REINCKE'S JOURNAL OF A VISIT AMONG THE SWEDES OF WEST JERSEY, 1745.

[The journalist, Rev. Abraham Reincke, was born 1712, in Stockholm, Sweden, finished his education at the University at Jena, and shortly after entered the ministry of the Moravian Church. In 1744, he was sent to Pennsylvania, and for a time preached to the descendants of the Swedish settlers along the Delaware in West Jersey. After serving in the ministry for twenty-two years, he died at Bethlehem, April 7, 1760. His companion on this journey was Joachim Senseman.]

March 26.—We left Bethlehem to day, and after dinner, in crossing a creek, we both slipped in and were thoroughly soaked. At night we lodged with an old Switzer and his wife.

March 27.—Set out early in the morning, in the midst of a heavy rain, and at dusk, reached Germantown, where we were entertained by John Bechtel and family.

March 28.—Early this morning came in to Philadelphia, and called on Charles Brockden. In the evening took part in the services in the Moravian Church.

March 29.—With [Daniel] Neubert, [Gustavus] Hesselius and [John] Herrenbom, we went to the ferry to cross over to ye Jerseys. At Peter Rambo's house we were kindly received.

March 30.—Rode to John Johnson’s, who with his wife, entertained us hospitably.

March 31 (Sunday).—We all rode to Thomas Dennys, in whose house we are to keep a service. About 11 o'clock the meeting began, many people having been gathered, and Bro. Reincke spoke on the text: “I ask therefore, for what intent ye have sent for me?” A. Hopmann, clerk of Racoon, is my friend, clerk, and Psalm-setter. After the service,
visited Matthew Gill, an awakened Irishman, who wants to send his children to our school.

April 1.—Came to Andreas Holsteins, who directed us on the way to Gerred van Nimmen's, who is one of the principal men among the Swedes in Penn's Neck.

April 2.—John van Nimmen and his son, went with us to the Church at Penn's Neck, seven miles distant. Before preaching my Swedish sermon, Mr. Tranberg and wife arrived from Wilmington, and I was subsequently introduced to him. While we were speaking together, a man beg'd me to baptize his child, but I declined and prayed Mr. Tranberg to comply—at first he declined, but finally yielded to my request. Before the English Sermon, I could have sung a Psalm out of their Book of Common Prayer, but was unacquainted with the tunes, when Mr. Tranberg offered and acted as my clerk. It is the desire of the people of Penn's Neck that I shall preach to them, and Mr. Tranberg has given his free consent. Van Nimmen's family is very numerous and live in the neighborhood—the emigrant was from Holland; the Gracebergs, an Irish family, also live nearby.

April 3–4.—We set out early this morning with Andreas Holstein, for Morris River, 40 miles from Raccoon. About 13 miles on the other side of the river, came to an English family by the name of Campbell. He begged me to come and preach to the English who live in his neighborhood, who are attached to the Church of England but have no preacher. A Baptist minister from Cape May, sometimes preaches among them. In the evening came to old George Keens', who has one son Eric, who with his family lives with him. Old George, who is a widower, and desires to marry a widow of about fifty years old, asked me to publish the bans in Raccoon, Penn's Neck and Morris River, and when I return to perform the ceremony.

April 5.—In company with George Keen visited in the neighborhood—Nicholas Hoffman and his wife Catharine
were very agreeable. From Hoffman's crossed the creek to the Church, some years ago begun by the Moravians. It stands on a hill, not far from Morris River, very conveniently located for all the people; two acres of land belong to it. From thence we went to old John Hopmann's, who looks like an Indian, and met there his wife, and the wife of William Cobb; next to Joseph and Abraham Johnsons.

April 7 (Sunday).—About 11 o'clock more people assembled than expected, and I preached in George Keen's house, first in Swedish, and later in English. Baptized infant son of Eric and Catherine Keen. Samuel Issard, a New Light, and many Germans, who burn tar, were present from Cohansey.

April 8.—Resumed our visits and came first to Samuel Cobb's, who married a daughter of George Keen; thence to Nicholas and Catherine Hopmann's, where we met Lucas Petersen, and to John Hopmann's. I found in this country scarcely one genuine Swede left, the most of them are either in part or in whole on one side or other descended from English or Dutch parents, some of them have had a Dutch, German or English father, others a Swedish mother, and others a Dutch or English mother and a Swedish father. Many of them can just recollect that their grand-fathers or mothers were Swedish. In general there is such confusion in their lineage, that they themselves can't tell, if they spring from English or Dutch, Swedish or German parents. The English are evidently swallowing up the people and the Swedish language is so corrupted, that if I did not know the English, it would be impossible to understand the language of my dear Sweden.

April 9.—This morning I preached in the Swedish language, and later in English, and prepared for my return home.

April 10.—After taking leave of my friends, I started on my journey homeward.