

constitution sought to secure the people “against the hostile invasions and cruel depredations of our enemies.” Also, in light of the recent *Heller* case, more could be said about rights and responsibilities in the new republic, particularly as they pertained to bearing arms and providing defense. Dorwart contends that those who came to the Delaware Valley believed in the natural right of self-defense, but this idea is never traced through to the federal constitution or the relationship between article 1, section 8 and the Second Amendment.

Lastly, Dorwart wrote *Invasion and Insurrection* in response to questions his own students had about the concept of homeland security. I hope that the fairly steep price of \$46.50 will not keep them and others from finding out the answers.

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Immigrant and Entrepreneur: The Atlantic World of Caspar Wistar, 1650–1750. By ROSALIND BEILER. (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2008. 224 pp. Illustrations, maps, figures, tables, appendix, notes, selected bibliography, index. \$55.)

Rosalind Beiler’s new work is one of the latest editions to the Max Kade Institute German-American Research Series, published by the Pennsylvania State University Press. It traces the background and story of Caspar Wistar, who came from the German Pfalz and arrived in Philadelphia in 1717. Like many other biographical works on eighteenth-century German settlers, this one focuses on an individual who ended up doing very well for himself financially. Beiler’s chronicle stands out from others, however, for two main reasons: it is a more secular story of German American life in the colonies; and, secondly, it is about one of the earliest German immigrants in Pennsylvania.

The author does a remarkable job of covering both the origin and the destination sides of the story. Beiler uses a wide variety of sources, including personal letters, church documents, and court records spread across various archives and libraries in Germany and in the United States. On the German side, we not only learn about the personal and professional challenges Wistar faced while trying to make a career as a forester but also about the past struggles of his parents and grandparents. These family experiences may have influenced Wistar’s decision to emigrate and his later business and family plans in Pennsylvania. As Beiler notes, “Like his father and grandfather before him, the young man set out to build professional and social connections through religious affiliation, political patronage, and family networks” (89).

Once in Philadelphia, Wistar first worked as a wage laborer and then as an apprentice to a button maker, after which he set himself up as an independent artisan and “entered the career path of prominent Philadelphia merchants” (108).

These positions brought him into daily contact with English colonialists and helped him to learn English. By 1721, just four years after arriving, he had already bought his first piece of real estate and converted to the Quaker religion, presumably because he recognized that Quakers were very influential in business and politics. Five years later he was married to a woman from a prominent Quaker family. He gradually established himself as an important Pennsylvania businessman and entrepreneur, and, consequently, button making became of secondary importance and new activities rose to prominence: his roles as a property investor and a business mediator between English colonists and new German settlers became paramount. Here his language skills in both English and German were invaluable. In addition, he ran an export and import business between Pennsylvania and the Pfalz and founded a glass-making factory in New Jersey.

Wistar had the enormous good luck to settle and invest in a region and economy that was on the verge of taking off. Still, he used this happenstance to his best advantage and, through careful decisions and strategizing, he became somewhat of a mid-eighteenth-century version of a regional Warren Buffet. With his various businesses and personal connections, he increased his access to financial capital in a cash-poor economy and was one of the few businessmen in Philadelphia who could buy large pieces of land from the Penn family. He helped other immigrants acquire land by using mortgages and bonds to sell portions of his holdings. For Wistar, obtaining land early was more important than having a clear title, and he was willing to assume the legal risk of an uncertain title. He became one of the largest Pennsylvania land owners besides the Penn family and eventually made enormous profits by selling parcels to new German settlers. Most of his efforts in land speculation paid off handsomely.

Caspar Wistar was an extremely active businessman. With all his numerous transactions and negotiations, he carefully sought out trustworthy partners and relationships. In this regard, the author does a superb job as a detective in tracking down the complicated web of Wistar's business and personal relationships. This is one of the most fascinating aspects of this monograph, and, at the end, the reader is convinced that Wistar clearly understood the importance of social capital and personal networks and that he worked to cultivate and strengthen these over time. Perhaps this work should be mandatory reading for MBA students.

At the time of his death in 1752, Wistar left behind an enormous estate and a reputation in the colony as a crucial patron, adviser, merchant, master, honest broker, and upstanding citizen. With *Immigrant and Entrepreneur*, Rosalind Beiler has provided an engrossing account of a man who had a significant influence on the development of the Pennsylvania economy and society.

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