

Johann Ulrich Arner, the ancestor of the most numerous family of that name in America, was born 1693 and baptized in the Parish of Stadel, Switzerland December 5, 1699. He married in Switzerland, Verona Eberhardt who was baptized at Stadel, Switzerland September 25, 1701. These dates of baptism are given in Faust's "Lists of Swiss immigrants in the 18th century to the American Colonies," Vol. 1 page 81. These lists were transcribed from registers held in the archives of Switzerland at Zurich. In the "list" of those persons who since 1734 left the Parish Stadel for Carolina and Pennsylvania taken from these registers kept by the parishes by Hans Heinrich Goseweiler, pastor, appears the following entry; Anno 1734 there left from Windlach Hans ULRICH Aner, baptized December 5, 1699 the entry goes on to name his wife and four children with their baptismal dates. There can be no doubt as to the identity of this "ANER" with our ancestor, for the list of members of the Goetschy party to America, appears the name of JOHANN ULRICH ARNER as from "Windli" and on the passenger list of the ship Mercury which brought the Goetschy party to America, appears the name of Hans Ulrich Aner with four children whose names and ages correspond with the record of the pastor of Stadel. In the Pennsylvania record of the List of Foreigners who qualified May 29, 1735 at Philadelphia; Johann Ulrich is listed as being 42 years old, Verona 9, Felix 7, Hans Ulrich 5, and Margareth 4. No mention is made of Verona, Johann's wife although she must have been a passenger on the same ship for the reason that on July 24 (m) 1737 a baptism is recorded in the records of the Goshenhoppen Reformed Church of Anna Catrina, daughter of Ulrich and Verona Arner.

JOHANN ULRICH ARNER and his family joined a party of emigrants organized by Rev. Mauritz Goetsch a Reformed Pastor of Zurich. The account of the journey of this band of emigrants from Zurich to Rotterdam was written by one, William Weber who turned back at the seaport and returned to Switzerland. Only one copy of this pamphlet is known to exist and that is in a library in Germany. A partial translation and abstract appears in the history of the Goshenhoppen Reformed Church in the publications of the Pennsylvania German Society, Vol. 27 (1916).

The Goetschy party left Zurich Switzerland, October 4, 1734 and proceeded to Laufenburg on the Rhine where they found a boat which carried them to Basel on the following day. At Basel they were obliged to wait for a passport from the French commander at Strausbourg. Some of the party left on foot to go overland thru France, but they were never heard from again. The main party finally embarked on two boats, 194 persons in all. They camped the first night on an island, and went on shore as often as possible to warm themselves by the fires and dry their clothes, for it was cold and raining. They were stopped many times by both the French and the German imperial armies, and much of their scanty supply of money was extorted from them. They were also in danger from the gunfire of both armies, and their troubles were not lessened by the incompetence of the leader, who appears to have spent most of the time drinking and quarreling with his wife. He gave them very little spiritual consolation and when he did preach he made personal remarks about certain members of the party and aroused much dissension among his followers. At last after many weeks they arrived at Rotterdam and were disappointed to find, no ship waiting for them. They waited some time while Goetschy was negotiating with the Dutch authorities for satisfactory appointment as a minister in the colonies. A few who had traveled by land from Mayence joined the party here and others, disgusted with the leader went back to Zurich. Since our only account of the journey down the Rhine comes from one of these disgruntled persons we may hope that the Rev. Goetschy was really not so black as he was painted.

The party had expected to go to the Carolinas, but when Rev. Goetschy obtained his appointment it was for the colony of Pennsylvania. At this announcement there was more grumbling among the followers; but eventually 143 persons signed for the passage to Philadelphia.

The fare was six doubloons for an adult and three for a child, We are also fortunate that we have a graphic account of the ocean passage in a letter written by John Henry Goetschy to Herr Weidmuller deacon in St. Peter's church at Zurich. The younger Goetschy was then but 17, but he had already been a student in theology in Zurich and commenced to preach soon after his arrival in Pennsylvania. He was an early pastor of the Goshenhoppen Reformed Church and held other charges in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

The party sailed on the ship MERCURY, William Wilson Master. After two days they called at Cowes on the Isle of Wight for provisions and medicines. The entire voyage across the ocean lasted twelve weeks. The sufferings of the passengers were terrible. There were storms and many were attacked by some disease, the nature of which is not specified. The food was bad and the water "stinking, muddy and full of worms" The captain was a brutal tyrant who abused the sick and was enraged at them for becoming ill. Unfavorable winds forced them to wait two days before entering Delaware Bay, but at last on May 29, 1735 nearly eight months from the date of their departure from Zurich they landed at Philadelphia. The arrival of the party was duly recorded and the names of the passengers are given in the Pennsylvania Archives, second series, Vol. XVII, 1892. The list is also given in Rubb's record of 30,000 German emigrants to Pennsylvania.

The party went ashore carrying Rev. Mauritz Goetschy, a very sick man. He saw the promised land and the next day he died. After the landing and the death of the leader the entire party appears to have broken up.

JOHANN ULRICH ARNER with his family settled in Northampton County in the vicinity where the Goshenhoppen church still stands. Recorded in the same church is the record of the baptism of ANNA CATRINA on July 24, 1737, daughter of Ulrich and Verona Arner,

After a lapse of five years, during which he moved to the vicinity of Egypt, namely on September 19, 1742 we find recorded in the records of the Old Egypt Church in Whitehall Township, the baptism of Henrich, son of Ulrich Arner, born August 10th of the same year. In this record the name of the wife is omitted,

The same record shows; Bernhard Jacob Rex, son of George Rex, born April 5, 1724 married May 16, 1746 ANNA ELIZABETH ARNER.

On February 27, 1744 JOHANN secured a warrant for 105 acres (*and 38 perches*)(??) of land located along the Jordan creek in North Whitehall township. In 1746 he was one of founders of the Heidelberg Reformed Church and contributed to its erection. In 1750 he sold a tract of nearly 400 acres to Michael Deiber. On May 26 1751 he received a second warrant for 25 acres of land. The last record of JOHANN on the records of Pennsylvania is in 1762 when he paid a tax of five English pounds,