

COLUMBIA ANCIENTS

Since the death of Samuel Evans, late one of our most prominent and learned members, various manuscripts of an important historical nature have been found at his late residence and kindly allowed the use of by his widow and his daughter, and among them the following unpublished matter is considered as being valuable, and, it is believed, should be kept among our printed papers as a contribution by him, even though posthumous. In this particular manuscript he has set forth the following:

In the year 1787, when Samuel Wright laid out the town of Columbia, its fame was so well known to the intelligent and better class of citizens in the Eastern part of the State that a number came and at once erected substantial dwelling-houses and embarked in business. Not long after its erection lumber and produce sought a market by the river. Keel boats could not descend the stream below Columbia; at least, this was made the port where the provisions and produce were stored, to accommodate which large warehouses were erected along the river bank. The one erected by John Evans was one of the first. A canal was made in front of it; and along its southern side keel-boats found a haven and were unloaded without the risk they had to undergo during a freshet. I will give the names and occupations of some of those who resided here in or before 1830.

Some idea can be found of the business along the river when it is known that it was not an unusual occurrence for from 1,500 to 2,000 arks and rafts and a large number of keel-boats to come to Columbia upon one freshet. A large number of the former, of course, passed down the river.

The legal profession has not been neglected, and, for a town not a shire-town, she has had her share of these gentlemen. They were as follows:

Samuel Bethel was admitted to the Bar in 1795. He probably did not devote much time to the law. I believe there was a Mr. Wright, who opened a law office a short time in Columbia between 1814 and 1820. Ishbel Green, a descendant of a long line of prominent jurists of New Jersey, and later Chancellor of that State, came to Columbia about 1829 or 1830 and practiced law about five years.

Samuel Shock was admitted to the Bar at Harrisburg in 1820, and practiced law successfully for twenty years in Dauphin and in the surrounding counties.

Judge William Atlee resided where E. K. Smith lived. This was ninety years ago (1788). Judge Bradford resided at the First National Bank forty-eight years ago (1830). Other than these I cannot recall the names of any of the legal fraternity before 1844.

John F. Houston was admitted in 1844. His history and life are so well known to us that I need not recall them. Davis E. Bruner, son of Abraham Bruner, was also admitted in 1844. He was elected a Justice of the Peace in 1857. Stewart Elliott was admitted in 1844. William E. Barber, son of John Barber, studied law with James Cooper, and was ad-

mitted to practice in Lancaster in 1844. He opened a law office in Columbia for a few years. Afterwards he moved near West Chester. Thos. E. Cochran was also admitted in 1844 in York county and in Lancaster in 1858.

Frederick Gossler, son of Jacob Gossler, was admitted in 1845. He was a young man when he died, but was rapidly rising in his profession. His brother, Philip Gossler, was admitted in 1847, but after practicing law for a few years abandoned the profession for a more lucrative occupation.

H. M. North was admitted in 1849. He studied law with Joseph Carey, at Berlin, in Union county. He was esteemed one of the safest lawyers in the State and occupied a very prominent position at the Bar.

William H. Elder, son of Michael Elder, was admitted in 1857; I. E. Hackenburg, in 1852; Joseph W. Fisher, who is now (1878) a Judge in Wyoming Territory, in 1856; Peter L. Hackenburg, brother of I. E., in 1856; Hiram B. Essick, who practiced law for some years in Monroe, Louisiana, and afterwards in Columbia, in 1862; D. Duncan Cottrell, in 1864; D. J. M. Toop, in 1866; Andrew J. Kauffman, in 1866; Major J. F. Fireauff, in 1868; J. W. Yocum, about 1872; William B. Given, in 1877; Brainard Case in 1876, and Thomas Knite, in 1878.

The members of the Legislature from Columbia from the date of the settlement to the present time (1878) were:

John Wright from 1727 to 1748; Samuel Blunston, from 1732 to 1745; James Wright (son of John Wright), from 1745 to 1770; Gen. Thomas Bowde, from 1794 to 1797 (he was also a member of Congress in 1800);

John Haldeman, father of Peter and Christian, in 1791 and 1792; Jacob Strickler, father of the late Jacob, in 1791 and 1801; Samuel Bethel, in 1808 and 1809; John Forry, from 1816 to 1828; James Wright, Jr., son of John Wright (who was James W.'s uncle), in 1821 and 1822; Christian Brenne man, father of Henry, in 1814; Dr. R. E. Cochran and Samuel Shock (who were also members of the Constitutional Convention of 1837), in 1836; John Barber, father of William E. Barber, in 1828; Theodore Cochran, brother of Thomas E., in 1844 and 1845; J. W. Fisher, in 1848, and to the Senate in 1866; Daniel Herr, in 1852; James B. Cowden, in 1853; H. M. North, in 1854; C. S. Kauffman, in 1856, and to the Senate in 1878; Amos S. Green, in 1858 and 1859; James Myers, in 1861, and E. K. Smith, in 1863.

Sheriffs of Lancaster county were elected from Columbia as follows: Robert Barber, in 1729; John Mathiot, in 1818, and Jacob S. Strine, in 1878.

Clerks of the Orphans' Court were elected from Columbia as follows: Washington Righter, in 1844; Register of Wills, Samuel Blunston, in 1729; and Clerks of Quarter Sessions, Samuel Evans, in 1857, and S. S. Clair, in 1876.

The following newspapers have been printed in Columbia from time to time:

The Susquehanna Waterman was published by Samuel L. Wilson, in 1811. It was first printed in a small frame house on Locust street, above the Franklin House; afterwards in the house owned by Mrs. Richards.

The Columbian was published by William Greer in 1819.

The Monitor was published by

William F. Houston, father of the late John F. Houston, in the year 1823.

The Courant was published by Sheaff & Heinitsh in 1829. This was the centennial year of the formation of Lancaster county. I can say nothing more about it.

The Spy began in 1830. The editors in succession were, John L. Boswell, Preston B. Elder, Theodore D. Cochran, E. Beatty, James Patton, Patton & Maxton, Charles J. Barnitz, Barnitz & Gossler, J. G. L. Brown, Eshleman & Camerer, Stephen Green, Westbrook & Spangler, Coleman J. Bull, Samuel Wright, A. M. Rambo and J. W. Yocum.

Charrick Westbrook established a paper called the Columbian about the year 1849. William H. Spangler afterwards became a partner. They purchased the Spy and merged their paper into it. In 1840 Thomas Taylor published the Columbian. N. B. Wolf was editor. It was a tariff paper.

A spicy campaign paper, called the Protector, was published by Eli Bowen in 1840. Mr. Bowen was editor, compositor, pressman and carrier, all combined. For the first edition he received more than 100 paid-up subscriptions; and was assaulted by James Cameron on account of some caustic editorial strictures. This activity and ingenuity in repelling the assault compelled Mr. Cameron to "haul off." The affair was a good advertisement.

The Columbia Herald was established by Young & Grier in 1866; and afterwards was run by Grier & Moderwell and Grier & Risk, and afterwards by Hayes Grier.

The Waterspout, a temperance paper, was published in 1840 by Jacob Klinedinst, and edited by Theodore D. Cochran. Twenty-eight numbers were issued.

The Pennsylvania Courant was published by Henry Montgomery in 1837 and afterwards published by Montgomery & Beatty, and by E. Beatty alone.

The Democrat was begun by Hayes Grier in 1872; the Daily Telegram by S. Taft in 1869, and the Underwriter by George Young, Jr., in 1874.

Columbia has been a prolific field for journalism, and the Spy, Herald and Courant are still sustained at this time. The Spy has furnished writers for more pretentious journals in various sections of the country. There have been a number of able writers of prose and poetry, and some have been authors of no little note, who were at one time connected with these papers.

Banks.

There was a branch of the Pennsylvania Bank at Columbia for a short time. The Columbia Bank and Bridge Company were also here. And there are others of a more recent date.

River Pilots.

This was a dangerous and exciting business. Scarcely a season passed without the loss of one or more watermen. Those that I can remember were: William C. Cornwell, Samuel Eberlein, Barney Brown, Frank Knight, Abe Hisinger, Thomas Jackson, John Dockard, Charles Odell, Joseph Tyson, John Benett, Ellis Hughes, Benj. Haldeman, Joseph Wade, John Erny, Reuben Mullison, Thomas Groome, Samuel Long, Grant Hughes, George Wike, Henry Sauerbeer, John Albright, Oliver McDonald and Hugh Boyle.

Tavern Keepers.

In Colonial and Revolutionary times and for many years thereafter this

was an influential class, generally, and in a great measure shaped political affairs. Some of the most respectable and intelligent citizens of those times kept houses of entertainment for man and horse.

I think James Wright was the first tavern keeper at Wright's Ferry; at least he took out a license in 1740. His brother, John, took out a license to keep a tavern in 1733, at the western end of the Ferry. There was a tavern here before 1740, also. Theodore Lowdon kept the Ferry House in 1765.

The following kept taverns in Columbia at the times now set forth: John Wright, in 1790, '91, '92 and '93; John Zimmerman, in 1792; Emor Jeffries, from 1795 to 1808; Theobald Roth, from 1795 to 1799; Henry Brubaker, from 1797 to 1802; Fred. Stump, from 1797 to 1802; Edward Hughes, from 1798 to 1805; Jacob Comfort, from 1799 to 1809; Ulerich Tanner, in 1800; John Eberly, from 1801 to 1804; John Smith, in 1801; Joseph Body, in 1805; Charles Grau, from 1804 to 1810; John Gonter, from 1804 to 1808; David Barnum, from 1804 to 1808; Barnum was the founder of the famous Barnum Hotel in Baltimore.

Philip Gossler from 1805 to 1809 kept the Ferry, and I believe he was the first person who sold stove coal in Columbia. I have heard Samuel Waits, who was employed by Mr. Gossler, say that he has seen as many as 150 wagons waiting to be ferried over the river. Each wagon was numbered, and a day and a-half was consumed in ferrying them over. Mr. Gossler kept tavern in York for several years before he came to the Ferry. His son, Jacob Gossler, who married a daughter of Fred. Stump, also kept tavern for many years at the corner of Walnut and Locust streets.

Taverns were also kept by Jacob Slough, from 1805 to 1808 (he was wounded at St. Clair's defeat); Barbara Eberly, in 1805; Moses Montgomery, from 1805 to 1809 (he was one of the first elders of the Presbyterian Church at this place); Joseph Jeffries, son of Emor, from 1806 to 1809; Mary Jeffries in 1808; Joseph Ring, from 1807 to 1810 (he ran a line of stages between Baltimore and Lancaster); Tempest Wilson, in 1809-10; Abraham Brenneman, from 1808 to 1822; Archibald Hudders, in 1809; Samuel Fips, in 1809, and Ezekiel Williams, in 1810.

A number of these landlords kept tavern after the dates I have given, but I can not find a record of them.

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