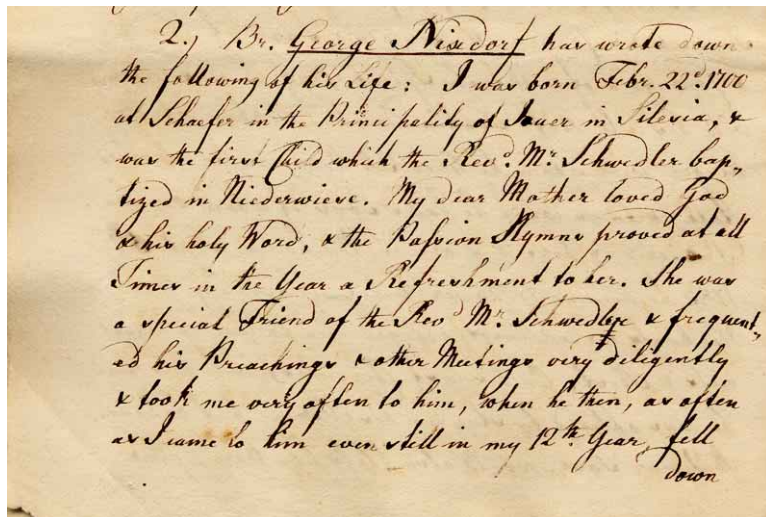




George Nixdorf (1700-1785)

Bethlehem Digital History Project

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2. Br. George Nixdorf has wrote down the following of his life: I was born Febr. 22. 1700 at Schaefer in the Principality of Iauer in Silesia, & was the first Child which the Revd. Mr. Schwedler baptized in Niederwiese. My dear Mother loved God & his holy Word, & the Passion Hymns proved at all Times in the Year a Refreshment to her. She was a special Friend of the Revd. Mr. Schwedler & frequented his preachings & other Meetings very diligently & took me very often to him, when he then, as often as I came to him even still in my 12th Year, fell down

2. Br. George Nixdorf has wrote down the following of his life: I was born Febr. 22, 1700 at Schaefer in the principality of Iauer in Silesia, and was the first child which the Revd. Mr. Schwedler baptized in Niederwiese. My dear mother loved God and his holy word, and the passion hymns proved at all times in the year a refreshment to her. She was a special friend of the Revd. Mr. Schwedler and frequented his preachings and other meetings very diligently and took me very often to him, when he then, as often as I came to him even still in my 12th year, fell

Jason with me on his knees, prayed in my behalf
laid the hand upon me & blessed me. 1708 was the
very great & particular Awakening of the Children
throughout Silesia, which I am not able to give a
Description of, it was something extraordinary, that
in so many Villages & Towns the Children small &
great, came all at once upon the Thought: To mor,
row on New Years Day we will begin a Meeting
of Prayer in the open Field, & this was done through-
out the whole Country, as if it had been published
by an Edict from the King. The particular ~~circum-~~
stances & wonderful ~~circumstances~~, I shall never
forget to all Eternity. It is a special Grace to
me, that I was present at it, and I reckon that from
that Time that our Savr. has given me something into my
Heart, which indeed I did not understand, but since
that Time was many thousand times uneasy on ac-
count of my Behaviour, tho' I endeavoured to sup-
press it by all Manner of Means, in order to enjoy
the World rightly. 1716 I came to Goldberg to learn
the malting & brewing Business. My Master was a
very pious & righteous Man, who kept me very sharp,
& left me no liberty to pursue hurtful things.

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and blessed me. 1708 was the very great and particular awakening of the
children throughout Selesia, which I am not able to give a description of,
it was something extraordinary, that in so many villages and towns the
children small and great, came all at once upon the thought: Tomorrow on
New Years Day we will begin a meeting of prayer in the open field, and
this was done throughout the whole country, as if it had been published by
an edict from the King. The particular circumstances and wonderful
occurrences, I shall never forget to all eternity. It is a special grace to me,
that I was present at it, and I reckon from that time that our Savr. has
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malting and brewing business. My master was a very pious and righteous
man, who kept me very sharp, and left me no liberty to pursue hurtful
things.

The Years of my Apprenticeship being ended, I travelled ~~about~~ & for some Years took a View of the World in various Countries & principal Towns, but the Uneasiness of my Heart pursued me every where. I came at last to Breslau, & stayed there some Years & wrought as Journeyman. I then came to Stotz, not far from Frankenstein, where I continued still single for some Year, & became acquainted with some awakened People. I often went to the pious Minister Haller in Sepliwade, where I also met the first Moravian Brethren. I begged if again once some moravian Brethren ^{that they should visit} ~~should come~~ me & in 1724 or 25 came our dr. Br. Christian David & old Demuth to me in my Brewing House, I kept at the same Time a Tavern where it went every Day very merry, I took them alone into a private Room, that they might not be in the Hurry & Noise. Christian David asked me: Whether I also would like to be saved? I said: This is a peculiar kind of a Question my dr. Friends, who would not like to be saved? but in such a Way of life & Situation, as you see, that goes here, it is scarce possible to be saved, tho' one had ever so great a Mind. Demuth asked: Is it

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Is it every Day so with you? I answered Yes,
I am a plagued Man! Then Christian David said:
My dear good Friend, when once you are in Earnest
about it to be saved, God will find Ways & Means
to deliver you from this Tumult, but at present
you are not yet in Earnest. I felt that he spoke
the Truth, that it was not yet a true concern to me
to renounce the World, & belong to Christ, they then
proceeded joyfully in their Journey & I looked after
them with Tears. I was a young Man who was much
liked, loved what was good, but wished also not
to spoil it with the World, Ah! what a plagued Life
had I then. The pious People withdrew themselves
also from me, & trusted me no more. But ah! with
what Patience has my dear Savr. born with me? 1728
I was married with my dear Wife Susanna late Korn
& I stayed with her still 1 Year & 8 Months there.
I then got a Call to go to Breslau & in 1730 I moved
thither with my Wife & one Child, & became Master there.
I succeeded according to my Wishes outwardly, but
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Is it every day so with you? I answered yes, I am a plagued man! Then Christian David said: My dear good friend, when once you are in earnest about it to be saved, God will find ways and means to deliver you from this tumult, but at present you are not yet in earnest. I felt that he spoke the truth, that it was not yet a true concern to me to renounce the world, and belong to Christ.

They then proceeded joyfully in their journey and I looked after them with tears. I was a young man who was much liked, loved what was good, but wished also not to spoil it with the world. Oh! What a plagued life had I then. The pious people withdrew themselves also from me, and trusted me no more. But oh! With what patience has my dear Savr. born with me. 1728 I was married with my dear wife Susanna late Korn and I stayed with her still 1 year and 8 months there. I then got a call to go to Breslau and in 1730 I moved thither with my wife and one child, and became master there. I succeeded according to my wishes outwardly, but was at the same time continually uneasy; I got acquainted with the pious people, and we took much pains in

the Exercise of Godliness in our own Strength, we
were very anxious & legal, but when we had carried
it to the highest Pitch God sent Br. Zellich to us
from Herrnhutt, who lodged 4 Days with me, I was
quite openhearted to wards him, he told me, that we
were upon wrong Ways, & declared the Friend of Sinners
to me, who justifieth the Ungodly, this was a Gospel
for me, & now I could draw Breath, but soon after
I got Differences with the Pietists, who mistrusted
me, because I spoke of free Grace. 1734 the Brn.
Lawatsch & Henry Nitschman paid us a Visit, who
preached to us the Gospel of Jesus Death & Suffering.
Soon after I visited the first time in Herrnhutt, &
repeated it diligently, made also Application for
a Br. & Sr. to stay with us for some Time, & we
got Br. Münster & his Wife who were still with
me when the King of Prussia took Breslau. My
Wife was present at the first Elders Festival in
Herrnhutt, & stayed there 18 Weeks on a Visit, & went
several Times as a Guest to the H. Com^m. with the
Congregⁿ. I then went to fetch her, & found her in quite
a different Situation of Heart, this gave me a very
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a guest to the H. Comm. with the Congregn. I then went to fetch her, and
found her quite a different situation of heart, this gave me a very

deep Impression. I intended to move immediately to the Congr. but the Brn. would not receive me, but said, we should stay in Breslau till they drove us away. It also did not last long. Br. Seidlitz came to Breslau; I desired him to keep us a Meeting in the Evening, to which he was directly willing & when it was known a great many People came to it. Br. Seidlitz said: It will now not last long before they will card you out, & he was scarce gone then when I was summoned before the Clergy & declared to be a Seducer. My Masters were ordered to ~~send~~^{send} me away as ~~fast~~^{soon} as they could, which they did not like they therefore endeavoured to persuade me to leave the Brn. for they wanted to keep me. I told them, that I could not obey them herein, I neither could nor would leave the Brn. Thus I was honorably dismissed, whereupon I obtained leave to move to Herrnhutt, where we arrived in June 1742 we were soon received into the Congr. & admitted to the H. Com. since that Time I could always cleave to our Savr. as a poor sinner. I thought to live & to die there, & we thanked our dr. Savr. with many Tears, that he had brought us to his People. The Congr. gave me the Flower & Bread Trade

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Br. Seidlitz said: It will now not last long before they will cast you out, and he was scarce gone when I was summoned before the clergy and declared to be a seducer. My masters were ordered to send me away as soon as they could, which they did not like they therefore endeavoured to persuade me to leave the Brn. for they wanted to keep me. I told them, that I could not obey them herein, I neither could nor would leave the Brn. Thus I was honorably dismissed, whereupon I obtained leave to move to Herrnhutt, where we arrived in June 1742. We were soon received into the Congr. and admitted to the H. Comn. Since that time I would always cleave to our Savr. as a poor sinner. I thought to live and to die there, and we thanked our dr. Savr. with may tears, that he had brought us to his people. The Congr. gave me the flower [flour] and bread trade

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we got a call to go to America, this was an unexpected
proposal to me, we considered it together
& having once for all given ourselves up to live for
our Saviour & his Matter in the World, we could not de-
cline it, & Aug. 20th we set out from Herrnhut
with many other Brn. & Srs. Our little child of half
a year old we took with us, & 2 children a little
Boy of 9 years & a Girl of 6 years we left in
Herrnhut in the Oeconomica. Dec. 8th 1743 we arrived
and were & well in Bethlehem with 120 Brn. & Srs.
Various things have showed themselves to me on
this long Journey, but they turned out for my good.
Here we were soon received as Acolyths, I became
also Hall Servant which was particularly weighty
& blessed to me. My Wife served in the Childrens
Oeconomy, & I for some years in the Distillery.
1747 we got a call to Lancaster to keep School there.
Br. Nyberg who was Minister there, received us
with much joy; & presented us still the same
Day to his People who all rejoiced very much, that
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for it, & Apr. 1st 47 we begun the School with 65 Children, but in a short Time their Number increased to 80. 6 Weeks after I grew very sick, & the Brm. sent Br. Gottshalk who kept the School several Months, till I was recovered. The Year following Br. Nyberg moved to Bethlehem, & Br. & Sr. Abraham Reinckes came to us as Labourers, with whom we lived a Year in Love & Peace. 1749 we were called to Bethlehem for some time, where my Wife should keep her lying in. On our Journey we found, that the Waters had risen very much, & the Middle Creek was so high, that the Horses had to swim, & in the Middle of the creek my Wife fell from her Horse. Br. Franz Thomas was with us, & we dragged her with great Danger of our Lives out of the Water for dead, & having brought her into a warm Room she soon came to herself again, & neither she nor her Child has received any Hurt by it. Within the Space of a Year we came again to Lancaster. & then for some Years to Warwick, & from thence to Christians Spring, afterward to Swabara where a new Meeting House was built, which we moved into

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Lancaster, where we served that Congn. with Br.
Bader & Br. & Sr. Oerter. We have been in all
upon the whole 22 Years & 4 Months in Lancaster
at different Times. 1758, At a Synod in Libanon I
was ordained a Deacon of the Brns. Church 1778
Nov. 9th we had our Marriage Jubilee here in Beth-
lehem. It was a great Grace to me & my Wife, that
we live here in the Congn. House, where we amidst
our great Weakness, & in all kinds of Weather could
frequent the ^{beautiful} Meetings, for the Benefit &
Blessing of our Heart. ~~of~~ Upon Conversation from
what a large Family I am descended, when more than
100 Persons were nearly related to me, I am astonished
on account of the Grace, that our S^{av}r. has chosen me
out of it, & brought me to his Congregation, whereas
I am one of the worst among ^{them}, was also looked upon
as such by them, & myself. Thousand thousand Thanks
to Thee dearest Lord for ever be, for what thou hast
done on me poor Wretch, & dost still daily.

Thus far our late Brother.

In his married State in which he has lived almost

54

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from what a large family I am descended, when more than 100 persons
were nearly related to me, I am astonished on account of the grace, that
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Thus far our later Brother.

In his married state in which he has lived almost

57 Years, in which he had 8 Children of which 3 departed this life when in their Infancy three Sons have settled themselves partly in Germany, & partly here in this Country, but are in no Connection with the Congn. one Daughter Mar. Rosina has been married with Br. Lauderback in Risedorf, & the other Anne Johanne is in the Choir House here. Wherever our late Brother has been in our Town & Country Congns, particularly in Lancaster where he has served the longest, his Memory is in Blessing. Among us he has approved himself as a Brother who cleaved with all his Heart to our Saviour & to the Congn. & had his Pleasure & Delight in it. He therefore attended the Meetings of the Congn. uninterruptedly as long as ever he could. In his converse with others he was cordial & loving, & when he had missed it somewhere, he soon repented & begged for Pardon. Till in his advanced Age he enjoyed an uncommon good State of Health except his hearing which was much impaired in his latter Years, & which caused no small Uneasiness to him considering his great Inclination to attend the Meetings. Only a few Weeks before his Departure he had to take to his Bed, he complained about nothing but Straitness in his Breast, which also increased

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much to depart & to be with Christ, received also ~~there~~^{there}
the Blessing of the Congregation upon his Desire. He him-
self joined also in the Singing very plainly. Tho' he
often testified contrary to Expectation of other Brn.
& Srs. that he should not yet go home, he said however
the Day before his Departure: Now let us praise
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