

Lancaster in 1876

Observing the Centennial Year

April 1 - June 30, 1876

Annotated by Dr. George L. Heiges

“MARIETTA ITEM - On Saturday last John Bell of Marietta shot a fine specimen of the American Swan (*Cygnus Americanus*) on the river opposite the Holloware Works. It measured 4 ft. 2 in. in length and six feet, three inches across the wings and weighed a little over sixteen pounds.”

- April 1, 1876

The correct scientific name of the American or Whistling Swan is *Olor columbianus*. Dr. Herbert H. Beck writing in Klein's history of Lancaster County about this bird stated that usually these swans mate on the Susquehanna flats in late March and straggle northward in twos and threes. Then he adds this very interesting note: “On April 3, 1922, in a movement that had never before been observed by old rivermen, the company passed en masse up the river to Marietta, where they studded the broad water with thousands of their snowy forms, and later stirred the town by the din of their excited whinnys as in small troops they circled low over the housetops in the night.”

“CONFIRMATION IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCHES - In St. James Church the only service held was in the morning which was protracted to nearly two o'clock in the afternoon, confirmation having been preceded by the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Nineteen persons ratified their baptismal vows and Bishop Howe preached an able and interesting discourse.

In St. Johns' Church, the Sacrament was administered in the morning. In the evening Bishop Howe confirmed 18, preached an able sermon from the suggestive inquiry of the Saviour 'Where are the

nine?" and addressed the candidates in his usual feeling manner."

- April 3, 1876

Bishop Mark Anthony deWolfe Howe was born in Bristol, Rhode Island and began his notable career in the ministry 1832. In the course of his life he served as rector in Boston, Roxbury, Cambridge, all in Massachusetts and at St. Luke's Church, Philadelphia. In 1871 he was chosen as the first bishop of the new Episcopal diocese of Central Pennsylvania. He took up his residence in the city of Reading where he continued to live until 1895 in which year he relinquished the burdens of the bishopric. In that same year, he returned to Bristol, Rhode Island where his life began; and there he died.

"JAPANESE ENROUTE TO THE CENTENNIAL - About 50 Japanese, believed to be merchants and men of wealth from San Francisco, passed through this city this morning on the Pacific Express bound for the Centennial. They were dressed in American costumes and gave evidence of having plenty of money with them, according to the statements of the employees about the depot."

"THE GYMNASIUM - The attic of the new High School building could meet the wants of youthful sport admirably. There is nothing we are assured in their performances that will in the least deface or damage the structure. We hope the Board will consider the proposition favorably. Make the boys happy, Give them the gymnasium."

An Editorial
- April 5, 1876

"JOHN B. GOUGH AT FULTON HALL - The citizens of Lancaster will have an opportunity this evening of listening once more to the greatest of American orators and mimics. Mr. Gough has always been a favorite in Lancaster and his old friends, after an interval of many years will give him an enthusiastic ovation on this occasion. He is well worthy of it. Mr. Gough arrived in the afternoon train and is stopping at the Stevens House. He is accompanied by Mrs. Gough."

- April 6, 1876

"GOUGH'S GREAT LECTURE - A larger and more intelligent audience never gathered in Fulton Hall than that which was present last evening to hear the celebrated John B. Gough's lecture on

'Blunders.' The lecturer was introduced by J. L. Steinmetz."

"Mr. Gough was listened to with the deepest attention for two hours. He labored under a severe cold but he has lost none of his old time vigor and earnestness. Some of the passages last night were grand, and he has the happy faculty of moving you to laughter one moment and the next to tears. As a mimic we have never heard his equal, as a lecturer he has no superior. There is but one John B. Gough."

- April 7, 1876

Born in England in 1817, John B. Gough came to America in 1829. He led a dissipated life until 1842 when he reformed and from then until his death in 1886 devoted most of his time to the cause of abstinence from liquor. Gough estimated shortly before his death that he had delivered more than 9600 lectures. He lectured to the last, dying in the midst of a speaking tour at Frankford, Pennsylvania. In his files were the signed pledges of 140,000 persons who had been led to give up beverage liquor under his influence.

"WASHINGTON BOROUGH - On last Tuesday the first three rafts of the season passed our borough for the lower markets. Henry Strouse and wife boarded one of the rafts with all their household and kitchen furniture, for a 'flit' to the State of Maryland."

- April 8, 1876

Can anyone fully visualize a man and his wife with their household furniture moving by a lumber raft from Washington Borough to Maryland one hundred years ago?

"MANHEIM - A visit to this thriving suburb last Sunday afternoon was highly enjoyed. The cemetery just south of town crowns the summit of a hill and commands a fine prospect for miles around. The borough during the last few years has made substantial improvements. Excellent streets and pavements, residences and stores in modern style exhibit a most gratifying progress. The support of four churches speaks well for the integrity of the people."

- April 12, 1876

The cemetery mentioned in the above item is the Fairview Cemetery and from it may be obtained one of the most panoramic views in northern Lancaster County. This burying ground was begun in 1874.

“GEN. MERRILL of the U. S. Army is married to a lady of Columbia, this county, a daughter of the late John W. Houston. His name has appeared in the papers for the last two or three weeks in a disreputable way and as he makes Columbia his home when off duty, we print the following from the Columbia Herald.”

“While in South Carolina, Gen. Merrill was instrumental in raiding the Ku Klux Klan and through his efforts a great number of persons were sent to the penitentiary. For every conviction a reward of \$400 was paid to the party making the arrest. The General in his testimony at Washington last week admitted that he received \$21,400 for his services. He informed us that he did not make the laws, he was only sent there and instructed to enforce them and he did so.”

- April 13, 1876

General Lewis Merrill was a son of James Merrill, political figure of Union County, Pennsylvania. James Merrill and Thaddeus Stevens both came from their native Vermont about the same time and were close political friends in Pennsylvania.

The wife of General Merrill was Annie Houston, daughter of John W. Houston and a great granddaughter of the famous Susannah Wright who in turn was a daughter of John Wright, one of the first magistrates of Lancaster County. Susannah Wright married Dr. John Houston 1773.

“PATRIOTIC FIREMEN - At a meeting of the American Fire Company of this city, held on Monday evening a committee of five was appointed to decorate the house, inside and outside, the 10th of May in honor of the Centennial, the decorations to remain during the continuance of the exposition. What other company will follow their example?”

- April 14, 1876

“CENTENNIAL DECORATIONS - They are all the rage and the newest thing is by Mr. Chas. H. Amer, hatter of West King street. Every hat in the show window has a small flag in the band, presenting a very unique appearance.”

- April 15, 1876

“EASTER AND ITS OBSERVANCE - Trinity Lutheran - At 2½ o'clock in the afternoon the annual Easter meeting of Trinity's Sabbath Schools was held, the Duke Street Schools and the West King and East Orange missions being present in large numbers. After the reading of the 9th Psalm, four children were baptized and addresses were delivered by

Dr. Greenwald, the pastor and Mr. Haupt."

"The decorations were very fine, pulpit, altar and chancel being filled with rare foliage, flowers and plants. Cut flowers were arranged in the forms of crosses, arches and lyres, scattered about everywhere; and the altar cloth was decorated with a floral emblem of rare beauty, the design being a combination of a cross, arches and heart 'Faith, Hope, Charity'."

- April 17, 1876

The mission Sunday School of Trinity Church on West King street in time became Christ Lutheran Church. Mr. Haupt in 1876 was assistant to Dr. Greenwald but is better known as Dr. C. Elvin Haupt, long time pastor of Grace Lutheran Church.

"A MONSTER TREE FROM CALIFORNIA - Two sections of the immense red wood tree from Calaveres County, California passed through this city yesterday afternoon in one of the eastern bound through freights for Philadelphia. This colossal redwood was blown down several years ago but its immense trunk has been preserved. Two segments occupied two cars enroute to the Centennial."

- April 19, 1876

"DEATH OF HON. O. J. DICKEY - There is not a reader of the Express who will not be grieved to learn of the death of Hon. O. J. Dickey which took place at his residence in this city this morning, after an illness of about two months. As a leading member of the Lancaster bar, especially in the criminal court and as a prominent and active politician, the name of O. J. Dickey had become a household word not only in this county but throughout the state."

"Hon. Oliver Jesse Dickey was born in Beaver County on the 6th of April 1823 and had entered the fifty fourth year of his age. The subject of our notice received his education in the Beaver Academy and at Dickinson College, Carlisle. Designing Lancaster as the place where he should locate for the practice of his profession he came in 1846 with a letter of introduction to Mr. Stevens who kindly received him and proffered to him the use of his office. After a few years of study, he, at the instance of his benefactor became a partner with the latter. This partnership continued until 1857 when he found it necessary from the press of business to open an office of his own."

"In the fall of 1856 he was elected District Attorney for Lancaster County, an office he filled with great credit and ability. Upon the death of Mr. Stevens in 1868 Mr. Dickey was nominated and elected to fill his

unexpired term in Congress as well as for the subsequent term of two years."

"Since the expiration of his last term in Congress, Mr. Dickey confined himself mainly to the pursuit of his profession. In the year 1857 Mr. Dickey was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Shenk, sister of R. W. Shenk, Esq, of this city. He leaves four children, one son and three daughters. Among his good qualities none were more marked than his devotion and kind indulgence as a husband and a father and his death entails an irreparable loss on those whom he so dearly loved."

- April 21, 1876

"SAFE HARBOR - THE RAILROAD - We now have three daily trains running each way between Pequea and Columbia."

- April 22, 1876

On July 1, 1877 the Columbia and Port Deposit Railroad was finished. Safe Harbor was one of the stations and the railroad helped to boom the place as an industrial center. This road also provided needed transportation for the people in the villages along the Susquehanna River. It continued to provide passenger service until January 1935. It is now only a very important freight line; although from 1970 to 1975 the Pennsylvania Railroad ran a deluxe express daily from Harrisburg to Baltimore, using this route. This train is now routed through Lancaster and Philadelphia.

"MILLS - One of the most noted Lancaster County mills of the olden times was the Lititz Mill, now owned by Benjamin Ritter and upwards of one hundred years ago by the Moravian Society. It was then leased to a man by the name of Klaus Klein who made and sent cargoes of his flour to Jamaica."

"The machinery in mills at that time was very clumsy and complicated. After the wheat was ground it required the presence of a boy to work the bolted stuff in the bolting apparatus. There once lived on Hammer Creek at a place known as Brubaker's Mill, a man by the name of Peter Stauffer. This Peter Stauffer had seven sons and the seventh son was the great grandfather of Jacob Stauffer, the patent agent of Lancaster. The Stauffers went to work and invented an attachment called the 'hopper boy' first used in 1764 and continued in use from that day down to 1840 and still in use in some localities. The Stauffers were great mill men. At one time there were no less than eight 'Stauffer Mills' in Lancaster, York and Franklin counties."

- April 24, 1876

Jacob Stauffer (1808-1880) who is mentioned as a patent agent had diverse interests which make his career worthy of attention. As a young man he studied art in Philadelphia and in later life, having become celebrated as a botanist, he used his artistic ability in making exquisite botanical drawings, some of which are preserved in Fackenthal Library. Born in Manheim, he established the first printing press in that town, also operated an apothecary shop and a general store. On removal to Mount Joy he introduced the first printing press there. "A naturalist by instinct" according to one writer, he was a founder of the Linnaean Society, Lancaster's active scientific organization of former years. David McNeely Stauffer, eminent engineer and bibliophile was a son of Jacob Stauffer. An article in Volume 57 of the Lancaster Society journals contains detailed data on Jacob Stauffer.

"FUNERAL OF O. J. DICKEY - Notwithstanding the threatening weather yesterday afternoon, the funeral of our deceased and distinguished townsman was very largely attended. The spacious mansion was crowded with sympathetic friends, among whom we noticed Hon. Simon Cameron and Hon. Edward McPherson. The religious exercises at the home were conducted by Rev. Drs. Greenwald and Dobbins and Rev. Mr. Haupt, the first named delivering a highly appropriate and feeling address. Rev. Mr. Dobbins read the funeral service at the cemetery. A long line of carriages and a large procession on foot proceeded to beautiful Woodward Hill where the remains of the honored deceased were consigned to mother earth."

- April 25, 1876

Hon. O. J. Dickey lived and maintained his law office at 21 South Queen street. Rev. Joseph B. Dobbins was pastor of the First Methodist Church. Dr. Emanuel Greenwald was pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church and Rev. Elvin C. Haupt was his assistant.

"OUR SCHOOLS AT THE CENTENNIAL - Through the courtesy of Prof. Shaub, Superintendent of public schools of this county, we had the pleasure yesterday afternoon of visiting Aug. Schindler's Picture Gallery, East King street where we were shown the work prepared by the pupils of the public schools of this city and county to be exhibited at the great Centennial. After the exhibition is over, the maps and pictures will be returned and will be hung up in the different schools where (possibly) they will be preserved until the next Centennial."

- April 26, 1876

County Superintendent of Schools Benjamin F. Shaub had a long

and notable career as an educator which included a number of years as Principal of Millersville Normal School. He was a native of Strasburg Township but lived his adult life in Lancaster at 419 West Orange street. Late in life he left the field of education and entered the world of business, dealing in carpets and upholstery (Shaub and Vondersmith) at 18, 20, 22 East Orange street.

August Schindler's Picture Gallery was located on the second floor of 15½ East King street.

“THE WORK OF ONE OF LANCASTERS' OLD CLERGYMAN -
The announcement that John Jacob Astor and William Astor had each contributed \$25,000 to the Rev. Dr. Muhlenberg's St. Luke's Hospital, New York possesses a special interest to many citizens of Lancaster. That noble charity founded by the author of the hymn 'I would not live alway' was no sooner known to be in straightened circumstances that the Astors quietly and without ostentation gave such a liberal donation as to at once put the institution into an independent and more useful state.”

“Dr. Muhlenberg ever since he left this city some fifty years ago has had a warm side for Lancaster. He was in close sympathy with the late Bishop Bowman in putting to practical test their long cherished idea of free churches and he contributed \$1000 to aid in defraying the debt incurred in building St. Johns Free Church in this city.”

“William Augustus Muhlenberg, a great grandson of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg was born in Philadelphia Sept 16, 1796 and is therefore in his eightieth year. In 1821 he accepted the rectorship of St. James Church, Lancaster where he was instrumental in founding the first public school in the State, outside of Philadelphia. Dr. Muhlenberg belongs to the good old school of churchmen, which, we are sorry to say, are rapidly becoming extinct, with few young men of equally promising ability coming up to take their place.”

- April 28, 1876

Those who would like to know more about William Augustus Muhlenberg will find a wealth of information in “The Life and Work of William Augustus Muhlenberg” by Anne Ayres. This gifted man's life came to a close on April 8, 1877.

“CENTENNIAL RATES ON THE P.R.R. - The Pennsylvania Railroad Company has fixed upon the Centennial rates of fare, which will go into effect on Monday next and will continue until November tenth. The round trip from this city to Philadelphia (good for one day only) will be \$2.30; tickets for a period of 15 days \$2.75, children between the

ages of 5 and 12 years half the above rates. The tickets bear upon their face a representation of a stage coach bearing the date of 1776 with a train of cars opposite bearing date of 1876.

- April 29, 1876

"GALA DAY FOR STRASBURG - Friday evening will long be remembered among the good people of Strasburg. On this occasion the first class was graduated from the high school under the efficient charge of Mr. Chas. B. Keller, an active and zealous teacher. The interest of the occasion was enhanced by the presence of His Excellency, The Governor and Dr. J. P. Wickersham. At 3 o'clock Governor Hartranft arrived in Lancaster, accompanied by Senator Warfel. A carriage awaited him and the Governor's party, consisting of himself and Dr. Wickersham accompanied by Mayor W. D. Stauffer and Major A. C. Reinoehl proceeded in the rain to Strasburg. Arriving at the Cross Keys Hotel in Strasburg, kept by Mr. D. E. Potts, the Governor and party were cordially received by the Board of Directors and other prominent citizens of the borough. After a bounteous supper the Governor received a large number of citizens who called to pay their respects."

"At half past seven the party proceeded to the hall which was densely crowded with one of the largest and most intelligent audiences ever assembled on such an occasion. The young ladies and gentlemen acquitted themselves in the most creditable manner and the Governor and Superintendent were delighted with the ability and cultivation displayed. During the program the Governor was presented to the audience and after the enthusiastic applause had subsided delivered the following address: I have accompanied the Superintendent of Public Instruction today especially to be with you on this occasion, because I desire to fulfill a promise I made to visit this beautiful county and for the reason that I wished to be present at the commencement of a common school, which is said to be of a type of what the common school system should be through the whole commonwealth."

- April 29, 1876

Senator John B. Warfel who was in the upper house of the State Assembly from 1872-1878 was a native of Paradise Township, taught school as a young man, then after reading law while holding at the same time a government position in Washington, D.C. established residence in Lancaster. One of the city's most important citizens, he was a co-founder of the Lancaster New Era. His Lancaster home was at 431 South Prince street. A biographical sketch appears in the Ellis and Evans history of Lancaster County; page 507."

Dr. James Pyle Wickersham (1825-1891) was born in Chester County but adopted Lancaster County as his home when still a young

man and remained here for the remainder of his life. In the course of an outstanding career, he served as principal of the Marietta Academy, was the first Superintendent of Lancaster County Schools, first Principal of the Millersville Normal School and in 1876 was appointed Superintendent of Public Schools of Pennsylvania. He owned and edited the Pennsylvania School Journal and established the Wickersham Printing Company which still operates under that name. His "History of Education in Pennsylvania" is the only authoritative work on the subject. His career was crowned by being appointed Minister to Denmark by President Rutherford B. Hayes. Dr. Wickersham lived at 230 N. Duke street.

"SUNDAY FISHING -The writer took a stroll to the woods yesterday morning at an early hour and selected the 'Haunted Cottage' as his objective point. We confess to a little surprise at seeing no less than a dozen fishing parties at different points between the big bridge and Ranck's Mill - a distance of no less than half a mile. Other parties were out gathering dandelions for salad while scores of young men had their hunting dogs with them. The whole vicinity seemed densely inhabited and all seemed bent upon pleasure. We presume they would have told us they were 'worshipping nature' but they had better have listened to the call of the city church bells which could be distinctly heard there."

- May 1, 1876

Should the writer who was enjoying a Sunday morning stroll been critical of those other members of the human family who in various ways were also enjoying the great outdoors? Since the writer had observed this early on Sunday morning, maybe the fishermen and the dandelion gatherers went back to town in time for church.

"CONCERT BY CARL MATZ'S ORCHESTRA - Last evening the Carl Matz Orchestra made its debut in concert before a Lancaster audience. The organization is less than a year old. The programme for the occasion was well arranged and consisted of many fine selections."

- May 2, 1876

For almost half a century Prof. Carl Otto Matz was the front rank musician of Lancaster. Born in Prussia, he came to Lancaster in 1868 to be the principal of the parochial school of Zion Lutheran Church and to direct their music. Through the following years he was organist and choirmaster at St. Johns Lutheran Church, St. James Episcopal Church, and Trinity Lutheran Church. As director of the German



PROF. CARL MATZ

**Organist — Public School teacher — Orchestra leader
Popular in Lancaster musical circles in the
Centennial year and until his death in 1917**

Mannerchor he directed musical festivals in some of the large eastern cities. He taught German in Lancaster High School for fifteen years and taught vocal music in all of the city schools for thirty years. Until his tragic death in 1917 - he fell from a second story window to the street while cleaning snow from the sill - he lived at and operated a music store at 116 South Queen street.

“HANG OUT THE FLAG - A petition is in circulation asking the city authorities to display the National Flag on the City Hall on the 10th of May, in honor of the Centennial, to remain there during the exhibition.”

- May 3, 1876

"OUR PUBLIC DRINKING FOUNTAINS - Mr. John P. Schaum has received the contract from the Lancaster Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for the erection of four public drinking fountains and broke ground for the erection of the first fountain on the property of the Misses Price. East King street, opposite Middle street. The other three will be placed respectively at the corner of South Queen and Strawberry, corner of West King and Manor and in front of Grace Church, North Queen street. The fountains are very handsome as well as useful. Mr. Schaum expects to have all of them in operation on the morning of the grand opening of the Centennial May 10th."

- May 4, 1876

It was in 1870 that the idea of erecting drinking fountains was first broached to the City Council and the Water Company. Finally six years later, the suggestion bore fruit and these drinking fountains for 'man and beast' were erected.

"HONORED GRAVES - The Centennial Year, independent of its great international display, is awakening popular interest in much of our earlier history. We take new pride in the achievements of our noble dead. We are concerned about the suitable adornment of the spot where their ashes repose. Robert Fulton's remains, it is stated in the New York Tribune, were discovered last week in the vault of the Livingstone family in old Trinity Churchyard, where they were afforded a temporary resting place until claimed by friends. There they have remained since 1815. It is now proposed that his native state should reclaim the great inventor, give him a grave and erect a monument over him."

- May 6, 1876

The body of Robert Fulton several years after 1876 was interred in the Trinity Churchyard on Lower Broadway, New York City.

"OPENING OF THE CENTENNIAL - The glad day is at hand. After two years of busy preparation, the great exhibition stands before the world as a majestic reality, and tomorrow with imposing ceremonial, and inspirational music and poetry, in the presence of the dignitaries of the nation, the formal words will be spoken and the doors of the great display thrown open to the waiting multitude."

- May 9, 1876

"THE CENTENNIAL OPENING - The opening of the great

exhibition yesterday was a grand success. The scene at 10 o'clock was one of unusual grandeur. There on an immense platform on the south side of Memorial Hall sat the representatives of a great part of the civilized world. On another platform sat Theodore Thomas' splendid orchestra of 150 pieces and directly behind them a chorus of 1000 voices."

"General Hawley waved his handkerchief as a signal. Theodore Thomas took up his baton and the orchestra struck up the Washington March followed by the anthems of the principal countries of Europe and South America. The arrival of General Grant elicited a cordial demonstration. After the last exultant strains of the Grand March, written by Richard Wagner and performed by Thomas' orchestra died away, Bishop Simpson arose and invoked the divine blessing on the occasion and the exposition, gratefully acknowledging God's favor to us in the past and imploring the guidance of the Almighty in all time to come."

"The grand chorus then sang The Centennial Hymn written by John G. Whittier and set to music by John K. Payne of Massachusetts. Mr. Dudley Buck of Connecticut then conducted the singing of the Centennial Cantata, written by Sidney Lanier of Georgia. It is full of energy and expression; the music being well adapted to the words. The solos were sung by Myron W. Whitney of Boston."

"The presentation of the exhibition by Gen. Joseph R. Hawley, President of the Commission to The President of the United States was the next feature of the programme. This was the most distinct address of the occasion and was loudly applauded. Amid prolonged cheers President Grant now advanced to the front of the platform and read his address. At the conclusion of the President's address, the flag was unfurled and from the central tower of the main building the choir took up the Hallelujah Chorus with orchestra and again accompanied with organ; and the formal proceedings inaugurating the Exposition of 1876 were over."

- May 11, 1876

It is interesting to note that most of the principals in these opening ceremonies were New Englanders. General Joseph R. Hawley, at times Governor and U. S. Senator from Connecticut had his appointment from President Grant. Dudley Buck (1839-1909) was a master of the pipe organ and composer of anthems, symphonies, cantatas and chamber music and was also a native of Connecticut. The soloist was from Massachusetts.

The poets who contributed to the program were John G. Whittier of Massachusetts and Sidney Lanier of Georgia. Bishop Matthew Simpson of the Methodist Church had his episcopal residence at Pittsburgh. He had jurisdiction over the churches of the Philadelphia area in his latter years. A short sketch of Bishop Simpson will be found in Vol 47 pp 19-20 of the Lancaster County Historical Society journals. He preached in various Lancaster county churches through his years as Bishop of this area.

"THE OPENING DAY IN LANCASTER - The 10th of May 1876 will never be forgotten by those who had the good fortune to witness the scenes and incidents of the day. The greatest scenes were witnessed early in the morning from 4 o'clock to seven, when the streets were as thickly peopled as they usually are at noon, all seeking the Pennsylvania Railroad Depot, bound for the Centennial. The great flight of our inhabitants to Philadelphia naturally gave our streets a somewhat deserted look but the cheery flag floating everywhere gave spirit to the occasion and a more enjoyable day was never spent by the stay-at-homes."

- May 11, 1876

"MILITARY PREPARATIONS - The Lancaster City Light Guards are at present actively preparing for the rapidly approaching spring inspection, which indicates that the same is expected to be thorough and will show how much progress each member may have made toward proficiency since the fall inspection at Paoli."

"The company unanimously decided to receive the Cincinnati Light Guards on their march to attend the Centennial International Exposition at Philadelphia. The company will escort them into Lancaster and entertain them."

- May 12, 1876

At one time the militia organizations of Pennsylvania were very important. Militia days when the various companies would meet, parade, and stand inspection brought out huge crowds of people. The Pennsylvania Militia was continued in the Pennsylvania National Guard which is now the primary source of man power for the U. S. Army in time of need. Membership in the Guard is voluntary but it is a continuation of the principal that every able bodied male is obligated to render military service to his state and nation.

"LANCASTRIANS AT THE EXPOSITION - A representative of the Express paid another brief visit to the Centennial yesterday. The Lancaster Exhibitors were on hand and looked smiling and happy:- John P. Schaum, Copper Ware; Chas. M. Howell, Marble Work; Jacob Leippe and Philip Lebzelter, Spoke Fellowes; John Best, Boilers; Franklin Diller, Cork cutting Machine; Harberger, McCully and Harberger, Patent cloth Machine. Messrs. Peters and Berger have certainly filled a big figure at the Centennial. It is a matter of pride to Lancastrians that this firm has erected no less than 15 of the Centennial buildings, the material of which, all was worked out of the shop of

Urban and Berger in this city, thus proving a local benefit by keeping a large number of our mechanics busy. Messrs. Peters and Burger are now engaged in building eating houses for the exposition and will likely be kept busy the whole summer."

"Educational Hall is one of the most pleasant resorts for Lancastrians, where you will find a pleasant welcome from Dr. Wickersham, State Superintendent of Public Instruction and Prof. Brooks of Millersville State Normal School. We also met County Superintendent Shaub who has been there a week, laboring assiduously to make Lancaster County the most creditable exhibition of all the counties in the State, and he has succeeded."

"We say it without prejudice or partiality that the student work of the Lancaster High Schools excels all others. Prof. Brooks is Chairman of the committee on Normal Schools. Two large alcoves are reserved for the Millersville State Normal School."

- May 13, 1876

Curiosity impelled the commentator to consult an old city directory to see where these Lancaster exhibitors had their places of business, and he was rather surprised to learn that nearly all of them were located in center city. John P. Schaum who exhibited copper ware had his shop at 33 S. Queen. Chas. M. Howell, worker in marble was at 139 N. Queen. Jacob Leippe who demonstrated fellow bending could be found at 202 W. King street while Philip Lebzelter in a like business plied his trade at 241 N. Queen. John Best made boilers and engines at 333 E. Fulton and Franklin Diller had a foundry and machine shop at 128 N. Water street. Harberger, McCully and Harberger operated their machine shop at 26 W. Chestnut street and the Urban and Burger Shop from whence came much of the mill work for the exposition buildings was at 428, 430 and 432 S. Prince street.

"IMMERSION IN THE CONESTOGA - A quiet religious ceremony took place on Saturday afternoon last, near the City Water Works, being the baptism by immersion of five subjects, three ladies and two gentlemen. Rev. J. B. Soule of the Church of God was the officiating minister. On the last occasion of immersion, thousands of people thronged the banks of the Conestoga and many of the spectators were disorderly. This time it was resolved to give no public notice and as a consequence not more than 50 people were present to witness the ceremonies."

- May 15, 1876

A MIDNIGHT NUISANCE - Last night between the hours of

eleven and twelve o'clock the peaceful sleep of the law abiding residents in West King street was disturbed by a band of wandering serenaders who took up their stand right in front of J. R. Royer's Confectionary and rendered in a horrible manner 'Good night ladies'. 'Tenting on the old camp ground' was next essayed but the tenor soared away 'Up in a balloon' and the bass tumbled 'Low in a coal mine', so low that he could not rise again'. A dispute arose, occasioned by the bass singer charging the tenor with spoiling the whole of it. An indignant sleepy boarder at the Sorrel Horse Hotel directly opposite yelled out 'Stop your darned noise' whereupon they clapped a stopper on their throttle and quietly stole away'.

- May 17, 1876

The commentator recalls that in his boyhood it was not one bit unusual to hear groups of male singers wander about the streets at night and warble sweet music. Royer's Confectionary Store was located at 52 West King street.

"A NEW LOCAL INDUSTRY - No doubt most of our readers will be surprised as we were to learn that we not only have an organ manufactory in town, but that it turns out an instrument which can fairly challenge competition with the oldest and most celebrated manufactories in the country. The builder of these excellent musical instruments is Alexander McKillips who resides at 513 West Orange street. He is comparatively a young man and was a carpenter by occupation until he engaged in the manufacture of organs."

"The organ which we examined in Mr. McKillips parlor has three full sets of reeds and a sub-base of one octave. The stops, speaking and mechanical, number twelve. The case, in richness of design and solidity of aspect, does credit to Lancaster mechanism, the panels being of fine burl walnut. The price is fully \$100 less than is asked for instruments of a corresponding class by other manufacturers. He has now a half dozen of another style in process of construction at his shop - 414 West Grant street - ranging in price from \$120 upwards, some of the cases being walnut panelled with ash. The voicing of the reeds receives Mr. McKillips closest personal attention and this will be apparent to any trained musical ear."

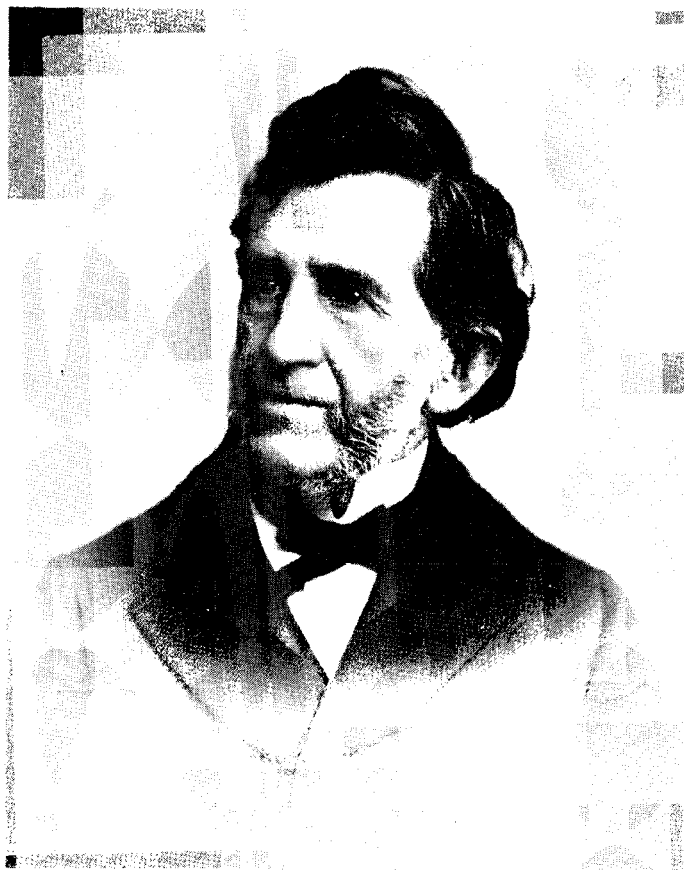
- May 20, 1876

Further information concerning Alexander McKillips, carpenter and organ builder is not available at this time.

"NEW LECTURE ROOM AND SCHOOL HOUSE - The building

committee of the vestry of Trinity Lutheran Church have had in contemplation the erection of a new building, to be used as a lecture and school room, and to be erected between the church and the parsonage. Yesterday Dr. Greenwald pastor of the church announced that a sufficient amount of money had been raised to proceed with the work and they would therefore go on with the building."

- May 22, 1876



HON. A. HERR SMITH

Lancaster County's Congressman in the Centennial Year. His entire incumbency as a member of Congress was 1873-1885

"LANCASTER IN CONGRESS - Olivia (Emily Edson Briggs) the accomplished Washington correspondent has been doing the Centennial and drawing portraits of some of the prominent congressmen who have been efficient in making the exposition a credit to the youngest

nation on earth."

"She thus compliments Lancaster's representative in Congress.

"Lancaster has again sent an able man, better in some respects than his illustrious predecessor. In a quiet way he has been hard at work for the international exposition. A. Herr Smith is a bachelor like the late Thaddeus Stevens and of the irrevocable kind. May old Lancaster forever be represented by a bachelor who conceals under his hard shell the white milk of human kindness. When Congress is in session, Hon. Herr Smith may always be seen in his seat but after legislative hours he may be found walking down Pennsylvania Avenue, a fine picture of blooming autumn, at peace with the world, his constituents and mankind."

- May 24, 1876

In 1873 A. Herr Smith succeeded Thaddeus Stevens as the congressman from this district. He continued in the office until 1885. Mr. Smith lived with a sister on North Lime street above Orange. He attended the First Methodist Church with great regularity and gave liberally of his wealth to his home church as well as to other churches.

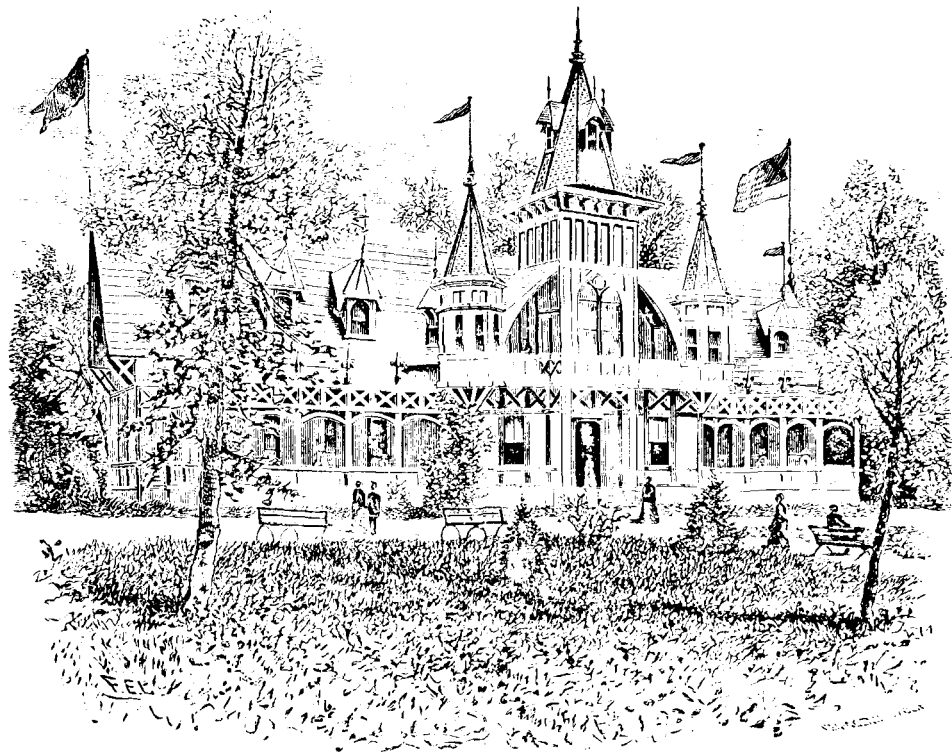
"THE PENNSYLVANIA BUILDING - The Philadelphia Telegraph announces the completion of the Pennsylvania Building at the Centennial Exposition and the fact that the contractors - Messrs. Peters and Burger of this city - turned it over to the authorities of the State yesterday afternoon at three o'clock. The whole building was put up in four weeks by Peters and Burger and for the very small cost of \$16,000."

- May 25, 1876

"INSPECTION OF THE LIGHT GUARDS - General James W. Latta, Adjutant General, Col. D. Stanley Hassinger, assistant Adjutant General and Brigadier General Frank Reeder arrived in this city this afternoon for the purpose of inspecting the Lancaster Light Guards. They were received by His Honor, Mayor Stauffer. Thirty men were inspected in full uniform with a few members in fatigue dress. The Adjutant General pronounced the arms with a few exceptions in good condition and expressed himself pleased with the company."

- May 25, 1876

Adjutant General Latta was a Philadelphia attorney with a notable Civil War record. He served continuously in the Union Army from 1862 until 1866.



The Pennsylvania Building at the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition— Built in four weeks by Peters and Burger, contractors of Lancaster at a cost of \$16,000

“THE CENTENNIAL RAILROAD EVENT - On Thursday next the train which is to run from New York to San Francisco in three days and a half will pass through Lancaster. Relays of engines will be provided on the entire route and the entire signal force of the five railroads over which the train will run, about 6000 in number will be on special duty during the trip. But twenty passengers will be carried and of these, four are invited guests.”

- May 29, 1876

“IMPROVEMENTS - The work of disinterring the dead from Trinity Lutheran graveyard on Duke street, preparatory to the erection of the new building already referred to in The Express was commenced this morning and the greater part of the remains will be removed to

- May 30, 1876

Trinity's graveyard before the Chapel was built occupied the site on the southeast corner of Duke and Mifflin streets. In 1850 Trinity Church purchased a tract of land on South Queen street where Woodward Hill Cemetery was platted. The building of the chapel in 1876 did not require that all the graves be removed and 499 grave stones still remained in the ancient 'God's Acre'. These too were removed when the present parish house was erected and the parking lot was provided in 1955.

"DECORATION DAY - Yesterday again recurred the day set apart for the decoration of the graves of those who died that the Union might live. The ceremonies of decoration were carried out according to the programme as published. Between four and five o'clock the children of the public schools assembled in the several cemeteries of the city under charge of members of the George H. Thomas Post No 84 G. A. R."

"After the children had taken their positions in the cemeteries the work of decoration commenced at five o'clock, the signal being a performance on Trinity Chimes by Mr. John B. Kevinski."

"The work of decoration having been performed, the children formed in procession and marched to the square where a platform had been erected inside the enclosure of the soldier's monument. The Light Guards had placed sentries around the monument to keep the crowd back and the school children and military organizations were formed in a hollow square around the monument."

"The exercises opened with a fervent prayer by Rev. J. B. Soule after which the decoration of the monument was performed by Post Commander B. Frank Eberly and ex-Post Commander J. K. Bare, Hugh R. Fulton and A. F. Herr. Mayor Stauffer introduced Major A. C. Reinoehl, orator of the day who in a voice that could be distinctly heard and understood throughout the square, delivered an elegant address."

"AT COLUMBIA - Business was entirely suspended and a procession was formed. Arriving at Mount Bethel Cemetery the graves were decorated in the usual manner. The Memorial Oration was delivered by Rev. L. C. Burkholder."

"AT MANHEIM - Decoration Day was observed yesterday for the first time in Manheim. The ceremony of decorating the soldiers' graves was gotten up by Council No 154 Junior Order American Mechanics. At 1 o'clock a procession of over 500 headed by the Manheim Cornet Band marched to Kauffman Park where an immense meeting was held and addresses delivered by B. D. Danner and Capt. C. A. Denues. The ex-

ercises were made still more interesting by the singing given by a choir of 30 voices led by that accomplished musician H. S. Danner.

- May 31, 1876

Major Reinoehl who was the orator at the Lancaster program served in the 76th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers and was only brevetted Major upon his honorable discharge in February 1865. He read law in the office of Hon. O. J. Dickey and was admitted to the bar in 1866. An eloquent speaker, he was often called on for patriotic addresses and political speeches. A Republican in politics, he served in the State legislature for three terms and held the offices at times of District Attorney, Deputy Secretary of Commerce and member of the Soldiers' Orphan School Commission. In 1900 he was appointed Postmaster of Lancaster to succeed Major Elwood Griest. In the same year he died at age sixty. As a writer, he wrote for the Lancaster New Era under the 'nom de plume' of Demas. His home address was 422 N. Duke street and his law office was at 22 S. Duke.

"ACROSS THE CONTINENT IN 84 HOURS - We learn that the train which is to traverse the distance between New York and San Francisco passed through Lancaster at 4:26 and at 4:30, Baker Young, the enterprising news agent, who had previously arranged for a package of New York morning dailies by this train, was selling his papers upon the streets."

- June 1, 1876

In later years Baker Young was a familiar figure in the northeast angle of Penn Square where day in and day out the year around he peddled Baer's Almanacs.

"GENERAL TOM THUMB - and family arrived this morning on the 7:50 train and were taken to their hotel immediately. After partaking of refreshments they took a drive through the city in their miniature coach drawn by two small ponies and at three o'clock they gave a matinee in Fulton Hall. They will perform again this evening and we advise all to attend who possibly can for this will likely be the last visit of The Lilliputians to Lancaster."

- June 2, 1876

Charles Sherwood Stratton, better known as Tom Thumb, was born at Bridgeport, Connecticut in 1838. His height at maturity was 3 feet 4 inches and his weight was 70 pounds. P. T. Barnum named him General Tom Thumb, advertised him as "a dwarf, lately arrived from

England" and made him a celebrated figure in the entertainment world. He married a dwarf, Mercy Lavinia Warren Bumpus by name and together they travelled to Europe often and went around the world at least once. Tom Thumb died at Bridgeport in 1883 at age forty five.

"THE GRAND ARMY IN CHURCH - The members of George H. Thomas Post No 84 G. A. R. to the number of 36 attended service at Grace Lutheran Church last evening where the pastor Rev. D. H. Geissinger preached an eloquent, patriotic sermon. Mr. Geissinger was himself a Union soldier, although then but a boy in years, and made a record of which any soldier might feel justly proud."

- June 5, 1876

At the time the Grand Army of the Republic began its activities, Posts throughout the north inaugurated the custom of attending a church service on the Sunday nearest to Memorial Day. The pattern continued in Lancaster County until there were no Civil War veterans alive. After that The American Legion followed the practice for some years but presently a church service is no longer a part of Memorial Day rites.

"LANCASTER AT THE CENTENNIAL - William H. Simpson, editor of The Belfast (Maine) Journal is writing a series of entertaining letters, descriptive of the international exhibition. In his description of the Woman's Pavilion he thus speaks of the exhibit of one of Lancaster's daughters."

"The building is filled with specimens of women's work. The department of art, though small, is very interesting. There was a life size statue of Eve, a plaster cast that was very fine and gave to the subject a new treatment. The statue had been broken at the feet and sitting upon the floor, engaged in mending it was the lady sculptress from whose brain it sprang. She wore a close fitting head covering from under which her curls escaped while she deftly handled the implements of art and chatted to me of her work concerning which she was full of enthusiasm."

"The Philadelphia Press thus speaks of it 'The beautiful marble statue of Cinderella and the still more beautiful plaster cast of Eve, contributed by Miss Blanche Nevin, are of course greatly admired'."

- June 7, 1876

In Lancaster the most notable work of Miss Blanche Nevin is the Lion Fountain in Reservoir Park, East King street. Miss Blanche Nevin lived at Windsor Forge in Caernarvon Township while her father, cele-



MISS BLANCHE NEVIN

Lancaster County sculptress who exhibited specimens of her work at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia. Photo courtesy Lancaster New Era.

brated as an educator built a home on the Columbia Pike which he named Caernarvon Place. The house was razed several years ago and Degel Israel Synagogue occupies the site. In statuary hall in the Capitol at Washington may be seen the statue of General Peter Muhlenberg which is considered Miss Nevin's best piece of sculpture.

“DEATH OF BENJAMIN MISHLER - Benjamin Mishler, the

famous 'Bitters' man, familiarly known as 'Doctor' is no more. He died this morning at his residence in Centre Square, aged 61 years, 1 month and 25 days. He was born in East Cocalico Township and there grew to manhood. About the year 1845 he removed to this city and became proprietor of the Washington Hotel which he kept for a time with success. He afterward engaged in the wholesale liquor business and still later ran a line of stage coaches in Lancaster, Schuylkil and Northumberland counties."

"It was however in connection with Herb Bitters that Dr. Mishler's name became known from one end of the county to the other. He was a firm believer in the virtue of printer's ink and we have positive knowledge that in one year he expended the unusual sum of \$28,000 for advertising and printing. He was the most extensive advertiser Lancaster ever produced."

"On July 24, 1867 he retired from active business, selling his proprietary rights in Mishler's Bitters to Dr. S. B. Hartman and Company."

"In the way of building he took pride in performing unusual exploits, one of which was to erect a commodious brewery in 24 hours and another the erection of a two story house on Prince street in ten hours. The buildings remain and are occupied."

- June 8, 1876

The ten hour house still stands at 533 South Prince street but the commentator knows nothing about the brewery.

"CEDAR HILL SEMINARY - The closing exercises of this well known institution at Mount Joy took place last evening. The familiar walls of the old building have become venerable by time and endeared by association. The soft radiance of the full moon fell upon the broad lawn and the ancestral trees. Below the hills the Little Chiques murmured over its pebbly bed. Lyceum Hall was packed by a happy audience. The exercises were opened with prayer by Rev. J. Duncan of Mount Joy."

"The various performances did credit to the young ladies and gentlemen. The delivery too was vigorous and distinct and few words were lost in any part of the hall. As is well known Cedar Hill Seminary once so flourishing under Mr. Dodge was for a long time closed. The fact that the present term concludes only the second year of Mr. Denlinger's management is excellent proof of the progress that has already been made."

- June 9, 1876

Begun on a farm near Mount Joy in 1837, Cedar Hill Seminary continued in a three story building situated 50 feet above the Chicquesal-

unga Creek built by the founder Rev. Nehemiah Dodge. It continued to attract young ladies from the North and the South until the Civil War put an end to the patronage from south of the Mason and Dixon line. Apparently Rev. Dodge continued to live at Cedar Hill as he died there in 1876 and was buried at Donegal Church. In 1874 Prof. David Denlinger reopened the school to ladies and men and successfully conducted it for a number of years. A fire gutted the building in the early part of this century and for years it stood like a spectre in its ruin. The location of Cedar Hill was south of the town and west of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

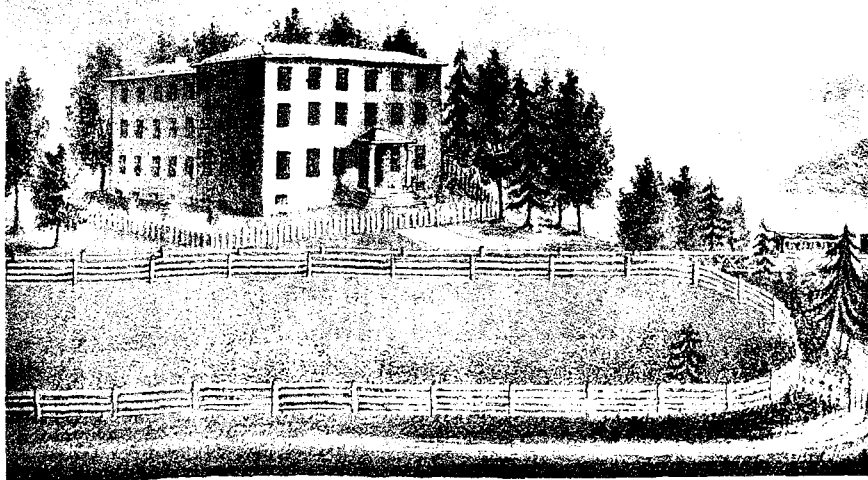
“WOODWARD HILL CEMETERY - A brief visit to the place yesterday revealed a great change in the front of the cemetery. The grass lawn for a distance of at least 200 feet has been cut up into lots and in order to make the ground eligible, thirty trees have been cut down; yet with all this hewing there has been little appreciable change in the appearance. The cemetery is covered with bloom just now and is one of the most delightful places to spend an hour in calm reflection that we know of.”

- June 10, 1876

“FUNERAL OF BENJAMIN MISHLER - The funeral of the late Benj. Mishler took place this morning from the residence of his daughter Mrs. Straehay on East German street. The funeral was largely attended, the Red Men, of which order he was a member being present in a body. Clemmen's Cornet Band was also present, discoursing music to and from the funeral. The deceased was a warm and substantial friend of the band, having at one time saved their instruments from the sheriff. The interment was made in Woodward Hill Cemetery.”

- June 12, 1876

“COLUMBIA PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL - The fourth annual commencement of the Columbia Public High School was held last evening in the Opera House. The grand outpouring of the people on this occasion showed most conclusively that the entire community is filled with a deep interest in the workings of the public schools. It was the first commencement held in the Opera House and we could not help reflecting that in the efforts made to educate and elevate society such a hall is an aid whose worth is incalculable. Before closing we would express our great pleasure at the style of dress worn by the graduates. It was a neat pattern of Centennial calico made up in a plain way and we were satis-



CEDAR HILL SEMINARY - MOUNT JOY

Begun in 1837 by Rev. Nehemiah Dodge, it was being operated
in 1876 by Prof. David Denlinger

fied the charms of the wearers were more impressive than if they had
been arrayed in the conventional stuffs of years gone by."

- June 15, 1876

In 1874 the Columbia Opera House was erected at a cost of
\$85,824. It continued to be the entertainment center of the town until
destroyed by fire in the 1940's.

"DEDICATION OF A CHURCH BELL - The young members of
St. Stephen's German Lutheran congregation have bought and
presented to the congregation a beautiful and sweet toned bell for their
new church on the corner of South Duke and Church streets, this city.
The bell will be dedicated tomorrow morning at 10¼ o'clock."

- June 17, 1876

"DEDICATION OF A CHURCH BELL - The bell was made by a
Baltimore firm, is of bell metal, weighs 1000 pounds and cost some-
thing over \$3000. It may be proper to say just here that it is one of the
richest toned bells in the city."

"The ceremonies of dedication took place in the presence of a large congregation. After a fine anthem by the choir, two young men turned the bell and held it while the pastor Rev. W. A. Porr, taking a clapper struck it three times in the name of The Father, Son and Holy Ghost; and the bell was dedicated to the worship of God."

- June 19, 1876

St. Stephen's Church was organized in 1874 and in that year the lower part of the present church was erected. Not until 1881 was the upper part (the present sanctuary) finished and dedicated.

"RHODODENDRON IN LANCASTER COUNTY - The grand exhibit of this species of flowers at the Centennial Exhibition from England whence they had been taken from this, their natural country and returned after many years of culture and hybridization has brought the rhododendrons into notice. Our native rhododendron is an evergreen shrub or small tree with thick, tough leaves, bearing a large truss of flowers on the end of the branch, opening to a pink tint and fading to white after a few days. They flowered in wild rocky places but are not common in this locality. A cluster of them is growing on land of Mrs. Mary Thomas near Arcadia Station on the Peach Bottom Railway, Lancaster county and they are plentiful in the river hills near McCall's Ferry."

- June 21, 1876

Rhododendron maximum Linnaeus is common in low woodlands in the Atlantic states from Nova Scotia south to Georgia and Alabama. In Mombert's history of our county published in 1869 we read that "this shrub is found in ravines along the Susquehanna River." Today through extensive hybridization, rhododendrons have been introduced into plant groupings on lawns everywhere.

"RATIFICATION MEETING IN CENTRE SQUARE - The Republican Mass Meeting in Centre Square last night for the purpose of ratifying the nomination of Hayes and Wheeler by the Cincinnati Convention drew together a very large crowd - possibly 2000 in the early part of the evening - and certainly one of the largest outdoor meetings held here in years."

"Major Griest on taking the chair, returned his sincere thanks for the honor of presiding at a meeting of such importance. Major Griest introduced John G. Love, a rising young member of the Centre County bar. Mr. Love has a clear ringing voice is of easy manner and was fre-

quently applauded during his stirring speech."

"Major R. W. Shenk was next introduced who read a resolution endorsing Rutherford B. Hayes of Ohio for President and William A. Wheeler of New York for Vice President."

"At the conclusion of the reading of the resolution, Mayor William D. Stauffer addressed the assemblage briefly. He predicted a majority of at least 6000 from the Old Guard to help swell the majority which would sweep from the Delaware to Lake Erie."

"B. Frank Eshleman, Esq. was introduced as a delegate to Cincinnati and commenced by saying that, as he had been introduced as a delegate, it might not appear bombastic in him to refer to the work of the convention. He closed with a fine appeal to the voters of the Old Guard to do their whole duty in November."

"J. Hay Brown, Esq. said that into the hands of Rutherford B. Hayes, the glorious standard of our party has been placed and as he gallantly led his soldiers under the sacred folds of the stars and stripes, so he will lead us and following him, victory will perch upon our banners in November."

"Walter M. Franklin, Esq. said he arose on behalf of the young Republicans of the county to endorse the nomination of Hayes and Wheeler, under whose lead the party is secure, and its banners will be gilded with memories of triumph in the contest of '76."

"Major A. C. Reinoehl thought as he sat on the platform, looking over the crowd of earnest Republicans filling the square, that if the Goddess of Liberty on the monument could speak, she would say 'Bully for you boys; this meeting looks like business'."

"Hugh R. Fulton, Esq. the last speaker of the evening, referred to the praiseworthy object of the Meeting; the expression by suitable demonstration and words that approbation of the Presidential ticket and the national Republican platform recently settled at Cincinnati."

- June 22, 1876

The Presidential election of 1876 was hotly contested. Rutherford B. Hayes the Republican candidate received 185 electoral votes while his Democratic opponent Samuel J. Tilden received 184 electoral votes. Created by Congress, a Board of Commissioners referred to as the Electoral Commission decided that Hayes and Tilden were indeed elected but the House of Representatives which was Democratic declared as a separate body that Samuel J. Tilden was elected President. Not until March 1877 was the decision of the Electoral Commission accepted by the Democrats.

"ACADEMY OF THE SACRED HEART - The second annual commencement of the Academy of the Sacred Heart, the Roman

author of 122 separate pieces of scientific articles and pamphlets. Dr. Haldeman was born at Locust Grove in Conoy Township in 1815 and died in his home at the base of Chicques Rock on the banks of the Susquehanna September 10, 1880.

“OUR PEOPLE’S COLLEGE - Another eventful year has passed and again we meet the young graduates who, with smiling faces, stand upon the threshold of life. The joys, the hopes, the fears which alternate in the minds of the young ladies and young men on occasions like this can only be appreciated by those who have experienced it. Such were our reflections as we gazed upon the vast audience assembled in Fulton Hall this morning- certainly not less than 1500 people present- to witness the exercises at the 24th annual commencement of the Lancaster High School. No other occasion during the year excites half the interest felt in this, for are not the performers our own? They are sons and daughters and the whole community throbs with a feeling of sympathy for them.”

- June 30, 1876

The third installment of the Centennial Year will appear in the next issue of the Journal, Vol. 80 No. 3.