**READING 3: IMMIGRANT TO PENNSYLVANIA (1769)**

This is a letter home written by a German-speaking immigrant from Switzerland to Pennsylvania.

Source: Johannes Hanner, Letter by an Immigrant to Pennsylvania, 1769. *Unpublished Documents on Emigration from the Archives of Switzerland*,Albert Faust, Vols.18-19, pg.37-39.

Dearest Father, Brother, and Sister and Brother-in-law,

I have told you quite fully about the trip, and I will tell you what will not surprise you – that we have a free country. Of the craftsmen, one may do whatever one wants. Nor does the land require payment of tithes [taxes requiring payment of a portion of a farmer’s produce to a local landlord, as typical in Europe]. By the way, wheat is grown most frequently…apples are plentiful. The land is very big from Canada to the east of us to Carolina in the south and to the Spanish border in the west. There are many large and small rivers. One can settle wherever one wants without asking anyone when he buys or leases something.

I have always enough to do and we have no shortage of food. Bread is plentiful. If I work for two days I earn more bread than in eight days at home. Also I can buy many things so reasonably [for example] a pair of shoes for roughly seven shillings. I think that with God’s help I will obtain land. I am not pushing for it until I am in a better position. I would like for my brother to come…and it will then be even nicer in this country. I assume that the land has been described to you sufficiently by various people and it is not surprising that the immigrant agents demand payment. For the journey is long and it costs much to stay away for one year….

Johannes Hanner