

THE OLDEST DAILY PAPER IN LANCASTER  
COUNTY.

It will be generally conceded, I think, by those who have given the matter any attention or who are acquainted with the facts, that there is no city of equal size in the country more given to newspaper reading than Lancaster. It is to-day **sup**porting five daily newspapers. There is hardly a family in the city, however humble, that does not take a daily newspaper, and many persons take two and three.

But how many of the present readers of the daily newspapers know anything about the early publications? How many in this audience know when the first daily was issued *in* this city and what was its name? If there is a tingle one who believes ho can answer these questions it is not 16 to 1 but 1,000 to 1 that he will say the paper was the *Inland Daily* and the date of first publication, 1853.

Until a few days ago I would have said the same thing, because I read that paper from day to day, and knew its editor, Harvey L. Goodall. To-day I confess that I have been as much in the dark about the first daily paper published in this city as those here who have never heard of the *inland Daily*. There have been lists of the publications issued in this city and county published in our county histories, but the compilers of these were unacquainted with all the facts.

There came into my possession a few days ago a small piece of old-time, hand-made paper, brown with age, containing only half a dozen lines of pen writing in the band so well known to all who have been accustomed to handle the manuscripts of the men who lived and wrote a hundred years ago.

My

I am rejoiced by John Bartholomew who, has subscribed for your early paper, that for six weeks past the same came irregular, and frequently not more than four a week, yesterday there was three inches in one packet & another time two. he flatters himself that you must be acquainted with the irregularities as it could be indubitably ~~proved~~ I remain yours &c

M. E. Benson

Benjamin Bartholomew  
with the Warren Langlets through the  
Decr 18<sup>th</sup> 1844

P

This is what is written on this time-stained piece of paper which I hold in my hand:

SIB—I am requested by John Bartholomew, who has subscribed for your daily Paper, that for six weeks past they have come irregular and frequently not more than four a week. Yesterday there was three inclos'd in one packet & at other times two. He flatters himself that you must not be acquainted with the Negligence, or it would be Immediately corrected.

BENJAMIN BARTHOLOMEW.

Near the Warren (Tavern), Lancaster Turnpike.  
Decr. 18, 1811.

MR. E. ARONSON, Lancaster.

That is the whole story. It is a brief one, but it is satisfactory and convincing. Nothing could be more so. It bears evidences of truthfulness in every line, word and punctuation mark. The paper and the stale of hand-writing are corroborating proofs. It was no weekly. It says "your daily newspaper." Only one thing is lacking, the name of this pioneer of the daily press of this city. What was its name and who was Mr. E. Bronson? Shall we ever know? In all human probability no one is living to-day who knew the man or saw his paper.

And yet it is possible that somewhere there is a record that will answer both questions. Just as this old letter was preserved for nearly a century to tell its story to us to-day, so, perhaps, there is bidden away in some neglected box some other document that can give us the information we wish to **have**. **I have** not had time to examine the list of taxables in this city for 1811. That might tell us something about Mr. Bronson. Some old deed or other paper may be recorded in the county offices. That *was the period when* most of our local newspapers were short

lived. There were several papers established about that time, the newspaper chroniclers tell us, but they cannot give us their names. This was one of them, and as its contemporaries also died without leaving a tombstone and an epitaph, I do not know where to turn for further information concerning Mr. Bronson and his early daily newspaper.

But this tell-tale little piece of brown paper comes to us bringing with it a reminder to us all as members of this Society. There are very few families who have lived in this county three or four generations who have not in some obscure and neglected corner, in box, or chest or elsewhere, a store of old papers that have been handed down for a century or more. It may be they have not been looked at for a hundred years. Their present owners do not know what they are nor what they mean. Who can tell what golden nuggets may lie hidden among them? There may be many that have a story to tell just as this little note has, and perhaps a still more important one. Every member of this society ought to appoint himself a committee of one to take up the work of searching out these hidden deposits and overhauling them, and in this way contribute his mite to the work that lies before our society.

Turning from the story of this early daily newspaper, published in this city eighty-five years ago, I freely express the belief that there will be no more interesting chapter in our local history than that which shall fully go into the details of the newspaper history of Lancaster county. There cannot be a more fruitful or interesting field. Has any one here any idea of the number of newspapers and other publications that have been born in this city, lived their short or long

share of existence and then died as more than 50 per cent. of all newspapers do, unknown and for the most part unremembered? I question whether any one who has not looked up the subject has any idea of what a center of literary activity this city has been during the past hundred years. There are several lists of the newspapers established in this place to be found in our local histories. I have taken all they named and added such others as I could procure and I found the sum total to be 126. Think of it, 126 newspapers, magazines and periodicals of all kinds that have seen the light in this good city of Lancaster

But that is not all. There were papers started of which neither the names nor those of their proprietors have survived the tooth of time. I have not the least doubt that, if I had a complete roster of all the publications that had their birth in this city alone, it would reach a total of 140, or **even** more. In addition, it should be said that the outlying towns of this county have also been very prolific in this matter. I have no doubt that, from first to last, there have been published in this county more than 200 periodicals of different kinds during the present century. This may seem almost incredible, but the known facts warrant the conclusion.

I have prepared a list by years of the papers that have seen the light in this city, from the first one of which we have any record until the present time. It is an interesting record, but how much more so would it be if it could be made complete. It is largely made up of the lists to be found in Mombert's and Everts & Peck's histories, and I make no claim to anything, save about thirty-five new names, which I have added.

The first newspaper published in this

county was called the *Lancaster Gazette*. It had its birth in 1752 and was a fortnightly publication, printed in alternate columns of German and English, by Miller & Holland. It went out of existence the following year.

No one was found courageous enough to start a new paper until the well-known printer, Francis Bailey, did it in 1775. There was evidently no paper published in this city for some years prior to the Revolution. This seems certain from the fact that **in** 1772 the Burgesses of the town ordered some of their proceedings published in the *Gazette and Journal*, of Philadelphia. Had there been a home paper this would not have been done. Francis Bailey published the *Die Pennsylvanische Zeitung* in 1775. One account **gives** 1778 as the date. In the same year a paper called the *News* was started.

In 1787 the *Neue Unparthenische Lancaster Zeitung and Anzeigs Nachrichten* saw the light; Steimer, Albrecht and Lahn were the publishers. It was printed mostly in German. In 1797 the name was changed to *Der Deutsche Porcupein* and in 1800 to *Americanische Staatsbote*.

Fortunately, I am able to accompany the notice of this last named paper with the prospectus issued by the proprietors prior to beginning its publication. As you see, it is almost as bright and fresh as when it was printed, 109 years ago. It seems there were two other German newspapers published in Pennsylvania at that time. As a matter of interest and also as a matter of permanent record, I have translated the prospectus and insert it here.

LANCASTER, June 5, 1787.

TO THE GERMAN PUBLIC. FRIENDS  
AND COUNTRYMEN.

A German newspaper, the third **to be published in Pennsylvania**, would seem to

be somewhat superfluous, and the publishers of the two others might complain especially, and not without reason, because of the trifling price, as thereby they would suffer harm. We believe, notwithstanding that argument, that we perceive no difficulty and dare to lay our proposition for a third newspaper before the esteemed public. Lancaster, where we have set up our printing press, lies not only more in the middle of the country, by which a quite considerable sum of money for postage will be saved, but it also has a peculiar advantage in that it is almost entirely German and surrounded by German settlers, and even now has been selected as the site of a German high school. Shall we not, therefore, hope to receive numerous readers for our new newspaper? The opportunity is not wanting, nor the good will to make it pleasant and instructive to our countrymen. We receive the English inland newspapers and consider this noteworthy therefore to set it before our fellow-citizens at the outset. We also carry on an extensive correspondence with Germany, and hope to be able to report European news, especially German news, as soon and as early as any other newspaper. We also expect inland news from trustworthy sources, and with pleasure will receive and make known such news. Any short and instructive treatises which will be of use to the reader above all the countryman, both for pleasure and for profit, will be acceptable to us. Men who are well known for their ability have already, beforehand, promised us many contributions of this kind.

Our terms are as follows : Every week a whole sheet will be printed upon good paper, with neat and altogether new letters.

We promise this for \$1 per annum, half

of which must be paid at the time of subscribing and the other half at the end of the first six months.

The price of a single copy will be three cents.

Every one can see our terms are uncommonly low and that in our undertaking we are considering the public more than ourselves. We commend ourselves and our newspaper to our German citizens and remain their obedient servants.

STEIMER, ALBRIGHT & LAHN.

**The** *Journal* had its birth in 1794 and under various editors and owners **was** published until 1839, when it was merged into the *Intelligencer*, which had been established in 1799. The consolidated paper bore the name of *Intelligencer and Journal*, and which, under the name of the *Lancaster Intelligencer*, is still published, and is, therefore, the oldest newspaper in the city or county.

Since 1800 the newspapers published here have been numerous. Hardly a year has passed since that time that has not seen the birth of one or more. I have prepared a list of them chronologically arranged. It is as complete as I have *been* able to make it, with the brief time at my disposal.

1752. *The Lancaster Gazette*.

1775. Paper published by Francis Bailey. Another account gives 1778 as the time and the name *Die Pennsylvanische Zeitung*.

1778. *The News*.

1787. *The Neue Unparthenische Lancaster Zeitung and Anzeigs Nachrichten*. Name changed in 1797 to *Der Deutsche Porcupein*, and in 1800 to *Americanische Staatsbote*.

1794. *The Journal*—merged with *The Intelligencer* in 1839.

1799. *The Intelligencer*. *Der wahre Amerikaner*.



1800. *Americanische Staatsbote*. (See 1787).
1803. *The Hive*.
1808. *Der Volhsfreund*. *The Gleaner*.
1810. *The Conditional Democrat*.
1811. Daily, name unknown; published by E. Bronson.
1816. *The Lancaster Patriot*.
1817. *The Lancaster Gazette and Farmer's Register*.
1819. *The Free Press*.
1820. *Lancaster Journal*.
1821. *The American Sentinel*.
1822. (About). *Die Stimme des Yolks*.
1825. *Political Sentinel and Literary Gazette*.
1826. *Lancaster Eagle*. *Standard of Liberty*.
1827. *Lancaster Reporter*.
1828. *Der Lancaster Wahre Amerikaner*. *Anti-Masonic Herald*.
1829. *Boquet, or Ladies' Library Portfolio Keepsake*. *Anti-Masonic Opponent*.
1830. *Lancaster Examiner*. *Lancaster Beobachter*.
1831. *Lancaster Republican*. *Standard of Liberty*, and *Lancaster County Democrat and Public Advertiser*.
1833. *The Inciter*.
1834. *The Lancaster Register*. *Lancaster Union*.
1835. *The Lancaster Miscellany*.
1839. *The Old Guard*, (or 1840). *The Age*. *Semi-Weekly Gazette*.
1840. *The Buckeye*. *Wahre Demokrat*.
1842. *Semi-Weekly Gazette*.
1843. *The Saturday Express*; changed in 1853 to *Saturday Evening Express*.
1844. *The Mill Boy*. *The Workingman's Press*. *Lancaster Democrat*. *The Moral Reformer*, afterwards *The American Reformer*.
1845. *The Lancaster County Farmer*.
1846. *American Republican*. *The Tribune and Advertiser*.
1848. *Rough and Ready*. *The Grape Shot*.

1848. *The Farmer and Literary Gazette. The Lancasterian. The Lancaster Inquirer.*
1849. *The Guardian.* Perhaps also this year the *German Democrat*, afterwards called the *Harrisburg and Lancaster Democrat.*
1851. *The Farm Journal. The independent Whig. The National Whig.*
1853. *The Public Register. The Inland Daily Times.* (Morning).
1854. *Public Register and American Citizen. The Inland Weekly.*
1855. *Conestoga Chief. Pennsylvania School Journal: Mechanics' Councillor. The Scott Bugle. The Daily Free Press,* (Liquor organ.)
1856. *The Daily Express. The Pathfinder.*
1858. *Lancaster Union. The Temperance Advocate.*
1859. *The Church Advocate. The Morning Herald.* (Daily).
1860. *The Educational Record. The Constitution.*
1862. *The Daily inquirer.*
1864. *Daily Intelligencer.*
1866. *The Keystone Good Templar. The Monthly Circular.*
1867. *The Sunday-School Gem.*
1868. *The Voice of Truth. Father Abraham.*
1869. *The Lancaster Farmer. Mechanics' Advocate. Christlicher Kundschafter. The Bar.*
1871. *Die Laterne.* (Weekly).
1872. *Daily Examiner. Der Christlicher,* and in 1882 as *The Torch of Truth, or Fackle der Wahrheit.*
1873. *The Laterne.* (Daily).
1874. (About.) *Der Waffenlose Waechter.*
1875. *Monthly Intelligencer.*
1876. *The Morning Review.*
1877. *THE NEW ERA* (Daily). *THE NEW ERA* (Weekly). *The Owl.*
1878. *The Footlight.*

1879. *The Coin Journal*. *Knights of Pythias Magazine*.
1881. *The Record*.
1882. *The School Journal*. *The College Student*. *Lancaster Freie Presse*. *Weekly Ledger and Market Directory*.
1883. *The Law Review*.
1884. *Sontag's Journal*,. *Tempus Puget*.
1886. *The Modern Crematist*.
1888. *The Home*. *Grand Army News*.
1889. *Life*.
1890. *The Morning News (Daily)*. *The F. and M. Weekly*. *Homoeopathic Envoy*. *Christian Culture*.
1891. *Lancaster Tobacco Journal*. *Evangelical Worker*.
1892. *The School Forum*. *The Labor Leader*.
1895. *The Pennsylvania Malt and Liquor Journal*.

Of the foregoing, eleven were daily papers; of these five survive until the present moment. Six have dropped out. There are at this time twenty-one separate publications issued from the Lancaster press. In the county, outside the city, there are twenty-seven, making forty-seven for the entire county.

One other interesting fact deserves to be noticed. Lancaster county, as every one here present knows, is the richest agricultural county in the United States. The value of its agricultural products in a single year has reached the great sum of \$7,657,790. During the past half century three purely agricultural publications have been started for their instruction and entertainment of our agricultural population : the *Lancaster County Farmer*, in 1845 ; the *Farm Journal*, in 1851, and the *Lancaster Farmer*, in 1869. All were first-class publications. To-day not one of them is here. All died the death. Does not this seem something

of a reflection upon the farmers of our county.

But I wish to direct attention to another point. Lancaster was almost exclusively a German community in the last century, just as it has largely been in the present one. Read over the names of the men who have published papers in this city. Miller—and he was the first of all—Albrecht, Lahti, Steimer, the Grimier Bros., Benjamin and Henry, Huss, Breiner, Ehrenfreid, Albright, Baer, Kling, Wagner, Shrier, Seigfreid, Baab, Frank, Myers, Harbaugh, and many more. These were all Germans, or of German-American descent. Many of their papers were printed wholly or partly in the German language. And yet the charge has again and again been made that they were opposed to education and to progress. A grosser libel was never uttered against our people. This German town of Lancaster stands next to Philadelphia and Pittsburg among Pennsylvania cities in this particular. It leads cities that have twice as many inhabitants as it has.

Talk about the culture and intelligence of New England ! We believe we may safely challenge any city of 40,000 inhabitants in any of the New England States, or for that matter anywhere in the entire Union, to show such a record as I have briefly presented to your notice. If there is such a city we would be most glad to hear from her. That is the record we have made and it is one every man in this room may be proud of, whatever his ancestry.

But I **have** digressed from my subject, which was to bring to your notice this early daily newspaper, which, so far as I am aware, is the first time mention has ever publicly been made of it.

I cannot help observing right here that there is a kindred field in which unfading

laurels are to be won by the man who has the courage and the ability to enter upon the task—the preparation of a bibliography of Lancaster printed books. Our German printers and writers turned out books by the score. Who will consecrate himself to the work. I see before me the man of all men best qualified for the work. Will not Dr. Dubbs some day enter upon the task ?

Author: Diffenderffer, Frank Ried, 1833-1921.

Title: The oldest daily paper of Lancaster County / by F. R. Diffenderffer.

Primary Material: Book

Subject(s): Lancaster Gazette (Lancaster, Pa.)  
American newspapers--Pennsylvania--Lancaster County.  
German American newspapers--Pennsylvania--Lancaster County.  
Lancaster County (Pa.)--History--18th century.  
Lancaster County (Pa.)--History--19th century.

Publisher: Lancaster, Pa. : Lancaster County Historical Society,  
1896-97

Description: [72]-84 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.

Series: Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society ; v. 1,  
no. 3

Call Number: 974.9 L245 v.1

Location: LCHSJL -- Journal Article (reading room)

=====

+++++

Institution Name  
Institution Address  
Institution Phone Number  
Institution E-mail Address