

Feb 13/89

Our venerable Brother Johan Fr. Gocht
He has left the following account of his
Course through this Life in his own hand
writing

I was born in Nieder Oderwitz the 30th Decth
1697 & was carefully instructed in all that
is good by my parents, I even from my
Childhood did not suit for the wise world,
My natural Corruption lay so much the
deeper. I have since perceived how often
the holy Spirit has endeavoured to draw my
attention, till at length I became concerned
about my salvation in my 19th year, when
I should first partake of the holy Sacrament,
but I fell again into the lightminded ways
of the world & thus spent many years
under the protection of God till at length
in 1719 in the Passion week my mercifull
Saviour aroused my heart & shewed me my
unbelief, my Prayers & sighs in the Passion
week were, that our Sav' would have mercy
upon me & Sprinkle my heart with his
blood; I felt my heart filled with
comfort, & it even occurred to me at that
time, that I should come to our Sav' as a
sinner; but I was not altogether clear

in this matter, it was more agreeable to me
to spend my time in reading books &c.
about this time it was proposed to me to marry
having prayed to god to direct me to a person
who was agreeable to him & fitting for me
I entered into that state the 9th Nov. 1723
with the present Widow, our Sav^r blessed
our marriage with 3 Sons & 2 Daughters
all of whom he called home to himself.
I strove all that lay in my power to
become happy but my heart was void
of all feeling, till my Faithfull Sav^r
impressed the words on my heart: as
many as are the Children of God are
led by the Spirit of God. From this
time I became concerned I pray'd &
sighed continually to our Sav^r that He
would guide & direct me in his path of
peace, I receiv'd the comforting answer
from him I will direct you in the way
I will guide you with my Eye.
about this time the great awakening
began in Oderwitz & I directly
joined with the awakened souls; I
was at first greatly distressed through
the fear of men but I was convinced in my

in my heart that I should there find what
my heart sought for. I went to Berthelsoe &
I heard the Rev^d Mr Bathke, whom I had
heard twice before, I was greatly affected
& he described my whole hearts situation
as if I had told him my whole state. the
Persecution began to rage against the
awakened souls, this however did not in the
least interr me; I began to feel a retarding
Labour of grace in my heart. & had I
simply continued by it, I could have
spared myself many an anxious hour;
I came into a legal course & my misery
was such that at length I determined
to open my whole mind to our minister,
who told me I was on the right way, I
had only to pray to God to conduct
me farther; as soon as he learned that I
associated with the awakened souls, he
endeavoured all he could to dissuade me
from it. The meetings in Cöerwitz were
forbidden & a great many of those who
frequented them were arrested & carried
to Jittau, being greatly concerned at
this Event & they not returning; I
after some days went out to enquire what

what was become of them, Being come to
Gottlob Heber's house I found the Officers
coming out with 2 men whom they had
found their: they no sooner saw me then
they laid hold on me; saying, I must go
before the Justice, I refused to go, as I saw
no offence which I had committed, but they
struck me with their stick & abused me in
such a manner that I fell senseless to the earth.
the people seeing this rough usage were
provoked & rescued the 2 ~~men~~ Prisoners; being
a Libel recovered I returned lifted up myself
up & my first words were Dearest Savile be
merciful to them & forgive them. I return'd
home & spent the evening happily. the next
day I could scarce raise up my head for pain,
I continued so sometime to go on my course
in stillness & went frequently to Church,
at length I was ordered by a Bailiff to
appear before the Lord of the Manner, who
which were given in at Zittau against the
Minister. at that time I was against the
me to prison, in upon which he order'd
alone, & was often asked if I was quite
my opinion. which I said I could not, his
Lordship affected to be my friend & artfully
intimated he had no doubt but that I would
ask pardon & then all would be well, I was
extremely confused & promised at length
I would upon which I was conducted by my

by my keeper to the minister, & I thought if
I do it with my mouth yet I am assured my
heart will contradict me. I had no sooner begged
pardon than I was seized with horrors &
misery that I cannot describe, I cried out
dearest Sav^r Don't suffer me to be quite aban-
doned I directly went to the Minister & told
him, how it was with me since I had recanted
all my comfort which before I enjoyed in the
merits of my Sav^r was now entirely gone! He
endeavoured to quiet me with words: saying it
will soon come again & thus left me, I was
soon after summoned to appear before the
Lord of the manor: Who let me know that
I must directly leave the place where I obey-
ed & went directly to Flennhat where I found
a place to live in, Thus with a wounded heart
& troubled spirit I came in August 1728 to
Fl^r hut. I went in misery for
4 y^r when my mercifull Sav^r softened my
heart so that I could perceive some dawning
of hope - one morning as I took my little
daughter out of bed & asked what verse she
our Saviour, kindles each spark of life: happy
the man who sink in thee, has all his heart
filled as a lost & sinner. Cast my self at
His feet & seek the whole source of my
misery in myself. I soon saw what great

great reason I had to be a sinner before him,
& got a blessed insight into the atonement
of Jesus in whom alone grace & freedom from
sin is to be found. Soon after this the late
Disciple sent for me & asked, if I would go
into the Clof^t with the late B^r Tobias Fries
rich. This was a great grace to me our S^rave
opened my enclosed heart so that I could
speak of every thing in me just as it was,
I also attained to the unspeakable grace to
perceive with the Corp^s of our Lord's Corp^s
& Blood in the holy Sacrament, at what
a blessed moment was that! I esteemed myself
a poor sinner, who received every thing out of
mere grace & recommended myself to the faith
full preservation of our S^rave & the maternal
care of the holy Ghost. His mercies were new
to me every morning. & his grace conducted
me in Blessing. But always there came after
this a time in which I felt myself so dry
that I durst not go to the H^r Sacrament
I was distressed & begged our S^rave to forgive me.
day when the W^r St^r was. Pray without
fear & election thy nail prints see our
blessed voice in my heart. & lift up thy
graven thee in the Palms of my hands
in the year 1736 I came among the
Intercessors, by which I knew what it was to

quite

to with our Savⁿ alone & to pray for the
prosperity of Jerusalem & the whole
work of God on this Earth. I was now appoint^d
to be sick water. I begged our Savⁿ to give me
wisdom to conduct myself & above all an
humble sinner-like heart, & thus I spent 10
years in this Office with a willing heart. In
the year 1741. I became priestly nightwatcher
my weakly habit of body made me at first
faint that it would be too much for me; but
soon thought the Congⁿ has laid it upon me
& if our Savⁿ has desired it, he will give
the necessary Strength, & thus confiding in
him I entered on this Office the 7th Aug
recommending myself to his grace & the preser-
vation of the holy Angels: & our Savⁿ has helped
me thro in the following time as his poor
one who knows of no help but his grace
at the regulating of the Congⁿ Disciples
I & my wife had the unexpected grace to be
the first pair chosen to this office which filled
my heart with shame & humiliation before
our Savⁿ. & as often as it has occurred that I
was chosen to be Congⁿ. or choir Disciple it
has always been accompanied with new blessing
to me In the month of June 1760 I was seized
with such a weakness, that I could not attend
my office of nightwatcher my weakness
increased so that I had hopes of soon going
home but the hour was not yet come. It

It is true I was deprived of many blessed meetings
But our dear Sav^r paid me many a happy
visits in my corner. The 15th of Feb-1762
when B^r Gregor let me know that I was
to be invested with the dignity of Disciple,
it was as if a stream of grace overpowered
me & I poor w^m accepted the grace with
~~sinnerlike~~ shame & humility
Thus far his own account.

The Character of the late Bro is.
Known to the ^{whole} Cong^r. He was legitimated
as a faithfull Person, beloved of our Sav^r.
To whom the character of a real liturgist
can with right be given. He prayed without
ceasing, & the spreading abroad of the
gospel, the prosperity of the Cong^r &
choirs & particularly the Directory,
were the constant subject of his hearty
& childlike prayers to our Sav^r. He has
himself declared how important his office
of Nightwatcher was to him, which he
continued for 19 years as a priest of God
& caused the Cong^r many aplications by
his agreeable singing the hours of the night.
refreshed thereby many a sick one during their
sleepless nights & put them in mind of their
best friend & physician for soul & body.

The great importance which this office
was to him, gave him the more concern when
he through weakness was no longer capable
of watching for the long^d. The converse
with the man at Smart caused the time
he had to spend at the healing ponds
not to appear so tedious to him. about
a quarter of year ago he went out for the
last time, & enjoyed the Post Comm^r in
the hall from which time he continued
in oblation & still waiting for his happy
hour as often as he was asked how he
did, his answer was hanging at geras
wounds; on the 31st Jan^r his hour approach^{ing}
Liturgy. & the blessing of the long^d & his
Chair being imparted to him he departed
to the joy of his Lord in the 72^r year.
of his age,