Since the publication of a Biography of Hendrick Pannebecker thirteen years ago, additional facts have come to light which give a broader significance to his life, and make him a more conspicuous, and almost a unique figure in the early history of the Province of Pennsylvania. Research had disclosed that he spoke* three languages, Dutch, German, and English; that he wrote a conveyancer's hand and drew deeds; that he surveyed for the Penns' a number of their manors and laid out most of the early roads in Philadelphia County; that he owned four thousand and twelve acres of land; that he possessed a library of books, one of which in MS. has recently been secured by the Rev. A. Stapleton, and in it a contemporary theologian has written "Henrich Pannebecker habet virtuosem uxorem;" that he was described in certain

1 This paper has been prepared mainly from deeds and original documents in my own possession, for some of the most important of which I am indebted to the thoughtful kindness of Mr. Franklin S. Reiff of Skippackville, Pa.
recorded instruments as a gentleman, and offended Henry Melchior Muhlenberg by his pride and sense of “important family connections;” and that he was on terms of personal friendship with Edward Shippen, Israel Pemberton, Richard Hill, James Logan and Isaac Norris. It now appears that he became the head of an inland colony, and the proprietor of an extensive Township, since divided into two of the present townships of Montgomery County, with certain manorial privileges and at least a quasi jurisdiction over the people.

On the 10th of March 1682 William Penn conveyed to Dirck Sipman of Crefeld five thousand acres of land in Pennsylvania, and on the 11th of June, 1683, to Gouver Remke, likewise of Crefeld, one thousand acres, upon the condition that a certain number of families were to be taken across the ocean to settle upon them. The arrangement was more than a sale of land, since it contained this provision for a settlement, and when Sipman sold two hundred of his acres Aug. 16th, 1685, to Peter Schumacher, then in Rotterdam on his way from Kriegsheim in the Palatinate to Germantown, the purchaser agreed for “himself and his family to settle upon and dwell on the said two hundred acres of land”, and to secure compliance he bound “his person and all his goods without reservation”. It is plain from the letter of Pastorius of March 7th, 1684, that the Dutch and German immigrants who founded Germantown expected to receive their grant along a navigable stream, to have a little province of their own, free from the sway of the English, or, as Penn described it, “a new Franckenland,” and that promises to this effect had been made on his behalf by Benjamin Furly, his Rotterdam agent. Of the purchase of Sipman, five hundred and eighty-eight acres, and of the purchase of Remke, one hundred and sixty-one acres were located and surveyed in Germantown. By a deed in the Dutch language Jan. 14th, 1686, Remke sold his unlocated land to Sipman. By another deed in the Dutch language, Sipman sold his entire interest, including the lands of
Remke, to Matthias Van Bebber, a Dutch merchant, who came to Germantown in 1687, son of Jacob Isaacs Van Bebber, one of the first Crefeld purchasers.

The deed was irregular and was confirmed by the attorneys of Sipman May 13, 1698. Van Bebber had the lands located upon the Skippack Creek, a branch of the Perkiomen, and the first stream of any importance met in going northwestward after leaving the Wissahicken. The tract was supposed to contain five thousand acres, but a more accurate survey showed that it included six thousand and one hundred and sixty-six acres, or nearly ten square miles. Van Bebber paid the difference in value to Penn, and secured a patent Feb. 22, 1702. It was described by rather perishable marks as follows:

"Beginning at a Hickory Sapling at the corner of Edward Lane's and, from thence by a line of marked trees northeast one thousand and forty four perches to a stake by a white oak marked from thence by a line of marked trees northwest nine hundred and eighty eight perches to a stake by a marked black oak thence southwest five hundred and thirty four perches to a stake in William Harmar's line thence by the said line eighty eight perches to a stake again by the said William Harmar's land southwest five hundred and ten perches to a white oak by the corner of the said William Harmar's land, then southeast by the said Edward Lane's land nine hundred perches to the place of beginning."

At the time of the issue of the patent, the tract was already called Bebber's Township, and it bore that name as late as the publication of Scull's map of the province in 1759. It covered substantially the same territory as is included within the two present townships of Skippack and Perkiomen. The patent gave to Van Bebber "all mines, minerals, quarries, meadows, marshes, swamps, cripples, savannahs, woods, underwood, timber and trees, ways, passages, waters, liberties, profits, commodities and appurtenances," the right to "Hawke, Hunt, Fish and Fowl," and to hold the lands "in free and common socage by fealty only." Van Bebber at once began the settlement of his Township and since it extended across two considerable streams of water, and was
further removed from English influence, he no doubt believed that it would possess advantages over Germantown and prove to be more attractive to the Dutch and German incomers who had been disappointed in that location. In all probability he had had a previous understanding with Pannebecker, who, immediately after the grant, with his brother-in-law, Johannes Umstat, removed from Germantown to the Skippack. Other settlers in 1702 were Johannes Kuster, Claus Jansen, and Jan Krey. In 1704 came John Jacobs who founded one of the most influential of our colonial families. A grandson, Joseph Jacobs, a merchant in Philadelphia, was a signer of the non-importation resolutions of 1765, and Treasurer of the Association Library. His brother John was the last speaker of the assembly before the revolution, and of him Benjamin Rush reported that he had been in favor of a Republican form of government for twenty years before that time. Another brother, Benjamin, was a member of the Philadelphia County Committee of Safety in 1775, and signed some of the Issues of Colonial Currency; a fourth brother, Israel, was a member from Pennsylvania of the second United States Congress; a sister Elizabeth married Col. Caleb Parry, killed at Long Island; and a sister Hannah married the famous astronomer and mechanician, David Rittenhouse. In 1706 came John Newberry, Thomas Wiseman, Edward Beer, Dirck Renberg, William Renberg, together with Gerhard In de Hoffen and Herman In de Hoffen (De Haven) known of old in the Dutch books of Martyrology, and whose great tombstones, with their ancient inscriptions, give dignity to the Mennonite meeting house on the Skippack. They were followed in 1708 by Daniel Desmond, a name evidently French in origin, and now converted into Dismant, Johannes Scholl, some of whose descendants became manufacturers of iron and achieved distinction in the wars; Christopher Zimmerman, Hermannus Kuster, one of my own forefathers in the sixth generation, who is said, with what truth I know not, to hark back to Peter Kuster, the martyr, and Lawrence
Koster, the inventor of printing at Haerlem, and forward to Gen. George A. Custer, killed on the plains; and by Cornelius Dewees and William Dewees whose son, Col. Wm. Dewees, was Sheriff of the County, and owned a mill at Valley Forge which the British burned in 1777. In 1709 came Andrew Strayer and three brothers from the village of Wolfsheim in the Palatinate, Martin Kolb, long a noted Mennonite preacher, Johannes Kolb, who owned a Dutch copy of Erasmus, and Jacob Kolb, later killed by a cider press; in 1716 Solomon Dubois from Ulster County, New York; and in 1727 Paul Fried. Ere long the settlement on the Skippack became known over the continent of Europe. There are many references to it in the Geistliche Fama, the Bündingische Sammlung, Fresenius Nachrichten, the Hallische Nachrichten, and similar publications. A pamphlet published in Holland in 1731, giving information concerning "De Colonie en Kerke van Pensylvanien" is confined almost exclusively to affairs on the Skippack. When George Whitefield came to America he did not go to the Chester valley, or to the Susquehanna, but he did preach at Skippack. The Skippack road, laid out in 1718 to the Settlement, and a few years later extended four miles further to Pennypacker's Mills on the Perkiomen, became one of the three main thoroughfares to Philadelphia, over which a part of Braddock's army marched, going westward in 1755, and the Continental army marched under Washington, going eastward in 1777.

Van Bebber never lived in his Township, but in 1704 moved from Philadelphia to Bohemia Manor, Maryland, where he died in 1739, owning a part of the manor and many lands, and leaving a large family, the later members of which became distinguished in the life of Delaware, Maryland, and the West. The name has been introduced into modern literature by Richard Harding Davis. The representative of Van Bebber in the settlement and the man of affairs among its people, laying out their roads, surveying their lands, supervising their real estate transactions,
drawing their deeds, and taking charge of such matters as brought them into relations with the Province and other communities was Pannebecker. An examination of the deeds which have been saved from the maw of time almost invariably shows his participation in the arrangements made between the parties, and, in most instances, he appears as a witness. In the deed from Van Bebber and Hermanna his wife to Johannes Fried, April 8, 1724, for 128 acres now in my possession, they describe Pannebecker as their attorney with power and authority to deliver seisin of the land, and it is altogether probable from the absence of Van Bebber, the necessity for some personal direction of affairs and the prompt movement of Pannebecker after the patent had been secured, that some such relation had existed from the beginning.

The people of Skippack, June 2, 1713, presented a petition to the county court saying that "pretty many families are already settled and probably not a few more to settle" in that region, but that no road had yet been laid out, that "what paths have been hitherto used are only upon suffrance and liable to be fenced up" and asking that a road or cart way be established "from the upper end of said Township down to the Wide Marsh or Farmer's Mill." Favorable action was taken resulting in the laying out of the Skippack Road, the surveys for which there is reason to believe Pannebecker made. He was one of the signers of the petition.

On the 8th of June, 1717, Van Bebber and his wife, in consideration of "the true love and singular affection he the said Matthias Van Bebber bears to them and all theirs," conveyed one hundred acres of land to Henry Sellen, Claus Jansen, Henry Kolb, Martin Kolb, Jacob Kolb, Michael Ziegler and Hermannus Kuster, reserving an annual rental of one shilling and four pence to hold to them "the survivors and survivor of them and to the heirs and assigns of the said survivors or survivor for ever" upon the trust that "it shall be lawful for all and every the inhabitants of
Bebber’s Township and the Dutch Patroons.

the above’d Bebbers Township to build a school house, and fence in a sufficient Burying place upon the herein granted one hundred acres of land there to have their children and those of their respective families taught and instructed, and to bury their dead.” So far as I know these provisions are without precedent in our annals, and have never been followed elsewhere. There are many instances where men have given lands and money for the support of some church, or philanthropic scheme, with which they have been associated or in which they were interested, but the recognition of a duty to provide for the education of all of the children of a township and the burial of all of the dead, and that for all time, the setting apart of so large a domain as one hundred acres, for the purpose, and the expression of his affection for them, are not at all characteristic of a mere sale of lands, but indicate the patroonship or overlordship of the extensive Dutch grants, like that of Van Rensselaer at Albany, accompanied by a sense of obligation to see that the needs of the people are anticipated. The deed was written by Pastorius and witnessed by Pannebecker. Since the two parties and the other witness, Isaac Van Bebber, were all then living at Bohemia Manor, it is probable that he took the deed there to be executed.

The trust so established led to consequences which in one respect at least were more important than could have been foreseen. The School was conducted by Christopher Dock “the pious Schoolmaster on the Skippack,” whose memory I some years ago revived, and who has since been written about by Edward Eggleston, Martin G. Brumbaugh and become famous; and it was here in 1750 that he wrote the earliest American essay upon Pedagogy and in 1764 upon Etiquette.

All of the trustees were members of the Mennonite Church and their selection was due no doubt to the fact that the greater number of the settlers belonged to that sect, and that the affiliations of Van Bebber were with it. Eight years later, March 30th, 1725, they, being then all still living, executed a declaration of trust, brought about
Bebber's Township and the Dutch Patroons.

doubtless by the determination to build a meeting house, which purpose was that year accomplished. This declaration set forth:

"Which s'd land & premisses were so as afores'd convey'd unto us by the direction and appointment of the Inhabitants of Bebberstownship afores'd belonging to the meeting of the people Called Menonists (alias Menisten) & the above recited deed poll was so made or Intended to us in trust to the Intend only that we or such or so many of us as shall be & Continue in unity & religious fellowship with the s'd people & remain members of the s'd meeting of the Menonists (alias Menisten) whereunto we now do belong should stand & be seized of the s'd land & premisses in & by the s'd deed poll granted To the uses & Intends hereinafter mentioned & declared & under the Conditions provisos & Restrictions hereinafter limited & expressed & to no other use Intend or purpose whatsoever, that is to say For the benifit use & behoof of the poor of the s'd people called Menonists (alias Menisten) in Bebberstownship afores'd forever And for a place to Erect a meeting house for the use & Service of the s'd people, & for a place to bury their dead, as also for all & every the Inhabitants of the s'd Bebberstownship to build a school house & fence in a sufficient burying place upon the s'd one hundred acres of land there to have their Children & those of their respective families taught & Instructed & to bury their dead Provided always that neither we nor any of us nor any other person or persons Succeeding us in this trust who shall be declared by the members of the s'd meeting for the time being to be out of unity with them shall be Capable to Execute this trust while we or they shall so remain But that in all such cases as also when any of us or others Succeeding us in the trust afores'd shall happen to depart this life then it shall & may be lawfull to & for the members of the s'd meeting as often as occasion shall require to make Choice of others to mannage & execute the s'd trust instead of such as shall so fall away or be deceased. And upon this further trust & Confidence that we & the Survivor of us & the heirs of such survivor should upon the request of the members of the s'd meeting either assign over the s'd trust or Convey & Settle the s'd one hundred acres of land & premisses to such person or persons as the members of the s'd meeting shall order or appoint To & For the uses Intends & Services afores'd Now Know Ye that we the s'd Henry Sellen, Claus Jansen, Henry Kolb, Martin Kolb, Jacob Kolb, Michael Ziegler & Hermanus Kuster do hereby acknowledge that we are nominated in the s'd recited deed poll by & on the behalf of the s'd people called Menonisten (alias Menisten) and that we are therein trusted only by & for the members of the s'd meeting and that we do not claim to
Bebber's Township and the Dutch Patroons.

have any right or Intrest in the s'd Land and premises or any part thereof to our own use & benifit."

By this declaration the trustees endeavored, while maintaining the original trust of providing for the education of the children of all the inhabitants of the township, and for the burying of their dead, to so extend its purposes that the land should be held for the benefit of the poor of the Mennonites, and for the erection of a meeting house for the people of that sect, and, on the other hand to so restrict it, that only members in good standing in this meeting could act as trustees. They also make the statement that their selection was due to a nomination made by the members of the meeting. It is plain they were acting under the guidance of some one more or less familiar with the forms of conveyancing, but unacquainted with the principles of the law. The deed shows the characteristic peculiarities of the handwriting of Pannebecker. For many years Pastorius used a seal with the device of a Sheep above which were his initials "F. D. P." He had been dead seven years. His seal, however, was used upon this declaration seven times, and likewise upon the deed to Johannes Fried before referred to in 1724, which indicates that it was at that time in the possession of some one living in Skippack. It could be no other than Pannebecker, and this leads to the query as to whether or not he had secured the forms and other paraphernalia of Pastorius after the death of the "Pennsylvania Pilgrim." The witnesses were Hans George Reiff, a member of the German Reformed Church, who wrote a neat signature, and Antonius Heilman, a Lutheran living at the Trappe. Whether this selection of witnesses was the result of chance alone, or had some purpose, it is impossible to determine.

In the deed of 1717 from Van Bebber there was a reservation of an annual rent of one shilling and four pence "current silver money of Pensilvania" to be paid to him and his heirs on the first day of each March for ever. It is evident that this reservation was not intended in any sense
as the consideration for the conveyance or any part of it. The consideration is fully stated. It was customary in the proprietary deeds of the time to reserve the payment of a modicum of corn, wheat, roses, money, or other tangible thing, in recognition of the fealty due to the lord of the fee, and in retention of the idea of the duty of service which was incident to the feudal system. This thought, insisted upon by Van Bebber, as something owed to him and conceded by his purchasers, will be found in all of his deeds, and it is further evidence that his relation to the people of this settlement was considered by him and them to be that of a Patroon as well as a vendor. It was regarded as so important that it was expressed even in a gift to the Trustees of a charity. On the 17th of June, 1737, two years before his death, Van Bebber executed to six of the trustees, Jacob Kolb being then dead, a release of his annual rent to the extent of "six pence sterling for fifty acres of the within specified or mentioned land, the other fifty acres being for the use and benefit of the Dutch Baptist Society, being excepted, reserved and foreprized together with the proportionable part of the yearly Quitrent accruing to the Chief Lord of the Fee." This language is somewhat obscure, but it shows that the reservation was to the lord of the fee, there being likewise a quitrent to Penn, the Chief Lord of the Fee. The amount was of so little importance that the four pence were forgotten entirely. The lands have ever since been retained and still belong to the Mennonite meeting, so early and well endowed, and the venerable place with its important associations and hallowed graveyard deserves more attention than it has hitherto of recent years received. The Dutch Bible used in the meeting house is still in existence.

By order of the Court of Quarter Sessions of Philadelphia County, upon petition of the residents, the township was regularly laid out and surveyed in 1725 and given the name of "Skippack and Perkiomen," and thereafter the earlier name of Bebber began to fade and disappear into the distance. The effort was made, under the direction of
Bebber’s Township and the Dutch Patroons.

Pannebecker, who secured the signatures to the petition, and gave his assistance to those who were unable to write. The names attached to the petition are Klas Jansen, Johan Umstat, Peter Bon, Henry Pannebecker, Hermanus Kuster, Paulus Frid, Johannes van Fossen, Johannes Friedt, Hans Tetweiller, Jacob Scheimer, Paul Friedt, Willem Weirman, Nicholas H—st, Henrich Kolb, Martin Kolb, Jacob Kolb, Jacob Merckley, Arnold van Fossen, Isaac Dubois, Huppert Kassel, John Pawling, John Jacobs, Richard Jacob, Michael Ziegler, Christoph Dock, Hans Volweiller, Valentin Hunsicker, Richard Göbel, Matthias Teissen, Arnold Van Vossen, Jacob Op de Graff, George Merckle, Daniel Deesmont, and Peter Jansen.

In the spring of 1728, horrid war raised its grisly front almost in the midst of this scene of quiet and peace, causing untold agitation throughout the settlement, and terror to the inhabitants. During the month of April, there were repeated rumors of threatened attacks by bodies of hostile Indians. On the 29th a communication was sent to Philadelphia to Governor Patrick Gordon, signed by a number of people living on what was then the frontier, mostly Germans and Welsh, informing him “That the Indians are Consulting against us;” that the people were so disturbed that “Several Families have left their Plantations with what Effects they could possibly carry away Women in Childbed being forced to Expose themselves to the Coldness of ye air whereby their lives are in Danger;” and asking him to take such measures with respect to the situation that they might be freed from these alarms. This warning does not appear to have aroused the Governor to the necessity for action. A few days later eleven Indians in their war paint, fully armed, and under the command of a “Spanish Indian,” appeared only five miles beyond the borders of Bebber’s Township, and, going from house to house, compelled the people to supply them with victuals and drink. Twenty men gathered together for defence, some of them armed with guns, and some with swords, started in pursuit
of the Indians, and, overtaking them, sent two of their number to parley with the leader. He refused to receive the messengers and, raising a sword, ordered his braves to fire. They obeyed, and two of the settlers were wounded. The latter returned the fire, the doughty Spanish Indian was hit and fell, but arising, "run into the Woods after his Party, having left his Gun and Match Coat behind him." As was to be expected, the affair was much exaggerated. It was widely reported that there was a general uprising of the savages, that this band was only the advance guard of the host with which the forests were filled, and that already several of the German settlers at Tulpehocken and elsewhere had been killed. The whole country was aroused, and in a state of commotion. The waters of the Skippack and the Perkiomen seemed to take a tinge of red and to murmur of disaster.

There was living at that time on the east side of the easternmost of the three roads which ran northwestward from Philadelphia through Philadelphia, now Montgomery County, near where the road crossed the Skippack creek, and three or four miles further up the stream than Pannebecker, a man named John Roberts, who was evidently thrown into a state of mental excitement by the stirring events occurring around him. On the tenth of May he wrote a petition to the Governor. It is headed "Van Bebbers Township and ye Adjacencies Belonging," and proceeds:

"We think It fit to address your Excellency for Relief for your Excellency must Know That we have Sufered and Is Like to Sufer By the Ingians they have fell upon ye Back Inhabiters about falkner's Swamp & New Coshahopin. Therefore We the humble Petitioners With our poor Wives and Children Do humbly beg of your Excellency To Take It into Consideration and Relieve us the Petitioners hereot whos Lives Lies at Stake with us and our Poor Wives & Children that Is more to us than Life."

The first signature to the paper is that of John Roberts,
the second John Pawling, who lived on the east bank of
the Perkiomen about a mile below Pennypacker's Mills,
and was a warden of St. James Episcopal Church, the third
Hendrick Pannebecker, the fourth William Lane, who gave
forty acres of glebe land still retained, to that church, and
then follow:—

John Jacobs, Isaac Dubois, Israel Morris, Benjamin Fry,
Jacob Op den Graeff, Johannes Scholl, Richard Adams,
George Poger, Adam Sellen, Dielman Kolb, Martin Kolb,
Gabriel Shouler, Anthony Halman, John Isaac Klein, Hans
Detweiler, William Bitts, Heinrich Ruth, Hupert Kassel,
Henry Teutlinger, Christian Weber, Gerhard In de Hoffen,
Lorentz Bingaman, Richard Jacob, Hermannus Kuster,
Peter Bun, Jacob Engers, Hans Weierman, Conrad Custer,
Jacob Marieke, Christian Neuswanger, Conrad Reiff, Jacob
Kolb, Hans Ulrich Bergey, John Myer, Henrich Kolb, John
Fried, Paul Fried, William Smith, Peter Rambo, David
Young, Christopher Schmidt, Garrett Clemens, Johannes
Reichardt, Matthias Tyson, Peter Johnson, Hans Joest
Heijt, Christian Allebach, Hans Reiff, Daniel Stauffer,
Abraham Schwartz, Johann Valentine Kratz, John Johnson,
Ulrich Heffelfinger, Nicholas Haldeman, Michael Ziegler,
Christian Stoner, Johannes Garber, John Haldeman, Claus
Jansen, Nicholas Hicks, Johannes Leisher, Jacob Sheimer,
Michael Krause, Peter Reiff, George Reiff, George Meyer,
Bastian Smith, Edward In de Hoffen, Christian Kroll, Jacob
Grater, Jacob Stauffer, Henry Stauffer and Paul Fried Jr.1

Forty-four of these seventy-seven names were written by
Roberts himself, and it is probably a fairly complete list of
the residents at that time.

A man upon horseback rode "with speed" into Philadel-
phia, bearing this pathetic message to the Governor, who
the same day, accompanied by Andrew Hamilton and
several others, hastened to Manatawny, where he remained

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1 This petition in the Pennsylvania Archives Vol. I. is given a mis-
taken heading and misprinted.
until the 14th. He found the country in very great disorder, many of the houses deserted, a number of Germans "gathered together at a mill" near New Hanover Township in order to defend themselves," and a man who had been "wounded in the Belly." An angry feeling was rife, indicating a purpose to kill whatever Indians could be found. He issued a commission to John Pawling of Bebber's Township, Marcus Huling and Mordecai Lincoln, ancestor of the President, authorizing these persons to organize the settlers for defence and protection, and he distributed some powder and lead among them. The hostile Indians were a band of Shawanese on their way, as their chief afterward alleged, to aid the Delawares in a war with the Flatfeet. Altogether five of the settlers and several of the Indians had been wounded more or less seriously, but notwithstanding the wild rumors, none were killed. It is interesting as the only engagement with the savages which ever occurred in the vicinity of Philadelphia.

For twenty-five years, from 1702 to 1727, the settlement had grown in size and importance with Van Bebber far away at Bohemia Manor, and Pannebecker living on the Skippack, acting as his attorney, and representing those interests of the community which arose in the course of its gradual but steady development. Now Van Bebber was getting old, the cares of life were becoming more of a burden, and a great change, interesting to the individuals concerned, and important to the settlement, was impending. At that time there was living in Pennsylvania, a young merchant from Holland, a member of the Assembly, whose family were of theological, literary, and social consequence in Europe, named, Lodowick Christian Sprogell, born at Quedlinburg, July 16, 1683. His father was an eminent divine and author who presided over the Seminary

1 The only mills then in existence which could possibly have been meant were Moyer's, Yelger's, Zimmerman's, Boone's, Maak's, Welker's, and Pennypacker's, the last then owned by Hans Joest Heijt, and of these the three first were in Hanover, and not near it.
at Quedlinburg; his mother Susanna Margareta Wagner was the only daughter of the noted composer of music Michael Wagner; his sister Anna Maria married Godfried Arnold who wrote the most valuable church history of his time, still recognized and studied as an authority; his brother John Henry Sprogell recovered in an ejectment suit against Pastorius the lands of Germantown and Manatawny, and brought from Berlin miners to mine the first copper found in Pennsylvania, and when he was baptized at Quedlinburg his sponsors were Herr Jacoby Nicholas, the pastor, Anna Maria, Countess of Hesse, and Angelica, Princess of Anhalt. Sprogell and Pannebecker conceived together the great scheme of getting control and possession of Bebber's Township, and their efforts resulted in success. On the 7th of July, 1727, Van Bebber conveyed to Sprogell alone, though with knowledge that it was in the interest of both "all the remaining part of the s'd six thousand one hundred and sixty six acres of land which was unsold and not conveyed by the s'd Matthias Van Bebber at the date of the s'd Lease and Release together with the appurtenances excepting one hundred and twenty acres of land in the s'd Release reserved".

How often the anticipations of men, even those which seem to rest on the surest foundations, are blighted and come to naught. For Sprogell it proved to be a brief ownership and a short season of importance. Ere two years had gone by, on the fifth of June, 1729, he was dead. Another period of two years rolled along, and then, November 17th, 1731, Catharina Sprogell, the widow, and John Lodowick Sprogell and Susanna Catharina Sprogell, the children, conveyed to Hendrick Pannebecker of Bebber's township, reciting the deed from Van Bebber "all the Remaining part of the s'd Tract of land herein above described which now Remains unsold & not Conveyed by the s'd Matthias Van Bebber or the s'd Lodwig Christian Sprogel excepting the one hundred & twenty acres of land in the s'd Release Reserved" and all of the interest inherited by them. Neither
of these two deeds have any reference to the number of acres transferred. They conveyed a Township subject to such rights as had become vested in other prior purchasers. The sales which up to that time had been made so far as they have been ascertained by my own investigations and those of James Y. Heckler, the local historian who wrote upon the subject, were as follows:

Hendrick Pannebecker . . . 404 acres
Johannes Umsat . . . . . . 204 "
Dirck & William Renberg . . 300 "
Gerhard & Herman In de Hoffen 440 "
Gerhard Clemens . . . . . . 100 "
The Mennonite Meeting . . . . . . 100 "
Andrew Schrayer . . . . . . 100 "
Claus Jansen . . . . . . 306 "
Daniel Desmond . . . . . . 150 "
Johannes Kolb . . . . . . 150 "
Solomon Dubois . . . . . . 500 "
John Krey . . . . . . 306 "
Johannes Fried . . . . . . 123 "
Reserved . . . . . . 120 "

\[\text{3303 acres}\]

As might have been expected there was some friction. Where people have through a long time become accustomed to the conditions surrounding them radical changes always result in a feeling of annoyance. There must have been some contention and disturbance, some dissatisfaction with the new order of things, some unhappy feeling engendered by the new proprietorship, but what it was, and what was the cause of it, and to what extent it proceeded, we do not know and probably never shall know. However, nearly a year afterward, Van Bebber issued this proclamation to the people:

"To all Persons in Bebbers Township who have bought formerly of me M. Bebber Any Land in s’d Township Know Yea That on the 7th day of July 1727 I sold & Conveyed unto L. C. Sprögel all the Land
that I had Left unsold at that Time in s'd Township & whereas s'd Land was Conveyed to s'd Sprögel notwithstanding that all the unsold Land was Conveyed to s'd Sprögel yet ye True Meaning & Agreement was that Henry Pannebecker was to have a Share of s'd Land he paying his Share also of Ye Consideration into s'd Van Bebber. Now Know Ye that my desire & will is for every of you to Injoy all which I Sold & Conveyed unto you and No More & that ye Rest the Said Henry Pannebeckers May Injoy according his Deed of Sprögel's heires having Date ye 7th of 9 mo Ao. 1731 & that without Quarling or hinderance.

Given under my hand the 22nd 8th 1732

M. Bebbert.

Upon the back of this impressive document Pannebecker has written "Matthias van Bebber's desire and will too the people." It was folded so as to make a long and narrow slip, and the back is rubbed and soiled, showing that he carried it about with him, probably in a leather wallet, for months, in order that it might be exhibited to all interested. Its tone of paternal authority, lingering after all rights of property had been abandoned, is quite manifest.

At last Pannebecker had reached the foremost position in a movement with which he had been connected for thirty years, had become the head of a Settlement and the sole proprietor of a great Township. He owned many other acres elsewhere, on the branches of the Perkiomen, in Salford, the site of the present Harleysville, and in Hanover, but none which had the same importance or could have given the same satisfaction. He was now fifty-eight years of age, and this step may be said to have been the culmination of the efforts of a life. For some unexplained reason neither Van Bebber nor Sprogell had provided for the quit rents due to the Proprietaries. The account books of the Penns' show that 4 mo. 20, 1735 Pannebecker paid these rents upon "6166 As Bebber's Township 83 years in full 15£ 5s 8d" and that six years later, May 22, 1741, he paid in full a balance due for the intervening period of £10. 15s 1d. These entries make it plain that Pannebecker had assumed the relation of Van Bebber toward the Township.
along with its responsibilities. He gave of his lands to each of five sons, and they all became millers, almost the only occupation in which at that early day, in a rural community, capital could be invested at a profit. The sale by one of his sons of a bushel of "Deer's hair" gives a bit of color to the picture. He made surveys for the Proprietors and individuals and trained a grandson named for him, Henry VanderSlice, afterwards sheriff of Berks County, in 1768, to succeed him. He shipped flour to Philadelphia to the Penns'. His teamster, Abraham Yungling, drove to the recently erected furnaces and forges in Philadelphia, Chester and Berks Counties at Colebrookdale, Pine Forge, Pool Forge, Warwick Furnace, Coventry Forge, and Reading Furnace, and hauled the iron, one ton at a time, to the Philadelphia merchants. He drank his wine, I am sorry to say occasionally his rum, and, according to Muhlenberg, who had been frowned upon as a carpet bagger (Neulander), he was fond of them. He was engaged in at least five lawsuits. He read his Bible, printed at Heidelberg in 1568, and his other books of mystical theology and what not, and generously, though unwisely, loaned of his store to his neighbors. Another quarter of a century rolled away, and one morning the 4th of April 1754, he fell over dead at the ripe old age of eighty years and two weeks, and thus fitly ended the career of the last of the Dutch Patroons in Pennsylvania.

1 With the first payment Jacob Kolb appears to have had something to do.