

A REVOLUTIONARY PATRIOT AND HIS WORTHY GRANDSON.

IF any apology be necessary for the raison d'être of this sketch let its justification be a natural desire on the part of the writer to preserve in comprehensive form a few facts in the lives of two ancestors; one, a Revolutionary patriot and public official, the other, a respected citizen and servant of the people.

The first authentic information we have of John Miller is found on a tombstone in the graveyard of Trinity Lutheran Church of Lancaster, the inscription thereon being as follows:

Ruhen die Geborne,
von
Johannes Mueller,
Gebuden 16 Sept., 1739,
Verschlicht in Jahr Nov., 1764.
um
Margaret Ganter,
gesterben, 12 Aug., 1810.

The date of John Miller's coming to Lancaster is not known, but it was probably before or about the year 1764, for in the marriage records of Trinity Lutheran Church under date of November 6, 1764, we find this record: John Miller, a gunmaker of Tulpehockin, and Margaret Ganter, daughter of John Peter Ganter and his wife, Susanna Reigart.

The said Susanna Reigart was a daughter of Ulrich Reigart the founder of the Fountain Inn Hotel,* and

*The Fountain Inn, on South Queen street, was established by Ulrich

a sister of Adam Reigart, Sr., who was proprietor of the Grape Hotel on North Queen street (the headquarters of the Whigs during the Revolution), and who acted as Lieutenant-Colonel of a regiment under Colonel George Ross during the Revolutionary War.

For some years John Miller carried on the business of gun making in Lancaster, at least until the year 1776, in proof of which we find an entry in the account book of Captain John Hubley, who was Commissioner of Purchase in that year. The entry is as follows: Paid John Miller, Jan. 27, 1776, for work done for riflemen, 8s. 1d. (Papers and proceedings of the Lancaster County Historical Society, Vol. 6, No. 1, page 15.)

In the following year, 1777, we find him serving as a member of the Committee of Safety and Protection in Lancaster, with Jasper Yeates, Michael Musser, George Moore, Adam Reigart, William Bowman and William Atlee, Chairman, the meeting being held at the house of Mr. Baker, June 28, 1777. (Papers and Proceedings of the Lancaster County Historical Society, Vol. V, No. 1, page 21.)

He next served as Commissioner of Purchase of the Continental Army, for the County of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, under appointment of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, March 14, 1781. (Colonial Records, Vol. XII, page 660.) An old account book kept by him at this time

Reigart, in 1758, and remained in the Reigart family until 1811. While the Lancaster County Court House was building, Court was held in the Fountain Inn, from 1781 to 1784. The Supreme Court of the State sat at the Inn in 1785. In 1800 a large room in it was occupied by Lodge 43, F. and A. M., as a meeting place, while their hall was being constructed over the city market by Gottlieb Sener, carpenter and joiner. (The Lancaster Intelligencer Centennial Number.)

is now in possession of the Lancaster County Historical Society, and the numerous entries are signed, mostly in German, by many well-known men of Lancaster Borough who furnished John Miller with provisions for the men and the horses of the army. This book was found in the house of a descendant, on the site of which John Miller once lived—the old Zimmerman-Russel house on the east side of North Queen street, between Chestnut and Orange streets, and which was in possession of his descendants for more than one hundred years. (S. M. Sener's "Revolutionary Days" in Papers and Proceedings of the Lancaster County Historical Society, Vol. VI, No. 1, page 22.)

At the close of the Revolutionary War John Miller became the proprietor and "Mine Host" of the General Wayne Hotel on the west side of North Queen street, between King and Orange streets. This hostelry was evidently named for the then popular hero, "Mad Anthony" Wayne of the Revolution. How long he dispensed hospitality is not known, but in 1785 he became a public officer and served in an official capacity for a period of a quarter of a century.

He was High Sheriff of Lancaster County in the years 1785, 1786, and 1787. (Mombert's History of Lancaster County, page 440.)

He was a member of the Assembly of Pennsylvania from Lancaster county in 1789. (Rupp's History of Lancaster County, page 435.)

In the years 1794 and 1795 he served as a member of the State Senate which held its sessions in Philadelphia, then the Capital of Pennsylvania. (Harris' History of Lancaster County, page 395, corrected on page 639.) Nathaniel Ellmaker was a member of the

Senate at the same time, and recently there came under the notice of the writer, Mr. Ellmaker's printed copy of the proceedings of the Senate, which showed that in almost every instance in which a vote was taken the two members from Lancaster County voted alike.

A few years later, in 1799, he served in the capacity of Chief Burgess of Lancaster borough, and in 1805 he was again made burgess. (History of Lodge 43, F. and A. M., by Geo. R. Welchans, M. D.).

In common with the prominent men of his day, our subject was actively interested in a local fire company. The one to which he gave his attention was the "Sun," long time the rival of the "Union." In the "History of the Union Fire Company" by Alfred Sanderson we find this record: 27th of December, 1788, at a meeting of the Union Fire Company, John Miller and Christian App, members of the Sun Fire Company, attended as a deputation from their company respecting the mode to be pursued in procuring another engine for the use of the borough. In confirmation of the purchase of this engine, there is a record in the Auditor's report of £120 paid to John Miller and others, and of £4 10s, to Henry Pinkerton for hauling the machine from Philadelphia.

In accordance with an act of the State Legislature, March 9, 1797, authorizing public lotteries, a number of our enterprising burghers met and appointed a board of commissioners to raise by lottery a sum not to exceed \$20,000 for the paving of the streets of the borough of Lancaster. The following committee, composed of John Hubley, Adam Reigart, Jr., John Miller, Abraham Witmer, Edward Hand, Philip Diffenderffer, Paul Zant-zinger, Matthias Slough, Jacob Krug,

George Musser, John Huber, James Crawford and Jacob Graeff, was appointed, and at a meeting held at the house of Peter Diller on January 26, 1802, John Miller and Abraham Witmer, builder of Witmer's Bridge, were appointed a committee to wait on his Excellency, Thomas McKean, Governor of Pennsylvania, for his approbation. The scheme was approved, the Governor's signature obtained, and the paving accomplished. (F. R. Diefenderffer on "The Paving of East King street by Lottery," in papers and proceedings of the Lancaster County Historical Society, Vol IV, No. 1, page 12).

That John Miller was socially inclined is shown by the fact that he was made a Mason in Lodge 43, F. and A. M., September 29, 1794. He was elected Junior Warden in 1796, and in June, 1797, was elected Worshipful Master. He withdrew from the lodge March 24, 1798. (History of Lodge 43, F. and A. M.), He died in his seventy-first year, survived by his wife, two sons, and four daughters. In his will, made on March 17, 1809, one year before his death, he refers to himself as John Miller, Gunsmith, but whether he was then actively engaged in the manufacture of guns is not known. His estate, which was of considerable extent, was given to his wife and children. He was the owner of four slaves, two of which, "a Negroe wench Phillis and Negroe Boy Richard," were given to his wife, and two others, "a Negroe Boy Michael and Negroe Girl Jul," were to be disposed of as his executors thought proper. The following extract was taken from the Lancaster Journal of Saturday, August 18, 1810: Died in this Borough on Sunday last, aged 71 years, John Miller, Esq. His worth was

acknowledged by all who knew him, and his fellow citizens have given testimony of their friendship by repeatedly electing him Sheriff of the county, and one of its representatives of the Legislature.

In the Moravian Cemetery, on Prince street, the following inscription on a large, flat, white stone attests the burial place of his wife:

Margaret Miller, born Ganter.
Born Feb. 8, 1743.
Died March 1, 1819.
Aged 76 years, 21 days.

The children of John and Margaret Ganter Miller were as follows: I. Susanna, who married on August 30, 1786, Philip Eberman, son of John Eberman; II. Anna Maria, born November 4, 1767, and died May 24, 1845; III. Elizabeth, born December 15, 1769, and who, on March 7, 1799, married first, Michael Weidler, born May 20, 1771, died December 31, 1807, and secondly, John Hambright, whom she married January 4, 1810; IV. John, born January 5, 1772; V. George, born July 20, 1780; VI. Catharine, born May, 1783, and died March 22, 1817. In October, 1801, she married Henry Hibschman (born October 11, 1774, died May 24, 1859), a son of Major Wendell Hibschman of the Revolutionary War.

Anna Maria, the second daughter of John Miller, married on August 10, 1786, Philip Schaeffer, son of Balthazar Schaeffer (born June, 1716, died December 19, 1781) and Margaret, his wife (born October, 1726, died July 19, 1798.)

Philip Schaeffer was born in Lancaster, October 20, 1766. He was a merchant and manufacturer as may be seen by the following advertisements in the Intelligencer Centennial Number of 1794 to 1894:

June 3, 1795, Philip Schaeffer, at the sign of the Mill-Saw, in Queen Street, North of the Court House, has for sale (next door to where Sheriff Miller used to live) a general assortment of Iron mongery, Cutlery, Saddlery, Brass-ware, Painters-Colours, and Window Glass of all sizes. N. B. Said Schaeffer carries on his Nail Manufactory as usual.

June 24, 1797, Schaeffer and Badecker inform their friends and the public that they have erected a Chocolate Manufactory at the house of Philip Schaeffer (Iron monger) in Queen street, where they carry on the said business in a regular and extensive manner. They flatter themselves that the quality of their Chocolate will not be exceeded by any in the United States, and they offer the same at wholesale and retail.

Whether these alluring advertisements failed to catch the trade of the friends and public or whether a larger city offered greater inducements in the way of business is not known, but a few years later, in 1799, Mr. Schaeffer removed to Baltimore, Maryland, where he died of yellow fever on September 18, 1800. According to the records of the First Reformed Church of Lancaster, which church the family attended, a memorial service was held for him in that church in October of the same year. The widow and her family of two sons and three daughters returned to Lancaster, and the second son, Emanuel, then a lad of seven years, became a member of the household of his grandfather, John Miller. The elder son, John, after some years moved to Harper's Ferry, West Virginia. Of the daughters, Elizabeth and Margaret Barbara married, respectively, Adam and Michael Keller, sons of Adam Keller, an ensign in the Revolutionary War. The other daughter, Anna Maria, married John Zimmerman, afterwards Mayor of Lancaster.

EMANUEL SCHAEFFER, the youngest son of Philip Schaeffer and Anna Maria Miller Schaeffer,

was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, February 27, 1793. He received a common school education and at the age of fifteen years was apprenticed to learn saddlery, trunk and harness making. After his apprenticeship he worked at his trade as journeyman until he had accumulated about \$100, when he commenced business on his own account in this city. Untiring efforts and strict attention to business brought him the success which he well merited. His manufactory, a three-story brick building, was at one time in the northeast angle of Centre Square, on which site the Western Union Telegraph Office is now located, and which for many years belonged to his grandfather, John Miller. Previous to that the factory was on East Orange street where the Brinkman Hall now stands, and adjoined his own home, all the property from Christian street to North Queen street, and two buildings around the corner on North Queen street belonging to him, as did also the three buildings on the opposite side of Orange street beginning at Christian street.**

In addition to his own business Mr. Schaeffer found time to serve the city. For thirteen years he was President of City Councils and held that office during the mayoralty of John Matthiot in 1832 when the successful effort was made to have the Pennsylvania Railroad pass through our city. (W. U. Hensel in Papers and Proceedings of the Lancaster County Historical Society, Vol. XI, No. 3, page 102.)

**The building at the corner of North Queen and Orange streets was at one time rented from Mr. Schaeffer and occupied by Dr. Thomas W. Evans, the dentist, who afterwards became famous in Paris as court dentist, and who was of assistance to the Empress Eugenie in her flight from Paris during the Franco-Prussian War.

He was a Director of the School Board of Lancaster under the Lancasterian system of 1822, which followed the "Pauper School" system of 1809, and immediately preceded the public school system of 1838. (Intelligencer Centennial number.)

He served as Associate Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Lancaster county for nine years, from September 8, 1842, to the first Monday in December, 1851. His first appointment was made by Governor David R. Porter for five years, at the expiration of which term he was reappointed by Governor Francis R. Shunk on January 25, 1848, and he continued to hold the office until the amended Constitution took effect, by which it was made elective by the people. (Mombert's History of Lancaster County, page 429).

According to an old pamphlet of 1835 he was a trustee of the Lancaster Savings Institution, with Dr. John L. Atlee, John F. Long, Jacob Demuth, John Brown and David Longenecker as his associates. At this time Judge Samuel Dale was President and Christopher Hager, secretary and treasurer. In 1841 he was elected president of the institution, which position he held for many years. When the cashier of the bank misappropriated thousands of dollars of the bank's funds Mr. Schaeffer and the late Thomas Ellmaker, one of the bank's directors (according to a statement made by the latter to the writer) contributed each the sum of \$6,000 from his own private fortune to replace in part the stolen funds. This was before the day of bank examiners, and when the security of the bank was, in a great measure, dependent on the honesty of its clerks.

According to the official returns of the election in Lancaster county Oc-

tober 10, 1848, published in the Lancaster Examiner and Herald, Judge Schaeffer was an unsuccessful candidate on the Democratic (Locofoco) ticket for Congress against Thaddeus Stevens. He, however, defeated Mr. Stevens in this city by a vote of 963 to 862, but was beaten in the county which was then, as now, largely Republican.

He was elected a trustee of the Lancaster Cemetery Association February 3, 1853, and President of the board of trustees on February 7, 1856. He remained a member of the board until his death, a period of eleven years. His death is recorded in the minutes of the December meeting of 1864.

Like his grandfather, John Miller, he was a Mason, being a member of Lodge 43, F. and A. M. He was an ardent supporter of the temperance cause, a man of the strictest honor and integrity, and his whole life was marked by a close adherence to religious duties. He died November 13, 1864, while attending a church conference at Newburg, Cumberland county, Pa.

Mr. Schaeffer was married three times. His first wife was Mary Metzger, a daughter of Philip and Margaret Brunner Metzger. She was born on February 13, 1794, and died February 1, 1826. She left one son, Edwin Miller Schaeffer. The second wife was Elizabeth Metzger, a sister of his first wife. She was born September 13, 1803, and died November 6, 1858. The children of this marriage were as follows: Mary Elizabeth, who married John Herr; Margaret Louisa, who married Dr. John Levergood; Emanuel Washington, who died unmarried; Emeline Rebecca, who married Henry Brady McNeal.

The third wife of Judge Schaeffer,

whom he married late in life, was a widow, Mrs. Eliza Winebrenner, who died in Wichita, Kan., March, 1890.

It is to be hoped that the writing of this article may induce other members of the Historical Society to record in the pages of its journal the deeds of their Revolutionary ancestors, for, according to Macaulay, people who will take no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors, will never accomplish anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote descendants.

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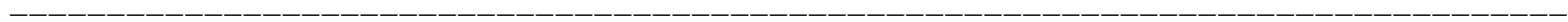
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