

The People Who Made Lancaster County.

It is a rather singular feature of most educational systems that a knowledge of the people and nations of remote regions and by-gone ages is deemed of primary importance, while the historic drama moving in the world immediately around us, and in which our own people have been, through successive generations, the actors, attracts but little notice.

The knowledge of our own country and our own people is an educational factor too much neglected and too often treated as a secondary and inferior accomplishment. Every organized community has a history that is significant and more or less important, and it is impossible to fully understand a people, to discern their true spirit, and be in complete sympathy with them, without adequate knowledge of their history, which reveals the hidden sources of their individuality, the origin of their peculiar modes of thought and action and the formulating factors in their social development.

From this standpoint, and from what our early annals reveal, the history of our own State, and particularly of our own county, is most interesting and important ; and as illustrating the results of what may be achieved by men and women of earnest purpose and resolute devotion to duty, is not only instructive but most inspiring, and well calculated to awaken a sense of gratitude and arouse a feeling of genuine patriotism.

It is a lesson of deep importance for us to learn that what we are and what we possess in this great State and county we owe to the bravery, the self-sacrifice, the

prudence, the far-seeing enterprise, the indefatigable energy, added to the patriotic public spirit, the high standard of morality, the rigid integrity, the broad charity and religious enthusiasm of our ancestors. To them we are indebted for this goodly heritage, and it is our obvious duty and should be regarded as a most grateful task, in the light of what we now enjoy, to study the early conditions of our county and the character of her pioneers ; what was the impelling cause of their migration here, what was the spirit that animated them after they came, and what. were the purpose and tendency of their lives in these new conditions. It is only after such study that we can truly understand our people and comprehend the real foundations of their success; and the more we contemplate their life and character, their struggles and achievements, the more profoundly do we respect and reverence those brave men and women who made Lancaster county, and, passing to their reward, left it a rich inheritance to their children.

Wealth of the County.

Lancaster county is the richest agricultural county in the United States. It has an area of 973 square miles, or 623,720 acres, of which more than 500,000 acres are cultivated land, divided into 9,000 farms, whose assessed valuation in 1896 was \$87,262,990, and the annual products, according to the census of 1890, aggregated \$7,657,790.

It is interesting to note that the county second in agricultural wealth in the United States, St. Lawrence county, New York, as revealed by the census of 1890, produced crops valued at \$6,054,160, or \$1,603,630 less than Lancaster county ; and our adjoining county of Chester ranks third in agricultural wealth in the United States with annual products

valued at \$5,863,800; and our neighboring county of Bucks is fifth, with annual products valued **at** \$5,411,370. The amount of money returned to the **assessors** as invested at interest by the people of Lancaster county and liable to State tax in 1896 amounted to \$21,427,601, and the amount of taxes collected in Lancaster county in that year was \$955,965.24. There are twenty-eight national banks whose combined resources of capital, surplus and deposits aggregate over \$12,000,000. The county expended \$53,136.70 **in** 1896 for the poor, and over \$300,000 for the maintenance of its 700 public schools, whose average attendance exceeds 30,000 pupils. There are 300 Sunday-schools in the county, with an average attendance of 38,136 pupils.

In enumerating the present resources of the county, it is important to bear in mind that all that we possess and all the favorable conditions that surround us in this great county, represent what has been accomplished within a period of less than two hundred years.

Early Settlers.

While it has been ascertained, through the researches of Dr. J. H. Dubbs, Professor of Archaeology in Franklin and Marshall College, that the first white creature that settled on the soil now comprised within Lancaster county was John Kennerly, a Quaker, who came over the border-line in the year 1691 and located in what is now Salisbury township, a mile from Christiana, yet it is well known that the first real settlements or consequence were made in 1709 by the **swiss** Mennonites and French Huguenots, who were followed by the refugees of various German sects, and later still by the Scotch-Irish and the Welsh with a goodly number of English, including a large proportion of Quakers.

The county was organized on May 10, 1729, and the county seat, originating with a wayside tavern, that, with the addition of a few dwellings, was called Hickory Town, was organized into a Borough on May 1, 1742, and chartered a city on March 20, 1818.

The first settlers were refugees from the terrors of European tyranny. Towards the end of the seventeenth century Protestant Christians in nearly every country on the continent of Europe were subjected to the most cruel persecutions. The Edict of Nantes, which had granted toleration to the Huguenots, or French Protestants, was respected for about ninety years, but was revoked in 1685 by the decree of Louis XIV., when the flood-gates of persecution were opened and the most barbarous acts of cruelty were perpetrated. According to the historians of that dreadful time the French provinces and the Palatinate, or provinces on the Rhine, the most fertile and best cultivated region of Germany, where the doctrines of Luther and Zwingli took firm root, were "again and again overrun by a fierce and dissolute soldiery, who offered the alternatives of recantation or extermination. In midwinter, while deep snow covered the ground they laid waste the fields, destroyed the vineyards and burnt the dwellings of 500,000 people, who were left shelterless and starving."

Under this fiery ordeal the Huguenots who escaped death fled in vast numbers, some of them across the British channel and others into parts of Germany. The bloody band of persecution was not less active in Switzerland and extended into the communities of Simon Menno. The Mennonites fled into Holland and Germany, but they were followed relentlessly into Germany and

were finally driven to encounter the terrors of the sea and sought refuge in the wilds of the Western Hemisphere.

Dr. William H. Egle, State Librarian of Pennsylvania, writes concerning the persecutions of the Mennonites, that "there were more people of that sect who were put to death in one city, Antwerp, in one year, than there were martyrs in all England during the time of Queen Mary."

The Swiss Mennonites landed in considerable numbers in 1709, and, pressing into the interior towards the Susquehanna river, settled in the territory now comprised within the boundaries of Lancaster county.

It is scarcely possible for us to fully realize the hardships endured by the pioneers in these primeval forests. They were obliged to grope their way through the woods and thickets along narrow Indian paths, and they were not only surrounded by the gloom of the dense forests and deprived of all the accompaniments of civilization, but they were obliged to encounter the terrors of wild beasts and reptiles, and of savage tribes whose vandalism and thefts and murders fill the annals of the times with unutterable horror.

So late as 1763 it is recorded that "the reapers of Lancaster county took their guns and ammunition with them into the harvest fields to defend themselves from the Indians." An autobiographer, referring to the days of his youth, passed in the early period of our history, relates that "in attending school he was *compelled* to walk three miles through a deep and tangled forest infested with wolves, wild cats, snakes and other animals."

But the early settlers *were* equal to their vast undertaking. They lost no time in proceeding to clear the forests. They discovered the soil to be of more

than ordinary fertility. The ground was broken up and assiduously cultivated, habitations were erected, in the course of time roads and bridges were constructed, settlements were established, villages were laid out, and then began to appear the village school house and the village church—evidences of the true aim and the sacred purpose of the sturdy people who laid the foundations of the prosperity that we now enjoy.

Period of the Proprietorship.

After the pioneering period, with all its terrors and hard experiences, and the vast labor of establishing homes and settlements and organizing communities, grave troubles arose at an early period from the proprietorship of the land being lodged in foreigners. There was a sense of uncertainty and insecurity in regard to title. Suspicions and jealousies were engendered, especially after people of different nationalities came to swell the population in considerable numbers—a state of feeling that seemed inevitable among people who in their parent country were for centuries accustomed to regard all strangers as enemies. But this gave way in the course of time, as the relations of proprietorship and title *were* adjusted and became better understood. As might have been expected, these earnest people, of widely different nativity but of the same aim and purpose, under the favoring influences of freer conditions, were brought into closer intercourse, they developed a kindred spirit, a sense of mutual regard for one another, and doubtless this early experience in the amalgamation of various nationalities through the fire of pioneer hardships was the basis of the American idea of brotherhood, of equal opportunity, of individual liberty and of union.

The Spirit of '76.

Later came the period in which English oppression aroused "the spirit of '76," and forced on the Revolution, that bloody conflict through which was established the independence of the American people; and from the provisional association of the colonists under the Continental Congress, after passing through the experiment of a Confederation of the States, came finally this great independent nation based upon the broad foundations of a Constitutional Government.

Who that studies the conditions and events of all these early periods, and recalls the hardships and the heroism of the brave people who took their part so nobly in shaping the destinies of our country, is not thrilled with admiration and a profound sense of gratitude ! For it is the more impressive when we reflect that the lives of these sturdy men and women were so supremely unselfish that there was no prospect and no hope at any time of themselves ever witnessing the ultimate results of their trials and sacrifices, or enjoying the fruits of their labors. All was suffered and endured for the benefit of their posterity.

Much was accomplished in developing the resources of Lancaster county by the early settlers during the pioneering period and during the years prior to the Revolution, as the population became augmented from time to time by those hailing from various quarters of the European world, who, of course, bore all the characteristics of their different nationalities—French, German, Scotch-Irish, English, and Welsh, including among them the Episcopal, the Lutheran, the Reformed, the Presbyterian, the Moravian, the Quaker, the Baptist and the Mennonite elements.

It was not, however, till after the Revolution, and the organization of a form of

government and institutions suited to the new conditions, that a marked impetus was given to the energies of the people towards undertaking larger and more permanent improvements, especially of a public nature.

Conditions at Time of the Revolution.

At the time of the Revolution the population of Lancaster county, and indeed of the whole country, was sparse. '1 here were few towns or villages, the highways were few and generally wretched, the people had but limited means, and the methods of business and ordinary conditions of social life were most primitive. McMaster, in the "History of the People of the United States," narrates that the farmer who witnessed the Revolution ploughed the land with a wooden plow, sowed his grain broadcast, and when it was ripe cut it with a scythe and threshed it with a flail. The farmers' houses were poor structures, scantily furnished and with no articles of adornment. In many instances sand sprinkled on the floor did duty as a carpet. There was no glass or china. A stove was unknown, coal was never seen, and matches were not heard of. Many of the vegetables now in common use and most prized were not only uncultivated, but entirely unknown, such as the tomato, *egg* plant, cauliflower, okra, rhubarb, sweet corn, head lettuce, cantaloupes, and some of our most cherished flowers, as geraniums and verbenas.

The boundaries prescribed in the treaty of peace signed at Paris on the 30th of November, 1782, and ratified by the representatives of the thirteen States assembled in Congress on July 14, 1784, were very different from those that now skirt our vast domain. The area of the country was only half its present extent, and the historian points out that a narrow line of towns and hamlets extended, with

many breaks, along the coast from Maine to Georgia, and the country extended westward across plains of marvellous fertility into regions yet unexplored by man. The whole was little better than a **vast** wilderness. The population numbered three and a quarter millions, and more were in the Southern than in the Northern States. Virginia alone contained a fifth, and Virginia, with Maryland, the two Carolinas and Georgia, held almost one-half of the whole population of the country.

Contrast With the South,

Pertinent to this fact of the predominance of the population being in the South is the extraordinary contrast between the people of the North and those of the South, in respect to material wealth, thrift and enterprise, which is to be attributed not to any circumstance relative to locality, but wholly to the moral character of the people. Noting this contrast, the historian already quoted relates many things concerning the social life of the people in the South. They were not content to enjoy the simple, homely pleasures of our frugal ancestors, with their house-warmings, spelling-bees and husk. Inge, barn-ralsings and tea-parties. "No pastime could flourish among them that was not attended with risk. They formed hunting clubs..... they gambled, they bet, they gathered in crowds to see cocks cut each other to pieccs with spurs made of steel. Many of the lower caste played cards, particularly faro; they wrctled, and seldom went home without a quarrel or perhaps a brutal fight. The combatants coolly agreed before the fight began whether it would be fair to bite off an ear or gouge out an eye, or maim in some other terrible way. Gouging out an eye was always permissible. very b 'iv grew a long thumb nail or

finger nail for that very purpose, and when he had his opponent down would surely use it unless the unfortunate man cried 'kings cruise' or 'enough.'

The practice was long a favorite one, and common as far north as the Maryland border." Dr. Ramsey, in his history of South Carolina, declares that "betting and gambling were, with drunkenness and a passion for duelling and running in debt, the chief sins of the Carolina gentleman," and adds that "duels take place oftener In South Carolina than in all the nine States north of Maryland." Another historian, telling of the clubs that flourished in the City of Charleston in the early days, remarks that "the life passed in them may be judged from their names—the Ugly Club, the Jockey Club, the Hell Fire Club, and others."

McMaster gives us an insight into the life of the young Southerners, which he pronounces a strange mixture of activity and sloth. " When they were not scouring the country in search of a fox, riding twenty miles or more to a cock fight or barbecue, they indulged in supreme idleness. Travellers were amazed to find a man in the best of health rise at nine, breakfast at ten and lie down in a cool place in the house to drink toddy bombo or sangaree, while a couple of slaves fanned him and kept off *the* flies."

There is perhaps nowhere a more obvious lesson to be gleaned from the pages of history than that which contrasts the spirit and purpose and manner of life of the people of the South with what characterized our ancestors here in Lancaster county, and the contrast should at all times awaken in us, who have received from them this rich heritage, the deepest respect and unbounded gratitude.

Added to a profound sense of gratitude for our inheritance of what may be

deemed, in large measure, material advantage, though based on the sound foundations of correct living and a high standard of moral character, we are entitled to entertain just pride in the accomplishments of our forefathers in the higher ranges of human activity.

Oar Early Settlers Not Illiterate.

It is an erroneus impression that the early inhabitants of Lancaster county were ignorant and illiterate. On the contrary, there were among them men of learning, and many men and women of education and culture and refinement. Not, indeed, that veneer of refinement or affectation of polish that is so often presented as a substitute for the genuine quality, which reposes not less in the most homely than in the most attractive personality. They were a plain, sturdy rural folk, calm and thoughtful, with serious purpose, enterprising but prudent, often shrewd and calculating, but honest and trustworthy, with a high ideal of manhood and citizenship, an ardent public spirit, and a zeal and enthusiasm in religion that was constant and practical.

The Swiss and German refugees, who were the most numerous of our early settlers, exhibited a wonderful amount of enterprise and established a literary centre here, of which we may be justly proud. Prior to the Revolution there were more printing presses operated and more books published by the German portion of our ancestry than in the whole of New England, with all its boasted culture. The first book printed in German type in America appeared in 1739, ten years after our county was organized, and contained a collection of the hymns of the Ephrata Brethren. The Ephrata Brethren had a complete plant for a printing establishment. They made all their own materials, they had

their own paper mill, type foundry and bindery, and they printed and published probably more than a hundred books in the past century. The Bible was printed by our German ancestors in their own language three times before it was ever printed in English in America, and the New Testament was printed by them seven times before it was printed in English in this country.

Judge Samuel W. Pennypacker, LL.D., of Philadelphia, who has made a lifelong study of the history of the Pennsylvania Germans, is authority for the statement that to them must be awarded the credit not only of publishing the first book in America, but also of producing in America the earliest essays upon music, bibliography, pedagogy and astronomy. He also notes the interesting fact that "down to the time of the Revolutionary War, there were eight newspapers published in Pennsylvania in English, and there were ten newspapers published in Pennsylvania in German. What is true of the East is also true of the West. The first time that a Bible appeared west of the Alleghenies it was published in 1814, in German, at Somerset."

The first genealogical work printed in America and the first work on pedagogy were issued from the Ephrata press, and the first stereotyping in America was done at Ephrata, and also the first printing in oil colors. A book of common prayer, believed to be the first that was ever published in this country, was printed at Ephrata in 1767. It is now in the possession of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and its title page bears the following inscription: "The Family Prayer Book, Containing Morning and Evening Prayers for families and private persons. To which are annexed Directions

for a devout and decent behavior in the public worship of God ; more particularly in the use of the Common Prayer appointed by the Church of England. Together with the Church Catechism. Collected and published chiefly for the use of the Episcopal Congregations of Lancaster, Pequea and Caernarvon. 'I will pray with the Spirit ; and I will pray with the understanding also.' I Cor. 14 : 15. Ephrata. Printed for William Barton, 1767."

It is an interesting historical fact that George Washington was first called "The Father of His Country" in a German almanac, printed at Lancaster, for the year 1779. The almanac has a full page frontispiece containing an emblematic design with the figure of Fame holding in her left hand a portrait inscribed "Washington," and in her right hand a long trumpet with the words issuing forth, inscribed on a scroll, "Des Landes Vatter." As this was printed in the fall of 1778, the expression "Des Landes Vatter," "The Father of His Country," dates back to that year.

Dr. David Ramsay, who has been called the "Father of American History," was born in Little Britain township, on April 2, 1749. He removed to South Carolina, and to the labors of an active medical practice he added those of a voluminous historical writer. He published a "History of the American Revolution," a "Life of Washington," a "History of the United States," a "History of South Carolina," and other important works. Dr. Ramsay was the first person who took out a copyright under the laws of the United States.

Lindley Murray, who may be justly called the "Father of English Grammar," was born in Lancaster county in 1745, at Swatara, in a part of the county that was carved out to form Dauphin county. His

r Grammar of the English Language," published in 1795, became the standard authority and is the basis of all the grammars that have since been published, and his "English Reader" and "English Spelling Book" were popular through several generations.

The first Pharmacopeia ever published in America was the work of Dr. William Brown, published at Lititz in 1778, and printed in Philadelphia by Christian Seist.

Many other authors have been given to the world by Lancaster county, but it is not designed to go into this phase of our subject exhaustively, and our necessary limitations have allowed only a brief mention.

Records of Early Patriotism.

We have every reason to be proud of the records of the patriotism of our ancestors. Pennsylvania, with its capital "City of Brotherly Love," was conspicuous among the colonies as the home of American liberty. Founded in 1681, she was, with the exception of Georgia, the youngest of all the thirteen original States, and under the liberal policy which was inwrought in her constitution and laws, through the Quaker influence, and which was gratefully accepted and firmly supported by the Germans and the Scotch-Irish, this youngest of the colonies advanced to the front rank. It was regarded throughout the world as the most successful experiment of practical freedom, and the character of the people is reflected in the remark of Voltaire, "Their colony is as flourishing as their morals have been pure."

Pennsylvania had the first representative form of government in the new world. It was the first of the States to adopt the Constitution of the United States, and it was the vote of Pennsylvania that made the Declaration of Independence possible.

Judge Pennypacker, in writing of the Convention that assembled in Philadelphia in 1787, to pass upon the adoption of the Constitution, states that " after the Constitution had been framed it was still a matter of grave doubt whether it would be accepted by the States. It is generally conceded that the adoption of the work of the convention was due to the early action taken by Pennsylvania. She was the first of the great States to declare in favor of it. When the question of the adoption of the Constitution arose in the Pennsylvania Assembly there was the greatest diversity of views, and the contest became heated and earnest. In that eventful crisis the very earliest effort in behalf of the new government came from the Germans."

Not only was this timely patriotic spirit manifested in the adoption of the Constitution, but with equal truth may the same be said regarding the Declaration of Independence. Hon. Geo. F. Bear, LL. D., of Reading, in a public address in the Court House at Lancaster in 1891, speaking to representatives of the German counties of Eastern Pennsylvania, and referring to the fact that at the time of the Declaration of Independence nearly one-half of the population of Pennsylvania was German, declared that the Germans were the potential factors in securing the essential vote of Pennsylvania for the Declaration of Independence. Under the proprietary rule only those could vote who were natural born subjects of England, or duly naturalized after swearing allegiance to the King, and possessing certain property qualifications. Comparatively few Germans qualified themselves to vote. In 1775 the Pennsylvania delegates to the Colonial Congress were instructed by the General Assembly to vote against separation from Great Britain.

The situation was most critical. Independence and union were impossible without Pennsylvania. It became necessary to secure the enfranchisement of the Germans. A provincial convention was called and met in Philadelphia on June 16, 1776, to frame a new government, and through this really revolutionary proceeding, as Bancroft expresses it, "the Germans were incorporated into the people and made one with them." The 19th of June, 1776, enfranchised the Germans and made the Declaration of Independence possible.

It is by no means strange that this patriotic spirit should have been called forth at two such important and critical periods of our history. When it is remembered that Pennsylvania enjoyed the first representative form of government in the new world, and philanthropy was one of its chief corner stones, it will be seen that it was eager for the blessings of liberty to be spread abroad through the land. In none of the colonies did liberty take such early root as here. As has been truthfully recorded by an accomplished writer on early Pennsylvania history, Benjamin M. Nead : " It found no foothold on Puritan soil, for the blight of intolerance was there. Roger Williams, in insisting on the freedom of conscience, was compelled to risk the stake. South or Pennsylvania the feudal idea governed in its strictest form."

It is an interesting matter of local history to know that a native of Lancaster county, Dr. David Ramsey, was President pro tem. of the Continental Congress during the illness of John Hancock, and General Mifflin, who lies buried in Trinity Lutheran Church yard, in Lancaster city, presided over the Continental Congress at Annapolis when Washington resigned his commission as Commander-in-chief.

General Edward Hand, whose remains lie buried in St. James' Church yard, in Lancaster, was a gallant soldier of the Revolution, a close, confidential friend of Washington and Adjutant General of his staff. Close by the tomb of General Hand is that of Edward Shippen, prominent in colonial and revolutionary times, whose son became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, and one of his daughters, Peggy, in her eighteenth year, became the second wife of Benedict Arnold in April, 1779.

Early Abolitionists.

The abolition of slavery in this State in 1780 was due to the controlling power of the elements of our population whom we have described as having made Lancaster county; and it is interesting to know that of all of the societies for promoting the abolition of slavery the oldest was formed in Pennsylvania. It is recorded that a protest against slavery was made by the Society of Friends at Germantown as early as 1688, and "five days before the battle of Lexington an anti-slavery society was formed in the old Sun Tavern at Philadelphia, which was reorganized after the Revolution, when Benjamin Franklin became its President, and from 1784 it had a long career of usefulness."

It was a Lancaster countian, William Wright, who first suggested the "Underground Railroad," or systematic concert of action to aid escaped slaves to safe refuge. The first conflict and bloodshed in the United States under the Fugitive Slave Law, passed by Congress in 1850, occurred in Lancaster county, near Christiana. And it was the representative from Lancaster county in Congress, Thaddeus Stevens, whose influence and leadership accomplished the enfranchisement

of the emancipated slaves.

Free education.

The same dominant spirit, in his earlier legislative career, prevented the overthrow of the Liberal School Law, and firmly established the free school system of this Commonwealth. It is a fact for every Pennsylvanian to be proud of that we have had free education from the beginning of the Commonwealth. In New England one of its foremost States had not a free school system till within the present generation. And *we may* boast not only of the liberality, but also of the gallantry of our Commonwealth, for we have never in Pennsylvania denied to females equal rights with males in our schools. It was very late until they came to that idea in New England, where the girls could go to school only when the room was not needed for the boys.

The first school in Lancaster county was established as early as 1712 by Swiss Mennonites in the Pequea Valley, near the present site of Willow Street. They erected a log house to serve for their religious meetings on Sunday and for school during the week.

The first Sabbath-school in this country was opened in Lancaster county by Ludwig Hacker in 1740, more than a generation before Robert Raikes started Sunday-schools in England in 1780. This enterprise for the religious instruction of youth was conducted on Saturday afternoon, the Sabbath of the Seventh Day Baptists. It continued prosperously for thirty-seven years until 1777, when the Battle of Brandywine turned the school house into a hospital for wounded troops. Judge Pennypacker has a collection of 381 tickets that were used in this Sabbath-school, printed in 1744, on every one of which is printed in German a text of Scripture and a religious verse.

In 1791, under the patronage of the

celebrated Dr. Benjamin Rush, the first non-sectarian Sunday-school in this country was commenced in Philadelphia, and it is curious to learn that their founders were reviled as Sabbath breakers. There are now in Lancaster county 308 Sunday-schools, with an attendance of 33,288 pupils.

Pennsylvania may boast of being the home of Presbyterianism in America, and it was here that the first American Presbytery was organized in 1705.

The first scientific society in America was founded here in 1744 at the suggestion of Benjamin Franklin, who was afterwards succeeded by David Rittenhouse, the great astronomer and mathematical genius, among whose inventions of great practical value was the metallic thermometer.

The researches of F. R. Diffenderffer, Secretary of this Society, reveal that the third public subscription library that ever existed in the United States was that of the Lancaster Library Company, established in 1759. Its name was changed four years later to The Julianne Library, in honor of Lady Julianna Penn, daughter of the Earl of Pomfret, and wife of Thomas Penn, one of the proprietors.

It was a Pennsylvania botanist, John Bertram, who first described the plants of the new world, and a Pennsylvania Scotch-Irishman, Alexander Wilson, who was the first American ornithologist. The celebrated scientist, Dr. Joseph Priestly, sought refuge from English intolerance and spent the last ten years of his life in the freedom of Pennsylvania, making his home in our neighboring county of Northumberland.

The Pennsylvania Hospital, established in 1752, was the first hospital founded in this country, and connected with it was

the first asylum for the insane that ever existed in America.

The first bank that was ever established in the United States was a Pennsylvania enterprise. Prior to the Revolution nothing of the kind was known in this country, and we are indebted for the first bank to Robert Morris, under whose commanding financial genius the Bank of North America was chartered on December 31, 1781. Not until three years later did any rival appear, when the Bank of Massachusetts was organized in Boston, and a few months later the Bank of New York and later still in the same year the Maryland Bank in Baltimore.

The first turnpike in the United States was the Lancaster Turnpike, extending from Philadelphia to Lancaster, which was commenced in 1792. It is estimated that there are now more than 400 miles of macadamized roads in Lancaster county. And it is a point of historical interest to the people of Lancaster county to know that not only did they have the first macadamized highway in their county, but also the first railroad of any considerable length, that which was built from Philadelphia to Columbia, a distance of eighty miles.

In connection with the subject of transportation, although this is an inland county, we are reminded that the world is indebted to Lancaster county for the man who first successfully introduced the application of steam to navigation. Robert Fulton was born in Little Britain township in 1765, and the old stone house where he was born and reared is one of the famous places of pilgrimage in the county. His boat, "Clermont," was launched on the Hudson river in 1807. He had previously invented a torpedo or submarine boat when abroad, and in 1801, under the patronage of the French Gov-

ernment, while making a public test he remained an hour under water and guided the torpedo around the harbor of Brest. Fulton was an accomplished artist, and with his pencil succeeded in providing means for his education. When he went to England he made his home with his fellow countryman, Benjamin West, the first great American painter, who was a native of the adjoining county of Chester.

Benjamin West executed at Lancaster, in 1752, for William Henry, a gunsmith, a picture representing the death of Socrates, which contained the first figure he ever painted from life. This painting is in possession of a descendant of Henry living near Bethlehem. Henry afterward became a Justice of the Courts. He was a man of enterprise and refined culture, and he extended the hospitalities of his house to many visiting foreigners and men of letters and science of his own country. It was during a visit to his house that Thomas Paine wrote a portion of "The Crisis" over the signature "Common Sense." His son, John Joseph Henry, who lies buried in the Moravian burying ground, in Lancaster, became the President Judge of the Courts of Lancaster county in 1781, and he was distinguished not only for his legal learning, but also for his mechanical genius. He was the inventor of the screw-auger.

Lancaster county has given to the world a great number of important mechanical inventions. Among them was the steam plow, which created a great sensation, invented by Joseph Fawkes, who was born and reared in Bart township, and is now living retired and greatly respected in California. He was the inventor of a number of agricultural implements, and his steam plow was first exhibited on the Fair Grounds at Lancaster in August, 1859, **and** the next month a

practical test was made at Freeport, Illinois, where he was awarded a prize of \$3,000.

Another important Lancaster county invention, now in universal use among agriculturists, is the double corn shovel harrow, patented in 1869 by Jacob Mowrer ; and his son, Nathaniel Mowrer, when a lad of only eighteen years, invented the corn-cob crusher and the de-germinating machine for extracting the *eye* out of corn before grinding.

In his valuable paper read before this Society, William B. Wilson, of the Pennsylvania railroad, whose early experience in the telegraphic service was with Col. Thomas A. Scott, during the early days of the Rebellion, says: " Lancaster city has the honor of hearing the first click of an electric telegraph instrument on the first telegraph line built for commercial purposes in this countryThe first fruit of the experimental telegraph line built for Professor Morse between Washington and Baltimore was *a line* built between Harrisburg and Lancaster, along the tracks of the Harrisburg, Portsmouth, Mount Joy and Lancaster railroad, which was completed November 24, 1845, and the first message was transmitted on January 8, 1846."

Many more facts of a similar kind might be gathered from our local records in illustration of the mental activity, the patriotism, the industry and thrift of the people whose names are identified with our early history, and all these points and incidents of our history are interesting and instructive as evidence of the character and condition of our ancestors, whose lives and achievements, the better we know them, are calculated to deepen our respect for them and make us all the more zealous in fostering a just local pride.

The lesson that is most impressive from

this glimpse at the early history of our county, and the perils and hardships endured by our forefathers, their heroic self-sacrifice and patriotism is this—that as in those pioneer days they endured hardships and suffered untold miseries to build the foundations of a social structure they could not expect themselves ever to enjoy, laboring wholly and unselfishly for their posterity ; and as they wisely built on the sure foundations, the solid rock of sound morality and religion, on faith, and in hope, and for charity, illustrating in their life and character, in their aims and purposes and in their culture and achievements, the elements and types of genuine manhood and true citizenship—so now we, who are in possession of this magnificent heritage, have every inspiration to meet the present conditions and solve the problems of the present time ever in the same spirit, with the same bravery, standing firmly on the same solid rock and illustrating in our life and conduct, to the utmost of our ability, the sturdiness of character which so happily distinguished them and cause us to feel so justly proud of our ancestors.

In the words of Edward Everett : "Characters, like those of our fathers, services, sacrifices and sufferings like theirs, form a sacred legacy, transmitted to our veneration, to be cherished, to be preserved unimpaired, and to be handed down to after ages."

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