

**EXTRACTS FROM THE
DIARY OF JACOB
HILTZHEIMER, OF
PHILADELPHIA, 1765-1798**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649580033

Extracts from the Diary of Jacob Hiltzheimer, of Philadelphia, 1765-1798 by Jacob Cox Parsons

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JACOB COX PARSONS

**EXTRACTS FROM THE
DIARY OF JACOB
HILTZHEIMER, OF
PHILADELPHIA, 1765-1798**

2
EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY

OF

JACOB HILTZHEIMER,

OF PHILADELPHIA.

1765-1798.

EDITED BY

HIS GREAT-GRANDSON, JACOB COX PARSONS.

PHILADELPHIA:
PRESS OF WM. F. FELL & CO.
1898.

TO
MY GRANDMOTHER,
CATHARINE COX,
DAUGHTER OF
JACOB HILTZHEIMER,

THE EARLIEST AND DEAREST FRIEND OF MY YOUTH, WHO TOOK
PLEASURE IN RELAYING TO ME EVENTS OF THE PAST
AND AWAKENING MY INTEREST IN REVOLU-
TIONARY MATTERS, THIS VOLUME IS
AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED.

JACOB COX PARSONS.

PREFACE.

The extracts contained in this volume are from the diary of Jacob Hiltzheimer, who at the age of nineteen years left his native city, Mannheim, on the Rhine, for Rotterdam, where he embarked on the ship Edinburgh, James Russell, Master, and arrived at Philadelphia, September 5th, 1748, and three days later took the usual oath of allegiance. Soon after his arrival he was apprenticed to John Nagle, a silversmith, on Front street. At the expiration of his term of service, finding that the confinement of the store was not congenial to his active disposition, he decided to engage in farming and the raising of fine stock, and commenced by leasing land in the suburbs of the city. He took part in the campaign to resist the encroachments of the French on the river Ohio and the lakes to the westward, and for his services was entitled to a portion of "back lands," under the King's proclamation of October, 1762. During the war for independence, he sided with the colonies, attached himself to the First Battalion, City Militia, and was also connected with the Quartermaster's Department, in which he rendered valuable service to the army in the field. He became a prominent member of the Patriotic Association. As Street Commissioner, for three years he discharged the duties of the office in a manner worthy the emulation of public servants at the present day. He was elected in 1786, a Representative of the city in the Assembly, and served for eleven consecutive years, being Chairman of the Committee on Claims, and on other important committees. In all movements of a public and charitable character he took an active and prominent part: was Vice President of the German Society, an early member of the Society for Promoting Agriculture, the Society

for the Promotion of Domestic Manufactures, and the Fire Department. In 1761, he married Hannah Walker, of a Quaker family, and established his home on the east side of Seventh street, just below the corner of Market street. After passing through the epidemics of 1793 and 1797, he died of yellow fever, September 14th, 1798, and his remains were interred in the cemetery of the German Reformed Church (now a part of Franklin Square), of which he was a member of the vestry for many years. Jacob Hiltzheimer's daily record of thirty years affords ample evidence that he enjoyed in a large measure the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens, and also sheds a bright light on his domestic career.

The extracts from the diaries are continuous from September of 1765 to September of 1798, with the exception of the years 1771, 1775 and 1776, the books containing which are lost.

NEW YORK, *September, 1833.*

JACOB COX PARSONS.

EXTRACTS
FROM THE
DIARY OF JACOB HILTZHEIMER.

1785.

September 11.—Captain Friend arrived; Andrew Hamilton went ashore at New Castle.

September 14.—Andrew Hamilton reached Philadelphia to-day—the first time since his arrival from England.

October 8.—Took a ride with Andrew Hamilton, to try his black colt.

October 26.—My mother-in-law died at seven o'clock this evening. [She was buried in Friends' Ground on 28th.]

October 31.—My newspaper was delivered in the morning, being the last before the Stamp Act goes into force.

November 19.—With wife and son Billy, went to Germantown to see Catharine Klages and Michael Heil married.

December 23.—Breakfasted at five o'clock at Mrs. Gray's, with Enoch Story, Samuel Morris, Dr. John Cox, Mr. Petit, John Cadwalader, and Levi Hollingsworth; then set out for Darby fox-hunting. The number of hunters was thirty, who, by eleven o'clock, killed three foxes. Dined at Joseph Rudolph's, and at evening returned home with Hollingsworth. The other hunters remained over night for another hunt in the morning.

December 27.—Set off this morning at five o'clock with Thomas Mifflin, Sam. Miles, Jacob Hollingsworth, and young Rudolph, from my house; proceeded to Darby to meet the other gentlemen hunters; from there to Captain Coultas's house, and to the woods. About thirty-five gentlemen attended, with thirty dogs, but no fox was secured.

December 30.—Dined at Garlick Hall, on invitation of Robert Erwin, with Joseph Fox, Thomas Willing, William Parr, Joseph Wharton and sons Thomas and Joseph, John Ross, Tench Francis, Samuel Mifflin, James Benezet, Wm. Jones, Judah Foulk, John Biddle, Jacob Lewis, Henry Elves, Humphrey Robeson, Daniel Rundle, Samuel Hassell, Peter Reeves, John Palmer, Dr. C. Evans, and after dinner we were joined by William Fisher, Captain Coultas, and Jonathan Humphreys.

1786.

January 3.—Took Joseph Galloway and Thomas Mifflin in my sleigh to the Middle Ferry [also called Humphreys].

January 24.—Attended a cider frolic at Greenwich Hall with the following gentlemen: Robert Smith, Robert Erwin, William Jones, Richard Footman, Mr. Adcock, Captain Mushett, Philip Kinsey, James Johnston, William Lloyd, F. Trimble, Humphrey Robeson, and Samuel Hassell.

January 25.—Samuel Miles sent me a quarter cask of wine.

February 7.—Accompanied Daniel Wister to the meet at Hannah Williams's, where we met the gentlemen hunters. Peter Wikoff wore the brush.

February 22.—Went up town to Nicholas Brosius' funeral.

March 2.—With my wife attended the burial of Mrs. Dean.

March 4.—Attended Court to give my reasons why I did not serve as a juryman last term.

March 18.—Went over Schuylkill to meet D. Wister and his brother William, and brother-in-law, Owen Jones, to shoot pigeons.

March 19.—Attended at Robert Smith's house-warming, with Joseph Fox, John Lawrence, Samuel Mifflin, Will Parr, Tench Francis, T. Francis, Judah Foulk, Henry Elves and son, William Bard, Joseph Wood, Dr. Phineas Bond, R. Keen, and Robert Erwin.

March 24.—Mr. Willing brought the news from Maryland that the Stamp Act had been repealed.

April 6.—The Court House bell was rung twice to-day for fires.

April 7.—An express arrived last night from Maryland confirming the report of the repeal of the Stamp Act, for which news the bells rang all day.

April 16.—Daniel Wister went with me to the Schuylkill to see the great freshet.

April 29.—All the public offices were opened to-day.

May 12.—William Jones's wife was buried to-day.

12:15/12

May 19.—This day received a copy of the repeal of the Stamp Act on a half sheet paper from the printer, and at night drank punch at Robert Erwin's with C. Gordon, James Pearson, and Mr. Hutchins.

May 20.—To-night the citizens in general illuminated their houses for the repeal of the Stamp Act.

May 21.—A great number of gentlemen had a dinner at the State House, during which several great guns were fired.

May 29.—Daniel Wister and myself went to the Green to see a £10 race between Joseph Hogg's and John Buckingham's horses.

June 4.—Being the King's birthday, dined on the banks of the Schuylkill in company of about 380 persons. Several healths were drunk, among them Dr. Franklin, which gave great satisfaction to the company. A long boat was taken there on four wagon wheels, and many great guns fired.

June 24.—Received the news that Daniel Wister had a son born and named John.