



1722—1927

Seventh Bucher Reunion

SOUVENIR

Magazine & Program

No. 2

Commemorating the 205th Anniversary of the

Bucher Family Settlement

in Pennsylvania

RESERVOIR PARK, HARRISBURG, PA.



Thursday, August 4th, 1927

10:00 a. m.

Eastern Standard Time

*Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory
of children are their fathers. Prov. 19:6.*

Compliments of

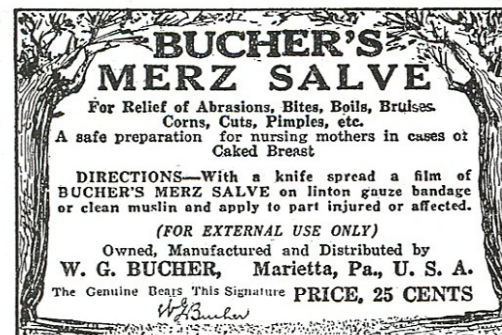
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Myerstown, Pa.

Compliments of

Ammon H. Bucher

Manheim, Pa.



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Site of the Carlisle Furnace where munitions
of war were made for the Continental Army
A lake which never freezes in winter
A lake which is never warm in summer
An elegant spot for an outing or picnic
The ideal spot for your permanent home

J. C. BUCHER, Owner

BOILING SPRINGS, - - PENNA.



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Officers for A. D. 1927

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Greetings:

The President and associate officers and the chairman and members of the Executive Committee extend to you and each of you a cordial welcome to this the 205th anniversary of the Bucher Family settlement in Pennsylvania.

There is every reason to feel gratified at the interest shown in these family gatherings, and it is a source of much encouragement to observe the progress made from year to year.

We appreciate that many of the friends are so far removed one from the other, in a geographical sense, that they see each other but once a year, and so in a way are obliged to renew the acquaintanceship at each annual meeting. We urge you to lay aside any feeling of reticence and get acquainted.

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your cordial support as well as for your interest in making this occasion the success we know it is going to be.

Program

10:00 A. M.

CALL TO ORDER. OPENING.

Father of all, Thy care we bless,
Which crowns our families with peace;
From Thee they spring, and by Thy hand
They are, and shall be still sustained.

To God, most worthy to be praised,
Be our domestic altars raised;
Who, Lord of heaven, yet designs to come
And sanctify our humblest home.

To Thee may each united house
Morning and night present its vows;
Our servants there, and rising race,
Be taught Thy precepts and Thy grace.

So may each future age proclaim
The honors of Thy glorious name.
And each succeeding race remove
To join the family above.

—PHILIP DODDRIDGE.

INVOCATION.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

COMMUNICATIONS.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

NEW BUSINESS.

ELECTION TO FILL VACANCIES ON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ADJOURNMENT. 11:00 A. M.

Program

11:30 A. M.

The Executive Committee and Board of Trustees jointly will convene at 11:30 A. M. for the purpose of electing a President, Vice-President and Secretary for the calendar year 1928.

While the electors are in session the ladies will prepare the table for community lunch in family units or groups.

LUNCH AT 12:00 NOON

Lunch will be served at 12 noon with the following features:

INVOCATION.....REV. JOHN B. BUCHER, Ephrata, Pa.

Music

ADDRESS OF WELCOME..DR. ALBERT H. BUCHER, Harrisburg, Pa.

Music

REPLY TO ADDRESS OF WELCOME—

MR. K. EZRA BUCHER, Myerstown, Pa.

SELECTION.....MRS. J. C. BUCHER, Boiling Springs, Pa.

*Introducing the newly-elected President, Vice-President,
and Secretary for 1928*

Music

SHORT TALKS—(speakers to be announced).

Closing hymn on back of cover.

Notices

For advertising space, communicate with the Secretary of the Executive Committee.

Owing to the Reunion adopting the Bucher Constitution and By-Laws after the annual election, August 5, 1926, a vacancy existed on the Executive Committee which was filled temporarily by appointment, hence two new members will be elected August 4, 1927, the first for six years and the second for seven years.

Friends will please remember the Souvenir Magazine and Program of 1926 contains the Constitution and By-Laws of the Bucher Family Reunion. Those not having received their copy may obtain one while the supply lasts. Such requests should be made to A. H. Bucher, Manheim, Pa.

The officers and members of the Executive Committee are very anxious to give you a larger and better Magazine and Program each year and to make it self-sustaining. Your co-operation and advertisements (particularly from the business men in the family) will make this possible.

By increasing the number of advertisements we will lower the cost.

A Sketch of the Life of Dr. John C. Bucher

BY J. C. BUCHER, JR., LEBANON, PA.

John Christian Bucher, M. D., was a prominent physician and surgeon of Lebanon, a worthy member of a professional family whose members for six generations have been disciples of Galen, was born, March 22, 1863, at Schaefferstown, Pa. His parents were Dr. I. R. and Mary E. (Heister) Bucher, the former of whom had long been a physician in this city, and the latter of whom, a daughter of John B. Heister, of Lebanon, a nephew of Governor Heister, died in this city in 1897.

Dr. Bucher received careful instruction during his youth, first in the public schools and later in a private academy, and graduated from the Lebanon High School in 1880. Yielding to inherited inclinations, he resolved to enter the medical profession, and under the careful instruction of his able father, prepared for entrance to the University of Pennsylvania, graduating from the medical department in the class of 1884. Soon after he entered into partnership with his father, and this association continued until 1892, when the younger physician opened an individual office and built up a large and lucrative practice.

Dr. Bucher was a factor in city and county politics, having been elected a member of the Common Council of Lebanon in 1887. From 1900 to 1902 he served as chief engineer of the Lebanon Fire Department, and for the past thirty-five years was a member of the Lebanon Hook and Ladder Company.

In 1892 Dr. Bucher was married to Miss Jennie E. Herman, daughter of the late ex-Mayor, John C. Herman, of Harrisburg, and three sons were born to this union, namely: I. Reily, John C. and Herman V. The religious connection of the family is with St. John's Reformed Church.

Dr. Bucher was a man who made friends, both in a social and in a business way. His fraternal affiliation was with the Masonic organizations, and he filled the chairs in Mount Lebanon Lodge, No. 226, F. & A. M., Weidel Chapter, No. 197, R. A. M., Lebanon Council, No. 27, R. S. E. and S. M. M., Hermit Commandery, No. 24, K. C.; was also a member of Rajah Temple, Mystic Shrine, and Harrisburg Consistory, Thirty-second Degree. Socially, he was a member of the Lebanon Club, the Lehigh Valley Medical Association, the State Sportsmen's Association, having served on the legislative committee of the latter, the Lebanon Lodge of Elks, and the Lebanon Country Club. Dr. Bucher was also very much interested in the Bucher Clan, attending all the various reunions and serving on several of the programs. He was a member of the Lebanon County Medical Association and censor of the Third Pennsylvania District of the American Medical Association, of which he was a former vice-president. He was medical examiner for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company of New York, the United States Life Insurance Company and the Pennsylvania Catholic Benevolent League.

Dr. Bucher died on September 6, 1926, from a heart attack, resulting from a complication of diseases. There survive him his wife, Mrs. Jennie H. Bucher, his sons, I. Reily, John C. and Herman V., his sister, Mae V., wife of C. O. Bressler, of Lebanon, Pa., and Dr. Heister Bucher, of Reading, Pa.

Address of Dr. Heister Bucher

(ED. NOTE.—The following address was delivered by Dr. Heister Bucher, of Reading, Pa., on the occasion of the Fifth Bucher Family Reunion, at Boiling Springs, Pa., August 9, 1925; reprinted in this issue by request.)

It affords me great pleasure to greet my Bucher relatives, near and distant. Naturally, the distant far outnumber the near. I see few familiar faces before me. However, these reunions will change all that.

Interested in family records, I began a family tree years ago, which is unfinished, but I assure you not through fear of finding someone HANGING on it. On the contrary, I have every reason to believe that the name of Bucher has been borne with honor through the generations, both in the Old World and in the New. While our name has neither graced the White House nor juggled the finances of the nation, it has supplied more than its quota of substantial men who have promoted the welfare of the Commonwealth; the bodily welfare by tilling the soil; the physical welfare by the profession of medicine; security, by the legal profession, and the spiritual welfare by the ministry—to which profession this family has contributed an unusual number.

A good name is a heritage to be valued, and for which we are indebted to our ancestors. Ancestors is a big word and a fascinating one, in that it is unlimited in its scope and gives one's imagination a vast field in which to roam. In roaming, we all can be the sons of kings. Who can refute it? If but one of us could, to-day, line up his or her ancestors we would face an innumerable host. Each line has its outstanding characters. One Reverend John Conrad Bucher appeals to us. He left a home of wealth and refinement, where he associated with the great men of his time. Coming to America in 1755, he settled in Pennsylvania, then practically a wilderness, where there was great need of ministers. He won the hearts of his people to such an extent that when he died at a wedding at Annville, five miles from his home, he was carried back to Lebanon on the shoulders of his devoted parishioners.

The ancestors in whom we have a common interest are the enterprising brothers, Hannes and Benedict Bucher, who ventured from the security of Switzerland to try their fortunes in America. For me this adventure has lent a special glamor to Switzerland, their native land, and especially to the canton of Berne, from which they came.

Some years ago my dream came true; I had the pleasure of visiting their beautiful country and its capital, Berne. I am loyal to the beauty of Pennsylvania—a garden spot—but I am sure that they must have suffered much from "heimweh" for their glorious snow-capped mountains and their peaceful green valleys.

We entered Switzerland by way of the picturesque Italian lakes and St. Gothard's tunnel, the longest in the world, nine and one-quarter miles in length. The magnificent scenery of Switzerland has been described by pen and in picture so well and often, that I know you are quite familiar with it, and I shall not dwell upon it.

We had been told that the Buchers in Switzerland were all eminent professional men—ministers, lawyers and doctors. Upon arriving in Berne, we began to look for our name in high places. You may imagine our chagrin when we found it, in the first instance, *high on a circus wagon!* Undaunted, we continued our search. We next came upon it on a milliner's window. We called on the milliner and used our best German—not so good at that—and were astonished to be answered in good old-fashioned Pennsylvania Dutch. Finally our perseverance was rewarded by finding on a tablet in the cathedral, among the names of heroes in a battle with the French at Grauholtz and Neuenegg in 1798, the name of "Benedict Bucher."

The city of Berne maintains a centrally located bear-pit, according to immemorial usage. The bear is the heraldic emblem of Berne and frequently appears on fountains, shop-windows and signs. Bread and carrots were the only offerings that we were permitted to make to the bears, which were almost human in their tricks of begging, doing clever stunts to hold our attention.

In the very heart of Europe, surrounded by warring nations, Switzerland, neutral, staunch and aloof, held her own during the World War. Around her boundaries changed, countries were devastated and dynasties were overthrown; but, protected by mountains and minding her own business, she came through untouched. She became the refuge for deposed royalty.

I think that the Buchers have shown much of the spirit of their native land; loyal, staunch and religious. A tribute to the quality of Swiss manhood is the choice of the Swiss guard for the Vatican.

The Swiss settlers came here, were absorbed, and became a part of the Pennsylvania Dutch. The Pennsylvania Dutch have been held up to ridicule in modern fiction, by writers who have but a superficial knowledge of them. But they have come into their own; the simple, industrious, loyal, religious, family life of the Pennsylvania Dutch have produced eminent ministers who are filling metropolitan pulpits, and many men and women who adorn their chosen professions and vocations. Their early furniture, called "Pennsylvania Dutch," is now recognized as the finest American furniture. It is simple, durable and beautiful, typical of the people who made and first used it. It is sought and prized by those who have the products of the world to choose from.

My regret is that there are not more of us Pennsylvania Dutch. Judging by the signs of the times, our original families will be scattered and absorbed. Many of our names will not be perpetuated, but will be supplanted by those we call foreign.

These gatherings are not indicative of family pride, but of family sentiment, and serve to remind us of the traditions and high standards of those who preceded us, and may foster in our children, in this fast and furious age, a respect and a desire for the wholesome and simple ways of long ago.

We concede that much that was good in the past has been sacrificed in arriving at the present; but the present is also good. While we have lost much, we have gained much.

We descendants are also ancestors. I trust that each one of us will have left his stamp on the future generations of Buchers, for the good of the family and the nation.

We Buchers will not concede that we are like potatoes—"the *best*, under the ground."

"For we are the same that our fathers have been;
We see the same sights that our fathers have seen;
We drink the same stream, and we view the same sun,
And run the same course that our fathers have run."

(ED. NOTE.—From a letter written by William P. Bucher, Spring Valley Farm, Quarryville, Pa., August 14, 1923, the following interesting information is quoted as published in the Pennsylvania German issue of January, 1910.)

The surname BUCHER means a maker of books. At the time the word Bucher was adopted as a surname a Bucher, or maker of books, was an engrosser, since that was before the days of printing. The word Bucher is of course derived from "Buch," which is in turn derived from the verb "biegen," meaning "to bend."

The book is made by bending or folding the sheets of paper. It is interesting to note that there is a reduplication in intensive form of Bucher; reference is made to the word Bucherer, meaning "keeper of books, or librarian."

(ED. NOTE.—A communication in the files of the Executive Committee, bearing the name of John W. Bucher, dated Kingsman, Arizona, Jan. 27, 1919, enables us to present the following interesting data.)

The genealogy of the Bucher family as received from W. H. Egle, in the year 1887, who at the time was State Librarian at Harrisburg, Pa.:

Claus Bucher born at Neuer Kirk in the Canton of Schaffhausen, Switzerland, A. D. 1524, heads the family record.

This record, beginning about the time of the Reformation, in the land of its source, is inscribed on an antiquated sheet of paper, in the German language, with the coat of arms emblazoned thereon. The coat of arms was a shield emblazoned with a beech tree, eradicated (from which the family name is derived), and a hunter's horn, stringed crest—the tree with the horn suspended in some manner. This coat of arms is worn by the large family of Buchers in Germany at the present day. The crest varies with the position and condition of the head of the particular family.

There is a copy of the family record from Schaffhausen, certified by the seal of the United States Consul at Basle, June 25, 1847:

"Claus Bucher married April 6, 1545, to Dorothea Zeller."

(Then follows the genealogy of 22 of the family, up to the year 1876.)

The family history is also traced to John Jacob Bucher, LL.D., who was born January 1, 1699. He was governor of Neuen Kirck. His descendants came to

Pennsylvania; there were six children, Anna Maria, John Jacob, John Conrad, Mary Elizabeth, Anna Matia (second) and John. Those that came to Pennsylvania: John Conrad Bucher came to Pennsylvania in 1756, was a captain in the Provincial Army in the French and Indian War. After the war he devoted his time and labor to the ministry. In 1769 he accepted the call to the German Reformed Church of Lebanon and served the several congregations until he died, August 15, 1780.

John Jacob Bucher in 1790 located at Harrisburg, was elected coroner and appointed justice of the peace by Governor Mifflin. He was elected to the Pennsylvania Legislature for nine successive terms. In 1810 he was appointed by Governor Snyder one of the commissioners for the erection of the public buildings at Harrisburg; in 1818 he was appointed by Governor Findlay an associate judge of Dauphin County, he was endowed with great wisdom and sagacity and of unimpeachable integrity and honesty. He was called upon to fill many public and private trusts of honor and responsibility. Judge Bucher settled in Germantown in 1764, in 1784 he moved to Harrisburg.

John Conrad Bucher, merchant in Alexandria, Huntingdon Co., Pennsylvania.

John Conrad Bucher (13th) in 1830 was elected to Congress.

George Horton Bucher, Harrisburg, died in 1884.

Maria Bucher, Harrisburg, married Joseph Laurence, of Adams County; had five children.

EXTRACT FROM THE HISTORY OF NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

John, Henry and Dietrich Bucher emigrated from Switzerland to Pennsylvania. Dietrich established an iron furnace near Reading.

John and Henry located at Sunbury. Henry Bucher was a farmer and resided at the southwest corner of Walnut and Third streets. He owned nearly all that part of the Borough of Sunbury between the Susquehanna River and Shamokin Creek, from the mouth of the creek to Spruce street, and first reduced the land to cultivation. He married a Miss Epley and they had issue as follows: Henry, Elizabeth, Mary, Francis, George and John.

Henry had a hotel on Front street and operated a ferry for some years.

Elizabeth married George Weiser (tanner).

Mary married Jacob Leisenring.

Francis was a tanner and one of the last persons engaged in that business at Sunbury. He died on the 19th day of March, 1875, at the age of seventy years.

George a soldier in the war of 1812.

John (it would appear that John was the youngest, but nothing in the data at present available suggests his calling or occupation).

The Bucher family date their advent into Northumberland County back to the Indian occupation and the name figures with more or less prominence in all succeeding generations.

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For a Cool, Refreshing Glass of Soda Water
Or for a Light Lunch Try Our Toasted Sandwiches

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403 Locust Street, Columbia, Pa.

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Headquarters for Victor Orthophonic Victrolas, Radios,
Band Instruments and everything in music
at this big store.

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Main Office: 8 N. Market Square - - Harrisburg, Pa.

God be with you 'till we meet again;
By His counsels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you;
God be with you 'till we meet again.

'Till we meet, 'till we meet,
'Till we meet at Jesus' feet;
'Till we meet, 'till we meet;
God be with you 'till we meet again.

God be with you 'till we meet again;
'Neath His wings securely hide you;
Daily manna still provide you.
God be with you 'till we meet again.

God be with you 'till we meet again.
When life's perils thick confound you
Put His arms unfailing 'round you;
God be with you 'till we meet again.

God be with you 'till we meet again.
Keep love's banner floating o'er you,
Smite death's threatening wave before you;
God be with you 'till we meet again.

—Jeremiah E. Rankin.