A YEARLY ROSE UPON THE ALTAR
By Clifford Howard

A SHORT distance north of Lancaster, and thirty miles from the covered hills of that same section of Pennsylvania, there is an old German settlement which is a small picturesque town replete with the landmarks of bygone centuries. Its trim, narrow streets, its public square, its low, one-story houses with their roofs of shingle, and the quiet peacefulness that dominates the lives and manners of its meek inhabitants, cannot fail to impress the traveler with their suggestiveness of a long ago village scene.

In truth, this quaint old town of Manheim still retains many of its early characteristics, and the changes wrought by time and modern inventions preserves in obscurity its likeness to the ancient Rhine-German town of Germany, after which it was named and laid out.

It is a town of barely two thousand inhabitants, that there occurs each year a celebration unlike that held in any other place. It is not alone its unique character, nor the fact that it enjoys the distinction of being the only town of its name in Manheim, but it is strange, and at the same time inspiring, purpose for which it is observed, together with the romantic history associated with it and its founder, who passed away in the prime of life, unknown and unrecognized, in a house that had at one time been his ownsymptomatic dwelling, that marks this celebration so attractive and so interesting to the outside world.

ONE RED ROSE RENTAL FOR THE CHURCH SITE

ON THE Sunday of each date there is paid to the oldest Descendants of the founder of Manheim, Baron Henry William Stiegel, the annual rental for the plot of ground given by him more than a century and a quarter ago for the building of a church. This rent, this yearly tribute, is not a sum of money, nor any other token of worldly wealth; it is simply a five-cent red rose; and it is the payment of this flower to the heir of Baron Stiegel that forms the occasion of Manheim's beautiful and novel celebration, the "Feast of Roses." In conveying this church property to the inhabitants of Manheim no consideration was asked for it save the sum of five shillings (the amount required by law to make the transaction valid) and the curiosus obligation, set forth in the deed in this legal form, requiring the congregation to "yield and pay thereunto the said Henry William Stiegel, his heirs or assigns, at the said town of Manheim, in the month of June yearly thereafter, the rent of one red rose if the same shall be lawfully demanded."

Twas this rent paid to the Baron himself, and then for a period of nearly one hundred and twenty years the deed and its strange stipulation were lost sight of. The rent was not demanded and it was gradually forgotten, until it became a mere tradition in the town's history, a vague and uncertain story, treasured in the memories of two or three of the older inhabitants, who would relate that they had heard it said that Baron Stiegel had donated the church property on condition that he should be given a red rose whenever he passed the place.

FOUR GENERATIONS THE FLORAL RENTAL WAS NOT PAID

STRANGELY enough, no attempt was ever made to enforce the terms of this tradition until about six years ago, when the town historian, Dr. J. H. Siler, a man to whom the world owes much for his knowledge of Baron Stiegel, determined to ascertain what foundation there was for this odd and rather unlikely story. The result was that he discovered the long-lost deed, and brought to light the stipulation that for more than four generations had been unnoticed and neglected.

A large and handsome church now occupies the ground that had been so generously given, and the congregation was enjoying the gift of its now valuable property, all unmindful of the slight tribute that the munificent donator had asked should be paid to him and his heirs.

There had been, of course, no violation of the terms of the deed, for during all that long period the rent had never been demanded; but now, prompted by the sweet sentiment that this floral stipulation inspired, and having no knowledge of the existence of any descendants to whom the tributary could be paid, the people of Manheim determined to acknowledge the good-will of their benefactor, each year thereafter by paying to him in spirit the one red rose that he had asked for during his life.

FIRST CELEBRATION OF THE "FEAST OF ROSES"

PREPARATIONS were accordingly made, in the year 1893, for the first celebration of the "Feast of Roses" in honor of the memory of Baron Stiegel, and in commemoration of the payment to him of his yearly rent. The novelty of the coming event, and the discovery that had come to light, created widespread interest, and formed a topic of common conversation in the larger newspapers in the Eastern part of the country.

The means of the merriment the matter was incidentally brought to the attention of one of the Stiegel heirs living in Virginia, who, with the first time made aware of the existence of the curious deed executed by his ancestor, and he accordingly came forward to claim his rent on the day of Manheim's celebration—an unexpected, but at the same time a most appropriate and welcome, feature, and the crowning event of the occasion.

Naturally, the incident became generally known in the neighboring sections of the country, with the result that several others of the Stiegel heirs were heard from, and since then each year more of the descendants of the Baron attend the "Feast of Roses," not only that the terms of his bequest may be fulfilled by demanding and receiving the one red rose, but to do honor to the memory of a man whose life and whose fortune were devoted to the settlement of his fellow beings and to the progress of civilization; a man closely associated with the industrial and religious affairs of the early days of our country, the founder of many enterprises, and for a time one of the wealthiest and most influential men on this continent.

THE UNSOLVABLE MYSTERY OF BARON STIEGEL

WHERE Baron Stiegel was born or who he really was nobody knows, and probably never will know. The early years of his life are lost in mystery, while the closing days of his existence, fought with the gloom of invisible destinies, are shrouded in a mantle of tender forgetfulness that the world is loath to disturb. His career was a long and active one, the first half of it spent in the business of commerce, when he arrived in Philadelphia from Germany, in 1770, a young man of scarcely twenty years of age. As perhaps, the most romantic, realistic and pathetic life-story in the early annals of the State of Pennsylvania.

"THEY FORM IN SLOW PROCESSION AND DROP THEIR ROSES, ONE BY ONE, WITHIN THE CHANCEL RAIL."

Possessed of a large fortune, and gifted with enterprising energy and ambition, he became one of the most prominent men in the country, and his name was known in every section of the land. His success was marked with the interests of his native home by becoming the owner of one of the largest and most important iron works in the country, situated a few miles beyond the place where Manheim is subsequently built. He purchased large tracts of land surrounding the furnace, in order that the might have an independent supply of charcoal and other necessary materials, and at the same time provide advantages for his men and workers, whose numerous dwellings were clustered about his spacious mansion house, where he lived among his tenants as a veritable lord of the manor.

HIS BIG ENTERPRISES AND PALATIAL MANSIONS

To the success of this undertaking induced him to establish works of a similar character in other parts of his state, and to invest in various other enterprises. In 1766 he purchased the mill town of which Manheim is now situated, and there laid out the town in the form of a regular street-plan, naming it after the far-distant Manheim across the sea—the home, perhaps, in which his brave boyhood days were spent—while his whole life may have been spent in schemes and plans in building his own town. Manheim, he likewise built for himself and family a beautiful mansion, the most costly and most elaborate of his several mansion houses. It was a large, square, twistory building, made of brick especially imported for the purposes of the finest kind of English. Its interior was handsomely decorated and luxuriously furnished. Beautiful mantels and exquisite work adorned the mantels and the great fireplaces; costly furniture filled the spacious rooms and added grandeur to the large building, while rare old tapestries and paintings covered the walls and lent their rich colorings to the surroundings of this halcyon home.

THE FIREMOIST WAR OF HIS DAY, AND FRIEND OF WASHINGTON

DURING the days of prosperity that followed his many successful ventures Baron Stiegel was beyond doubt one of the ablest and most prominent men in Pennsylvania, and probably the largest land-owner in the province. His valuable estates were measured by the hundreds of acres; he was the owner of a town, the proprietor of many working mills, the possessor of an enormous brewery, and the virtual lord and master of a tenantry amounting more than a thousand souls. His large financial interests, together with the commanding personality of his person, brought him in touch with the leading men of the day, many of whom, including George Washington, were members among his friends. His hospitality was almost legendary, and he enjoyed the hospitality that he dispensed with so lavish a hand to his reduced neighbors, and his men, hidden away in the lonely depths of a mountain forest. With the power that he wielded, he endeavored to bring about the true nobility of his times. He was evenly kind and indulgent, ever solicitous of their interests and comfort. For those who were whimsically inclined he engaged instructors from...
GARDENS BY HILL

IF YOU wish a garden of children you must have a garden for them. The two are closely allied. You cannot have free minds if the child to whom you forbid access to the garden does not know what there is to be learned. The child is a little scientist and when he has one garden he will want another. And the one thing that at first sight seems most likely to be a failure in the garden is that child to whom you forbid access to the garden. You say that it is for his own good, but no child will ever think so. The only way to make the garden work for you is to make the child think it is for his own good. If you do this you will never have a failure. If you don't think so you are likely to have a failure.

The children who have a garden are the most likely to succeed. If you can get a child with a garden he will succeed even if you can't get much else. The children who have a garden are the most likely to succeed. If you can get a child with a garden he will succeed even if you can't get much else.

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