

PENNSYLVANIA'S MANHEIM

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

Manheim, Pennsylvania was the first small town in the state that I went to visit, when I was a late teenager--out of Philadelphia. The rolling hills of that portion of Lancaster County were an Eden to me--and I visited with cousins of my best friend--man, wife and two daughters whose hospitality I have never forgotten and who accepted me as a member of their small family. It was a most welcome acceptance to this orphaned lad and I have always regarded Manheim since, as a haven of hospitality. Lancastrians are reputed to be an introverted people; shy, not too welcome with outsiders, but this is not true of Manheim or any of the other communities I know--Quarryville, Ephrata, Mr. Joy, Lititz, Elizabethtown and others. Warm people they are--honest, industrious, enjoying their good life and always sharing. Manheim's people have never changed from the warm, happy sorts who came from Germany to live in this lush countryside. Some time prior to 1753, a German emigrant arrived in Philadelphia from his home in Manheim, Germany. He purchased an interest in an estage comprising the present town site, and he became the sole owner of the area. His name was Henry William Stiegel, and he founded the town of Manheim in 1761. Stiegel surveyed and laid out the town, which developed slowly and carefully under his control. He was known as Baron Von Stiegel, not an unusual title to a proprietary landowner. That was custom

in Germany. Stiegel established and operated the first successful glass factory in America within the town limits of Manheim. It produced the finest glass in the land. Stiegel provided an example of generosity--a gift and tradition unique to Manheim. He deeded land to the Lutheran Church for the price of five shillings, and a yearly rental of one red rose. Thus Manheim celebrates, on the second Sunday of June each year, the presentation of a red rose to the heirs of Baron Steigel. A crossroad of agricultural--area activity, Manheim is still the small town, carefully maintained--of small homes, wonderful people; good land and fine industry--and it has retained that spirit of hospitality and welcome which I so enjoyed as a young man. It is a tree-lined town; restful--the sort of place with something all of us want--and few of us have. The people of Manheim, Pennsylvania enjoy it--it is called peace.

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