

A Biography of Paul Zantzinger

By M. LUTHER HEISEY

There came to the shores of America, on the ship *Adventurer*, September 23, 1732,¹ one Paul Songsinger (Hans Paulus Zantzinger), aged twenty years, whose family in years following became prominent in the affairs of Lancaster Borough; in fact, one son, Paul, Jr., served more terms as chief burgess than any other citizen.

Hans Paulus was a communicant member of the Lutheran Church in Philadelphia, 1733 and 1734. He died in 1753 at Lancaster. His widow, Mary, and his brother-in-law, Michael Gross (husband of his sister, Elizabeth Zantzinger) were the administrators of his estate, which was settled in 1761. She in the meantime had married again, to Robert Taylor, who died in 1762. Her third husband was Charles McCormick.

January 12, 1744, marks the two-hundredth anniversary of the birth of the younger Paul. On October 19, 1769, "By Authority of a License dated the Ninth Day of October, 1769, joined together in Holy Matrimony Paul Zanzinger of the Borough of Lancaster in the County of Lancaster Gentleman and Margar Graff of Borough and County aforesaid Spinster."² She was the daughter of Sebastian Graff, and died in 1772. His second wife was Esther, daughter of the Rev. Thomas Barton, rector of St. James's Episcopal Church. There were eighteen children born to these unions.

Zantzinger was a prominent churchman, a prosperous merchant, a promoter of numerous enterprises, a loyal soldier, and a civic leader.

He was a generous contributor to and an active officer of Trinity Lutheran Church. His name is first mentioned as a contributor of ten shillings to a special offering in 1768, but as the years pass he gave as God had prospered him, and his gifts were munificent. His contribution of £25 to the Tanneberger organ fund in 1772 was the largest single donation. In 1779 he contributed £22-10-0 to his church. He was generous in gifts to St. James's Episcopal Church, where his father-in-law was rector. In 1774 the Boston relief fund, and in 1797 the Philadelphia appeal, touched his purse strings. When funds were gathered in 1785 for the building of the Trinity church steeple, William Hamilton, Esq., gave £100, Joseph Hubeli (Hublely) £87-10-0, and Paul Zantzinger £75; these three heading a long list of donors. In 1799, Zantzinger's name again appears as a giver to the same cause.

As a business man, he was first engaged in tailoring, then later in ironmongery, with a store on North Queen Street.

On April 2, 1778, Jasper Yeates as treasurer paid to Paul Zantzinger ten shillings "for two pounds of nails for boarding the windows and putting up new pales" at St. James's Church, when the rector was forced to close

¹ Pennsylvania German Pioneers, vol. 1, p. 83, 86.

² From the records of Trinity Lutheran Church.

the doors. In 1778 Frederick Stoneman (Steinman) received a ton of iron from Zantzinger. Engaged in the same business during those days, there was frequent trading between Zantzinger and Steinman. The business of the latter is continued to the present day under the firm name of Steinman Hardware Company, now in existence for a period of two hundred years. When the second court house was built in Center Square, 1784 to 1787, it was Zantzinger who furnished the iron work for the building.

On May 2, 1776, Zantzinger "advised the Committee of Safety that he and his partner, Mr. Kuhn, had shipped 7 casks of saltpeter weighing 480 pounds, and made in their own works, to Philadelphia."³

Writing to Thomas Wharton, President of the Supreme Executive Council, on December 28, 1777, General Anthony Wayne said, "Enclosed is an estimate of the cost of 650 suits of uniforms, which Mr. [Paul] Zantzinger has provided for the troops of that state. He is in great want of money. I wish you would assist him to the cash he wants, and to take some effectual method to clothe the troops in the best, speediest, and neatest manner possible." Concluding "Mad Anthony" says, "I have directed Mr. Zantzinger to call on you for money. I wish you to order the clothier general to estimate the price of the clothing. . . ."

Writing again on April 18, 1778, to President Wharton, General Wayne said, "I have procured from Mr. Zantzinger, since November last, about five hundred and fifty coats, two hundred waistcoats, three hundred and eighty pair of breeches, and an equal number of stockings, about one hundred pair of shoes, and several hundred hats; these have been distributed among nine regiments, and has only in *part* clothed about one fourth of them."⁴

Zantzinger was alive to the needs of his times, and to the potential profits new enterprises would probably bring. In 1789 measures were taken to improve the navigation of the Susquehanna River, particularly about Conewago Falls, by the construction of a canal with locks. Among the "twenty-six leading men in the state" gathered in Paxton Township, October 19, 1789, to discuss plans, was Paul Zantzinger.

When the proposed great turnpike was planned in 1792, Paul Zantzinger, and such other prominent men of Lancaster as General Edward Hand, John Hubley, Esq., Matthias Slauch and Abraham Witmer, were named as commissioners for the Lancaster County section.

For a score of years, 1773 to 1793, Zantzinger was a speculator in land, personally holding 3500 acres in eight different counties, and an additional 2500 acres in Northumberland County in the name of Paul Zantzinger and Company.

His services as a soldier was not of long duration or of hard campaigning. On October 25, 1775, the first Officer of the Day was appointed over the Guards stationed in Lancaster to preserve the peace of the Borough, keep the prisoners in order, and for the protection of the magazine and other gov-

³ Proceedings Lancaster County Historical Society, vol. 10, p. 203.

⁴ Rupp's *History of Lancaster and York Counties*, 1845, pp. 412, 413, 419.

We the Subscribers Managers & Representatives of those who are deceased of the Lancaster Street Lottery do agree to meet at the House of Paul Gargylerbeg on Monday the third day of September next.

Meeting at 3 O'Clock in the afternoon of the same Day, then and there positively to make and have a final settlement of the said Lottery, that it may finally appear what each of us remain in arrears to the Treasurer on account of the said Lottery, to pay and discharge the same - to enable the Treasurer to pay off any Prizes Remaining yet due & the Note for the Monies due to the Diamond Bank in Lancaster - and at the same time the Treasurer is to produce his accounts that the same may be fully completed = 25th July 1810 =

Abraham Wilmee	Edward Brown Esq ^r
George Hudson Esq ^r	Matthew Prough
John Hebbley -	James Prough
Caesar Shopner	Christian Moore Esq ^r
William Michael Esq ^r	John Richardson Junr
Jacob Crook -	
John Miller -	
Paul Gargylerbeg	
Matthew Young Esq ^r	
Jacob Gray	

A True Copy of the original

ernment property, and that officer was Captain Paul Zantzinger. A company of the Flying Camp was commanded by him in the Fall of 1777. He was a soldier in Captain John Wedely's Company of the First Battalion, Lancaster County Militia, in 1789.⁵

Zantzinger held many public offices of trust and honor. He was assistant burgess, 1773-77. He was elected chief burgess more times than any other citizen (1780, 1791-94, 1797-98).

He was a candidate for coroner in 1773, for sheriff in 1787, surveyor of Revenue for Direct Tax in 1800, county auditor in 1804, and justice of the peace in 1805 and 1811; a member of the Board of Trustees of Franklin College in 1787, and a member of the Union Fire Company in 1791. He was among the signers of a petition to the State Assembly for a city charter for Lancaster in 1798.

The State Assembly was petitioned in 1797 to grant the right to hold a Lancaster Street Lottery. The proceeds, deducted from the prize money, would provide funds for paving King Street, from the Philadelphia Turnpike to the Columbia Turnpike, thus to improve the "missing link" between the two highways. It was planned to issue 20,000 tickets at \$8 each. Among the commissioners were General Edward Hand, Paul Zantzinger and others. Of the tickets of the third class, Zantzinger received the value of \$6,848.80, which was more than three times the amount held by any other commissioner. From "an account of cash received by G. G. [Geo. Graeff] from the Managers of the Lancaster Street Lottery, third class,"⁶ Zantzinger returned \$2,683.60 of a total of \$8,725. This was about the year 1807.

When in 1790 George Washington wanted a good breed of mares, he sent to Lancaster County, and it was Burgesses Paul Zantzinger and Adam Reigart who secured eleven valuable animals, and shipped them to Mount Vernon.

A notable address of welcome to President George Washington on the occasion of his visit to Lancaster, July 4, 1791, was "signed on behalf of themselves and the inhabitants of the borough of Lancaster.

[By] Edward Hand.
Paul Zantzinger.
John Hubley. . ."

When the Rev. Thomas Barton, father-in-law of Paul Zantzinger, was residing in New York City, repeated and unsuccessful efforts were made to secure passes through the American lines to visit the banished rector of St. James's Episcopal Church.

On March 5, 1779, Mr. Bryan, vice-president of the Executive Council, wrote to General George Washington expressing his views for such refusal: "This board, ever watchful of the public safety and happiness, think it behooves them to communicate to you their suspicion, that Mr. Paul Zantzinger,

⁵ Pennsylvania Archives, Series 6, vol. 3, p. 463.

⁶ This and many other original lottery papers are found on file in the archives of the Lancaster County Historical Society.

of the borough of Lancaster, in the State, merchant, who has lately gone hence for camp, has a design of getting liberty to pass into New York. For this purpose he will hold forth his desire to visit his father-in-law, the Rev. Thomas Barton, now in that city. When you know the character and conduct of this divine, your Excellency will judge better of such a request. Mr. Barton has long been a missionary stationed at Lancaster by the society in England for propagating the Gospel. It is believed that he has been very instrumental in poisoning the minds of his parishioners, who are generally of very disaffected principles, as to the present contest with Great Britain. His late conduct in refusing to give the common proofs of allegiance to this State and abjure the King of Great Britain, and in taking the benefit of the indulgence of our Legislature, which allowed him to sell his lands and retire, as he said, to Europe; but above all, his acceptance of a chaplaincy in a British regiment at New York (as is credibly reported here), and thus actively joining the enemy, confirm the worst ideas that have been entertained of this gentleman. I would suggest, that Mr. Zantzing is a trader, who has never manifested much attention to the present contest, and very likely to be drawn by interested views to a mart where European merchandizes are sold at prices inviting to men who seek profit merely.

"Mr. Z. is probably accompanied by a son [William], of Mr. Barton, a young gentleman lately returned from England, where he has been weaned of all fond attachment to that corrupted country, and brought to see the happiness and independence of North America in their proper light and con-

*There appears due to the estate of
Christian Mayer Dec. as one of the
Subscribers to Sixty Lottery Tickets
or known by the 1500 Dollar Company
Fifty Six Dollars & 43 Cents.*

*Paul Zantzingers
Lancaster Sept. 14. 1815*

nection. Young Mr. Barton is a much clearer character with us than his brother-in-law, and as such I venture to mention him."⁷

What influenced the Executive Council to pass such harsh judgment upon the attitude and conduct of Paul Zantzinger? Here was a man who served as Captain of the Guard at Lancaster in 1775, commanded a company of the Flying Camp in 1777, and furnished (at a price it is true, but very reasonable we assume) a vast amount of clothing for the army in 1778. Now, in the following year, we are urged to believe that he had become entirely mercenary in his dealings, with little or no regard for the welfare of his country and fellow-countrymen. His early military service, and his later service in prominent civic positions of honor and trust in borough and county belie the reflections on his sincerity and loyalty.

True, he was in fact, we believe, a merchant at heart, with a tradesman's desire to succeed and gain profit—but not to the extent of harming his country's cause. His father-in-law had full confidence in him, and to him entrusted the settling of his estate and affairs when forced to depart from the borough of Lancaster in 1778.

Finally, in April, 1780, permission was granted to members of the family to meet the banished rector near Elizabeth, New Jersey, in what proved to be a final gathering for the loved ones on this earth.

In his will, dated January 6, 1771, Michael Gross appointed Paul Zantzinger as executor. Michael married a sister of the elder Zantzinger, and so her kin were remembered in his will, as follows (children of Paul Zantzinger):

Adam £100, Mary £25, Barbara £40, and "to Paul Zantzinger (my kinsman) four hundred pounds having already made and given him a handsome Present, I expect he will take upon him the Executorship of this my Will and be just and faithful in discharge of the Trust reposed in him."⁸

And now from the *Lancaster Journal* of Wednesday, June 25, 1817, we read: "Died suddenly on Monday morning last, in the 73rd year of his age, Paul Zantzinger, Esq., one of the oldest and most respectable inhabitants of this borough."

Zantzinger Family Record

Children of Paul (Hans Paulus) and Mary Zantzinger:
Paul, 1744-1817.

Adam, b. August 18, 1746.

Mary, b. May 15, 1748, married to Captain Samuel Lindsay.

Barbara, b. May 1, 1750, married to William Morrow, of Chambersburg.

Paul Zantzinger of Lancaster, b. January 12, 1744, d. June 23, 1817,

⁷ Harris' *Biographical History of Lancaster County*, 1872, pp. 36-37.

⁸ Register of Wills, Lancaster County Court House, Will Book C, vol. 1,

buried in Trinity Lutheran Chuchyard; m. to Margaret Graff, b. May 17, 1747, m. October 19, 1769, d. January 19, 1772. Two children.

John Michael, b. Aug. 8, 1770, d. Aug. 20, 1771.

Elizabeth, b. Jan. 14, 1772.*

Paul Zantzinger m. March 3, 1774, by the Rev. Dr. Smith, Esther Barton, daughter of the Rev. Thomas Barton, b. April 17, 1756, d. Dec. 4. 1824.

Children (16):

Esther Maria, b. Dec. 9, 1774, d. Aug. 15, 1775.

Thomas Barton, b. Jan. 5, 1776, d. Dec. 19, 1847.

Mary, b. March 15, 1777, d. June 27, 1821; m. to the Rev. Thomas Picton, November, 1802.

Sarah Barton, b. March 9, 1778, m. on May 18, 1804, by the Rev. Joseph Clarkson, to General Franklin Davenport of Woodbury, New Jersey.

Esther Sophia, b. May 15, 1779.

Julianna Elizabeth, b. Aug. 26, 1781, d. Aug. 13, 1854.*

Harriett Ann, b. Jan. 5, 1783, d. July, 1783.*

Harriett Renette, b. Aug. 17, 1784.

William Paul, b. Jan. 30, 1786, d. Dec. 31, 1845.

Caroline Amelia, b. Oct. 18, 1787, d. Dec. 17, 1793.

Henry Richard, b. Aug. 24, 1789, d. July 12, 1790.*

Henry David, b. March 24, 1791.*

Richard Augustus, b. Oct. 24, 1792, major in the army of the United States, died at Louisville in Missouri, Jan. 4, 1842.*

John Paul, b. March 21, 1794.*

Caroline Amelia, b. Aug. 30, 1795, d. Sept. 17, 1795.*

Caroline Catharine, b. July 15, 1799, d. Aug. 1839, near Natchitoches in Louisiana; she was then the wife of W. Hailey.

THOMAS BARTON ZANTZINGER m. by the Rev. W. Hetner (?) on Jan. 17, 1805 to Susanna Sheaff, third daughter of William and Barbara Sheaff, b. Nov. 20, 1782, d. April 2, 1831. Their children (7):

William Sheaff, b. Nov. 22, 1805, d. Dec. 11, 1888, buried at Canandaigua, New York.

Thomas Barton, b. Sept. 8, 1807, d. July 8, 1834.

Benjamin Barton, b. Aug. 1, 1809, d. Jan. 30, 1810.

George Barton, b. Dec. 9, 1810, d. Aug. 4, 1852.

Henry Barton, b. Aug. 13, 1812, d. June 29, 1851.

Mary Catharine, b. June 3, 1814, d. March 2, 1849.

Esther Cornelia, b. March 25, 1816, d. Jan. 8, 1899, interment in Christ Church burial ground, Philadelphia, Pa.

Among the known descendants of Paul Zantzinger are C. C. Zantzinger, architect of Philadelphia, Pa., and a great-great-grandson — Major William Paul Zantzinger, librarian in the Post Office Departmental Building, Washington, D. C.

* Baptismal record found in Trinity Lutheran Church, Lancaster, Pa.