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*THE WORD IN THE WILDERNESS: POPULAR PIETY AND THE
MANUSCRIPT ARTS IN EARLY PENNSYLVANIA*

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CHAPTER 5: MARCHING TO “STEP AND TIME”: TEXT, COMMEMORATION, AND
THE RITUALS OF EVERYDAY LIFE

ONLINE APPENDIX D: BIRTH AND BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE CONTENT ANALYSIS
STATISTICAL METHODS AND RESULTS

Given that so many Pennsylvania-German birth and baptismal certificates were printed documents later modified with manuscript inscription, they present greater uniformity of design and content than all-manuscript penmanship samples or tune books. And, given that they are almost always single sheets as compared to lengthy bound volumes, their material analysis proves less complex than the study of tune books. Like the primary source bases for the preceding two chapters, however, materials for Chapter Five were assembled using a random sample of birth and baptismal certificates designed to offer a snapshot assessment of the document type.

Data Collection

A random sample of fifty birth and baptismal certificates was assembled at the Library Company of Philadelphia on February 14, 2017. The Library Company's collection was selected for this purpose because of the breadth of their holdings as well as the ease of assembling a comprehensive list of the institution's holdings via their online catalogue. From a list of 122 birth and baptismal certificates in the online catalogue, fifty documents were selected for inclusion in the study via a random number list.

Variables

Independent variables in this study were: date made (operationalized as an ordinal variable as "date category" with a span of ten years), printing/decorative technique, city of publication, scriptural and literary themes, and imagery found on birth and baptismal certificates.

Analysis Strategy

Frequencies are reported in tabular format for all variables included in the study.

Results

Note: More data are available in the print and e-book editions of *The Word in the Wilderness:*

Popular Piety and the Manuscript Arts in Early Pennsylvania.

Table D1. Date of baptisms commemorated on birth and baptismal certificates.

| Date of Baptisms Commemorated on Birth and Baptismal Certificates | | |
|--|---|--------------------------|
| Date Category | Number of Birth and Baptismal Certificates | % of Total Sample |
| 1780-1789 | 1 | 2 |
| 1790-1799 | 1 | 2 |
| 1800-1809 | 4 | 8 |
| 1810-1819 | 4 | 8 |
| 1820-1829 | 11 | 22 |
| 1830-1839 | 3 | 6 |
| 1840-1849 | 4 | 8 |
| 1850-1859 | 3 | 6 |
| 1860-1869 | 5 | 5 |
| 1870-1879 | 7 | 14 |
| 1880-1889 | 4 | 8 |
| 1890-1899 | 1 | 2 |
| N/A | 2 | 4 |

Table D2. Printing and decorative techniques on birth and baptismal certificates.

| Printing and Decorative Techniques on Birth and Baptismal Certificates | | |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| Printing/Decorative Technique | Number of Birth and Baptismal Certificates | % of Total Sample |
| All manuscript | 2 | 4 |
| Printed template, reprinted added text (no handwriting), hand decoration/coloring | 1 | 2 |
| Printed, hand-colored, filled-in handwritten family data | 38 | 76 |
| Printed template, no hand-alteration except added family data text | 8 | 16 |
| Undetermined | 1 | 2 |

Table D3. City of birth and baptismal certificates publication.

| City of Birth and Baptismal Certificate Publication | | |
|--|---|--------------------------|
| City of Publication | Number of Birth and Baptismal Certificates | % of Total Sample |
| Reading | 13 | 26 |
| Allentown | 12 | 24 |
| Philadelphia | 10 | 20 |
| Harrisburg | 3 | 6 |
| New York City | 2 | 4 |
| Ephrata | 1 | 2 |
| Hanover | 1 | 2 |
| Pottsville | 1 | 2 |
| No Publisher Given | 5 | 10 |
| Entirely Manuscript | 2 | 4 |

Table D4. Scriptural and literary themes on birth and baptismal certificates.

| Scriptural and Literary Themes on Birth and Baptismal Certificates | | |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| Theme | Number of Birth and Baptismal Certificates | % of Total Sample |
| Importance and Effects of Baptism | 35 | 70 |
| Fast Approach of Death | 31 | 62 |
| Following Christ and Leading a Pious Life | 12 | 24 |
| God's Joy and Gifts | 10 | 20 |
| Virtues of Childhood/Christian Childhood | 7 | 14 |
| American Mottoes | 6 | 12 |
| Ten Commandments | 4 | 8 |
| Living Presence of the Holy Spirit | 3 | 6 |