerenheim received permission to emigrate. They too appear in the ship lists on the *Loyal Judith*, September 2, 1743 (Strassburger-Hinke, List 97A-C). List A gives Runckel's age as 27, Keller's as 28.

³The last-named, who came to America the second time in October 1769 on the Ship *Minerva* (Strassburger-Hinke, List 276 C), was an ancestor of Ralph Beaver Strassburger, later president of the Pennsylvania German Society and responsible for publishing *Pennsylvania German Pioneers* edited by William J. Hinke.



EMIGRANTS FROM THE YEAR 1748

6. *Friedrich Ploz (Plotz)* and *Adam Imhausser (Immenhauser)* from Stackeden on February 3, 1748, received permission to leave for the "Island of Pennsylvania" [*Insul Pinsylvaniam*], on payment of 15 and 10 florins respectively for buying out their vassalage and payment of the tithe (tenth penny). They landed at Philadelphia on the Ship *Hampshire* on September 7, 1748 (Strassburger-Hinke, List 118 A-C). List A gives Ploz's age as 36, Imhausser's as 25.

7 *Franz Graff (Grove)* with wife and two children, *Bartel Kramer* with wife and five children, *Adam Weiss* with his wife, all of Grosswinternheim, and *Wilhelm Laymeister* with wife and children from Schwabenheim, were permitted to emigrate on payment of the tithe (tenth penny), on March 9, 1748. On the same date the propertyless residents (*Beisassen*) *Wolfgang Wolf* and *Hostermann* (?) of Grosswinternheim, were manumitted gratis. They landed at Philadelphia—*Frantz Grove*, *Johann Wilhelm Leymeister*, *Wolfgang Wulff*, *Hans Jacob Ostermann*, and *Johann Adam Weiss*—on the Ship *Hampshire*, September 7, 1748 (Strassburger-Hinke, List 118 A-C). List A gives Graff's age as 54, Laymeister's as 58, Wolf's as 36, and Ostermann's as 28.

8 *Johann Bischoff* from Grosswinternheim, who because of debt had to sell his property and was not in condition to support himself, was granted permission to emigrate on March 29, 1748. He landed at Philadelphia with the aforementioned, on the Ship *Hampshire*, September 7, 1748 (Strassburger-Hinke, List 118 A-C). List A gives his age as 34.

9 *Johann Jacob Runckel* and *Friedrich Hammer*, from Wackernheim, were granted permission to emigrate on May 14, 1748. They had to pay 40 and 10 florins respectively for the permission. They landed at Philadelphia on the Ship *Hampshire*, September 7, 1748 (Strassburger-Hinke, List 118 A-C). List A gives Runckel's age as 27, Hammer's as 35.

10. *Christian Ramb* from Elshem had to pay 43 florins for permission to emigrate, but could not be identified in the ship lists.

EMIGRANTS FROM THE YEAR 1749

11 *Philipp Haber* from Stackeden with wife and three children paid 54 florins for manumission on March 21, 1749, and 54 florins for the tithe (tenth penny). He landed at Philadelphia on the Ship *Isaac*, September 27, 1749 (Strassburger-Hinke, List 38 C).

12 *Nicolaus Reisinger* from Niederingelheim received permission to emigrate on April 16, 1749, on payment of the tithe (tenth penny), and arrived at Philadelphia on the Ship *Dragon*, September 26, 1749 (Strassburger-Hinke, List 137 C).

13 *Adam Dorr*, *Anton Oster*, and *Wendel Runckel* of Oberingelheim received permission to emigrate on

April 29, 1749, Dörr after payment of the tithe (tenth penny), Oster and Runckel gratis, since all three were "without property and of bad conduct" [*ohne Vermögen und schlechten Wandels*]. Dörr landed at Philadelphia on the Ship *St Andrew*, September 9, 1749 (Strassburger-Hinke, List 128 C), Oster on the Ship *Dragon*, September 26, 1749 (Strassburger-Hinke, List 137 C). Runckel on the contrary did not emigrate and stayed in Oberingelheim, although the Oberamt was in favor of his removal, since he was "dissolute and poor" [*hedertlich und arm*].⁴

14 *Friedrich Bohr* from Wackernheim had to pay a supplementary tax of 10 florins, received the permission to emigrate on May 14, 1749, and landed at Philadelphia on the Ship *St Andrew*, September 9, 1749 (Strassburger-Hinke, List 128 C).

15. *Christian Meckel* from Elshem, with wife and three children, was permitted to emigrate in return for a supplementary tax of 26 florins. Yet the inheritance of his eldest son, who stayed behind, was first to be secured and established as bearing interest. *Christian Meckel* landed at Philadelphia on the Ship *Isaac*, September 27, 1749 (Strassburger-Hinke, List 138 C).

16 *Philipp Merz*, locksmith in Nierstein, paid the tithe (tenth penny), receiving permission to emigrate on April 29, 1749, and landed at Philadelphia on the Ship *Edinburgh*, September 15, 1749 (Strassburger-Hinke, List 132 C).

17 *Ulrich Jordan (Jordte)*, a Mennonite (*Wiedertäufer*) from the Haxthausenhof near Ingelheim, likewise paid the tithe (tenth penny), and landed at Philadelphia on the Ship *St Andrew*, September 9, 1749 (Strassburger-Hinke, List 128 C).

18 *Catharina Pfeiffer*, widow, Roman Catholic, from Essenheim, went "secretly" to Pennsylvania, without permission of the authorities, on account of which her assets which remained behind were laid under attachment.

19 *Johann Rooss* and *Abraham Schweickart* from Niederingelheim likewise went "secretly" to the New Land, and their property was confiscated too. One *Johanes Ross* arrived at Philadelphia on the Ship *Dragon*, September 26, 1749, the name following his in the ship list is *Friedrich Schweickhart* (Strassburger-Hinke, List 137 C).

⁴The Reverend John William Runkel (1749-1832), distinguished German Reformed minister who served, among others, the Carlisle, Lebanon, Frederick, Gettysburg, and New York charges, was born at Oberingelheim, April 28, 1749, son of Wendel and Julia Ann (Wertzel) Runkel. Wendel Runkel emigrated with his family in 1764, arriving at Philadelphia on the Ship *Richmond*, October 20, 1764 (Strassburger-Hinke, List 247 C). The son died at Gettysburg, November 5, 1832. He kept a copious journal of his life and ministry which is now unfortunately lost. It was used to prepare the biography in Henry Harbaugh, *The Fathers of the German Reformed Church in Europe and America*, second edition, II (1872), 284-308.—EDITOR.