

Lancaster in 1830

Luther Richards

[Editor's note: The author prepared the following article for publication in the **Daily Examiner and Express** on 17 March 1880, the fiftieth anniversary of his arrival in Lancaster. This eyewitness account provides an intimate glimpse of Lancaster in 1830. After his newspaper career ended, Mr. Richards served as Register of Wills. He died in 1886.]

Fifty years ago to-day (March 17, 1830), the writer of this left his native town of York, Pennsylvania, to come to Lancaster, to assist in starting the **Lancaster Examiner** (the first number of which was issued April 15, 1830), under the editorial management of Samuel Wagner, who had been editor of the **York Recorder** (now the **York Republican**) and with whom he was learning his trade. What changes time has wrought! The **Recorder** was printed on an old "Ramage" press, and with balls, instead of rollers. But few printers of the present time know anything about balls, and fewer still have seen them. By hard, steady and persistent work, a token of paper (ten quires of twenty-four sheets) could be thrown off in an hour, and it required an expert to "fly the frisket," even at that rate. Now the lightning presses print from 25,000 to 30,000, besides folding them at the same time. The first rollers used in printing were made by the late Hugh Maxwell, of this city. It consisted of a wooden cylinder, and was covered with buckskin; now they are made of a composition of glue and molasses.

During the half century of his residence here many changes have taken place. Then the population was from seven to eight thousand; now it is about thirty thousand. Nearly the entire grown-up population of that period is gone. Here and there one remains, but the vast majority have "strutted their brief hour on the stage of existence," and are now treading the shores of the unseen world.

Lawyers in 1830

The Bar of that day was considered one of the ablest in the State. In 1830 the Lancaster Bar was composed of the following members: James Hopkins, William Norris, Amos Ellmaker, William Jenkins, William C. Frazer, James Buchanan, John R. Montgomery, Molton C. Rogers, Samuel Parke, Henry Rogers, Charles Eastburne, Thomas H. Burrowes, Emanuel C. Reigart, Reah Frazer, George W. Barton, Henry G. Long, William B. Fordney, Zephaniah McLenegan, George B. Withers, William Henry, George Heckert, Washington Hopkins, Benjamin Champneys, George B. Porter, A. L. Hayes, Patton Ross, William Whiteside and Willet C. Ogilby.

Of this number, James Buchanan became President of the United States; George B. Porter, Governor of Michigan Territory, by appointment of President Jackson; Molton C. Rogers, a Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania; A. L. Hayes, a Judge of the District Court, and subsequently Associate Law Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Lancaster county; William C. Frazer, a Judge of the Supreme Court of Wisconsin Territory, by appointment of President Jackson. After serving in that capacity for about eighteen months, he paid a visit to his old home, and in returning to his field of labor went by the way of Buffalo, and embarked on board the steamer General Wayne, for Milwaukee. A great storm occurred on the lake at that time, which caused the Judge to become very sick, and from which he never recovered. He died at Milwaukee a few days after landing. His remains were brought to Lancaster and interred in the old Carpenter burying ground, in Leacock township; Amos Ellmaker, Attorney General under Governor Findlay, and a candidate for Vice President, on the ticket with William Wirt, of Maryland, in 1832; Benjamin Champneys, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Lancaster county, a State Senator in 1842, and Attorney General under Governor Shunk; Henry G. Long, for twenty years President Judge of the courts of Lancaster county, a member of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, and a member of the Reform Convention of 1837 and 1838; William B. Fordney was Prosecuting Attorney for two terms under the administration of Governor Porter; George W. Barton, a Judge of the Quarter Sessions Court of Philadelphia, and died in San Francisco, California, many years ago; William Jenkins was Prosecuting Attorney for twenty-nine years, Recorder of the city from 1845 to 1853, and Judge of the Mayor's Court; Emanuel C. Reigart was a member of the State Legislature, also a member of the Reform Convention of 1837 and 1838, and United States Commissioner to the World's Fair, at London; Patton Ross was Recorder of the city for nineteen years, and Judge of the Mayor's Court from 1821 to 1840.

Fifty years ago Hon. Walter Franklin was President Judge of the Courts of Lancaster county, and John Lightner and Samuel Dale, Associate Judges. Of the entire Bar of that day, but two are living—Henry G. Long and William B. Fordney.

Doctors

The following were the members of the medical faculty of that day, viz: Abraham Carpenter, Frederick A. Muhlenberg, Samuel Humes, George B. Kerfoot, John L. Atlee, Washington L. Atlee, Samuel Fahnestock, William B. Fahnestock, Derrick Fahnestock, Francis Burrowes, John Miller, William Thompson, Charles Herbst, Clarkson Freeman, Sr., Isaac Carpenter, Samuel Dufresne, John Lechleitner, John Leonard, Abraham Breneman and Jacob Sherer. Of this number but three are living—Drs. John L. Atlee and William B. Fahnestock, of Lancaster, and Isaac Carpenter, for many years a resident of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Preachers

In 1830 the following were the clergymen or pastors of the several churches of Lancaster, as correctly as my memory serves me now: Rev. Bernard Keenan, St. Mary's Catholic Church; for more than fifty years he was pastor of St. Mary's, and no minister was more popular inside of his own denomination and with the public generally than he. He died at the age of nearly one hundred years, in the winter of 1877.

Rev. John C Baker, Trinity Lutheran Church. For more than a quarter of a century Father Baker ministered unto the congregation of old Trinity. A better, purer man never lived. He removed to Philadelphia about 1853, and died in that city over twenty years ago. His remains were brought to Lancaster, and are now interred in Woodward Hill Cemetery.

Rev. John H. Hoffmeier, German Reformed (now First Reformed Church). He preached entirely in the Germany language. He came to Lancaster in the fall of 1806, preached in the Reformed Church upwards of 25 years, and died in 1838, aged 78 years.

Rev. Charles Frederick Reichel, pastor of the Moravian Church.

Rev. John Elliott, Independent Methodist. The church was situated on Church Street, near Duke. Rev. Elliott was an able and popular preacher.

Methodist Episcopal Church, situated on Walnut Street. I have been told that they had no regular preacher here until 1829, when Joseph McCool was appointed. He was succeeded by Thomas Miller in 1830, John Nicholson in 1831 and John Lednum in 1832.

Rev. Mr. Ashmead, of the Presbyterian Church, was pastor for six or eight years and died in 1829, and was succeeded by the Rev. Mr. Dickinson, who was pastor until 1835, when he was succeeded by the Rev. Mr. Davie.

Rev. Samuel Bowman, St. James's Episcopal Church. Dr. Bowman was rector of St. James's Church for over thirty years. In 1858 he was elected and ordained Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania. His death was a sad one. In the early part of August, 1861, he was on an Episcopal visitation to the churches in the western part of the State, and while traveling between Butler and Pittsburg, a landslide occurred on the railroad. The Bishop undertook to walk part of the distance and was found dead on the side of the road. His remains were brought to Lancaster and interred in St. James's churchyard. His funeral was one of the largest ever seen in the city. The entire clergy of the diocese, and many prominent clergymen from abroad were in attendance. Bishop Bowman was the perfect Christian gentleman, and beloved by all who knew him.

Editors

The editors of 1830 comprised the names of such men as John Reynolds, of the **Lancaster Journal**. Captain Reynolds was a handsome, portly gentleman, and possessed editorial ability. He was the father of the lamented General John F. Reynolds, who was killed at Gettysburg, July 2d, 1863; of Admiral Wm. F. Reynolds, of the United States Navy, who died in Washington, in the fall of 1879, and of James L. Reynolds, who was Quartermaster General of the State, under Governor Curtin's administration. Captain Reynolds died in 1853 in the city of Baltimore.

Hugh Maxwell, of the **Lancaster Gazette**, was an Irishman by birth. He was a vigorous writer, and did much in his editorial capacity to develop the wonderful resources of the State. He invented the buckskin roller, which took the place of the old-fashioned buckskin balls. He died about twenty years ago.

Cyrus S. Jacobs printed a paper called the **Antimasonic Opponent**. He was killed in a Western city many years ago.

Mrs. Mary Dickson, proprietor, and Thomas Ferran, editor of the **Lancaster Intelligencer**. Mrs. Dickson's husband started the **Intelligencer** in 1799, and published it to the day of his death. Mrs. Dickson for many years was postmistress of Lancaster. Mr. Ferran subsequently received a clerkship in the Treasury Department at Washington, under General Jackson's administration, and died only a few years ago. The paper is now published by Steinman & Hensel.

Theophilus Fenn, of the **Lancaster Herald**. Mr. Fenn subsequently became State Printer of Pennsylvania, and was the founder of the **Harrisburg Telegraph**, and in his day exercised considerable influence upon the politics of Pennsylvania. Mr. Fenn is still living, in the village of Marysville, Dauphin county, and is now a very old man.

Samuel Wagner of the **Lancaster Examiner**. Mr. Wagner, as I have before mentioned, came from York. He was an able writer, and his paper had great influence in the county. He published it for four years, when he sold it to Hammersly & Richards, who united it with the **Herald**, and published it for some years under the title of the **Examiner and Herald**, and then sold it to Robert White Middleton. In 1841 Edward C. Darlington purchased it, and until October, 1858, was sole proprietor, when he sold it to Hiestand, Huber and Heckert. Mr. Wagner died in Washington city some six or eight years ago.

John Baer, of the **Volksfreund and Beobachter**, one of the most influential German papers in the State. Mr. Baer was the founder of the well-known "Baer's Almanac," which is held in high authority in Pennsylvania and the adjoining States. He also established the extensive book and publishing house, now successfully carried on by his sons. Mr. Baer died in 1858.

William Albright, of the **True Democrat**, a German paper, and devoted to the interests of the Democratic party.

Herman W. Ville, printed an English and German paper on the same sheet, called the **Standard of Liberty**, and was of the Democratic faith.

Apprentice Boys, 1830

Of the apprentices to the printing business fifty years ago, five yet survive. Abraham Hitz and Harry Geiter, of the **Herald**, John H. Pearsol of the **Gazette**, Henry Faesig of the **True Democrat** and Luther Richards of the **Examiner**. Dr. Hitz is now connected with the **New Era**; Mr. Geiter, the "Ajax" of the **Intelligencer** during the war, is still "pursuing the even tenor of his way" in that office; John H. Pearsol and Henry Faesig are running job offices, and Luther Richards is not engaged in any business at present. They have all nearly arrived at the age allotted to man, "three score and ten."

Store Keepers

The names of those prominent in mercantile business in 1830 were:

On North Queen street—Henry and David Longenecker, Boude & McLenegan, J. and P. Long, Charles F. Hoffmeier, William Kirkpatrick, John Ehler, Christian Rine, Lane & Orrick, and George Withers.

On East King street—John Longenecker, Philip K. Breneman, John N. Lane, Kline & McClure, and George B. Markley.

On West King street—John Myers, Christopher Hager, William Bryan, Henry P. Carson and Daniel Harman. Of this number but three are living—Henry P. Carson, of this city, and David Longenecker and Samuel Boude of Philadelphia.

Iron Mongers—John F. Steinman, on West King street; George Louis Mayer, on East King street; Col. George Mayer and Benjamin Shaum, on North Queen Street. John F. Steinman is the only survivor, and is now in the ninety-second year of his age.

Innkeepers of Fifty Years Ago

North Queen street—John Michael, sign of the wagon and horses and a bunch of grapes; John Bachman, Black Horse; Samuel Ringwalt, sign of the steamboat, in the house where Amos Lee now has a restaurant; George Danner, sign of the Eagle (now Shober's); John Hatz, Sr., Franklin House; Michael Metzgar, sheaf of wheat (now the Cadwell House); Jacob Sherer, corner of North Queen and Lemon streets (no sign).

Prince street—Joseph Barnitz, Red Lion; John J. Martin, Eagle (now the "Relay House").

A small hotel on the corner of Prince and Walnut streets, kept by a man named Hinkle or Finefrock, not certain which.

West Orange street—Christopher Brenner, sign, Western Hotel.

West King street—William Hambright, Cross Keyes; Benjamin Witmer, Lamb; William Cooper, Red Lion; John Berg, Sorrel Horse; Benjamin Briceland, Stag; Mrs. Steffy, King of Prussia; John Murray, Rising Sun; Christian Swentzel, Farmer; John Hamilton, Plough; George Hitzelberger, Green Tree.

Manor street—John Kautz, sign, Lafayette.

Chestnut street—John Cosgrove, sign, Gen. Washington.

East King street—George Messenkop, Black Bear; Leonard Eicholtz, Bull's Head; Edward Parker, Golden Eagle (Slaymaker House); David

Miller, no sign, in the house where Samuel Demuth has his confectionery; Jacob Duchman, Leopard; Jacob Rathfon, sign, Farmer; Henry Diffenbach, sign, William Pitt; Timothy Rogers, sign, Golden Horse; Thomas Jeffries, sign Eastern Hotel; _____, sign, Indian Queen; Bernard McGonigle, sign, Daniel O'Connell; Ephraim Bowman, sign, Green Tree; Patrick O'Donnell, sign, General Washington; George Fondersmith, sign, Wagon and Horses; John Swartz, sign, Olympic Garden.

On the corner of Orange and Ann streets—James Cory, sign, Drove of Cattle.

Market Square—John Wolf, sign, Black Bear.

In Centre Square—John Stehman kept the Swan Hotel, but in 1830 was elected steward of the almshouse, and Edward Parker became proprietor of the Swan, but in a few years was succeeded by Mrs. Rosina Hubley, who purchased the property and kept it as a hotel for many years.

South Queen street—John Whiteside, Fountain Inn; Mrs. Hubley, Fish Market Hotel, (now kept by John Hess, sign of the Swan); Christian McManus, Lamb Hotel; William Russel, sign, drove of horses; Mrs. Ann Knight, Half-way House; George Wein, Columbia Garden, Corner of South Queen and Middle streets—George Hinkle, sign. _____; John Culbert, sign, eagle on the poplar tree.

Chestnut street—Jacob Fordney, no sign.

Of this number not one is living.

In connection with the account of hotels, etc., there is something worthy of particular mention, and that is that uncle Henry Michael has continuously, for more than fifty years, been clerk of the "Grape Hotel." He is still at his post, and judging from present appearances he will be good for twenty years to come. He is to-day well and favorably known to thousands of travelers who have been guests of this good old house.

Distillers

North Queen street—Jacob Sherer, Samuel Conner and John Hatz.

Walnut street—John J. Martin.

Chestnut street—Robert Elliott.

Mulberry street—Philip Pyle, George Kuhns.

Charlotte street—John Baumiller and Jacob Musketnuss.

Arch alley—George Gundaker.

Manor street—Daniel Erisman.

Water street—Jacob Kuhns.

South Queen street—David Lebkicher and Henry Silvius.

Orange street—Jacob King and Patton Ross. All are dead but one—George Gundaker. Although we had many distilleries at that time, there is not one at present.

Brewers—Bernard Haag, George Kleiss, Jacob Leaman and John Springer. All dead.

Saddlers—Emanuel Sheaffer, John A. Keller, Emanuel Trissler, Christopher Kurtz, John Reed, John Leonard, Henry Pinkerton, Centre Square; Henry Pinkerton, East King, and also called farmer); Michael Hambright

and Jacob L. Hoffmeier. Mr. Hoffmeier is the only survivor.

Tobacconists—Jacob Demuth, Peter G. Eberman, Peter Shindle, John S. Gable, Henry Kepley and Henry Kreiner. John S. Gable is the only one that remains.

Wine and Liquor Store—Adam Reigart. Dead.

Tailors—Peter Hare, James Whiteside, Robert Russel, Michael Westhaeffer, Simon J. Young, John Spurrier, Michael Hoover, Andrew Selvert, Michael Kitch, Samuel Stine, George Etter, John Bomberger, Jacob Harmany, George Danner and Joseph B. Myers. All dead.

Stonecutters—Daniel Fagan and James Johnson. Both dead.

Coachmakers—Thomas Cox, Luke Brown, Jacob Somers, John Baker, William Tyndal and Jacob Zecher. All dead.

Music Store—John Wind. Dead.

Cabinetmakers—John Christ, Jacob Bear, Alexander Danner, Michael Wimer, Jarvis White, William Frick, Henry M. Miller, John Eberman, Benjamin D. Gill, John Weidler and Stacy Swem. All dead.

Portrait Painters—Jacob Eicholtz. He was celebrated in his day, and many of his portraits adorn the walls of a number of our older citizens. Arthur Armstrong was also a painter of some celebrity. Both are dead.

Coopers—George King, David Wiley, John Campbell, Frederick Mahling and Henry Showers. All dead but Mr. Campbell.

Dentists—But one—Dr. Abner Thomas. Dead.

Druggists—John F. Heinitsh, John F. Long, James Smith, Dr. Jacob Sherer and Dr. Moore, Centre Square. John F. Long is the only survivor.

Grocers—But one—Andrew Stewart. Dead.

All the dry goods stores at that time kept groceries, which accounts for the small number of grocers.

Shoemakers and Shoe Dealers—Peter McConomy, Charles Gillespie, A. N. and George Breneman, Jacob Griel, Henry Eicholtz, Thomas C. Wiley, Godlieb Halbach, Gerhart Metzger, George Daly and James Harkins. Of this number three are yet with us—Charles Gillespie, A. N. Breneman and Jacob Griel.

Hatters—William and Daniel Heitshu, Michael Graeff & Brother, John H. Duchman (hat store), Levi and Timothy Rogers and George Crouse. Of this number Daniel Heitshu is the only one living.

Gunsmiths—John Drepperd, Henry Gibbs, Melchoir Fordney, Christopher Gumpf, Jacob Gumpf and Jacob Fordney. All dead.

Bankers—John Eberman, Cashier of the Farmers' Bank of Lancaster. James Evans, Cashier of the Lancaster Bank. Joseph Ogilby, Cashier of the Branch Bank of Pennsylvania. All dead.

Chairmakers—Samuel Humes, Jacob Fetter, Jacob Weaver and Abraham Bitner. All dead.

Watchmakers—George Ford, Sr., Joseph Eberman, John Brown, Martin & Philip Shreiner and George Franciscus. All dead.

Brushmakers—Godfried Zahm and Bonum Samson. Both dead.

Carpenters—Jacob Hensel, Joshua W. Jack, Richard Waters, Michael and Daniel Erisman, John Sener, Anthony McGlinn, Thomas Jefferies, Jacob Dorwart, John Steigerwalt, Alexander Miller, John F. Yeager, Conrad Yeisley, John Erisman, Henry Flick and William Hensel. But two are living—Joshua W. Jack and William Hensel.

Plainmakers [sic]—Emanuel Carpenter and Jacob Heise. Both dead.

Blacksmiths—Michael Walker, Francis Russel, Valentine Hoffman, Gotleib Sener, John Cosgrove, Frederick Zecher, John Craig, Jacob Ackerman, Frederick Renley, John Schaubel, George Ackerman and Daniel Wertz. Three of this number are living—Frederick Zecher, Daniel Wertz and Michael Walker.

Whitesmiths—John Bush and John Smith. Both dead.

Brickmakers—Jacob Bundell and George Kautz. Both dead.

Tin and Coppersmiths—Christian Kieffer, William Ihling, John Getz, Jacob Gable, John Weitzel, George Trissler, Peter Gerber and Tony Weitzel. Mr. Kieffer was Mayor of this city from 1852 to 1854. He yet survives, and is over eighty years of age. The others are dead.

Bakers—John Mumm, Joseph Hannum and John Roeting. All dead.

Confectioners—Henry Keffer and Louis C. Jungerich. Mr. Jungerich is yet living and resides in Philadelphia.

Butchers—Jacob Kauffman, George and Henry Miller, Henry Snyder, Michael Trissler, John Metzger, Philip Metzger, Jacob Leibley, Andrew Leibley, Henry Metzger, Henry Young and Peter Huber. Michael Trissler is the only one living.

Plasterers—John Benedict, Henry F. Benedict, John Dorwart and James Stone. Henry F. Benedict is the only one living.

Lastmakers—Michael Gross and Dayton Ball. Both dead.

Turner—John Block. Dead.

Chandlers—Jacob McCulley and Jacob Miller. Both dead.

Book Binders—John Getz, George L. Doersch and Samuel White. Mr. Doersch is still living.

Book Store—Albert F. Osterloh. Mr. O. now resides in Hollidaysburg, Blair county, Pennsylvania.

Potters—Charles Shaeffer, Ingham Wood, Charles Cordes and Henry Gast. Mr. Gast is living.

Wagonmakers—Christian Zecher, Jacob Snyder and David Hook. Mr. Zecher is yet living and is in the 84th year of his age.

Ropemakers—Adam Metzger and George Martin. Mr. Martin is living.

Pumpmakers—George Miller. Dead.

Tanners—George H. Krug, George Musser, Emanuel Reigart, Sr., and Philip Albright. All dead.

Jackscrew-makers—Casper Bruner and Peter Bruner. Both dead.

Bricklayers—Dennis Marion, George Winouer, Abraham Winouer, John Powell, William Jones and Thomas McGeehan. All dead.

Stonemasons—Robert McDonnell and Peter Ruth. Both dead.

House-painters—Jacob Gerber, John Gerber, Peter Winouer, Thomas Westwood and Benjamin Lorentz. All dead.

Livery—William C. Hull and John Hatz. Both dead.

Museum—Centre Square—John Landis. Dead.

Brokers—John and Philip Reitzel. Both dead.

Fifty years ago Nathaniel Lightner was Mayor of the city of Lancaster. In 1831 John Mathiot was elected Mayor and held the office for twelve years.

Nine Churches in 1830

Fifty years ago we had but nine churches in this city, viz:

Trinity Lutheran, St. James's Episcopal, Presbyterian, Reformed, St. Mary's Catholic, Moravian, Methodist, Independent Methodist (John Elliott) and the African.

Thirty-eight Churches in 1880

Now we have thirty-eight churches and chapels, viz:

Trinity Lutheran, Rev. Mr. Greenwald; Zion's Lutheran, Rev. Mr. Mayser; Grace Lutheran, Rev. Mr. Haupt; St. Stephen's Lutheran, Rev. Mr. Porr, St. John's Lutheran, Rev. Mr. Hufford; Christ Lutheran, West King, vacant; St. Anthony's Catholic, Rev. Mr. Kaul; St. Mary's Catholic, Rev. Mr. Hickey; St. Joseph's Catholic, Rev. Mr. Grotemyer; St. James's Episcopal, Rev. Mr. Knight; St. Paul's Reformed, Rev. Mr. Shumaker; First Reformed, Rev. Mr. Peters; Synagogue, Hebrew, — —; Moravian, Rev. Mr. Shultz; Bethel, Rev. Mr. Laverty; St. John's Reformed (German), Rev. Mr. Kueling; Salem, Orange street, Rev. Mr. Soule; Hospital, etc., Catholic, Rev. Mr. Ignatius Sagerer; St. Luke's Reformed, Marietta avenue, Rev. Mr. Wiant; Evangelical Association — Second church, Mulberry street, Rev. Mr. Feger; Salem, Water street, Rev. Mr. Adams; Methodist Mission, East King street, Rev. Mr. Givler; St. Paul's Methodist, Rev. Mr. Lindemuth; Presbyterian, Rev. Mr. Mitchell; First Baptist, Rev. Mr. Morrison; Methodist Episcopal, Rev. Mr. Smith; Mennonite, old, Chestnut street, no particular pastor; Mennonite, new, German street, no particular pastor; Dunkard, Mulberry street, no particular pastor; St. John's Episcopal, Free Church, Rev. Mr. Barker; Methodist, North Charlotte, Rev. Mr. Givler; Gotwald Mission, Lutheran, no pastor at present; St. Stephen's, Franklin and Marshall College, no particular preacher; Antioch Mission, North Prince street, Rev. Mr. Soule; Presbyterian, South Queen street, Mission, no pastor; Episcopal, Locust street, Mission, no pastor; African, Rev. Mr. Roberson; Church of God, Union Bethel, corner of Green and Christian streets, Rev. Mr. Laverty; Second Baptist, no church, worshiping in Kramphs row; Swedenborgian, worshiping over John F. Long's drug store.

There are doubtless some omissions and some errors in the above list, but it is as near correct as my memory could make it.



Photograph of the intersection of North Queen and Orange streets about 1880. North Queen Street runs northward from foreground. Shober's Columbian Hotel (now the YMCA corner) is the large building in center. Buildings at left are still standing although changed.

Photograph of northeast corner of Penn Square at East King Street. Notice trunk-maker's sign, gas lamp, pump and watchman's box. View about 1870.

