

ITEMS FROM THE NEUE UNPARTHEY- ISCHE LANCASTER ZEITUNG, UND ANZEIGS-NACHRICHTEN

By AUGUST LERBSCHER AND ALBERT CAVIN

(Continued from Vol. XXXIV, page 107.)

August 5th, 1789.

Died, last Wednesday night, on his plantation near this town, Benjamin Hirsche, old and tired of living. He was in the ninety-third year of his age. His remains were interred on Friday morning in the near-by God's acre attached to the meeting house, about one mile from his home. His funeral was attended by a large following of all classes and denominations. He had been bed-fast for the past five years, owing to his great age. He came to this country from Germany in 1717, and since that time lived on his farm. He was one of the oldest inhabitants of this county. For more than fifty years he was a teacher and a worker in the vineyard of the Lord. He served the Mennonite congregation at all times with fidelity, and by them he will be remembered in blessing forever. Mr. Hirsche leaves a large number of descendants. He will be mourned by all who knew him.

We hear that a new method of manufacturing flour in a mill, by elevators and hopper boys, will be introduced in this county, and that a workshop to make them has just been finished at Mr. David Witmer's, on the Pequea, nine miles from here. Many millers and other mechanics are of the opinion that the invention will be useful to the public, because it has been generally tried out; and it is claimed that most of the work of the millers is done, without entailing loss. The scheme may be also applied to elevate water to such a level that it can be used to irrigate meadows, or for any other purpose.

August 12th, 1789.

Since the undersigned have lately inspected the Conewago falls, in the Susquehanna river, and are convinced of the possibil-

ity of navigating the falls with boats and rafts and making them safe and convenient; and also since they are of the opinion that the removal of several obstacles in other parts of the river would be to the great advantage of this State, and to the immediate benefit of Lancaster county—they, therefore, take the liberty of inviting their fellow-citizens of the town and county of Lancaster, as well as all other progressive inhabitants, to a meeting in the court house on Monday, the 17th, at 9 A. M., for the purpose of discussing ways and means of making this improvement.

Andreas Graff
Abraham Witmer
John Miller
Samuel Boyd
Henry Dering
Sebastian Graff

Last Saturday, lightning struck the tavern of the United Brethren at Lititz, in this county, eight miles from here. The house was equipped with a lightning rod and the bolt ran down and melted the upper part of it, without doing any damage to the building. One can see, therefore, how necessary it is to have such lightning rods on houses, barns, etc. The reason, which is set forth in an essay by one of our correspondents that "to place lightning rods on houses and barns is no encroachment on God's providence," should be heeded. The essay will be published in next week's issue of the paper.

September 9th, 1789.

With pleasure we inform our readers that another beautiful and strongly built bridge over the Conestoga, on the road leading to Martic township, Burckhalter's ferry, etc., passing Mr. John Swenk's house, has been erected, and was finished last Saturday. Pedestrians, horsemen and vehicles may now pass over it. This bridge was built by subscription and contributions from the citizens of Lancaster town and county. It is, therefore, a free bridge. There is no doubt that it will be of great benefit to the town and country. We also hear that another bridge will be erected over the Pequea.

Last Thursday was the day appointed by Congress to determine where the seat of the new government should be situated. Proposals were made by Carlisle, Lancaster, Yorktown, Germantown and Reading, in Pennsylvania.

Proposals were also received from Trenton, [N. J.], Georgetown, (?) and the state of Delaware.

September 16th, 1789.

NEWS ITEM. DATED SEPTEMBER 12th.

The House of Representatives has resolved, after several vehement debates, that the permanent seat of Congress shall be on the shores of the Susquehanna, in Pennsylvania; and that Congress shall remain in the city of New York until the necessary buildings for its reception are erected. A committee, consisting of the whole house, resolved that the secretary of the Treasury be authorized to borrow the sum of \$100,000 to erect the necessary public buildings on the banks of the Susquehanna. This sum is to be repaid within twenty years, with interest at five percent.

September 23rd, 1789.

Yesterday, a week ago, there was held at the court house an election of officers of the corporation of the town of Lancaster. The following were legally elected: Burgesses, Edward Hand, Henry Dehoff; assistant burgesses, Adam Reigart, William Ross, Caspar Schaffner, Jacob Krug, Jacob Frey, John Huble; high constable, Henry Stauffer; and town clerk, Caspar Schaffner, Jr.

Let the public take notice that the fulling mill (formerly Atkinson's) on Conestoga creek, half a mile from the great road, and about a mile from Lancaster, opposite George Ross's mill, is now being repaired, and is likely to be ready for business in a short time. People may depend on having their cloths carefully dressed here, according to orders, in the several branches of business belonging to a fuller.

William Chambers.

October 7th, 1789.

Notice is hereby given that the militia of Lancaster county, agreeable to law, will meet as follows: The first battalion on Monday, the 19th of October; the second battalion on Tuesday; the third

battalion on Wednesday; and so on, until the whole of the battalions, agreeable to their rank, have met. (Saturdays and Sundays excepted.)

James Ross,

Lieutenant of Lancaster county.

October 14th, 1789.

Peter Audirac, from France, has the honor to make known to gentlemen and ladies that he intends to keep a school in the French language. To those who will be pleased to employ him, he will do everything in his power to give full satisfaction.

His wife makes known to the ladies that she makes habits, caps, chapeaux, etc., after all sorts of fashions. He lives at the Widow Newman's.

A night school will be opened in the [Franklin] college on the 19th of October, when the Master, George Charles Starcke,¹ will exert his utmost abilities to teaching scholars, who may be sent to him, to read, write and cypher. He likewise offers his humble services to teach gentlemen, at his lodging, Latin, Greek, Hebrew, German or French. Terms may be known by applying to him at the college on the day above mentioned, at which time the Latin day school also will be opened.

October 21st, 1789.

At the general election held yesterday a week ago in this Republic, the following persons were elected:

For Lancaster county to the convention: Edward Hand, William Augustus Atlee, Robert Coleman, John Hubley, Sebastian Graff and John Brechbiel; to the assembly: James Clemson, John Hopkins, Henry Dering, James Cunningham, Jacob Erb and John Miller; commissioner: Thomas Boude; sheriffs: James Ross and Michael App; coroners: George Graff and John Weitly.

October 28th, 1789.

John and William Michael beg to inform their friends, and the public in general, that they have removed from the tavern on

¹ In succeeding issues of the paper the name is spelled Stocke and Stocks.

Queen street, north of the court house, into the famous old tavern, Sign of the Conestoga Wagon, formerly occupied by Mr. Christopher Grafert. They will continue to conduct business at the new stand.

Those who honor us with their patronage may be assured that we will take special interest in them, that we will supply ourselves with all the necessities for travelers and their horses, and that we will serve them with the best.

November 18th, 1789.

A PERFORMANCE OF AGILITY.

The famous Italian balancer, Master Donegani, takes the liberty of informing the ladies and gentlemen of this town that he will perform this evening, and next Friday, Monday and Wednesday evenings,—the 18th, 20th, 23rd and 25th instant—in the former play house. He will present a number of singular leaps, with eight various and very curious poses on the tight rope, viz. the lion leap, the knee strength, the mermaid, skinning the eel, sleeping on the rope while it is being swayed, standing on his head on the rope balancing his body, the mill, and a dozen other curious positions, exhibitions, etc.

The final act consists of an extraordinary balancing on the wire. Waving two flags, he will throw three oranges in the air and catch them on the prongs of three forks. He will crawl through a hoop, balance three swords on his nose, and play on four different musical instruments, besides doing other curious things too numerous to mention.

Since Donegani has performed in leading cities in Europe, and some in America, and has received great applause; he flatters himself that those who honor him by their presence will be pleased with his entertainment.

Admission for adults is two shillings and six pence. Doors will be opened each evening at five o'clock, and the performance will start at six. Tickets may be secured from Mr. Friedrich Doersch, and at the place of performance.

Children under 12 years pay only half price.

November 25th, 1789.

To-morrow has been appointed as a day of humiliation and prayer, to be observed throughout the United States.

January 20th, 1790.

Died, on the 11th instant, of consumption, Miss Elizabeth Reigart, youngest daughter of Adam Reigart, Esq., in the bloom of life, being in the nineteenth year of her age. On the 13th instant her remains were interred in the graveyard of the Moravian church attended by a large concourse of people. She died with resignation, and with faith in her Saviour.

February 24th, 1790.

Yesterday a week ago, at 11 P. M., we had a heavy thunder-storm. This is unusual for this time of the year. The storm was accompanied with heavy lightning and hail in some places.

The Black Horse mill, situated about fourteen miles from here, burned down last week. It contained a large quantity of wheat. The origin of the fire has not yet been determined.

March 10th, 1790.

Last Sunday evening, about 8 o'clock, we were visited by a severe storm, accompanied with hail and snow. It was a north-wester, and caused considerable damage to buildings, barns and fences, in and near the town. Its force was so great that it bent the iron rod of the weather vane on the bell tower of the newly-built court house.

April 28th, 1790.

Jonas Metzger, Jr., announces to the public that he has established a shop, for dyeing and printing goods, on Queen street, three doors above Gottlieb Nauman's tavern. He offers his services to the public in general, and his friends in particular; and assures all who patronize him that he will do his very best.

N. B. All who bring goods for dyeing or printing may leave them with Adam Weber or Jonas Metzger, Sr. They can obtain the finished goods from these men.

May 19th, 1790.

Peter Getz, jeweler and goldsmith, across from Mr. [Matthias] Slough's tavern in the town of Lancaster, thanks his friends in particular, and the public in general, for the encouragement given to his business from the beginning. He also wishes to thank them for having enabled him to enlarge his business.

Mr. Getz carries in stock all kinds of silversmith's work, manufactured after the newest methods, such as necklaces, wedding rings, gold plated studs, shoe and knee buckles, watch cases, chains, signets and keys.

He engraves in copper very beautifully. Owing to his experience in the various branches of the trade, he hopes that he has earned the good will of the public. He also manufactures artificial teeth which look like real ones and will not cause any inconvenience.

He has lately associated himself with David Aird, watchmaker of Edinburgh, and together they are endeavoring to continue and enlarge the business. Repeater, horizontal and ordinary watches will be manufactured in the newest style and of the best quality. All other branches of the business will be executed carefully and promptly.

N. B. We guarantee that watches repaired by us will run a year, unless broken by accident.

[Editorial note: The dies from which several varieties of Washington cents were struck in 1792, were made by Peter Getz, a master craftsman. He was an applicant for the directorship of the United States mint when it was established. David Rittenhouse received the appointment, however. Peter Getz is said to have constructed the first fire engine in the United States. For a more extended account of this skillful engraver and fine mechanic the reader is referred to Vol. XXX, pp. 23-24, of the Proceedings of The Lancaster County Historical Society.]

May 26th, 1790.

Jacob Lahn informs the patrons of American literature that he takes subscriptions in Lancaster for The Universal Asylum and Columbian Magazine, published in Philadelphia.

June 2nd, 1790.

Saturday, a week ago, the venerable Daniel Syderich, teacher of the Moravian brethren at Gnadenthal, near Frederick, Maryland, passed from earthly to everlasting life at the parish house at Lititz, in the sixty-third year of his age. He was highly esteemed by all who enjoyed his acquaintance. He is universally mourned.

On Wednesday night we had a severe storm, accompanied by heavy showers. Lightning struck a barn four miles from here. It was laid in ashes, together with twenty sheep which were in the barn.

June 9th, 1790.

The subscriber proposes to teach the following branches of literature,—provided he meets with encouragement—at the low prices, hereafter mentioned.

The dead tongues, as Latin, Greek, etc., (after the English or German dialect) geography and history, for two dollars the quarter.

German or English, reading, writing and cyphering, for a French crown.

He offers to teach the French language either at his lodging, or will wait on gentlemen and ladies, for the low price of two dollars per quarter; in the morning, from 5 to 6, at noon from 12 to 2, or in the afternoon from 5 to 8.

Should he be favored with the translation of English papers into German, or German writings into English, he promises to perform this business with the greatest exactness, secrecy and dispatch.

George Charles Stocks.

July 14th, 1790.

Mrs. Esther Atlee, wife of the Hon. William Augustus Atlee, judge of the Supreme Court of this State, died yesterday, a week ago, at her home nine miles from here. She was in the forty-third year of her age. The body was brought here on Wednesday and interred in the graveyard of the [Saint James's] Episcopal church.

A large concourse of relatives and friends attended her funeral. She has left a sorrowing husband and large family to mourn her loss.

July 28th, 1790.

Last Sunday morning, between the hours of nine and ten, this town [Lancaster] and vicinity were visited by a severe storm accompanied by hail and a cloud burst. The hail was so large that no one now living can recall ever seeing any that approached it in size. The storm did considerable damage to the corn, oats, hemp, fruit trees, clover fields, etc. Many window panes in and near the town were broken and a number of trees uprooted.

August 11th, 1790.

FOR SALE.

A pair of stills,—one of 115, and one of 40 gallons,—both warranted to be as good as ever was or can be made. They have been but three months in use, for which there will be a good allowance made. Any person wishing to purchase the same may inquire of John Fordney, ironmonger, next door to the Sign of the Bear, Queen street, Lancaster.

September 1st, 1790.

Last Wednesday morning Abraham Miller, who lives six miles from here, [Lancaster] had four horses killed by lightning. He had just returned from the saw mill, where he had taken a log to be sawed, when the storm broke so suddenly that he had hardly entered the house when the lightning struck the horses.

Last Friday afternoon lightning struck the barn of Mr. Johann Brechbiel, in Strasburg township. Mr. Brechbiel is a member of the convention for this county. The barn, with all the contents, wheat, hay, "ohmet," (second crop hay), etc., was laid in ruins. The house was saved.

September 29th, 1790.

NEWS ITEM. DATED SEPTEMBER 12th.

Last Friday, Samuel Doyle, one of the fellows who helped to kill the Indians on Pine creek, was brought to the town goal. The

president and high officials of the law, had set a reward of two hundred dollars for his capture. As far as we know, the other three accomplices have not yet been apprehended.

October 6th, 1790.

The voters of Lancaster and York counties are informed that the appointed gentlemen from the said counties, after conferring together, have decided to nominate the following persons for senators:

Adam Hubley, Jr.,
Sebastian Graff,
Michael Schmeisser.

They are recommended as trustworthy persons, and their names will be on the ticket for senators at the next election for this district.

October 13th, 1790.

On Saturday, a week ago, there was born in Warwick township, two miles from Lititz, on the farm of Martin Klebers, a calf which had a bunch of hair on its forehead. The bunch of hair resembles a pompadour, similar to that which women are now wearing. The freak was brought to Lancaster and viewed by many persons.

November 3rd, 1790.

A very sad accident occurred last Saturday, four miles from Lancaster. A youth, sixteen years of age, who was razing an old building, the stone chimney of which had previously been removed, was buried and killed instantly under the debris when the house collapsed. It was a terrible sight to behold. The head was crushed and all the bones broken. The funeral was held on Sunday and attended by a large concourse of people. The Rev. Dr. Heinrich Muhlenberg officiated at the funeral, and delivered a very impressive and affecting sermon.

November 10th, 1790.

We are informed that Joseph Gingerich, Esq., David Binckly, Christian Hess and Martin Metzler, were present at the comple-

tion and first operation of Mr. Christian Hess's grist mill at Lititz, in Lancaster county. This mill was erected on Mr. Rumsey's improved plan of Dr. Barker's mill. The work was done by David Binckly, with the assistance of Mr. Joseph Barnes, who after a careful study of the water which flows to the mill, through a back mill stream, observed, with great pleasure, that with the same quantity of water and domestic stones as much wheat could be ground in 26 minutes as it took the water wheel to run the burr stones for the same quantity in 64 minutes. These gentlemen believe that they can still better this record.

December 22nd, 1790.

William Stewart informs the public that he has got an assistant who will teach, in addition to what has been hitherto taught, the practical branches of mathematics. Those who will be pleased to put their children under his care, may rely on the utmost attention being paid to their improvement.

Franklin college, December 20th, 1790.

N. B. There will be a night school opened, by Mr. Scott, the assistant, on the 3rd of January next.

February 23rd, 1791.

This evening there will begin to be sold, by auction, at Mr. Adam Weaver's, the Black Horse, Queen street, a valuable collection of modern books and family Bibles. The sale continues every evening at six o'clock.

March 2nd, 1791.

NEWS ITEM. DATED FEBRUARY 23rd.

Two weeks ago, to-day, Mr. Thomas Doyle was buried in the local Catholic cemetery. He was in the ninety-seventh year of his age. A large concourse of citizens of all religious denominations attended the funeral. He was one of the oldest citizens of Lancaster and has left a large number of descendants.

On Thursday evening a fire broke out in the work shop of the local pottery. There was no one in the shop at the time, and as

the roof was made of straw it soon ignited. Fortunately, the flames were quickly extinguished with the help of the neighbors. Only the roof and rafters were burned.

Last week a house burned down about five miles from here. It seems that the occupants had hung up some flax near the oven to dry. It caught fire and soon the room was in flames. The circumstance of these people is indeed sad. Two children were in the room at the time. One was fortunate enough to be rescued. The other was in the rear of the room. The father tried to open the window but did not succeed. He rushed into the house and carried the child through the flames. Both were badly burned. There is little hope of the child's recovery. The man has lost all his possessions and is greatly to be pitied.

March 9th, 1791.

We hear that the Congress of the United States has ended its third session and adjourned until the fourth Monday in October, when it will assemble in the city of Philadelphia.

Referring to the accomplishments of our General Assembly, nothing has come to light, and we are unable to inform our readers whether anything was accomplished or not.

March 16th, 1791.

Peter Getz, who was in partnership for the past year with David Aird, watchmaker, informs the public that the partnership has been dissolved. Those who have watches at his establishment are requested to call for them before the 22nd of this month. He will not be responsible for any article after that date.

(To be continued)