

## Alte Drucke

### Falckner's Curieuse Nachricht von Pennsylvania

Falckner, Daniel

Philadelphia, 1702

#### Foreword.

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## FOREWORD.



**N**O incident connected with the settlement of the grand old Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has aroused greater interest in the minds of the historian and the student than the migration of the German masses from the Fatherland to Penn's province on the Delaware, beginning during

the reign of King Charles the Second and extending with more or less regularity, according to the political and religious conditions of Western Germany, down to the early years of the third George. It was a tide of brawn and muscle, which sought to escape the persecutions at home, and here in the new world to found homes for themselves, their families and posterity, and erect in the wilderness altars for the worship of Almighty God, according to the dictates of their conscience, free and untrammelled by any ecclesiastical or secular restrictions.

The story of the two great migrations from Germany to Pennsylvania in 1709 and 1764 has been told in detail.



The first one, known as the *Massen auswanderung* or "Exodus of 1709" is exhaustively set forth in the seventh volume of the Proceedings of the Pennsylvania-German Society. That of the second great migration, in the year 1764, will be found upon the pages of the Lutheran Church Review for the year 1903 and was compiled from original sources and documents by the present writer.

Full and instructive accounts of the continuous general movement of the Germans to Pennsylvania are presented in the contributions to our history by fellow members of the Pennsylvania-German Society and printed in the proceedings of that organization.

It is not our present purpose to go over any of the ground already covered by the above investigators, but to bring to notice some new and additional matter, and direct attention to the factor that set this great migratory stream in motion, one which has had so great and salutary an effect upon the development, not only of Pennsylvania, but of the whole United States, which is now justly known as the great world power of the western hemisphere.

This great factor is nothing less than a small duodecimo, but little known except to historians and collectors of rare books. So scarce is this little volume that it is seldom quoted by dealers in their lists of Americana or found in the *antiquariat* catalogues of Germany. In the only instance of the latter known to the writer the book was quoted at 250 marks, a sum equivalent to \$62.50 of our money.

Of the few known copies, one is in the collection of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania; and others in that of the old German Society, Philadelphia Library Company, and in the collection of an ex-president of the Pennsylvania-German Society.



Heretofore nothing was known as to the conditions under which this book was written and published or who propounded the 103 questions, the answers to which, besides giving advice to the prospective emigrant and settler, present an insight into the life and habits of the Indians and the social conditions of Penn's Colony in its infancy, not to be found elsewhere.

It was the good fortune of the writer, during his late search among the archives in the Fatherland, after records and material bearing upon the early history of this province, to find not only the original manuscript of this book, but also the original set of questions, as submitted to Daniel Falckner, the learned scholar and Pietist who had lately returned from the solitudes of the hermitage on the Wissahickon. This set of questions proved to be in the handwriting of no less a person than the celebrated divine and scholar, August Hermann Francke, who together with Spener was then at the head of the Pietistical movement in the Lutheran Church in Germany.

A careful copy of this manuscript was made for the writer. This has since been compared with the printed version, which it appears differs slightly in some of its minor particulars from the original. Then again a few additions were made to the text, while a considerable portion of the prologue and text was omitted. The main features, however, remain the same in both versions. The account, as will be shown, went through several editions, which were issued simultaneously in Leipzig and Frankfort-on-the-Mayn.

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