

Lancaster in 1876

Observing the Centennial Year

October 1 - December 31, 1876

Annotated by Dr. George L. Heiges

“JAMES LICK, the San Francisco millionaire, formerly of Lebanon County died yesterday in California. He had been gradually sinking for several days, his death resulting from mere decay of nature. The deceased had manifested considerable concern at hearing nothing from his son John Lick of Fredericksburg, Lebanon County, to whom both letters and telegrams has been sent, requesting his resignation as one of the trustees of his trust fund. The total value of the trust fund is estimated at about five million.”

October 2, 1876

Most famous of the gifts of James Lick, the Lebanon Countian who made his fortune in California, is the Lick Observatory on Mount Hamilton, California.

“LOVE FEAST - Quite a number of citizens whose religious faith is known as River Brethren were present at the love feast held last Sunday at the farm of Rev. Benjamin Gish in East Donegal Township. Over

2000 people, it is estimated, took dinner, the tables on which the feast for the multitude was served having been placed under canvas near the buildings. The services were held in a large barn."

—October 3, 1876

Although known in Lancaster County as The River Brethren, even in 1876 the group had already changed their name officially to The Brethren in Christ at a convention held in Lancaster in 1861. The cradle of the sect was in Donegal Township, adjacent to the Susquehanna River. Traditionally, their first baptisms were solemnized in that stream, hence the name by which they became known. The Brethren in Christ church developed into an aggressive denomination and in Lancaster they recently built a beautiful edifice at 1865 Fruitville Pike. The parents of the late President, Dwight Eisenhower, were members of the Brethren in Christ church and the president's first religious training was under the direction of the church in Abilene, Kansas.

"DISTINGUISHED VISITORS - Cardinal McCloskey of New York, Archbishop Wood of Philadelphia, Bishop Shannon of Harrisburg, Father Farrellni, Secretary to Cardinal McCloskey, Father McConomy, Secretary to Archbishop Wood arrived in this city this morning for the purpose of paying our fellow citizen The Reverend and Venerable Father Keenan a visit. When Father Keenan was one of the professors at St. Mary's College, Emmitsburg, Cardinal McCloskey was then a boy of about 16 years old and a student at the college."

—October 4, 1876

Father John McCloskey was the first American to be elevated to the Cardinalate. He had just been so honored one year before, in 1875, and received the "ring and red hat" from Pope Leo XIII. Of Irish parentage, he was born in Brooklyn and it was his high honor to direct the completion and dedication of Saint Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. He was born in 1810 and died in 1885.

Father Bernard Keenan in 1876 was ninety-six years old. He died in the following year.

"SOLDIER'S ORPHANS AT THE CENTENNIAL - A very pretty sight was presented this morning as 150 of the soldier's orphans, the wards of the State from Mount Joy Academy filed into the Centennial grounds. The boys were dressed in neat blue uniforms with infantry caps and the girls in buff linen dusters over their dresses and plain straw hats."

—October 4, 1876

From 1865 until 1890 the former Mount Joy Academy building housed the sons and daughters of Civil War Veterans, and at one time there were as many as 253 children housed in the building which is still standing on Barbara Street in Mount Joy. For a full history of the Mount Joy School, Volume 48 pages 109-129 of the Lancaster County Historical Society will provide the inquisitive reader with a detailed story.

“DISTINGUISHED BALLOONISTS - Prof. John Wise, the veteran aeronaut accompanied by his niece Miss Lizzie Ihling passed through this city today on their way to Philadelphia. On Wednesday and Thursday Miss Ihling made two beautiful ascensions in her new balloon “Amazon” from the fair grounds at Bellefonte.”

—October 7, 1876

It has long been known that Prof. John Wise, his son Charles and his grandson John were all balloonists but this is only the second time that the commentator has seen any reference to Miss Ihling, a niece of Prof. Wise who was also an aeronaut. In 1876 Prof. Wise made many ascensions from the Centennial Grounds in Philadelphia. “The John Wise Story” by John Andrews in the journals of the Lancaster County Historical Society will fill you in on the details of the career of Lancaster’s famous aeronaut. (Vol. 59)

“OBITUARY - David Bair, Esq. one of the oldest and most highly respected merchants of this city and the senior partner in the firm of Bair and Shenk, bankers, died at his residence this morning in East King street. Mr. Bair was born in Leacock Township, Lancaster County near Intercourse which was then known as Cross Keys on the 8th of March 1806. He entered at an early age the store of Abraham Witmer, late of Soudersburg where he remained until Mr. Witmer removed his business to Lampeter. Mr. Bair accompanied him to Lampeter and entered his store as a clerk and an apprentice to the shoemaking business. In 1830 at the age of 24 he began business as a merchant in New Providence but removed to Conestoga Center where he remained until 1840. He then moved to the Buck in Drumore Township. Here he remained for two years. In the spring of 1842 he came to this city and commenced the dry goods business in a building which stood in Center Square where the Weiss Cigar Store now stands. Subsequently the business was removed to East King street under the name of D. Bair and Company.”

“He was president of the Board of Trustees of the Presbyterian

Church and president of the Board of Woodward Hill Cemetery. His funeral will take place from his late residence No. 220 East King street on Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock. His remains will be interred in Woodward Hill Cemetery."

—October 10, 1876

The chief interest of the commentator in David Bair arises from the fact that the antiquarian and merchant of Manheim, the late George H. Danner learned merchandising in the Lancaster store of Mr. Bair; and the commentator, as a teenager worked in Mr. Danner's store for one summer and oft heard him tell as he instructed his clerks in proper merchandising practices, "That is the way Davey Bair taught me."

"DOOLITTLE - On Wednesday night the Chairman of the Democratic City Campaign Committee received a telegram that Hon. James R. Doolittle would speak in this city last Friday night. Meanwhile the Republicans had engaged Fulton Hall for their meeting, the County Commissioners had passed a resolution to not give the Court House for political meetings, and the threatening condition of the weather rendered an outdoor meeting impracticable. Consequently it was necessary to secure a hall of less capacity and Maennerchor Hall being tendered, three hours announcement filled it to its utmost capacity."

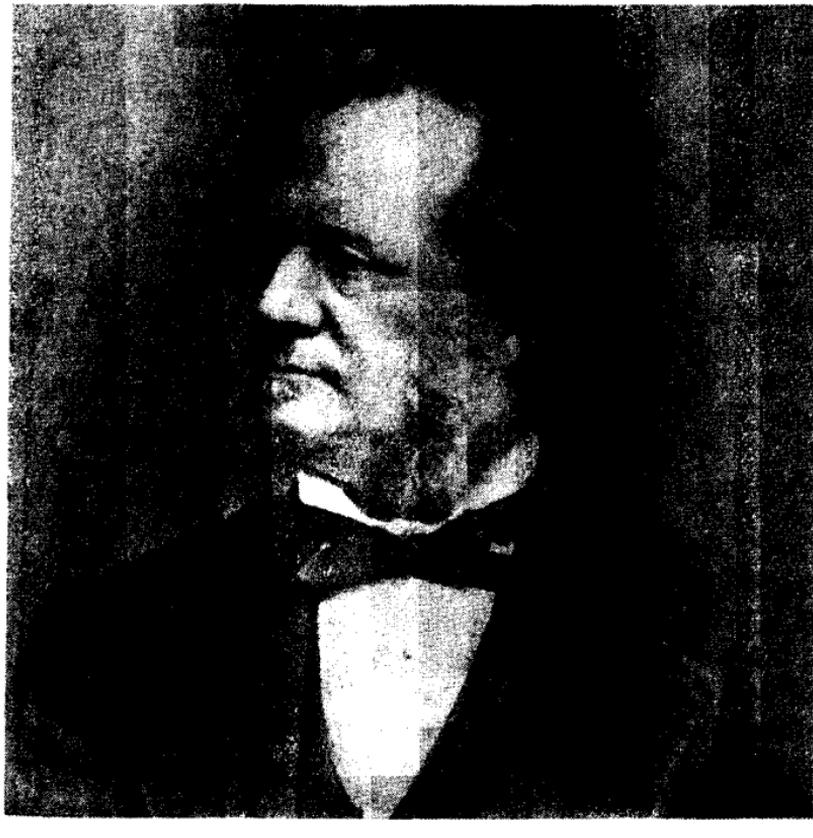
"Mr. Doolittle was introduced. He has lost none of the vigor which distinguished him when in the United States Senate where he made such a gallant fight against the radical Reconstruction Policy."

"After a few remarks by W. U. Hensel, Charles F. Rengier, Sr. stepped front and handed him a package containing something which he said was emblematic of one of the speakers at the Republican meeting in Fulton Hall. Upon unwrapping it, it was found to be a 'dead duck' and as it was held up, the audience shouted 'Forney, Forney'."

—October 21, 1876

James R. Doolittle (1815-1897) born in New York State and educated at Hobart College, moved to Wisconsin in 1851. He served in the United States Senate as a Republican from Wisconsin from 1857-1869. He then changed his politics and ran unsuccessfully on the Democratic ticket as Governor of Wisconsin in 1871. In his latter years he held the post as Professor of Law in the University of Chicago.

"THE REPUBLICANS - The announcement made by flaming posters that Col. John W. Forney of Philadelphia would address the Repub-



COLONEL JOHN WEIN FORNEY

Native Lancastrian

POLITICIAN - ORATOR - EDITOR

He spoke at a Republican Rally
in Fulton Opera House on October
20, 1876

licans of Lancaster in mass meeting called out a very large crowd at Fulton Hall last night, there being perhaps a thousand people in the hall at the best point of the meeting."

"Mr. Forney was greeted with applause and after it had subsided he opened with the statement that he was always happy to obey any call from a city around which cluster so many pleasant recollections and even though this call took him from his duty as a *journalist* he felt impelled to respond to it. He felt that he could render more service to the great Republican Party in his humble capacity as editor than he could in speaking from the stump but the impulse to once more visit the scenes with which in long gone days he had been so familiar, to again pace the streets of his own native town had drawn him here."

"The speaker closed his address, which occupied 35 minutes in delivery by the statement that the party which in 1864 under the leader-

ship of Samuel J. Tilden came near overthrowing the beloved head of the Republican party, who had but a short time after fell at the hand of a Democratic assassin is again trying to defeat the Republican organization and lay waste this fair land of ours."

—October 21, 1876

John Wein Forney (1817-1881) native Lancastrian, began an apprenticeship in the office of the Lancaster Journal when about thirteen years of age. In 1837 he became part owner of the Lancaster Intelligencer. In succeeding years he was associated with these newspapers: The "Pennsylvanian" in Philadelphia, the "Union" in Washington, the "Press" in Philadelphia, the "Chronicle" in Washington and the "Progress" in Philadelphia. The latter newsheet was only established in 1876 following Mr. Forney's retirement from the office of Collector of the Port of Philadelphia. Throughout his entire life he was active in political affairs and as the mentor of James Buchanan, he has been given prime credit for putting Mr. Buchanan in the White House. Later, differences arose between him and Buchanan and he became an ardent supporter of President Lincoln. While he never attained his personal ambition of being a U. S. Senator, he served at different times as secretary of the Senate and of the House. The wife of Mr. Forney was Elizabeth Matilda, daughter of Philip Reitzel of Lancaster.

"THE NEW GAS WORKS - The new gas company recently organized in this city for the purpose of supplying the citizens with cheaper gas than they have heretofore had, is rapidly pushing forward its work and it is expected that the gas will be supplied through the new pipes before the close of the present year. The works are being erected at the foot of Andrew street, a short distance from the works of the old company. Next week work will be commenced on South Queen street and thence extended to all parts of the city until about 17 miles of pipe shall be laid."

—October 28, 1876

Gas for fuel and light was first introduced in Lancaster when The Lancaster City Gas Company in 1850 built a plant and produced gas first from rosin and then later from coal. The company which also built a gas manufacturing plant and laid pipes in 1876 was titled Lancaster Gas Light and Fuel Company. In 1879 the latter company purchased the rights and franchises of the older company.

"JOHN LICK has filed in the probate court of San Francisco a peti-

tion to be appointed administrator of the estate of his father the late James Lick. It is considered that the filing of this petition is the beginning of a vexatious and expensive litigation."

—October 30, 1876

"LANCASTER COUNTY DAY AT THE CENTENNIAL - The prospect for a big time at the Centennial on Thursday grows brighter each day. The tickets sell for \$1.25 for adults and 63 cents for children under 12 years of age— are good on any train during the day, going or coming. . . . Better accommodations or a cheaper fare were never heard of— indeed the cheapness of the fare is a marvel and has never before been equaled."

—October 31, 1876

LANCASTER COUNTY DAY
AT THE
CENTENNIAL.

THURSDAY, NOV. 2d, 1876.

This is also the day set apart for the German-American celebration, when all American citizens of German descent will be extended a special welcome by the Centennial authorities.

Tickets for Round Trip from Lancaster and all Stations east,

\$1.25.

Stations west of Lancaster to Bainbridge

\$1.50.

CHILDREN HALF PRICE.

SCHEDULE.

The First Train will leave Lancaster at 5:15 a. m.; Bird-in-Hand, 5:30; Gordonville, 5:36; Leaman Place, 5:44; Kinzer's, 5:56; Gap, 6:00; Christiana, 6:05; Penningtonville, 6:10.

The second Train will leave Elizabethtown at 5:00 o'clock a. m.; Springville, 5:10; Mount Joy, 5:15; Landisville, 5:24; Lancaster, 5:40.

The Third Train will leave Bainbridge at 5:00 o'clock a. m.; Marietta, 5:15; Columbia, 5:28; Mountville, 5:38; Kohrerstown, 5:50; Lancaster, 6 o'clock.

We have made arrangements with the Pennsylvania Railroad Company to sell their Excursion Tickets for the above day, good for one day, to go and return on any train. Tickets can be had of our usual agents throughout the city and county.

D. S. BURSE, J. B. WARFEL,
D. C. HAVERSTICK, J. M. W. GEIST,
oct28-td] Excursion Committee Y. M. C. A.

Advertisement for the last big excursion
to the Centennial Exhibition 1876

“LANCASTER COUNTY DAY - About 4000 persons left Lancaster today to attend the Centennial. The fast line east was composed of two sections, all the cars of the several trains being crowded to their capacity. All the through trains were equally crowded.”

—November 2, 1876

“LICK - It has been ascertained that the main grounds on which John H. Lick intends to contest his father's trust deed are insanity and undue influence on the part of the trustees and others who it is alleged, have used means to prejudice the deceased against his son by falsely accusing the latter of obtaining the passage through the Legislature of a bill providing that no decedent should devise over a certain proportion of his fortune to charitable or other objects aside from the natural heirs.”

—November 3, 1876

“NEW HOLLAND - When regular trains begin running on our railroad which will be in a few weeks, New Holland will need about 8 new houses to accommodate the train hands and yet our moneyed men and land owners sit in silence, hoping that the railroad will improve the town.”

“We have no bank either. It is an actual fact that our business men are almost daily beseiged by some of their neighbors who want to give their money for a check which they want to send away. We must have a bank.”

“Then too, it is high time that the town is incorporated. There is scarcely a demonstration of any kind can take place here without several disturbances. Let us proceed at once to make a town of New Holland.”

—November 6, 1876

Only in 1895 was New Holland incorporated as a borough.

“SIMON SAYS THUMBS UP - Senator (Simon) Cameron came to town yesterday afternoon and spent the night in this city. It is said he gave instructions to his faithful henchmen to keep a stiff upper lip, claim every state that was in doubt, hang out their banners on the outer walls, and leave the rest to Don.” (Don Cameron, Secretary of War)

“The great exposition is over, Tilden has been chosen president and however gratifying it may be to the Democracy to see flags flying in honor of our great victory, it is not fair to the Republicans that flags purchased by all the people should be used to celebrate our victory.”

—November 11, 1876

Much out of order was the persiflage indulged in by the editor of the *Intelligencer* for the result of the election for President was still in doubt; and eventually it was not Samuel J. Tilden who was the victor but Rutherford B. Hayes. The Presidential campaign of 1876 was one of the bitterest in the nation's history. Hayes, the Republican candidate lost the popular vote by half a million but did come through the electoral vote with a majority of one. A congressional inquiry into charges of trickery and fraud in some southern states continued until Hayes and his wife left Columbus, Ohio in 1877 for the inauguration ceremonies in Washington. Only enroute, in Harrisburg, did Hayes learn that the investigating commission had decided in his favor. The Democratic Party until that decision maintained that Samuel J. Tilden was the winner in the 1876 election.

“SALE OF THE EXPRESS - The daily and weekly *Express* of the city was sold today with all the machinery of the offices, the subscription lists, etc. at Sheriff's sale to John J. Heistand, proprietor of the *Examiner* for \$27,000.”

—November 13, 1876

“THE SALE OF THE EXPRESS - Our contemporary *The Evening Express* will this evening contain a card over the signature of John A. Heistand of the *Examiner* announcing that the papers will continue under the editorial management of J. N. W. Geist until arrangements are made for the consolidation of the two papers.”

—November 14, 1876

The office of the *Examiner* at this time was at 9 N. Queen street and here it remained until it was purchased by *The New Era* about 1925. Pearsol and Geist who published *The Express* had their printing shop at 22 S. Queen street. It is interesting to note in the masthead of the present *New Era* that the correct title of the newspaper is *The Lancaster New Era and Examiner*. The “and Examiner” is of course in finer type.

“MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR - Shakespeare’s fine comedy was played last night by the Walnut Street Theatre Company, the house being about half filled. The play contains much of the best dialogue to be found in the voluminous works of the great author, albeit there are some passages almost too ‘broad’ to suit the taste of the fastidious persons. Mr. Charles Walcot, as Sir John Falstaff was of course the central attraction and personated the role of the lecherous knight to perfection.”

—November 15, 1876

Charles Lenton Walcot, Jr. (for his father had the same name and was also a famous actor) was born at Boston, Mass. in 1840, making his debut on the stage at Charlotte, South Carolina in 1858. It was in 1866 that he became a member of the Walnut Street Theatre group of Philadelphia, then under the management of Edwin Booth. For seven years he played the leading roles in numerous plays supported by Edwin Forrest, Edwin Booth, Joseph Jefferson and Charlotte Cushman. It was during his second period with the Walnut Street players (1875-1879) that he appeared in Lancaster.

“HIGH SCHOOL CLOCK - The boy’s high school is fortunate in having secured for their study hall the valuable clock that hung in the governor’s room of the Massachusetts building during the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia. It cost Mr. McCaskey principal of the school seventy five dollars after discounts had been allowed. There is no good reason why it should not tick away the next hundred years in its present location, known all the while as ‘The Centennial Clock of 1876’.”

—November 17, 1876

Is this clock still in Lancaster, ticking away the minutes?

“TEACHERS INSTITUTE - Dr. Wickersham, having been vigorously called for consented to make a few remarks to the institute. ‘We have been breaking up housekeeping down at the Centennial and have been very busy. If Pennsylvania has won no honor, she is at least saved from shame. Her exhibition was at least creditable. I feel proud that we have been able to do what we did and I want to thank the school boards of the county that contributed to our success’.”

—November 17, 1876

Institute, held each November was an event that the old time



DR. JAMES PYLE WICKERSHAM
of Lancaster

He was State Superintendent of Public Schools in 1876
and was largely responsible for the Public School Display
at the 1876 Centennial Exhibition

teachers looked forward to with much anticipation. It meant listening to leaders in the field of education and also gave them opportunity to hear good music provided by the Lyceum bureaus.

On the last day of the 1876 Institute it was very fitting to call on Hon. James Pyle Wickersham, perhaps Lancaster's most respected citizen of the period as well as one of the nation's prominent educators. Mr. Wickersham was born in Chester County in 1825 but came over the line into Lancaster County when still a young man. 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 to the office of State Superintendent of Schools. He owned and edited the Pennsylvania School Journal and established the Wickersham Printing Company which is still operating under the original name. During the

Civil War he led a company of men into Union service and was himself made Colonel of the 47th regiment. His "History of Education" in Pennsylvania is still the only authoritative work on the subject. Finally he was honored by appointment from President Hayes as Minister to Denmark.

James Pyle Wickersham died at his home 230 N. Duke street on March 25, 1891.

"LAMPS NOT LIT - In compliance with instructions issued by the mayor, the policemen on duty reported the number of street lamps not lit last night— a total of 38. The officers also reported that very few of the lamps are clean, many of them not being cleaned for months. Last night was of course a bad night to light lamps and to keep them lit as the wind would be apt to blow out those filled with coal oil. Complaints of neglect on the part of Mr. Mishler, the lamp lighter, are made almost daily. Perhaps he took the contract at too low a figure, but that is his own fault and the public should not be compelled to suffer from it."

—November 21, 1876

Lancaster citizens had to wait until 1882 for electric street lighting, which of course did not depend on the whims of lamplighters or on unruly winds. In that year City Council contracted with the Maxim Light Company to erect a plant, supply 120 electric lights and supply nightly illumination for one year at a cost of \$16,800.

"CHURCH MUSIC - The 'Lutheran and Missionary' has opened a department under the title 'Our Pulpit'. Last week Dr. Greenwald furnished a sermon on 'The music of the Lord's House' and took occasion to comment unfavorably upon the familiarization of sacred things, which became so common in connection with the Moody and Sankey revivals."

"Whereupon the American Lutheran takes Dr. Greenwald to task and makes the following points upon his position."

"We have heard Mr. Sankey sing and both the tunes and the language of the hymns impressed us as most solemn and evangelical."

—November 22, 1876

Mr. Ira D. Sankey was born in Edinburg, Pennsylvania 1840 and served in the Union Army. In 1870 he met Dr. Dwight L. Moody and from that year until Moody's death in 1899, the Moody-Sankey revival meetings in England and America were front page news. Mr. Sankey of course directed the singing and Dr. Moody did the preaching. "Al-

though Mr. Sankey's voice was not a great one, the expressiveness of his singing moved audiences profoundly." (Encyclopedia Americana)

"AN ENTIRE VILLAGE STRICKEN WITH PESTILENCE - Dr. E. K. Fernsler of Reinholdsville, Lancaster County reported that in a small valley of West Cocalico Township known as Hertzog's Valley, smallpox has broken out and nearly every family in the valley were stricken with the disease. Entire families were prostrated, five persons in one family having been down with the disease at the same time. The disease has been got under control and proper precautions have been taken to prevent its progressing further."

—November 24, 1876

Once a scourge, smallpox, because all states now require vaccination against the disease, is one of the maladies of mankind that has been conquered.

Dr. E. K. Fernsler, born at Schaefferstown in Lebanon County practiced medicine at Unionville in Lancaster County and at Churchville in Lebanon County before setting up an office at Reinholds in 1869. He lived the remainder of his life there and built up an enormous practice among the farming community of eastern Lancaster County. He died about 1925.

"A GRAND DINNER PARTY - Mr. James Duffy will give a grand dinner this afternoon at 6 o'clock to a number of distinguished friends. Among those invited and who have promised to be present are President Grant, General Sherman, Don Cameron, George W. Childs, Thomas A. Scott, Senator Bayard, General James L. Reynolds, Col. William B. Fordney, S. H. Reynolds, Esq. and J. A. Heistand."

—November 25, 1876

"DUFFY'S DINNER - The President and Secretary of War were so busied with Southern affairs on Saturday that they did not get to the dinner of Mr. James Duffy at Marietta. Neither was Senator Bayard present, he being in attendance at the 'Webster Reception' in New York, after the unveiling of the statue of Daniel Webster in Central Park."

—November 27, 1876

Prominent as an industrialist and active Democratic politician, James Duffy was known far and wide for his hospitality. Mr. Duffy had

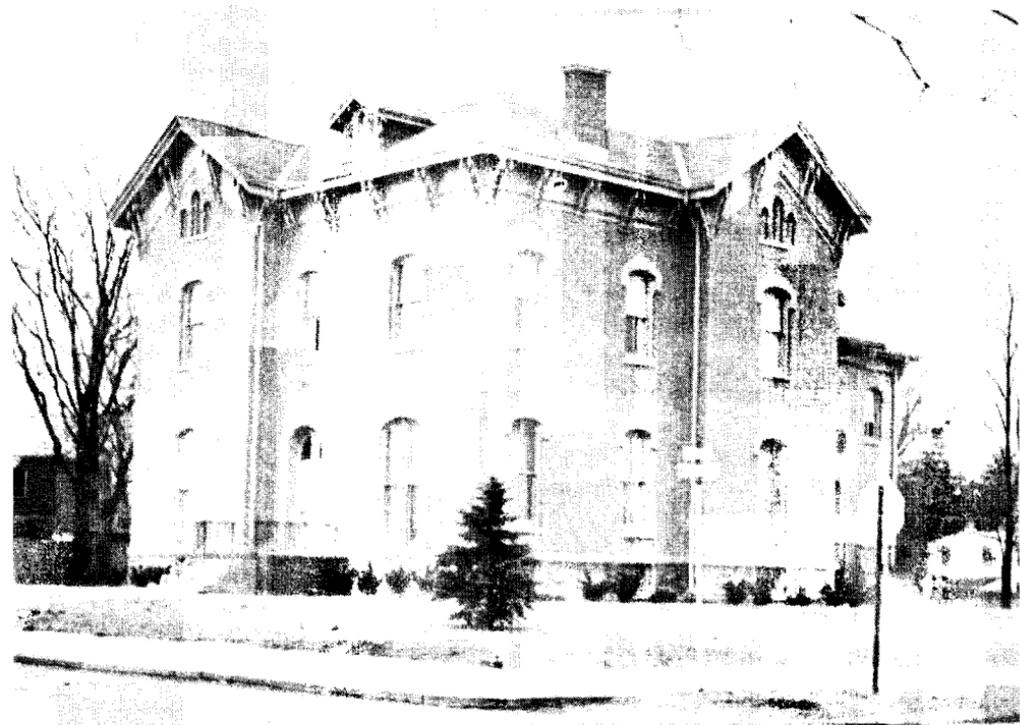


COLONEL JAMES DUFFY of MARIETTA

Famed for his lavish hospitality

already entertained President Grant at his Marietta home in this year of 1876. In volume 76 of the Society Journals will be found a definitive article on Colonel Duffy by John W. W. Loose.

“THANKSGIVING - Yesterday having been set apart by the President of the United States and the Governor of Pennsylvania as a day of Thanksgiving and prayer, the recommendations of our rulers were very



THE JAMES DUFFY HOME in MARIETTA
West Market and Bridge Streets

**President U.S. Grant and General William Tecumseh Sherman
were entertained here in 1876**

generally complied with. Almost all business places except hotels and saloons were closed; almost all churches had services appropriate to the day; nearly everybody had made arrangements to partake of the usual Thanksgiving feast, and so far as we have learned, everybody enjoyed it. The day was crisp and cold and during the early part of it the streets were almost deserted except those who wended their way to the usual places of worship to render thanks for the blessings heretofore vouchsafed to them and prayers for their future well being."

—December 1, 1876

"CHURCHTOWN - In an issue of the Express last summer there was an article saying Churchtown in Caernarvon Township took its name from a family of the name of Church, which is a mistake."

"It was first intended to call the village Bangor, the same as the church but the inhabitants holding their land from the church it got to

be called the church town and so 'Churchtown'. There was no family of the name of Church among the earliest settlers when Churchtown became a village. The names of the original settlers who belonged to the Episcopal Church are on the church records (1730) but the name of Church does not appear on any record until 1793."

—M. J. Nevin
December 8, 1876

The Churchtown area was settled by Welsh Episcopalians, hence the name Caernarvon for the township and the name Bangor for the parish which was named for a parish in Wales. The range of hills to the south of Churchtown has long been known as the Welsh Mountains.

"GEORGE W. WORST of White Horse has shot over three hundred partridges this season. No account was kept of other game killed but it numbered equally as nearly comparative."

—December 9, 1876

Due to the excessive shooting of the partridge, also known as quail and bob- white, the cheery song of this game bird is not heard as often as in earlier years. The season for shooting partridge is (sad to relate) the fall 'small game season'.

"THE LICK ESTATE - Mr. James M. Lick of Nepha County, California who is contesting the right of administration with Mr. John Lick of Lebanon for the settling of the estate of Mr. James Lick, late of San Francisco, California arrived in this city this morning for the purpose of visiting Sarah A. Graham, a cousin of his and a daughter of Catherine Lick, sister of the deceased James Lick. His object here is to procure proper papers for a final settlement of the estate which is now pending."

—December 11, 1876

"TRAMPS - The Columbia Spy says that any bumner whoever gets a glimpse of a Lancaster paper never bothers his head about paying the city a visit. Thirty days in the workhouse at breaking stones gives him a sort of disinclination to visit the largest inland city in the State."

"The York Dispatch says 'Tramps when arrested in Lancaster are

sent out to the workhouse where they are kept in a half naked condition, without proper clothing and nearly frozen. Unable to bear this condition of things, on last Sunday night, about 40 of them broke out of the workhouse by digging a hole through the wall, and escaping into the country to live the best they can'."

—December 13, 1876

The allegation of the York Dispatch is substantially true, although the Express gave the number who escaped as about twenty four. The oldtime tramps who formerly trudged the highways and byways by the thousands and who in cold weather sought refuge in county almshouses and so called 'Bummer's Halls' are no more, due in large part to old age pensions and social security payments.

"MORMONS IN THE COUNTY - Many years ago the family of John Neff of Strasburg Township, this county, joined the Mormons together with some other persons from Lancaster County who attained high eminence in Brigham Young's empire. They frequently visited their old friends here, partly no doubt for the purpose of proselyting and in part for the purpose of looking after their material interests. Mr. Neff retained ownership of his old homestead south of Bunker Hill. He never married more than one wife and died a few years ago when his estate was sold. Some of his family are at present on a visit to this county, among them S. B. Neff and A. Milton Musser who are sojourning in the vicinity of Strasburg. Mr. Musser makes known his object in coming hither which is, he says 'to speak of the much abused and misunderstood people of Utah, from our own knowledge of their manners and customs and special and general characteristics'."

—December 16, 1876

In Ellis and Evans history of Lancaster County (p 1066) one may read of Neff's Mill on a branch of Little Beaver Creek in Strasburg Township, built 'in the early part of the nineteenth century by John Neff, who was succeeded by his son John Neff who migrated and joined the Mormons near the close of the first half of the nineteenth century.' The Mill later was known as Trout's Mill.

"CELERY - The cultivation of celery is now strongly recommended to farmers, not only as a source of profit but as a benefit to the community, since the habitual use of this vegetable is more beneficial to man as a nerve tonic than most persons are aware of. Those especially who are engaged in labor weakening the nerves should use celery daily, during its season." It is noteworthy and admitted fact that the Lancaster market affords the best celery to be found. Those who have eaten the stuff sold for celery in Philadelphia realize this when they get

a hold of a fine stalk of Lancaster celery, white almost up to the leaves."

—December 16, 1876

California may be able to raise head lettuce superior to that grown in Lancaster County but when it comes to celery, none grown today (1976) is better than Lancaster County celery. This is the seasoned opinion of the commentator, backed up by the expert estimates of vegetable connoisseurs.

"TEACHERS SALARIES - The teachers of the public schools may be interested in knowing that the monthly pay roll for December has been made out and that they will receive their pay by calling at the banking house of D. P. Locher and signing the pay roll."

—December 22, 1876

"CHRISTMAS - Christmas with its festivities has come and gone. The church services are over, the presents have been given and received, the dinners eaten and digested and though the cakes, candies and confections consumed almost as abundant as ever, the people are again settling down to the duties of everyday life."

"Sunday morning opened clear and cold, giving the piously inclined a good opportunity of visiting the places of worship in many of which services preliminary to the celebration of the nativity of Christ were held."

—December 26, 1876

"DEMUTH'S OPERA HOUSE - One of the best amateur entertainments of the season was given last evening at this favorite resort by 'Demuth's Serenaders'; their new hall being well filled with an appreciative audience. The increasing patronage extended them necessitated their appearing in a more spacious and commodious hall and they have therefore leased the third story of the large and substantial brick building erected at the rear of 114 East King street. The fixtures of the room are not fully completed, the permanent seats being unfinished, but Mr. George W. Brown, undertaker kindly loaned his funeral camp stools for the occasion."

—December 28, 1876

AND THAT'S THE WAY THINGS WERE IN LANCASTER IN THE CENTENNIAL YEAR OF EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY SIX