



OUR HERITAGE

www.manheim1762.org 717-381-1681

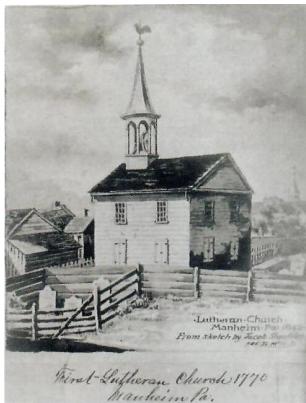


Published by the Historic Manheim Preservation Foundation, Inc., 27 Market Square, Manheim, PA 17545

July 2023

1772 Church Bell

The bell from the first Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Manheim was exhibited at the 200th Anniversary Service, June 11, 1972. At that time, the bell was owned by someone from Hamburg, Pa.



The history of the bell from 1944 to the present:

On November 13, 1944, many antique treasures left the town of Manheim. One of those treasures was the bell from the Red Rose Church here in Manheim. The bell was sold at auction for the George H. Danner Estate. It was purchased at the auction by Charles Heffner, an antique dealer from Reading, PA. Mr. Heffner sold the bell sometime around 1969. However, the bell might have been for sale from the time Mr. Heffner bought it at the Danner Estate auction. At least on March 25, 1949, he indicated to Miles Keiffer that he had the bell and another item that he wanted Miles to see. Why Miles didn't purchase the bell is a bit of a mystery. Miles attended the November 13, 1944 Danner Estate auction where he purchased the door and transom from the original Stiegel Office. Perhaps he thought that the bell would just be another item in storage. The door and transom were stored in his garage from the

time that he purchased them in 1944, except when he exhibited the door in Harry Smith's appliance store window during one of Manheim's celebrations.

Below is Mr. Heffner's note to Miles. The picture is the one shown in column one.

Mr. Miles H. Keiffer 3/25/49
 Dear Sir. This Photo. shows the Bell, which
 we have here. Came from the Stiegel
 Coll. Please return Photo. Bell is solid
 Brass or Bronze, Stof some time, will
 show you a Rare bottle, right to show
 same to you. My Tru C. M. Heffner
 C. M. HEFFNER
 235 W. GREENWICH ST.
 READING, PA.

It was around 1967 that Miles told the writer of this article about the existence of the bell. Learning of its existence prompted the writer to speak with Charles Heffner and also have some conversation with George Heiges as to what he knew about the bell. George Heiges, as a young man, worked for George Danner in the store; was familiar with the Danner museum; was a member of the Lutheran Church; and a researcher and writer of Manheim's early history.

George Heiges did not know of the existence of the church bell or the Stiegel Office door since they were not part of the collections that Mr. Danner had on exhibit. Many items were just in storage in a room away from the museum collections.

At the 200th Anniversary Church Celebration, Mr. Heiges sat with the writer of this article, and he expressed that if the bell came from George Danner's collection it was from the original 1772 church.

Creating the rose.



The bell, once located on a wooden beam in the steeple of the 1772 Red Rose Church, just received an attractive wrought iron stand for display purposes. The stand, which is seen below with the bell, was crafted by Larry Long, a skilled artisan. Since the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church is referred to as the Red Rose Church, Larry added a rose to the stand. Again, Larry crafted the rose with the use of the forge, hammer, and anvil.



Besides the bell returning to Manheim through an auction in 1997, a number of other historical Manheim treasures were returned or saved from being lost as part of the town's heritage. One of those treasures is shown in the next column.

Catharina Elizabeth (Holtz) Stiegel's Bible



The bible was purchased at an auction in York County on June 22, 1999, and brought back to Manheim at that time. Read the story in the HMPF special publication, "The Families of Henry William Stiegel and his brother Anthony Stiegel," by Janet Atkinson Strauss, 2012.

ANNOUNCING THE GEORGE H. DANNER ESTATE AUCTION OF RARE ANTIQUES and MODERN FURNISHINGS

Monday, November 13, 1944

BEGINNING PROMPTLY AT 10.000 A. M., with AFTERNOON and
EVENING SESSIONS.

Sale to be held on the SECOND FLOOR of the
DANNER STORE BLDG., situated on Market Square,
MANHEIM, Lanc. Co., PA.

NOTE:—All the things to be sold were the furnishings
of the Danner Home, from which they have been taken to
the Store Building to be sold. Nothing has been sold out of
the home, so there are many choice things to be offered at
sale.

ANTIQUES FURNITURE

Very Rare Walnut Chippendale Grandfather's Clock, the dial hood has pretty broken arch top molding with carved rosettes, flame finials and carving above the dial door, the slender pendulum body has a nicely arched door and fluted quarter rounds set in corners, the oblong base has a raised carved panel and fluted quarter rounds set in corners, the movement is eight day with brass works, the brass dial has a sweep second, hour, minute and date hands, and shows the moon, the dial is marked "GEO. HOFF, Lancaster." Fine condition.

Rare Walnut Grandfather's Clock, the dial hood has pretty broken arch top molding with turned finial, the slender pendulum body has an arched door and chamfered corners, the oblong base has a solid panel and chamfered corners, the movement is the brass eight day type with pretty floral dial that is marked "JOSEPH EBELMAN, Lancaster, No. 10." Fine condition.

Footnote: The person writing this article attended the 1944 auction with his father, and he remembers the four poster bed, two tall case clocks, cylinder-type music boxes, cylinder phonographs, and boxes of the wax cylinders. As a kid of 11, he was fascinated with the things 100 + years old. Upon seeing the phonograph and wax cylinders, he expressed to his father that he would like to receive them as his Christmas gift. His dad was the underbidder. The player and shoeboxes of cylinders sold for \$28.00. In 1944, during the time of World War II, \$28.00 was a lot of money. The minimum hourly wage in 1944 was 30¢.

With Hammer in Hand

The following three pictures show the bell stand under construction.



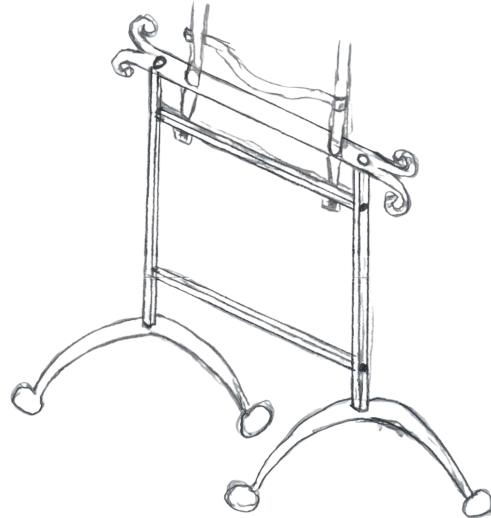
Larry Long at his forge.

The old being added to the new.



Designing a stand to hold the original bell frame and later the bell.

The pictures of Larry Long working in his shop were taken by Melody McFarland. The above picture shows Larry working with the original bell frame to form the stand seen on page two.



Larry Long's proposed design for the stand.

A Door of Historical Value

The subject of this article is the door mentioned on page one of this newsletter. It's the front entrance door to what was Henry William Stiegel's brick office building at the west end of Market Square in Manheim. As mentioned on page one, Miles Keiffer purchased the door and transom in 1944.

It's this writer's guess that Miles bought the door at the George H. Danner Estate sale in 1944 for several reasons. It could have been that he was the only person at the sale who knew that it was the entrance door from the Stiegel Office and its historical value. Another reason would have been that Miles, as a child, had owned the door.

As a child 8 years old, Miles took an express wagon to the site of the razed Stiegel Office building and took the door to his home on South Charlotte Street, below Railroad Avenue, what some of us still know as subdivision or subduehooey.

Miles said that when George Danner became aware that Miles had the door, Danner went to Miles' father, Frank, and Miles had to give the door to Danner. Miles had to wait from 1910 to 1944 to get the door back.

Back in the 1970s, Bill Duncan, Ben Hershey, Paul Stern, and a few others were considering establishing a glass blowing operation in the area that is now a parking lot in back of the Fasig and Keith houses. They also had thoughts of constructing a replica of the Stiegel Office building on East High Street where the Keith House is now located. Had that materialized, the original Stiegel Office door would have been preserved in some way inside the building and a reproduction used as the entrance door to the recreated Stiegel Office building. Great thoughts, but as usual, little support for things of true and lasting value.



Preserving the Stiegel Office Door

The Stiegel Office door, saved by Miles Keiffer in 1910 and 1944, will become the front of a case displaying Stiegel-type glass. As can be seen, the door has a window of nine glass panes. By lowering the upper panel on what is referred to as an Indian Door, will provide a view of Stiegel glass specimens in the case. In using the door to create a display case, no alterations to the original door will occur. If possible, the display case is to be a close simulation of the entrance to the office. When the display case is created it will be on loan and exhibited at HMPF.



The jelly glass, clear in color, has been darkened to show the engraving. The glass measures 1 1/8" high and 3 3/8" wide at the handles.

Two specimens of the above glass item appear in Frederic Hunter's book **Stiegel Glass**, as items 118 and 119. The description of the item is listed as: "Jelly Glass with Handles. White flint. Sunken panels on under part of bowl and a Type I engraved border with wavy line above. 1 1/8 inches high.

This pair of Jelly Glasses came from an old house in the Island of St. Martin, in the West Indies. An old Stiegel stove was in the same house. Both facts are interesting in view of the trade we have seen that Stiegel carried on with the West Indian sugar planters." **Two specimens of the above Jelly Glass will be exhibited at HMPF in the Stiegel Office door display case.**

← It's believed that the picture of Henry Wm.'s office was taken just prior to demolition of the building in 1910. Three workers can be seen to the left in the background.