

HORSE-RACING IN LANCASTER COUNTY

By HERBERT H. BECK and WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

The earliest recorded organized trials of speed with horses were the chariot-races at the Greek national festivals, of which the most notable were the Olympic games, held every fourth year. Greek sculpture frequently represents the horse as used for riding, apparently without a saddle in most cases; but not so employed for sport, except as an incident to the chariot-racing. On the other hand, the horses in the Roman contests were, to a very great extent, ridden. In the earlier times the Roman races were held on the open plain.

A tradition prevails in England that on Salisbury Plain, just outside of Stonehenge, the remains of a Roman race-course exist; and the oldest race which still survives in England is run over a flat meadow just outside the walls of the Roman city of Chester. Indeed, the conclusion seems certain, from the similarities in officers and methods, that horse-racing was one of the legacies left to Britain by its Roman conquerors.

In America, the first and natural home of the thoroughbred, the descendant of the famous English racer Eclipse, was in the South. Horse-racing was indulged in, to a limited extent, in Maryland and Virginia as early as the middle of the seventeenth century, particularly in the latter colony. Many of the early settlers in these colonies were of the class which in England made the breeding and care of high-mettled horses one of their delights; or were descended from parents who had emigrated from the British Isles and had inherited a taste for the sport. The animals used for this purpose, however, were not highly prized at the time; and the pedigree of not even one of them has been preserved.

The first race run in South Carolina was in February, 1734, for £20. It took place over "The Green," on Charleston neck. This shows that the earlier races in America were actually on the turf, as they have always been in England. The next year (1735), a Jockey Club was organized in Charleston, and a course was prepared such as those which came later into general use throughout the states,—the turf being removed and the ground made as level as possible. After the Revolutionary War, the importation of thoroughbred horses from England became quite common, and selections were made from the best stock in the United Kingdom. This continued and even increased as late as 1840, as the country became developed.

It is not known when the first horse-race was run in Lancaster borough and county.¹ Information on the subject is quite meager; and most of the

¹ In a paper entitled, "Historical Sketch of Rural Field Sports in Lancaster County," written by Herbert H. Beck and published in Vol. XXVII, pp. 149-160 of the Proceedings of The Lancaster County Historical Society, reference is made to horse-racing in Lancaster County.

fragmentary data in this article was obtained from the Lancaster Journal, a newspaper founded in 1794.²

On Thursday, October 15th, 1795, a race was advertised to be run over the course at New Holland, Lancaster county, Pa., for a purse of sixty dollars. The race was to consist of two mile heats³ and repeat; it was open for any horse, mare or gelding; and each horse was required to carry 140 pounds. An entrance fee of three dollars was required, if entered the day before the race; or six dollars at the post. On the following day, over the same course, a race, one mile heat and repeat, for a purse of thirty dollars, was to be run. The fee was two dollars at entrance, or four at the post. On Saturday, a handsome sweepstakes over the same course was advertised. This race, one mile heat and repeat, was open to any horse, mare or gelding, the winning horses of the preceding days excepted.⁴ We assume that the races were run as advertised, although the local paper makes no reference to them. However, the Lancaster Journal, a small sheet of four pages, contained very little local news. The editor, no doubt, assumed that those who were interested in racing knew which horses won the purses, and that it was not necessary to publish the information.

On Thursday, October 13th, 1796, a race for a purse of sixty dollars, was advertised to be run over the course at the two taverns conducted by John Bender and John Sheaffer on the Horseshoe road in Earl township, Lancaster county. The race, three mile heats and repeat, was open to any horse, mare or gelding seven years of age and under. On the following day, a race of two mile heats and repeat, for a purse of thirty dollars, was to be run over the same course; and on Saturday, October 15th, a handsome sweepstakes was advertised. The latter race for catch riders was to consist of a mile heat and repeat. At least three horses were to start each day, at one o'clock, or there would be no race. Judges were appointed to determine any disputes that might arise.⁵

In the spring of the following year, over the same course, a race, two mile heats and repeat, was advertised to be run for a handsome purse.⁶

On Wednesday, October 25th, 1797, a race according to the rules of the Jockey Club, was advertised to be run over the course near the village of New

² It is a fair assumption that the running horse was used for racing, chiefly over straightaway courses, for many years prior to 1794 in Lancaster county.

³ A heat is a single dash or run. First money went to the horse winning two out of three heats. In modern running races each dash is a race.

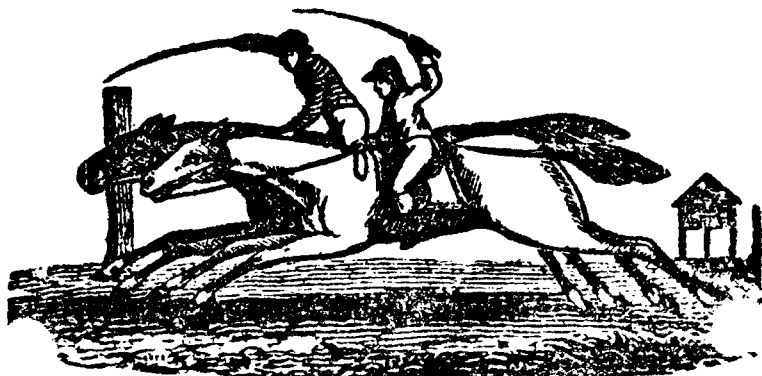
⁴ The Lancaster Journal, Wednesday, September 9th, 1795.

⁵ The Lancaster Journal, Friday, September 30th, 1796.

⁶ The Lancaster Journal, Friday, April 21st, 1797.

Holland, for a purse of one hundred dollars; and on the following day, another for a purse of fifty dollars. On Friday, October 27th, a sweepstakes, open to any horse, mare or gelding carrying a feather,⁷ except the winners of the preceding days, was advertised. The horses were to be entered with Peter Diller, and the fee was one shilling in the pound.⁸

At Hinkletown, Lancaster county, a race over a course that was advertised as "handsome," for a purse of fifty dollars, was to be run on Thursday, October 16th, 1800; and another on the following day, for a purse of twenty-five dollars. On Saturday, October 18th, a sweepstakes for catch riders was advertised.⁹



The Lancaster Journal of Saturday, November 14th, 1801, contained the following:

"A set of complete quarter races, of considerable consequence, will be commenced on Saturday next, the 21st instant, at Wallace's lane, on the Horse-shoe road, ten miles from Lancaster and two miles from New Holland. All honest sportsmen are invited."

Whether the races were run as advertised is not known, as local papers did not contain an account of them.

On Tuesday, November 1st, 1803, races were run in the borough of Lancaster, according to an account which appeared in the Lancaster Journal:¹⁰

"The Lancaster races commenced on Tuesday last. The first day's purse of one hundred guineas, was won by Mr. Bond's 'First Consul,' beating Mr.

⁷ Boy of any weight. Catchweight. "Feather" is an old English racing term.

⁸ The Lancaster Journal, Saturday, September 30th, 1797.

⁹ Lancaster Journal, Saturday, September 20th, 1800.

¹⁰ Saturday, November 5th, 1803.

Allen's 'Doland' and Mr. Crawford's 'Small Hopes,' the two first of the four mile heats. The first heat was run in eight minutes and thirty-three seconds; the second heat in eight minutes and twenty-eight seconds.

"Second day. The purse of sixty guineas was won by Colonel Frazer's 'Polydore,' beating Mr. Bond's 'Matilda' and General Ridgeley's 'Hamlet,' the two first of the three mile heats. The first heat was run in six minutes and eleven seconds; the second heat in six minutes and thirteen seconds.

"Third day. The purse of forty guineas was won by Colonel Frazer's (Mr. Sewell's) 'Highlander,' beating Mr. Bond's 'Juliet,' and Mr. H. Reigart's horse, 'Favorite,' the two first of the two mile heats.

"Fourth day. The sweepstakes, upwards of thirty guineas, were won by Mr. Bond's gray horse, 'Cockfighter,' beating General Ridgeley's 'Rosebud,' Mr. Cordel's 'Tammany,' Colonel Frazer's 'Mendoza,' Captain Wilkinson's 'Buonaparte' and Mr. Michael's 'Dabster.' The first heat was won by 'Rosebud;' the second and third by 'Cockfighter.'"

That horse-racing and its attendant evils, were not looked upon with favor by the law-abiding people of the community in those days is shown by a communication which appeared in The Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser of Tuesday, November 29th, 1803, in which it was stated that "it is currently reported in the borough of Lancaster that five hundred dollars were subscribed for another horse-race previously to the sporters leaving the ground in this place the beginning of the present month. A recollection of the abominable and ruinous scenes of gambling, profanity and drunkenness, exhibited at the last races would, no doubt, induce a sufficient number of virtuous citizens in the borough and county of Lancaster to step forward and aid the magistrates in enforcing the law should an attempt of a similar nature be made hereafter."

It was announced in local papers that races in Lancaster borough would commence on Tuesday, October 28th, 1806.¹¹ A few days later the public was informed that the managers had decided to postpone the Lancaster races until Tuesday, November 11th, because it was learned that the date previously selected would interfere with important races in other parts of the country.¹² In announcing the purses, the managers stated that all the races were open to any horse, mare or gelding, and were to carry weight as follows: Three years old, a catch; four years old, 102 pounds; five years old, 112 pounds; six years old, 120 pounds; an aged horse, 126 pounds. The races were scheduled to start at twelve o'clock each day, if fair; and not less than three reputable running horses were to start for any of the purses. Riders were required to be neatly dressed in racing uniforms, otherwise they were not permitted to ride. Crossing and jostling were strictly forbidden, and any sort of

¹¹ Lancaster Journal, Friday, September 26th, 1806.

¹² Lancaster Journal, Friday, October 3rd, 1806.

foul play would not be countenanced. All disputes respecting the purses were to be decided by the judges.

The Lancaster Journal of Friday, November 14th, 1806, contains the following account:

"LANCASTER RACES

"On Tuesday last [November 11th] the subscription purse of 500 dollars, free for all ages, four mile heats, was run for over the Lancaster course, as follows:

"Mr. Hughes's gray filly, 'Miller's Damsel,' by 'Messenger,' four years old,	1	1
Major Richardson's sorrel horse, 'Doland,' by 'Doland,'	3	2
General Ridgeley's bay mare, 'Maid of the Oaks,' six years old, by 'Spread Eagle,'	2	3

"ON WEDNESDAY

"The subscription purse of 250 dollars, the three mile heats, was run for over the same course:

"General Ridgley's bay horse, 'Post Boy,' six years old, by 'Gabriel,'	1	2	1
Mr. Hughes's bay horse, 'First Consul,' by 'Flag of Truce,'	3	1	3
Major Richardson's bay mare, 'Lavinia,' six years old, by 'Diomed,'	2	3	2

"YESTERDAY

"The third day's purse of 150 dollars, the two mile heats, viz:

"General Ridgley's bay horse, 'Oscar,' six years old, by 'Gabriel,'	1	1
Mr. Hughes's bay gelding, 'Soldier,' six years old, by 'Punch,'	2	2
Mr. Burke's brown horse, 'Alfred,' six years old,	3	3
Mr. Clark'e brown horse, 'Anti-Democrat,' five years old, by 'Ranger,'	4	4

Major Richardson's chestnut colt, 'Fighting Cock,' by 'Cock-fighter,' four years old, threw his rider by running against a pole.

"The weather was generally favorable, the course in good order, and the running close and hard.

"This day will be run for sweepstakes, one mile heats, free for any horse, mare or gelding, the winning horses of the preceding days excepted. To-morrow will be run a match race for at least 1200 dollars (600 dollars a side) between General Ridgeley's bay horse, 'Post Boy,' and Mr. Hughes's gray filly, 'Miller's Damsel,' the four mile heats carrying weight for age."

The Lancaster Journal of Friday, November 21st, 1806, contains the following:

“LANCASTER RACES

“The races were continued on Friday last [November 14th], when the sweepstakes of 175 dollars was run for, the one mile heats in the following style:

Mr. Hughes's chestnut colt, 'Diamond,' by 'Buffer,' four years old	0*	1	1
Mr. Shilling's brown horse, 'Polydore,' by 'Florizel,'	0*	2	2
Mr. Clarke's brown horse, 'Anti-Democrat,' by 'Ranger,' five years old,	3	3	3
Mr. Johnson's gray mare, 'Flying Gib,' six years old,	4	4	4

* “The first was a ‘dead heat’ between ‘Diamond’ and ‘Polydore.’”

“ON SATURDAY

“A match race for 500 dollars a side, was to have taken place between General Ridgeley's bay horse, 'Post Boy,' by 'Gabriel,' and Mr. Hughes's gray filly, 'Miller's Damsel,' by 'Messenger.' It rained almost the whole of Friday night and continued raining on Saturday. At eleven o'clock 'Miller's Damsel' walked over the course and received forfeit.”

A year later, the Lancaster fall races were advertised to commence on Tuesday, November 10th, 1807. On the first day a race would be run for the Jockey Club purse No. 1, of 250 dollars; second day, purse No. 2, of 150 dollars; third day, purse No. 3, of 100 dollars; and on Friday the fourth day, a subscription purse of not less than fifty dollars. The conditions were the same as those of the previous year, riders were not permitted to ride unless dressed in racing uniform.¹³

The Lancaster Journal of Friday, November 13th, 1807, contains the following account of the races:

“LANCASTER RACES

“First Day's Purse. November 11th, 1807.

“General Ridgeley's bay mare, 'Maid of the Oaks,' six years old,	1	1
Mr. Clarke's bay horse, 'Anti-Democrat,' six years old,	2	2
Mr. Wooden [of John's] bay mare, 'Elvira,' four years old,	3 dr. ¹⁴	

“Second Day's Purse.

“General Ridgeley's bay mare, 'Roxalana,' four years old,	1	1
Mr. Clarke's chestnut colt, 'Dreadnaught,' three years old,	2	2
Mr. Gorsuch's gray horse, 'Medley,'		dist. ¹⁵
Close and handsome running between 'Roxalana' and 'Dreadnaught.'”		

¹³ Lancaster Journal, Friday, October 23rd, 1807.

¹⁴ Horse withdrawn from race.

¹⁵ Distanced. More than a specific distance behind at the finish. Ruled out.

"Third Day's Purse.

"Mr. Wooden's sorrel mare, 'Elvira,' four years old,	1	1
Mr. Clarke's sorrel horse, 'Randelina,' three years old,	2	2
Mr. Stehman's bay horse, 'Sleepy Davy,' six years old	4	dist
Mr. Slough's gray horse, 'Hornet,' four years old,	3	dist."

Races were advertised to be run on three successive days, beginning Wednesday, November 16th, 1808, at the house of Philip Copland in Strasburg township, Lancaster county;¹⁶ and for three successive days, beginning Tuesday, December 13th, 1808, on the course in Sadsbury township, Lancaster county, near the Gap and Philadelphia and Lancaster turnpike road. The latter race was open to any horse, mare, or gelding in Lancaster and Chester counties.¹⁷

The Lancaster Journal of Friday, October 6th, 1809, contained an announcement that the Lancaster races would commence about the seventh or eighth of November, and that an association was forming to exclude all gambling tables. A subsequent issue of the paper stated that the races would commence on November 14th.

The Lancaster Journal of Friday, November 21st, 1809, contained the following account of the races:

"LANCASTER RACES

"The weather being unfair, on Tuesday [November 14th] the commencement of the races was postponed until Wednesday.

"WEDNESDAY

"Purse 300 dollars. Four mile heats.¹⁸

"Mr. Wooden's bay horse, 'Moreau,' five years old,	1	1
Mr. Jarret's sorrel mare, 'Dairy Maid,' five years old,	2	dr.
Mr. Gibbs's sorrel horse, 'Marigold,' six years old,	1	dist.

"THURSDAY

"Purse 200 dollars. Three mile heats.

"Mr. Wooden's bay mare, 'Roxalana,' six years old,	3	1	1
Mr. Jarret's sorrel mare, 'Dairy Maid,'	2	3	2
Mr. Craddock's bay mare, "Beggan Girl,"	1	2	dr.

¹⁶ Lancaster Journal, Friday, November 11th, 1808.

¹⁷ Lancaster Journal, Friday, December 9th, 1808.

¹⁸ A long run, especially in heats. A mile and a quarter is the usual limit now, frequently much less.

"FRIDAY

"Purse 100 dollars. Two mile heats.

"Mr. Kennedy's bay horse, 'Antelope,'	1	1
Mr. Gibbs's sorrel horse, 'Marigold,'	3	2
Mr. Craddock's mare, "Beggar Girl,"	2	dr.
Mr. Rudolph's bay horse 'Dungannon,'		dr.

"One or both of the two first named horses having run inside of a pole thrown down, (it is not known how or when) the judges decided that it was no race; and ordered the purse to be run for the following day, when in consequence of 'Antelope' having bolted a considerable way from the track, 'Marigold' took the second heat. He afterwards took the third, in consequence of his superior bottom, and the distress which 'Antelope' suffered in striving to save her distance after having bolted.

"SATURDAY

"Purse 100 dollars. Two mile heats.

"Mr. Kennedy's bay horse, 'Antelope,'	1	2	2
Mr. Gibbs's sorrel mare, 'Marigold,'	2	1	1
Mr. Rohrer's bay horse,	dist.		
Mr. Harman's bay horse,	dist.		
Mr. Rudolph's bay horse, 'Dungannon,'	dist.		

"The sweepstakes, (one mile and repeat) were run for on the same day and won by 'Dungannon.'"

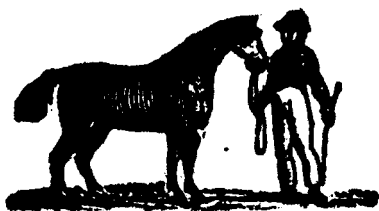
In the Lancaster Journal of Friday, January 20th, 1809, appears an advertisement in which it is stated that two lots of ground, Nos. 440 and 441, situated near the race ground would be sold cheap for cash, and that those interested were to inquire of the printer. The plan of the Hamilton Lancaster estate shows that the lots referred to in the advertisement were on the corner of West Lemon and North Charlotte streets, Lancaster borough, and it is fair to assume that the race course must have been in that vicinity. It is probable that this course was the same as the one later improved into the new Hamilton course, which was on the site of Franklin and Marshall College campus. It was an oval mile track the longer axis of which was parallel with College avenue. Peter Kline, well remembered by horsemen of the nineties, as a professional jockey had often ridden on the Hamilton course. He could still make good jockey weight, a hundred pounds or less, at the age of ninety-three. Franklin College was united with Marshall College on the old racing track in 1854.

The Lancaster Journal of Saturday, June 30th, 1810, contained this brief announcement:

"On Monday next [July 2nd], in the afternoon there will be a race on the commons of Lancaster—600 yards; remarkably swift horses. Bets about 700 dollars a side."

Races were advertised to be run for three successive days, beginning October 22nd, 1812, between the Gap and Mount Vernon taverns in Lancaster county.¹⁹

Lancaster borough was thrown into considerable excitement for a short time by a number of gamblers who had determined to run a horse-race on Tuesday, November 24th, 1812. As the advertisement of the race was not published in the newspapers but distributed by hand bills, it was not known to the magistrates until Saturday morning, November 21st. A meeting was held at five o'clock on the evening of that day for the purpose of considering the best means of enforcing the law against gambling and horse-racing.



On Tuesday morning, November 24th, the magistrates, sheriff and peace officers met. It was learned that the promoters intended proceeding with the race. A proclamation was issued, calling upon citizens to assemble; and one of the largest meetings ever held in Lancaster convened in the court house. All seemed to be actuated by one spirit; and a loyal determination to support the civil authorities in upholding the law, was unanimously expressed. This exhibition of firmness had the desired effect. When the peace officers arrived at the race ground they found that the parties concerned in the intended race had wisely yielded to public sentiment and the law and had withdrawn their horses.²⁰

Races were advertised for three days beginning Wednesday, October 25th, 1815, at Reamstown, Lancaster county.²¹

The Lancaster Journal of Monday, October 16th, 1815, contained the following news item:

¹⁹ Lancaster Journal, Saturday, October 17th, 1812.

²⁰ Proceedings of the Lancaster County Historical Society, Vol. XXXIV, pp. 249-250.

²¹ Lancaster Journal, Wednesday, September 20th, 1815.

"Last week was run for, over the Lancaster course, the Sheriff's Purse, of very great value. The horses entered were 'Old Hamlet,' 'Lively Jack,' the 'Little Democrat' and the 'Baltimore Pony.'

"'Old Hamlet' had been long in training, and as he had frequently been second to the first-rate horses, it was thought that he would come out on bottom. 'Lively Jack,' on the contrary, had only been a short time in keeping, and it was feared that his wind might fail, owing to that circumstance. 'Little Democrat' looked very sleek, but as he was weak in the pasterns, it was thought he could only win by jockeying, or by the others bolting. The 'Baltimore Pony' had not long ago been kicked by some horses in Captain Delegate's stable. He appeared so much hurt, that his owner, at that time, was about to draw him; but, it seems, he recovered most wonderfully, and was brought upon the turf in fine health and spirits.

"The day was fine—the crowd of spectators was very great, and about 11 o'clock the horses started in full speed; bets ran high on the 'Baltimore Pony' and 'Democrat.' But the race was won with ease by the former, as he distanced the whole of them in the last heat. There was considerable jostling in some of the rounds, and it was said that 'Democrat's' rider tried to jockey; but it was all in vain, for his feet were in poor condition, owing to bad keepers."

Races were advertised to be run for three successive days beginning Thursday, November 5th, 1818,²² at Reamstown.²³ At the races at New Holland, beginning Thursday, October 27th, 1825, it was announced in local papers that a horse would be on the ground that would run for five hundred dollars against any other horse, mare or gelding, that could be produced.²⁴ Races continuing for three days beginning Thursday, November 3rd, 1825, were advertised to be run in Manheim.²⁵ On Wednesday, September 27th, 1826, races were advertised to be run for three days at Mount Joy.²⁶ Over a "handsome circular course" at Marietta, three days of racing were advertised to begin on Tuesday, October 3rd, 1826.²⁷

In the summer of 1827 it was announced in local papers that a beautiful race course between Neffsville and Petersburg, four miles from the city of Lancaster on the road to Lititz, would be opened on Tuesday, August 27th, and the races would continue for three days.

²² Lancaster Journal, Monday, October 19th, 1818.

²³ The late Pierce Leshner remembered these races on the level tract immediately south of the Reading-Ephrata road and just west of the town creek.

²⁴ Lancaster Journal, Friday, October 14th, 1825.

²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ Republican Telegraph, Saturday, September 16th, 1826.

²⁷ Lancaster Journal, Friday, September 15th, 1826.

The Political Sentinel and Lancaster Literary Gazette of Wednesday, August 8th, 1827, contains the following:

"The Lancaster county races commenced yesterday—three miles and repeat. Mr. Potter's horse 'Oscar;' Mr. Puder's 'Maid of the Forest;' Mr. Shilling's 'Blubberhead;' Mr. Arnold's 'Susan;' and 'Hickory,' belonging to a jockey club in New Holland, were entered. The horses went off at the tap of the drum in handsome style, and the heat closely contended for by 'Hickory' and 'Maid of the Forest,' the latter beating by about twelve feet. The time of running the first heat was six minutes and fourteen seconds. 'Susan' being withdrawn, four started for the second heat, 'Oscar' taking the lead and keeping it handsomely until about half way in the third mile, when 'Maid of the Forest' made a dash at him, and they ran lapped for about two hundred-yards, when she passed him on ascending ground, and beat by about ten feet. Time of running was five minutes and forty-five seconds, and the purse two hundred dollars.

"The track was very dusty and heavy, but the running was really very fine. The betting thermometer did not rise to the sticking point, the tide running in favor of 'Oscar,' in consequence of the knowing ones taking him against the field; and nearly all the bets were made in that way. Even after the first heat, when he came out fourth, he continued to be the favorite, as it was evident he ran in hand the whole heat. 'Susan' was the swiftest for a single mile."

A subsequent issue of the paper contains the following:

"LANCASTER COUNTY RACES.

"Second Day. Two miles and repeat, for a purse of fifty dollars. Four horses were entered as follows: Potter's 'Restless,' Kline's 'Camphor,' Arnold's 'Susan,' and Shilling's 'Spot.' The horses went off in fine style, 'Camphor' taking the lead and keeping it to the end of the heat, beating 'Restless' by about two lengths. In starting for the second heat 'Restless' took the lead, but was soon lapped by 'Camphor,' and passed in handsome style. 'Restless' apparently sank very fast at the commencement of the second mile, and the heat was contended for by 'Susan'—'Camphor' beating her by about ten feet.

"Third Day. One mile and repeat, for a sweepstakes of seventy dollars. Craddock's 'Defiance,' Arnold's 'Susan,' the Philadelphia mare 'Goat,' and Martin's 'Black Beard,' entered for the purse. 'Defiance' took the lead and kept it until within thirty feet of the winning pole, when "Black Beard' made a dash at him and beat him by eighteen inches. The second heat 'Black Beard' took the lead and kept it in gallant style, beating the other three, who were nearly lapped, by about twelve feet. 'Black Beard' ran in hand, (apparently borne in with all the strength of the rider) the whole of the first heat, until he came on the level a few yards in rear of the distance pole, when he was first put to his speed. We have before said that 'Black Beard' was the best

six hundred yard horse on the turf; and we can now say, judging from the fine horses running against him on this occasion, that he is, not slow for a mile."²⁸

Races were run beginning Wednesday, October 24th, 1827, over a beautiful course on the Reading road in Earl township, near the public house of John Forney, about nine miles from Lancaster.

The results of these races were as follows:

First Day

Mr. Shipley's "Bachelor,"	1	1
Mr. Gordon's "Spanking Jack,"	2	2
Mr. Smith's "Alla Croaker,"	3	drawn
Mr. Johnston's "Appalusia,"	4	drawn
Mr. Shaw's "Driver,"	5	3

Second Day

Mr. Shaw's "Driver,"	1	1
Mr. Kline's "Camphor,"	2	2
Mr. Lloyd's "Lalla Rookh,"	3	drawn

Third Day

Mr. Smith's "Alla Croaker,"	1	1
Mr. Shipley's "Brown Horse,"	2	2

The first heat was won by about four feet, and the second by one foot only.²⁹

On Tuesday, October 30th, 1827, races were run over the course between the villages of Neffsville and East Petersburg. The results were as follows:

First Day

Mr. Shipley's "Bachelor,"	1	1
Mr. Potter's "Mulatto Mary,"	2	distanced
Mr. Smith's "Alla Croaker,"	3	drawn
"Jack on the Green,"	4	2

Second Day.

Mr. Smith's "Alla Croaker,"	1	2	2
Mr. Shaw's "Driver,"	2	1	1
Mr. Kline's "Camphor,"		distanced	

²⁸ Political Sentinel, Wednesday, September 19th, 1827.

²⁹ Lancaster Journal, Friday, October 26th and November 2nd, 1827.

Third Day.

The sweepstakes were taken by "Flying Childers," in two heats, beating "Mulatto Mary" and "Black Beard."

In the summer of 1829, a number of gentlemen residents of the city and county of Lancaster, formed an association under the name of The Lancaster Jockey Club, for the purpose of establishing on a respectable footing, annual races to be held in the vicinity of Lancaster with the sole view of promoting the breed of fine and valuable horses. The notice in the local papers of the formation of the club was as follows:

"Objections have been raised to racing by many good citizens in consequence of the manner in which the sport is too often conducted, as promotive of gaming and every species of dissipation; those, therefore, who take pleasure in this manly and rational amusement, and who believe it to be the only effectual means of preserving the strain of the blood-horse in its purity, have anxiously desired to see these long neglected sports revived, with such precautionary arrangements and guaranties as shall replace them on the most respectable footing, and preclude from the course everything offensive to the eye or ear of the most scrupulous. This, we trust, with regard to the Lancaster races, will be fully accomplished by the gentlemen associated, who will use every effort to justify the expectations which they have excited; and they ~~ask~~ and hope to receive the support and cooperation of their fellow-citizens who take an interest in the character of the city and in the particular object of the Society." ³⁰

The late William Riddle, in a book entitled, "The Story of Lancaster: Old and New," published in 1917, refers to this organization as "The Lancaster Jockey Club" and "The Lancaster Gentlemen's Jockey Club." He stated that his information was obtained from a pamphlet containing the club's rules and regulations. It is regrettable that we are unable to locate a copy of this publication at the present time, as it would undoubtedly throw much light on the club's activities.³¹

Mr. Riddle writes as follows:

"If anyone is predisposed to the opinion that clubs of any and all kind are peculiar to this twentieth century, and particularly to 'New Lancaster,' his opinion must undergo change after reading of the 'Gentlemen's Jockey Club,'—one of 'Old Lancaster's' famous organizations. It was started as far back as the year 1830 [1829?] by the town's sporting fraternity.

"Its rules and regulations would lead one to suppose that its members

³⁰ Lancaster Journal, Friday, July 31st, 1829.

³¹ Not listed in "A Bibliography of Lancaster County," by Lottie M. Bausman, published in 1916.

were imbued with a desire to improve conditions which had hitherto prevailed among the drivers of fast horses. Printed in pamphlet form, the club's rules were set forth as follows:

“For the encouragement and breed of fine horses, which all experience has proved is best promoted by occasional trials of speed and strength; and for the prevention of that vicious dissipation, which is too common on such occasions, unless the races are under the direction of an association, empowered and determined to prevent it by the exhibition of races respectably conducted. The subscribers therefore agree to unite and form a society which shall be styled The Lancaster Jockey Club, for the encouragement of the breed of fine horses.’

“For the preservation of harmony and good order, as the twenty-two rules and articles of the club indicated, it consisted of one hundred members, with an annual fee of ten dollars, payable in advance. Its membership was not confined alone to Lancaster. It included the owners of fast horses, known for their respectability and standing, from various sections of other States.

“Only a few of the club's provisions need be mentioned, as follows:

“The officers shall have entire control over the place where the races may be given, and it shall be the special duty of the officers to prohibit all gambling; no cards, dice, tables, boards or cloths [?] of any kind or description, shall be allowed. No member shall suffer any gambling on his horse, or within the sphere of his control.

“Every rider, at starting, must be dressed neatly and cleanly, in boots or half boots, leather or nankeen breeches or pantaloons, white shirt, jockey cap and silk jacket, with sleeves; in default thereof, the horse, mare or gelding, to be ridden by such rider, shall not be permitted to start. And if two or more riders shall appear dressed in the same uniform, the rider of the first horse entered shall have preference. And the time between heats shall be twenty minutes for mile heats, twenty-five for two-mile heats, thirty for three-mile heats, and forty for four-mile heats. The judges shall give the word, Are you ready?

“The course shall measure one mile, and the following shall be the weight to be carried, viz., Aged horses 126 lbs.; six year old, 120; five year old, 112; four year old, 102; three year old, 88. The stewards shall provide a good set of scales with good weights, for the use of the club. After the races are over, the result shall be published in the American Turf Register and Sporting Magazine, and in the papers of Lancaster.

“Riders, jostling, whipping each other, or each other's horses, is foul riding; and every rider guilty of infringing the rules, shall be deemed distanced, and the rider rendered incapable of riding any nag, for any prize of this association.’”

Edward Parker, proprietor of the famous White Swan tavern in Penn Square, Lancaster, in which so many distinguished visitors were entertained, was the leading spirit in the formation of the Jockey Club and served as treasurer. Mr. Parker kept a fine stable and was the owner of the celebrated thoroughbred horses, "Veto" and "Victory."³² Lancaster city at this time contained about 7500 inhabitants. It was considered quite an aristocratic community, and the Lancaster bar was noted for its brilliant lawyers. It is not surprising that in a town which prided itself on its aristocratic families fine culture and noble traditions, with wealth and leisure at the command of its foremost citizens, that a Jockey Club should have been formed. It helped to put racing—a gentleman's pastime—on a higher plane. The racing ground, the Hamilton course, was located immediately west of the city, on the present site of Franklin and Marshall College.

The Lancaster Journal of Friday, September 25th, 1829, contains the following:

"The match race between 'John Stanley' and 'Hickory,' for one thousand dollars, was run on Monday and won by 'Stanley.'

"The regular Jockey Club races commenced on Tuesday [September 22nd].

"First Day. Purse three hundred dollars. Distance three miles and repeat.

The following was the result:

"Mr. Potter's bay gelding, 'Bachelor,'	1	1
Mr. Connelly's sorrel mare, 'Amanda,'	2	2

"Mr. Davidson's bay horse, 'Bolivar,' when within half a mile of the winning post, on the last round of the first heat, and when lapping 'Bachelor,' was tripped by a dog and thrown, and the rider considerably injured. We are, however, happy to learn that he is now in a fair way of recovery.

"Second Day. Purse two hundred dollars. Distance two miles and repeat.

"Mr. Potter's bay gelding, 'Jack on the Green,'	1	1
Mr. Pudor's sorrel gelding, 'Florivalle,'	2	2
Mr. Wilson's brown gelding, 'Grubb,'	drawn before race	
Mr. Bales's sorrel horse, 'Sir Richard,'	3	3
Mr. Sleeper's gray gelding, 'Mark-time,'	4	dr.
Mr. Stansbury's bay horse, 'Sir William,'	distanced	

³² Lancaster Journal, Friday, March 13th, 1835.

"The contest between 'Jack on the Green' and 'Florivalle' was close—the former winning by a few feet only.

"Third Day. Purse one hundred dollars. Distance one mile and repeat.

"Mr. Parker's sorrel mare, 'Fidelity,'	1	1
Mr. Emmon's sorrel gelding, 'Fox,'	5	dist. foul rid
Mr. Saunder's sorrel gelding, 'Camphire,'	3	2
Mr. Cline's bay gelding, 'Cock Robin,'	2	4
Mr. Williams's brown gelding, 'Tammany,'	6	5
Mr. Rigler's bay gelding, 'Oscar,'	4	6
Mr. Cromley's bay gelding, 'Greenleaf,'		distanced

"These races have been conducted with great propriety, no gambling being permitted on or near the course. All racing is prohibited after five o'clock, the booths closed, and the multitude dispersed before six o'clock."

On Friday evening, September 25th, 1829, the Jockey Club of Lancaster gave a ball at the Red Lion tavern on West King street, kept by William Cooper. Those who wished to subscribe to the ball were to call on George Louis Mayer, John R. Montgomery or Henry Rogers, three of the most prominent citizens of Lancaster at that time.³³

On Monday, September 20th, 1830, the Jockey Club races commenced over the Hamilton course in Lancaster and continued for five days.³⁴

The Lancaster Journal of Friday, September 24th, 1830, contains the following account:

"First day. The races were to commence with a field of three-year-old colts, to run mile heats, entrance one hundred dollars each, one-half forfeit. At the tap of the drum, Mr. Parker's colt, 'Sir Peter,' was the only one on the ground. He cantered the course and was entitled to the forfeits.

"A brilliant match race for a purse of one thousand dollars, two mile heats, was run at 12 o'clock between Mr. Dixon's sorrel horse, 'Tecumseh' and Mr. Poudre's bay horse, 'Jack on the Green.' It was very handsomely contested and won by 'Tecumseh' in two heats.

"Second Day. Four mile heats. Purse five hundred dollars. The horses entered and their performance were as follows:

"Mr. Snediger's bay horse, 'Sir Lovel,'		distanced
Mr. Parker's gray mare, 'Peggy Meedee,'	2	2
Mr. Dixon's sorrel horse, 'Washington,'	3	3
Mr. Potter's bay gelding, 'Bachelor,'	1	1

"Though it was currently reported that 'Sir Lovel' was not in good condition for running, he was taken against the field, and in many instances two and three to one were given on the same bet. On the third round of the first heat it became manifest that 'Sir Lovel' was injured, and on the fourth round he was drawn up and taken off the course, and the heat, though closely con-

³³ Lancaster Journal, Friday, September 25th, 1829.

³⁴ Lancaster Journal, Friday, September 17th, 1830.

tested by 'Peggy Meedee' was won by 'Bachelor.' Early in the third round one of the stirrup buckles of the saddle on 'Peggy Meedee' broke, and this, (as the weight she carried was 123 pounds), in the opinion of many, lost her the first heat and in the opinion of some, the race. 'Peggy' notwithstanding her misfortune, took the lead in the second heat in handsome style; but in the third round was obliged to yield to the cruel 'Bachelor,' who was so ungallant as to maintain the lead of his fair competitor in spite of her well-made exertions, and won by several lengths. 'Washington,' though evidently not contending for either of these heats, made some fine dashes, coming up with his companions, and after seeing what they were about, falling back so as to save his distance. His performance on this and the subsequent day evinced that with very considerable fleetness he has great bottom.

"Third Day. Three mile heats. Purse three hundred dollars. The horses entered and their performance were as follows:

"Mr. Parker's bay horse, 'Corporal Trim,'	2	3	1	2
Mr. Snediger's bay filly, 'Angeline,'	1	2	2	1
Mr. Wick's sorrel horse, 'De Witt Clinton,'	4	drawn		
Mr. Dixon's sorrel horse, 'Washington,'	3	1	3	3

"This is admitted by all who witnessed it, to have been one of the most interesting races they have ever seen run, but we are not sufficiently *au fait* in these matters to attempt a description of it. After 'Washington' had taken a heat, three to one were offered that he would win the race, and some of what are styled the knowing ones were, it is said, considerable sufferers. 'Angeline' an untried nag, has by winning this race, established a character for fleetness and bottom which entitles her to a high rank on the turf, and 'Corporal Trim,' though beaten, gave evidence of powers nearly equal to those of his conqueror.

"Fourth Day. Two mile heats. Purse two hundred dollars. The horses entered and their performance were as follows:

"Mr. Rigler's bay horse, 'Oscar,'	4	distanced
Mr. Snediger's bay gelding, 'Roman,'	2	2
Mr. Dixon's sorrel gelding, 'Red Rover,'	3	3
Mr. Rutledge's bay gelding, 'Widower,'	5	4
Mr. Parker's gray mare, 'Peggy Meedee,'	1	1

"This purse was won in two heats by 'Peggy Meedee,' sister to 'John Stanley,' and though the race was well contested by 'Roman,' and 'Red Rover,' yet appeared to be won with ease by the fair 'Peggy.'

"The new Hamilton course is admitted to be one of the best in the United States, and the view of the surrounding country is unsurpassed by any in the world."

These records show that horse-racing in harness had not been introduced into Lancaster county prior to 1830. In fact, the trotter and pacer did not come into their own, as a distinctively American product until the eighteen fifties.

On May 5th, 1849, there was foaled a colt in Orange county, New York, which was actually recognized, as the inscription on his fifteen foot granite monument at Chester, N. Y., indicates, as "The Progenitor of the American Light Harness Horse." His name was "Hambletonian," and he was raised and used as a breeding stallion by William Rysdyk until the horse died in 1876. In Rysdyk's "Hambletonian's" sire and dam, "Abdallah" and the Charles Kent mare, there was a truly magical genetic combination for the evolution of speed in the somewhat unnatural gaits of trotting and pacing. All the sulky champions, down to the present day, are descendants of "Hambletonian." They include among thousands of good horses of his stock, "Dexter" (1858), 2.17¼, "Goldsmith Maid," 2.14, "George Wilkes," 2.22, "George Patchen," 2.23½, "Rarus," 2.13¼, "Axtell," 2.12, "St. Julien," 2.11¼, "Jay-Eye-See," 2.10, "Maud S.," 2.08¾, "Nancy Hanks," 2.04, "Lou Dillon," 1.58½ and "Peter Manning," 1.56¾ (1922). The much honored gelding, "Peter Manning," the fastest trotter the world ever knew, is now in a stable within the original boundaries of Lancaster county, at Hanover, Pa.

What a curious coincidence in the annals of racing rests in the fact that the running horse, in modern civilization, started at Chester, England; the trotting horse at Chester, N. Y.!

Racing, with a two-wheeled sulky, was at the height of its local popularity in the eighteen nineties, when there were seldom any running races on an afternoon's program. In 1900, there were thirteen half-mile tracks for the trotter and pacer within Lancaster county. To-day the track at the Lancaster fair grounds is the only one remaining.

A MAY DAY IN LANCASTER

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

The Lancaster Intelligencer and Journal of Tuesday, April 28th, 1840, contained an announcement that Friday, May 1st, would be fittingly observed by the schools of Lancaster city. The scholars were requested to assemble in their respective school buildings at 9 o'clock on the morning of that day. A half-hour later, the pupils from the schools in the eastern ward of the city were to form in procession and proceed from the school room of Trinity Lutheran church down East Vine street to South Queen, up South Queen street to Penn Square, down West King to Prince, and up the latter street to the western school building, at the corner of West Chestnut and North Prince streets. Here they were to be met by the directors and the examining committee, who were to accompany them in their march on West Chestnut to North Queen street, up the latter thoroughfare to Penn Square, down East King to Duke, and down Duke to Trinity Lutheran church.

The Lancaster Intelligencer and Journal of Tuesday, May 5th, 1840, contained the following interesting account of the May Day observance:

"The spectacle of Friday last has left a deep impression, and will long be remembered by our citizens. The pupils in the public schools—amounting to