

# "The Lancaster Union" of 1839

An Anti-Masonic Newspaper

By (MRS. D. B.) BERTHA COCHRAN LANDIS

April 16, 1839, marks the transition of the ownership and editorship of "The Lancaster Union" from the former editor, Carpenter McCleery to Alexander H. Hood, who purchased the paper at that time.

Volume I of the new series contains a farewell communication from the former editor, in which he gives his reasons for raising the broad pennant of Democratic Antimasonry which he industriously supported. Mr. McCleery states that it was with a singleness of purpose for the establishment of Democratic Antimasonry, and not for men, that he labored, and says further that his paper has defended the great principles of the party from the open assaults of its enemies, and the destroying influences of perfidious friends. It has upheld them with boldness when assailed from without, and defended them when insidiously attacked from within.

Mr. McCleery expressed great satisfaction in being able "to leave as his successor, one whose Antimasonic principles are undoubted—whose integrity cannot be questioned, and whose labors in support of the party, promise to be so eminently successful, as those of ALEXANDER H. HOOD, Esq. In him the cause will find a faithful advocate, and the Lodge a formidable adversary. He is a gentleman of extensive information—of deep research—possessed of talents of a superior order, and every way worthy of the public confidence.

"With great respect, the public's

"Obliged and humble servant,

"CARPENTER M'CLEERY."

In the same issue appears a lengthy article by Mr. Hood to the Antimasons of Lancaster County. "We conceive it necessary to offer a candid exposition of the principles by which we are determined to regulate our course, as the conductor of a public journal. We do so the more readily at this time because we wish neither to be mistaken by our friends, nor misunderstood by the enemies, secret or open, of the cause for which the Antimasons of Lancaster County have so long strenuously contended.

"The past history of Lancaster County abounds with evidence, that a large proportion of her enlightened population are always to be found, boldly advocating the principles of true republicanism. Venerating the memory of the great Washington, her citizens remembered his farewell injunction, to be watchful of 'all combinations and associations, under whatever plausible character, with real design to direct, control, counteract, or awe the regular deliberations and action of the constituted authorities,' fully aware that the tendency of such associations, is 'to organize faction, to give it an artificial and extraordinary force; to put in the place of the delegated will of the nation, the will of a small, but artful and enterprising minority,' they rallied in their strength, and in tones not to be misunderstood, proclaimed that they had cast off the shackles of Masonry\* forever, and taken their stand in favor of the Constitution and Supremacy of the Laws. To maintain that determination; to carry out in their fullest extent those principles, our efforts shall be constantly directed."

The writer concludes the article thus: "While our object on the one hand shall be to sacrifice everything but our honesty to preserve the integrity and promote the triumph of our cause; on the other we shall sacrifice everything; forego every consideration; and disregard every personal feeling for *Principle*.

A. H. HOOD."

In the issue of April 23, we find an enlightening article on what Antimasonry was and its objects. It also tells of some of the activities of its enemies—the "Loco-focos."

"In 1826 William Morgan, who lived in Western New York State, on withdrawing from the Masonic Order, published a book, revealing the secrets of the order. This was in violation of the most solemn of oaths and indignation against him was intense. He disappeared, and the Masons were accused of murdering him.

"The murder of Morgan first directed public attention to the nature and tendency of the Masonic institution, it was the primary cause of revealing its impious oaths and blasphemous ceremonies, and its effect has been to establish a party which recognizes all the fundamental principles of true democracy, and whose only object is to maintain inviolate that Constitution which the wisdom of our fathers devised, and to carry into execution those laws which the people through their representatives have established.

"If the march of Republicanism is to be onward, till all the nations of the earth assert the right of self-government, it will be mainly attributable to the preponderance of the Antimasonic maxim, that the Laws are supreme."

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\* The influence of the Antimasonic movement extended far and wide into the political and civil life of the State and the Nation.

The Whig or Antimasonic Party was "opposed to extra judicial oaths, such as were alleged to be imposed upon Masons. They feared that these oaths would come into conflict with the administration of justice. The conflict became so fierce that the Masons were compelled to hold their meetings in Secret."

Lodge No. 43 is accused of using its influence with the powers that be in having a number of postoffices of the county removed or the postmaster turned out, as in a case at Intercourse, where a Mr. Himes served faithfully but was an Antimason.

Thomas H. Burrowes, former Secretary of the Commonwealth, and State Superintendent of Public Schools, was also a victim of the Order. A communication copied from the U. S. Gazette by Mr. Shunk says:

"The dismissal of so able, faithful and valuable a public officer, from the public service, as the late Secretary, was a calamity that added a shade of gloom to the dark cloud that is gathering over the State, and which was received by not a few of his political opponents as indicative of coming evil, notwithstanding the ruffianism with which he was attacked, by the Loco-foco papers and their several echoes throughout the state. Without referring particularly to his services in the office of Secretary of the Commonwealth, in the administration of which he distinguished himself by his ability, we need only notice his services as Superintendent of Common Schools where he acquired for himself a fame which defies the malignant assaults of his enemies, and at no distant day will call forth the gratitude and praise of the whole people of the state.

"But his official services are before the public and need no eulogium from us. Every citizen knows that the three years in which he presided over the Common School System, was the most critical and important period in the history of the system—that he introduced order from chaos—drove the cloud of prejudice from the public mind, and excited a universal interest for the success of the system. Happily was it for this state, and for her posterity, that this department fell into the hands of a man who had sagacity to foresee its wants, and strength of character and firmness of purpose to supply them. For this he will receive the blessings of unborn millions."—Pa. Telegraph.

April 13. A check for one hundred dollars was received from Emanuel C. Reigart by John W. Forney, Henry Keffer and C. Kieffer, Committee of the Mechanics' Society, toward the erection of a new hall. Mr. Reigart had made a very liberal offer of a lot of land for that purpose but circumstances compelled the Society to build in another section of the city.

April 23. The Mechanics' Institute announces a meeting for May 2, when J. W. Forney will lecture on "Popular Education." P. McConomy, Sec'y.

Speakers for the City Lyceum were announced by W. L. Atlee, Cor. Sec., as follows: April 23, Geo. B. Kerfoot, M. D., on "Animal Magnetism"; May 7, G. Day; May 21, James Neill; June 4, J. W. Forney; June 18, S. C. Humes on "Silk," and July 3, J. T. Marshal Davie, Anniversary Lecture.

County Commissioners, Christian Hershey, Joseph Paxson and John Landis advertised for proposals for building a bridge across the Conestoga at Mr. Abraham Peters' mill. It was to be two hundred and fifty feet in length between the abutments, to consist of two spans with a pier in the center.

Hugh Long, offers for sale to Silk Culturists—10,000 *Morus Multicaulis* (or Chinese Mulberry Trees) warranted genuine, at present growing in a greenhouse, at the south end of South Queen Street, in the City of Lancaster.

Silk Worm Eggs, genuine Mammoth White or Mammoth Sulphur, were offered by William Loyd, of Philadelphia, or Joseph Konigmacher, of Ephrata.

Francis R. Shunk, Superintendent of Common Schools, publishes the Proportion of the Annual Appropriation of \$200,000 for School purposes, due in the several districts of Lancaster County, for the year 1840.

There were thirty Districts and the amounts received by each ranged from \$71.86 in Lancaster Township to \$1083.75 in Lancaster City. Outside of the city, the highest paid districts were \$631 in Cocalico, \$571 in Earl, \$529 in Warwick and \$525 in Manor.

There was quite a little discussion going on at this time on the possibility of another war between England and the United States. The cause of it all was the boundary line between Maine and New Brunswick, Canada.

William Jenkins, Esq., announces the removal of his law office from Center Square to the house lately occupied by John Reynolds, Esq., next door to the public house of Mr. Christopher Brenner on West King Street (The Lamb) opposite Cooper's Red Lion Hotel. William O. Jenkins, Esq., also located in his father's office.

Nathaniel Ellmaker, Attorney-at-Law, located in the office of his father, Amos Ellmaker, on North Duke Street.

Z. McLenegan's law office was located next door to Duchman's Tavern, East King Street, beyond Duke.

Oristus Collins announces that he will resume the practice of law after the 10th of August in the house of Henry C. Locher, next door to Sharp's Tavern on East King Street.

August 6. One hundred carpenters wanted by the Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal Company, to whom the highest rate of wage will be given. Apply at the Engineer's office at Lancaster.

Edward F. Gay, Engineer of  
Susq. and T. W. Canal.

New Book Store, under the Museum, a general assortment of School Books, Bibles, Foolscap and Letter paper, Sand, Quills, Pens, Ink, etc.

N. B. Gentlemen wishing to purchase will please call, and if my prices do not suit them, they can have the privilege of setting their own. G. Hills.

Catharine Le Breton offers a number of valuable books for sale at her residence on East Orange Street, between Shippen and Plum Streets. Wholesale or retail at reduced prices.

Many columns are devoted to advertisements of patent medicines, legal notices, sales, foreign news, etc. Each issue contains a poem and a story and a few humorous stories.

## MARRIAGES

Among the marriages we find:

May 21, 1839, in Springfield, Illinois, by Rev. Mr. Dresser, Dr. William S. Wallace, formerly of this place, to Miss Frances J. Todd, daughter of Robert S. Todd, Esq., of Lexington, Kentucky. (Dr. Wallace was a native of Blue Ball, Lancaster County, and the bride was a sister of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln.)

July 4, 1839, by Rev. T. M. Boggs, Mr. Samuel Redsecker, of Elizabethtown, to Miss Jane, daughter of John M. Whitehill, of East Donegal.

October 17, 1839, Mr. John L. Cochran, Junior Editor of the York "Republican" to Miss Catharine Baumgardner, all of York.

October 22, 1839, by Rev. Martin Brunner, Mr. John W. Forney, Editor of the Lancaster "Intelligencer and Journal," to Miss Elizabeth Matilda Reitzel, daughter of Philip Reitzel, Esq., all of this city.

A large slice of delicious wedding cake accompanied the announcement for which the fair donor will accept our thanks.

October 24, 1839, by Rev. John C. Baker, Mr. Jacob Landis to Miss Mary Shaeffer, both of Ephrata.

December 19, 1839, at Churchtown, by Rev. John Wallace, Mr. Abraham Lincoln to Miss Sarah A. Jenkins.

## DEATHS

Among the obituaries in Lancaster County during the year 1839, we find the following recorded in the "Lancaster Union":

April 8, Mr. Michael C. Voorhis, of this city, in the 38th year of his age.

April 22, Mr. Benjamin Ober, in his 53rd year.

April 20, Mr. Henry Locker, Sen., formerly of Washington County, Maryland, in his 92nd year.

April 24, Mr. Brice Curran, of Marietta, in his 49th year.

March 2, in Meadville, Crawford County, the HON. HENRY SHIPPEN, President of the Sixth Judicial District.

May 2, Mr. Abraham Hernley, of Mountjoy Township, in the 52nd year of his age.

July 6, Mr. Daniel Carpenter, in West Earl Township, in his 75th year.

Aug. 21, John Humes, Esq., of Philadelphia, died in this city, aged 60 years.

October 14, Thomas B. Burrowes, Esq., of Lancaster Township, in his 77th year.

October 17, Mrs. Ann Burrowes, wife of Thomas B. Burrowes, Esq., in her 69th year. (They were the parents of Hon. Thomas H. Burrowes.)

December 28, Mrs. Eliza Bear, wife of Mr. Andrew Bear, of this city.

December 29, Mrs. Sophia Locher in her 56th year.

It is always interesting to know who are the prime movers in any great movement and this will be revealed in the account of The "Great Fourth of July Celebration and Dinner to THADDEUS STEVENS, Esq."

"A very large number of Democratic Antimasonic citizens of Lancaster County, assembled at Dern's Hotel, in the City of Lancaster, on the 4th instant, for the purpose of paying a just tribute of respect to their distinguished guest, MR. STEVENS, and also to celebrate the anniversary of Independence. The company partook of a sumptuous and an elegant dinner."

Joseph Wallace, Esq., of Harrisburg, was present, as an invited guest. Other gentlemen invited as guests, were unavoidably absent.

COL. JAMES PATTERSON, of Rapho, presided at the Board, assisted by the following named Vice Presidents, viz.:

JEREMIAH BROWN, of Little Britain.

EDWARD DAVIES, of Caernarvon.

JOHN HUBER, of West Hempfield.

JOHN LONG, of Drumore.

THOMAS STERRET, of Mountjoy.

BENJAMIN BRACKBILL, of Lampeter.

After the cloth was removed, NATHANIEL ELLMAKER (appointed for that purpose) commenced reading the Declaration of Independence, when he was interrupted by a motion of Samuel S. Patterson, to adjourn to the Court House, for want of room at Mr. Dern's. This proposition was carried by acclamation, and after the company had walked to the Court House [in Center Square], which was filled in a few minutes, Mr. N. Ellmaker proceeded with and read the Declaration of Independence.

The regular toasts which follow, were then read by GEORGE FORD, JR., viz.:

"1st. The Declaration of Independence.

"2nd. The Day of its Adoption.

"3rd. The Immortal Signers.

"4th. The Constitution of the United States.

"5th. George Washington, the first President of the United States—Perfect as a man, excelling in every qualification of true greatness, and incorruptible as a magistrate, he who ventures to supply the place once filled by him, without either regarding his advice or example, will soon sink to the level of his own proper condition, and be remembered only to be despised.

"6th. Thomas Jefferson, the Author of the Declaration of Independence—May he cease to be remembered only, when Freemen shall cease to appreciate the productions of his mind.

"7th. Our Guest, Thaddeus Stevens, Esq.—Nature made him a man, from whom the ethereal sparks of Genius have been struck by collisions with the hardened front of 'the Handmaid' of the Prince of Darkness."

When this toast was read, Mr. Stevens arose, and addressed the company in his peculiarly eloquent and powerful manner for nearly an hour. He was often interrupted by bursts of applause.

In conclusion he gave the following sentiment:

"The Supremacy of the Laws—The firm base upon which rests the main pillar of our liberties. To perpetuate the practical operation of this principle, the last hope of the patriot, is Democratic Antimasonry."

"15th. Our Candidate for the Presidency and Vice Presidency, GENERAL WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON and DANIEL WEBSTER. With such men, such a cause, and such opponents as are arrayed against them it would be distrustful that Agency by whose inscrutable wisdom our forefathers were enabled to triumph in the days of the revolution, to doubt our success over domestic foes now."

After the regular toasts (26 in number) were read, the company adjourned to Mr. Fredk. Dern's to hear the volunteer toasts.

Time and space will not permit giving these toasts in full, but they were all in keeping with the principles of Antimasonry.

The following gentlemen participated:

S. S. Patterson	Jacob Foltz	John K. Reed
E. Davies	Jacob Rathfon	William Duchman
Hugh Mehaffey	Joseph A. Rankin	Z. McLenegan
John L. Hostetter	C. L. Hunsecker	Samuel D. Vondersmith
Stephen Atherton	John W. Higgins	Philip Gossler
James B. Moore	J. Boyers	Jacob Snyder
A. McGlenn	Jacob Weitzel, Jr.	R. W. Middleton
James Caldwell	Jacob Eshleman	Samuel D. Miller
Nathaniel E. Slaymaker	H. B. Bowman	George Reed
A. H. Hood	Lewis Brown	George Ford, Jr.
D. B. Vondersmith	C. McCleery	David Ressler
John Bear	Jacob Foreman	A. Mehaffey
John Lynch	John K. Stoner	Michael Walker
Nathaniel Ellmaker	D. M. Martin	H. Montgomery
Henry E. Heble	James Porter	George Daly
I. B. Burrowes	Edward Saylor	Daniel Vondersmith
Thomas Keaton	George S. Danner	Abraham Hostetter, Jr.
J. C. Van Camp	J. Clinton	A. Varley
David Saylor	Anthony McGlenn	John Lewis
George H. Bomberger	David Lebkichler	W. Russell
Daniel Werntz	Robert H. Jones	A. Kennedy
John Rote	J. Latshaw	John Ehler
Wm. Penn Kinzer	S. M. Wright	Henry Montgomery
Samuel Eberly	J. Konigmacher	Daniel M. Smyser
Henry Livergood	William Patterson	
Peter Lindemuth, Jr.	Samuel Parke	

[Total, 76]

The Democratic Antimasonic County Convention was held at the public house of Joel Sharp in the City of Lancaster, on Wednesday, August 28, for the purpose of settling a ticket to be supported by the Democratic Antimasonic party at the ensuing election.

Frederick Hipple, Esq., of East Donegal, was appointed president. William Carpenter, West Earl; and Samuel Patterson, Marietta, acted as secretaries.

The August and September issues of the "Union" are devoted mainly to campaign activities and individual solicitations for votes for the various county offices.

Tuesday, October 8, 1839, was Election Day. The result, after a spirited fight with the Loco-focos, was announced in the "Union" thus:

### GLORIOUS VICTORY!

*"We have met the enemy and they are ours!"*

"Tuesday was a glorious day for the Antimasons of Lancaster County. In spite of the most strenuous efforts of the Lodge and its adherents, we have elected the whole ticket by a majority greater than ever was given at any election, when a governor was not elected."

The successful candidates on the Democratic Antimasonic ticket:

Senate	Recorder
Thomas E. Cochran	Samuel Eberly, Elizabeth.
Assembly	Clerk of Quarter Sessions.
Abraham N. Cassel, Marietta.	Jacob L. Hoffmeier, East Hempfield.
Benjamin G. Herr, Strasburg.	Clerk of Orphans' Court
James Henderson, Sadsbury.	A. H. Hood, City.
Joseph Konigmacher, Ephrata.	Clerk of Mayor's Court
George Ford, City.	Peter G. Eberman.
Benj'n Kauffman, Washington	Coroner
Sheriff	George Daly, City.
Anthony E. Roberts, East Earl.	Directors
Commissioner	Timothy Rogers, City.
John Miller, Manheim.	Dr. John Witmer, Manor.
Prothonotary	Auditor
Z. McLenegan, City.	John Mayer, Salisbury.
Register	
James B. Ferree, Mountjoy.	

### The Antimasonic Candidates:

FOR PRESIDENT  
WM. H. HARRISON,  
OF OHIO.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT  
DANIEL WEBSTER,  
OF MASSACHUSETTS.

It was hoped they would receive the nomination when the National Convention would meet on December 4, but "after full and mature consideration, the Convention unanimously placed before the American people the name of

**WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON**, of Ohio, for President, and that of **HON. JOHN TYLER**, of Virginia, for the office of Vice President of the United States."

John Tyler was not in sympathy with the Whigs but nevertheless he was sent to the Convention by the South to try to secure the Presidency nomination for Henry Clay. The first ballot gave Clay a majority over Harrison but the fourth ballot decided the ticket as given above. Harrison selected Daniel Webster as Secretary of State. Unfortunately, William Henry Harrison died in 1841, after serving only one month as president. Vice-president John Tyler succeeded him as president.

Later during the struggle between the North and South John Tyler joined the Confederate Army and became a member of the Southern Congress. Here he tried to destroy the government over which he once presided.

Here are a few December items of interest:

**"CONESTOGA NAVIGATION.** This stupendous work, the result of private enterprise, is nearly completed. The great care taken by the proprietor, Edward Coleman, Esq., to insure solidity in its execution, will render it of incalculable benefit to the citizens of this city.

"The Tide Water Canal Co. are constructing a dam across the Susquehanna at the mouth of the Conestoga, which when completed, will open a direct water communication between Lancaster and the Chesapeake Bay, affording a convenient outlet to a large portion of the agricultural and other products of the county."

"The Silk Convention met in the Court House with Calvin Blythe, Esq., as president. Many beautiful specimens of silk were exhibited." The silk industry in Lancaster was at its height, thousands of mulberry trees having been planted and the production of cocoons was large. These cocoons were worth about 50 cents a pound. Nine pounds produced a pound of silk. Reeled silk sold at about \$5 per pound.

Lancaster merchants took no account whatever of Christmas in their December advertisements, none of which took up more space than from one to three or four inches. **EASTERN HOPS** and **WESTERN FEATHERS** of fine quality were offered by C. Hager.

Hammersly & Richards carried a fine line of Dry Goods at their store on North Queen Street. They also offered Shawls of Wool, Mandarin, Silk, Thibet, Merino, Broche, and Tartan.

Charles Boughter also catered to the better class of people offering Silks, Satins and other material of best quality on East King Street.

J. F. Heinitsh, druggist, on East King Street, carried a large stock of New perfumes, Dye Stuffs, Tanner's Oil, Neats foot oil, Fuller's soap, Fuller's earth, fine soaps, Olive oil and Medicinal Drugs and Chemicals.

George Diffenbach, of Strasburg, and R. & H. Carson were dealers in mulberry trees, and silk worm eggs.

Other prominent merchants of the time were:

Brown & Reed—Coal, Whiskey, Flour, Grain, etc.

R. W. Middleton—Books, 29 North Queen Street.

George W. Rathvon—Dry goods, Groceries, etc.

George Mayer—Stoves, Hardware, 21 North Queen Street.

Daniel Rhoads—Hatter—16 West King Street, next door to Steinman's Hardware Store.

H. Locher—Shoe Findings & Morocco.—East King Street.

Notice—Mr. S. S. Haldeman will lecture on Tuesday evening, October 29th at the City Lyceum, on GEOLOGY. W. L. ATLEE, Cor. Sec'y.

George B. Kerfoot, M.D., No. 5 Center Square, advertises the opening of the LANCASTER ANATOMICAL HALL which was constructed on South Queen Street, first block. Here courses of lectures on the general preservation of Health, Anatomy, Physiology, Phrenology, and Medical Jurisprudence will be held.

“Neither pains or expense have been spared in the procuring of Paintings, Diagrams, Busts and Wax preparations to render every view so simple and plain, as to fully subserve popular benefit. Medical Students \$10.00 for the Course. All others \$5.00.”

“The Mechanic's Institute, the beautiful edifice erected during the Summer by the Mechanic's Society of Lancaster, in South Queen Street, was opened on the evening of December 19th. The spacious saloon was filled to overflowing. More than one thousand persons were present. An original Ode, composed for the occasion, was sung by the Philharmonic Society, and a Lecture, replete with eloquence and truth, was delivered by John W. Forney, Esq. Another Ode was then sung, and the exercises of the evening closed.”

The program was free to the citizens of Lancaster as well as the Mechanics.

“It is to be hoped that the Citizens and Mechanics of the county will visit regularly the Institution which has been erected solely with a view to advance the cause of the improvement of the mind. It is the object of the Society to have connected with their Institution a large Reading Room, where the seeker after knowledge can spend a few hours daily or nightly.

“The Library will be removed as soon as practicable.”

The first Lecture of the regular course was to be delivered on the evening of January 2nd, 1840, by Hon. Alexander L. Hayes.

The “LANCASTER UNION,” issued every Tuesday at \$2 per annum, continued to be published by ALEXANDER H. HOOD until October, 1842, when he sold the plant to R. W. MIDDLETON. It was located nearly opposite Mr. Cooper's Red Lion Hotel, West King Street.