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I was ~~born~~ born in Lancaster State of Penns^a in April 1768 -
My father was an European. My Mother a native American.
In the struggle for Independence he bore a part - he entered the
american army in the rank of Captain paymaster to the German
Regiment. At that period the payment to the Continental Army
was made in paper money, and always came considerably reduced
into the hands of the soldiery - having a family, which he left
behind, and ~~his~~ pay and emolument, ~~it~~ not being sufficient
to support him and his family - induced him to relinquish a sol-
dier's life and return to his family - he had been but a short
time at home when he was attacked with the nervous fever, which
in a few days deprived him of his life. The property he left to
sustain his family was altogether in cash, which he had put on
interest. payments were made to my mother at a great de-
preciation; on the winding up of the Estate, a re-ascertion of more
than one half was ascertained, out of which 5 Children were
to be supported. I was put apprentice to the hatting business
when I was not quite 12 years old. On the day of the expiration
of my apprenticeship I had not one single dollar in my posses-
ion, neither had I any claim on any person. The wide world
was before me. The day after I was free, I entered as a Journeyman
I worked hard for 6 months, and was careful of my earnings; my
leisure hours were employ'd in reading the best Authors
I had now, laid by about one hundred dollars. An Idea of tra-
velling enter'd my head, ~~and~~ To see the various parts of the All States
was desirable, and a person of my profession, will find it not
very difficult. My old master has a step son, who at that
time was, and had been at his house for some time, he had been a
rambling unsteady being; he ^{had} travelled not only through the All States
but partly thro'p the world; - with him I agreed to go - -

Powell my fellow traveller, had always been accustomed to play
least in sight, when ever he had been. The day was fixed, preparations
made for starting. My money that I had laid by was all in double
Loons; - I put it on Interest, put two guineas, and silver pieces
in my pocket, determined that should start me. The evening be-
fore we started my sapsack was filled, with a good lunchin
of bread & beef we started in the morning of 23 Nov. 1789, about
11 O'clock. The first day of our journey passed tolerably
well, little occurred worth noticing. In the evening it began to
rain. The window in our room was much broken, the rain
was blown in over our cloaths and bedding - in the morning
when we took our cloaths they were wringing wet, we felt
very uncomfortable, I felt a sort of regret leaving Lanc.

But I felt ashamed to intimate it
We started as early as possible, travelled 5 or 6 miles, then
breakfasted. About 5 we arrived at an inn, when we staid
all night. My companion was in debt almost in every town.
~~his habits of vice & dissipation, and set him in debt.~~

The Landlady was a fine soft fleshy woman, her countenance
was a good index to her heart, - supper was prepared with
neatness and facility, a fine brisk fire - now comfortably
situated we entered into a chit chat. she informed us that she
had lived in Baltimore, (to whom we were then going) near to a Mr
H. - Powell showed some uneasiness - the Landlady continued by
saying Mr H. was expected at her house that evening - this made
him unhappy - he rose from his chair and traversed the room
agitated; - whispered me that he owed Mr H. a large sum of money
- at that moment we were interrupted by the cry of who sleeps

house, Powell knew not which way to go, or fly, this in Mr H's
voice, he looked as if the devil was in him - two gentlemen were
ushered in, and agreeably was his disappointment instead of
Mr H. they were two of our acquaintances from Lancaster -
Powell soon recovered from his fears - the Landlady was re-
quested to give us some today, a few swigs of which restored us to
mirth & happiness.

The ducking

Next morning we started early - the rain of the preceding day
rendered travelling tedious. We had not gone far before we came
to a stream of water running across the road, and which had
become swelled by the rains of the preceding day. We travelled
up and down its banks to find a place to cross, the depth
was about 3 feet. We laid down bushes and brush, ^{at} one of
the narrowest places, we had nearly crossed, when Powell
was disposed to get out of this situation, made a spring, to
reach the other side, his foot happening to catch a grape vine
and pitched him into the stream. He cut a pretty figure
to be sure. I took precaution and with care got over.
The morning was cold. we travelled about 2 miles, when we
reached a house where we stopped until he dried his
cloaths. The people apparently poor shewed much kindness,
Corn meal was made up and baked before the fire, with
a cup of milk of which we made our Breakfast.

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Thus refreshing ourselves, we again shouldered our knapsacks and proceeded on our journey — travelling on, our thoughts occupied with the weariness of the road, wincing at the soreness of my feet, and ~~my~~ fatigue, I felt a desire to get to some house to rest. An old blue stocking man on a beast more like an ass than an horse, driving his heels into its sides, and his arms more as if he was going to fly than ride; he was just passing when I hailed him, with how far to rest in ~~the~~ how far to Baltimore? Baltimore, says he, this is not the road. He then directed us — turned right about, marched, and tack'd as he directed, and in the evening ~~we~~ sore, & fatigued arrived in the town of Baltimore.

Powell was desirous of getting into some private part of the town, he being well acquainted, and much in debt, little to pay with. We agreed on the house, an old acquaintance. Night had come on. We unsaddled ~~our~~ cleaned, and dress'd ourselves — the Barber was not to be found that night — Comfortably have a clean land. In the morning the Barber came, and as fate would have it, one who had often shaved P and for which he had left him unpaid — P and the Barber got into a corner whispering, the Barber was told to call in the afternoon, and left us. No soon had he left the house, but P packed up his duds and moved out of town about a mile when he was to await

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my coming some time in the day. The Landlord went with me to my friend Strickers house, a relation for whom I always had a great regard for. The meeting was very agreeable — my hurry to follow my fellow traveller prevented me going with Mr S to see his family, after offering me every friendly assistance to prosecute my Journey, parted, by taking an affectionate leave of others, I then pursued my way to my lodgings when I gathered up my baggage, and proceeded out of town to where Powell had secreted himself. We now started together. My feet were ~~all~~ blistered and sore, felt a great desire of refreshing myself a day or two; but P did not feel easy, every few steps he would look back to see if any person was pursuing, I was kept in a half hope and fear. although no person could have touch'd me, but ~~the~~ sensations had he been apprehended, and thrust into prison, were such, that notwithstanding my lameness to push out of danger as fast as possible. We had now travelled about 3 miles, with our best Gills & teachers, (coming out of town in such a hurry) that we did not change our dress. a fellow coming along with 3 horses leading two, and by the bye, they did not lead well, swearing and cursing the horses, I thought this would be a fine chance to escape the Constable, offered to ride me, and me the other, which was accepted, We mounted, and rode at a great rate for sundry

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Miles, when we dismounted. We were not a little
chagrined at viewing each other, bespattered with
mud, our small cloaths nearly ruined by the sweat
of the horses, all this too to avoid the Bailiff.
We took up our lodgings about 8 in the afternoon -
six or seven young lads had met there for the purpose
of seeing, and taking a grog with one of their acquaintances
who had just returned from sea.

He appeared an incessant talker, and kept telling
a host of marvellous stories. He had learnt some
tricks of sleight of hand, and carried a pack of
cards in his pocket, cantering, and won at play
with them - he then would play any one for a dollar; yes,
he could beat any thing, in short he made his acquaintances
conceive that he had learned every thing - I got on
the Jacqets, - they joined others, he gave Powell odds; then
played even - Powell now give Mr Sailer odds, beat him
Sailer swearing at his luck. He bet him if he could beat
whip. fight any thing; - Sailer lost all he had - the
landlord apprehensive of a quarrell, put us in a separate
room when we heard him behaving like a mad man.

Next morning rose early paid our bill and started
before any of the last night party were up - we pushed
as fast as we could, looking behind us, like fugitives
flying from justice. I could not help remarking
with P. at such unwarrantable conduct, but he being

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hardened in iniquity, little regarded what I said -
The next event that attracted our attention was the badness of the roads
We travelled about two miles when we came to a creek - there was no way
to cross it but wading. About 10 o'clock arrived at an inn, where we
called for breakfast. The landlord was Cooh, bear keeper. hostler &c.
The coffee was sweetened with molasses - cold Johnny cake, of very little
of it - the charge high. We complained of both, and declared we
should never call again. We stopped but once during the day, in
the evening we got to Bladenburg. Here we got a good supper,
the people of the house were very attentive. Sitting by the fire side,
we heard the landlady had come from Lancaster. After asking
a few questions, I recollected her. I felt some reluctance going
to bed, although the house looked decent, I did not think myself
secure. However, we took care to barricade the door, to which there was
no lock, and got to bed. We had not been in bed any time, when we
tumbled out again - our sheets were wet, we threw them off. The
pile of chairs which we propped the door with, was so nicely set
up, that Powell, just touching it set the whole a tumbling -
the noise brought the landlady up, enquiring what is the matter?
This led to an account of the beds. The sheets were taken to the fire,
and dried, & replaced, when we entered the second time.
We had an early breakfast, and started. We had not got out of
sight of town when a lads with an empty cart came along. We
bargained for fare. He was a pretty knowing fellow. He jived
a long time. However, we got him to our farms, and got in.
About 12 o'clock we got to George town, where we dined

While dinner was getting ready, I looked in a glass to examine a cancer which I had in my right cheek. This case had often alarmed me, but at this moment I thought it looked much worse, than ever. I retreated to a far part of the room, reflecting on my unhappy situation. Powell, coming in, enquired the cause of my melancholy, I stated to him my reasons. The landlord was then informed of my lowness of spirits. He had often seen cases of cancer, and requested me to be of good cheer, that he could give me a Receipt, which would give me relief. While we were at dinner he prepared the Receipt. I felt relieved in mind at that time, & desired only the chance of applying his remedy. This evening we arrived at Alexandria. In the evening, Powell, asked me to take a walk. The hall was of a Billiard table. We went in. Got to playing. He pretended he knew nothing of the game. A number of Gentlemen came in. He got engaged with a Gentleman, who appeared very respectable. Powell, gave him about one half in the game, and won every game. He took all the cash off the stranger. He then asked some of the Gentlemen to loan him some, but his friends advised him to desist. I felt much ashamed, and was glad when we went away. I went to my lodgings, Powell, soon came in oft to me. I then informed him of my intention of returning to Baltimore. He made many remonstrances against it, but I had determined with him I could no longer travel. I went to bed, with a design to drown my melancholy. The pillow afforded me little repose. In the morning about day light. I left town. Powell accompanied me to the River side. Notwithstanding his corrupted heart, I felt a reluctance to part with him. I got into the boat, while we were

crossing, I frequently looked back; when we arrived on the opposite shore. I looked back again, when I saw him waving his hat, as if to say, once more farewell! God bless you I thought, I never seen him again. Now, behold me alone! A strange country, of low spirited. I immediately entered a wood of scrub oaks, whose dry, lifeless leaves kept rattling in the winds. Welcome ye tranquil scenes, thought I, as I pursued a sort of a path winding along a rivulet, yes, welcome to the minds which care has wasted, than the cooling spring to the thirsty traveller. as I finished this involuntary soliloquy, I found myself at the brink of a small precipice down which the rivulet meandered. I descended the cliff, & entering the wilderness to seek some road. For some time I had quite lost myself. I wandered through a thicket, which partly obscured a hut. I made for it, & proceeded to gain admittance, but I found a large log impeded my progress. I perceived this rustic dwelling was divided into two apartments, which nature of industry had combined to render convenient. I observed a matted bed of straw, - from what I saw, I was convinced that it must be the habitation of some human being, though as yet discovered none. How happy thought I is this inhabitant of this rustic dwelling - perhaps some pious sage, on whose brow the venerable sign of age is stamped, divested from the various passions that torment the youthful hearts, has stammered the torrent of ambition & now almost in the Harbor of eternity, glides undisturbed in calm repose. Thus was I reflecting, expecting every moment the appearance of some venerable inhabitant. I was afraid it might alarm the proprietor on his return find a human being there, I therefore walked solitarily from the hut, & reconnected

the adjoining ~~land~~ parts of the forest, and conclude what course to direct my way. I had not got far, before I perceived a human being, I proceeded towards him, and requested him to put me on the road. He enquired how I found my way there, & prevailed on my return to his habitation. I staid with him that day & night. Although the fare was coarse, it was given with a hearty welcome. He had retired from the busy world many years since with his wife to this Cot. He led me to her grave, with a deep drawn sigh. Alas! thought I, thy sorrows are over, locked up in the icy arms of death - no more shall misfortunes in this world disturb thy slumbers. I enquired if his mind did not heavy on him. He answered, when first he bid adieu to the world he found solitude without employment brought dissatisfaction - the small spot which he occupied did not yield to him the pleasure at first expected - but time had made him accustomed to his situation. But whence young stranger? he enquired, that you whom nature seems to have formed to enliven the social hours of life, should thus miraculously led you this uncheery haunt of solitude - time has not silvered by your auburn ringlets, nor has the tear of sorrow wasted the roses of health from your cheeks. I then gave him a short history of my intention to travel, but owing to the cancer in my cheek, meant to return to my old place of residence. Thus glided a few hours in innocent instruction while without the winds were whistling over the almost leafless oaks. In the morning I took my leave of this worthy recluse. In the evening I arrived at the borders of the town of Baltimore, when I stopped to see an old acquaintance, was rec^d with kindness I staid with him the next day. Mr John Allright.

The next day I called to see my worthy kinsman, Gen Stecher. The kind ness of attention I received from him & Mrs Stecher is in concordance with the exacted opinion I ever had of him. During my stay at his

Louse, of his request, & under his arrangement the operation for the extraction of the Cancer, was performed. After my consent, he consulted his family physician Dr Reuben Gildea, who under the direction of eight of the principal physicians of Baltimore, performed a complete cure. All which time Mrs Stecher attended me as a mother. Contrary to Mr S wish, I took boarding at Mrs Philips's a pious, sensible, charming lady - I began to work Journey - work with Mr J Sam Gray. in which shop there were about 100 hands, chiefly methodists. I continued about 3 Months in Baltimore. I then took passage in one of the Packets for Phila^a. we had many passengers, & had a very agreeable passage as we were sailing up the Delaware, the Captⁿ observed the vessels in the harbor in mourning, we were informed of the death of Dr Franklin. About 3 o'clock he was buried - I continued about 2 weeks in Phila^a. when I concluded going on to N York. I engaged my passage, but that very night I took very sick, and was laid up for 10 or 12 days. The affluents being heavy, as soon as I was able to stand the fatigue, took my passage for Lancaster. This was in the month of May. I shall never forget the invigorating effect the scenery had on my mind. The next day I arrived in my old place of my nativity. I soon recovered, and joined Journeywork. In order to be enabled to get into business for myself, I worked hard, & saved my earnings carefully - Two weeks after this I went to Sunbury, to visit my relations. Being there 3 days I returned to Lancaster

About midsummer 1790. I began to make arrangements to commence business for myself. I gathered in all I had earned by journeywork, went to Phila^a and bought furs - I laid out nearly all my money. I shall never forget the melancholy I was seized with on my return to Lanc^r. We stopped a considerable time at one of the stages - I laid myself down on the grass under the shade of a tree - the most disagreeable ideas entered my mind - my hard earnings laid out - the uncertainty of my succeeding in business, that when the stage was going to start, I was in the height of a delirium. I soon got better, & in the evening arrived in Lancaster. My shop was fitted up in a few days. I took boarding with Mrs Henry - after a month I changed my boarding place, to Mr Weavers house. I done this with a view of becoming acquainted with the Farmers I soon became with Mr Weavers Susan, an attachment took place, in about 2 years after became my wife. During the greater part of the time I boarded at Mr Weavers, I had my shop next door, at Mr Koubleys, he had a daughter named Barbara - who had taken it into her head to court me, every attention was paid to me by her parents - but when they found my ~~living~~ liking was not on her, they done me much injury. The work shop was broken - when a customer came in, they would tell them, I was out, so that it was thought I was almost always out, and was sustaining a heavy loss as well as reputation. A friend told me of it, on which I immediately determined to give up the Shop - The old man & I quarrelled about it, & were on the eve of having a law suit. His son was an apprentice - his indentures were given up, so we separated. I now enlarged my stock in my new stand, took several apprentices, & done pretty well. In Oct 1793, I got mania.

The following year 1794, an insurrection broke out in the Western Counties of the State. An open resistance against the specie laws. Gen Washington called on the eastern Counties for to furnish a certain quota of Militia - The spirit of Volunteering became prevalent, in Lanc^r. a great spirit existed a great number volunteered for the defence of the laws, I joined them, & on the 1st Oct 1794 marched to the Westward -

When the Pennsylv^a army arrived at Bedford, & when we halted several days, then came a Captⁿ Gamble of the U^s States army into our camp, and called on Captⁿ Mosher, my Captⁿ to know if a certain Mr Michael was in his company, of which I was in Camp Mosher told him I was, Captⁿ Gamble then told him he had an order from Colonel Alyn Hamilton, to take me, if I were willing to assist in the forwarding of issuing the Clothing of Military stores for the four Armies. Mosher opposed my going however his authority (C^t Gambles) was not to be resisted. I was called, & asked if I was willing. as the duties of the camp became tiresome, many of the men sick, made the duty harder on the rest, made me readily accept. Thus was I raised, without application or solicitation from a private, to a deputy issuing commissary. Three or four men at all times to wait on me, a liberal compensation, & a good warm bed to sleep in every night. Who it was that recommended me to Col^l Hamilton, I have never been able to learn.

On the 2^d Nov. I returned home to Lanc^r. In two or three days after I turned my attention to my business - ascertained from the apprentices what they had been doing - examined my stocks. About 2 weeks after Captⁿ Gamble, the conductor Gen^l arrived in town and paid me \$60 per month for my services. In Jan^y 1795 a daughter was born, in 1797 she died. My father in law suggested to me the advantage of moving to his tavern house, near town, I accepted his offer. I also erected a distillery, by which I made very little profit.

In 1799, a great contest arose between the Federalists of Democrats, respecting the election of Gov^r. I took part with the Demos, my friends generally were on the other side. I became persecuted. In the year 1808, the Democrats elected Simon Snyder Gov^r. Mr Geo Bryan, Auditor Gen^l appointed me his chief clerk, I kept the books of the Office for 12 years, the greater part of the time, I rec^d. \$1100 per Ann. In 1810 the Gov^r died, took lodgings with me. The compensation for boarding, &c was ~~scarcely~~ screwed down so low that I lost about 200 dollars this year, by them. I quit keeping a boarding house. From that day the Gov^r showed a churlishness towards me; as soon as I perceived it, I showed an indifference to him, every time we met, a greater coolness was practising, until neither spoke. What the real cause was, many attempts to ascertain but all failed. Mr Snyder, & we never had an explanation on the subject.

By an act of the Legislature, the Government moved to Harrisburg. I removed my family also, in which place I lived with my family 9 years. During which period, myself & family were much regarded & lived very agreeable. The citizens of Harrisburg, at least such as we associated with, were intelligent & hospitable.

The election of 1820, caused a change in the Government. Joseph Vristo was elected. Although a general change was looked for, as far as regards myself none expected it would effect me. I opposed the election of Vristo because I was a Democrat, & knew that Finckley was misrepresenting. Gen. Duncan was appointed Auditor Gen. Duncan told me there were gentlemen from every part of the State writing in my favor, I observed I was unsolicited he answered yes. Duncan's character was represented to me, that he was a testy disposition. I therefore gave him notice of my declining writing in his office. The people of Harrisburg could not believe it.

The gentlemen of the town assembled at my house, some with saws, some with hatchets, gimblets &c. to cut boards of mahogany boxes for packing my furniture - a greater evidence of attention never was shown to any person.

On the day of leaving it, crowds gathered to take leave of us, of one and all, crying out, you must come back in 3 years!

I moved my family off to Lancaster, to a small farm I had bought, formerly the property of my father-in-law, & turned farmer. My brother-in-law J. H. had the management of it, from the year 1820 I soon found it was high time it was taken out of his hands.

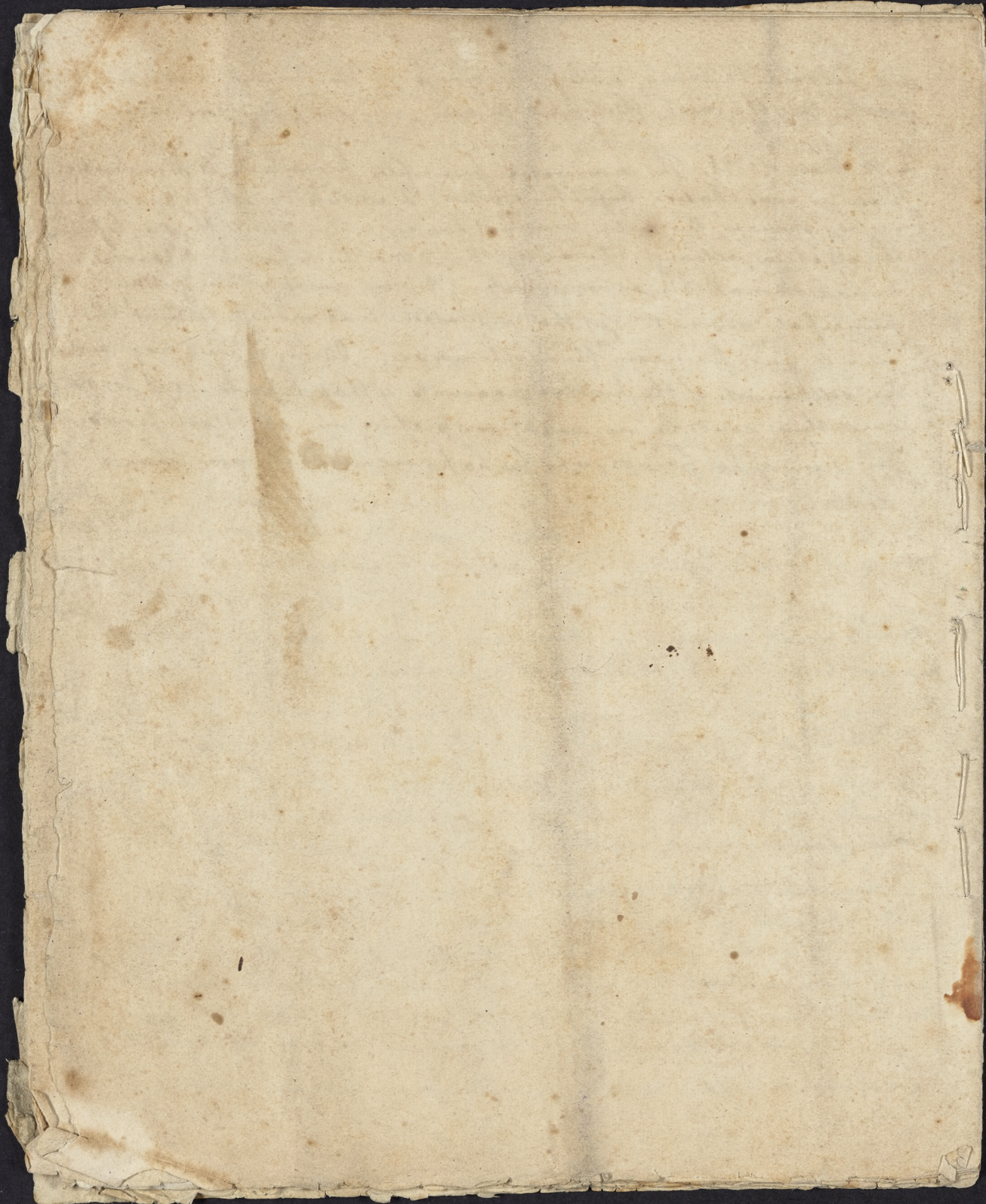
The summer of 1821, passed heavily on my hands - Having been accustomed to a business life, & now having nothing to do - heavy expenses, & not earning any thing, made me feel very uncomfortable.

I advertised, offering my services adjusting difficult accounts - none applied to me - but to this I did not feel disappointed - so many persons out of business - others failing in those trying times who were hunting & picking up all business that was doing, & me being somewhat a stranger, that truly, I could not expect to fall into business as soon, or as easy as might be supposed.

To save an invade on my purse, I went little into company,

and seldom to town, unless business of the family called me there. All the work that could be done, my son & self done it.

In the fall of 1821, The democratic principle prevailed. A Democratic Treasury was chosen, before his election, I addressed a letter to him offering my services, this letter was not handed to him until the day before the election, although it was written 3 months before - of course he had to make his arrangements - & I was disappointed. My principal desire to get that situation was more to thwart the new Auditor Gen. Duncan than otherwise. Being so well acquainted in settlement of the public accounts of that department, I presumed there could be no doubt respecting me. Mr. Clark provided for some of his friends, who perhaps required it more than I did.



Autobiography of William Michael (Part I.)

(By GEORGE ERISMAN)

I was born in Lancaster, State of Pennsylvania, in April 1768. My father was an European, my mother was a native American. In the struggle for Independence he bore a part,—he entered the American Army in the rank of Captain, pay-master to the German Regiment. At that period the payment to the Continental Army was made in paper money, and always came considerable reduced into the hands of the soldiery. Having a family which he left behind and his pay and emolument, not being sufficient to support him and his family, induced him to relinquish a soldier's life and return to his family. He had been but a short time at home when he was attacked with the nervous fever which in a few days deprived him of his life. The property he left to sustain his family was altogether in cash, which he had put on interest. Payments were made to my mother at a great depreciation, and on the ending of the estate, a reduction of more than half was ascertained, out of which the children were to be supported. I was put as an apprentice to the hatting business, when I was not quite twelve years old. On the day of the expiration of my apprenticeship. I had not a single dollar in my possession, neither had I any claim on my person. The wide world was before me. The day after I was free I entered as a journeyman. I worked hard for six months and was careful of my earnings. My leisure hours were devoted to reading the best authors. I had now laid by about one hundred dollars. The idea of travel entered my head. To see the various parts of the United States was desirable, and a person of my profession will find it not very difficult. My old master had a stepson who at that time was and had been at his house for some time. He had been a rambling unsteady being; he had travelled, not only through the United States, but partly through the world. With him I agreed to go. Powell my fellow traveler had always been accustomed to play "least in sight" whenever he had coin. The day was fixed, preparations made for starting. My money that I had laid by was all in double-looms; I put it on interest; put two guinies and silver pieces in my pocket, determined that should start me. The evening before we started, my knapsack was filled, with a good luncheon of bread and beef. We started in the morning of 23rd of Nov. 1789 about 4 o'clock. The first day of our journey passed tolerably well little occurred worth noticing. In the evening it began to rain. The windows in our room, was much broken, the rain was blown in over our clothes and bedding; in the morning when we took our clothes they were wringing wet. We felt very uncomfortable. I felt a sort of regret leaving home; but I felt ashamed to intimate it.

(Here follow 3 or 4 pages of experiences of William Michael's farther progress in this trip to Baltimore. He started home but retracing his steps to Baltimore to secure the extraction of a cancer. He then proceeds as follows):

The next day I called to see my worthy kinsman Gen. Sticher. The kindness of attention I received from him and Mrs. Sticher is in accord with the exalted opinion I ever had of him. During my stay at his house and by his request and under his arrangement, the opportunity for the extrac-

tion of my cancer was performed. After my consent, he consulted his family physician, Dr. Reuben Gilden, who under the direction of eight of the principal physicians of Baltimore, performed a complete cure, all which time Mrs. Sticher attended me as a mother. Contrary to Mrs. Sticher's wish, I took boarding at Mrs. Philips, a pious sensible lady. I began to work journey-work with Jno and Samuel Gray in which shop there were about 10 hands chiefly Methodists. I continued about 6 months in Baltimore. I then took passage on one of the Packets for Philadelphia; had many passengers and had a very agreeable passage. As we were sailing up the Delaware the Captain observed the vessels in the harbor in mourning. We were informed of the death of Dr. Franklin. About 3 o'clock he was buried. I continued about two weeks in Philadelphia, when I concluded going to New York. I engaged my passage, but that very night I took very sick and was laid up for ten or twelve days. The expenses being heavy, as soon as I was able to stand the fatigue, took my passage for Lancaster. It was in the month of May. I shall never forget the invigorating effect the scenery had on my mind. The next day I arrived in my old place of my nativity. I soon recovered and joined journey-work. In order to be enabled to get into business for myself, I worked hard and saved my earnings carefully. Two weeks after this, I went to Sunbury to visit my relations. Being there three days I returned to Lancaster.

About midsummer 1790 I began to make arrangements to commence business for myself. I gathered in all I had earned by journey-work, went to Philadelphia and bought furs. I laid out nearly all my money. I shall never forget the melancholy I was seized with on my return to Lancaster. We stopped a considerable time at one of the stages. I laid myself down on the grass under the shade of a tree. The most disagreeable ideas entered my mind. My hard earnings laid out; the uncertainty of my succeeding in business, that when the stage was going to start I was in a height of delirium. I soon got better and in the evening arrived in Lancaster. My shop was fitted up in a few days. I took boarding with Mrs. Henry. After a month I changed my boarding place to A. Weaver's house. I did this with a view of becoming acquainted with the farmers. I soon became acquainted with A. Weaver's daughter Susan. An attachment took place. In about two years after she became my wife. During the greater part of the time I boarded at Mrs. Weaver's, I had my shop next door, at B. Hubley's. He had a daughter named Barbara, who had taken into her head to court me. Every attention was paid to me by her parents; when they found that my liking was not on her they done me much injury. The workshop was back. When a customer would come in they would tell them I was out, so that it was thought I was almost always out. I was sustaining a heavy loss as well as reputation. A friend told me of it, on which I immediately determined to give up the shop. The old man and I quarreled about it and were on the eve of having a law suit. His son was a apprentice. His indentures were given up. So we separated. I now enlarged my stock in my new stand: took several apprentices and did very well. In October 1793, I got married. The following year 1794 an insurrection broke out in the western Counties of the State—an open resistance against the excise laws. General Washington called on the eastern Counties for to furnish a certain quota of militia. The spirit of volunteering became prevalent in Lancaster; a great spirit existed, a great number of men volunteered for the defence of the laws. I joined them and on the 1st of October 1794 marched to the westward.

When the Pennsylvania army arrived at Bedford and when we halted a Captain Gamble of the United States Army came into our camp and called on Captain Mosher my Captain, to know if a certain William Michael was in his company and whether I was in camp. Mosher told him I was. Captain Gamble told him he had an order from Colonel Alex Hamilton, to take me, if I were willing to a post for the forwarding and issuing of Clothing and military stores for the four armies. Mosher opposed my going; however his authority (C. Gamble's) was not to be resisted. I was called and asked if I was willing. As the duties of the camp became tiresome, many of men sick made the duty harder on the rest, and made me readily accept. Then I was raised without application or solicitation from a private to a deputy issuing commissary. There are four men at all times to wait on me, a liberal compensation, and a good

warm bed to sleep in every night. Who it was that recommended me to Col. Hamilton I have never been able to learn.

On the 27th of Nov. I returned home to Lancaster. In two or three days after, I returned to my business—I obtained from the apprentices what they had been doing—examined my stock. About two weeks afterwards Captain Gamble the Conductor General arrived in town and paid me \$60 per month for my services. In Jan. 1795 a daughter was born in 1797 she died. My father-in-law suggested to me, the advantage of moving to his tavern house near town. I accepted his offer. I also erected a distillery by which I made very little profit.

In 1799 a great contest arose between the Federalists and Democrats respecting the election of Governor. I took part with the Democrats. My friends generally were on the other side. I became prosecuted. In the year 1808 the Democrats elected Simon Snyder Governor, Mr. George Bryan Auditor General. He appointed me his chief clerk. I kept the books of the office for twelve years, the greater part of the time I received \$1100 per annum. In 1810 the Governor's Secretary took lodgings with me. The compensation for boarding etc, was screwed down, so low that I lost about \$400 this year by them. I quit keeping a boarding house from that day. The Governor showed a churlishness towards me. As soon as I perceived it I showed an indifference to him; every time we met, a greater coolness was practiced until neither spoke. What the real cause was many attempted to ascertain; but all failed. Mr. Snyder and I never had an explanation on the subject. By an act of the Legislation the government moved to Harrisburg. I removed my family also in which place I lived with my family nine years, during which period myself and family were much regarded and lived very agreeable. The citizens of Harrisburg at least such as we associated with, were intelligent and hospitable.

The election of 1820 caused a change of government. Joseph Heister was elected. Although a general change was looked for, as far as regards myself none expected it would effect me. I opposed the election of Heister because I was a Democrat and knew him. Findley was misrepresented, Jos. Duncan was appointed Auditor General. Duncan told me there were gentlemen from every part of the State writing in my favor. I observed it was unsolicited. He answered yes. Duncan's character was represented to me that he was a testy disposition. I therefore gave him notice of my declining uniting in his office. The people of Harrisburg could not believe it.

The gentlemen of the town assembled at my house some with saws, some with hatchets, gimlets etc., to cut boards and make up boxes for packing my furniture, a greater evidence of attention never was shown to any person.

On the day of leaving it crowds gathered to take leave of us and one and all crying out, "You must come back in three years."

I moved my family off to Lancaster to a small farm I had bought, formerly the property of my father-in-law, and turned farmer. My brother-in-law, I. H., had the management of it from the year 1820. I soon found that it was high time that it was taken out of his hands.

The summer of 1821 passed heavily on my hands. Having been accustomed to a business life and now having nothing to do, heavy expenses and not earning, made me feel very uncomfortable.

I advertised offering my services adjusting different accounts. None applied to me, but to this I did not feel disappointed—so many persons out of business, others failing, in those trying times, who were hunting and picking up all business that was doing and me being somewhat a stranger, that truly I could not expect to fall into business as soon or as early as might be supposed.

To save an inroad on my purse, I went little into company and seldom to town, unless business of the family called me there. All the work that could be done by son and self did it.

In the fall of 1821 the Democratic principle prevailed. A Democratic treasurer was chosen. Before his election I addressed a letter to him, offering my services. This letter was not handed to him until the day before the election, although it was written three months before. Of course he had to make his arrangements and I was disappointed. My principal desire to get that situation was more to thwart the new Auditor General Duncan than otherwise. Being so well acquainted in settlement of the public accounts of that department I presumed that there could be no doubt respecting me. Mr. Clark provided for some of his friends who perhaps requested it more than I did.

Minutes of Meeting, Friday, April 1 1921.

The April meeting of the Lancaster County Historical Society was held this evening in their room in the A. Herr Smith Memorial Library Building.

The reports of the officers included the reading of the minutes by the Secretary, the financial statement by the Treasurer, and the Librarian's report, all of which were approved.

The Librarian reported the following gifts and exchanges: Bulletin of the Grand Rapids Library, February, 1921; Transactions of the Western Reserve Historical Society, October, 1920; National Catholic Welfare Council Bulletin, March, 1921; Publications of the Kansas State Historical Society, 1920; Wisconsin Magazine of History, March, 1921; Reports of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company, 1911 to 1920; North Carolina Historical Society Proceedings, 1920; Annals of Iowa, January, 1921.

The thanks of the Society to all donors was expressed by vote.

There were five new applicants for membership, whose names under the by-laws lay over for action until the next stated meeting.

Mr. W. C. Allwein, 410 John Street, City, was elected to membership. Professor Herbert H. Beck, Chairman of the Committee for the Indoor Social at the Iris Club, reported that all plans for the program were completed, the date to be May sixth, the evening of the regular monthly meeting.

D. F. Magee, Esq., Chairman of the Committee for the Drumore Celebration, reported progress.

The President, in view of the fact that the Treasurer's work, in addition to his new duties, is too onerous, presented a resolution that the assistant Recording Secretary, Mr. John L. Summy, include in his office the work of Financial Secretary.

There were two papers read. "A Sidelight of the War of the Revolution" being a letter sent by the Committee of Safety in Lancaster to the Continental Congress in June 1775. Edited and read by Hon. C. I. Landis.

The second was entitled "Autobiography of William Michael," (Part 1.) read by Mr. George Erisman.

Upon the reminder that the Librarian had requested an additional book-case, the Chair suggested that the book-case be secured. A vote favorable to this suggestion was passed.

Adaline S. Spindler, Secretary.