

Lancaster in 1876

Observing the Centennial Year

July 1 - September 30, 1876

Annotated by Dr. George L. Heiges

“THE HIGH SCHOOL—Last evening on invitation of John I. Hartman, President of the School Board, the graduating classes of the High Schools, the teachers of all the schools together with the Board of Directors met at Mr. Hartman's residence, North Queen street where they spent a most delightful evening. The company numbered more than a hundred but Mr. Hartman had made ample provisions for all.”

“About 9 o'clock, Hon. John B. Warfel buttonholed Prof. J. P. McCaskey, principal of the Boy's High School and in a quiet way presented the principal with a beautiful and costly gold pen and pencil as a token of the esteem in which he is held. Prof. McCaskey replied, thanking the boys not only for the unexpected gift but for the friendship and respect they had so uniformly showed him.”

—July 1, 1876

Prof. J. P. McCaskey began teaching in the Boy's High School in 1855, was made principal in 1865 and continued in that position until his retirement in 1906. Certainly the most celebrated public school teacher in Lancaster City, he also served as Mayor, was editor of the Pennsylvania School Journal and Secretary of the Pennsylvania Educational Association. Without benefit of a college education, his entire training as a teacher was acquired in the public schools. In 1887 Franklin and Marshall College conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, so today he is referred to as Doctor John Piersol McCaskey. Born in Paradise Township, this county in 1837 he died at his home 126 N. Mulberry Street on the 19th day of September 1935 with burial in Greenwood Cemetery. Volume 67 of the journals of the Lancaster County Historical Society has a full account of the career of Doctor McCaskey written by Harold F. Diffenderfer, who was one of "Jack's boys."

"CENTENNIAL SUNDAY— Moravian Church— This church is handsomely decorated. Immediately over the pulpit are suspended two large American flags, festooned while on either side is the emblem 1776-1876 gracefully wrought in evergreens. In the evening the services were of a most impressive character. The Reverend Dr. Kremer of the First Reformed Church officiated. After an anthem by the choir 'O Praise the Lord, All ye Nations' a liturgy prepared for the occasion was repeated by the congregation. After the singing of a hymn by the congregation and appropriate address was delivered by Dr. Kremer (The Moravian pastor, Edmund A. Oerter was ill).

"St. Paul's Reformed Church— In the morning the pastor, the Reverend Mr. Shumaker conducted the services which were of a patriotic nature. Mr. Shumaker chose for his text the words found in Lev. 25:10 "And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land and unto all the inhabitants thereof." He opened his discourse by comparing the ancient jubilee of God's people with the present one of the United States. He finished his discourse with the hope that in the end we may enjoy the eternal glory of the great jubilee with our Father in heaven."

The Catholics— The Rt. Rev. Bishop Shanahan has issued a circular to the clergy of the diocese ordering solemn religious services to be held in all the churches on the morn of the Fourth of July."

"The Lutherans— At old Trinity Dr. Greenwald preached two sermons, morning and evening, appropriate to the Centennial, his morning text being from the 102nd Psalm, 18th verse. The morning discourse called attention to the many blessings we have enjoyed as a nation during the past century, particularly our liberty of person and conscience. The evening sermon contained many admonitions against the dissipations with which our people are too apt to celebrate the Fourth of

July. The preacher cautioned his hearers against all excesses and instructed them that true liberty never descends to licentiousness. The choir sang among other fine music the anthem 'He hath not dealt so with any nation.' "

"The Methodists— Dr. Dobbin the pastor preached a spirited Centennial sermon. The choir sang the National Anthem 'America.' " This was at First church. At St. Paul's M. E. Church, Rev. John Stringer preached a Centennial sermon in which he advanced strong arguments to prove that the unexampled growth of our country resulted from the fact that the Bible was recognized as the Cornerstone and that the continual prosperity of the nation largely depended on a continuance in this faith."

"Baptists— Last evening the pastor Rev. J. O. Critchlow preached a highly interesting and appropriate sermon, showing that every step toward our present national greatness and power was directed by the unerring hand of Providence, from Columbus, the discoverer of the continent and the settlement of the colonies, down through the Revolution and the successful struggle against the first power of earth one hundred years ago."

—July 4, 1876

"THE GREAT CENTENNIAL - In this city the celebration was on a scale and was accomplished with a degree of success beyond popular expectation. Around the square the main buildings were heavily draped with flags and bunting floated from every building summit and window. Bonfires blazed in all sections of the city, both on Monday night and last night. The largest bonfire that came under our notice was at the corner of East Chestnut and Lime streets, where the boys gathered together dozens of tar, oil and flower barrels, boxes and other material and erected a pile as high as the second story windows of the neighboring houses."

"The most beautiful and extensive display of fireworks was by the Demuth Centennial Club, an association composed of the patrons of H. C. Demuth's cigar store, East King street."

"At 12 o'clock as the Court House clock struck, a general pealing of bells and firing began all over the city. Trinity bells at midnight chimed 'Ein feste burg', 'America' and other pieces. A large number of musicians assembled in front of the residence of C. E. Rengier, South Prince street and as soon as the Trinity bells rang in the 4th of July, sang 'America' and other national airs with organ and flute accompaniment. The concert kept up until 2 o'clock."

"From this time until morning the noise continued and there was little sleep for anybody. Every two hours the bells pealed and the



Rev. Emanuel Greenwald, D.D.

nerves of the timid were in constant excitement over the fusilade of every kind of explosive."

"The parade was one of the finest, if not the very finest ever seen in Lancaster both as regards the number and the appearance of the men in line. The different organizations under command of their marshals were punctually on the ground and Chief Marshal Edgerly and his aides had little trouble in getting them into line."

"By the time the procession reached Centre Square where it was dismissed, an immense throng of people filled the square while the balconies, windows and even roofs in the vicinity were crowded. The immense stand east of the soldier's monument was soon filled to overflowing by the musical organizations that were to take part in the subsequent proceedings, by the Mayor and City Councils, the committee of arrangements, the orator of the day, the judges of the Courts, the clergy and other invited guests."

"The City Cornet Band opened the ball with 'Hail Columbia', 'Star Spangled Banner' and 'Yankee Doodle', and were loudly applauded for



Marriott Brosius 1889 to 1901

the excellence of their music.”

“Rev. Dr. Greenwald followed with an impressive and patriotic prayer. His Honor Mayor Stauffer read an address. The City Cornet Band next played an overture ‘The Three Shepherds’ by Boieldieu.”

“S. H. Reynolds who had been selected to read the Declaration of Independence was next introduced and after a few appropriate and prefatory remarks read the immortal declaration of our fathers in an earnest and fervent manner and with the clear tone of voice and graceful gesticulation for which he is distinguished.”

“Then followed a grand chorus with orchestral accompaniment, Keller’s ‘American Hymn’ the vocal music being sung by more than a hundred voices belonging to the Lancaster Choral Society, The Mendelssohn Society, The Lancaster Maennerchor and the Liederkrantz Society. The instrumental accompaniment was furnished by Keffer’s Orchestra and the City Cornet Band. The hymn was rendered with power and correctness and the performers were loudly applauded.”

“Dr. Thomas C. Porter of Lafayette College, Easton was then in-

troduced and read a historical sketch of the city and county of Lancaster. The learned speaker closed with a glowing tribute to our public schools and advancement in all material and intellectual things and was rapturously applauded."

"Centennial Meditation of Columbus" the cantata by Sidney Lanier, music by Dudley Buck, written for the Centennial was given in grand chorus by the same musicians who had so finely rendered the American Hymn."

"Marriott Brosius, Esq. the orator of the day was introduced and delivered an admirable oration (it was printed in full on page one of the paper)."

"At the conclusion of the address the long meter doxology was given in full chorus. The benediction was given by Dr. Greenwald and the morning exercises which had extended into the afternoon were ended."

July 5, 1876

All of the participants in Lancaster's Centennial Program were local citizens with the exception of Dr. Thomas C. Porter; and he was well known in the city, having been Professor of chemistry, zoology and botany at Franklin and Marshall College before going to Lafayette College. At the time of his death he was President of the Pennsylvania German Society.

Marriott Brosius, Esq. who was the principal orator was born in Colerain Township in 1843, attended Millersville Normal School and then received a law degree from the University of Michigan. Admitted to the Lancaster Bar in 1868 he soon was recognized as a leading member of the Lancaster legal group. From 1888 until 1901 in which year he departed this life, he served Lancaster County as its member in the United States House of Representatives. During the Civil War he was an enlisted man in Company K, 97th Regiment, Chester County Volunteers. Buried in Greenwood Cemetery, the epitaph on the tombstone - "Orator, Lawyer, Statesman" - is brief but sufficient. His Lancaster home was at 404 West Orange street and his office was at 59 N. Duke street.

"THE DAY IN NEW HOLLAND - The grand celebration of the day in this village by the people of "The Three Earls" was a complete success in every particular. All the bells in the town were rung for half an hour in the morning immediately after midnight and also for a hour at sunrise and at 12 o'clock noon for fifteen minutes, by which time 2000 people were assembled in town."

“As soon as the bells ceased ringing at noon, the hymn ‘‘Before Jehovah’s Awful Throne’’ was sung to the tune of ‘Old Hundred’ by a select choir accompanied by the New Holland Brass Band, in front of the Lutheran Church.”

“At 12:30 the procession formed . . . and proceeded to the orchard where the exercises opened with music by the band. F. R. Diffenderfer, Esq. delivered a historical sketch on The Three Earls.”

—July 5, 1875

Frank R. Diffenderfer who was the orator of the day at New Holland was a native of the town, born there in 1833. In 1876 he was a banker in Lancaster. Later he became the editor of the Lancaster New Era, serving in that post for thirty two years. A man of scholarly attainments, he was one of the founders of the Lancaster County Historical Society. From 1918 to 1921 he held the office of president of the organization. He contributed numerous papers on historical subjects, all of which were published in the journals of the society. Mr. Diffenderfer lived at 542 North Duke street. He died in 1921.

“THE FOURTH OF JULY AFTERMATH - At 8 o’clock on Tuesday morning Trinity Choir and about 20 other vocalists went up into the open space of Trinity steeple and sang all the national airs and two or three anthems and hymns.”

“It caused a feeling of sadness amidst the general rejoicing to see Prof. W. H. Keffer sitting on the grand stand in Centre Square with his hand in a sling. A day or two previously he was attacked with paralysis of the left arm, which though not of a very serious grade, prevented him from leading his orchestra.”

—July 6, 1876

“THE FAT BOY - John H. Powers, the Kentucky giant, was in town today, stopping at the Leopard Hotel. He came in from New Holland where he and his sister are exhibiting themselves for the purpose of buying a couple of horses. The giant stands 6 feet, 5½ inches in height and weighs 601 pounds. His sister weighs 807½ pounds.”

—July 7, 1876

“DISBANDED - The Lancaster Light Guards, the only military organization in this city, has been disbanded and the arms and accou-

trements were this morning returned to the state arsenal in Harrisburg. The real cause of the disbandment of the company seems to be that Adjutant General Latta when he visited this city to inspect the company was offended because he was not received with such marked respect as he thought his high office entitled him to."

—July 11, 1876

"IN TOWN - Capt. W. W. Nevin and his sister Miss Blanche Nevin the well known sculptress are visiting the home of their parents at Caernarvon Place, near this city."

—July 11, 1876

The parents of Captain Nevin and his sister Blanche were Dr. John Williamson and Mrs. Nevin who in 1876 were living in their comfortable home on the Columbia Pike. Closely attached to collegiate interests, Doctor Nevin was president of Marshall College at Mercersburg 1841-1853 and president of Franklin and Marshall College 1866-1877. In 1868 Doctor Nevin preached Hon. James Buchanan's funeral sermon.

"SALE OF THE WATCH FACTORY - Yesterday the property of the Lancaster Watch Company including the real estate, machinery and personal property were sold for the benefit of the creditors. The real estate and machinery which cost about 90,000 dollars were knocked down to Dr. Carpenter for \$31,000. The personal property brought about \$5,000, Dr. Carpenter being the purchaser. It is the purpose to at once revive the business and men have already been set to work getting the machinery in order."

—July 13, 1876

Known officially as the Adams and Perry Watch Company, its building on Columbia Avenue was built in 1875 and is today the central part of the facade of the Hamilton Watch Company. The business apparently failed because of insufficient working capital. Dr. Henry Carpenter was a member of the board of the Lancaster Watch Company and presumably represented the investors. For more information on watchmaking in Lancaster, read the authoritative article by John J. Bowman in Vol 49 of the journals of the Lancaster County Historical Society.

"THE CINCINNATI LIGHT GUARDS - Company C of the Cincinnati Light Guards arrived in this city about 11:30 this morning and

marched through the streets to their camp on the reservoir grounds.'

'They left York on Saturday morning, reached Wrightsville late in the afternoon where they were met by the Wrightsville Guards and escorted to Columbia. On Sunday at 7 o'clock they had dress parade and made a fine appearance. At 6 o'clock this morning they left Columbia and marched to Mountville where citizens provided them with a substantial breakfast. They then resumed their march and reached this city at 11:30 o'clock. The company as it marched out East King street numbered two staff officers, thirty line officers and men and three negro servants. Mayor Stauffer and B. F. Eberly rode in a buggy ahead of them, acting as a reception committee and guided them to their place of encampment. Mayor Stauffer ordered dinner for them at the Leopard Hotel at which place they dined at three o'clock. They will have dress parade this evening, remaining in camp over night, then march to Strasburg tomorrow morning. Thence they will march to Christiana, Downingtown, and West Chester and arrive in Philadelphia in time for Sunday service.'

—July 17, 1876

MILLERSVILLE COMMENCEMENT - ORATION - THE REVOLUTIONARY RISING - W. W. Griest, Lancaster, the orator sketched the early events of the Revolution in graphic language when the strong hand of England was at the throat of the rebellious colonists for daring to give utterance to the principles that secured England her high standing among the nations of the earth.'

'The commencement satisfactorily demonstrated that the scholarship of old Millersville has not been allowed to fall below the high standard which has always been necessary for graduation from that mother of teachers.'

—July 21, 1876

William Walton Griest, born at Christiana, began his public career as a Lancaster County school teacher. After three years in the school-room he became associated with the "Inquirer" a newspaper owned and published by his father. His first political office was as a clerk in the County Commissioner's Office and from here he was appointed Secretary of the Commonwealth by Governor Stone. It was as a member of Congress from 1909 until his death on Dec. 4, 1929 and as the acknowledged leader of the Republican party in Lancaster County that Mr. Griest left his impress for all time. It was Mr. Griest too who as president of the Conestoga Traction Company developed the electric trolley system of Lancaster County which played such an important part in transportation. Also for 24 years he served on Lancaster City School Board.

Miss Rebecca Griest, a daughter of the late Congressman Griest, is a guest at Luther Acres, Lititz.

“THE LANCASTER WATCH COMPANY LIMITED - When the property of The Lancaster Watch Company was assigned, it was found that \$120,000 had been expended upon it up to that time. We are informed that at the time when the company became insolvent, watches were nearly ready for the market; and at the sale of the 12th inst. Dr. Henry Carpenter bought in the whole property for \$35,500 in the interest of the stockholders, and with the purpose of organizing a new company with a capital of \$50,000 to be styled ‘The Lancaster Watch Company Limited’. The company will take the factory in its present condition which will include the machinery and stock and the manufactured material already accumulated.”

—July 25, 1876

“A NEW RIFLE COMPANY - Last evening a meeting composed of a large number of members of the lately disbanded Lancaster Light Guards was held at Mrs. Reese’s, South Queen street. An informal organization was effected in the selection of the following officers: President, Major C. H. Fasnacht; Vice President, Capt. George F. Sprenger; Secretary, Jacob Reese. It was resolved to organize permanently under the name of The Lancaster Light Guard Rifle Association.”

—July 26, 1876

“EXCURSION TICKETS - The Pennsylvania Railroad will issue excursion tickets for the Landisville Campmeeting, commencing tomorrow and good until the 10th of August, the round trip costing but 40 cents. There are already forty tents erected on the camp grounds and there will be fully a hundred by opening day.

—July 28, 1876

“NEW HOLLAND ITEM - On Thursday night the Molly Maguires of the Welsh Mountains held a picnic in the classic village of Louse-town. It was a jubilee in honor of Mart. Buzzard who was liberated from the county prison several weeks ago. A bus load from town went over to see the fun and they report that oaths, stones and other missiles filled the impure atmosphere of that iniquitous corner. They danced

and fought until every man was so 'full' that it was necessary to roll over. Then as a matter of course the picnic was numbered with the things that were."

—July 29, 1872

Members of the Buzzard family were infamous in the annals of Lancaster County for at least seventy five years. The Welsh Mountains which border the southern side of Caernarvon Township provided the crude homes for these ruffians; and from here they sallied forth to commit their misdemeanors. If there really was a place named Louse-town, it has long since been erased from the maps of the area.

"LANDISVILLE CAMP MEETING - The Methodist Camp Meeting near Landisville commenced yesterday. The grounds are situated one mile from the depot over which route Isaac Powl of this city runs a line of buggies and baggage wagons."

"There are already about one hundred tents erected and others are in progress. Besides, there are a number of two story cottages constructed more permanently. In addition to the private residences and lodging places, there are a number of tents and structures of a public character. There is a large building erected on the southern part of the grounds capable of holding 500 or 600 people to be used in case of rain and in the evening. In front of the tabernacle there is a stand erected for the preachers and seats for several thousand people."

—August 2, 1876

It was in the year 1870 that the first Methodist Camp meeting was held at Landisville so that 1876 marked the seventh year that Methodists converged on the Landisville Camp Grounds for ten days of spiritual renewal. In this bicentennial year it is interesting to learn that in 1877 Mr. Arthur Johns brought from the Centennial Exhibition grounds in Philadelphia the building which had served as the post office and set it up in the Landisville Grove and named it the Centennial Cottage. Although the nature of the programs at Landisville have changed since the annual camp meeting began, the year 1976 marks the 106th year that religious exercises directed by the Methodist Church have been held in the lovely Landisville grove.

"THE FAT PEOPLE - John H. Powers and his sister 'the fat people' were billed for Landisville today for a season of three days and expected to reap a rich harvest from the visitors to the camp. The Methodists protesting, they were refused permission to pitch their tent

and the giant and giantess went on to Petersburg."

—August 3, 1876

"LANDISVILLE CAMP MEETING - The assemblage on the camp grounds yesterday far exceeded in size all calculations that had been made regarding it, and neither the capacity of the railroad accommodations nor the facilities for comfort on the grounds were adequate to the occasion. The road which leads from the depot to the camp grounds was for several hours crowded with people, buses, buggies, and carriages; and the scene resembled those attendant upon the great fairs. Thick dust covered the way and added to the heat, made the tramp a very disagreeable one. Along the way and at points outside the camp grounds, thrifty hawkers with no fear of the Lord or the law, plied their trade in ice cream, lemonade, watermelons, and peanuts, while on the corner the Kentucky giant had pitched his tent and exhibited himself to many who patronized his show. Notwithstanding the apparent worldliness of the visitors, the religious exercises were very largely attended and the deepest interest was manifested in them."

—August 7, 1876

"FATHER KEENAN SERENADED - Last evening the city cornet band paid a visit in a body to St. Mary's Parochial residence for the purpose of congratulating the venerable Father Keenan on his 97th birthday and at the same time extend to him the compliments of a serenade. On arriving at the residence (Prince & Vine sts.) the band was ushered into the presence of the Reverend Father and Prof. John Hart addressed him in behalf of the band."

"Father Keenan most feelingly responded, saying that it was a great source of pleasure to him to meet the members of the band; that many had been the changes he had witnessed since he had taken up his residence in the good city of Lancaster among its dear people; that he had ever been treated with the utmost kindness and regard by all; that he was not in very good shape for speaking this evening but he would try and get into good condition by the time the next centennial comes around and then make them a right good speech."

—August 9, 1876

Father Keenan died on February 19, 1877 at age ninety seven, after having lived in Lancaster since 1823. He was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, came to Philadelphia in 1821 with the eminent Catholic, Bishop Henry Conwell who ordained him. Father Keenan was a great Christian character, loved and respected by all classes of Lancas-



Father Bernard Keenan, Pastor of
Saint Marys Catholic Church
He celebrated his 97th birthday anniversary
on August 8, 1876

trians. At the time of his demise, he was the oldest Catholic priest in America.

“IN TOWN - Hon. Edward McPherson and Wayne MacVeagh were in town today, the former looking after his book which is being printed at the Inquirer office and the latter on professional business.”

—August 10, 1876

Hon. Edward McPherson (1830-1895) in the course of a noted career was editor of various newspapers in Harrisburg and Philadelphia, member of Congress 1859-1865, clerk of the National House of

Representatives on two occasions and director of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. His entire life was spent at Gettysburg.

Wayne MacVeagh was prominent in Pennsylvania politics during all of his mature life. At one time he tried to wrest power in the Republican party from the hands of Simon Cameron, then made his peace with him and married Virginia, daughter of the adroit Cameron. President Grant in his first term appointed MacVeagh Minister to Turkey.

CAMP MEETING - Last evening witnessed the grand finale of the Landisville Camp Meeting. By nine o'clock it is estimated that there were 4000 to 6000 persons on the grounds. The grounds were lighted by about 75 torches and a number of bonfires, which blazing among the trees added picturesque beauty to the scene."

"The camp all of yesterday was animated by the interest excited by the presence of Rev. J. P. Newman, D. D., pastor of the Metropolitan Methodist Church in Washington, D. C. of which the presidential family are attendants. Dr. Newman was formerly Chaplain of the Senate and is known as the gentleman who obtained a voyage around the world at the expense of the government, under the pretext of filling an office called 'inspector of consuls.' He preached yesterday morning and made a good impression."

—August 11, 1876

Dr. John Philip Newman was one of the great bishops of the Methodist Church in America. A powerful preacher, he has been described as "one of the most ornamental figures that ever took its stately walk through Methodism."

"A FINE IMPROVEMENT - North Queen street is becoming noted for its fine business houses. With few exceptions all the old fashion brick buildings between Center Square and the railroad have been remodeled or torn down, to make room for more imposing and convenient structures. The finest improvement yet made on the street is that just completed by Mr. A. C. Kepler, owner of the building occupied by Kepler and Slaymaker, No 40 North Queen street. The building is four stories high including the basement. The first and second floors are furnished with narrow gauge railroads running from the front to the rear of the building which are in constant use in removing to and from the store the heavier articles of trade such as stoves, heaters, refrigerators and heavy parcels of hardware."

—August 12, 1876

Likely the improvements described represented the first "North Queen street Renewal" and marked the beginning of the end of Queen street, north to Chestnut as a residential quarter. Mr. Kepler's partner in the hardware business was R. M. Slaymaker and the firm was known as Kepler and Slaymaker.

"A LARGE DROVE - The Bedford Gazette says 'Mr. Franklin Clark of Strasburg, Lancaster County passed through here on Wednesday with one of the finest droves of sheep that we have ever seen. They were purchased in Madison County, Ohio and the drove contained one thousand first class sheep, which we believe are intended for feeding. Mr. Clark will reach his destination about the last of this month.'"

—August 12, 1876

Reading about this huge herd of sheep, the commentator recalled his grandfather telling him that when he was a boy in Elizabethtown, it was not uncommon to see large herds of sheep driven through the town and he stated that frequently stragglers and sick animals were taken by him to their farm and nursed back to health.

"CORNERSTONE LAYING - Yesterday afternoon (Sunday) at six o'clock the ceremony of laying the cornerstone of the new Sunday School building in south Duke street was performed. The pastors and vestry of Trinity Church and the pupils of the three departments of the Sunday School met in the church and marched in procession to the site of the new building. After a few introductory remarks by Dr. Greenwald, the corner stone was laid by him in the usual form. Dr. Greenwald then delivered an address. The choir sang the hymn commencing 'My Church, my Church' after which Rev. Haupt preached an appropriate sermon, the subject being 'Christ the chief cornerstone'. A prayer was then read by Rev. Rufus Ward Hufford, the new pastor of St. Johns' Lutheran."

—August 14, 1876

Trinity's Sunday School building was erected on the s.e. corner of Duke and Mifflin streets. It became known as Trinity Chapel and as such it was called until it was razed in 1953 to provide a site for the present Parish Building. With the erection of the chapel, the old Sunday School building which had also housed the parochial school was sold. Rev. C. Elvin Haupt who preached when the cornerstone of the chapel was laid was assistant to Dr. Greenwald and in 1880 began a lengthy pastorate of forty years at Grace Lutheran Church. Trinity Chapel was dedicated in 1877.

"THE OLD UNION, SIXTEEN YEARS THE SENIOR OF THE REPUBLIC - The Union Fire Company last evening celebrated its 116th anniversary having been established in this city in 1760, a fact which debarred the presence of any of the founders from the festivities of the night. About fifty men turned out fully equipped in green shirts, fire hats and white gauntlets, drawing their handsome hose carriage decorated with wreaths for the occasion. The steamer was drawn by two black horses. The company also carried two handsome silk banners presented to them by the ladies of Lancaster and carried in the parade of 1838. After the parade the company marched to the Maennerchor Hall where a supper prepared in the best style awaited them. The occasion was a happy one and its record is in 'red letters' in the annals of our gallant fire service."

—August 15, 1876

No longer an active fire fighting organization, the Union Fire Company nevertheless continues as more or less of an historical society. An annual banquet is held when the noble past history of the old Union Company is rehearsed. The relics owned by the company may now be seen in the museum of the Lancaster County Historical Society. The Union Fire Company in 1876 was located on the corner of Grant & Market streets, north of the Central Market.



"OUR OWN: THANKS TO OUR LADY FRIENDS."

THE STEAMER OF THE UNION FIRE COMPANY

Purchased 1865 Rebuilt 1868

The company paraded on August 14, 1876 in celebration of their 116th anniversary. A newspaper account of the parade stated "The steamer was drawn by two black horses."

—From a sketch of the company by Alfred Sanderson 1879

“SWEEPING REDUCTIONS - The daily wages of conductors in the middle division of the Pennsylvania Railroad have been reduced from \$3.20 to \$2.25. The brakemen get \$1.35, a decrease of thirty five cents.”

—August 17, 1876

“CORNER STONE LAYING - Yesterday afternoon at four o'clock the corner stone of the new Academy of the Sacred Heart at the corner of Ann and Orange streets was laid with appropriate ceremonies by Rev. F. L. Neufeld. The choir of the church sang several very fine selections with organ and band accompaniment. The design was drawn by E. F. Durang, architect of Philadelphia and it is being erected by D. Rapp, contractor and builder. On account of sickness Rev. A. F. Kaul, pastor of the church under whose management the academy is being erected was unable to be present.”

—August 21, 1876

From the excellent history of St. Anthony's Church prepared by Edgar Musser (L.C.H.S. Vol. 74) we learn that Father Kaul and members of his family personally paid for the land on which to build the Academy and for the building itself. Architect Durang was also the architect for St. Anthony's Church. Contractor Dionis Rapp was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Parish. Rev. Neufeld who presided at the corner stone ceremony in the absence of Father Kaul was pastor of St. Joseph's Church.

“CARNCROSS AND DIXEY - Those old favorites in the 'burnt cork line' drew a crowded house in Fulton Hall last night. Hughey Dougherty's stump speech was cheered again and again and Frank Cushman's plantation songs were the best that have been along for many days. But the most striking feature of the evening was the musical tricks of Weslyn and Casey. To see and hear them play a banjo and guitar, one fingering the other's instrument is a good deal better amusement than the 'dumb oration' trick.”

—August 23, 1876

Hughey Dougherty was one of the celebrated actors of the old time minstrel shows, now happily remembered by those whose memories can take them back to the years when minstrel shows were standard entertainment.

"A LARGE BIRD - Early last evening Benjamin F. Swinehart who lives on Jacob Snavelly's farm one and one half miles below Quarryville had his attention directed to the movements of a large bird which was standing near a little stream below his house. He took his shotgun and getting within range, fired at and hit it. It turned out to be a splendid male specimen of bald eagle, about four years old and measuring six feet from tip to tip of the wings. Mr. Swinehart has presented the bird to Mr. W. U. Hensel and it will be mounted. It is a very rare occurrence for the bald eagle to be shot in this county. One is occasionally found along the Susquehanna and even on the Conestoga but we have never heard of any being found in the neighborhood in which this one was shot."

—August 26, 1876

In 1870 a bald eagle was shot and captured in East Hempfield Township. It measured six feet and ten inches from tip to tip. Presently, the bald eagle is a protected bird. For many years, eagles nested regularly on Mount Johnson Island in the Susquehanna but from authoritative sources we learn that no longer are these great birds seen in the Susquehanna Valley.

"SWITZERLAND GREETING TO UNCLE SAM - On Saturday in Philadelphia the Swiss Americans met in council at Scheutzer Hall for mutual congratulations on the completion of the first centennial of American Independence. General John A. Sutter, Lititz, this county, was chosen president. . . . General Sutter presented John R. Fellman of Baltimore who delivered the congratulatory address of the Swiss to the American people. He gave a brief history of the Swiss emigration to this country."

"Among the comparatively recent Swiss settlers he took pride in referring to honored and aged countryman General Sutter, the pioneer of the gold land, California. It was upon his farm that gold was first discovered."

"This was followed by a fine parade in which many beautiful banners were displayed."

—August 28, 1876

Although General John Augustus Sutter is often referred to as the discoverer of gold in California, the statement is not correct. It was on the mill property of Sutter that the precious metal was found in 1848. As a result the gold rush began and soon the Sutter lands were overrun by seekers after the yellow metal. For the remainder of his life, General Sutter pressed a claim for reparations before the Congress of the United States. From 1871 until his death at Washington D. C. on June

persons in excess of the number carried on the first trip. . . . The return by moonlight was delightful and we are pleased to be able to record that the vendors of malt and spiritous liquors at the Centennial were not much benefited by the Lancaster people, for there was not a single case of drunkenness in the party that we saw or heard of. Before reaching Lancaster, circulars were distributed among the passengers signed by the excursion committee, Messrs Bursk, Warfel, Geist and Haverstick, announcing a third excursion."

—September 1, 1876

Arranged by the Y.M.C.A., the second excursion to the Centennial Exhibition took Lancastrians to the Centennial Exhibition for \$1.75 round trip.

"A CORRESPONDENT OF THE MANHEIM SENTINEL has been writing a series of papers descriptive of the business and professional men on Market Square in that borough, and in today's issue he refers to the schoolmaster whom we take to be our friend B. D. Danner, Esq. Here is the paragraph."

"There is a character that is indispensable in every community and fortunately the square has one of that kind. We allude to the schoolmaster. In him is combined all the wisdom of the ages. But the schoolmaster on the square is something beside all this. Independent of his scholarly attainments he is Justice of the Peace, a Notary Public, a leader of the choir and an Ex-Burgess."

—September 1, 1876

Prof. Benjamin D'Arman Danner, in charge of the Manheim schools was an outstanding educator and had he not died in 1877 at the untimely age of forty three would undoubtedly have risen higher in his profession.

"BLASTING ROCKS IN THE CANAL - During the past week the Pennsylvania Canal Company has had about twenty men at work in the channel on the Lancaster County shore below Chickies. When the wall was built along the canal last summer it was extended out into the channel so far as not to allow sufficient room for a raft to pass with ease, so that the company were compelled to prevent the wall from being struck to widen the channel."

—September 2, 1876

“ANOTHER NEW CHURCH - The Church of God organized recently by the Reverend J. B. Soule have purchased the piece of ground on the southwest corner of West Orange and Concord streets 41 feet 6 inches on Orange and 146 feet on Concord. This is one of the most desirable sites in the city for a church and the building committee expect to commence operations in the near future.”

—September 4, 1876

The congregation was known as Salem Church of God and is no longer in existence. The churchly edifice was used by several other denominations and is now utilized as a dance hall.

“THE REPUBLICANS OF MANHEIM BOROUGH and part of Rapho Township held a public meeting at the house of Jacob Lindemuth last Saturday for the purpose of organizing a Hayes and Wheeler club. Spirited addresses were given by Jacob R. Shearer, A. Kline and B. D. Danner. The Republicans of Manheim and vicinity are enthusiastic in their support of Hayes and Wheeler. They are determined to do their part in preventing the government from falling into the hands of enemies whether they be rampant rebels of the south or cunning Democrats of the North.”

—September 5, 1876

The house of Jacob Lindemuth in Manheim is today the Washington House on Market Square.

“JAMES BLACK, ESQ. of this city at the Prohibition State committee meeting in Philadelphia yesterday was chosen as a Presidential Elector for the Ninth District.”

—September 6, 1876

Four years previous, James Black, Lancaster attorney, had been the candidate for the Presidency on the Temperance Party later to be known as the Prohibition party. A dedicated reformer, he was an honored member of the Lancaster bar. In his latter years he operated the Black Barren Springs Health Resort in southern Lancaster County. His office was at 135 East King street and his home was at 323 North Duke street.

“THE NEW HOLLAND RAILROAD - This new road which passes through the north of this township received another quietus. The officers or inspectors of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company have been viewing it and the result of their inspection has been anything but satisfactory. They pronounced it the worst graded road they ever saw and condemned a great number of the ties, saying they would not place any of their rolling stock upon it unless the road was put in a first class condition. We sympathize with our Earl friends who really have met with no end of embarrassment in getting this road completed.”

—September 8, 1876

“HIGH COMPLIMENT TO A FORMER LANCASTRIAN - The trustees of the University of Pennsylvania have elected Rev. Dr. F. A. Muhlenberg, brother of Dr. H. E. Muhlenberg of this city to the Chair of Greek Language and Literature. The Reading Times says ‘Dr. Muhlenberg has been for some time President of Muhlenberg College at Allentown and has gained high reputation as a Greek scholar and teacher; not only there but also at Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster and at the Pennsylvania College, Gettysburg. Dr. Muhlenberg is one of the leading Greek scholars of the country and possesses the charm of being able to impart information in an entertaining manner.’”

—September 9, 1876

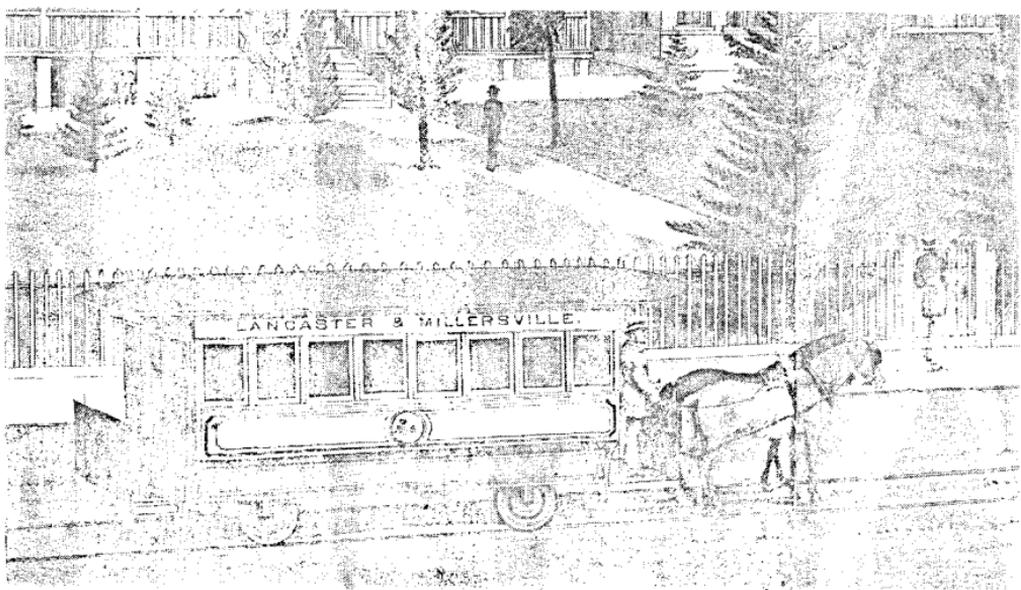
Likely no family in Pennsylvania has had as many eminent men in the ministry, education, politics and medicine as the Muhlenberg family. Almost forgotten is Dr. F. A. Muhlenberg, grandson of Rev. Henry Ernst Muhlenberg, longtime pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church. Born in Lancaster in 1818, he was a son of Frederick Augustus Hall Muhlenberg and a brother of Dr. Henry Muhlenberg, medical practitioner of the city. Dr. F. A. Muhlenberg moreover married a Muhlenberg, none other than Catharine Anna, daughter of Major Peter Muhlenberg and a granddaughter of the celebrated Revolutionary general, Peter Muhlenberg. Dr. Muhlenberg held the post of Greek literature at Penn for 12 years, then took the post of president of Thiel College which he held until his retirement at age seventy five in 1893. He died at Reading in 1901 and was buried in the Charles Evans Cemetery.

“NOT SOLD - Yesterday afternoon at four o'clock was the time fixed for the sale of the present year's lease, the cars, horses, harness and other property belonging to Mr. E. J. Cowell, lessee of the Lancaster and Millersville passenger railway. At the hour named, B. F. Rowe

auctioneer put up the property and asked a bid of \$15,000, that being the price at which the lease and property had been asked by Mr. Cowell. The amount not being offered, the auctioneer came down to \$4500. When receiving no bid, the property was withdrawn."

—September 10, 1876

The Lancaster and Millersville Railway - generally referred to as the horse cars- began to take passengers, mostly students at the Normal School, from the Pennsylvania Railroad Station in Lancaster to the town of Millersville in 1874. While the railway property was not disposed of at this auction, in this same year of 1876 it was taken over by John G. Brenner and under his ownership and subsequent owners this busy horse drawn conveyance on a track continued to operate until the first electric car was put into operation from Lancaster to Millersville in 1891.



LANCASTER-MILLERSVILLE HORSE CAR

1876

From the Lancaster County Atlas

"GRAND RALLY AT LIEDERKRANZ HALL - The Fifth Ward Republican Club met at Liederkranz Hall on Saturday night. The intelligent Republicans of the ward turned out to the number of a least two hundred. Precisely at eight o'clock the meeting was called to order.

The President Mr. E. K. Martin opened in a critical review of the one and then the other of the character of the two Presidential Candidates, showing how Tilden had been identified with everything that was vicious and corrupt and Hayes with all that was pure and ennobling."

"Marriott Brosius, Esq. followed in a close analysis of the princi-

ples of the great Republican party, holding the large audience spell-bound with eloquence."

"B. C. Kready, Esq. followed, dwelling largely in criticism upon the reform measures proposed by Tilden. He was loudly applauded."

"Next came Hugh Fulton, Esq. who made a sound, telling speech in which he exhibited the opposing attitudes of the opposition, which reminded him of the menagerie where all the animals get to fighting."

—September 11, 1876

Although Samuel Jones Tilden was a brilliant corporation lawyer and was in politics for half a century, he was not universally popular, possibly because he had opposed Lincoln during the Civil War. At this time he was finishing a term as Governor of New York State. Born in 1814, he departed this life in 1886.

"THE TUNNEL AT ELIZABETHTOWN - The cutting down of the tunnel at Elizabethtown is being carried on with great energy. Taking into account the fact that the work cannot be constantly carried forward at present because of possible delay to trains and must be done at stated times to prevent detention, the progress made is remarkable."

—September 11, 1876

Mount Tunnel Cemetery in Elizabethtown derives its name from the railroad tunnel which marked the western boundary of the cemetery. With the cutting down of the tunnel, there was a continuing danger of rocks being loosened and falling on to the tracks. This necessitated a flagman at the eastern entrance of the cut; and it is of interest to the commentator that his grandfather, George Wealand of Elizabethtown was the flagman there for many years until retirement.

"THE GYPSIES - The large encampment of Gypsies, which for several days past has been encamped at Landis' Woods, passed through the city this morning on their way to Columbia, York and the South. The cavalcade numbered 22 wagons, 52 horses and about 60 men, women and children. Some of the wagons are very fine, though odd looking vehicles, being gaily painted and decorated with pictures and curtains and containing clean and comfortable looking sleeping quarters. Most of the men and women are of good features and gaudily dressed. They say their principal occupation is basket making and horse trading, though they do not hesitate to dicker in other matters and tell fortunes."

—September 12, 1876

The people known as Gypsies are scattered all over the world but are especially numerous in Europe. It seems a long time since we heard the warning "The Gypsies are around, watch your pocketbook." There must still be some wandering families of Gypsies travelling about our country but they have long since abandoned travel by horse and wagon and now use automobiles. The name Gypsy is an adaption of Egyptian but authorities are agreed that they are not of Egyptian descent but rather remnants of a tribe in India.

"REMAINS OF OTHER DAYS - In digging the foundation trenches for a stable in his lot on Cherry Alley between Chestnut and Walnut streets yesterday, W. H. Gorrecht dug up the bones of the Conestoga Indians which were the victims of the famous Paxton Boys Massacre in 1765. When the excavations for the Pennsylvania Railroad in the neighborhood were made the bones were turned up and buried in the lot where Mr. Gorrecht found them at the depth of less than three feet. He reinterred them, retaining a few pieces of skull which are well preserved, considering that they have been in the ground for 112 years."

—September 14, 1876

The infamous murder in the Lancaster jail (Prince and King streets) of the harmless Indians by the so-called Paxton boys was perpetrated in December 1763 and not in 1765 as stated. Originally the bodies of the Indians were collected and buried in one grave, at the corner of Chestnut and Duke streets. It was in 1833 that workmen while excavating for the Pennsylvania railroad dug them up and reinterred them where Mr. Gorrecht found them. Those persons who are not familiar with this chapter of Lancaster history should visit the Society library and become acquainted with the literature on the subject.

"THE GAP - Near the Gap on the Gap Hill are the Gap mines, owned by Mr. Joseph H. Wharton of Philadelphia and run by him through his competent manager, Captain Charles H. Doble. These mines were discovered about the year 1718 and have been worked for their copper and nickel at intervals for 140 years. They now give employment to 100 men and yield 7000 tons of ore annually; and the supply seems inexhaustible."

—September 15, 1876

It was in 1862 or 1863 that Joseph Wharton became the owner of the Gap Mines which continued until 1893 to be the only source of nickel in the United States. Discontinuance of mining operations in that

year was due to the importing of more cheaply mined ore from Canada. The crossroads village of Nickel Mines in Bart Township is a reminder that the area once owned its prosperity to the Gap mines. The Wharton School of Commerce and Finance in Philadelphia was founded by a bequest of Joseph Wharton, engineer and financier.

“MANHEIM ITEM - The baptism of 8 persons to the faith of the Evangelical Church took place on Sunday forenoon last, two by sprinkling in the church and six by immersion in the creek at the lower end of the town.”

—September 17, 1786

“CORNWALL - Cornwall iron ore hill is a tenancy in common and so held by E. Burt Grubb and C. B. Grubb, Robert and Dawson Coleman and the heirs of Robert W. and William Coleman. Their interests have been fixed by law as follows: Messrs Grubb own 16/96; Messrs R. and D. B. Coleman 30/96 and the heirs of R. W. and W. Coleman by far the largest share of 50/96. Many have been the conjectures concerning the value of the hill, all agreeing that there's millions in it, yet curious to relate, these hills were once purchased for \$675.

—September 18, 1876

Peter Grubb began taking ore out of the Cornwall Banks in 1734 so that it is now 242 years that these mines, once the most important iron mines in the nation, have been supplying the industry. In 1798 Robert Coleman, rich Lancaster County ironmaster bought into the operation. This eventually was the cause of much litigation between the Coleman heirs and the Grubb heirs as to the relative shares owned by members of these two families. Presently the Cornwall Mines are owned by the Bethlehem Steel Company. Since 1973 the mines have been flooded and all mining operations have been discontinued.

“ITEM FROM QUARRYVILLE - The Meigs Surveying party are stopping at the National House and are locating the branch railroad to the mines lately purchased by Bair and Shenk. This branch will be built immediately and the mines will be put into operation. The Cabeen mines are now employing a large force of men and are raising ore faster than for a long time previous. It is being shipped by rail as rapidly as it is being mined.”

—September 22, 1876

The Bair and Shenk mine in New Providence Township and Cabeen and Company's mine in Eden Township have long since been discontinued. According to the Second Geological Survey in Pennsylvania (1880) the mine of Cabeen and Company was 1000 feet long and 100 feet broad. At its last working, forty men employed there produced about 25 tons of ore daily. In 1880 the pit was already filled with water, thereby preventing a continuing operation.

“DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL CLUB - Notwithstanding the incessant rain on Saturday evening which prevented the different ward clubs from assembling, there was such a large individual attendance that at eight o'clock the room was filled to its seating capacity. Wm. B. Given, Esq. of Columbia was the first speaker. He began with a vigorous onslaught upon the Republican party for its partisan policy toward the South wherein to serve political ends it had sought to obliterate every vestige of home rule. Mr. J. Zeamer of Columbia followed him in a very sensible and straightforward speech devoted to the responsibility of the Republican party for the hard times and the financial embarrassments, W. U. Hensel, Esq. made a speech in which he dwelt with severity upon the character of the local leaders of the Republican party, the ballot box stuffers and the almshouse jobbers and the rotten bank thieves, the appropriation grabbers in council and the forgers of naturalization papers. His remarks seemed to be greatly relished.”

—September 25, 1876

William B. Given, Esq. was a native of Columbia and practiced law in that borough. Although active in Democratic politics and in public affairs in general, he never held public office. However he was a candidate for District Attorney in 1877 and in 1882 ran for Congress but was defeated for each office.

Twenty five years of age, William Uhler Hensel was already co-editor of The Lancaster Intelligencer, a position which he held until 1886. At this time he could well be described as a brash Democratic haranguer. While he continued through life to be a man of influence in the Democratic party, he mellowed considerably and we now think of him not only as an able attorney, editor, and politician but also as a leading Lancaster County historian.

“PENNSYLVANIA DAY - In Lancaster no holiday was ever more generally observed by the business men than yesterday. The general quiet that reigned through the town was largely caused by the fact that almost everybody that could get away went to Philadelphia to swell the

throng at the Centennial Exposition, participating in the ceremonies of Pennsylvania Day. About 1300 Lancastrians accompanied the Y.M.C.A. excursion and perhaps an equal number of our townsmen went down on the regular trains."

—September 29, 1876

ERRATA

In Volume 79, No. 4, page 191, appears a mistake regarding the birth of Jacob Eichholtz. It is printed as being Nov. 22, 1776 but the correct birth date of the artist is Nov. 2, 1776. The original birth and death dates as recorded in Trinity Church, Lancaster leaves no doubt of the date, and especially the death record which states that he died on May 11, 1842, age 65 yrs., 6 months, 9 days. Mrs. Janice Rodriguez, author, concurs in this statement.

In Volume 80, No. 2, page 61, the second line of the text about Eichholtz portraits, by Rebecca J. Beal, reads ". . .we are not reminded . . ." It should read ". . .we are now reminded that portraits continue to turn up. . ."

In Volume 80, No. 2, page 80, in comments following the excerpt relating to Gen. Merrill appears an error which the commentator desires to correct. First, there were two women with the name "Susanna Wright" The first Susanna —the more famous one— was never married and died in 1784. It was the second Susanna (died 1829) who married Dr. John Houston in 1773 and was therefore the great grandmother of Annie Houston Merrill.