

RED ROSE

Good day, everyone--it's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania.

June is the month of Roses--and Pennsylvania is truly the Rose State. In famous Rose Gardens of the public variety all over Pennsylvania, the rose is queen of the garden. At the moment, 60,000 blossoms are in bloom at Hershey, for example--and the bouquet of roses matches the ever-constant odor of chocolate in that community during the month of June. We are not, however, in this story today, concerned with many roses, but only one--only a rose, as the song goes. A single rose...and the story of that single rose centers in Pennsylvania around the lovely community of Manheim, in Lancaster County. It is a thriving town in the center of the Pennsylvania Dutch country, one of our little historic towns--just 11 miles north of Lancaster City on Route 72.

Sometime prior to 1753, a German emigrant arrived in Philadelphia from his home in Mannheim, Germany (a town which many of our ex-servicemen know well in this age). This emigrant purchased an interest in an estate comprising the present town site of Manheim, and eventually he became the sole owner of the area. His name was Henry William Stiegel, and he founded the town in 1761, and called it Manheim, after his home town in Europe. He surveyed the land, laid out the town, and was known by early inhabitants as "Baron" Von Stiegel. He established there what became the first successful glass factory in America. There is currently a historic marker at that site. In 1772, he deeded land to the local Lutheran Church for the price of five shillings a year (and

quitrent of one red rose) to be paid annually in the month of June. A quitrent, by the way, is an annual tribute paid to the grantor of a parcel of land, a system very common in those times. (By the way, in 1779 the legislature abolished all quitrents in the Commonwealth and the lovely custom of the red rose rental ended.) However (and fortunately), in 1892 Dr. J. H. Seiling, a Manheim historian and member of the Lutheran Church rediscovered the red rose clause and suggested that a ceremony be inaugurated to pay the descendant of Baron Stiegel one red rose on the second Sunday of June. The Feast of Roses, as it was called in 1892, was held, and a rose presented to the great-great-grandson, John C. Stiegel of Harrisonburg, Virginia. The ceremony has been held without interruption ever since and is called the Festival of the Red Rose. A lovely Pennsylvania tradition. By the way, Robert Morris, the financier of the War of the Revolution, lived in Manheim--and his contribution to this nation will be covered in another story--it was magnificent, as you know. Sometimes, however, in contemplation, I think we will agree that there is nothing--even money--which can match the beauty and the loveliness of one Red Pennsylvania Rose.

This is Pete Wambach. It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania.