***THE SCHWENKFELDERS IN WORCESTER***

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In writing a sketch of the Schwenkfelder settlement in Worcester, and in Norriton Townships I shall endeavor to present to the readers at least a few facts, which have, hither to, not been generally known. Having been affiliated with, and by birth right a member of the Worcester Church, I have always been interested in it and the surrounding territory. Since childhood I have observed old land marks. Later I took notes from various sources, old deeds and manuscripts. I am also greatly indebted to Mr. Jacob D. Heebner, of Norriton, the late Henry H. Heebner, the late Rev. William S. Anders, of Worcester, and other members of the Church for valuable information and assistance.

Upon the arrival of the Schwenkfelders in Pennsylvania on September 22, 1734, we find, that in the present Worcester Township, there were no more than twenty-five settlers.

The earliest record we have of a Schwenkfelder settling in the vicinity of the church was in March 1737, when Abraham Beyer and his wife, Rosina (Yeakel) and their children. Abraham, Andrew, Anna, Rosina and Anna Maria, who had lauded on the previous October 19, 1736, having arrived on the ship Perthamboy. This was on the present farm of John H. Schultz, in Norriton. Here Mr Beyer lived seventeen years and died October 30, 1754. aged sixty-four years.

Other settlements were, viz: Hans Christopher Heebner, on the present William G. Freed farm in Worcester. Hans was a son of Christopher Heebner, who arrived in Pennsylvania on the ship St. Andrew Galley on September 26, 1737, settling in Lower Salford Township, on the property lately owned by Jacob R. Detwiler, deceased. The maiden name of the mother of Hans Christopher Heebner was Maria Yeaklc, who was an accomplished writer. Sue wrote many books, in such artistic style in the German language, that they look almost like the real German print. They are very much admired and sought after by antiquarians.

One David Heebner arrived on the ship St. Andrew, September 22, 1734, and settled near the present Worcester church. This property the writer had difficulty in locating. One authority, however, states it to be the present home of Jacob D. Heebner, nevertheless we are not able to produce the evidence.

Andreas Beer, whose name does not appear in the "Record," but who was possibly a Schwenkfelder. arrived on the ship Perthambov, October 19, 1736. and settled on the property formerly belonging to Michael H. Grater, now belonging to Elwood W. Anders.

Abraham Yeakle. who arrived on the ship St. Andrew, September 22, 1734, also settled near the present Worcester church, undoubtedly on the farm now owned by Jeremiah K. Anders.

Anna Wagner, whose husband, Melchior Wagner, died in Germany prior to her departure for Pennsylvania, and whose maiden name was Yeakle, came to Pennsylvania in 1737 with her children, Abraham, Melchior and Susanna. It is believed this family resided upon the farm lately in possession of Albert Kutz in Worcester Township. Abraham, afterwards known as Dr. Abraham Wagner, resided where the residence of Edward H. Casselberry is now. Melchior Wagner later came into possession of the farm now owned by James Evans, in eastern Worcester. A son of this Melchior Wagner, namely David, was influenced by Jemima Wilkinson, a notorious religious enthusiast, to move to New York, where his descendants became numerous and prominent.

George Yeakle came to Pennsylvania in 1734. He lived with Dr. Abraham Wagner in Worcester township, and died single on September 11, 1764, aged 68 years. He was possibly a relative of Dr. Wagner. Christopher Wagner and David Wagner, brothers, came to Pennsylvania with their widowed mother, Anna Wagner, September 26, 1737. In 1754 Christopher Wagner bought 54 acres in Worcester township, now the present Henry H. Heebner estate. Up on a small stable, adjoining the main barn, is a relic, made by the said Wagner. It is a weather-vane, consisting of an upright piece of iron, about 2½ feet high, near the top of which is an ornamental, half-paddle, of the same material, about one foot in length by a half foot in width, bearing the initials C. W., 1755. This weather-vane is still doing service, and for over a century and a half has told the N. E. S. W. to the different owners of this property.

David Wagner, brother of the above Christopher Wagner, did not remain in Worcester. In 1773 he purchased a tract of land from the Penns, situated on the Bushkill Creek, near the present city of Easton, and made it the place of his permanent residence. On his tombstone is this inscription: "Beneath this marble are deposited the remains of David Wagner, Esq., late of the borough of Easton. one of the Associate Judges of Northampton County, born in Silesia, in Germany. May 24, 1736, and departed this life, May 9, 1796, aged 59 years 11 months and 15 days."

In the early part of the year of 1762, we find that Christopher Heebner bought of Frederick Cressman, in Norriton Township, a farm containing 122 acres. This property still remains in the hands of one of the descendants, J. Wayne Heebner. A part of the present Joseph L. Heebner farm was also included in the tract.

We also find that one Melchior Heebner, a son of John Heebner, of Falckner Schwam, now Frederick Township, married on February 11, 1752, and settled in Worcester Township, in all probability the present home of Milton O. Landis, and while assisting in taking in the second crop of hay fell from the wagon, and of the injuries he received died September 17, 1754.

Thus we have endeavored to locate a few of the pioneer Schwenkfelder settlers in Worcester, and in Norriton Townships. It would be a laborious task, and would, indeed, fill an immense volume in attempting to locate, and describe the various purchases of farms and homes until the present day.

As years passed, we find that, especially east, south and west of the present church, one farm after another was purchased by a Schwenkfelder. Today, and within sight of the church, is a solid Schwenkfelder settlement, and can be seen the beautiful homes and the fertile farms of Jeremiah K. Anders, Hiram M. Anders, Henry R. Anders, George A. Seipt. Henry A. Markley, John K. Krieble, Levi Beyer, Harvey S. Krauss. Josiah D. Heebner, Jacob D. Heebner, J. Wayne Heebner. Elwood W. Anders, John H. Schultz and others, all members of the Worcester Schwenkfelder Church.

It is needless to dwell upon the poverty, and the hardships of the lives of those early settlers. Besides clearing the land, building log-houses and tilling the soil, it seems that many earned a livelihood by weaving and spinning.

In 1758 mention is made by a historian of the erection of a grist and a saw-mill, at a point where the Zachariah Creek crosses the Skippack road. This must have been on the present site of the mill owned and operated by William Z. Kriebel. Here no doubt the farmers brought their various grains to be ground for their live stock and household purposes. Prior to the erection of this mill, we are told, they journeyed to Flourtown, on the Wissahickon, to have their grinding done. How different today - in many instances, the farmers are now equipped with their own grinding outfits.

During the French and Indian War a number of Schwenkfelders raised by subscription, a handsome sum of money, in aid of the Friend's Association, to gain and preserve peace among the exasperated Indians on the frontiers. It was signed by forty-two persons and is dated on November 13, 1756. Amongst the contributors of the Schwenkfelders in Worcester, we find the names of the Beyer's Estate, Hans Christopher Heebner, David Heebner, Abraham Yeakle and Christopher Wagner.

On March 1, 1764, a subscription paper was also circulated to raise funds for the support of a school to be erected and maintained by the Schwenkfelders. Hans Christopher Heebner and Abraham Yeakle were heavy contributors to the cause.

During the troublesome . times of the American Revolution, on one occasion we find Washington' s Army encamped at the Pennypacker Mills near Schwenksville. A large part of the army at one time moved in an easterly direction, following the route of the present Skippack road. Upon reaching the Wentz's hotel, then a short distance above the present village of Center Point, on land now be longing to William A. Schultz, they made inquiry for a good place to feed their horses. They were directed to the large farm of Christopher Wagner (now H. H. Heebner's Estate) Wagner happening to be in the vicinity overheard the inquiry and hurriedly started on foot for his home. But ere he reached his destination a large number of cavalrymen had already arrived. They rode their horses into the Wagner barnyard, dismounted and closed the gates. They then removed the bridles and saddles, while a number of soldiers went up into the grain mows of the barn, helping themselves to wheat and oats in the sheaves, and strewed a plentiful supply in the barnyard for their horses.

Before the erection of a church at Worcester, we have the evidence that a few of the first settlers were interred in the Lower Salford Schwenkfelder burial grounds, where interments were made as early as 1738. A large number were also interred in the Towamensing Schwenkfelder cemetery, where among the earliest interments, we find the grave of one bearing the initials A. R. W. 1745.

In the western part of Worcester township, on a slope of the Methacton ridge, and to the northward of the village of Fairview lies an ancient graveyard. This is now used by the Mennonites as a burial place, as a meeting house of that denomination is closely adjoining. Within its limits lies buried the celebrated Christopher Saur, who printed the first Bible in America, and who resided in Germantown.

It is generally supposed that the graveyard belongs to that sect, as it really does by right of long possession ; but it seems that the land was primarily not granted to any religious body for burial purposes. In the olden time, at least, prior to 1740, and by provisions of the original deed, the plot was given as a free burial place for the people of the township, irrespective of any denomination. This was prior to the erection of any church in this section, and it was at first used as such. The meeting house was erected quite a while afterwards (probably about 1812) and the majority of the people then being Mennonites, it very naturally came to be considered as belonging by legal right to that denomination. It would, in deed, be very interesting, from a historical point of view, to verify the fact if it can be done. Of course, the original deed is not on record in Norristown and possibly not in Philadelphia, but probably exists somewhere in the hands of private parties in Worcester or Norriton Townships, unless destroyed by persons unaware of its historical value. We were informed that the late Jacob B. Metz, deceased, of Lansdale, who some years ago resided in Norriton Township, on the property now owned by Amos S. Anders and occupied by Abraham S. Bowman, that he actually saw the document, then a long while ago, that he could therefore testify that such a legal paper was in existence. It was then in the possession of his father, but afterwards passed out of his hands. Have any of our readers in that section any knowledge of the subject?

Here at Methacton quite a number of the pioneer Schwenkfelders of Worcester and Norriton found their last resting places.

Here we located the grave of Dr. Abraham Wagner, (above mentioned) who died May 5, 1763, aged 48 years, and his wife, Maria Wagner, who was a sister of the Rev. Christopher Krieble, of Lower Salford and who died March 19, 1760. Dr. Abraham Wagner was an earnest, broadminded Christian, and a great reader. On one occasion we find that he wrote a beautiful letter to Muhlenberg. He also wrote a large number of poems, which he began composing before he was 18 years of age, and continued writing until his death. More than fifty of these poems are still preserved. In a large volume, "Religious Denominations of the United States and Great Britain," (1861) this Dr. Wagner is recorded as being a Schwenkfelder preacher. This, the editors of the Genealogical Record of the Schwenkfelders, (1879) fail to notice.

Here, at Methacton, we also located the graves of the Beyer's as early as 1744**-** Yeakle's, as early as 1768, Heebner's 1773, etc. This place of interment is still used by the descend ants till this day.

We wish also to call the attention of the reader to two small graveyards in Worcester where rest the remains of a few primitive Schwenkfelder settlers. The Heebner-Heydrick-Wagner graveyard. This burial plot is located on the farm of Christopher Wagner, lately in the possession of his great-grandson, Henry H. Heebner, deceased. The number of graves here is not definitely known. One authority states that there were at least a dozen, perhaps a few more. There being only two marble stones, the rest of the graves being unmarked. Hence it is impossible to determine the interments here. The last person who knew all the names of those lying therein was a Miss Heydrick, who died many years ago, and who was an aunt of Mr. Heebner. She had written the names for Mr. Heebner, and he was sorry to say, "he either lost or mislaid the paper." Since the death of Mr. Heebner on June 25, 1908, this paper was found among his effects. It is known that a Balthasar Heydrick, who died on December 19, 1831, aged twelve days less than 81 years, lies buried here. He was a captain in the Revolutionary War. and resided at Flourtown, Pa.

Also twin children of Abraham Heebner, Sr., who died young. On the two marble tombstones above mentioned are inscribed the following epitaphs, viz:

Christopher Wagner Died 28th No’r 1810 age 82 years. Susanna Wagner, Died July 2 1817, age 82 yr 8m

This Susanna Wagner, who was a daughter of David Heebner, while walking across a porch floor to watch an approaching storm, struck a projecting nail in the floor with her foot, which threw her so violently that she fractured a bone in her leg. and from the effects thereof she died shortly after.

Another burial plot, and which was recently acquired by the Schwenkfelder Church, secured by a deed, right of way papers, etc., is located on the farm of William G. Freed, a short distance east of the village of Cedars, and not far distant from the macadamized highway. Here the writer recently counted the graves to the number of nineteen. It is impossible to determine the interments, all the graves being marked by common field stones, with the exception of one marble tombstone, viz:

In memory of John C. Heebner who departed this life Jan. 30, 1804, Aged 82 years

This burial ground was recently enclosed by a substantial iron fence. Prior to the adoption of the present school system in Worcester, in 1850. the children of this community received their rudimentary education in Frick's school house, a pay school, then located near the southern extremity of the present Elas Kooker woods, now in the ownership of Frank M. Landis. Amongst the teachers of this school were Jacob H. Anders, an attorney-at-law, still living and residing in Philadelphia; Rev. James Schultz and the late Joel H. Krauss. M. D., of Plumsteadville, Pa.

By the year 1835, Worcester and Norriton Township became quite thicklv populated with Schwenkfelders and consequently a committee was appointed to secure a site, and erect a church building, and one was erected during the following summer of 1836. The following committee was appointed, viz: Abraham Anders, Frederick Anders, George Schultz, George Seipt, Sr., and Samuel Krieble, the grandfather of the Krieble Bros., millers, near Cedars, Pa.

This committee went earnestly and faithfully to work. Undecided where to build, we find that George Schultz offered them land near the present Worcester U. E. church (built 1845). The site of the above mentioned Frick's school house was also looked upon as a desirable location. The committee also thought of building on the land now of Hiram M. Ander's, opposite the lane now leading to the farm buildings of George A. Seipt. But on the final decision the present location was decided upon which is on a slope of one of a system of ridges, known as Methacton, a short distance south of Stump Hall, or one and a half miles north of Norritonville, on the township line road, near the angle adjoining Norriton Township, and according to the Rev. Jeremiah H. Ritter of the Lutheran Church, "a beautiful spot." During the winter of !835-36 the fathers and sons were found busily engaged in felling trees in the present Anders' woods,, west of the church, sawing and squaring timber for the wood work of the first church, which was completed in the early fall of 1836.

The "Yearly-Meeting" day of that year, September 24, fell on Saturday and the services of that year were held in the Towamensing church.

On the following day, Sunday, September 25, 1836, the first Worcester church was dedicated, the principal speaker being the Reverend Christopher Schultz, Jr., of the Upper District. What the original church cost we do not know, but the subscription list was headed by one Solomon Krieble, who resided" in Upper Gwynedd township, where Enoch M. Heebner now resides, by contributing $25, which was the largest subscription. Mr. Heebner was likewise the contractor and builder.

Well do many yet cherish the memory of dear friends and relatives, who worshipped within the walls of that extremely small building. Within its confines the writer recollects, when in his early childhood he attended Sunday School and sat on those hard uncovered benches for hours, listening to discoveries belonging altogether to a foreign country.

This community was thoroughly Pennsylvania German in language, and the last generation witnessed the rapid decline of its use. In fact, the "Pennsylvania Dutch" is no language at all, merely a dialect. Few, if any, books are written in the dialect. In days gone by, if a stranger would accost children on the highways or in their homes in the English language they would simply stare in open-mouthed wonderment, and in silence. Happily this fact is a thing of the past.

This small church which had done service for 45 years, or until 1881, when it became too small for the demands made upon it by a large and growing congregation, resulting in the appointment of a building committee consisting of the following named members of the church, viz: The late Joseph S. Anders. Samuel K. Anders, the late Samuei Dresher, Rev. George K. Meschter, M. D., and William A. Schultz and the result was the erection of the present modern structure, which was dedicated free of debt, in the early autumn of 1882.

This church costing $6000, was the first two-story building ever erected by the Schwenkfelders; having a basement for Sunday school purposes, and an auditorium for church purposes. This was considered a decided innovation at first, and met with considerable and vigorous opposition, but we are glad to record, that the indifferent spirit has died out, and this building is now considered a very desirable improvement over the old way of church building. The church is heated by an up-to-date steam heating apparatus, and the water for all purposes, is furnished by gravity from a spring, on the summit of the hill to the northward. This church property according to a recent survey, contains three acres, nine and three-fourth perches of land, the yard, cemetery, etc., There is shedding on these grounds for fifty-four carriages. This place is also easy of access, being a short distance south of Stump Hall, on the line of the Montgomery Rapid Traction Company.

This church was also the recipient of different sums of money received by wills, the interest thereof to be used in keeping family lots in good repair first; the balance for building repairs, and for other purposes. The following are the bequests, viz.—from the late Anthony H. Seipt, of Skippack, one thousand dollars; the late Samuel Dresher, of Norristown, five hundred dollars; the late Airs. Samuel Dresher, one hundred dollars; and from the trustees of the estate of the late Rev. William S. Anders, five hundred dollars. This trust fund is in charge of the following trustees—Amos S. Anders. Hiram M. Anders and Emanuel A. Heebner.

It was here in the Worcester church in 1884, following a memorial discourse, on September 24, by the Rev. Chester David Hartranft, of Hartford, Conn., that birth was given to (the present great undertaking by the Schwenkfelders) the Corpus Schwenkfeldianorum. These were the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary services of the landing of the Schwenkfelders in Pennsylvania.

It was likewise here in the Worcester church in the fall of 18)1 at a special General Conference of the Schwenkfelder church, that Perkiomen Seminary was purchased, and put into successful operation there after.

It was also here at Worcester, on .Sunday August 14, 1904, that a fare well service was tendered to Miss Flora K. Heebner, prior to her departure for Shansi, China, as a missionary. Miss Heebner was the first to enter a foreign field as a missionary from the Schwenkfelder church.

In connection with, and independent of the church is an active Women's Christian Temperance Union, the president of which is Mrs. Amos S. Anders of Norristown.

Although organized, and in existence but a few years, a great deal of good has been accomplished. Besides instructing the youth on the evils of intemperance, and giving annual public entertainments, they maintain an active sewing circle, holding monthly meetings, at which time a large amount of clothing is made, and distributed among the poor.

It was here in Worcester church in June 1908, that a county convention of the W. C. T. U. convened, an all day session being held, and very largely attended. This was the first meeting of this character ever held in a Schwenkfelder church.

Allow us to record, also, that it was at this church an organ was first used in its church services, among the Schwenkfelders and under the able, and untiring leadership of Josiah D. Heebner who spent many years in the cause. A choir was established, rendering anthems of praise at all the services of the church.

Of the ministers who officiated in the old, and the present church were the following, viz; Rev. David Kriebel, Rev. Daniel Kriebel, Rev. Balthasar Heebner, Rev. Reuben Kriebel, Rev. Abraham Heebner, Rev. George Meschter, the grandfather of the writer. Rev. John B. Kriebel. Rev. William S. Anders, Rev. George K. Meschter, M. D. who was later transferred to the Norristown Schwenkfelder church, and on account of failing health, has since resigned, and Rev. Edwin S. Anders.

The last pastor of the church was the Rev. Elmer A. Yeakel, who was called to the ministry at a special conference held in Towamencin March 25. 1907, and who was a descendant of David Yeakel a widower, who came over with the Schwenkfelder migration of 1734. Rev. Yeakel resigned in August 1908 since which time, unfortunately, the church is without an active pastor, depending upon supplies from various churches. The members of the church were sorely grieved in having to accept Rev. Yeakel's resignation.

In former years intermarriages were a rare occurrence in the church, but during the last generation marriages were "permitted" outside the pale of the denomination. Upon the church Record we find the name of members in the church, transferred from the Mennonite, Society of Friends, Presbyterian, Methodist, Episcopal and the Lutheran churches. Upon the organization of the Norristown Schwenkfelder church, this congregation suffered a loss, in that twenty-five of its prominent and influential members were transferred to that church. Thus it was that the nucleus, (with a very few exceptions,) of the Norristown congregation was composed of former members of the Worcester church.

The Middle District congregations embrace the churches of Lower Salford, Towamensing, and the one of which this sketch treats, Worcester. Within recent years there has been a growing sentiment among the members of this church, to have a regular pastor and services every Sabbath. The present routine is very unsatisfactory, services in one church, or other, and two churches unoccupied. Not wishing to divide the district, only making a separate charge. The present system in vogue, and long out of date, of traveling from one church to another on a Sabbath, was all right in years gone by, when the congregations were weak, and struggling for existence. In attending church services as is the present custom, many were compelled to drive by one church to attend another several miles away.

Hence the question has long arisen—Why not have a minister stationed at each church in the district, and have regular services at all the churches? If not, why not? Can anyone advance any plausible reason. - why the time has not arrived for such a movement? We understand that several of our recent pastors favored it.

The cemetery at this place is beautifully laid out in walks, and drives, being coated with crushed marble. The older portion is thickly studded with tombstones, the newer portions are splendidly divided into burial-lots. With the exception of a few recent burials, the graves are all marked with marble, or granite tombstones. Five monuments have also been erected.

The family names of those herein interred are as follows, viz.—Anders, Anson, Beyer, Boorse, Brecht, Bregler, Brinton, Cave, Dresher, Fegley, Gerhard, Godshall, Grater, Heebner, Heist. Hendricks, Hillegas. Krauss, Krieble, Kulp, Kratz, Meschter, Price, Rosenberger, Schultz, Seipt, Vanfossen, Wien, and Wolfe. The first to be interred at this place was a Lydia Seipt, daughter of George Seipt, Sr., of Worcester, who died March 25,1838, aged 3 years and 20 days.

Here is the grave of the Rev. Balthasar Heebner, who was a minister of the church, and died on the farm which he owned, now belonging to Jeremiah K. Anders, April 29, 1848, aged 77years, 10 months, and 21 days. Rev. Heebner must have been possessed of considerable wealth, for according to the various deeds, he owned the farms now belonging to Emanuel A. Heebner, William H. Krauss, George A. Seipt, Hiram M. Anders and Jeremiah K. Anders. It is also claimed, that had it not been for this Rev. Heebner, that the Genealogical Record of the Schwenkfelders, 1879) would have been an impossibility. For many years he kept a record of the Schwenkfelders and copied from an old record, said to have been abandoned about the year 1804. Of a cheerful disposition, and of active, and industrious habits, he always retained the confidence of this entire community.

In this cemetery also lie the remains of the late deceased, and dearly beloved pastor Rev. William S. Anders, whose death occurred at Orange City, Florida. February 18. 1907, aged 66 years, 5 months, and 18 days, and whither he had gone in quest of his health. His death cast a gloom throughout this section, as he was held in high esteem by the church as well as by the entire community. For a period of over thirty years he served the church faithfully as pastor. In early life, he taught school a number of years, in Towamensing, Worcester and Norriton. He also served the township as a school director.

It was in the old church here, on June 3. 1871, that Rev. Anders was called to the ministry, and it was he who, having in mind the fate of the Lower District, and having seen the absolute necessity of it. introduced the English language into the church at Worcester, in the year 1875. Under an English government, an English press, and an English public school system; the children, and the children's children growing up without learning the German language,—How could it be otherwise ?

Rev. Anders was for many years a member of the Board of Publication of the Schwenkfelder church, and for a number of years, served in the capacity as president of the Board.

Among other interments here are the late Josiah K. Gerhard M. D. a promising young physician of Center Point, who died April 16, 1886, age 30 years, 1 month, and 28 days. The family of Dr. Gerhard, shortly thereafter moved to Norristown, where they have since resided and are members of the Schwenkfelder church. Also the late Joel H. Krauss, M. D. of Plumsteadville, Bucks Co., Pa., who died September 12, 1892, in the 67th year of his age. His interment took place here on September 15, 1892, and it was at his funeral service that the present hymnals of the church were first used.

Robert Raikes, an Englishman, in 1781, gathered a few persons together on Sundays, to teach them to read, accompanying the lessons with religious teachings. He is commonly credited with having been the originator of Sunday schools. This, however, is an error, as Casper Schwenckfeld, had Sunday schools in operation in different parts of Silesia, as early as the Reformation period. A Manual intended for Sunday school instruction, compiled by Johann Werner in 1546 and printed for more general use in 1548, is still extant. This shows that Sunday schools were established, almost two and a quarter centuries before Robert Raikes opened his first school. Even in America, Sunday schools were established, and in practical operation for nearly half a century, before they were known in England. It is also proven by an unfinished manuscript Sunday school manual found by the noted antiquarian, the late Abraham H. Cassel, deceased, of near Harleysville, Pa., which was compiled by the Rev. George Weiss, who was the first minister of the Schwenkfelders in Pennsylvania, and who died March 9, 1740, in the fifty-third year of his age. He was interred in the cemetery belonging to the Schwenkfelder congregation in Lower Salford, having resided nearby.

Since the migration of 1734, the Schwenkfelders have maintained the Sabbath school, by meeting on Sunday afternoons, instructing the young in the scriptures, and in the catechism. But the modern Sunday school as it exists today, originated in the Worcester church in the spring of 1861 with the Rev. Reuben Kriebel, as superintendent, and with a large attendance. Here a Sunday school flourished for a while, or till the middle of the summer of 1863. When a large number of the younger element of the community insisted on having the English language, and so rigidly did the fathers adhere to the German language, that the school was closed, owing to the aforesaid cause.

The late David S. Heebner. of Lansdale, but then of Worcester, said "We must have English," and in consequence thereof was elected superintendent. The school again reopened in the spring of 1864 with the English language, and a very large attendance we are told. The effect thereof being the disuse of the German language altogether, a few years thereafter. Here a Sunday school has flourished since. Mr. David S. Heebner was succeeded in the superintendency by Samuel K. Anders, now residing in Norristown. The late Rev. W. S. Anders, deceased, the late George H. Seipt, deceased, Daniel M. Anders, late a Commissioner of Montgomery County, George A. Seipt, Eugene A. Anders, lately an instructor in the Military Academy at Wenonah, New Jersey, but at present connected with the High School faculty of Norristown, Pa., and the present incumbent John K. Heebner.

This Sunday school was the first among the Schwenkfelders to procure a library for reading purposes, a second also having recently, been purchased.

The opening of the Sunday school here at Worcester, was followed several years thereafter, by the Towamensing congregation and later by the Upper District churches.

In Norristown and Philadelphia the Sunday School preceded the church.

In conclusion we wish to mention the fact, that from out of both the Sunday school and the church (old and present) have gone forth, filling responsible positions in several states of the Union, a large number of young men, holding professorship in the various Universities, Colleges, Seminaries, State Normal schools, etc. From this church has gone forth into the foreign field, a missionary, ministers, physicians, lawyers, musicians (one with a national reputation as a conductor, and composer,) a large number of young men, holding lucrative clerkships with responsible business houses in Philadelphia and other places, and nearly a score of public school teachers.

In political life, the state legislature has been represented in several instances, and the church has also furnished several of its prominent members to the office of County Commissioners, of Montgomery County.

The writer glories in the literature of the fathers, and especially the history of the people, and the church under consideration. Much of the information would in time be lost entirely, owing to the passing away of many of the custodians of the "family records, and of the disappearance of such matters from other sources if from time to time such matters would not be recorded and preserved. There surely is an interesting history connected with the churches of the various districts of "our people," and it remains for some on to take up their pen and produce the events of the past and present.