



Extracts From the Diary of Jacob Hiltzheimer of Philadelphia: 1765-1798 (Classic Reprint)

Jacob Hiltzheimer

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Excerpt from Extracts From the Diary of Jacob Hiltzheimer of Philadelphia: 1765-1798

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.

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