

ities of the farm for every month in the year. These have never been changed. The prognostications about the state of the weather were first made for the almanac by the "Blacksmith astronomer," Charles Flack - the art of prophecy is said to have remained in the Flack family for many years. After the death of the almanac's first weather prophet, calculations were made for many years by Lawrence J. Ibach and his son, Will R. Ibach.<sup>14</sup>

An English edition of the almanac was begun in 1822, and has continued ever since (1942). The German edition became smaller and smaller, as the children of Washington County's German settlers gradually adopted the English language; the publishers discontinued it at the time of the first World War.<sup>15</sup>

Gruber's religious background was apparent in his first published book - besides the almanac - the Apocryphal Gospel of Nicodemus and the Testament of the Twelve Patriarchs, published in 1796 or probably early in 1797.<sup>16</sup> Another religious publication was Sasse's Geistliche Lieder, issued in 1799.<sup>17</sup> In 1831, he published the Psalms and Hymns of the German Reformed

14 Hagers-Town town and country almanack. 1859.  
p. 69.

15 Evening sun. Baltimore. March 2, 1927.

16 Appendix A. Imprint bibliography, item 344.

17 Appendix A. Imprint bibliography, item 538.