

SOME OLD DOCUMENTS.

Quite recently a number of legal papers came into my possession, among them being an advertisement, letters of administration, confirmation of sale, and all in first-class condition.

The advertisement is none of the elaborate or illuminated order as we see in our modern times. Its size is $6\frac{1}{2} \times 8$ inches, note paper, closely written, in a bold hand.

For the benefit of the members of the Society, I will give it verbatim:

"ADVERTISEMENT.

"To be sold by way of Public Vendue on Saturday the First day of July next a certain Messuage & lot of ground Situate in the Town of Heidelberg in Heidelberg Township in the County of Lancaster late the Estate of Theophelus England deceased the said sale will be held on the premises where attendance will be given by Jacob Snearer,¹ Administrator &c of the said Theophelus England dec'd.

"By order of Orphans Court in & for the County of Lancaster aforesaid.

"EDWARD SHIPPEN, Clerk."

"Lancaster, June 6th, 1775."

Theophelus England was more or less closely identified with the early history of the town of Heidelberg, now Schaefferstown, Lebanon county. It would appear that for a short period of time he filled the position as pastor² of the Lutheran Church there.

¹Originally spelled Schnuerer, now Schnerer.

²Indebted to A. S. Brendle, Esq., Schaefferstown.

The lot referred to in the advertisement, and owned by him, is situated in the northern part of the town, and is now owned and used by the Evangelical Church as a cemetery.

He died in the beginning of the year 1775, leaving a number of creditors, of whom Jacob Sneider was the highest, as will be seen by the following:

“Pennsylvania, ss.:

“Benjamin Chew, Register General for the Probate of Wills and granting letters of Administration in and for the Province of Pennsylvania and Counties of Newcastle, Kent and Sussex, on Delaware.

“To Jacob Sneider (Highest creditor of Theophilus England dec'd), of the County of Lancaster.

“Greeting.”

The letters recite that the Administrator shall make a true and perfect inventory of the goods and chattels, etc., of the deceased, and exhibit it at the Register's office on or before the 4th day of May, 1776, and to render a true and just account on or before April 14, 1776.

The letters are dated at Lancaster, 14th of April, 1775. Edward Shippen, Register.

That the sale was held on the date as set forth in the advertisement is clearly shown in the report made by the administrator at an Orphans' Court held at Lancaster on the sixth day of September, 1775, “before Emanuel Carpenter, James Burd and Everard Gruber, Esquires, Justices of the said Court.”

The report recites that, “Pursuant to an order of this Court of the Sixth day of June, 1775. . . . Did sell the same tract or Tenement & lot of ground to

a certain Peter Elser, for Forty six pounds & five shillings lawful money, that being the highest and best price bid, and that the said Peter Elser was the highest and best bidder.

“Said report being read and considered. The said sale is confirmed and approved by the Court and ordered to be and remain stable forever.

“By the Court.

“EDWARD SHIPPEN, Clerk.”

On August 8, 1775, the administrator exhibited into the Register's office an account, of which the following is a copy:

“The Account of Jacob Schnierer Administrator all and Singular the Goods & Chattels Rights and Credits which were of Theophilus England late of Heidelberg Township in the County of Lancaster, Yeoman deceased as well of such of the goods and Chattels, Rights & Credits of the said dec'd as have come to the hands of the said accountant as of his payment and Disbursements out of the same as follows viz.:

IMPRIMIS.

The said accountant charges himself with the amount of the sale of the house and lot in Heidelberg township, sold by order of the Orphans Court:	£	s.	d.
To Peter Elser, for the sum of	46	5	
Balance due to this accountant	20	2	
	<u>66</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>—</u>

ITEM.

The said accountant prays an allowance of his payments and disbursements out of the same, as follows, vizt.:	£	s.	d.
To cash retained in his hands, a debt due from deceased to the said administrator, a Bond and Interest	58	1	8
Cash paid letters Admin...	1	2	6

	£	s.	d.
To cash paid Michael Winder, per receipt.....	0	5	0
To cash paid Michael Bright, per Recpt.....	0	2	6
To cash paid Orphans Court, expense for an order of sale	2	2	0
To cash aid for Advertisement	0	6	0
To cash retained to discharge the expense of the Orphans' Court for an order of Confirmation for the house and lot.....	2	2	0
To cash paid for advice....	0	15	0
To cash for drawing this acct.	0	15	0
To cash for passing this acct.	0	15	0
	66	7	2

Affirmed before me the same day and year,

EDWARD SHIPPEN,
Register.

Per me, Jacob Schnuerer.

A few remarks about the administrator and purchaser may not be out of place.

Jacob Schnuerer was born in Carlsruhe, Germany, April 10, 1713. On September 16, 1737, he, then residing at Eckstein, obtained his passports and came to America to seek his fortune, locating in Cocalico township, near Schoeneck, where he came into possession of some land and became a progressive farmer.

On February 10, 1741, he was united in marriage with Katrina Kormanin (Korman).

He was also prominently connected with the Warwick Church, being one of the original signers at its re-organization. His naturalization papers were granted April 10, 1762. He died in 1790.

Peter Elser was a native of Russheim, Germany. Near the close of the year 1749 he, in company with his mother and three sisters, together with others, emigrated to this country, locating in Warwick, now Clay, town-

ship, near the village of Clay, where he, in early life, came into possession of some land and became a thrifty farmer. Besides the farm, he also operated a hemp rolling mill and a saw mill. The latter is still standing and in running order, and is known as "Elser's Saw Mill."

The farm is at present owned by Joseph Barnett, of Lancaster city.

Mr. Elser was married on November 16, 1760, to Anna Margretta, daughter of Johann Casper Stoeber, the pioneer Lutheran minister. He died in 1786, leaving four sons and two daughters.

Author: Schnerer, Frank E.

Title: Some old documents / by Frank Elser Schnerer.

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Elser, Peter, d. 1786.
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