



M. J. Brecht  
1877.

### MILTON J. BRECHT

Born at Old Line, Rapho Township, Lancaster County, 1855.

Educated in rural schools and Millersville Normal School.

Taught Locust Grove School, Rapho Township, 1872.

Marietta Schools, 1875-1877.

Principal Manheim Schools, 1877-1880.

Superintendent of Mount Joy Orphan School, 1880-1883.

Superintendent of Public Schools, Lancaster County, 1883-1911.

Member Public Service Commission, Pennsylvania, 1911-1923.

Died, 1925.



M. J. Brecht  
1921.

N<sup>o</sup>. 1. Hughes's Club —  
H. Newton Pippin. —

THE  
*Edinburgh* GAZETTE  
POCKET ALMANACK.

For the Year 1778.

Being the Third Year of American  
Independence.

Fitted to the use of Pennsylvanians, and the  
neighbouring States.

CONTAINING

A variety of useful LISTS and  
TABLES.

By Anthony Sharp, *Philos.*



LANCASTER:

PRINTED BY FRANCIS BAILEY,  
WHO IS REMOVED FROM THE NORTH TO  
THE SOUTH-SIDE OF KING-STREET,  
A FEW HOUSES BELOW THE MARKET.

# Francis Bailey, Printer

By JOSEPH T. KINGSTON

This is the story of a forgotten man.<sup>1</sup>

His name was Francis Bailey and he was a printer. He also was a native of Lancaster County and a most prominent and colorful character of Lancaster's Revolutionary period. Yet, oddly enough, you will find little mention of him in the published local history of that period.

This was the man who first bestowed upon General George Washington the title: "Father of His Country." This was the man whose name was a byword among Lancastrians less than 200 years ago. Yet today he is virtually unknown, except to students of typographical Americana, who recognize in Bailey's beautifully-executed imprints the work of a master craftsman whose letterpress was equally facile in both the English and German languages.

It's a far cry from the perfecting presses of a modern print shop to the little flatbed job that groaned and shuddered under the twisting lever-pressure of Francis Bailey, but the results he obtained survive today to stand critical comparison with some of the best black-and-white printing of our times.

A perfect example of his work turned up recently when C. H. Martin, came into possession of a copy of the vest-pocket edition of the 1778 Lancaster Almanac, preserved almost in mint condition through all the rolling, hectic years of American history.

The little book started its long journey through time in the fall of 1777, when, brand-new, it was purchased by a certain "IBB," presumably of Lancaster.

Presumably, again, IBB bought the book at Bailey's printing office, located either on the site of or one door west of the present Lancaster Newspapers' building on West King Street. At any rate, he paid three shillings six pence for it, and judging from the written evidence he left on its blank pages, he got his money's worth.

A gentleman of 1778, equipped with a vest-pocket edition of Francis Bailey's Lancaster Almanac, had quite a tidy store of information at his fingertips, and conceivably could best any of the tavern loafers in geographical as well as astronomical arguments.

For one thing, he knew to the mile just how far it was to Quebec in Canada, or to Fort Pitt at the head of the Ohio country. Furthermore, he could name all the intermediate stops and the distances between each. When

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<sup>1</sup> The Publication Committee disagrees with this statement. Line after line appears in our pamphlets and in local histories on Francis Bailey, giving full praise to the merits of this master artisan. But Mr. Kingston's paper gives us some new and important items which justify publication.

His father's estate had been transferred to him in 1797, two years before the old man's death at the age of 90. Here Francis built a new print shop where, in the years after his own death, his son Robert carried on the trade.

Many worthwhile things came from the Bailey press during these latter years, including a beautiful edition of the more serious poems of his old editor, Philip Freneau. Francis Bailey's imprints included translations of many foreign works on philosophy, natural science and world travel, plus scores of domestic literary works. He was recognized throughout the Colonies as a master printer, and continued as the official printer for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania until his death in 1815.

There is no way of knowing what Francis Bailey, Lancaster's forgotten man, might think of his old neighborhood today. His print shop is gone, but in its place is another, where scores of people, working in shifts around the clock, turn out the news through two dailies and one weekly (Sunday) year after year, distributing thousands of copies of each. Beyond any doubt, the old printer would find this amazing establishment the most fascinating of all the complex miracles at hand in modern Lancaster.

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\*Cited in Dictionary of American Biography account of Francis Bailey, Printer.