



A fine example of a coverlet made by Philip Schum in 1869, measures 75" x 80", the property of and now displayed in the museum of the Lancaster County Historical Society. A close up view of the lower right portion of the coverlet is shown on the next page. Note a portion of the head of George Washington, a stylized classical building, a horse, a dove, a steamship, an eagle, and the name Washington, Hail Israel, 1869.



Philip Schum, Carpet and Coverlet Weaver

by Philip H. Reardon

*P*hilip Schum, or Johann Phillipp as his name is given in his birth and baptism record, was born to Johann Bernhard Schum [master shoemaker] and his wife Eva Henrietta; on the 25th of October 1814 at Bad König (Odenwald) in the Grand Duchy of Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany. Philip received his formal education in the schools of his hometown. At fourteen years of age he was apprenticed at the shoemakers trade, at which he worked for six years; however, being dissatisfied with that, he served one year at basket making. Then, according to the custom of the country, when he came of age, he started traveling, working at his trade as he went, remaining long enough in one locality to enable him to accumulate funds to reach another point. He moved around in this manner for about four years.

this marriage there was born in December, 1839 a daughter (Henrietta), another daughter (Eva) was born in 1842. Philip continued at his trade until January 1846 when he and his family immigrated to the United States.

New York

After about 38 days at sea they landed in New York. Philip found he was lacking capital, so he was obliged to hire out as a "malt tramper", and by the severest economy accumulated sufficient funds to move his family inland, about six months later.

Lancaster County

The first mention of Philip in Lancaster, is August 10th, 1846, when his first son (John) was born. Philip was first employed as a dayworker, next at shoe and basket making. Philip Schum filed his intention to become a citizen November 6, 1850. In the year 1852 he purchased a small store (on the west side of the first block of Manor Street, in Lancaster City). Philip became a citizen August 16, 1853. He re-sold his store in 1856, and started weaving, first being engaged in quilts, and blankets. In time the manufacture of carpets and similar goods was begun, later the dyeing department became one of its best features. He started weaving in a small dwelling on Dorwart Street, which he rented and fitted for that purpose. Only one man was employed, in addition to himself; the volume of production of this business was no more than 175 quilts a month. Philip Schum, Son & Co. was founded that year (1856). He soon rose to eminence in his line of trade, his carpets won him a reputation that was more than local, and for years he had completely monopolized the dyeing business. Then in 1858 he bought a plot of land at the corner of West Strawberry and South Water Streets. When John Schum came home for a vacation from commercial college in Philadelphia he kept books for his father and learned weaving.

Four years later, in 1862 he built his manufactory at this site, a brick structure 30 feet wide and 120 feet long. It was supplied with all the necessary machinery for the manufacture of blankets, flannels, carpets, coverlets, and quilts. That block of Water Street, between Vine and Strawberry Streets, owes all its improvements to the energy and liberality of Philip Schum. June 29, 1863 John entered the Army. He was released August 15, 1863, but he went to Washington and joined the homeguard. September 11, 1865 Philip Schum bought the large, stone mill from George Levan, situated and powered by the Pequea Creek about three miles east of the village of Intercourse - New Milltown. His business increasing greatly, he added two more brick buildings in the year 1868, one 27 by 30 feet, and a new dye house 25 by 40 feet. He also added a large lot of ground and a

frame dwelling. He added twenty looms (Jacquard) to his establishment, which turned out 400 quilts per week and 500 yards of carpet. In 1874 he added a coal distribution to his other enterprises; he had succeeded beyond his expectations in all his ventures. His dye house and carpet factory on the corner of Water and Strawberry Streets with the dwelling occupied by his daughters one door north, his extensive coal yards and coal office, his own dwelling farther north on the same square attest to his energy as a businessman and a public spirited citizen. The first of February, 1878 Philip's beloved Anna Margaret died of pneumonia; Anna and Philip had twelve children, with eight surviving Anna. Several weeks after the funeral Philip wrote his will. Anna and he must have discussed it, as in the will he mentions a vow they made together. Before he left on a trip back to Europe in May 1878, he bought the building at 38 West King Street, and he also made his son John a full partner! Philip stayed abroad four months. On the return voyage he met and became acquainted with Mrs. Koch of Marietta, a widow, whose name was Anna Margaret. That may have been what attracted Philip. She was a passenger aboard the same ship. After their arrival home they kept up their acquaintance, and on July 10th, 1879 they were married.

On A Mission Of Mercy

On the bright, hot, sunny morning of July 9th, 1880 Philip Schum, accompanied by his second wife, drove to Manheim at the request of Mrs. Fisher, a poor, old woman who belonged to the same church as Philip Schum, [Salem Evangelical Church - north Water Street, between W. Marion and Chestnut Streets], and who asked to see Philip before she died. Taking a bottle of wine to the old lady to strengthen her in her declining moments, he offered her such spiritual consolation as he could and then started with Mrs. Schum to visit her daughter in Marietta.

Not being familiar with the roads in that area - the area between Manheim and Marietta they were confused. When they reached the toll-house on the pike near Salunga, they stopped and asked directions to Marietta. They were directed to cross the railroad, (first crossing west of Salunga - this is now a bridge). Mrs. Schum asked if there would be any danger from the cars [train]. They were told it would be safe, so they proceeded. Philip drove slowly across the tracks when the Niagara and Chicago Express struck their vehicle fairly in the middle, hurling Mr. Schum in one direction and his wife in another - the latter having been thrown with such great violence against a fence that a portion of it was broken down. The back part of her head was crushed, but her face was not marred. Mr. Schum had one arm broken, was bruised about the body, and was injured internally, as also was his wife. (The buggy was demolished, one of the horse's legs was cut off, and he was relieved from his pain by a gun shot). The Schums were found in an unconscious condition, and this accounted for the difficulty of identification. When the train reached the depot at Mt. Joy a little before

noon, there were on board Mr. Philip Schum and his wife, both in a dying condition. All that could be done was done, however about twenty minutes after their arrival Philip Schum died. Mrs. Schum expired at 1:35 P.M.

At first they thought the deceased were Rev. Joseph Spect and his wife, of Manheim (as they were coming from that direction) but word received in Lancaster stated that the Spects were at their home at Manheim. A telegram from Mt. Joy said the man killed was of short build, dark complexion, and smooth face, which agreed with the description of Mr. Schum. But their identity was established when the Messrs. Lebzelter and Olt, accompanied by John E. Schum, identified the bodies. John Schum engaged F.M. Sourbeer of Mt. Joy, undertaker, to bring the bodies to Lancaster. They arrived in metallic coffins, and the solemn procession of two Brimmer hearses, accompanied by a few intimate friends of the family on foot, attracted universal attention. In Lancaster the Messrs. Rote & Son took charge of the bodies.

The death of Philip wasn't the end of Philip Schum Son & Co. His son (John) and his son-in-law (Charles F. Holzworth), operated the business until the death of John, in 1905; then John's sister Mary, and W.R. Schnader, (another of Philip's sons-in-law) operated the business, and the firm was still listed in the City Directory in the year 1912.

His great success as a businessman was attributable to his indomitable perseverance, good judgement, fair dealing, and unflagging industry. He was frequently importuned to serve in the city councils and other local offices, but he invariably declined, but he was ever ready to do his full share towards enhancing all the material interests of the city. He was a stockholder in the Lancaster Fire Insurance Company, the Lancaster Hotel Company, the Germania Life Insurance Company, and was largely interested in the German Building and Loan Association. He was for many years a leading member of the Salem Evangelical Church, was superintendent of the Sunday School, prior to his first wife's death, and was one of the most liberal contributors to all charities of the Church.

I wish to express my thanks to the unknown newspaper writers of the *Intelligencer Journal* and the *New Era*, of July 9th & 10th, 1880; also to John W. Heisey, who got me interested in this history of my great-great Grandfather, Philip Schum, to Laura Lundgren (Lancaster County Historical Society), and to various people at the Lancaster County Courthouse, the Hessisches Darmstadt Archive Institute, in Germany, Noah G. Good (my interpreter), etc. I've checked and changed the data, as stated in the records, from Germany, and the Schum family Bible. P.H.R.