

Passengers on the Ship Liberty, 18 oct 1805, Philadelphia.

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The Liberty was chartered by the partnership of Ferdinand Rudolph Hassler, Christian Ernst Zöllner, and Jaques Marcel for the purpose of establishing a Swiss colony in the United States. Hassler and Zöllner were aboard the ship; Jaques Marcel seems to have arrived a little later. Unfortunately, a large part of the funds intended to purchase land for the new colony proved to be tied up in litigation which dragged on for many years, and so the colony was never established. The colonists, or at least as many of them as we have been able to trace, remained in the United States.

The list of passengers is transcribed from Strassburger and Hinke's *Pennsylvania German Pioneers*, volume II, pp. 174-177. The original list is arranged in columns: the first is for passengers aged 14 years and above, the second is for "children under 14 years", which we list for convenience as "children". For example, the first entry shows Mr. Hasseler as a person over the age of 14, followed by the numeral 4, indicating that he has 4 children under the age of 14. With the exception of such minor changes in format, the following is transcribed exactly as Strassburger and Hinke published it.

An earlier transcript of the same list was published in the *Pennsylvania Archives* (series II, vol. 17, pp. 629-630, 1892). It omits the children under the age of 14, but it gives different readings of some of the personal and place names, which we have added below in brackets where the additional information might be useful or where it might have caused confusion. Where it is possible to decide on the correct reading, we show it in **bold type**.

There is also a list that was apparently intended for the customs authorities, now in the collection of Philadelphia passengers lists at the US National Archives and Records Administration (NARA M425, RG036). This list can be found on the Ancestry.com web site. It lists the family names, along with an enumeration of their baggage. It is useful because it gives additional information about some of the passengers. The additional information is included below with the designation *Customs list*. Some of the information in the customs list is rather cryptic and may be read in several ways. It lacks entries for some of the passengers.

We have added further information in footnotes about those passengers we have been able to identify. We would like to hear from anyone who can supply further information about the passengers.

List 487: On Board the American Ship The Liberty, Captain Sidney H. Burrough, from Amsterdam to Philadelphia, sailed from the Texel, August 4th, 1805.

In the Cabin:

Mr. Hasseler (=Hassler)¹, 4 children, Aarau, Swiss

Mrs. Hasseler (=Hassler), Aarau, Swiss

Customs list: R. F. Hassler wife & family, thirteen chests books looking glasses & Piano Fortes, ten trunks, two chests wearing apparel, two (one?) trunks s...? & mathematical instruments, four chests mathematical instruments, two tin boxes m...? & guns, one cask kitchen utensils two chests remains of provisions one basket tools beds & bedding one chest tools one case bedding & musical instruments

Magdalena Gysin, servant, Aarau, Swiss

Mr. **Zöller**², Emendingen, Baden

Customs list: Zoller. One trunk wearing apparel one portmanteau one trunk books three chests three parcels mathematical instruments bed & bedding.

Mr. **Müslin**, Bern, Swiss

Customs list: Mieslin. Two trunks one chest one portmanteau wearing apparel hammock & bedding.

Mr. **Chaillet**, Murten, Swiss

Customs list: Chaillet. Two trunks one chest one portmanteau wearing apparel.

Mr. **Tschiffely** [Yschiffely], Bern, Swiss

Customs list: Capt'n Tschiffely. One trunk one chest wearing apparel s...? one writing case one tin box one gun.

David Fred **Tschiffely**³ [Yschiffely], Bern, Swiss

Customs list: David Fr. Ischizzely. Two trunks wearing apparel (faint notation: permitted as chests)

Mr. **Neuhaus** [Neuhans], Gals, Swiss

Customs list: Neuhas. Two trunks one bag wearing apparel one writing case bed & bedding

Mr. da Coste, Lyons, France

Customs list: la Coste. Two trunks wearing apparel

Mr. Blanchard, Chambéry [Chamberg] (=Chambéry), France

Customs list: Blanchard. Four trunks wearing apparel bed & bedding

In the Steerage:

Madame **Gex**⁴, 5 children, Vevey, Swiss

Customs list: Ma[d]ame Gex. Six trunks wearing apparel bed & bedding one chest tools & remains of provisions four tin boxes two portmanteaus one tin box medicine.

Anthon **Gex**⁵, son, Vevey, Swiss

Mr. Obussieur (=Oboussier)⁶, Lausanne, Swiss

Mr. **Albert**, Lausanne, Swiss

Mrs. **Albert**, Lausanne, Swiss

Customs list: Albert. Three trunks wearing apparel one trunk ~~materials~~ utensils two bags dirty linin & utensils

Mr. **Marcel**⁷, 3 children, Lausanne, Swiss

Mrs. **Marcel**, Lausanne, Swiss

Customs list: Mr. Marcel. Two bales clothes two trunks one chest three bags wearing apparel bed & bedding.

Mr. Riss (=Ris), 3 children, Deitingen, Swiss

Mrs. Riss (=Ris) & 2 sons, Deitingen, Swiss

Customs list: Riss. One trunk one chest wearing apparel & utensils

Mr. Gostely (=Gosteli), Bern, Swiss

Mrs. Gostely (=Gosteli), Bern, Swiss

Customs list: Gostely (?). One chest wearing apparel.

Mr. Thoman (=Thommen), Hollstern (=Hölstein), Swiss

Mrs. Thoman (=Thommen), Hollstern (=Hölstein), Swiss

Customs list: Thoman. Two chests wearing apparel

Mr. Vöghly, Pratten, Swiss

Mrs. Vöghly, Pratten, Swiss

Customs list: Voghly. One chest wearing apparel

Mr. Dreyer, Bern, Swiss

Regina, his daughter, Bern, Swiss

Two sons, Bern, Swiss

Customs list: Drayer. One chest wearing apparel

Mr. Schurch [Schnuh] (=Schürch), 4 children, Summiswald (=Sumiswald), Swiss
Mrs. Schurch [Schnuh] (=Schürch), Summiswald (=Sumiswald), Swiss
Customs list: Schunk. One chest wearing apparel
Mr. [Jacob] Mundweyler⁸ (=Mundwiler), Danicken (=Tenniken) [Dünicken], Swiss
Customs list: Mondroyler (?). One chest wearing apparel & tools (this entry out of order on the customs list)
Mr. **Wirz**, 3 children, Gelterkinden, Swiss
Mrs. **Wirz**, Gelterkinden, Swiss
Customs list: Wirtz. One chest wearing apparel
Mr. Ziegler, 4 children, Unterranseen (=Unterseen?) [Unturansein], Swiss
Mrs. Ziegler, Unterranseen [Unturansein], Swiss
Customs list: Zeigler. One trunk wearing apparel
Mr. Suther (=Sutter), 4 children, Diepflingen, Swiss
Mrs. Suther (=Sutter), Diepflingen, Swiss
Two sons, Diepflingen, Swiss
Joh. Jenny (=Jenni), Diegten, Swiss
Mrs. Jenny (=Jenni), Diegten, Swiss [this entry listed twice in the *Pennsylvania Archives* list]
Customs list: Jon Jenny. One chest wearing apparel
Mrs. [Mr.] Schwyzer [Schwyzee], 2 children, Lausen, Swiss
Jacob **Jenny**⁹, 2 children, Gelterkinden, Swiss
Mrs. **Jenny**, Gelterkinden, Swiss
Mrs. Imhoff, 3 children, Aristorg, Swiss
Customs list: Inkoff. One chest wearing apparel
Mr. Zärlin (=Zährlin), 1 child, Diepflingen, Swiss
Mrs. Zärlin (=Zährlin), Diepflingen, Swiss
Customs list: Zarus. One chest wearing apparel
Mr. **Gerster**, 3 children, Gelterkinden, Swiss
Mrs. **Gerster**, Gelterkinden, Swiss
Customs list: Gerster (?). One chest wearing apparel
Mr. Gräffelin (=Gräflin), 4 children, Hollstern (=Hölstein), Swiss
Mrs. Graffelin (=Gräflin), Hollstern (=Hölstein), Swiss
Customs list: Graffatin. One chest wearing apparel & old books
Mrs. [Mr.] Freyvogel (=Freivogel), 4 children, Gelterkinden, Swiss
Customs list: Frarogele. One chest wearing apparel.
Mr. **Hug** [Mug], 3 children, Siesach (=Sissach), Swiss
Mrs. **Hug** [Mug], Siesach (=Sissach), Swiss
Customs list: Hug. One basket wearing apparel
Mr. Gerber¹⁰, 3 children, Zunsgen (=Zunzgen), Swiss
Mrs. Gerber, Zunsgen (=Zunzgen), Swiss
Two sons, Zunsgen (=Zunzgen), Swiss
One daughter, Zunsgen (=Zunzgen), Swiss
Customs list: Gerber. Two chests wearing apparel & tools
Mr. **Schaub**, Mattens [Muttens] (=Muttenz), Swiss
Customs list: Schaub. One chest clothes one chest old shoes
Mr. Bury, Gelterkinden, Swiss
Customs list: Pury. One chest tools
Mr. **Weber**, Ormanlingen (=Ormalingen), Swiss
Customs list: Weber. One trunk wearing apparel
Mr. Frey (=Frei), Siesach (=Sissach), Swiss

Mrs. Frey (=Frei), Siesach (=Sissach), Swiss
 Two sons, Siesach (=Sissach), Swiss
Customs list: Trey. Four chests wearing apparel & books

Mrs. [Mr.] Hirbin¹¹, Gelterkinden, Swiss

Mrs. **Handschin**, Rykenbach (=Rickenbach), Swiss
Customs list: Handsyn (?). One chest wearing apparel

Mr. Bossard, Herrissau (=Herisau), Swiss
Customs list: Bossard. One trunk wearing apparel

Mr. Frickert (=Fricker), Gelterkinden, Swiss
Customs list: Trickirt. One chest wearing apparel

Mr. Künzly [Kinzly], Leonberg, Wurtemberg
Customs list: Kinsley. One chest wearing apparel & tools

Mr. Bauman (=Baumann), **Menznau** [Menznan], Swiss
Customs list: Bauman. One chest wearing apparel

Mr. Winkelblech,¹² Basel, Swiss
Customs list: ~~Knickelatz~~ Winkelblech. Fourteen chests tools & copper plates one trunk (^chest) one bag wearing apparel one mill & mill bag (notation: permitted eleven chests)

Mr. Martin, Liestal, Swiss

Mrs. Martin, Liestal, Swiss

Two sons, Liestal, Swiss

Three daughters, Liestal, Swiss
Customs list: Martin. Seven chests wearing apparel tools &c. one trunk ditto two cases utensils & hour clock (notation: permitted ~~five~~ six chests & one chest)

Mr. Lewisohn [Leivisohn], Berlin, Prussian
Customs list: Lewishon. One trunk one portmanteau one bag wearing apparel

Mr. Colmar, Brestenberg, Swiss
Customs list: Colmar. One trunk wearing apparel

Mr. Rubin, Thun, Swiss
Customs list: Reuben. One trunk & one chest wearing apparel

Mr. Schmidt, Aarau, Swiss
Customs list: Smith. Two trunks wearing apparel & one writing case

Mr. Bundt [Bunot] (=Bondt), Herrissau (=Herisau), Swiss
Customs list: Bind. Two trunks wearing apparel

Mr. Lippoldt, Dornburg, Saxen Weimar

Mr. Dalmazo (=Dalmazzo¹³), Turin, Piedmont
Customs list: Dalmaz. One trunk wearing apparel

Dr. Daller,¹⁴ Lausanne, Swiss
Customs list: Doctor Daller. One chest one bag medicine one bag clothes thirty five doz. (?) bottles medicine in a chest

Mr. **Salathe**, Seltisberg [Sellesberg] (=Seltisberg), Swiss
Customs list: Salalkin (?). One bag clothes

Mr. Schwickert [Schwukert], Baknan [Baknau], Wurtemberg
Customs list: Schroukert. Two chests wearing apparel (notation: one chest permitted Joh. Schweikert)

Mr. **Lüthi**, Langnau (=Langnau im Emmental), Swiss

Mr. Kindt [Kinot], Pest, Hungarian
Customs list: Kind. One chest wearing apparel

Mr. **Kuhn**, Degersheim, Swiss
Customs list: Reuben (margin: Kuhn). Two trunks one chest one portmanteau wearing apparel.

Mr. Manhart [Hanhardt], Pfefficken, Swiss
Customs list: Hanhard. One trunk wearing apparel & utensils

Mr. Niehans (=Neuhaus), Bern, Swiss

Customs list: Niehans (this entry appears after Voghly). Two trunks one portmanteau wearing apparel

Single Girls without Their Parents:

Catharine Wachter¹⁵ (=Wächter), Bötzingen (=Bötzingen), Swiss

Customs list: Catharine Wachter. One chest wearing apparel

Susanna Stubacher [Flubacher], Lampenberg [Lampenberg] (=Lampenberg), Swiss

Customs list: Susanna Flubacher. Two chests wearing apparel.

Marg. [Mary] Derghard, Amsterdam, Holland

Customs list: Mary (?) Derghard. One chest wearing apparel.

By the Sailors:

Peter Halbout, Guernsey, England

James Vivent, Guernsey, England

Wm. Braun, United States.

Total of Passengers: 162

Male Passengers over 14 Years of Age: 75

Female ditto ditto 33

Children under 4 Years of Age 20

Ditto from 4 to 14 Years 34

162

Certified to be a True list of the Passengers.

Philadelphia October 18th 1805.

for Capⁿ. S. H. Burrough.

Laurⁿ. Heiron, Jun^r

Second-mate¹⁶.

List of the German Passengers, arrived in the Port of Philad^a, Ship Liberty, from Amsterdam.
October 18th 1805.

¹ Ferdinand Rudolph Hassler 1770-1843, from Aargau, was a surveyor in Switzerland. He formed a partnership or "Société" with Christian Ernst Zöllner and Jaques Marcel on 01 May 1804 for the establishment of a Swiss colony in the United States. Hassler organized the voyage of the Liberty. When the colony failed to materialize, he found work as a surveyor with the United States Government, beginning the institutions that eventually became the USGS and NOAA. He also helped to standardize the weights and measures of the United States. For a very helpful biographical sketch, with references, see: <http://www.lib.noaa.gov/noaainfo/heritage/coastsurveyvol1/HASSLER1.html>. Also see Martin Rickenbacher, "Ferdinand Rudolf Hassler und die Vermessung der Schweiz 1791-1803", *Cartographica Helvetica* 36:11-25, 2007. Also see the "e-expo" at: <http://www.f-r-hassler.ch>.

² Christian Ernst Zöllner 1767-1821, Emmendingen, Baden, Germany, was a partner of Ferdinand Rudolph Hassler. Both Zöllner and Hassler served as teachers at the West Point Military Academy, where both were recognized as gifted scholars but inept teachers. One of Hassler's letters from 1832 reports that Zöllner died in 1818 in Arkansas. In American records, his name is usually spelled Zoeller. However, in *Pioneers and Makers of Arkansas* (Josiah H. Shinn, Little Rock, 1808), we find on page 347 the following item: "On August 1, 1821, a quaint old German citizen died at Little Rock. His name was Christian E. Zoeller, born at Emmendingen in 1758."

He was a noted man in his way, having served in the German army and possessing a small estate. He had \$1,241 in gold at his death, which was sent to his relatives.” Another source says the *Arkansas Gazette* published his obituary on August 27, 1821, giving his age as 38. A notice of the sale of his estate is found in the issue of 19 feb 1822.

³ Also known as Friedrich David Tschiffely, his appears to have married another passenger, Catherine Wächter, and settled in the Washington, D.C. area. The other Tschiffely might have been Karl Rudolf, whose name and dates (as Charles R. Tschiffely) are on the same funeral monument at Oak Hill Cemetery, Georgetown, D.C. However, since he would only be age 17, it is very doubtful he would have been called Captain. A cousin of these brothers, Andreas Emmanuel Friedrich Tschiffeli, is also supposed to have immigrated, later known as Frederick A. in the US. We are indebted to Nicolas Junod for identifying this passenger. In Swiss records, he is David Friedrich Tschiffeli.

⁴ Very likely she was Marguerite Lucille Oboussier, wife of David Louis Gex (29 sep 1761, Lausanne – 28 sep 1845, New Harmony, Posey Co., Indiana). David Louis was one of the early settlers at Vevay, Switzerland Co., Indiana, and may have preceded his wife and family. Their son Jean Antoine Louis Gex, known in the US as Anthony, was born 31 mar 1790 in Vevey, Switzerland (thus age 15 when the *Liberty* sailed), and died 06 mar 1863 at New Harmony.

⁵ A letter from Jean Marcel to his relatives in Lausanne (ACV PP 416 Ba 13, 04 jan 1845) notes that Marcel had left Lausanne at the beginning of May in the company of Mr. Gex and his family. But, this statement seems to contradict the passenger list, which shows Madame Gex, her son Antoine over the age of 14, and 5 other children. That is, the passenger list seems to indicate that “Mr. Gex”, an adult, was not on the ship. Perhaps he was able to take an earlier ship from Amsterdam, in order to prepare for the arrival of his family?

⁶ Oboussier, a family of French refugees at Lausanne. However, there was another Oboussier family at Vevey, and the connection with the Gex family suggests the Oboussier on the *Liberty* may actually have been from the family at Vevey, perhaps a brother of Madame Gex. However, internet sources say that she was a daughter of Jean Antoine Oboussier of Lausanne and his wife Jeanne Susanne Daller. The Oboussier in the area around Vevey, Indiana was Luke, 1781-1865, according to his tombstone in the cemetery at Ghent, Carroll Co., KY. He was postmaster at Ghent circa 1816.

⁷ Jean Pierre Samuel Marcel, 1769-circa 1850, paper maker. He inherited a paper mill at Bière, Canton Vaud, from his father Jean Abraham Marcel, who died in 1793. The property was heavily mortgaged, however, and the enterprise ultimately failed, resulting in a default and sale of the property (that proprietor, too, seems to have failed). Marcel took his family to Divonne-les-Bains, now in the Département of Ain, France, but at that time part of the French “Département du Léman”, where he again worked in a paper mill. At least four of his letters are now in the Marcel family papers at the ACV (PP 416). The earliest, extant only as a copy that shows the date as 22 oct 1806, apparently an error for 22 oct 1805, describes the voyage and mentions Mr. “Hasler” who had delayed the voyage so that the Marcel family had to spend two months in Amsterdam, “ce qui nous est devenu très couteux”. Marcel also describes the voyage, the arrival in Philadelphia, and gives recommendations for provisions in case any of his cousins wish to follow him. By 1809, Marcel was in the District of Columbia (birth of his youngest daughter there), apparently working as a paper maker.

⁸ Jacob Mundweiler, age 26, of “Danicken, Canton of Basel, Switzerland,” was accused in a notice of 17 oct 1806 in the *Lancaster Journal* of “escaping” from the ship *Liberty* in November 1805 without paying his freight. There are two places with a name that has been rendered both as Dänicken and Tenniken, one of Soleure, the other in Basel. The one in Soleure now uses the spelling Dänicken, the one in Basel uses Tenniken. It is the latter that is the home of most of the Swiss families called Mundwiler, Mundweyler, etc. The preferred spelling for the family of this immigrant from Tenniken is Mundwiler. Our thanks to Rory Mundwiler for bringing this passenger to our attention. In this case, it is the combination of the passenger list and the notice in the *Lancaster Journal* that allows us to identify him with certainty. Tenniken and the adjacent town of Zunzgen are in the district of Sissach, the home of at least 18 of the passengers on the *Liberty*.

⁹ This family is probably the one mentioned in a notice in the *Lancaster Journal* 23 may 1806: “RAN AWAY a Swiss family viz. Jacob Janney, Anna Maria his wife, Barbara and Elizabeth their children. Jacob is about 40, his wife is about 30, Barbara is about 7 years old. Any person with information apply to Wm. Yound, Delaware Paper Mills, Wilmington, Delaware or Wm. Bonnell at the Paper Warehouse, Philadelphia.” We might suppose that the Janney family was indentured upon their arrival to William Yount to work in his paper mill, as a result of not having paid their fare in advance.

¹⁰ This family is identified in the notice of 17 oct 1806 in the *Lancaster Journal* as having “escaped” from the ship *Liberty* in November, 1806 without paying their freight: Elizabeth Gerber, born in Zunssen, Canton of Basel, age 53, wife of Christopher Gerber, carpenter, their sons Christoph age 24 and Jacob age 20 both carpenters,

and their daughter Anna, age 22. See note 7, they may have “escaped” with their neighbor Jacob Mundwiler. Johann Jacob Mundwiler married Anna Gerber on 25 jan 1806.

¹¹ This might be the Jacob Hurby of Gelderkinder, Canton of Basel, Switzerland, another escapee from the ship *Liberty*, mentioned in the notice of 17 oct 1806 in the *Lancaster Journal*. However, the count of female passengers over the age of 14 in the transcript of Strassburger and Hincke is consistent with the genders of the individual passengers listed by those authors. The counts by age and gender were not given in the *Pennsylvania Archives*. If the transcript of Strassburger and Hincke is correct as to gender, “Hurby” might be the person listed as Mr. “Bury” from Gelterkinden, and both names might be attempts at the Swiss name Hürbin.

¹² The fact that Mr. Winkelblech was carrying a quantity of copper plates probably means he was an engraver or perhaps a silversmith. There was a Winkelblech family in the city of Basel, now apparently extinct.

¹³ James Dalmazzo settled in Switzerland Co., Indiana, where he died 29 jan 1846. Family records give his birth date as 14 dec 1784 in Turin, Italy.

¹⁴ Dr. Daller was certainly a descendant of the Daller family from Bischofszell, Thurgau, that settled in Lausanne. The mother of “Madame Gex” (see above, note 3) was also a descendant of this family. However, we have not been able to determine where this “doctor” fits in the family. One of the Dallers who settled in Lausanne was Abraham (1743-1836), well known as an apothecary. The fact that Dr. Daller arrived with chests of medicines suggests he might have been a son of Abraham. There was also a small industry of patent medicines in Lausanne. Dr. Daller’s medicines might have been intended for sale upon arrival in Philadelphia.

¹⁵ Catherine Wächter became the wife of Friedrich David Tschiffely, see above, note 3. In 1873, the community of Bözberg was divided to form Oberbözberg and Unterbözberg. A Wächter family still had citizenship at Unterbözberg as late as 1962.

¹⁶ John Marcel’s letter of 22 oct 1805 tells us that it was the poor judgement of the “Second” that led to breaking the mast in a gale, the night of 28-29 aug 1805. Repairs took all the next day, after which the passengers had the pleasure of seeing the mast raised again, but now at least ten feet shorter than it was before!