


CHAPTER CCCXXXIX.

AN ACT FOR THE BETTER ENABLING DIVERS INHABITANTS OF THE PROVINCE OF PENNSYLVANIA TO HOLD LANDS AND TO INVEST THEM WITH THE PRIVILEGES OF NATURAL-BORN SUBJECTS OF THE SAID PROVINCE.¹

Whereas by the encouragement given by the Honorable William Penn, Esquire, late Proprietary and Governor of the Province of Pennsylvania, and by the permission of our present Sovereign, King George the Second, and his predecessors, Kings and Queens of England, &c., divers Protestants who were subjects of the Emperor of Germany and other foreign princes in amity with the Crown of Great Britain transported themselves and estates into the province of Pennsylvania, and since they came hither have contributed to the enlargement of the British Empire and to the raising and improving sundry commodities fit for the markets of Europe, and have behaved themselves peaceably and paid a due regard and obedience to the laws and government of this province:

And whereas many of the said persons, to wit: John Diemer, David Scholtze, Peter Hillegas, Wilhelm Ziegler, Paulus Kripner, Jacob Seijl, George Scholtze, Ulrich Aller, Caspar Ulrich, Henry Van Aken, John Iden, Adam Klamter, Anthony Benezet, of the city of Philadelphia; Anthony Bohm, Conrad Bensell, Adam Romich, Fredrick Reymer, Joseph Graff, Henry Slingloff, Michael Berger, George Souber, Alexander Dihl, Jacob Bowman, Gottlieb Herger, Daniel Schoner, Adam Galar, Nicholas Leisher, Junior, Peter Souber, Conrad Reble, Hans George Weigert, Christopher Mink, Johannes Zirwer, Sebastian Reiff Schneider, Jacob Kemp, Jacob Hill, John Souber, Abraham Zimmerman, Christian Weber, Nicholas Keyser, Martin Pitting, Conrad Keer, Conrad Kustor, Jacob Dubre, Anthony Zadoski, Hans Pingeman, Andreas Kraver, Lodwick Pitting, of the county of Philadelphia; John George Kinkner, William

¹ See note to Chapter 309.

Morey, Peter Schneider, John Joder, Christian Klimmer, John Joder, Junior, Joseph Eberhart, Michael Eberhart, John Brecht, Henry Schneider, George Zeiwitz, Michael We[i]ber, Ulrich Rubel, Jacob Kangweer, Diter Gauff, Henry Rinker, of the county of Bucks; George Donatt, Garratt Brownback, of the county of Chester; John George Beard, John Casper Stover,  Michael Weidler, Fredrick Elberschidt, Peter Entzminger, Jacob Kersberger, Jacob Byerly, Jacob Leman and Michael Byerly, of the county of Lancaster, in the said province, in demonstration of their affection and zeal for the person and government of our present Sovereign, King George the Second, have qualified themselves by taking and subscribing the several oaths and declarations or solemn affirmations directed to be taken and subscribed by several acts of Parliament made for the security of the King's person and government and for preventing the dangers which may happen by Popish recusants, &c., and thereupon have humbly applied to the governor and the representatives of the freemen of this province in general assembly met setting forth their great desire of being made partakers of those privileges which the natural-born subjects of Great Britain do enjoy within this province; and it being just and reasonable that those persons who have given such testimony of their affection and obedience to the Crown of Great Britain should as well be secured in the enjoyment of their estates as encouraged in their laudable affection to and zeal for the English Constitution:

[Section I.] Be it enacted by Patrick Gordon, Esquire, with the King's royal approbation Lieutenant-Governor under the Honorable John Penn, Thomas Penn and Richard Penn, Esquires, true and absolute Proprietaries of the Province of Pennsylvania [and of the counties of Newcastle, Kent and Sussex on Delaware], by and with the advice and consent of the representatives of the freemen of the said province in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That John Diemer, David Scholtze, Peter Hillegas, [Wilhelm] Ziegler, Paulus Kripner, Jacob Seijl, George Scholtze, Ulrich Aller, Caspar Ulrich, Henry Van Aken, [John] Iden, [Adam] Klamter,

Anthony Benezet, of the city of Philadelphia; Anthony Bohm, Conrad Bensell, [Adam Romich, Fredrick Reymen], Joseph Graff, Henry Slingloff, Michael Berger, George Souber, Alexander Dihl, Jacob Bowman, Gottlieb Herger, Daniel Schoner, Adam Galar, Nicholas Leisher, Junior, Peter Souber, Conrad Reble, Hans George Weigert, Christopher Mink, Johannes Zirwer, Sebastian Reiff Schneider, Jacob Kemp, Jacob Hill, John Souber, Abraham Zimmerman, Christian Weber, Nicholas Keyser, Martin Pitting, Conrad Keer, Conrad Kustor, Jacob Dubre, Anthony Zadouski, Hans Pingeman, Andreas Kraver, Lodwick Pitting, of the county of Philadelphia; John George Kinkner, William Morey, Peter Schneider, John Joder, Christian Klimmer, John Joder, Junior, Joseph Eberhart, Michael Eberhart, John Brecht, Henry Schneider, George Zeiwitz, Michael We[i]ber, Ulrich Rubel, Jacob Kangweer, Diter Gauff, Henry Rinker, of the county of Bucks; George Donatt, Garratt Brownback, of the county of Chester; John George Beard, John Casper Stover, Michael Weidler, Fredrick Elberschidt, Peter Entzinger, Jacob Kersberger, Jacob Byerly, Jacob Leman and Michael Byerly, of the county of Lancaster, in the said province, be and shall be to all intents and purposes deemed, taken and esteemed the King's natural-born subjects of this province of Pennsylvania as if they and each of them had been born within the said province, and shall and may and every of them shall and may within this province take, receive, enjoy and be entitled to all rights, privileges and advantages of natural-born subjects as fully to all intents, constructions and purposes whatsoever as any of the King's natural-born subjects of this province can, do or ought to enjoy.

Passed March 29, 1735. See Appendix XII, Section I, and the Acts of Assembly passed February 3, 1742-43, Chapter 359; June 20, 1759, Chapter 445; (the Constitution of 1776, Plan of Government, Section XLII;) June 13, 1777, Chapter 756; August 31, 1778, Chapter 803; March 4, 1786, Chapter 1206; February 11, 1789, Chapter 1387.

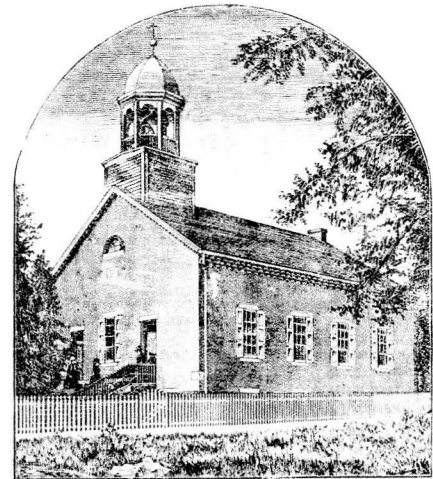
The following was extracted from Charles H. Glatfelter. *Pastors and People: German Lutheran and Reformed Churches in the Pennsylvania Field, 1717-1793*. Vol. 1: *Pastors and Congregations*. Breinigsville, PA: The Pennsylvania German Society, 1980.

As evidenced by the following, Michael Weidler was one of the founders of Heller's/Salem Reformed Church in present day Upper Leacock township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

"CONGREGATIONS [Lancaster County, Pennsylvania], p. 315.

"This Reformed congregation in Upper Leacock township dates from 1727-1730. It is the oldest Reformed congregation in Lancaster County.

"It is quite possible that the first worship services in Conestoga, which Conrad Tempelman said were begun in 1725 were held somewhere on his own property. Boehm told the Holland fathers in 1744 that he knew Tempelman, 'for he was schoolmaster and reader in the Hill church when I served them at the beginning.' (HB, p. 418). What Boehm did not report at this time was that the first church which this congregation built was located at the very edge of the schoolmaster's land, along the line of Rudolf Heller and then his son Jacob.



"On February 11, 1743 (1742 by the old calendar), as he was moving from Lancaster to Lebanon counties, Conrad Tempelman sold his 233½ acre survey to Philip Scott. Later that same day, Philip Scott sold from this survey to John Line, Jr. and Michael Weidler two acres 'whereon the Meeting House now stands,' and 'for the use of the Prisbiteririan [sic] Congregation of the said Church of Leacock.' (Quoted in D. W. Gerhard, *A History of the New Holland Charge of the Reformed Church*. . . [New Holland, 1877], pp. 113-115) On December 30, 1796, after he had secured a patent deed for the 233 1/2 acres, James Scott gave another deed for the two acres, this one to Michael Weidler, in order to provide the congregation with a better title. (Lancaster County Deed P:61)

"From time to time over the years, persons have questioned whether the church which Boehm called Hill was, in fact, Heller's. There need be no doubt that it was. The names which Tempelman, Boehm, the minutes of coetus, and the two deeds associate with this "first congregation" or Hill church are Rudolf Heller, Michael Albert, Andries Meixell, Lorentz Herchelroth, Michael Weidler and John Line. (HB, pp. 63, 291 and MC, pp. 33, 41) A study of the connected draft map of Upper Leacock township, prepared by the Bureau of Land Records in 1934, will show that all of the persons, except Herchelroth, had land only a few tracts away from Conrad Tempelman's survey on which Boehm's Hill church was most certainly built.

"Bartholomew Rieger called the Hill church by another name: Schaeffer's. He appeared at the 1747 coetus as pastor of 'Schaeffer's Church and Erletown congregation in Conestoga,' The two elders accompanying him were Michael Weidler and Philip Rank. (MC, p. 38) Weidler has already been identified as a trustee of the Hill church in 1743 and again 1769, he was buried in its graveyard in 1770.

“Previously, the references to Schaeffer’s church in the minutes of the coetus have been taken to apply to a congregation in or near Schaefferstown. But Alexander Schaeffer did not own the land on which the town was laid out until 1758, and is not known to have been in that area in 1747. Why Rieger called the Hill church Schaeffer’s cannot be explained with the evidence available, but the presence of Michael Weidler and John Line as its representatives at the 1747 and 1748 coetuses is strong and convincing evidence that Rieger was referring to this congregation.”

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



MICHAEL WEIDLER

Salem UCC Cemetery, Upper Leacock Twp., Lancaster Co., PA.



ELIZABETH (Klein) WEIDLER

Salem UCC Cemetery, Upper Leacock Twp., Lancaster Co., PA.



JACOB WEIDLER

Salem UCC Cemetery, Upper Leacock Twp., Lancaster Co., PA.



ANNA (Weibrecht) WEIDLER

Salem UCC Cemetery, Upper Leacock Twp., Lancaster Co., PA.

