

have been but a couple of years before the botanist's death. Joel Jackson Carter was born in 1843, died in 1912, and is buried in the graveyard of the Penn Hill Meeting.

Thus, in a widely trod ramble about Rock Springs, are preserved for future generations many incidentals of facts and persons worthy of record. Time has a relentless way of removing the last sources of information of the past, and it is usually the minor incidentals of yesteryear that are first to vanish. To save some of these in the Serpentine Barrens of the Southend, and related incidentals from other parts of the county, the writer has taken his historical ramble around Rock Springs. He has taken with him some of his local historical favorites, like William Henry, Henry E. Muhlenberg and Samuel Staman Haldeman; and a large number of men, like George W. Hensel, Jr., Henry W. Shoemaker, Henry S. Williamson, Thomas D. Cope, Frederic A. Godcharles, Henry S. Hiestand, Donald A. Cadzow, David H. Landis and many others, who are or were his personal friends, all as fond as he is of Lancaster County's lore and legend. In making this ramble with his personal friends he has done so with the assurance that all of their names, which he has mentioned in text and footnote, or with photographs, are worthy of a place in the permanent records of the Lancaster County Historical Society.

Philip Benedict, Inventor of Stoves

By M. LUTHER HEISEY

There appeared in our Proceedings, vol. 35, p. 23, a story concerning a Mr. Benedict, inventor of a coal stove in 1830. The writer of that article, William Frederic Worner, inquired: "Who was he, where did he live, and what was his occupation?"

The answers are herewith given. This Mr. Benedict was Philip, (born May 4, 1771, died February 15, 1862), son of Leonard and Catharine Schroyak Benedict. He lived at the site now known as 127 North Duke Street, and was by occupation a plasterer. Two patents for "stone coal stoves" were issued to him by the United States Patent Office, on February 27, 1830, and October 27, 1835. The drawing on page 60 was secured from the Patent Office, and illustrates the stove in detail. The name Philip Benedict appears on both sides of the stove, and on some of them on the upper surface in each corner is a brass finial for ornamentation. The stove was designed to furnish more and better heating service than other types, and was especially recommended for cooking purposes.

Miss Anna Druckemiller, now living on North Lime Street, aged 93 years, is a grand-niece of Mr. Benedict, the inventor. John Philip Herr, of Conestoga Hills, R. D. 4, is a great-grandson. He gives us the following illuminating facts.

Philip Benedict experimented occasionally in primitive metal work. He cut out and fashioned from thin metal a large weather vane representing an American Indian shooting an arrow into the wind. As an additional help to the "rudder," he made and attached a dog, placed back of the Indian. His own dog, "Bos," served as a model. This weather vane he presented to Henry Schroeder for his stable roof.

Later Mr. Schroeder became interested in the cotton mill on the east side of Prince Street at Farnum (then German) Street. Mr. Schroeder placed the vane on the tower of the mill, where it still unmistakably indicates the direction of the wind.

Another of Philip Benedict's ideas was the placing of wrought iron bands around the base of the old jail tower, when it showed signs of spreading or buckling under the weight of the super-imposed tower. These bands are still visible from East King Street and from the reservoir. After serving their purpose for about thirty years, the fine tower was removed about 1887 as a safety measure.

Mr. Herr regrets the passing to a junk dealer of a clock made by old Philip which "went Thomas Jefferson one better." It had two crude cylinders fitted with pistons; the piston heads rested on mercury poured into the cylinders. The ordinary rise and fall in daily temperature was conveyed to the winding device by a connecting piece geared to a ratchet wheel. No doubt there was also something to prevent over-winding, but it was junked so long ago that this detail escaped the notice of Mr. Herr, who saw the clock in his grandmother's garret.

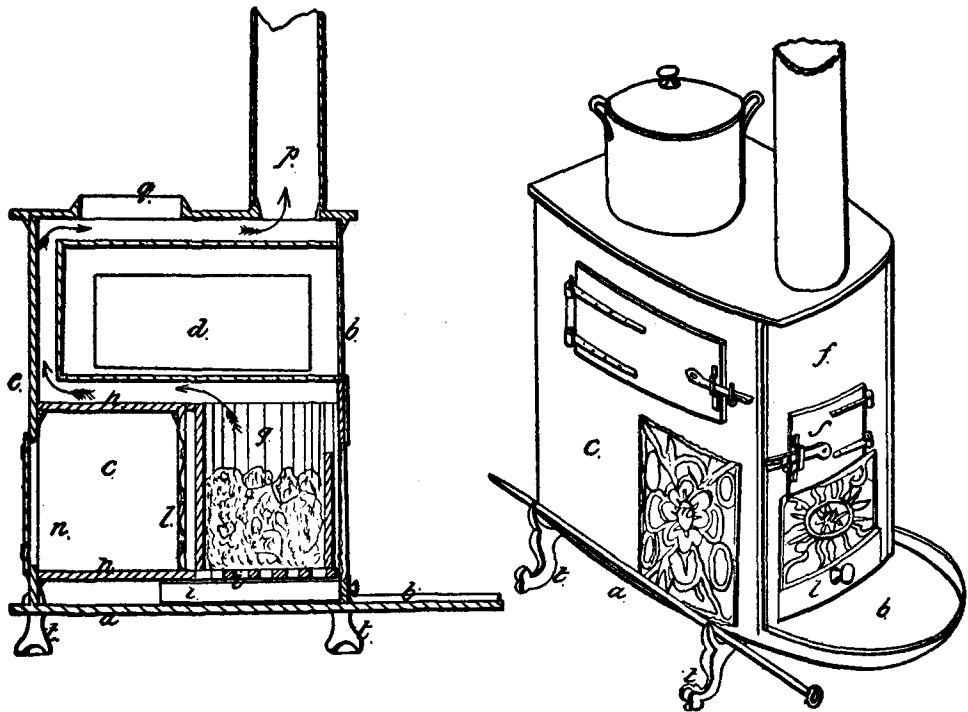


A Benedict Stove, owned and operated by George F. K. Erisman.

P. Benedict.

Cooking Stove.

Patented Oct. 27, 1835.



Drawing of the Benedict Stove.