



# OUR HERITAGE

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## The Red Rose Service

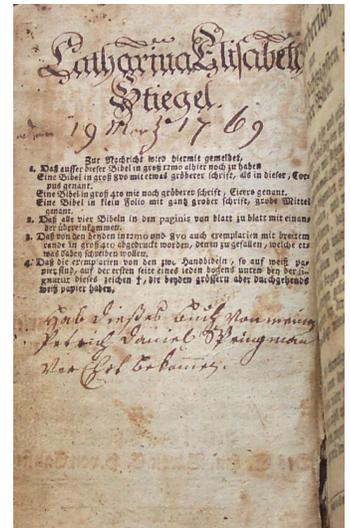
In recognition of the important event that annually takes place in Manheim on the second Sunday in June, we have issued this special **Stiegel Rose** edition of our newsletter.

Pictured is the red rose stipulation that appears on the original deed to the Lutheran Church. In 1968, the Baron Stiegel Coin Club was given permission to have it photographed by Moseman's Photography Studio in Manheim. The stipulation was then printed on a folder that accompanied a 14K gold historic Manheim medal issued by the coin club in 1968.

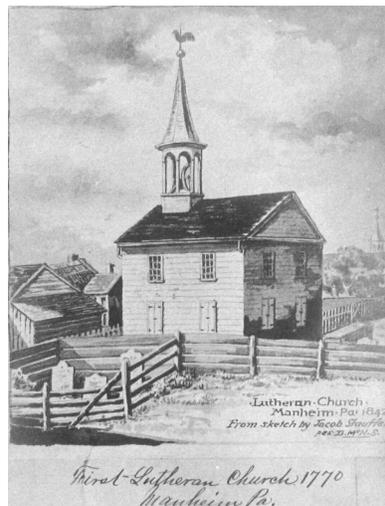
*in the Month of June yearly for  
ever hereafter the Rent of one  
red Rose of the same shall be  
lawfully demanded.*  
*Henry Wm. Stiegel*  
*Elizabeth Stiegel*



During the services held in the chapel, Henry William Stiegel's second wife, Elizabeth Holtz Stiegel, would most likely have carried and referred to her bible pictured here.



Before the Lutheran Church was built, services were held in a chapel provided by Henry William in his mansion, at the corner of Prussian Street (now Main Street) and East High Street. One of the fireplaces in the mansion, probably the one in the chapel room, was framed by Biblical Delft tile, one of which is pictured here.



The picture shows the First Manheim Lutheran Church. It was built in 1770 on Lot 220, donated by Henry Wm. Stiegel. The lot was at the corner of Wolfe and East High Streets. The sketch was done in 1842 by Jacob Stauffer.



After the 1772 Lutheran Church was built on the land provided by Henry William, the bell seen here was hung in the church bell tower and rung for the congregation to attend the services. Also, the candle sconce seen here would have provided some lighting in the church.



The bell was acquired by George H. Danner, antiquarian and businessman, for his collection. In 1944 the bell became the possession of Charles Heffner and eventually was on exhibit at the 1972 Manheim Lutheran Church Bicentennial service. The above picture was taken when the bell was on exhibit in HMPF's garden gazebo on June 12, 2005. The lady with the rose, Catherine Black, was the 1993 recipient of the Stiegel Rose payment, .

The candle sconce has for years been treasured by a Manheim family as coming from the First Lutheran Church, the one that was erected in 1774 and razed in 1857. Fortunately, it, like the bell, has been saved to be enjoyed as part of Manheim's early heritage.



The star seen here appears on the bible box known for many years as the one owned by Henry William Stiegel. More information on the bible box and H. W. Stiegel items in this newsletter can be found in: "**The Families of Henry William Stiegel**

**and his brother Anthony Stiegel**", by Janet Atkinson Strauss. The 2012 HMPF publication is an attractive presentation of known facts and items associated with Henry William Stiegel's life.

The medal issued by the Baron Stiegel Coin Club in 1968 and pictured on page one was designed by Mrs. Beryl Hahn. The gold specimens were produced in the limited number of 75 pieces. Each medal has a lettered edge indicating 14K fineness, a number assigned to the medal, and the issuer: Baron Stiegel Coin Club, Inc. Because of the increasing value of gold over the years, many, if not most, of the gold medals were sold for gold value and melted.

On the second Sunday in June, 1892, John C. Stiegel of Harrisonburg, Virginia received the rose payment and HMPF has received permission from Richard Cummings, a great grandson of John C. Stiegel, to publish excerpts from an article that he, Richard Cummings, wrote for the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society Newsletter.

**John Calvin Stiegel, Citizen of Harrisonburg, Honored in Pennsylvania**

J. C. Stiegel, for many years a prominent citizen of Harrisonburg until his death there in 1916, was honored in 1892 at an unusual ceremony in Manheim, Pennsylvania. Mr. Stiegel was a descendant of Henry William Stiegel, well-known colonial ironmaster and glassmaker, who donated the land in Manheim upon which the Lutheran Church was built.

As an active lay Lutheran and founder of Manheim, Henry William Stiegel's donation of land was through a deed with this clause: "Yielding and saying therefor unto the said Henry William Stiegel, his heir's or assigns, at the town of Manheim, in the month of June, yearly forever hereafter, the rent of one red rose, if the same shall be lawfully demanded."

Upon the northwest corner of the deeded lot the Lutheran congregation had in 1770 erected a little frame church structure, two stories high, with a small belfry. In this church Baron Stiegel worshipped and from its congregation he demanded in 1773 and 1774 the annual payment of the red rose.

Henry William Stiegel, once wealthy and respected, fell on hard times and the payment of one red rose each year was forgotten. But in the early 1890's the deed was found and an idea for an annual ceremony was developed. It was in 1892 that the

elaborate "Feast of Roses" celebration was initiated, of special interest because an heir to Baron Stiegel was found in Harrisonburg, Virginia – and J. C. Stiegel agreed to receive the rose payment.

According to the Lancaster Sentinel and Advertiser newspaper, J.C. Stiegel and his wife, Maggie, arrived in Manheim to a hero's welcome. There were large crowds on hand, and upon alighting at the station a "dynamite salute was fired" and many prominent men stepped forward to greet them. Behind the town leaders were the Knights of the Golden Eagle and the Citizens' Band. The groups formed a procession to lead the carriage with the honored guests to the Knights' Hall where speeches were made regarding the illustrious founder of Manheim, and where J.C. Stiegel offered his thanks for the surprising and wonderful welcome.

Sunday was filled with services centering on the history of the founding of Manheim, the Lutheran Church, and the ceremonial payment of the red rose to J.C. Stiegel. There was much music and singing but the highlight was presentation of the rose. As described in the Sentinel and Advertiser: "...Rev. Menges, in behalf of the congregation, presented a most beautiful red rose to Mr. Stiegel as the annual payment for the ground on which the edifice is erected. He said it gave him great pleasure to address him and pay this debt, with interest, pointing to the basket of roses deposited by others. He had never paid so large a debt before. Mr. Stiegel upon accepting it said: "I accept this rose in payment for rent of the ground donated by my ancestor. I wish to thank you all for the cordial reception given me and the kindness shown. I shall remember these days as long as I live with a grateful heart."

There were more gatherings Sunday evening, and then on Monday, J.C. Stiegel was escorted to the ruins of the old iron forge at Elizabeth Furnace. Early in the afternoon, J.C. and Maggie Stiegel boarded the train for home, expecting to one day soon return to Manheim to once again attend the Feast of Roses.

J.C. Stiegel was born in Shenandoah County in 1854, son to David Bright Stiegel and Sarah Frances Sibert. Shortly after his birth, his family moved to Madison County, where his father was a farmer. In 1866, his father was murdered and his mother Sarah

returned to live for a time in New Market, before settling in Broadway. J.C. married Margaret Frances Keller in 1878, and they lived in Broadway before moving to Harrisonburg in 1883. Their first house was on Red Hill on East Market Street, and they later lived on South Main Street and Franklin Street.

Stiegel became acquainted with J.P. Houck and became Houck's bark manager. Success followed success and the Stiegel Lumber Company was formed, eventually to go public as the Stiegel Lumber Corporation in 1904. At the same time, Stiegel became involved in other enterprises; he bought and sold real estate, forming a partnership with architect and builder William M. Bucher, to develop what was to become Franklin Street – the Bucher-Stiegel Addition to the Town of Harrisonburg. Part of the land Stiegel bought was sold to the Rockingham Horse and Colt Show Association, and was used to put up a fine race track. In 1900, Stiegel became the first president of the Association and his own hackneys performed well, with race results reported in the Washington Post. Somehow, Stiegel found time for even more enterprises. Also in 1900, he was one of the original stockholders and Vice-President of the Rockingham National Bank.

Stiegel was a member of the Methodist Church, and taught Sunday school. He served on a committee to consider erecting a chapel nearby to serve those who lived out Port Republic Road near Ashby Heights. In addition to business and church, Stiegel had a family of five children, four boys and a girl. In his last year or two, he traveled outside of Harrisonburg and bought property that he believed would provide security for his children: a farm in Fairfax for Frank, houses in Orange for Russel and Leslie, and mortgage income from the sale of his River Farm to support Maggie, Bessie, and John.

When Stiegel died in 1916, from complications of diabetes, he was only 62 years old. Harrisonburg banks showed respect by closing from 11:30am until after his funeral. Many friends and family attended and he was buried in Woodbine Cemetery.

The remaining Stiegel family members eventually moved away from Harrisonburg and the name for the most part is rarely mentioned or remembered there.





**John Calvin Stiegel**



**Maggie Stiegel**

Sources:

Lancaster County Sentinel and Advertiser of June, 1892  
Shenandoah Herald of June 17, 1892  
St. Paul Globe of June 11, 1899  
Harrisonburg Daily News Record of March 8, 1916  
Our Strong Heritage 1778-1988 Asbury United Methodist Church Harrisonburg, Virginia  
Various other newspapers, wills, and deeds.

Recommended Reading:

I Lift My Lamp by Anna Balmer Myers  
Baron Stiegel by M. H. Stine  
Henry William Stiegel and His Associates: A Story of Early American Industry

**A View of 19th Century Manheim**

The June 1898 issue of the Ladies Home Journal contains the article: "**A YEARLY ROSE UPON THE ALTAR**". Below are the first two paragraphs from the article. They provide a view of early Manheim. A copy of the complete article can be found in HMPF's Ensminger Library.

**"A short distance north of Lancaster, and lying amid the field-covered hills of that beautify section of Pennsylvania, there is an old German settlement—a small, picturesque town replete with the landmarks, of a bygone century. Its trim, narrow streets, its public square, its low, one-story houses with their roofs of shingle, and the quiet peacefulness that dominates the lives and manners of its lowly inhabitants, cannot fail to impress the traveler with their suggestiveness of a long-ago village scene. In truth, this quaint old town of Manheim still retains many of its early characteristics, and beneath the changes wrought by time and modern invention preserves in dreamy outline its likeness to the ancient, Rhine-kissed town of Germany, after which it was named and laid out.**

**It is here, in this little town of barely two thousand inhabitants, that there occurs each year a celebration unlike that held in any other place in the world. It is not alone its unique character, nor the fact that it enjoys the distinction of belonging solely and inseparably to Manheim, but it is the strange, and at the same time inspiring, purpose for which it is observed, together with the romantic history associated with it and its founder, who passed away in the very prime of life, unknown and unrecognized, in a house that had at one time been his own sumptuous dwelling, that renders this celebration so attractive and so interesting to the outside world."**

**INVITATION**

**The Zion Lutheran Church extends an invitation to the readers of Our Heritage to attend the Festival of the Red Rose service on Sunday, June 11th. The Stiegel heir, Ms. Teresa Tribble, will receive the red rose payment at the afternoon service which begins at 1:30pm. Ms. Tribble is traveling to Manheim from Waukee, Iowa. She is a ninth-generation descendant of Henry William Stiegel and his second wife Elizabeth Holtz Stiegel. If you have never attended a rose payment service, we urge you to do so this year.**