

# Early History of Tobacco

By HORACE RICHARDS BARNES

The tobacco plant is indigenous to America, and settlers who returned in 1586 from the colony which Sir Walter Raleigh attempted to establish in Virginia are said to have introduced tobacco into Europe. It immediately became popular and was extensively used by all classes of people for chewing, snuffing, and smoking, notwithstanding strong opposition from church and state.

Pope Urban VIII excommunicated all who smoked tobacco in church and Queen Elizabeth forbade its use in churches. In the year 1689 an ordinance was published in Transylvania threatening those who planted tobacco with the confiscation of their estate. The King of Persia prohibited its use under heavy penalties including the loss of the nose or even death.

These opponents of tobacco and its use were in conflict with the finances of different governments. England, France, and other countries were in need of revenue. Tobacco was capable of carrying a heavy tariff duty, and several centuries ago, as now, was a major source of public revenue.

It is an established fact that the early natives of this continent understood thoroughly the cultivation of tobacco which was grown from as far north as Canada to as far south as southern Brazil. These early Indians knew not only how to plant, top and sucker the plants but also understood the drying and the curing of the tobacco leaf.

The Indians of both North America and South America chewed tobacco and smoked it. To the Indians the primary purpose of tobacco was religious rather than a social habit. To the Indians in this country the tobacco plant was almost sacred, and was used in ceremonies to appease the spirits, to ward off disease or danger, or to bring success and good luck.

For example, George K. Holmes states that "in Virginia, tobacco was believed to be a special gift from the realm of the departed. The leaves were arranged in a circle from the center of which adoration was offered to the sun, accompanied by eccentric gestures and contortions of the body by dancing, stampings and uplifting of the hands and by fixed starings toward the sky. The object was to propitiate an evil intelligence. When crushed into

powder, tobacco was sowed to the wind when a drought prevailed or when a tempest was blowing on the water; or it was sprinkled over the rivers when fishes began their annual migration from the sea. It was tossed into the air as an offering of reward to a spirit, after an escape from some unusual danger, or when the warriors returned to town after a successful war, or hunting expedition, or long journey in which they had been exposed to many perils and hardships."<sup>1</sup>

From the same source it is learned that "the planting of medicine to bacco was one of the oldest ceremonies of the Crows, consisting among other observances of a solemn March, a foot race among the young men, the planting of seed, the building of a hedge of green branches around the seed bed, a visit to the sweat house, followed by a bath and a solemn smoke, all ending with a feast."<sup>2</sup>

Commercial tobacco cultivation was early established in Central America, South America and the West Indies by the Spanish settlers. After the founding of Jamestown the colonists of Maryland and Virginia soon made tobacco a leading product and produced most of the tobacco grown in the colonies. About this time tobacco became a leading article of exchange with England. As early as 1664 the exports of tobacco from Maryland and Virginia totalled almost 24,000,000 pounds and by 1775 had reached almost 100,000,000 pounds. As early as 1689 Penn's colonists were raising tobacco.

During the closing years of the eighteenth century and the first quarter of the nineteenth, other states assumed importance in the culture of tobacco, notably Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee. In 1839 almost 60 per cent of the total tobacco production in the United States, that is, 128,784,115 pounds of the total 219,163,319 pounds produced, came from the two states, Virginia and Kentucky. Other important tobacco producing states in the same year ranked according to their yield were Tennessee, Maryland, North Carolina, Missouri, and Ohio. The production in Pennsylvania in 1839 was relatively unimportant, amounting to but 325,018 pounds.

TABLE I—TOBACCO PRODUCTION BY STATES IN 1839.<sup>3</sup>

State	Pounds
Virginia .....	75,347,106
Kentucky .....	53,436,909
Tennessee .....	29,550,432
Maryland .....	24,816,012
North Carolina .....	16,772,359
Missouri .....	9,067,913
Ohio .....	5,942,275

<sup>1</sup> Annual Report of the American Historical Association, 1919, Volume I—"Some Features of Tobacco History" by George K. Holmes, p. 388, published by Government Printing Office, 1923.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, p. 388.

<sup>3</sup> "The Seventh Census of the United States, 1850"—Table LVI, p. LXXIV.

Indiana .....	1,820,806
Illinois .....	564,326
Connecticut .....	471,657
Pennsylvania .....	325,018
All Others .....	1,049,006
	219,163,319

In 1919 Pennsylvania produced 55,965,851 pounds or about 4% of the 1,371,504,261 pounds reported for the United States. In 1929 the 50,584,276 pounds reported represented approximately 3.5% or .0346 of the total 1,456,510,003 for the United States. Even so Pennsylvania ranked seventh in 1929 being led by North Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, South Carolina, and Georgia in the order listed. In 1939 Pennsylvania still ranked seventh among the states in the production of cigar-leaf tobacco.

As a rule tobacco grown in Pennsylvania is raised in rather small plots and only a small percentage of the total acreage of a farm is planted in tobacco.

#### TOBACCO AND SOIL

A study of the rise and fall in the production of tobacco in different areas of the United States shows the evolution of specialization in tobacco culture. It is an established fact that our early colonists in general raised chiefly one type of tobacco. Where settlers and farmers in different sections began the more extensive cultivation of the crop it was found that differences in climate and in soil resulted in differences in the character of the plant. Naturally this affected its desirability for chewing or smoking purposes. In time it was learned that in addition to changes brought about by climate and soil, methods of growing and curing made possible various types of tobacco.

Years ago the *Journal of Chemistry* said of tobacco: "To the farmer who cultivates the plant it proves a robber of the first magnitude. It possesses a capacity for plundering the soil greater than any other tree, shrub, or plant known. The amount of mineral constituents which it carries off can be judged by carefully examining the ash as it accumulates upon the end of an ignited cigar. It often remains after the organic portion is removed, showing the full size and outline of rolled leaves, and to the eye apparently nothing is lost by combustion. If the wood burned in our stoves and upon our hearths was as rich in solid constituents, we should need the services of extra servants to carry away the ashes. Every hundred pounds of the dried leaves which the soil produces robs it of at least twenty pounds of its most valuable mineral atoms."

"The comparative exhaustive effects of tobacco upon soil may be judged from the fact that fourteen tons of wheat, fifteen tons of corn, and twelve tons of oats remove no more of the principal of fertility than a single ton of tobacco."<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> *The Lancaster Farmer*, Vol. II, 1870, p. 119

One reason why the culture of tobacco was not early introduced on an extensive scale in Lancaster County was the exhaustive effect which the crop has upon soil. As soon as farmers become wiser and more careful and understand crop rotation and fertilizing at least three to five per cent of a farm in this county can be devoted to tobacco raising.

Writing in 1871, Levi S. Reist said, "Any good porous soil that will grow from 80 to 100 bushels of Indian corn per acre will produce from 1,000 to 1,200 lbs. of tobacco. Ground to raise tobacco must be in good condition and yet it may be too highly enriched for this crop."<sup>5</sup>

This broad statement was to be qualified when more attention was paid to scientific farming including a knowledge of soils, fertilizer constituents, and soil requirements for the different types of tobacco.

Tobacco as a crop demonstrates the specific correlations which exist between the quality of the various types of tobacco and soil types. Usually tobacco makes a very rapid growth during a short season, and requires plenty of moisture. Nitrogen and potash are needed in liberal quantities while, as a rule, not much phosphate is required. Calcium, magnesium, and potassium are said to be especially important in cigar types of tobacco as determiners of burning qualities and constituents.<sup>6</sup>

Within recent years the soil needs and adaptations for the various types of tobacco have received much study and investigation. The results of these studies and experiments very clearly show the various soil requirements. For example, for the cigar wrapper the Merrimac sandy loam deep phase of Connecticut and Massachusetts has been found best, while for shade-grown cigar wrapper the Greenville and Magnolia soils of Florida and Georgia are considered most suitable. The Hagerstown silt loam of Pennsylvania, the Russel silt loam of Ohio, and the Clinton silt loam of Wisconsin have the soil requirements for cigar binder and filler. The best adapted soil types have also been discovered for burley tobacco, flue-cured bright tobacco, fire-cured tobacco, and for other kinds.<sup>7</sup>

Lancaster County has the rich soil and to a great extent fields protected from cold, both of which are essential for the production of high quality tobacco. The fertile limestone soils of Lancaster County, containing a sufficient and a rather uniform supply of moisture, produce the heavy and dark type of tobacco used for wrappers. Furthermore, the fertile well-balanced soil which is neither too light nor too heavy makes possible diversified farming and crop rotation. The use of manure and fertilizer for tobacco fields is practiced to a much greater extent in Lancaster County than in some other tobacco-growing areas.

In addition to the soil and climate characteristics this county has had for many years the farmers who have the energy, the patience, and the skill

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<sup>5</sup> *The Lancaster Farmer*, Vol. III, 1870, p. 83.

<sup>6</sup> *Soils and Men* — Year Book of Agriculture, 1938, p. 772, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, p. 772.

needed to raise this crop. The careful preparation of the soil, the care needed in handling young, tender plants raised from small seeds, in addition to the attention needed by the growing plants, all emphasize the importance of the grower in the culture of tobacco. Great care, trouble, and work are involved in the intensive cultivation of the crop.

### TOBACCO PRODUCTION IN LANCASTER COUNTY

As far as I can discover both Lancaster and York Counties, Pennsylvania, have been a center of tobacco culture from the earliest days of settlement. The German colonists not only needed tobacco but these thrifty people could see no reason in buying it from others when it was possible to raise it on their own land. According to Frank R. Diffenderffer tobacco was raised in Lancaster County as early as 1828 by farmers living near Ephrata. Tobacco grown a century ago was chiefly for local consumption. The farmer would hang the tobacco leaves on his barn rafters and use most of it for chewing and pipe-smoking without sweating or properly curing the leaves. The rest of the tobacco crop he would roll into cigars and sell at local stores at three fips or 18¾ cents a hundred.

Notwithstanding the above statements it is the thesis of this paper that tobacco production in Lancaster County did not become really significant until after the Civil War. Indeed, it has been only during the past sixty-five years that the production in this county has been important. In addition to tables and statistics quoted herein, the fact that tobacco was not raised on a typical Lancaster County farm during the first half of the nineteenth century is shown by the farm records of John Miller, of eastern Manheim Township. These account books, now owned by a descendant of John Miller, Newton Buch, of Lititz, record all of the crops raised on this farm in one of the county's leading agricultural townships between the years 1809 and 1847. Tobacco is not mentioned.

As further evidence is the statement of Henry H. Snavely, of Lititz, who was born in 1858 and lived as a boy in eastern Manheim Township. Mr. Snavely says the first tobacco raised in that region was on the Sheibley farm, near the confluence of the Lititz and the Conestoga creeks. This was in the early 1860's. It attracted much interest and this first tobacco patch in Manheim Township was visited by many people.

Wilson Baum, of Lititz, who was born in 1850, remembers as a boy a small experimental patch of tobacco near Adamstown. This was probably in the early 1860's, at approximately the same time as the tobacco on the Sheibley farm.

In August, 1881, in a lengthy article on the "Sudden death of Mr. John S. Gable" of North Queen Street, Lancaster, the newspaper gave a brief biography of Mr. Gable of whom they spoke as "the pioneer leaf tobacco dealer of Lancaster County." In part, this account of his life stated, "at the beginning of his pursuit in this business he made frequent visits to Kentucky to purchase tobacco, and at that time no tobacco was raised in Lancaster

County—or, if it was, it was merely in an experimental way. He was engaged in the business years before the leaf was raised to any extent in this county, and, after meeting with such marked success, others embarked in the business.”

*The Weekly Courant*, a newspaper published in Columbia, Pennsylvania, in its issue of Thursday, August 18, 1881, speaks of the death of Mr. John S. Gable on “last Thursday,” i. e., August 11, 1881, and writes of him as “the first man who dealt in leaf tobacco in Lancaster County, beginning that trade long before the weed was raised here and making frequent trips to Kentucky to purchase it.” This no doubt was taken from the Lancaster newspaper.

The story of the life of this man, who died about the age of 76 years, and who, before he became interested in tobacco, was a traveling salesman, for Christian Kieffer, manufacturer of copper kettles and one-time mayor of Lancaster, substantiates the statement that Lancaster County tobacco was an unimportant product some seventy or seventy-five years ago.

About one hundred and ten years ago two grades of cigars were manufactured in the county. One was known as the half Spanish and wholesaled at thirty cents a hundred and retailed two for a cent. The cheaper grade was called the “Commons” and the wholesale rate was sixteen a hundred, and the retail four for a cent. For many years these two brands were popular and, until the internal revenue tax came into effect during the Civil War, sold at the prices quoted. The popularity of these cigars, which were among the first of Lancaster County manufactured cigars, is attested by the complaint made some fifty-five years ago by a then “Old Timer” who had lived to see the day when he had to pay five cents for his cigar. Said he, “Dihencker! Ich hab a mohl tzir half-Spanish qrikt for sel, un yaders war tzar mohl so feel wart!” This to most of us means, “Dang it, once I got ten half Spanishes for that, and every one was ten times as good.”

As no separate statistics for the acreage of tobacco by the counties of Pennsylvania were published in the census reports until the Tenth Census, i. e. for the year 1879, only estimates can be given for the acreage prior to this date. It has been estimated that a century ago about thirty or forty acres in Lancaster County were devoted to the culture of this crop. The United States Census reports give as the acreage of tobacco in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, the following figures:

1879—16,992 acres	1889—18,007 acres	1899—18,025 acres
1909—32,783 acres	1919—37,301 acres	1929—39,000 acres

The 1927-1936 annual average for Lancaster County was 32,300 acres. The effects of the Federal Administration’s agricultural policies concerning production restrictions are noted in acreage figures of 23,700 for 1937 and 24,200 for 1938.

For many decades the product was of inferior quality. It was a tobacco seed called Havana, introduced in Pennsylvania in the 1830’s that made possible a broader leaf and a higher quality tobacco. It has been reported that “by 1860 Lancaster County was producing 63% of the total amount of cigar

leaf produced within the state and in the following century the county attained a total of over 90% of the state production."<sup>8</sup>

Various types of tobacco have been raised in Pennsylvania and in Lancaster County. Some of them have been named after the individuals who claimed to have discovered them. Connecticut Seed-Leaf, Cuban Tobacco, Glessner and Pennsylvania Seed-Leaf have been among the more important.

There are two chief types of cigar leaf tobacco grown in Pennsylvania today. One type is known as "Pennsylvania Havana Seed," or "Type 53." This is chiefly a binder type. The second type, the "Pennsylvania Broadleaf or Seedleaf," or "Type 41," is mainly a filler type. Pennsylvania Havana Seed type has been declining in importance when measured by the annual yield. In recent years the total production in the United States of New York and Pennsylvania Havana Seed has been considerably less than 1,000,000 pounds annually whereas it was 4,000,000 pounds annually in 1919. Furthermore, it has been growing less important as a cigar binder type as Connecticut Valley Broadleaf, Connecticut Valley Havana Seed, Southern Wisconsin, and Northern Wisconsin types have become more popular as binder types.

On the other hand Pennsylvania Seed Leaf, in which Lancaster County is so important, is the outstanding cigar-filler type. The production of tobacco in Lancaster County, the center for the production of Pennsylvania Broadleaf, and the importance of this county in the state's total production of tobacco during the past century is brought out by the following table:

TABLE II—PERCENTAGE COMPARISON LANCASTER COUNTY WITH PENNSYLVANIA TOBACCO PRODUCTION<sup>9</sup>

Year	Production for entire state in pounds	Production for Lancaster County in pounds	Percentage Production for Lancaster County
1839	325,018	48,860	15.0%
1849	912,651	378,050	41.4
1859	3,181,586	2,001,547	62.9
1869	3,467,539	2,692,584	77.7
1879	36,943,273	23,946,326	64.8
1889	28,956,247	19,217,800	66.4
1899	41,502,620	28,246,160	68.0
1909	46,164,800	36,892,869	79.9
1919	55,965,851	49,335,407	88.1
1929	50,584,276	46,854,695	92.6
1935	28,488,000	20,630,500	72.4
1936	32,500,000	31,024,000	95.4

<sup>8</sup> "The Economic Development of the Cigar Industry in the United States," p. 38, Willis N. Baer, Ph.D.

<sup>9</sup> Data from "Yearbook of Agriculture, 1935," U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bulletin #371, "The Cigar Tobacco Industry in Pennsylvania," Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture; and Bulletin #543, Section I, "Pennsylvania Crop and Livestock Report, 1934-1935-1936," Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

TABLE III reveals some valuable recent comparisons concerning the economic value of the crop to Lancaster County.

TABLE III — IMPORTANCE OF TOBACCO CULTURE IN LANCASTER COUNTY. TOBACCO ESTIMATED ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE IN PENNSYLVANIA.<sup>10</sup>

Year	Acreage	Yield	Production	Price	Value
1934	17,220	1,198	20,630,500	9.3	\$1,918,640
1935	19,940	1,376	27,430,300	11.0	3,014,190
1936	22,160	1,400	31,024,000	11.5	3,567,760
		Per Acre	Production		
Lancaster County	Acreage 17,220	Yield 1,198	1934 20,630,500	Price 9.3	Value \$ 1,918,640
		96.2% of state 1.4% of nation	96.6% of state 1.9% of nation		96.4% of state .8% of nation
Pennsylvania ...	17,800	1,201	21,385,000	9.3	1,989,000
United States ..	1,278,500	846	1,081,629,000	21.3	224,699,000
			1935		
Lancaster County	19,940	1,376	27,430,300	11.0	3,014,190
	96.3% of state 1.4% of nation		96.3% of state 2.1% of nation		96.2% of state 1.3% of nation
Pennsylvania ...	20,700	1,376	28,488,000	11.0	3,133,000
United States ..	1,437,000	903	1,297,210,000	18.3	237,814,000
			1936		
Lancaster County	22,160	1,400	31,024,000	11.5	3,567,760
	95.5% of state 1.5% of nation		96.4% of state 2.6% of nation		95.5% of state 2.6% of nation
Pennsylvania ...	23,200	1,401	32,500,000	11.5	3,736,000
United States ..	1,467,000	796	1,167,068,000	21.5	250,364,000

Dr. Willis N. Baer states that, "Over a twenty-year period, 1909-1928, the Lancaster area produced 84.4% of the total state production, the ten-year average was 84.8% and in 1925 it was over 90%, in 1928 over 93%. This tobacco is known as Type 41, and is principally filler tobacco."<sup>11</sup>

The same authority also gives the following interesting information concerning tobacco yield in Lancaster County for the year 1919-1928.<sup>12</sup>

TABLE IV.

TOBACCO ACREAGE, YIELD PER ACRE, TOTAL YIELD, TOTAL VALUE OF LANCASTER COUNTY TOBACCO FROM 1919 TO 1928.

Year	Acres	Yield per Acre (Average)	Total yield in pounds	Total Value
1928	33,000	1,403	46,298,700	\$6,481,870
1927	30,900	1,360	42,024,000	5,463,146
1926	29,990	1,320	39,586,800	4,004,332

<sup>10</sup> Data from Bulletin #543, Section I, "Pennsylvania Crop and Livestock Report, 1934-1935-1936," Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

<sup>11</sup> "The Economic Development of the Cigar Industry in the United States" by Willis N. Baer, Ph.D., p. 165.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid, p. 166.

1925	36,900	1,407	51,951,900	5,199,571
1924	39,800	1,290	51,371,700	6,164,604
1923	36,164	1,300	47,013,200	8,932,508
1922	35,806	1,330	47,621,970	8,095,734
1921	35,451	1,350	47,858,850	7,178,827
1920	32,424	1,475	47,825,400	10,521,588
1919	33,773	1,300	43,904,900	7,902,882
10-Year Average	34,422	1,354	46,545,000	\$6,994,000

One reason why Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, has become an important production center for tobacco has been the change in demand. A century ago smokers demanded light-colored cigars and the high quality tobacco leaf grown in the Connecticut Valley met the demand. About seventy-five years ago the demand for the dark cigar developed and Lancaster County was not only able to produce this rich brown color but was also able to produce a leaf elastic and tough but not leathery, and at the same time capable of giving a clear white ash.

#### LANCASTER COUNTY TOBACCO A MONEY CROP

Although the significance of tobacco as a money crop to Lancaster County has long been recognized, records point to the fact that it was not until about the last quarter of the nineteenth century that it really assumed importance. For example, one writer in 1880 stated that "twenty-five years ago tobacco grown in Pennsylvania did not perhaps amount to more than 1000 cases of 400 pounds each, and nearly all of this was the products of farms in Lancaster County. This tobacco did not meet the demand of the manufacturers of cheap cigars in Lancaster and the quantity needed was brought from Kentucky. There is now grown in the State over 100,000 cases, of which Lancaster County this year claims at least 45,000."<sup>13</sup>

In contrast to this statement it is both interesting and profitable to note reports of the crops about sixty years ago. One grower set out 15,800 plants in 1879 on three acres of ground, and harvested 7,681 pounds of cured tobacco. This was estimated to be at the rate of 2,560 pounds to the acre and was sold for 25 cents a pound. The total amount received for this crop, \$1,920.25, represented \$640.08 return per acre. In March of 1881 this same grower raised 8,663 pounds from 17,000 plants which gave his yield as 2,800 pounds per acre. This certainly was an unusual yield.

About the same time another farmer who lived close to the city of Lancaster sold his nine-acre yield to a California cigar manufacturer for \$5,553 which represents \$617.00 per acre.

Twenty-four and twenty-five cents per pound were not unusual prices received by the Lancaster County tobacco grower sixty years ago. When one considers that, according to estimates made about 1880 by various prominent tobacco growers, the cost of raising tobacco was only from \$100 to \$160 while the crop was usually valued at from \$250 to \$500, the importance of tobacco

<sup>13</sup> *The Lancaster Farmer*, Vol. XIII, #6, October, 1881, p. 153.

as a money crop to the Lancaster County farmer is readily understood. One estimate made in the early 1880's of the cost per acre which was considered about an average is given in the following figures:

Rent of land (interest on value) .....	\$ 15.00
Making seed bed .....	5.00
Ploughing one acre twice .....	4.00
Manure .....	50.00
Planting .....	3.00
Harrowing and hoeing three times .....	10.00
Topping, worming and suckering .....	10.00
Harvesting .....	4.00
Use of barn, wagon, laths, etc. ....	12.00
Taking down and stripping .....	15.00
Taking to market .....	2.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$130.00<sup>14</sup></b>

In those days labor costs were very little. Indeed the wages paid farm laborers in tobacco culture in Lancaster County several decades ago are of interest to the historian.

The average size farm employed at least one hand during the entire year, and most workers preferred to work throughout the year and not simply for a few weeks or months.

Rates typical for the years as listed were:<sup>15</sup>

	By the month for whole year	By the month for summer months
1877 .....	\$12.39	\$15.10
1878 .....	11.24	14.50
1879 .....	10.58	13.40
1880 .....	11.79	14.90

In cases where the laborer boarded himself the acreage rates were:<sup>16</sup>

	By the month for whole year	By the month for summer months
1877 .....	\$20.97	\$26.07
1878 .....	18.41	24.07
1879 .....	17.44	21.25
1880 .....	18.32	22.35

<sup>14</sup> *The Lancaster Farmer*, Vol. XV, #2, February, 1883, pp. 23, 24, 25.

<sup>15</sup> Report on the Production of Agriculture — Tobacco Production in the United States, Chapter XIV, p. 159. J. B. Killebrew, 1880 Census, U. S.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*

Day rates for transit labor at harvest time during the same period were as follows:<sup>17</sup>

	With board	Without board
1877 .....	\$ 0.80	\$ 1.15
1878 .....	.75	.90
1879 .....	.63	.88
1880 .....	.71	.98

Furthermore, it should be noted that much of the charge allocated for labor and manure did not represent an outlay of money in many cases.

Another writing about this time said that "there was a time within the memory of the present generation when Pennsylvania tobacco was only worth two cents per pound in the market. Now the best Lancaster commands from twenty to forty cents."<sup>18</sup>

At this time the value of the crop as expressed in the price received for it was about the same as the price of the land upon which it was raised. The tobacco in those days was grown in patches from half an acre in extent to fields of sixty acres, and in most cases the yields were from 1300 to 2000 pounds per acre. The price received averaged thirteen cents a pound.

It should be remembered that Lancaster County in the period we have just been discussing was chiefly agricultural. Only 30,000 of its 150,000 inhabitants in 1879 lived in the city of Lancaster, and less than 9000 in Columbia. The others were found in the many towns, most of which were very small, or out on the farms.

It was at this time that Lancaster County was gaining recognition as "the first agricultural district of the United States," and some 462,000 of its 556,000 acres were being cultivated. Although it has been estimated that not more than one twenty-fifth of this tillable land was devoted to tobacco, this land produced almost 24,000,000 pounds of tobacco in 1879. The value of this tobacco crop represented one-fifth of the annual total value of \$10,000,000 credited to the county's agricultural products.

One of the best descriptions I have been able to find in my research studies of tobacco in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, is the following interesting, comprehensive and specific account of conditions some sixty years ago:

"The past year was a remarkable one in several ways for the tobacco growers of Lancaster County. The planting season opened very auspiciously, and the young plants were, perhaps, never set out under more favorable circumstances. For a time all went well and the crop came along famously. But at the season when rains were most needed by the maturing plants, a long-continued drought set in, which continued without intermission until the

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> *The Lancaster Farmer*, Vol. XI, #6, June, 1879, p. 87.

crop was harvested. What promised to be the largest crop ever grown in the county proved the smallest we have had in recent years.

### EARLY BUYING IN THE FIELD

"But the early planted fields had advanced so far towards maturity when the dry spell came that they suffered comparatively little from want of rain. The belief that there would be a very short crop woke up the buyers to a study of the situation, and as the previous year's crop had been very defective, each buyer became very desirous of securing some of the choice lots of the present season. The result was that about the middle of August buyers by the dozen came pouring into the county, overrunning every portion of it in their search of choice lots, which, when found, they at once purchased while still standing in the field, paying unprecedented prices for them. Nothing to match this scramble for the weed had before been seen among us, and perhaps nowhere else in the United States. Perhaps one-half the entire product of the county was purchased in this way, and even after the furore had spent its greatest force, the buying continued steadily until nearly the whole product of the county was secured by the eager buyers.

### RESULTS OF CAREFUL HANDLING

"Purchasers, however, by the terms of their contracts, bound the farmer to an unusually careful handling of their crops and the latter fearful that the high prices paid by the former might induce them to find fault for the purpose of breaking their contracts, were careful to manipulate their crops with even more than their usual care. The result has been that much of the present crop is in some particulars the best and most carefully handled we have ever seen, and has proved unusually profitable to the growers, as we hope and believe it will also be to the liberal men who have bought it. Tobacco has been delivered at the packing houses in this city during the present month equal in quality to any ever grown in Pennsylvania, and although the weight per acre is considerably below the average of some other years, the greatly increased prices received for the crop have run the value per acre realized by some farmers fully up, if not beyond, that of any previous year. Several instances of this kind have come to our notice during the present week, and we have deemed the matter of sufficient interest to give the figures here.

### AN EXCELLENT CROP

"The first crop to which we call attention was that grown by Mr. Moses Snavelly, of Pequea Township, purchased by Messrs. Skiles & Frey, of this city, and received by them on last Wednesday. It was not a large crop, consisting of only 10,400 plants, grown on something less than two acres of ground.

"The crop was planted in rows four feet apart, and 28 inches apart in the rows. The crop was sold in the early fall at 33 cents through, and when

delivered was found to consist, after careful assorting by the grower, of 1,640 pounds of wrappers over 24 inches long, 764 pounds of wrappers under 24 inches, 490 pounds of seconds, and 377 pounds of fillers, making a total of 3,271 pounds, by no means a large yield as far as pounds are concerned, but the great price of 33 cents brought the value of the crop to \$1,079.43, for which sum the fortunate grower received a check.

### COST OF GROWING TOBACCO

"It is needless for us to say this lot of tobacco is a superb one. The leaves are long, silky, soft and tough, and the butts of the 'hands' are as even as if they had been planed off. It has been well handled, as it deserved to be. To show how much labor and expense was incurred in the production of this lot of tobacco, the grower, at our request, made a detailed estimate, which will show not only what figures can be realized from tobacco growing, but what care and attention are required to raise a first-class crop. A year ago, at the request of the Census Department, we procured from a number of well-known growers careful estimates of the cost of growing an acre of tobacco; we have often wished to give them in these columns, but as they are to appear in the government report we have not felt at liberty to use them until then. The following estimate will, however, serve to show growers elsewhere something of the cost of growing fine tobacco here:

Interest on value of land (\$250 per acre) .....	\$30.00
Marking and care of seed bed .....	5.00
Plowing two acres one time .....	5.00
Harrowing ground three times .....	8.00
Making out rows .....	1.50
Setting out plants .....	8.00
Cultivating with shovel-harrow five times .....	10.00
Hoeing three times, eighteen days .....	18.00
Worming, topping and suckering .....	35.00
Cutting and hanging in barn .....	8.00
Interest on cost of barn, lath, etc. ....	10.00
Stripping and preparing for market .....	40.00
Bringing to market .....	8.00
Value of manure used .....	25.00
<b>Total cost .....</b>	<b>\$212.00</b>

"Here we have as the total cost of the crop \$212.00; the field was less than two acres, but to avoid fractions, we will call it two full acres, and we therefore find that the cost per acre was \$106.00. This leaves the grower a net profit of \$433.71 per acre, which, all things considered, is truly a wonderful result. The field was so much less than two acres that, strictly speaking, the profits may fairly be set down at \$450 per acre. There was not one day during the entire growing season that hands were not at work in the field. The worming was not done once or twice a week, but every day; nor was this task left to children. In short, the labor steady throughout the season, and nothing was left undone to secure success. The sum realized shows that it pays to give the tobacco crop careful attention.

"Messrs. Skiles & Frey received the crop grown on  $3\frac{1}{2}$  acres, by Mr. Jacob Stehman, of Manor Township. The yield, in weight, was much greater in this case than in the preceding one, having been 7,737 pounds, or 2,210 per acre, but the price paid was only  $24\frac{1}{2}$  cents through; this netted the grower \$1,895.56 for his crop, or at the rate of \$541.58 per acre. If we allow for cost of cultivation at the same rates as estimated in the crop mentioned above, we have as the net profit per acre \$435.58, which nearly equals the results secured by Mr. Snavelly. Let us suppose, for a moment, that Mr. Stehman had received the same price for his crop per pound that Mr. Snavelly did, the result would have been that his  $3\frac{1}{2}$  acres would have yielded him a gross sum of \$2,553.21, or at the rate of \$729.46 per acre, and deducting \$106 as the cost per acre for cultivation and expenses, we get the net sum of \$623.46 as profit realized from a single acre grown in tobacco.

## STILL ANOTHER

"But we have still another case we shall lay before our readers. Mr. John J. Long, of Drumore Township, on last Monday, delivered at the packing house of Mr. Daniel Mayer, in this city, his crop grown on  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres of ground, weighing 3,059 pounds, and for which he was paid the sum of \$978.88, or at the rate of 32 cents per pound through. This is a yield of 2,038 pounds per acre, which at the price paid, would amount to \$652.16 per acre. Deducting Mr. Snavelly's allowance of \$106 as the cost per acre, we have a net profit of \$546.16 realized from a single acre of Lancaster County grown tobacco.

"The above figures, be it remembered, are not ideal ones. They are actual facts. They are from the books of the purchasers and the checks received by the sellers. They represent three transactions consummated during the present week. They are not isolated cases, either. We have no doubt others like them have occurred of which we have not heard, and that still others, and not a few of them either, will transpire before the present crop is delivered."<sup>19</sup>

In 1883 Lancaster City was reported as the second largest seedleaf market in the country, New York City being the largest. Lancaster County seedleaf was said to produce a wrapper leaf that was "soft, pliant, silky, and elastic, not light nor flimsy, but thin and tough, with veins so small as not to show above the level of the leaf and only a moderate amount of nicotine." Furthermore, it was "handsome in appearance and of pleasant flavor" with a "rich, dark brown color so much affected by smokers."<sup>20</sup>

The following data given the writer of this paper by Mr. Milton H. Ranck, well known as a packer and dealer, are accurate cost figures for the raising of tobacco in Lancaster County during recent years. In addition to the cost figures other valuable statistics are included.

<sup>19</sup> *The Lancaster Farmer*, Vol. XIV, #2, Feb., 1882, pp. 26-27.

<sup>20</sup> *The Lancaster Farmer*, Vol. XV, #2, Feb., 1883, p. 23.

Average cost per acre for raising tobacco:

Man labor .....	\$72.84	
Horse labor .....	21.22	
Tractor labor .....	1.23	
Rent of Land and Building .....	30.05	
Use of Machinery .....	8.99	
Value of manure .....	8.01	
Taxes and Insurance .....	2.48	
Cash expense .....	13.32	
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$146.48</b>	
Value of fillers and stems per acre .....	13.71	
<b>Total cost of wrappers per acre .....</b>	<b>\$132.77</b>	
Cost of wrappers per pound .....		10.3c
<b>Total No. of Farms .....</b>	<b>43</b>	
<b>Total No. of Acres .....</b>	<b>342</b>	
<b>Total cost of 342 .....</b>	<b>\$50,095.61</b>	
Average number acres per farm .....	7.95	
Average total yield per acre .....	1632 lbs.	
Average yield wrappers per acre .....	1288 lbs.	
Average cost per acre .....	\$146.48	
Average cost pound wrappers .....	.103	
Average No. man hours per acre .....	241.80	
Average No. horse hours per acre .....	106.90	
Average No. tractor hours per acre .....	.90	
(45 bushels of corn sufficient to put 400 lbs. on a steer.)		

The statistics of sales and cash income from tobacco for the state of Pennsylvania are of particular interest to Lancaster County due to the fact that this county has averaged 85 per cent of the total production in the state during the past two decades. As I have pointed out elsewhere in this paper Lancaster County's production in some years has been as high as 96.6 per cent of the state's total production.

TABLE V — SALES OF AND INCOME FROM TOBACCO IN PENNSYLVANIA

Calendar year	Sales 1,000 lb.	Pennsylvania	
		Average price per pound Cents	Cash income 1,000 dol.
1909 .....	55,100	9.2	5,069
1910 .....	46,452	9.0	4,181
1911 .....	67,080	9.3	6,238
1912 .....	68,620	9.5	6,519
1913 .....	62,100	8.5	5,278
1914 .....	46,800	7.5	3,510
1915 .....	50,150	7.5	3,561
1916 .....	46,860	9.2	4,311
1917 .....	49,950	14.2	7,093
1918 .....	62,350	21.0	13,094

Calendar year	Sales 1,000 lb.	Pennsylvania Average price per pound Cents	Cash income 1,000 dol.
1919	72,275	14.0	10,118
1920	56,330	18.0	10,139
1921	62,780	12.0	7,534
1922	58,800	14.4	8,467
1923	55,470	16.0	8,875
1924	55,800	18.1	10,100
1925	57,960	15.7	9,100
1926	57,810	10.3	5,954
1927	44,880	10.5	4,712
1928	47,250	13.0	6,142
1929	51,300	14.0	7,182
1930	42,607	12.1	5,143
1931	39,504	6.4	2,544
1932	59,235	7.4	4,387
1933	30,547	4.7	1,425
1934	26,920	5.0	1,349
1935	31,175	9.3	2,903
1936	35,303	11.0	3,885
1937	33,650	11.5	3,868 <sup>21</sup>

#### THE CULTIVATION OF TOBACCO

Much has been written concerning the cultivation of tobacco and both federal and state agencies are continuously making researches in this field. It, furthermore, is not for either an economist or a historian to attempt a detailed discussion of this technical subject. This should be left for specialists. However, a brief discussion of tobacco culture is not out of place in a historical paper such as this and I will make reference to it since it does effect the development of tobacco production.

The tobacco seed is sown in canvas-covered beds especially prepared as soon as the danger of frost is past. The seeds are very small, there are approximately 300,000 seeds to an ounce, and there is frequently a tendency to sow too thickly. However, there is some disagreement among tobacco growers as to the proper quantity to sow on a given area of earth. The seed bed should be made very rich. Well-rotted barnyard manure, vegetable mould from woods, and compost, as free as possible from weed-seed, add to the enrichment of this exceedingly important factor in the production of tobacco.

After the seed have been sown the entire surface of the bed should be pressed down in order that the light seeds may not be blown away by the wind, and also to bring the small rootlets into direct contact with the earth. Care should be shown by the planter so as not to pack the soil too closely.

<sup>21</sup> "Income Parity for Agriculture — Part 1. Farm Income. Section 2—Income from Tobacco," Table 3, p. 12. U. S. Department of Agriculture, May, 1938.

In order to keep out the cold air of spring, and to maintain as uniform a temperature as possible, it is customary to cover the seed bed with tightly drawn cheese-cloth or canvas. One ounce of seed will raise enough plants in seed-beds to plant between five and six acres of tobacco. When the plants have developed three or four leaves they are transplanted in fields carefully prepared for them. Two of the most important steps which determine the character of the crop are "topping" and "suckering."

### *Topping.*

If the natural tendency of going to seed is permitted the leaf of the tobacco plant will lack the qualities which give it marketing value for the seed pods will take the nutriment required by the leaves for their fullest development. Furthermore, deterioration of the leaves must be prevented. To accomplish this end the operation known as "topping" is used.

Due to the fact that some plants grow more rapidly than do others and to seasonal differences it is not possible to designate the exact date after planting the seed when topping should take place. Some growers also allow more time for the actual early development of the seed plume before topping than do others. This is because it is very important to know where to top, that is, to know how much of the stalk or spike on which the seed pods form to take off, and also how many leaves. Too high a topping and the leaving of too many leaves will result in a low grade product.

Keen judgment on the part of the grower is necessary not only in determining when to top but is also required in knowing how to crop. It is desirable to have tobacco mature early in the season, and the latest that topping should be done is at least a month before frost. The operation requires care so that the upper leaves are not broken or bruised.

### *Suckering.*

Plant life is as interesting and natural in many respects as is animal life.

After the tobacco plant has been topped another tendency appears in a few days. Suckers or shoots, appear and unless removed the life of the plant will go into them instead of into the leaves. Careful and continuous watching is required of the grower so that their suckers are pinched off before they attain much growth.

## THE STORAGE OF TOBACCO

The tobacco barn is a familiar sight in Lancaster County, but in tracing the history of tobacco in this county it is well to remember that the tobacco barn came when the crop grew in importance. The development of the proper handling and storage after the tobacco has been cut is one of the most important phases of its history.

During the early decades of tobacco raising in this county very little attention was paid to its storage. The garret, unused rooms in the farm house, the barn, or any other building on the farm was used as a place in

which to hang the crop. When the size of the yield increased ordinary wooden sheds were built to serve as storage houses for the tobacco crop. Ventilation was secured by hanging some of the vertical boards of the building on hinges. There were no cellars under these frame buildings and there were no outlets in the roof through which the hot air could escape. The lack of cellars in these early buildings was a real handicap as it was necessary to wait until wet weather before stripping.

In the evolution of the different methods of handling and storing the tobacco after it has been cut, the field scaffold at one time was popular. Instead of taking the tobacco direct from the field to the barn the custom known as "scaffolding in the field was practiced." A scaffold of firm posts, pushed into the ground, and with firm rails running from post hole to post hole was built. Frequently large trestles with cross timbers were made. The leaves were cut in the morning or evening and carefully laid out to dry. During the time given them to wilt the danger of sunburn had to be watched. When the leaves had wilted sufficiently to be handled without injuring them they were speared onto a lath and left on the scaffold some time before being taken into the barn. The principle back of this idea was that tobacco which had been on a scaffold could be packed in more closely when taken to the barn than if taken direct from the field to the barn.

#### THE MARKETING OF TOBACCO IN LANCASTER COUNTY

One of the most marked contrasts to be noted in the history of tobacco in Lancaster County has to do with the marketing of the crop. Fifty and sixty years ago at least one hundred different firms were buying and packing tobacco in this county. In October, November and December, jobbers from Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Milwaukee, and St. Louis came to Lancaster to purchase tobacco. Buyers from Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, and from as far west as San Francisco also came into Lancaster for the same purpose. Frequently there were more than thirty of these from all parts of the country here at one time. This number was greatly augmented by a large group of local buyers and packers. These men literally combed the county in search of tobacco. In addition to handling the local crop these same firms are reported to have bought and sold three-fourths of all the other tobacco grown in the state, as well as some tobacco from Connecticut, New York and Wisconsin. Competition was very keen and it has been stated that agents from packing houses went through Lancaster County and in many instances purchased crops which were still growing. In such cases, after agreeing upon a price, a contract in duplicate was drawn up, the buyer keeping one copy and the grower receiving the other copy. Either at a time specified, or when the grower was ready to deliver the crop, it was taken to the packing-house of the buyer where it was baled in various sizes, but usually of one hundred pounds each in weight. After weighing, spot cash was paid the grower.

At times the buyers purchased the tobacco while it hung in the barns and before the growers had commenced to strip, if inspection of the tobacco

on the poles led the prospective buyers to believe that the crop was an unusually desirable one. This was not a satisfactory method of buying and frequently disputes arose when it was found that the crop was not worth as much as it appeared to be as it hung in the barn. The planters are said to have preferred selling their tobacco after the crops had been stripped and was ready for marketing.

Naturally warehouses were built in all parts of the county. Some seventy-five of these packing warehouses were located in the city of Lancaster, and stored from two hundred to five thousand cases of tobacco each. On "Tobacco Avenue," in the eastern section of Lancaster, there were six warehouses and packing houses each built of brick standing next to each other. Each one was from seventy-five feet to one hundred and fifty feet in length and either two or three stories in height. The capacity of each was from five hundred to five thousand cases.

During the receiving season such a street and the adjoining streets would be crowded with all types of vehicles ranging from a single horse with a small wagon, to the "Conestoga wagon" with six horses. Today the large auto truck has, for the most part, succeeded the horse-drawn vehicle, although horses and mules are still used to haul tobacco to the warehouses. The following picturesque description given by a writer of that day vividly tells the story of "receiving days."

"Receiving days" for the packers must have presented interesting scenes if the following is an accurate description. "Wagons of every kind, from the slight one-horse affair to the ponderous Conestoga wagon with its six heavy draught horses, begin to come into town as early as ten o'clock on the previous evening, all anxious to get favorable places that they may unload early on the following day. The streets in the neighborhood of the warehouses, especially where three or four of the latter are near together, as they are on 'Tobacco Avenue,' are completely blockaded; as many as eighty-nine teams of every size have been counted in a single block. Six hundred wagon loads were delivered on January 10, 1880, and as many more on the 17th of the same month; these delivered 1,500,000 pounds; some were compelled to remain until the following day before they could discharge their cargo. A single firm has received as many as 148,000 pounds in one day; a number of others 100,000 pounds. Tobacco is paid for on delivery. Frequent investigations show that the banks pay out on large receiving days from \$150,000 to \$200,000 to farmers on the checks of the tobacco buyers. On one of the dates given above the amount reached \$250,000."<sup>22</sup>

About this time, 1880, some fifty different firms were engaged in packing at Lancaster. The estimated cost of buying, receiving, sorting, casing and storing the tobacco was about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  to 2 cents per pound. This price included the cases which was about \$1.05 each. The case which would hold 400 pounds of tobacco was two feet six inches in height, the same in width, and 4 feet in length. Because of the objection of some to close packing

especially in the case of fine wrappers, frequently about 375 pounds of tobacco were packed in a case. The loss due to sweating being from 9 to 15 per cent after the tobacco was cured the tobacco was reweighed and sometimes sold at "reweight," namely, the original weight which was plainly marked on the case less loss from sweating. Sixty years ago taxes were not as significant in business as they are in 1940, and the only tax packers were required to pay was the government tax of \$25.00 as dealers. This was the only tax regardless of the amount bought and sold. In the 1880's the law was changed in that tobacco up to the amount of 25,000 pounds could be purchased by paying a tax of \$5.00.

### ATTITUDES TOWARD TOBACCO RAISING

Interesting accounts are found of the attitude of the citizens of Lancaster County regarding the tobacco industry when it was first attaining prominence in this section of the state. One writer in discussing "The Tobacco Fever" said, in part, "I raise none, and my belief is that I would not be doing right in raising this weed. God has given us a fine country in which to raise grain, and vegetables, and fruit — eatable articles — and, before God, I believe it is not right to desecrate the soil by raising tobacco. Hundreds of acres of our best lands are absolutely wasted by planting them in tobacco, which would produce good crops of wheat, corn, or potatoes, and a good many other useful and nourishing crops — articles for poor people to eat. Tobacco robs us of a good deal.

"First, it demands the best soil on the farm. Secondly, it demands the best and the largest quantity of manure. Farmers haul manure liberally on tobacco land, then after harvest, in order to make it reach, and often, through their liberality to the tobacco it doesn't reach, and the result is a poor crop of wheat generally. Now what is tobacco good for? It is chewed and snuffed, and smoked; and if used in excess, it often injures if it does not ruin people physically and financially, to say nothing about it morally. It would be much better if they had never tasted it. Many a poor man spends more for tobacco than would buy flour for a loaf of bread every day in the week; or more in a year than would buy a new suit of clothing for each son in the family, even if the number were a half a dozen. Not long ago a poor young man bought at an auction eighteen pieces, or plugs, of tobacco, half as long as his arm. Cheap as he considered it, it amounted to over six dollars. I am informed he chews a ten-cent plug every day. This is more than a good many have to pay for house rent, to say nothing about the rich who spend dollars where the poor only spend pennies. But it often occurs that the poor are more extravagant in this than the rich. It is said in favor of tobacco that it makes a good deal of work for the poor among the people. So it does; but other more necessary work is neglected on account of the tobacco crop. I have seen farms — and a good many of them, too — where tobacco was cultivated, and I have noticed that the tobacco was kept nice and clean, but the corn stood in high grass and weeds, and a person would have a hard struggle to get through them in corn-cutting. There they lost some-

thing of what they had gained in tobacco. Had they put all in corn and applied the same manure, and the same cultivation as they did on their tobacco, they would have had a much better corn crop, and the poor man would have had labor, the soil would not have been robbed—in short every man who is willing to work for a reasonable compensation, can always find some thing to do. Often when I wanted a hand to assist me on the farm, I could get none. They replied, 'I must tend my tobacco,' and I had to shift along the best way I could. Especially when the corn was ripe, I wanted men to cut off corn; but no, the tobacco must first be put away; corn can stand and get dry on the stalks, 'tobacco is king.' Tobacco, it is true, brings in a great deal of money, but still, on the whole, I believe it would be better in the end if a tobacco-plant had never been cultivated in the county. It certainly will impoverish the land after a few years. Some farms will be so poor that they will hardly support an average family, and leave very little to sell. But nearly all the people have this tobacco fever, and therefore there may be very little use in saying anything to them about it. Like all fevers, I suppose it will have to run its course; nevertheless I believe it will have its crisis. Many people will not believe even preachers of the gospel, when they warn their flocks of approaching danger. Therefore we see tobacco-raising saints going on their way the same as sinners. There is preaching Sunday after Sunday, but people do not repent. They live on in sin from day to day, week to week, month to month, and year to year, without repentance, until the end, and so it will be with tobacco farming—at least, as long as there is money in it."<sup>23</sup>

In commenting on the above quoted article the editor of the publication in which it appeared stated that, "Whatever the moral; physical, and economical status of tobacco growing and tobacco manufacturing and using—or whatever may be its ultimate effect upon the mental and constitutional condition of men, there seems to be a grave doubt whether there ever will be a perfect unity of sentiment on the subject; therefore, it seems that the most we can do at the present time, is to concede to every one the privilege of entertaining his own honest views in regard to it. In other words, we may 'agree to disagree;' because, like manufacturing and selling or using liquor; selling and buying lottery tickets; keeping and running fast horses; dealing in fancy or fraudulent stocks of various kinds; men will engage in these occupations so long as they can see any money in them, or they are not directly contraband of law, without troubling themselves much about the abstract right or wrong of the thing. Perhaps so long as men do not violate their consciences, or invade the rights of their neighbors, we will have to leave them to their own convictions under the forms of civil law. One glorious privilege we enjoy in a land of freedom, and that is, if it is wrong to raise tobacco there is no power to compel us to do so against our own will, nor can the responsibility of another's wrongdoing be laid on our

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<sup>23</sup> *The Lancaster Farmer*, Vol, X, #3, March, 1878, p. 43.

shoulders. Nevertheless, every one ought to enjoy the privilege of expressing his own sentiments on the subject."<sup>24</sup>

Another view-point is expressed in these words, "Tobacco culture may be regarded as comparatively an innovation in this State, but as a means of promoting industry, developing agriculture and increasing wealth it is in every sense an ascertained success and will in the near future be one of the chief factors of Pennsylvania's prosperity." The same writer in paying tribute to the men who had developed an improved system of sweating tobacco and who had in other ways aided the growth of both the tobacco and the cigar industry in this county claimed that "surely these gentlemen may be regarded as the best sort of philanthropists, and benefactors to the sex." He referred to girls and women who, finding "the ordinary fields of labor already overstocked," find employment in kindling, boxing and stenciling boxes and by making cigars. "The country girls of Lancaster and other counties are often engaged in this business. Namely setting out the young plants and weeding them which pays "about seventy-five cents per day."<sup>25</sup>

*The Lancaster Farmer* in its issue of January, 1870, reports that "the tobacco crop this season was the best that has been raised for many years," and that "the present tobacco crop will bring upward of \$1,000,000 into our county, and will make up somewhat for the deficiency in the wheat crop." This 1869 crop "sold at prices ranging from nine to twenty-four cents for wrappers and fillers." It is significant to note that it was truly forecast that "Lancaster County will be known henceforth as a great tobacco county."<sup>26</sup>

A year later it was said, "Tobacco raising is now thoroughly understood in the county, in those districts where it is raised, how to cure it, strip it and sort it to advantage, so that it may bring as much in the market as Connecticut Valley tobacco. Raising tobacco will not likely be overdone, as it requires too much labor and skill, requiring many hands. On farms located in thin settlements, people are not likely to go extensively into the enterprise. It generally follows thick settlements or small towns. Along the Susquehanna, at Mountville, Rohrerstown, Landisville, Petersburg, Millport, Catfish, Brownstown, Earlville, Neffsville, Millersville, Strasburg and New Providence, it is cured in great quantities. The places named are about the leading districts in the county. There are townships in which scarcely one acre is grown. The heaviest growers live in West Hempfield and Manor. Mr. Abraham Shenk, of Manheim, has twenty-five acres out in tobacco. If prices should be anything like last year, then we may predict that upwards of \$2,000,000 will be brought to our county, which will add vastly to its wealth, and will be another step in advance for Lancaster County over all

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<sup>24</sup> *The Lancaster Farmer*, Vol. X, #3, March, 1878, p. 43.

<sup>25</sup> *The Lancaster Farmer*, Vol. XI, #6, June, 1879, pp. 87 and 88.

<sup>26</sup> *The Lancaster Farmer*, Vol. II, 1870, published by Wylie and Griest, Inquirer Printing House.

other counties in the state, and may have the effect of maintaining the present high prices of our land."<sup>27</sup>

Regardless of one's point-of-view, it is a fact that to the tobacco crop must be given much credit for making possible either the purchase of many Lancaster County farms or the paying off of mortgages on farms.

The Lancaster County tobacco growers and dealers are both practical and realistic. Some of them and some of the users of their product might, in part at least agree with the sentimental poets who wrote of the value of Cuban tobacco in the strain:

"To the young man, tobacco teaches patience with and gives wisdom for, the trials that beset the beginning of life; gives advice as to his actions and inspires him with a steadfast purpose.

"The middle-aged man it sustains, soothes and comforts. To the old man who has drunk to the very dregs, the cup of life, tobacco brings calmness and consolation; in its fragrant clouds he forgets his griefs and troubles and recalls his pleasures and triumphs.

"Tobacco is all things to all men; to the young, youthful; to the mature, ripe and mellow; to the old, old in comfort, yet ever new; to the joyful, joyous; to the saddened, sympathetic; to the defeated and baffled, hope emerges from its fairy wreaths; to one and all of its myriad lovers, of all ages, nations and tongues, to such tobacco is:

"Thought in the early morning, Solace in the time of woes,  
Peace in the hush of twilight, Balm ere my eyelids close."

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<sup>27</sup> *The Lancaster Farmer*, Vol. III, #9, 1871, p. 167.

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