

HERBERT KARL KALBFLEISCH

THE HISTORY OF THE PIONEER
GERMAN LANGUAGE PRESS
OF ONTARIO, 1835-1918

This page intentionally left blank

The History of the Pioneer
German Language Press of Ontario,
1835-1918

by Herbert Karl Kalbfleisch

1968

University of Toronto Press

First published in Canada 1968 by University of Toronto Press
ISBN 0-8020-1579-4

Dedicated
to the
German Pioneers
of
Ontario

This page intentionally left blank

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Preface	11
Chapter	
I. INTRODUCTION	13
Die Welt, und die Neuschottlaendische Correspondenz	
Der Hochdeutsche Neu-Schottländische Calender	
II. THE BEGINNINGS, 1835—1850	18
Canada Museum und Allgemeine Zeitung	
Der Morgenstern	
Der Deutsche Canadier und Neuigkeitsbote	
III. THE FLOURISHING PERIOD, 1850—1900	41
Der Canadische Beobachter	
Prestoner Express	
Der Canadische Bauernfreund	
Hamburger Beobachter	
Der Neu-Hamburger Neutrale	
Canadisches Volksblatt	
Canada Zeitung	
Die Prestoner Zeitung	
Berliner Journal (1)	
Der Deutsche Reformer	
Der Canadische Kolonist	
Perth Volksfreund	
Hamilton Anzeiger	
Preston Beobachter	
Der Wächter am Saugeen (Canada National-Zeitung)	
Elmira Anzeiger	
Walkerton Glocke (Die Ontario Glocke)	
Die Wespe	
Der Deutsche in Canada	
Canadische Volkszeitung	
Berlin Daily News	
Das Wochenblatt	
Die Aytoner Fama (Der Canadische Volksfreund)	
Welland Deutscher Telegraph	
Freie Presse	
Deutsche Zeitung	
Das Ottawa Echo	
Berliner Journal (2)	
Deutsche Post	
IV. THE PERIOD OF AMALGAMATION, 1900—1909	103
Ontario Glocke and Berliner Journal	
Canadischer Kolonist and Journal-Glocke	
Canadisches Volksblatt and Canadischer Bauernfreund	
Volksblatt-Bauernfreund end Journal-Glocke-Kolonist	

V. THE CRITICAL YEARS, 1909—1918	105
VI. FINALE AND RETROSPECT	108
VII. THE FUTURE	112
Bibliographical Notes and Other Relevant Material	115
Extant Ontario German Newspapers, 1835—1918	127
Bibliography	129
Index of Names	131

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

	Page
Schubert's [Schubart's] Lied, Berlin, (Ober Canada) 1835	21
Extra Blatt des Deutschen Canadiers, 31sten März 1848	35
Große Niederlage !! ,Berlin 7. November 1854	42
Beilage zum "Hamburger Beobachter", 12. Oktober 1855	47
Herrn C. F. F. Kayser	49
Canadisches Volksblatt, Glückwunsch zum Neujahr 1871	55
New Fall Goods!, Neue Herbst-Waaren!, Berlin September 12, 1871	59
Die Freie Presse, County of Perth Gazetteer 1863—64	63
Der Canadische Kolonist, Neujahrs-Glückwunsch 1875	65
Die Canadische Volkszeitung, Neujahrs-Gruß 1873	75
Berliner Journal, Neujahrs-Glückwunsch 1872	95
Berliner Journal, Neujahrs-Glückwunsch 1888	97
Berliner Journal Staff about 1889	101
Rittinger and Motz Building, Berlin, Ontario, early 1900's	102
John A. Rittinger	107

ZUM GELEIT

Folke Dahls Grundsatz, Zeitungswissenschaft als eine internationale Forschungsaufgabe zu sehen und zu betreiben, hat sich auf dem Arbeitsfeld des schwedischen Zeitungshistorikers — der sich entfaltenden europäischen Presse des siebzehnten Jahrhunderts — als besonders fruchtbar erwiesen. Aber er gilt nicht nur dort. Im Blick auf anderes erkennt man eigenes; Originales stellt sich im Vergleich heraus. Ein Urteil über ein Ganzes wiederum läßt sich nur fällen, wenn man die Einzelheiten geprüft hat. Nationale Presseforschung darf den Blick über die Grenzen nicht vergessen; international betriebene benötigt eingegrenzte Vorarbeiten, muß, so meint Dahl, auf „nationalen Grundsteinen“ aufbauen. Die „Deutsche Presseforschung“ bei der Staatsbibliothek Bremen konzentriert ihre Arbeit, wie ihr Name sagt, auf die deutsche — das meint: deutschsprachige — Presse. Damit will sie im Sinne Folke Dahls einen Beitrag zur internationalen Presseforschung leisten. Dies zeigt sich auch in der von ihr betreuten Buchreihe. In ihr erschienen Icko Ibens Übersicht über die Presse der Benelux-Staaten und Skandinaviens („The Germanic Press of Europe“, 1965) — durch die das eigentliche Arbeitsgebiet der „Deutschen Presseforschung“ sogar verlassen wurde — und 1961 die erste Auflage von Karl J. R. Arndts und May E. Olsons Bibliographie der deutsch-amerikanischen Zeitungen und Zeitschriften — durch die ein umfassender Überblick über diese historisch wie sprachlich noch kaum erforschten Zeugnisse deutsch-amerikanischer Geschichte ermöglicht wurde. Die deutschsprachige Presse Kanadas hat keine so lange und bedeutende Entwicklung durchlaufen wie die der Vereinigten Staaten. Gleichwohl können die von deutschen Einwanderern und ihren Nachkommen in Kanada herausgegebenen Blätter als sozial-, kultur- und sprachgeschichtlich ergiebige Quellen angesehen werden. Sie harren noch weitgehend ihrer Erschließung. Der vorliegende Band wird wesentlich dazu beitragen, Charakter und Wert dieser Quellen kennenzulernen,

indem durch einen berufenen Kenner die deutschsprachige Presse Ontarios als historisch abgeschlossenes Phänomen vorgestellt wird. Ich danke Herrn Professor Kalbfleisch von der University of Western Ontario in London (Kanada) dafür, daß er die Aufnahme seiner Darstellung in unsere Buchreihe ermöglicht hat. Herrn Professor Arndt von der Clark University in Worcester/Massachusetts sei auch an dieser Stelle Dank für seine Anregung gesagt, das Werk seines kanadischen Kollegen zu veröffentlichen. H. K. Kalbfleischs Bericht über die deutschen Zeitungen Ost-Kanadas ist in englischer Sprache abgefaßt und wird in der Alten wie der Neuen Welt vertrieben. Möge er hier wie dort Interesse wecken und Freunde finden!

Elger Blühm

PREFACE

The flourishing period of the pioneer German-language press of the province of Ontario, Canada, falls into the second half of the nineteenth century. Already by 1900 its forward course had been severely checked by the process of fusion and assimilation of the German minority into the English-dominated pattern of Ontario.

Although the abrupt ending of the first phase of German newspaper publication in the province in 1918 came in consequence of an arbitrary act on the part of the then government of Canada, it must be assumed that, without strong reinforcement of the German-speaking community of Ontario, the continuation of German-language newspapers, even without the advent of the first World War, would have presented serious problems.

The German newspapers of the earlier period — approximately thirty in number — which flourished for longer or shorter periods between 1835 and 1918 — wielded little influence and attracted almost no attention outside of the Ontario German settlements. The German population was never numerically large enough to exert any major impact on social and political thinking. The German newspapers were essentially local weekly papers in every sense of the word. They printed and interpreted what was transpiring in the outside world and domestically to their clientèle, without making any serious attempt to shape the course of events, except at times on a purely local level.

The large influx of German immigrants into Ontario, as well as into other areas of Canada, after the second World War has prompted a modest revival of the German newspaper press. It may be assumed that this revival will again take on the proportions of a flourishing period, to be followed by a gradual decline as the forces of integration wean away the readers into the dominant cultural and linguistic patterns of their respective communities.

The German immigrant of today is inclined to adapt himself much more quickly to the pattern of his surroundings than was his predecessor of the nineteenth century. The urge to settle in closed communities is noticeably absent. There is no "clearing-house" in our day, such as Waterloo County represented to the German newcomer of the nineteenth century. Through this lack of rallying points the urge to perpetuate the language and the culture of the homeland has been considerably weakened. Nevertheless a history of the second, and geographically larger, phase of German journalism will some day have to be written.

Although the secular German newspapers provided the major bulk of early German journalism in Ontario, there were also German religious periodicals published by the various German church groups. These

existed coevally with the secular newspapers, but catered particularly to the religious denominations which sponsored them.

Newspaper files have furnished the basis for most of the facts and conclusions presented in this account. During a period of several years the author has read the files of the extant German-language newspapers of Ontario. These files were also able to provide a considerable amount of information about those newspapers which were not preserved.

The author wishes to express his gratitude to all those who helped in the production of this study. He is particularly indebted to the officers of the Waterloo Historical Society for permission to use the excellent collection of German newspaper files in the Society's museum, to Peter Fisher, late secretary of the Waterloo Historical Society for his generous suggestions, to Miss Dorothy Shoemaker, chief librarian of the Kitchener Public Library, to Mr. Ernst Ritz of New Hamburg for the loan of his files of the *Canadisches Volksblatt*, but above all to his wife, whose pertinacity in seeing this study brought to a conclusion may in large part be ascribed to her Pennsylvania-German background, which provided the link between the early German settlers in Ontario and that of the author's family, which migrated from Hesse in the 1840's.

Herbert K. Kalbfleisch.

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

The history of the pioneer German newspaper press in the Province of Ontario, Canada, covers a period of less than one hundred years. Its initial as well as its final chapter was written in the same town, namely Kitchener (formerly Berlin), Ontario.

Ontario was, however, not the first province in Canada to entertain a migration of German people. Hanoverian subjects of George II of England were recruited for the settlement of Nova Scotia, when the English decided to set up an outpost there as a check to French expansion to the south, at the end of the fifth and the beginning of the sixth decade of the eighteenth century. Between 1750 and 1752 approximately two thousand Germans came into the Halifax and Lunenburg areas. Three decades later their number had increased to approximately three thousand.

By sheer coincidence a German printer appeared in Halifax toward the end of the 1750's in the person of Anthon Henrich (Anthony Henry) and to him falls the honor of having done the first German printing in Canada.

Anthon Henrich was born in Alsace in 1734 of German parents. He had been apprenticed to a printer but had left his employ and migrated to the New World where he became a fifer in a British regiment, from which he was discharged at Perth Amboy, New Jersey, in 1758. From there he made his way to Nova Scotia where he became a partner in the printing-office of John Bushell, the printer and publisher of the *Halifax Gazette* (founded 1752) and the official government printer. The *Gazette* is reputed to have been the first newspaper published in Canada¹.

Bushell died in 1761, whereupon Henrich took over the printing establishment, although barely twenty-seven years of age. He also continued as the official government printer, from which source he derived a yearly income of between sixty and one hundred pounds.

In 1766 the government revoked his patent because of Henrich's critical attitude toward official policy, and for some time a competitor received the government's printing account, but several years later Henrich was restored to favor and his contract was renewed.

During 1769—1770 he issued the *Nova-Scotia Chronicle and Weekly Advertiser*, and from 1770 on the *Nova-Scotia Gazette and the Weekly Chronicle*, the latter of which vied in make-up and content with the better American journals of its day.

In 1769 Henrich issued an annual calendar in English for the first time. It bore the title *The Nova-Scotia Calender, or an almanac for the year of the Christian Aera, 1769*. He continued issuing an annual calendar from that time on until his demise.

But Henrich also cherished the dream of publishing a German newspaper in Nova Scotia². He was very proud of his mother tongue and felt called to restore it to its rightful place in his adopted province, although he realized that many of the younger generation did not share his enthusiasm. He proposed to issue a German weekly, to appear every Friday with the title *Die Welt, und die Neuschottlaendische Correspondenz* (The World and the Nova Scotian Newsletter), which was to contain the most important events transpiring in the world, and for which he would employ English newspapers as his news sources, supplemented by the most interesting items from the local scene. A German almanac was also projected. This latter plan became a reality when Henrich issued *Der Hochdeutsche Neu-Schottländische Calender, auf das Jahr, nach der heilbringenden Geburt unsers HERRN JESU Christi, 1788* (The High German Nova Scotian Calendar for the year 1788 after the blessed birth of our Lord Jesus Christ). This almanac followed more or less the pattern of the many publications of this order appearing in the colonial and Revolutionary period of American history. Its chief claim to historical renown stems from the fact that it gave an account of the arrival of the first German settlers in Nova Scotia.

Henrich's German newspaper, of which no copies are preserved, was conducted by a German journeyman printer, Henry Steiner, who had come to America as a Hessian mercenary in the Revolutionary War³. He arrived in Halifax in 1782, where he was mustered out and immediately thereafter began working for Henrich. The German types used in the printing of the German newspaper were procured from Justus Fox, in Germantown, Pennsylvania. The German weekly was of relatively short duration, appearing only between 1787 and 1789. Its demise came when Steiner went to Philadelphia in 1789. Two factors seem to have conspired against its success: there were too few subscribers, and there was considerable competition from German newspapers and periodicals from Pennsylvania.

Antho[n] Henrich died in December 1800, sixty-six years of age. He had been named King's Printer in 1788, a position which assured him of a permanent yearly income from the public treasury.

There is no evidence of any further attempt to publish a German newspaper in the Canadian maritime provinces after Henrich's somewhat ephemeral venture came to an end.

Henrich's German newspaper in Nova Scotia was designed for readers who had migrated to Canada before the main French bastion in Quebec and its western hinterland had come under British control. In fact, almost forty years had elapsed since the first wave of German migration had come to Nova Scotia and appearance of Henrich's *Die Welt*. We must marvel that the German minority still retained its language and can only conclude that their state of local isolation was such that they were not assimilated into the English pattern.

With the British conquest of Canada the land was thrown open for immigrants. But there was no rapid influx from any quarter into this vast undeveloped wilderness.