Hawaiian Islands, believing that "an influx of Americans would eventually lead to annexation." But American sugar and rice interests blocked his reciprocity treaty with Hawaii. There was a popular reluctance to assume new obligations. He was successful, however, in acquiring one island, Midway, so important in World War II.

Ask the average American today what he associates with Seward, and he may reply, "Alaska," for in 1867, the purchase of Alaska was finally completed.

Florence C. McLaughlin


This is a sourcebook of the Pennsylvania German Baptist denomination officially titled The Church of the Brethren, or unofficially, The Dunkers or Dunkards. It is a collection of original sources, mostly translated from the German by the editor, so organized as to tell the story of these German Baptists in America from their emigration to these shores in 1719 and the two decades following through the period of the Revolutionary War. It is a sequel to an earlier volume titled European Origins of the Brethren, edited by the same author and published in 1958. It relates the story of The Brethren to other religious movements, especially among the Pennsylvania Germans, and to the general historical events of the period.

The volume was published in 1967 by the denominational publishing house, The Brethren Press, at Elgin, Illinois, and copyrighted by them. It is a cloth bound, well-printed volume of 639 pages. It is documented as to sources with four hundred fifty-eight footnote entries, and has an index of twenty-five pages.

The editor, Donald F. Durnbaugh, is the able young historian of The Brethren Church. He has been Associate Professor of Church History in The Bethany Theological Seminary, the denominational seminary, since 1962. He holds degrees in history from Manchester College, B.A. in 1949; University of Michigan, A.M. in 1953; and University of Pennsylvania, Ph.D. in 1960. From 1958 to 1962 he was Professor of History at Juniata College, a Brethren institution, at Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. In addition to these two edited volumes
he has published ten articles on Brethren life and biography in various historical publications.

This sourcebook quotes letters, eighteenth century publications, legal documents, and other contemporary materials to bring the life of The Brethren during the colonial period into focus. The editor precedes each quotation with a statement as to its source and significance.

The content of the volume is divided into five chapters, namely: Transplantation; Congregations; Relations; Revolution; and Publications. The chapter on Transplantation details the hardships of the ocean voyage, the settlement, mostly in southeastern Pennsylvania, the early schism which produced the interesting Ephrata community with its sabbatarian views and semi-monastic practices, and the expansion to the frontier of Dunkard's Creek in Western Pennsylvania. The chapter on Congregations shows that there were thirty-three congregations of Brethren by the time of the Revolution, fifteen in Pennsylvania, one in New Jersey, seven in Maryland, and ten farther south. There is an emphasis upon the Germantown congregation, and much quotation of the diaries of Alexander Mack, Jr. (1712-1803), and of Christopher Sauer, II (1721-1784). The chapter on Relations deals principally with the relationships of the Brethren with the Moravians, especially with Count Von Zinzendorf (1700-1760) and August Gottlieb Spangenberg (1704-1792). Since there was a Universalist element in the radical pietistic beliefs of these German Baptists that relationship with the Universalists is also explored in this chapter. In the chapter on the Revolution the problems of the pacifist Brethren, and of the other peace sects in Pennsylvania, and the hardships they underwent during the war are set forth. Much of their property was confiscated, including the profitable Sauer printing business in Philadelphia. The final chapter on Publications deals with doctrinal writings of Brethren authors, and with devotional writings, including hymns.

This is a valuable volume. It provides authoritative information about one of the colorful Pennsylvania German sects covering the half-century before the American Revolution.

_Apollo, Pennsylvania_  
W. Guy Smeltzer