

This July 2026 issue of Our Heritage celebrates America's 250th birthday, July 4, 1776, and observes our town's founding on October 1, 1762.

OUR HERITAGE

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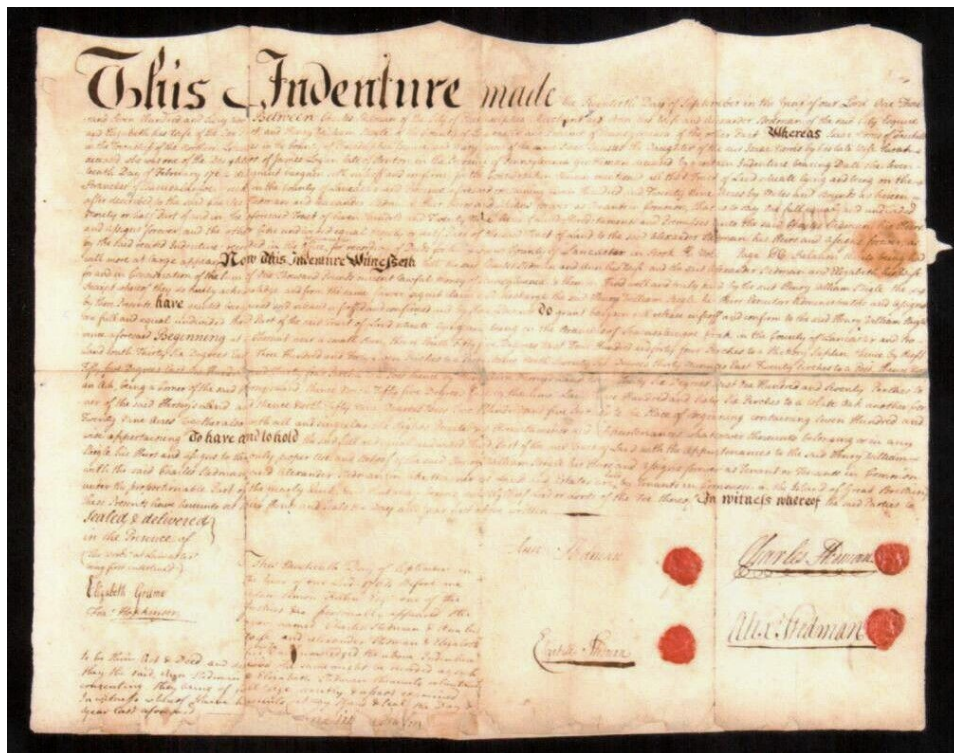
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July 4th, 2026

THE TOWN of MANHEIM is FOUNDED.

On September 20, 1762, Alexander Steadman and his wife and Charles Steadman and his wife, owners of the 729 acres, sold one-third undivided shares in the 729 acres to Henry William Stiegel and his wife, Elizabeth.

Pictured is the original September 20, 1762 indenture for the 729 acres.



The belief is that this document survives because of the Ensminger and Danner families. The families were prominent in the town's early history as merchants and town officials. A few earlier issues of **Our Heritage** provide information on the two families and how early documents and artifacts were preserved.



In preparing this article, the thought was to include only excerpts from George L. Heiges' publication, **Henry William Stiegel and His Associates**, but Mr. Heiges' full text concerning the town's founding really needed to be presented here. Mr. Heiges' extensive research provides us with the wonderful history of the town's founding.

THE TOWN of MANHEIM is FOUNDED

By George L. Heiges

"To tell of the next phase of the Stiegel-Stedman business alliance, we need to go back in Pennsylvania History to the days of the founder of the province for some necessary background material. William Penn's secretary, advisor, and also tried and true friend was James Logan who sailed across the Atlantic on the ship "Wellcome" with him in 1699. A man of broad intellectual perception and marvelous energy, for nearly half a century it was he who actually directed the affairs of the Province of Pennsylvania, while leaving to other men the honor of holding the titular office of Governor. In 1728 he built as his home the delightful place, now even as then, known as Stenton, but which was then a country seat, and is now only a very pleasant reminder of colonial Philadelphia, surrounded as it is in these days by the homes and factories of North Philadelphia. James Logan of Stenton came to know the province better than any of the Penns or any man of his time ever knew it. He was just as much a friend to the native Indians as he was to the colonizing pioneers; and as he travelled the length and breadth of the province negotiating with the Indians and advising and helping the settlers, he saw much desirable land and sensing such land when he saw it, he took out patents on much good acreage until eventually there was no section of Pennsylvania in which James Logan did not hold real estate. When his earthly life ended in 1751, the Logan estate consisted of much in money and land, which was the way James Logan wanted it; for he came with Penn primarily because he saw an opportunity for material advancement. But apart from and above the reasons which brought Logan to Pennsylvania, he developed into very much of an asset to the colony, interested as he surely was in the expanding of colonial industry. He showed such interest as early as 1727 when with other men he established the Durham Iron Works in Bucks County, and in the year following sent three tons of pig iron from the furnace to London in hopes of finding a market in England for products from the province of Pennsylvania.

There were full five thousand acres of land in the province for which James Logan was given a patent but for which he did not pay a purchase price. They were a gift from Hannah, widow of William Penn, and sons John, Thomas and Richard in appreciation of services rendered to the late founder of the province of Pennsylvania. From the survey in the Pennsylvania land office at Harrisburg, we give these extracts.

"Thomas Penn & Richard Penn send greetings...by certain deeds bearing date the twenty second and twenty third Days of the Month of May in the year of our Lord 1724 our late Mother Hannah Penn executrix of the Last Will and Testament of our deceased Father William Penn Esq...with ourselves in consideration as some Acknowledgement and Reward of the many Faithful and important services performed for our Family by James Logan...did give and grant unto the said James Logan the quantity of five thousand Acres of Land within our said Province-under the yearly Quitrent of one English shilling for every hundred acres....Whereas one of the Tracts mentioned is said to have been before laid out on the Branches of Schacassalongae Creek...."

The tract on Chicquesalunga Creek which consisted of 1,400 acres was resurveyed by John Penn and Thomas Penn in their own right and by Richard Penn through authority granted, and on September 30, 1734 this tract of land which was in Donegal Township was confirmed as a gift from the Penns and so passed into the hands of James Logan, said Logan "paying yearly unto the Proprietors at the town of Lancaster yearly on March 1st, one English silver shilling for every hundred acres." This tract in Donegal Township is to figure very vitally in the career of Henry William Stiegel.

James Logan's 1,400 acre tract in Donegal Township adjoined another tract of 1,500 acres which had been surveyed in 1720 for Isaac Norris, Sr. sole remaining member of a family whose other members had perished in an earthquake on the island of Jamaica. In Philadelphia Norris married Mary, daughter of Thomas Lloyd, sometimes erroneously called Governor, since he was properly President of the Province from 1684 to 1686. Norris built a stone house on his Donegal Township tract, but lived in it very little if at all, preferring his desirable country seat, known as "Fairhill" which he had erected on the road between Philadelphia and Germantown.

Isaac Norris, Jr. son of the above man took as his wife Sarah Logan, daughter of John Logan and granddaughter of James Logan. This Isaac Norris became speaker of the Colonial Assembly, and was in his day and is now generally referred to as Isaac Norris the Speaker." He was the man, who in his official capacity ordered a bell for the provincial State House to be cast in London, and on which he ordered these words to be inscribed "PROCLAIM LIBERTY THROUGHOUT THE LAND"- words which were prophetic of the message which the bell was later ring out. Isaac Norris the Speaker never made any purchases of land in Lancaster County, but it was by the will of his wife's grandfather, James Logan of Stenton that he came to have an interest in a part of the 1,400 acres that had come to Logan as a gift from the Penns. In his lifetime, James Logan sold off part of those 1,400 acres, but there still remained 729 acres which he willed to his granddaughter Sarah, wife of Isaac Norris, Junior. In 1748, three years before death took him, Logan wrote to Norris, "By will, I have further granted seven hundred acres on Sickasulungo Creek, next above ye Tract thy Father took up,-which will require thy care." Upon the death of Sarah Logan Norris, the tract of 729 acres then passed to her husband and daughter Mary, and of course by this time, the land was no longer in Donegal Township but was in the newly created township of Rapho.

Charles Stedman and his brother Alexander in their years in Pennsylvania had purchased land in various areas of the province, and on Feb. 17, 1762 added further to their real estate domain by buying from Isaac Norris and his daughter Mary those 729 acres in Rapho Township, Lancaster County, which we have traced since 1724. On September 20th of 1762-the same year in which they bought it, the Stedmans and their wives sold a one-third undivided share in the tract to Henry William Stiegel. The latest venture did not partake of any signs of industry as did Charming Forge and Elizabeth Furnace when they were purchased. What they had on their hands this time was simply 729 acres of land, which was not even forested, but which was, according to old tales, unusually fine natural meadow land where early Lancaster farmers would come from far and near to cut tall grass for hay. However, good as these 700 and more acres might have been for hay crops, Stiegel and his partners had not purchased the tract for the purpose of making hay. What then, did they intend to do with it?

It is certain that the Stedmans and Stiegel conferred on the possibilities of the Rapho Township tract before he Stedmans bought it; and it is just as certain that by the time Stiegel actually had the papers to show that he was owner of one-third of it, all the ground work concerning the use to which the tract was to be put had been accomplished. They had come to a decision to begin a town, and the first deeds to lots in the new town were dated October 1, 1762, ten days after Stiegel purchased his share. We know that deeds simply could not have been prepared in those ten days, so it is very evident that Stiegel and the Stedman brothers had their heads together for quite some time discussing the potentialities of this piece of ground.

Apart from the land on which these three men began a new town, practically all of the land in Rapho Township was taken up and was in the possession of Germans and Swiss at the time that a surveyor was brought to the Stedman-Stiegel tract to survey it for the proposed town. In 1756 out of a total of 118 heads of families in Rapho, 100 were German-Swiss, and by 1762, the proportion of Palatines over English and Scotch-Irish was even greater. It was into this community of Germans that the town of Stiegel and Stedman was projected and given the very familiar German name of Manheim. It is reasonable to suppose that Stiegel gave the name to the town and naturally, it was therefore the town's name which led historians to believe that Stiegel came from

Mannheim on the Rhine and that he named the Lancaster County town after his native city. It seems to us that Stiegel hit on the name Manheim for the new town, because it had been a familiar name in Lancaster County since Manheim Township had been set up in 1729, and because the name recalled to Stiegel memories of that old German city which Stiegel certainly was familiar with, situated 150 miles up the Rhine from his native city of Cologne. Surely too, some of the Rapho residents had lived in the community of Mannheim, Germany, and to them, the possibility of a buying center with the name of Manheim must have had a great appeal.

Henry William Stiegel is popularly known as the founder of Manheim, and yet in all fairness, we must admit that the Stedmans had a large responsibility too in its beginning. Stiegel in fact should be considered only as one of the six founders, if the actual progenitors were the individuals whose signatures appear as grantors on all of the original deeds to lot holders in Manheim. According to the record, therefore, the founders were Charles Stedman and Ann his wife, Alexander Stedman and Elizabeth his wife and Henry William Stiegel and Elizabeth his wife.

However, it really was Stiegel who gave the project the momentum which it needed and even in his own day he was looked upon as the founder by the farmer folk of northern Lancaster County who called the town Stiegel Staedtel or Stiegel town. For one hundred years after its beginning it was still often called that. Unfortunately no letters written by the Stedmans or by Stiegel before the beginning of Manheim remain for us to peruse and which, if we had them, would tell of the ground work which had been done preliminary to the actual starting of the town. Fortunately, however, we can go to one page in Stiegel's ledger and there get from his own hand some data concerning the beginning of Manheim.

We see that David Stoudt was paid 70 pounds "for Surveying and Laying out of the Town & Sundry Outlot." Adam Dieferdoerfer was paid something over 82 pounds for "dieting and lodging for all the hands during the Time The Town was laid out-also for the Well Diggers, when digging two wells." "Thirteen pounds, 1 shilling and ten pence was paid to Peter Miller of the Ephrata Cloisters for printing Deeds & Bonds for the Town, and for the paper." Numerous labourers too were given wages "for assisting in Surveying, making Stakes, clearing roads, cleaning and laying out of outlots," and 6 pounds went to pay "for Expenses at Lancaster and other places about Town affairs & at the several Juries about the Roads." "Andreas Gatlinger was paid £7.10 for making Two Pumps for Town and erecting one." These expenses and other minor ones added together made a grand total of £206.3.2 which was the cost of getting the Rapho Township tract ready for a town site. All of that work was done in 1762 and then in November of 1763, twenty men were further paid £79.1 "for grubbing, clearing, fencing, chopping and Plowing; Fencing and Seeding 30 Town Lots on Pitt Street."

The plan of the Town of Manheim as drawn by David Stoudt consisted of 359 lots of uniform size in the town proper and numerous outlots which averaged 2 acres in size although some were as large as 10 acres. The inlots and the 2 acre outlots sold for the same price which was 10 pounds to which was added a quit rent or ground rent of 16s 6p annually. All lots were disposed of by Oct. 1 1765 and on a map of the town which was made for Stiegel's personal use we see that each lot has written on it the name of the purchaser. The exceptions are those with the initials H. W. S. which indicate that they were conveyed to Stiegel and two more with initials F. H. which means that they were the lots of Francis Hopkinson of Bordentown, New Jersey at that time, but of Philadelphia later.

Francis Hopkinson in 1762 was a young man of twenty-five years, just beginning the practice of law, and only the year before was a member of the first graduating class from the University of Pennsylvania, in which institution he had also been the first person to matriculate as a student. Later, he was to be a merchant, and was to win fame as a poet and a musician, and leave a definite mark on our national history as a member of the Continental Congress and a signer of the glorious Declaration. He and Elizabeth Graeme were witnesses to all of the deeds which the Stedmans and Stiegel gave to the purchasers of lots in Manheim, and as such, their signatures appear on all of them. There is of course a reason for these two famous Philadelphians being witnesses

to the Manheim deeds. First, Francis Hopkinson was a close personal friend of the Stedman brothers, and secondly Charles Stedman was a brother-in-law of Elizabeth Graeme, having married her sister Ann.

Elizabeth and Anne Graeme were the granddaughters of Sir William Keith, one time surveyor General in all of the colonies for Queen Anne, and then Governor of Penn's province in 1717. A stepdaughter of Sir William had married Doctor Thomas Graeme, and resulting from the union were two daughters, Elizabeth and Ann. Elizabeth, as a young woman was inclined to literary pursuits and was of a melancholy frame of mind; and while on a European journey in search of health, met a Scotchman by the name of Henry Ferguson whom she married. They settled down in Graeme Park where they lived happily-not ever afterwards-but for ten years until Mr. Ferguson's royalist leanings forced a parting in 1775. She spent the rest of her life at Graeme Park, and when she was visited there by William Rawle in 1786, she had as her companion a daughter of Charles Stedman, whom Rawle described as "a lively female." Here, Elizabeth Graeme spent her declining years in literary pursuits, and according to an account at the time of her death, "she was by friendship and through correspondence connected with some of the first literary characters that adorn'd the close of the 18th century, both in Britain and America." Uncommonly modest, she asked sometime before her death in 1801 that nothing should be inscribed on her tombstone but that "she was a sympathizer with the distressed."

We turn again to the story of Manheim's beginning, and notice the names of the original streets. We have always wondered who was responsible for giving these streets the names which they have. There was a Stiegel street, so called even today, and if Stiegel named the streets, why did he name one in his own honor, and forget his partners? There were several small alleys which carried the names Charles Alley, Alexander Alley and Elizabeth Alley, but they lost their names long ago. Do you think the Stedmans would have named alleys for themselves and named a street in their partner's honor? So we are still wondering who was responsible for naming the streets of Manheim.

Passing by the street named in Henry William Stiegel's honor, we see three other streets honoring Britons and three more honoring the Germans. Pitt Street was, of course named for the elder William Pitt, Earl of Chatham who in 1762 was at the height of his powers as statesman and orator. Another street honored General Wolfe, British soldier, who died a hero's death at the Battle of Quebec in 1759. Granby Street recalls another British soldier, John Manners, Marquess of Granby, whose contemporary popularity was so great that numerous inns in Britain were named for him, and therefore many inn signs bore his picture. However, it is again strange that his name was considered for a street name in a town partly engineered by Charles and Alexander Stedman, for John Manners saw active service under the Duke of Cumberland in the last stages of the quelling of the attempt of the Scotch Highlanders to put Prince Charles on the throne of England. It will be remembered that the Stedmans were among the rebellious Highlanders, and might never have arrived in Pennsylvania if the Highlander's effort had been successful.

One Manheim street was named Charlotte after the wife of Frederick I of Prussia and another Ferdinand after the Duke of Brunswick, bosom friend of Frederick the Great. Prussian Street honored the German states which after years of developing a national consciousness finally came to be recognized as a world power under Frederick the Great who merged the various states using the Prussian state as the nucleus. However, Prussian Street no longer bears that name. During World War I, the Manheim Borough Council, acting from patriotic motives decided that the time had come to get rid of the hated name PRUSSIAN, and further decided that the name henceforth of Prussian Street would be Main Street. It seems unfortunate that Manheim's councilmen at that time did not let their patriotic fervor carry them further to the extent of suggesting, as the name of the town's principal street, the name of some American hero of peace or of war, instead of the unimpressive name MAIN STREET.

In the center of Manheim was set aside a wide open space which is not designated on the town draft by a name, but which has since been called Market Square. Choice corner lots on this wide thoroughfare were

owned by Francis Hopkinson and George Ege, nephew to Stiegel's wife. At either end of the "square" two desirable corner locations were reserved for H. W. S. The extension of the "square" eastward and westward was designated as High Street.

Sometime in 1763 or perhaps the following year Stiegel built his Manheim residence on a lot at the corner of East High and Prussian Streets. It was an imposing mansion of red brick, 40 x 60 feet, and two and one-half stories in height. Like many other charming buildings of Pennsylvania's era which should have been kept unmolested for coming generations, the Stiegel house, too, could have easily been preserved and today would be a historical reminder in a town where not one colonial building remains undisturbed. More than a hundred years ago a merchant looked at the old Stiegel residence and saw in it only a potential storeroom, and he therefore converted it into a place of business, even adding to the house a third story, thereby altering its external appearance beyond recognition, and leaving only a few rooms on the first floor in their original condition, until sometime after the Civil War when these rooms too were taken into the storeroom. It was Mr. John Arndt, Manheim merchant who made the first changes, retaining the unchanged part of the old house for the use of his family. In the great parlor the walls were decorated with richly decorated scenes of falconry, while bordering the fireplaces were porcelain tiles illustrative of Biblical texts. But on the second floor, he destroyed the chapel, which figured importantly in the life of Manheim and of which we will have more to say. Mr. Henry Arndt, son of John Arndt made further changes to the building at which time he distributed the religious tiles to his friends and relatives, from which sources, they have found their way to collectors and museums. The great painted wall hanging 10 feet high and 32 feet long showing scenes of falconry was given to Mr. George H. Danner, antiquarian of Manheim by Mr. Arndt and it is now on display as part of the Danner collection in the new Hershey Museum of arts and crafts at Hershey, Pennsylvania.

While there is nothing in the business building on the corner of East High and Main Streets, Manheim to indicate that it was once a fine colonial residence, the lines of the old building may be discerned by studying the north side of the present building, and one can then imagine the broad platform which surmounted the peak of the roof from chimney to chimney. It was on this platform that Stiegel's band of musicians assembled with their instruments to entertain guest and villagers alike. This is more than mere tradition and has its basis in fact, which is not true of some of the things that have been told repeatedly about Stiegel and which are pure legend, or at least half legend and half truth.

It has been said that on the platform atop his Manheim house, a watchman was stationed at times when Stiegel was expected to arrive at home, and it was his duty to watch the distant road for signs of his appearing. As Stiegel travelled about in a coach drawn by four horses with outriders, his coming could be discerned by the clouds of dust occasioned by his baronial equipage as it rolled along the road to Manheim. Then, when the great man of the town arrived, the watchman stationed on the housetop fired the signal cannon, the musicians were ready with appropriate music, the villagers left their homes to assemble in front of the Stiegel home, and so the great man, baron in his accoutrements if not in fact, came home to music by the band accompanied by the cheers of the villagers. Now, some of this is truth and some of it is fiction; and without attempting at this point to divide truth from fiction, we at least may be certain that Henry William Stiegel lived on a scale which was far more elaborate than that of his neighbors in Rapho Township. Thus, Stiegel was dubbed "Baron" by his plain living neighbors, and the title has so persistently been attached to the name of Stiegel that even to this day he is still spoken and written of as Baron Stiegel, unmerited though the title is.

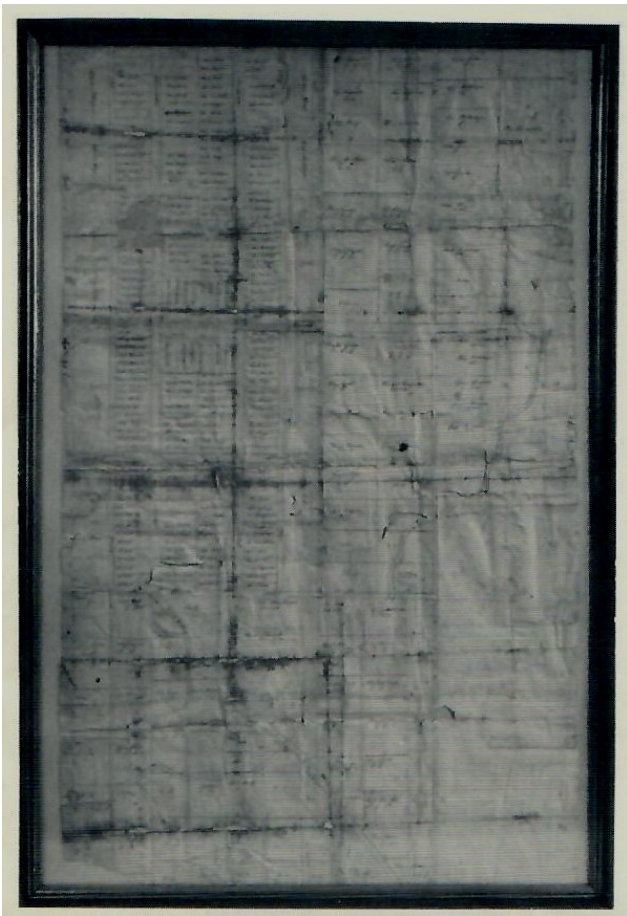
While the town of Manheim was not alone the project of Stiegel, it was he alone who advertised the town. In the German newspaper of Philadelphia "Staatsbote" of September 3, 1764 appeared the following notice, in connection with another notice in which Stiegel was offering for sale some real estate in Heidelberg and also some near Ephrata."

"Said Henry William Stiegel also gives notice that any one who desires to take up lots in the newly laid out city of Manheim on the Chiques in Lancaster County may obtain them from him; there arte also out lots from 2 to 10 acres to be sold. Also there will be on the 19th and 20th October in said town of Manheim, in Hieronymus Hanselmann's house put up at public sale, a convenient situation for a meal and saw mill on Chiques Creek, with 50 or 60 acres of land, as may suit the purchaser. There will also at said place and time, be auctioned a few out-lots from 2 to 10 acres. Who wishes to inspect one or the other of these can inquire of Hieronymus Hanselmann."

A few interesting facts:

Mr. Heiges learned that the Historical Society of Pennsylvania is in possession of the ledger containing the earliest information on the founding of Manheim, and they graciously allowed him to examine and record information. He also learned how and why the ledger exists. He was told that a society member, perhaps an officer, noticed a box of discarded books sitting at the curbside waiting to be picked up by Philadelphia trash collectors, and it was in this box that he found the ledger.

The map that Mr. Heiges believed might have been Henry William Stiegel's personal map had been displayed in his drugstore window, along with other Manheim historical and antique items, during one of Manheim's special celebration days. The map was in the possession of a person whose family was associated with the 1881 dissolution of all quitrent payments to the Jonathan D. Heister estate. In 1992, the map surfaced at an estate sale and was purchased by a person who dealt in ephemera. At the sale, the map was in a metal document box along with some miscellaneous paper items. The metal document box was one advertising the Keystone National Bank in Manheim. The dealer purchased the document box and contents for \$40.00. Two weeks later, the map was framed and on display at Conestoga Auction Co., Manheim. It sold for \$3,600.00 at auction on Monday, February 24, 1992, to the Manheim Historical Society and was purchased with donated funds. The framed map is pictured below, along with a little information from Conestoga Auction's brochure.



DRAUGHT OF MANHEIM, PENNSYLVANIA

Possibly made for Henry Wm. Stiegel

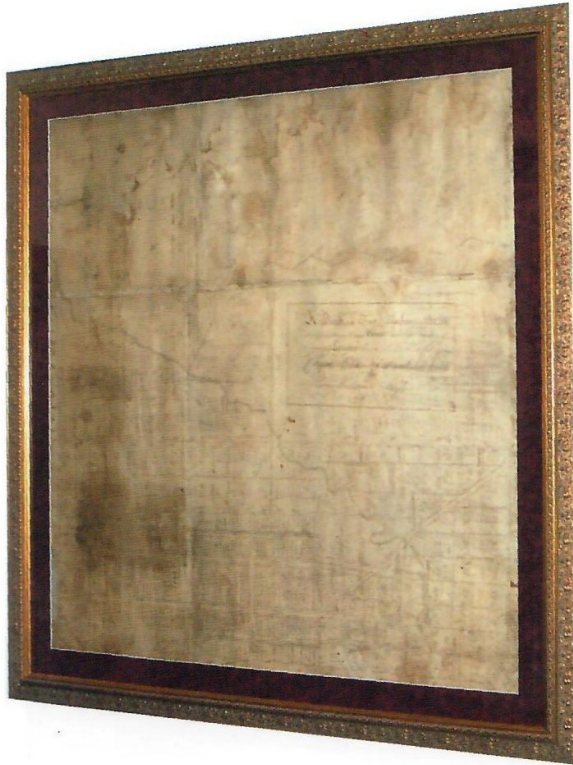
An early, possibly the earliest, map of the town 'Baron Henry William Stiegel' founded with Alexander & Charles Stedman. Stiegel, glassmaker and ironmaster, was one of the most distinguished and intriguing of 18th century manufacturers. The map shows numerous properties belonging to Stiegel, as well as two signers of the Declaration of Independence: Francis Hopkinson and George Ross.

According to George L. Heiges in his 'Henry William Stiegel and His Associates' (Manheim 1948), Manheim was mapped out and the land cleared during 1762, and deeds and bonds were printed up for the town: "All lots were disposed of by Oct. 1, 1765 and on a map of the town which was made for Stiegel's personal use we see that each lot has written on it the name of the purchaser.

Heiges does not mention where he saw the map he describes.

The paper is watermarked "U & Co" in two places. The Ephrata Paper Mill was run up until 1760 by the Funk brothers and operated thereafter by an unknown papermaker. The papermaker Peter Ulrick is noted in the 1782 tax roll of Cocalico Twp., and he may have been associated with the mill prior to that time.

Another map of Manheim is to be found at the Historic Manheim Preservation Foundation. The map was drawn for the joint ownership interest of Henry William Stiegel and Isaac Cox. The 1769 map is pictured below.



The vellum map pictured here was created in 1769 for Henry William Stiegel and Isaac Cox when they were the joint owners of the 729 acres comprising the town of Manheim. The map lists the lot numbers and the owners of each lot at the time the map was created. Isaac Cox acquired his part ownership of the area through a lawsuit against Charles and Alexander Stedman and their wives. The Stedmans owed Isaac Cox a great deal of money, and the transfer of the Manheim area to Isaac Cox was used in the settlement. One year later, in 1770, Isaac Cox deeded to Henry William Stiegel and his wife, Elizabeth, for three thousand pounds of lawful money of Pennsylvania, his share of the area comprising the town of Manheim. The 1770 indenture exists, and two important areas of it appear below.

The suit: "said Isaac Cox against the said Charles Stedman and Alexander Stedman"

the Suit of the said Isaac Cox against the said Charles Stedman and Alexander Stedman... depriv[ing] and granting to the said Isaac Cox the whole seven hundred and... as aforesaid. And all the said Rent Charges were taken in Execution the...

Isaac Cox's part ownership in Manheim to Henry William Stiegel for Three Thousand Pounds.

...and parcel thereof. To have and to hold all and singular the hereby granted Premises with the only proper Use and Benefit of the said Henry William Stiegel his Heirs and Assigns for ever and Appurtenances unto the said Henry William Stiegel his Heirs and Assigns against them the said... or to claim by from or under him or them or any of them shall and will warrant and... interchangably At their Hands Seals hereunto Witness the Day and Year first above written.

Received the day of the dat. of the above written Indenture of the above named Henry William Stiegel the sum of Three thousand Pounds lawful Money of Pennsylvania It being the Consideration above mentioned. I say received

Witness present at signing
Rich: Multhead
L M & C

Isaac Cox