

## THE MELSHEIMER FAMILY AND THE MELSHEIMER COLLECTION.

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The Melsheimers have been considered by Th. Say to be the fathers of Entomology in the U. States. Nevertheless very little is known about them, and that little is not perfectly accurate. In fact, concerning the older Melsheimer there exists only a note in A. W. Knoch's "Neue Beitræge zur Insectenkunde," 1801, p. 18, and concerning his second son only the necrology by the late Dr. John L. LeConte in the Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phil., 1873, p. 257, reprinted in the CAN. ENT., vol. vi., 1874, p. 39.

Through the courtesy of Dr. Geo. H. Horn, the manuscript diary of Dr. Carl Zimmerman is before me, which contains the following statements:—

"From York, Pa., I walked 18 miles to the S. W. to Hanover, where I arrived Jan. 7, 1834. Introduced to a Mr. Lange, the owner of the only press in the town, and editor of the Hanover *Gazette*, I was informed that the older Melsheimer died 20 years ago. Mr. Lange had been well acquainted with him, and the widow and several children are still living in the town. The following I copied out from the obituary in the Hanover *Gazette* at the time of Melsheimer's death:—

"Friedrich Valentin Melsheimer, minister of the Evangelic-Lutheran Church in Hanover, died June 30, 1814, in consequence of a lung disease of 30 years duration, 64 years, 10 months and 7 days old. He was born Sept. 25, 1749, at Negenborn, in the dukedom of Brunswick. His father, Joachim Sebastian Melsheimer, was superintendent of forestry to the duke. F. V. Melsheimer was sent in 1756 to school in Holzminden; in 1769 he went to the university in Helmstædt. He received, 1776, the appointment as chaplain to a regiment, which he accompanied to America, and arrived July 1st in Quebec. In 1779 he came to Bethlehem, Pa., and married, June 3, Mary Agnes Man, by whom he had 11 children. From August 19, 1789, he was minister in Hanover, Pa."

Dr. Zimmermann called on Mrs. Melsheimer, and was told by her and her daughter that after his death his eldest son, Johann Friedrich Melsheimer, succeeded his father as minister, whose love for natural history he had inherited, together with his collection and library. This J. F. Melsheimer is the entomologist quoted so often by Th. Say. The year of