

An Old Receipt Book.

It is always interesting to make comparisons, and when you have a hundred years as a dividing line and you know what is on this end of the line, curiosity, such as the fisherman possesses under such circumstances, leads us to wonder about the other end.

The old book in question was the property of William Bausman, Register and Recorder for the county of Lancaster from the year 1809 to 1818,¹ and contains receipts to him from people of early Lancaster. Some of the names of those attached to these receipts are old and familiar, others are new, but the names contained in the first entry of the book are known to all, it stating that J. Yeates had received for William Hamilton, Esq., on June 26, 1786, "Eleven Pounds and five shillings Currency for one year's rent of Pasture M, due 1st May 1785, ten shillings and six pence Sterling for one Year's Rent of $\frac{3}{4}$ parts of Lot No. 25 and seven shillings Sterling for one Year's Rent of Lot No. 42."

William Hamilton,² resident of Philadelphia, usually collected the rents himself, judging from his characteristic signature which appears as many as nine times for as many different years. However, in 1786 and 1787, J. Yeates received the money for him and later John Moore, in 1793, 1800, 1807 and 1808, collected the rent due. J. Yeates

¹Ellis and Evans, p. 217.

²Ellis and Evans, p. 368.

is undoubtedly Jasper Yeates who was admitted to practice law in the Courts of Lancaster in 1765, and John Moore³ was admitted in 1789.

The cost of labor was somewhat different from the present day, if we judge from the following items: One contains the date March 26, 1798, when Jacob Miller acknowledges the receipt of "144 Pounds, being for four years Wages viz., from March 26, 1794, to March 26, 1798." Some years later Jacob Snyder was generous enough to make "a new wheelbarrow" for one dollar and fifty cents, but we have yet a better bargain, more to the liking of every one, for November 5, 1808, John Sleter received "Eleven shillings and three pence, being in full for two days' working in the harvest and one day making Syder." Lancaster liked its cider then, even as it does today, and Lancaster liked its beer then, even as it does to-day, for in 1787 two barrels of beer sold for two pounds and sixteen shillings.

Coming to the commercial side of the early days, we have occasion to note that copper kettles were as necessary to the household as chairs and, according to the size, one would suppose there was a goodly quantity of things made therein. Benj. Schaum received five pounds May 4, 1791, for a copper kettle holding twenty-seven gallons, and again on December 2, 1801, three pounds and nine shillings for one holding seventeen gallons. We don't know whether Steinman & Company were selling copper kettles then or not, or whether our purchasers simply preferred Schaum's, but he did buy at Steinman's as well, for several receipts prove that, including the following:

³Ellis and Evans, p. 245.

"Received May 7th, 1791, of William Bausman the sum of One Pound, One Shilling, being in full for a Coffee Pot, Green Jug and Salt Seller I say Rec for my Father Frederick Steinman.

"G. STEINMAN."

It may not be inappropriate to state, since we have just mentioned salt-cellar, that "a barrel of shad" sold for three pounds, seven shillings and six pence in the year 1801.

The educational side must not be neglected, for it will be interesting to notice the modest prices received by several school masters for their, perhaps, modest work. The name of John Doll appears several times, always for the money consideration of "ten shillings, it being for three months of schooling of Jacob Remmy." Under dates of May 1, 1801, March 19, 1803, and May 9, 1804, Matthew Stevenson received the sum of seventeen pounds, four shillings and eleven pence, for teaching two children, and also April 8, 1808, but the length of time is omitted. J. Virauth, under date of July 11, 1810, received "Six Dollars, in full for one years English Tuition of Samuel Dewees." Of the three school masters just mentioned, the name of one only appears in Ellis & Evans' history. On page 405 Matthias Stevenson is credited with opening a school in 1805 and it is supposed that he continued to teach until his death, in 1808. Matthew and Matthias are no doubt one and the same person, as the dates coincide. Incidentally with lessons, we'll quote an item somewhat foreign to the above but none the less important, for we dare not eliminate the name of one of our jewelers, Peter Getz.⁴ With a

⁴Ellis and Evans, p. 371.

plain signature he testifies to the fact of having received five pounds for lessons given by his wife to the daughter of an early resident of that period "in Mantua making," but he does not state if he kept the money himself or gave it to the said wife.

Peter Getz here mentioned is the same Peter Getz who designed the pattern of the penny and the half dollar piece for the government in 1792 and which was accepted and money coined from the dies of the same.

Anthony Hook, grandson of Michael, the original settler, who had his wagon shop at the corner of Orange and Duke streets,⁵ received November 17, 1806, one pound, six shillings and one pence for wheelwright work.

The signatures of the following men are easily recognized: Michael Gundaker, Christopher Mayer, John Wein, Benjamin Schaum, before mentioned, Peter Protzman, Christian Petrie, all members of the Sun Fire Company,⁶ and William Ferree, John F. Steinman, William Sterrett, Jonas Metzgar, Daniel Witmer and William Hensel.

In June, 1790, seventy locust posts were sold for four pounds, seventeen shillings and three pence and in 1808, March 8, twenty-five locust posts sold for three pounds, two shillings and six pence. Even in those days the price of lumber was advancing.

In 1791 a ton of hay sold for four pounds, and, we may add, as cattle belong to the farm, that two young steers, in 1801, sold for seven pounds, two shillings and six pence. An honest horse deal seems to have occurred at that early date, for John Fink signs his name to the following: "Received March 26, 1814, of William Bausman,

⁵Ellis and Evans, p. 364.

⁶Ellis and Evans, p. 384.

the sum of Thirty-One dollars and a half in full for a sorral mare sold him which said Mare is no older than Nine Years and Sound without Ailment Except one Eye looks a little dim than the other."

Municipal affairs must have their turn and we will start with the best looking and best-sounding item—best-looking because it stands in a large, clear, well-written hand and best-sounding because we all are proud of the fact that lies back of the statement.

"1812, Apr. 24th, Received of William Bausman Esqr eight dollars in full for a case of pigeon holes purchased for the use of his office of the Secry of the Commonwealth

"JAMES TRIMBLE."

This was only a short while before the seat of government of the State was transferred to Harrisburg, that occurring October 12, 1812.⁷

John Tryer was clerk in the office of the Recorder and Register, receiving a salary of three hundred and twenty-five dollars a year dating from February 8, 1809. However, George Hollis replaced him after a year and a half and continued in that office until April, 1812, when John Tryer returned and remained there until 1818, but his salary was lessened to three hundred and sixteen dollars a year. Both these men were exceptionally good writers.

Jesse Kendall received four dollars and fifty cents November 24, 1813, for printing one thousand blank notices. He did printing for the Recorder's and Register's office at various times during the years 1814 and 1815 as the following will show:

⁷Sherman Day's Historical Collections, p. 286.

"Received February 18th, 1814, of William Bausman the sum of Five dollars for finding paper and printing one thousand administration (& Executor's) advertisements.

"JESSE KENDALL."

"Received April 20th, 1815, of William Bausman, the sum of Five dollars and a quarter being for printing 4 quires of Administration Bonds

"JESSE KENDALL."

"Received September 11th, 1815, of William Bausman the sum of Eight dollars & 75 cents being for printing 5 quires of Blank Letters Testamentary @ 75 cents pr quire and four quires of Deeds @ \$1.25 Cents pr quire.

"JESSE KENDALL.

"Wm Bausman found the paper for the Deeds, but not the Letters Testamentary."

In Mr. F. R. Diffenderffer's paper relative to early printers, published January 1, 1904, I could find no reference to the above name and yet from the various receipts it is evident he was printing at the time mentioned.

Another interesting receipt is the following:

"Received August 27, 1807, of Wm Bausman six pounds and eleven shillings being money received from Mr John Lightner for Mr John Kerr, late Gailor, for Lancaster County Rec. in full

"Michl Pigeon per order."

John Kerr,^s late gailor, was probably the man who was manufacturing nails on Orange street in 1796.

Standing alone, significant of its contents, on a page turned slightly

^sEllis and Evans, p. 371.

brown in these one hundred and seven years was a pathetic item which read:

“1802, February 3rd, Gave an order to Mary Polock for her and her two children to the poor house.”

As the poor house⁹ was built some time during 1800 the report of its inhabitants, dating from November 15, 1800, the above mentioned persons were admitted within two years after Lancaster county began caring for its own poor people.

⁹Ellis and Evans, p. 212.

Author: Bausman, Lottie M.

Title: An old receipt book / by Miss Lottie L. Bausman.

Primary Material: Book

Subject(s): Bausman, William.
Lancaster (Pa.)--History--1775-1865.
Lancaster (Pa.)--Social life and customs.

Publisher: Lancaster, Pa. : Lancaster County Historical Society, 1909

Description: 38-44 p. ; 23 cm.

Series: Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society ; v. 13,
no. 2

Call Number: 974.9 L245 v.13

Location: LCHSJL -- Journal Article (reading room)

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