

Early Presidential Elections in Lancaster County

By C. H. MARTIN

Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, participated in each of the Presidential Elections held since the adoption of the Constitution of the United States. It occupies first place in Pennsylvania in respect to the election of George Washington, as first president of the United States. The convention for selection of Presidential Electors for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was held here November 3, 1788. The candidates agreed upon at Lancaster comprised the ticket known as Lancaster-Federalist Ticket. It was very fitting that conference be held at Lancaster since there were few communities in Pennsylvania wherein George Washington had more close friends and former comrades in arms. In 1788, Pennsylvania had nineteen counties. In the census of 1790, Lancaster County was within a small margin of ranking second in population in the state, and had been and was the center of much activity, being on the main route of travel westward through the Commonwealth. Lancaster was proposed to the Congress as the site for the capital of the United States in 1789, and a few years later, selected as the capital of Pennsylvania.

Having given some study to a number of national campaigns, and made rather intensive study of a few, interested in their controversies, the campaign oratory, the colorful pole raisings, glamour of parades, variety of campaign insignia, such as badges, medals, buttons, broadsides, handkerchiefs, Salt-River tickets, etc., it may qualify me in part as essayist on the subject.

Somewhat introductory to my subject may I remind you the transition from government administered by representatives of the Crown of England, given loyal support by subjects in Lancaster County, from the "erection" of the County in 1729, regardless of immigrants' national origin, to the form of government adopted following the Declaration of Independence, was a far step. The Oath of Allegiance to the new government taken by thousands in Lancaster County, following the Declaration of Independence was not only

binding, but was respected. As freeman, each had the privilege of participating in the new experiment. Franklin on one occasion, when asked what form of government we now have, answered, "A republic, if we can keep it." This has been the challenge to the generations since past. There was a wide contrast between subject and citizen.

Residents of Lancaster County at the time of the election of the first president, included a large number of there-to immigrants, and many of the second, third and some fourth generations born in the county. The large Swiss and German migration naturally resulted in the German tongue predominating in the town and County of Lancaster, which continued for decades. Miss Kieffer's fine paper on "Social Life in Lancaster Borough," appearing in Volume 45, No. 5, Proceedings of this Society, pointed out "that while the English were in very small minority in Lancaster, (which was true to a much larger extent in the county), they were by law and by nature the rulers. The Germans not only obeyed them, but imitated them and as has been further pointed out by this very docility became rapidly fitted for society in a community of free men."

Aside of national origins which clanned those springing from respective European nations, the Loyalist, Anti-Loyalist, and Tory groups of the Revolutionary period, confronted leaders with problems of co-hesing and co-ordinating of thought, on public questions as the nation was taking form. Of significance is the publication of Anton Armbruster, Philadelphia, in 1764, entitled, "Etliche Merckwürdige Punckten betreffende die Verwechselung des Government, Gerichtet an die Deutsche Einwohner der PROVINZ PENNSYLVANIEN." (Some important points concerning the changes in Government directed to the German inhabitants of the Province of Pennsylvania.) Also a volume published by Johann Albrecht & Co., Lancaster, 1799, "Ein Ernstlicher Ruf an die Deutschen in Pennsylvanien. Von einem ihrer Landsleute." (An earnest appeal to the Germans in Pennsylvania by one of their fellow-countrymen.) Such publications, both political in nature, wielded great influence in thought of those among whom these volumes circulated, in respect to public matters.

Among the books of the late Henry H. Bomberger, of Lititz, former member of this Society, is a volume published in Reading about 1800 explaining the new "Constitution." This book was owned and autographed by Christian Hess (1789-1855), grandfather of Mr. Bomberger, and great-grandfather of the writer. Such publications having in mind the fact that few newspapers were published prior to 1800, will be recognized as important factors in formulating political sentiment, and in respect to the volume owned by my great-grandfather advisory and explanatory of the newly-adopted basic law—the Constitution of the United States.

Be it said to the credit of all who settled in early Lancaster County regardless of the much varied national origin, whether English, Swiss, German, French, Scotch-Irish, Welsh, or others, put their shoulder to the wheel to

carve their fortunes out of the wilderness and they and their descendants made great and substantial contribution to the common weal of the province, State and Nation. The process of Americanization had begun operating and democracy was taking form.

By the time of the election of the first president of the United States, under the provision of Article II, of the then recently adopted Constitution, Lancaster County had already existed as a body politic and civil unit for sixty years, was one of the largest, and as before stated, among the most populous counties in the thirteen original states and was in position to give, and gave, great assistance and support in framing the new experiment in government as a United Nation. Witness the services of such men as William Henry, George Ross (signer), Judge Yeates, General Edward Hand, all close friends of Washington, and many others.

The great contribution made by Lancaster County to the cause of Independence, as events transpired from 1770 to Cornwallis' surrender late in 1781, flowed into the events that gave birth to the new nation, the adoption of its fundamental law and election of its first president. Needless to say, Lancaster County was strongly Federalist, supporting a strong Federal Government.

Section 2 of Article II, of the Constitution of the United States, stipulates that each state appoint in such manner as the Legislature thereof may direct a number of Presidential Electors, equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives to which the state may be entitled in the Congress. Section 4, Article II, states that Congress may determine the time of choosing the electors and the day on which they shall give their votes — which day shall be the same throughout the United States. Such date was at variance with election day in the various states, each of which fixed its own election day within thirty-four days of the meeting of the electors; this in accordance with Act of Congress, 1792. Variation of election dates resulted in grave consequences in contiguous states, vote repeating being so easy that it became quite common. Popular demand for reform finally led to an Act by Congress in 1845, fixing the General Election Day the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. This, because in the frontier country, it often was necessary for voters to start the preceding day in order to reach the polls in time to vote. Until 1784, the court house, Lancaster, was the only voting place in the county, which at that time included the areas now comprised in Dauphin and Lebanon Counties, necessitating travel ranging up to fifty or more miles in order to vote. Act of Assembly, September 15, 1785, divided Lancaster County into four election districts. Later, further sub-divisions were made. It was desirable to have a day intervene between Sunday and Election Day; Tuesday was chosen, but the first Tuesday was excluded, since occasionally it fell on the first of the month, making it inconvenient for many business men. The second Tuesday could fall as late as the 14th, leaving only 22 days between election day and the meeting of the Presidential Electors on the first Wednesday in December. The day fixed was therefore the first

Tuesday after the first Monday in November, which placed the date not later than November 8, and always about thirty days before the meeting of the Presidential Electors.

Our town occupied a prominent place in the election of the first president. A state conference was held in Lancaster, November 3, 1788, nominating Congressional Candidates and Presidential Electors. October 9, 1788, a meeting was held in Carlisle, selecting two delegates to attend the Federal Conference to be held at Lancaster, October 27, 1788. Philadelphia announced committees were appointed for several wards to report suitable persons from whom electors may be appointed to represent the city of Philadelphia for the purpose of choosing a president of the United States. Similarly, other counties selected delegates to attend the Lancaster Conference, a press report of which is as follows:

Lancaster, November 3, 1788. At a conference from the several Counties of this State for the purpose of recommending 8 suitable persons to serve in the House of Representatives in the Congress of the U. S. and 10 persons as electors of the President, and Vice President of the U. S., with George Gray, Esq., in the Chair, following were present:

City of Philadelphia	James Wilson	George Latimer
County of Philadelphia	Enoch Edwards	George Gray
Bucks County	John Barclay	William Dean
Chester County	John Hannum	Thomas Bull
Lancaster County	Edward Hand	Robert Coleman
York County	William Crawford	Henry Miller
Cumberland County	George Gibson	Thomas Duncan
Berks County	James Collins	Peter Filbert
Northampton County	John Arndt	Peter Rhoads
Bedford County	Hugh Barclay	
Northumberland County	William Wilfong	Charles Smith
Westmoreland, Washington, Fayette & Allegheny Counties	James O'Hara	John Wilkins, Jr.
Franklin County	Edward Crawford	Jeremiah Talbor
Montgomery County	James Morris	James Vaux
Dauphin County	John Jos. Henry	John Gloninger
Huntingdon County	Andrew Henderson	
Luzerne County	Not represented	

It will be noted these county delegations were listed in sequence keeping with organization dates of the nineteen counties. At this conference, it was unanimously resolved that the following be recommended to be chosen as representatives in the first Congress under the Constitution.

Thomas Hartley	George Clymer
Henry Wynkoop	Thomas Scott
Stephen Chambers	Thomas Fitzsimons
John Allison	Frederick Aug. Muhlenberg

It was also resolved that the following be chosen as Electors of a president and vice-president of the United States.

James Wilson	James O'Hara
Collison Reed	Samuel Potts
Lawrence Keene	George Gibson
John Arndt	David Grier
Edward Hand	Alexander Grayson
Extract from the Minutes—	George Gray, Chairman
James Campbell, Secretary	

These names comprise the ticket known as the "Lancaster-Federalist Ticket." The ticket was not without opposition. At a conference held at Harrisburg, the Anti-Federalist, later known as the Democrat-Republican and still later as the Democrats, likewise named eight candidates for Congress as follows:

General Peter Muhlenberg	General William Irvine
Daniel Heister	William Montgomery
William Findley	Blair McClenachan
Charles Petit	Robert Whitehill

The same conference at Harrisburg named the following ten persons as Electors for president and vice-president:

James Potter	Joseph Heister
Walter Stewart	Thomas Craig
James McLean	David Rittenhouse
John Smilie	Philip Wager
Edward Hand	William Gibbons

General Edward Hand of Lancaster was the only person named Presidential Elector on both tickets. The election for Congressman was held Wednesday, November 26, 1788. Returns for Lancaster County showed the following vote:

<i>Lancaster</i>		<i>Harrisburg</i>	
<i>Federalist Ticket</i>	<i>Votes</i>	<i>Anti-Federalist Ticket</i>	<i>Votes</i>
Frederick A. Muhlenberg	771 E	Charles Petit	346
Henry Wynkoop	656 E	William Findley	347
Stephen Chambers	651	William Irvine	344
Thomas Fitzsimons	652 E	William Montgomery	343
George Clymer	642 E	Peter Muhlenberg	354 E
Thomas Hartley	655 E	Daniel Heister	348 E
Thomas Scott	649 E	Robert Whitehill	223
John Allison	647	Blair McClenachan	342

This was the first election for representatives in the Congress under the Constitution of the United States. The Lancaster Federalist ticket it will be noted, was supported in Lancaster County by nearly two to one over the Anti-Federalist ticket. Returns for the state showed six of the eight candidates for Congress on the Lancaster ticket elected to represent Pennsylvania in the first Congress, and two on the Anti-Federalist ticket. Those elected are indicated by "E." The above record of votes I give in full, because this

vote is likely not of record at any other place than the source from which I fortunately obtained it.

Under an Act passed by the General Assembly of Pennsylvania October 4, 1788, the first election for Presidential Electors in Pennsylvania was held the first Wednesday in January, 1789, which day was January 7. Much satisfaction was expressed in finding the general voice of the people to favor Washington and Adams as president and vice-president under the new government. In encouraging support of the Lancaster ticket, the *Pennsylvania Packet*, published in Philadelphia, contained an address to "Fellow-Citizens;" naming those on the Lancaster ticket, and advised its readers, "The above is the ticket for electors agreed to by conferees who met at Lancaster and although may not suit the wishes of every Federalist in the State, yet it is the only one that could possibly have been formed upon that occasion, which would have been equally satisfactory. Upon learning of an attempt being made to appoint Patrick Henry of Virginia President, and Gov. Clinton of New York Vice President, we encourage every citizen to bring forward the illustrious Washington and Adams."

When votes of Lancaster County for Presidential Electors were tabulated late in 1788, results were found as follows:

Votes		Votes	
James Wilson had	540	Lawrence Keene	540
Samuel Potts	498	George Gibson had	540
Edward Hand	549	James O'Hara	540
John Arndt	539	Collinson Reed	540
David Grier	540	Alexander Grayson	540

Edward Hand was high man in the Lancaster County vote, as in Philadelphia where he received 1545 votes.

(Few remarks re votes among Presidential Electors, Edward Hand being high man, receiving 549 votes. About one and one-half years later (1790), census gave population of Lancaster County, 36,147 which was about one-twelfth the population of Pennsylvania, yet only 549 votes were polled. Population of Pennsylvania in 1790 was 434,000, yet less than 9,000 votes were polled.)

On Monday, April 6, 1789, Congress met as a body in the Senate Chamber, New York City, opened Certificates of the several states' elections for president and vice-president, when, to the great satisfaction of all present, General Washington was found triumphantly elected president and John Adams, being second in rank in electoral votes was, according to the law then in effect, declared elected vice-president. Early on the morning of the 20th of April, 1789, His Excellency Thomas Mifflin, Esq., governor of the state, whose remains lie in Trinity churchyard, Lancaster, headed an official party waiting at the line between the states of Pennsylvania and Delaware for the arrival of President-elect Washington, and escorted him through the town of Chester to Philadelphia, enroute to New York City to take the oath of office. Thus, the first president was elected, to which Lancaster made a notable contribution.

The first term nearing an end, Lancaster was again honored by a meet-

ing of the Pennsylvania delegates to select electors for president and vice-president for the term beginning March 4, 1793. A "feeler" was sent to a number of prominent persons in Pennsylvania to gather opinion on the first presidential term and sentiment regarding successor. Under date of September 25, 1792, a Committee of Correspondence in the City of Philadelphia announced that on August 3, 1792, it had directed letters to 520 persons in various counties of Pennsylvania regarding persons to be nominated for Congress and as electors for president and vice-president. Those addressed in Lancaster County, to the number of nineteen, were:

Jasper Yeates	John W. Kittera	James Clemson
William A. Atlee	George Ross	Abram Carpenter
John Hubley	James Morrison	Jacob Erb, Jr.
Alexander Lowry	John Miller	James Olds
Joseph Work	Colonel James Mercer	Colonel Porter
John Whitehill	John Hopkins	
General Edward Hand	Robert Coleman	

Again, as in the fall of 1788, meetings were held at various places to select conferees to attend conference in Lancaster. The conference was held September 20, 1792, to consider names of suitable persons to represent Pennsylvania in Congress and to serve as Electors. The following attended:

City of Philadelphia	William Lewis	Robert Wain
Bucks County	John Barclay	Abraham Stout
	Gerardus Wynkoop	William Buckman
Chester County	Richard Thomas	William Gibbons
	Samuel Evans	Thomas Ross
Lancaster County	George Ross	John Hubley
	Robert Coleman	Abraham Carpenter
	Charles Smith	Thomas Boude
York County	Henry Slagle	Henry Miller John Hay
Berks County	Gabriel Heister	Cobb Jones
	Jacob Bower	Peter Filbert
	Nicholas Lutz	
Northampton County	William Henry	Robert Brown
Montgomery County	James Morris	John Shoemaker, Jr.
	Edward Shippen, Jr.	
Dauphin County	Cornelius Cox	John Kean
Delaware County	William Graham Preston	
	John Jonas Preston	

Gerardus Wynkoop, was in the Chair, and Thomas Ross acted as secretary. All counties were not represented. A letter received from Cumberland County in lieu of delegate representation, dated Carlisle, September 17, 1792, making certain recommendations was considered but conference considering statements expressed announced the ticket for members of Congress, consisting of thirteen persons.

(Census of 1790 having been taken since the 1788 convention, the number of Congressmen for Pennsylvania was increased from eight to thirteen, resulting in fifteen Presidential Electors — equivalent to the number of Congressmen and the two Senators.)

The conference held at Lancaster selected the following ticket for electors of president and vice-president of the United States on the Federalist ticket.

James Ross	Washington County	David Stewart	Huntingdon County
Robert Coleman	Lancaster County	James Morris	Montgomery County
Henry Miller	York County	George Latimer	Philadelphia County
James Boyd	Northumberland County	Robert Hare	Philadelphia County
William Henry	Northampton County	Joseph Heister	Berks County
Thomas Bull	Chester County	Hugh Lloyd	Delaware County
John Wilkins, Jr.	Allegheny County	Robert Johnson	Franklin County
Cornelius Cox	Dauphin County		

Some other district meetings were held. One at Chambersburg, another at the house of Edward Parker on the Perkiomen Creek, Montgomery County, September 8, 1792, reference to choosing conferees to meet a committee at Lancaster, dated September 20, 1792. The Montgomery meeting suggested nomination for Electors for president and vice-president be entered into immediately, and published for consideration, names of electors.

Thomas McKean	John Montgomery	George Wincoop
Samuel Potts	Benjamin Rittenhouse	Thomas Proctor
David Rittenhouse	Alexander Addison	Joseph Heister
Henry Miller	William A. Atlee	John B. Smith
John Arndt	Samuel Miles	George Wood, Jr.

The Montgomery meeting also named and announced for consideration thirteen citizens as representatives in Congress. At the Lancaster meeting, September 20, 1792, Montgomery County had three delegates attending.

Under date of September 26, 1792, the *American Daily Advertiser*, Philadelphia, announced that Electors for president and vice-president for Lancaster County were:

William A. Atlee	Robert Coleman
John Whitehill	General Edward Hand

Election for Electors in Pennsylvania, was held at different dates during the month of November, 1792. Public announcement was made November 28, 1792, that the Governor of the Commonwealth issued a proclamation declaring that:

William Henry	Robert Coleman	David Stewart
Joseph Heister	Thomas Bull	George Latimer
Thomas McKean	Cornelius Cox	Hugh Lloyd
Henry Miller	Robert Johnston	James Morris
John Wilkins, Jr.	John Boyd	Robert Hare

are duly elected and chosen Electors of a president and vice-president of the United States to serve at the elections in that behalf to be held at Harrisburg on the first Wednesday of December, next, agreeably to the Act of Congress and the Act of the General Assembly of this Commonwealth, in such cases made and provided. Those certified in the Governor's Proclamation includes the fifteen men selected for Electors at the Lancaster Conference on the Federalist ticket, excepting James Ross of Washington County; Thomas McKean being elected over Ross.

The Elector's Certificates were read before the two Houses of Congress February 13, 1793, showing the re-election of Washington and Adams. In this election (1792), George Washington had no opposition for president, though in a majority of the counties, two sets of electors were voted for while in many counties, local candidates received the entire vote. There being nearly one hundred such persons who received from one to one hundred votes in Pennsylvania, which condition explains the item appearing September 23, 1792, naming four Lancaster County men as Electors.

The date of delivery of the famous farewell address by the Father of his Country was approaching. Consideration need be given to a successor. A meeting of a considerable number of members of the Legislature and other citizens of the different counties of Pennsylvania was held in the City of Philadelphia on the evening the Legislature adjourned in 1796, with Samuel Postlethwaite of Cumberland County in the Chair and Robert Frazer of Chester County as Secretary. It was unanimously agreed to recommend the following named persons for Electors of president and vice-president "at the election to be holden on Friday, the 4th day of November next [1796].

Israel Whelen	Thomas Bull	John Hay
Samuel Miles	Robert Coleman	Benjamin Ellicott
Henry Wynkoop	John Carson	Thomas Stokley"
John Arndt	William Wilton	Ephraim Douglas
Valentine Eckhart	Samuel Postlethwaite	John Woods

Article appearing in the *Lancaster Journal*, October 18, 1796, appeals to the freemen of the town and county of Lancaster by addressing

"Fellow-citizens:

"As our beloved President has publicly declined a re-election, it must be the object of every lover of his country to appoint a suitable person as his successor. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams are proposed as candidates." The same publication, November 4, 1796, advises the fellow-citizens to vote for Thomas Jefferson who freed all his slaves, which is sure proof he will not enslave his country. This statement had great appeal in Lancaster County. The first protest of slavery on the American continent was announced by a Committee of the Mennonite Church, Germantown, Pa., February 18, 1688.

Some persons, other than the fifteen selected by the meeting at the close of the Legislature, were proposed in various sections of Pennsylvania for Presidential Electors, for which election was held November 4, 1796. On Friday, December 2, 1796, public announcement was made of the returns of the

election for Electors for Pennsylvania; some few district returns not yet having been received, from scattered areas:

Federalist Ticket

Thomas McKean
James Boyd
William Brown (Lanc. County)
John Whitehill (Lanc. County)
Peter Muhlenberg
Abraham Smith
Jacob Morgan
James Hanna
John Smilie
Joseph Heister
John Piper
William Irvine
William McClay
Robert Coleman (Lanc. County)
Samuel Miles

Republican-Anti-Federalist Ticket

John Hartzell
Samuel Postlethwaite
William Wilson
Israel Whelen
John Carson
James Edgar
Henry Wynkoop
Thomas Bull
Benjamin Ellicott
John Woods
Ephraim Douglas
Valentine Eckhart
John Arndt
Thomas Stockley
Jacob Hay

Candidates on these tickets received votes ranging from 12,306 for McKean, high man, to 12,071 for Stockley, low man—their being only 235 votes between high and low man on these two tickets, showing sentiment in Pennsylvania very closely divided. Proclamation issued by the governor declared elected those on the Federalist ticket, being the fifteen persons receiving the greatest number of votes at the election held November 4, 1796. Among the fifteen men were three of Lancaster County.

Major Willis arrived in Lancaster the evening of December 8, 1796, with the official returns to the governor at Philadelphia, "from the electors met at Harrisburg on Wednesday last." Positive information was obtained that the results of the election were as follows, being the vote of Pennsylvania electors:

For Mr. Jefferson	Rep.-Democrat	14	Electoral	Votes
" Mr. Adams	Federalist	1	"	"
" Mr. Burr	Republican	13	"	"
" Mr. Pinckney	Federalist	2	"	"

Aaron Burr came within 1 electoral vote of carrying Pennsylvania. When the vote of the states was tabulated, John Adams was declared elected.

From the foregoing account of elections in 1788-1792, and 1796, much of which centered in Lancaster, it will be seen no established mode nor uniformity of procedure was followed in respect to the selection of Presidential Electors, nor was procedure defined by Pennsylvania law, the Legislature having taken no action in respect thereto in the decade 1790-1800.

November 1, 1799, Lancaster became the capital of the Commonwealth, thereby becoming the seat of legislation and the center of political activity of the Commonwealth. Under date of October 18, 1800, Governor Thomas McKean issued a proclamation calling a special session of the General Assembly to meet on Wednesday, November 5, 1800, at the Court House, in the

Borough of Lancaster. The proclamation referred to the fact that by the Constitution of the United States, for the purpose of electing a president and vice-president, "each State shall appoint in such manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a number of Electors equal to the whole number of the Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress, and whereas the Legislature of Pennsylvania has omitted to direct the manner in which this state shall appoint the Electors, etc., etc., I have issued this Proclamation."

The fact that Pennsylvania had not enacted legislation to this end provoked sharp criticism. The suggestion was made that petitions be circulated in every township of Lancaster County for redress of this grievance, for presenting to the Legislature when meeting in special session, November 5, 1800, that proper legislation be enacted, that Pennsylvania may not be deprived of her vote in the choice of the chief magistrate of the United States. The *Lancaster Journal* issued an "extra" Wednesday, November 5, 1800, giving the result of the electoral election in fifteen states. Pennsylvania being the only state not among the list, since by this date no Electors had been chosen in Pennsylvania (the nation consisted of sixteen states at this time).

The two Houses of the Pennsylvania Legislature, meeting in the Chamber of the House of Representatives, Lancaster, November 7, 1800, received the governor's address. Section I of the Act drafted, proposed the election be held November 15, 1800, suggesting seven of the Electors be chosen by the Senate and eight by the House of Representatives. (It will be seen the citizens of the state had no voice in the election of Electors in 1800.) Section 2 of the Act provided that "the governor shall cause a notification of the election to be declared in writing to each and every one of the Electors appointed as aforesaid on or before the 22nd day of November inst. The expenses whereof shall be defrayed and paid on a warrant or warrants drawn by him on the state treasury and the said Electors shall assemble on the first Wednesday of November next at the Court House in the Borough of Lancaster, and shall then and there perform the duties enjoined upon them by the Constitution and Laws of the United States." The bill was officially entitled "AN ACT FOR EFFECTUATING ON BEHALF OF THIS STATE THE CONSTITUTIONAL INJUNCTION THAT EVERY STATE SHALL APPOINT ELECTORS OF A PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES," and was duly debated when, on Thursday, November 20, 1800, on the question, "Shall this Bill pass, yeas and nays being called for, it was found that fifty-four members of the House voted yea, and twenty-three voted nay. Lancaster County members supported the bill. The Senate having earlier acted upon the bill, reported the same to the House for concurrence, which being done, the bill was passed. Governor McKean approved the bill, December 1, 1800.

The two Houses met with the Speaker of the Senate presiding. Eight persons were nominated on each side. Those nominated as Presidential Electors — Federalist — were:

Frederick Kuhn
James Armstrong

John Hubley
William Hall

George Ege
Robert Coleman

Samuel W. Fisher
James Crawford, Jr.

Those nominated as Democratic Electors were:

Robert Whitehill
Samuel Wetherill
John Kean
Jonas Hartzel

Gabriel Heister
Presley Carr Lane
Nathaniel B. Boileau
Isaac Van Horne

Since by the bill only seven of the Senate's nominations were to be appointed Electors, all the Democrats opposing Mr. Coleman, his name was deleted from the above named list of nominees. These Presidential Electors met the same day at the capitol in Lancaster at 12 o'clock noon, December 3, 1800, to proceed with business. One hour later announcement was made that the above named Pennsylvania Electors voted as follows:

For Thomas Jefferson	8	For John Adams	7
" Aaron Burr	8	" Charles C. Pinckney	7

Since Presidential Electors for Pennsylvania were selected by the House of Representatives and Senate of Pennsylvania sitting at Lancaster, the citizens did not have an opportunity of expressing by popular vote their choice for president. Under law and procedure then in effect, when the Presidential Electors met, each voted for two candidates for president, the one receiving the highest vote, if a majority, was declared elected president and the next highest vice-president. The vote of Electors of the United States resulted in a tie—Jefferson and Burr each receiving seventy-three electoral votes, which threw the decision into the House of Representatives of the United States. Choice was made on the thirty-sixth ballot, when the Electors of ten states voted for Jefferson and four states for Burr. Delaware, and South Carolina voted "blank." The man whom Lancaster County supported in 1796 and again in 1800 was now declared elected president. Republicans of the Borough of Lancaster met with the civil officers of the state who were then in town, at Eichholtz's tavern to celebrate the inauguration of Thomas Jefferson to the presidency of the United States. Sixteen toasts were drunk.

As the first term of President Jefferson approached termination, Lancaster was again a center of activity. Presidential Electors of Pennsylvania held a two-day session in the Senate Chamber in Lancaster. Present were Charles Thompson, Matthew Lawler, Robert McMullin, William Brooke, Thomas Long, Francis Swaine, Henry Speering, James Boyd, Peter Frailey, Casper Shaffner, Jr., John Bowman, William Brown, George Smith, Jacob Hostetter, Jacob Bonnett, James Montgomery, John Minor, John Hamilton and Nathaniel Irish. Charles Thompson presided. He advised the meeting that due notice had been given the governor that he was at the seat of government and ready to perform the duties of an Elector. Each Elector present similarly stated the governor had been advised. Timothy Matlack, was appointed secretary. A committee of three were appointed to act with the secretary to draw and prepare the required forms. Messrs. Frailey, Shaffner and Boyd served as a committee. Thereafter the meeting adjourned until the next day, Wednesday, December 5, 1804. A message from Governor McKean was presented and read as follows:

Lancaster, December 5, 1804.

"Gentlemen,

"The Secretary will deliver to you herewith, in pursuance of the Act of Congress, in such case made and provided, three lists of the names of the Electors of President and Vice President of the United States, and a transcript of the notification made to me by the Secretary of the United States. I have the honor to be with great respect, your obedient servant,

"THOS. MCKEAN."

Documents mentioned in the governor's message, containing triplicate list, were as follows:

"Pennsylvania, SS.

"Thos. McKean.

"In the name and by the authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Thomas McKean, Governor of the said Commonwealth; To all to whom these presents shall come, certifies & makes known, That the following named persons were duly elected and returned to be Electors of a President and Vice President of the United States, for the term of four years next ensuing the fourth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and five, agreeably to the Constitution and laws of the United States and of Pennsylvania: That is to say: Charles Thompson, William Montgomery, Matthew Lawler, Robert McMullin, William Brooke, Thomas Long, Francis Swaine, Henry Speering, James Boyd, Peter Frailey, Jacob Hostetter, Jacob Bonnett, James Montgomery, John Minor, John Hamilton and Nathaniel Irish.

"Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State, at Lancaster, this fifth day of December in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and four.

"By the Governor,

"T. McThompson, Secretary."

Notice was given that James Madison, Secretary of State of the United States, proclaimed an Amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to the election of president and vice-president had been ratified by the required number of states, and had thereby become valid as part of the Constitution of the United States. The Electors proceeded to ballot upon completion of which the tellers advised that Thomas Jefferson had twenty votes for president, and that George Clinton had twenty votes for vice-president, to which return the Electors each set hand and seal, and the vote was transmitted from Lancaster to the President of the Senate, Washington, D. C. Volume 5 of the Proceedings of this Society (year 1901) contains minutes of the meetings of the Presidential Electors, December 4 and 5, 1804, in Lancaster in detail, to which further reference may be had.

Upon tallying votes of the Electors of the states in Washington, it was found that Thomas Jefferson was re-elected for the term beginning March 4, 1805. With the re-election of the president, the bi-centennial of whose birth has been celebrated this year, the first paper on this subject draws to a close. It is the hope of the writer to cover the activity of Lancaster County in later presidential elections at a subsequent date.