

DESCRIPTION OF ADAM ANGELMEIER ACCOUNT BOOK

This is a small German account book kept by a tailor, Adam Angelmeier, with entries for the period February-June 1800. It consists of eight leaves (13.8 x 13.5 cm.) stitched into a limp leather cover. The initials "A A" appear on the back cover. Two sheets of the paper (outer & middle) have watermarks (apparently the same). On the outer sheet, the mark is on the fold between the 1st & 8th leaf. On the middle sheet it is just above the fold on the 5th leaf and appears to read: "G Onkley". As bound, the paper has horizontal chainlines.

Although the item contains no reference to geographical location, a comparison of the names included in the book with John Stemmons' Pennsylvania in 1800 (an index to the 1800 census) strongly suggests that Angelmeier might have worked in the vicinity of Upper Saucon Township, Northampton County (now Lehigh County). (No Adam Angelmeier appears in the Stemmons index.) Of the family names included in the book eight are family names found in the Saucon Mennonite Church cemetery (Kaufman, Bachman, Hottel, Frey, Joter, Meyer, Schleifer, Geissinger) so it is possible that some of Angelmeier's customers were Mennonite. (There is a Joseph Frey buried in the Mennonite cemetery whose life dates suggest that he could be the same man given in the account book. We did not systematically check all the individuals in the account book against names found in the cemetery.) The names Angelmeyer, Wachner, Kunsman, Heller, Finck, and Seller do not appear in the Saucon Mennonite Church cemetery.

Donor Royal Bauer (202 Westwood Road, Goshen, IN 46526) purchased the item in the 1960s from a non-Mennonite resident in the Goshen area as part of a larger collection of books. The Goshen area does have several Anglemeyer/Anglemyer families.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS:

First leaf is blank.

Recto of second leaf is done in simple Fraktur style, red & brown ink, some crude decorations. This is a rough transcription of the text on that leaf:

"Adam Angelmeier, 1800.

Ich a[r]mer Mensch Ich armer sündler steh hier vor gott ach
gott verfar gelinder, und geh nicht mit mir ins gericht
erbarme dich erbarme dich gott mein erbarmer Ueber mich wer
ist mir doch so herzlich".

Verso of second leaf is blank.

Recto of third leaf through verso of sixth leaf contain prices and dates of individual jobs done for various persons. The names given are: David Kafman "and his brother", Jacob Wachner [?], David Kafman, David Bachmann, Jese Kunsman, Joseph Frei, Jacob

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Bachmann, Adam Angelmeÿer [apparently recording a debt he owed Michel Hottel], Johannes Bachmann, Simon Heller, Johannes Heller, Johannes Joter, Samuel M uer [M ier?], Abraham Schleifer [?], Joseph Ge siner [i.e. Geissinger?], Michael Hotel, Jese Kunsmann, Johannes Finck, Samuel Meier, Georg Hotel, Samuel Meier, Joseph Geasiner, Philob [Philip] Seller [?], and Samuel Me er [sic, i.e. Meÿer].

Recto of seventh through recto of eighth leaf apparently contain daily income totals in pence ("bens") for work February-June. The account was started on the recto of the eighth leaf and continued forward to the recto of the seventh. The recto of the eighth leaf has the name of Samuel Meÿer at the top and a note in the left margin about a debt.

Verso of the eighth leaf contains a lower- and upper-case alphabet and a sentence which appears to read: "Adam Angelmeÿer gehert die Hand Schreibe[n]s und so wies we ter [i.e. weÿter/weiter?] laut [?] 1800".

Joe Springer
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