



**Bethlehem Area Public Library
Local History Collections**

Family records of the Eichelberger/Keiper/Doney families

Creator: Eichelberger, Keiper, and Doney families.

Title: Family records of the Eichelberger/Keiper/Doney families..

Inclusive Dates: 1820 – 1879.

Extent: 14 taufschein (birth / baptism certificates) and 1 family history in two folders.

Abstract: The family records of the Eichelberger/Keiper/Doney families are of interest not only for genealogical purposes, but also as examples of the Pennsylvania German tradition of taufschein. The collection includes examples of printed taufschein, or birth/baptismal certificates, published by Pennsylvania printers in Allentown, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, and Lancaster. The collection also includes examples from St. Louis MO and New York.

Access to Materials: The collection is open to researchers in the Bethlehem Room.

Copyright: n.a.

Preferred Citation: [Item], Family records of the Eichelberger/Keiper/Doney families. The Bethlehem Area Public Library Collections.

Historical Note:

The three families represented in this collection were for the most part resident in Lehigh and Northampton counties, although part of the family later moved to the St. Louis, MO area.

“The need for taufscheins – birth and baptismal certificates – was a constant one in the world of the Lutherans and the Reformed – the Pennsylvania Dutch “church people”. Different from the “plain sects” (Mennonites, Amish, and Brethren) because of their emphasis on infant baptism, they brought with them from Europe the custom of the baptismal certificate or taufschein.”

“...when a Lutheran or Reformed child was born, he was baptized in the faith by a minister, who recorded the event in the church register. For the child itself a certificate was made out, sometimes by the minister, more often by the parochial schoolmaster. This taufschein gave the birth and baptismal data, the parents’ full names, the name of the minister and godparents, the geographical location of the child’s birth, and sometimes even the zodiacal sign under which the child came into the world. The taufschein was usually prepared soon after baptism, although in some cases it was made much later and combined birth and baptismal data with the confirmation and even the marriage record of the individual. In some cases the family also added the date of the person’s death somewhere on the certificate.”

Printed examples “were produced from the 1780s onward ... by an intriguing collaboration of taufschein-scrivener and country printer, to cater to the upstate market. Eventually also the city presses of Philadelphia, Baltimore, and New York, both secular and religious, got into the taufschein business.”

Source: Yoder, Don. *The Pennsylvania German Broadside*. University Park, PA: The Library Company of Philadelphia and the Pennsylvania German Society, 2005.

Among the printers included in this collection are:

1. Ebner und Comp., Allentown: Henrich Ebner, 1816 and later.
2. G. S. Peters, Harrisburg: “probably the most widespread printed example from the first half of the nineteenth century.” (Yoder, p. 235-236)
3. Saeger & Leisenring, Allentown. Possibly a predecessor to Leisenring and Trexler Co. of Allentown.
4. J. D. Wollenweber, Philadelphia. “Johanna Dorothea Wollenweber, operated a bookstore and also published German Lutheran hymnals from 1853 to around 1871”. For more information: Cazden, Robert E. *A Social History of the German Book Trade in America to the Civil War* (1974). Yoder, p. 248
5. Schafer and Koradi. “Another German-American publishing business that published broadsides, in particular colored baptismal certificates, was the firm of Schafer and Koradi, from the partnership of Ernst Karl Schafer (1821-78) a Leipzig publisher and book handler who came to Philadelphia in 1848, and Rudolph Koradi (1824-1907), a native of Zurich who arrived in 1850 and joined in partnership with Schafer in 1851.” Yoder, p. 19.

Collection Scope and Contents:

This collection was donated to the Bethlehem Area Public Library by Mr. Delmer Rhoden in 2002. He is a descendant of these families, and wished to see these family records preserved.

The family history consists of nine pages of hand-written notes compiled by Mr. Rhoden. The notes reflect his research in various sources, including census schedules and other sources. They do not attempt to provide a complete history of the family, but provide useful information relative to the individuals reflected in the taufschein, and as a starting point for further research.

The 14 certificates cover the time period from 1820 through 1879. The earlier examples are in German, and are printed with coloring sometimes added by hand. The later examples are printed in English.

Further materials in the Bethlehem Area Public Library:

Further examples of taufschein can be found in the “Papers and art work of Christian Friedrich Hellener.” Available in the Bethlehem Room.

For further information on taufschein:

Yoder, Don. *The Pennsylvania German Broadside*. University Park, PA: The Library Company of Philadelphia and the Pennsylvania German Society, 2005.

Index Terms

The Family records of the Eichelberger/Keiper/Doney families are indexed under the following terms in the Bethlehem Area APublic Library catalog:

Names:

Eichelberger family
Keiper family
Doney family

Subjects:

Printing – Pennsylvania – Pennsylvania Dutch Country – History
Broadsides – Pennsylvania Dutch Country -- History

Container Listing:

Folder 1:

Rhoden, Delmer. Notes on the Eichelberger/Keiper/Doney families. 9 handwritten pages.

Folder 2:

The certificates are arranged by family surname, and then by date. Each is housed in its own sleeve. Certificate is for birth and/or baptism unless otherwise noted.

Sleeve #	Name	Date	Printer	Notes
1	Doney, Thomas	1820	Ebner und Comp., Allentown.	12.75 x 16 In German.
2	Doney, George Washington	1860	G. S. Peters, Harrisburg	13.75 x 16.75
3	Doney, Ellemina Lowise	1864	Saeger & Leisenring, Allentown.	17 x 14 In English
4	Doney, John M. Confirmation certificate	1872	J. E. Stohlmann, New York	14 x 17 signed by D. F. Brendle, in English
5	Eichenberger, Wilson	1849	Blumer Busch und Co., Allentown	17.5 x 14 (on back: certificate of birth and baptism of Wilson Egelberger)
6	Eigelberger, Wilson Henry	1865	J. E. Stohlmann, New York.	14 x 17 In German.
7	Eichelberger, Wilson H. / Amanda A. Doney Marriage certificate	1868	N. Tibbals & Co., New York.	9.75 x 12 In English. Signed by Daniel Brendle.
8	Eichelberger, George Henry	1868	same as Thomas Milton Eichelberger certificate	14 x 17 (handwritten in pencil: died Jan. 1871

9	Eichelberger, Thomas Milton	1870	Not listed. Same design as German version printed by Leisenring, Trexler & Co., Allentown, as seen in PA Broadsides page 241.;	14 x 17 (handwritten in pencil: died January 1871). in English,
10	Eichelberger, Amanda Confirmation Certificate	1871	J. D. Wollenweber, Philadelphia, J. K. Finkeldey, Philadelphia	11.5 x 9 In English.
11	Aechelberger, William Franklin	1872	Schaefer & Koradi, Philadelphia	14 x 18.5 in English, signed by Rev. D. F. Brendle,
12	Eichelberger, Karl Wilson	1879	Leopold Gast, St. Louis	10 x 12.5 In German.
13	Keipert, Lewayne	1823	H. W. Tillerk(?), Lancaster	13 x 16.25 Baptised by Rev. Sager
14	Keiper, Robert Jacob	1862	Blumer and Leisenring Allentown, 1860.	17.5 x 13.75 In German.