

# A NEWSPAPER RELIC.

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The Lancaster County Historical Society is the owner of a treasure in shape of a bound volume consisting of the first four years of the publication of a German newspaper with the title of the "Neue Unpartheische Lancaster Zeitung und Anzeigs Nachrichten" which, translated, would read "The New Unpartisan Lancaster Newspaper and Advertising Directory.

The publication of this volume dates from August 8, 1787, to July 20, 1791. The paper was issued every Wednesday morning.

It is a four-page sheet the pages being  $9\frac{1}{2} \times 16$  inches with three columns and about 1,800 words to the page. It was published by Messrs. Steiner, Albrecht & Lahn in their new printery at Lancaster at \$1 per annum, one-half to be paid in advance the other half at the end of the first six months.

The writer of this paper has in his possession as a gift from Dr. F. R. Diffenderffer, a prospectus of this publication dated Lancaster, June 5, 1787, addressed "to the German public friends and patrons, in which the publishers propose to issue a German paper, the third (German paper) in Pennsylvania, which prospectus in connection with this article is a very interesting outline of what the publishers propose to give their readers in their publication. In volume, 1, No. 3, of this society's publications on page 77, may be found a very excellent translation into the English language by Dr. Diffenderffer, of this prospectus.

From it we learn that the publishers modestly fear that the editor of the two other newspapers now being published in the State might be displeased with the introduction of a new competitor, however, they feel that Lancaster from whence this paper will be issued is more centrally located (they say in the middle of the country) than are the other publication offices thereby saving considerable in postage for deliveries (the cost of postage in those days having been computed by the distance traversed by mail matter), and, furthermore, Lancaster being located in the midst of a thickly settled German community would command a generous support from that source. The other two papers referred to were the "Germantown Newspaper" and the "Gemeinnutzige Correspondenz" of Philadelphia. They feel that these conditions fully justify this new venture.

In the perusal of these columns it is surprising to notice how few items of local interest appear there. Locals did not then constitute the prominent feature of the public press as they now do, but articles headed "Foreign and Domestic," as well as advertisements that take up most of the space, were of almost as great importance then as now.

In the first issue about 1,000 words are devoted to European News, about the same number to Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, about 2,000 to advertisements, while the local items are given in about 200 words, and even that is more than the average number allotted to Lancaster.

An editorial in the first issue thanks the public for the liberal support accorded. The publishers promise to print such matter as will have a good moral effect on the youthful mind to observe the strictest non-partisan atti-

tude, and not to publish any anonymous writings that might reflect on the character of any one.

The support of all such as are able and willing to contribute articles to the paper from time to time is solicited.

They offer to print advertisements for the sale of properties, the recovery of stolen articles, rewards for the recovery of runaway servants, at a cost of 7 shillings 6 pence for three insertions, providing the advertisements do not exceed in length the width of one of these columns. They announce that all people who wish to subscribe can do so through the following named agencies, viz: In Lancaster, by Messrs. Ludwig Lauman, Adam Reigart, Paul Zantzinger and Jacob Frey. In Yorktown by Messrs. Michael Zahm, John Norris, Peter Kurtz and Henry Walter; in MacAllister, by Paul Metzger; in Lititz, by John Schulz; in Manheim, by Sebastian Keller; in Lebanon, by Philip Grünwald; in Millerstown, by Henry Scholl; in Middletown, by George Frey; in Ephrata, by Adam Konigmacher; in Strasburg, by Dr. Eberhard Gruber and John Funk; in New Holland, by Dr. John Luther, and Messrs. Brandt & Seeger, at the office of the publishers, on Queen street, several doors south of the Court House, and various other agencies.

In the first issue under Philadelphia news is the announcement of the arrival last Sunday evening of the ship "Freundschaft," Captain MacAdams, after seven months sail from Belfast, Ireland, with 250 immigrants on board, all in a healthy condition. Is it any wonder that we are said to be "Living in a fast age" when we compare this trip with one of a modern sea-going vessel. It does not seem possible that our new steamships which carry thousands of people, now make the trip in less number of days than the above named vessel required months, and who in those days would have thought it possible that in a modern sea-going vessel we would be liable to be blown to pieces by an inventive follower of Darius Green, or an invisible submarine vessel under the guidance of our enemies.

Under local news in this issue we read of the death of Dr. Gideon Eckstein, on July 26 last, at Ephrata, in the seventy-first year of his age. Dr. Eckstein was a native of Wurtemberg, Germany, having come to America in September, 1738. After a short sojourn at Germantown, he came to Ephrata, when he associated himself with the Seventh Day Baptist denomination at that place, remaining steadfast in that religion to the time of his death. Dr. Eckstein's name is not properly given in this local, for his real name was Christian Eckstein. However, we learn from the Chronicon Ephratense that when he entered the settlement of the solitary at Ephrata, he was given the name "Brother Gideon" (Zerstorer), or, translated would mean "Disturber," and, as such it appears on the roster. Dr. Eckstein lies buried in the old "Seventh Day Baptist" burying ground, at Ephrata, and his grave is marked by a tombstone on which appears the following German inscription:

"Hier liegt begraben  
der Ehr würdige Bruder  
Gideon sonst D.  
Christian Eckstein  
Mitglied der Bruderschaft  
in Ephrata. Starb d. 26  
Julius ihm Jahr 1787.  
Sein Alters 70 Jahr,  
1 Monat, 7 tag."

This inscription translated reads as follows:

Here lies buried  
The honored Brother  
Gideon otherwise Dr.  
Christian Eckstein  
member of the Brotherhood  
in Ephrata, died the 26  
July in the year, 1787,  
aged 70 years,  
1 month, 7 days.

August 15, 1787.

The second number of this publication has an unusually large amount of local news comprising about 800 words from which we learn that the previous Sunday the usual harvest home services were held in Trinity Lutheran Church, of Lancaster, when Rev. Henry M. Muhlenberg preached from the 104th Psalm, the 24th verse.

On August 13, the dedication of the new Moravian Church, at Lititz, took place at which Rev. John A. Klingsore presided. The services were followed by a lovefeast and communion, which was conducted by Bishop Ettwein. The plans for the church were made by William Henry, of Lancaster. The new organ which had been built by the noted organ builder of those times, David Tannenburg, was played by Rev. John A. Herbst. The cost of the building was about \$5,300. The congregation then numbered 207 communicants.

August 22, 1787.

On Thursday, August 9, Rev. J. Weinland, an Evangelical Lutheran minister from Germantown, was married to a daughter of George Hoff, the clock-maker. We learn from "The Life and Times of H. M. Muhlenberg," by Wm. J. Mann, that Rev. Weinland was a native of Saxony, a student and preacher at the Halle Institute, and by the directors of that Institute was sent as a missionary to Pennsylvania in 1783.



FIG. 1. USED IN RUNAWAY SERVANT ADVERTISEMENT.

He left Germantown in 1789 and for six years served the church at New Hanover where he became involved in difficulties, and his name from then on disappeared from the ministerial list.

On Tuesday the 4th inst. a terrible hailstorm visited this section ruining buckwheat, corn and trees. Many of the hailstones were of odd shape and size, similar to that of a man's thumb.

An odd advertisement in this issue is one in English wherein a Mr. Gardette, a dentist of Philadelphia, informs the public that he "May be spoke with at Adam Webers, at the sign of the Black Horse," where he will do such professional work as scaling or cleaning, placing natural and artificial teeth, extracting, etc.

Stephen Chambers offers £6 reward for the recovery of his runaway servant Geo. Miller. Among the articles which he took with him, were a light-colored fine cloth suit with white buttons, one pair white ribbed dimity pantaloons, one pair olive colored jean pants with strings at the knees, two new home-spun shirts, etc.

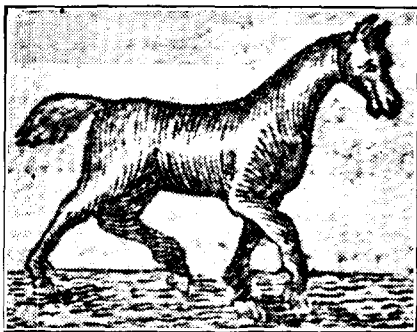


FIG. 2. USED IN STOLEN HORSE ADVERTISEMENT.

Jacob Leshner, of Cocalico township, offers £4 reward for the recovery of a horse which was stolen from him, which he describes as 7-year-old brown horse, 14 hands high, with broad neck and rear legs somewhat bent.

August 29th the executors of Christopher Reigert's estate advertise a sale of personal property to be held at Thomas Edwards' on September 12, at which time and place will be sold a colored man and woman slave. September 12.

"Litizer Walk-Mühle" is the head-line of an advertisement of a fulling-mill in Lititz, and the announcement is made that any person having wool or cotton which they wish to have made into cloth or similar goods could have the spinning done in the Sister-house of the Moravian Church after which the weaving could be done in the Brother-house. There was also an oil mill at the same place, both of which mills were operated by John Becker, who had a store close by, and who offered to pay the best cash price for all flax seed brought to the oil mill, while Jacob Fetter was a willing purchaser for all of the cloth woven at the above mill.

In this issue of the paper the publishers announce the first issue of their new German almanac known as "Der Neue Gemeinützige Landwirtschafts calendar, or the New Popular Agricultural Almanac. The annual publication of which was continued for a number of years. September 19.

On this date we find quoted from a Richmond newspaper, a local stating that 43 families in the Cumberland Valley had been murdered by the Indians who have destroyed growing cornfields, and turned horses and cattle loose. October 3.

Public notice is hereby given to all members of the Juliana Library Co.,

in the borough of Lancaster, that they are required to meet at the Court House this afternoon at 3 o'clock in order to take into consideration the affairs of the said company.

James Ross, Lieutenant of Lancaster county, inserts a notice requesting the militia to meet the first two weeks of October the 1st Battalion to meet the following Monday; 2nd Battalion to meet the following Tuesday; 3rd Battalion to meet the following Wednesday, and so on until all the Battalions have been mustered in, Saturdays and Sundays excepted.

October 10.

John Karch advertises book-binding also the sale of all kinds of books at cheapest prices.

October 16.

An election having been held the following result was published, viz: Counsellor—George Ross, 879 votes.

Assembly—Alexander Lowry, 1,160 votes.

Sheriff—John Miller, 1,174 votes.

Coroner—John Offner, 826 votes.

Commissioner Casper Schaffner, 657 votes.

October 24.

Announces the return of the ship Dorothea from Rotterdam after being on the trip for nine weeks, with a load of German passengers nearly all young and single, and representing nearly all trades, all of them being willing to serve as Redemptioners. This was a class of white servants that formed a notable phase of civic life in the early settlements of this country.

The first German settlers who came to America, as colonists in Pennsylvania were in such financial circumstances as to be able to pay for their transportation, and usually to pay in full or part for their newly acquired homes and lands. The glowing accounts which these people sent back to their friends in Germany, regarding their new homes had the effect of creating in them a strong desire to also try their luck in this new "Promised land," but which people were less fortunate and although they had plenty of pluck and ambition, had no financial means with which to even pay for their transportation. These were known as Redemptioners who allowed themselves to be sold into bondage, and were often called term-slaves, their terms of bondage usually being for a term of from 3 to 10 years in return for the payment of their passage and such other expenses as were necessary before and after leaving their native country. Others to pay for these expenses would stipulate with the captain to allow themselves to be sold on their arrival here to the highest bidder without having any choice in the matter. These were known as "Free Willers." Both classes were sometimes badly imposed upon, their slavery frequently proving worse than the bondage of the negro. It is, therefore, not surprising to notice in the advertising columns of our volume a great many offers of rewards ranging from £4 to £8 for the arrest and return of such who had run away from their masters.

October 31.

Proposals were asked for printing the debates and proceedings of the general assembly (taken in shorthand by Thomas Lloyd), in three volumes, the price to be not over 1 guinea for the complete set.

November 7.

Thomas Mifflin, speaker of the House, announces an Act of Assembly of about 1,200 words providing for the building of a bridge across the Conestoga in Lancaster county on the road leading from Philadelphia to Lancaster and soliciting bids for its erection. Abraham Witmer offers to build it at his own

expense and then turn it over to the County Commissioner. He or his heirs, however, are given the privilege of charging for their own use tolls as follows: For a coach, landau, phaeton or any other four wheeled conveyance 1 S. 6 D., for a chaise cart or any two wheeled conveyance 9 D. for a sleigh, the sum of one shilling for a horse and rider, 4 D, for each person on foot 2 D, for each head of horned cattle, sheep or swine 1 D, the approach to the bridge from either side to be by a 20 ft. wide straight unobstructed road. All persons who have been exonerated from the payment of county taxes shall be allowed to use the bridge without the payment of any toll charges.

On the 9th inst. Daniel Witmer (city) will offer at public sale a well built lime-stone brewery and malt house, known as Hambright's Brewery, including copper brewing kettles, barrels, hogsheads, etc.

Capt. Dalstet of the ship Dorothea from Rotterdam lying at the Vine street wharf, Philadelphia, offers to dispose of many young healthy passengers among which are tanners, shoemakers, coopers, carpenters, bakers and blacksmiths.

Capt. DeHaas of the ship North America, from Holland, lying at Cliffords Wharf, Philadelphia, offers \$16 for the recovery of two runaway boys, both of whom are minutely described, one having long hair tied with a loop in the rear.

November 14, 1787.

Walter Mifflin, a quaker, writes nearly two columns on the horrible butchery at Brandywine.

November 21.

John Fisher advertises for swine-bristles at 15 pence per lb., raw hemp, homespun cloth and linen. He also offers to buy Maryland paper money, paying 6 shillings hard money for \$1 paper money. (Issued after 1780.)

November 28.

Joseph Hubley offers for rent for three years the Black-horse hotel with farm, also a grist, saw and hemp mill at Marticville.

November 14, 1787.

Rebecca Lohrman, of Philadelphia, announces that she lives in the house of Leonard Kline, on Queen street, opposite the sign of the "Black Bare" where she will carry on millinery.

December 12.

On December 4 Bishop Matthäus Godfried Hehl of the brotherhood at Lititz, died in his eighty-third year, having served the brotherhood in various positions for fifty years, and at Lititz for thirty-one years. His funeral on the following Sunday was largely attended by members of his own and other churches. A beautiful poem of five verses accompanies his obituary notice, but time and space will not permit of its translation here.

December 19.

The publishers of this paper offer for sale, two of the old time remedies such as were then found in well regulated families, known as "Golden Tincture" and "Balsam de maltha" at 4 and 3 shillings per small bottle, respectively.

In this issue appears a notice of the death of a very prominent member of the Mennonite Church in the person of John Mayer, and an editorial gives a beautiful tribute to his memory.

December 26.

Abram Newcomer was out on horseback. The horse stumbled and threw his rider into the street where he was found dead.

January 2, 1788.

This issue publishes a beautiful poem on the passing of the old year and another ushering the New Year in.

January 9.

On December 26, a religious dedication of the New Holland school-house was held, in which the preacher, trustees, scholars and others participated. Rev. Melsheimer presided.

On New Years Day Prof. Wm. Reichenbach, teacher of mathematics at Franklin High School, was married to the widow Graeff.

January 30.

A warning is given the public to watch for counterfeit Spanish dollars of the coinage of 1786, the prominent features of which are a large nose and mouth, imperfect lettering, etc.



FIG. 3. USED IN REAL ESTATE ADVERTISEMENT.

An unusually lengthy advertisement occupies a full column in which eleven parcels of real estate are to be offered at public sale, on March 4, at the public house of Adam Reigart at 10 a. m., the sale to continue from day to day until all is sold, being the properties of Mathias Slough, and consisting of flouring and saw mills, farms and building lots, located in various parts of the city and county.

February 13.

Lieutenant Ross, under authority of the supreme executive council of this State, announces that he is directed to collect all public arms in this county for repairs, and have returns made of same to council. He also requests all persons who are in arrears for military fines to make payment to the collector within ten days as no indulgence as to time or otherwise will be granted.

In this issue is offered for rent a large three-story brick building, on Queen street, near the Court House. It has been used as a hotel for many years to which purpose it is well adapted. A vacant lot adjoins the hotel on which there is a large garden. Size of lot 64 ft. 4½ inches on Queen street 245 ft. deep. There is also on the premises a large brick stable in which 40 horses can be accommodated. A pump in the lawn is supplied by a splendid spring of cold water in the cellar. Apply to Ludwig Lauman.

February 27.

Prof. Melsheimer of the Franklin High School solicits applications for

three teachers to teach English, German and Latin as well as arithmetic and penmanship, the total number of pupils being 105. The charges for the German course were 30 shillings; German and English, 50 shillings. Complete course £4 per annum for all tuition during school hours. The three Professors' salaries amount to £450, but an increase of £200 is now proposed without any evident provision for its payment. He makes an appeal for public support saying if it is not forthcoming, the school must suffer.

Michael App and George Moser announce a dissolution of partnership. The first named will continue in the store business at the same place.

March 5.

At a meeting of the bakers of Lancaster the following prices for bread were agreed upon: A 6 pence loaf made of finest flour must weigh 3 lbs. 4 oz.; a 6 pence loaf made of medium flour must weigh 3 lbs. 7 oz.; a 6 pence loaf made of low grade or corn flour must weigh 3 lbs. 15 oz.

March 15.

On the 7th inst. four mounted robbers were corralled by Manheim residents in that town. All of the robbers had loaded revolvers with which a number of shots were exchanged with the citizens until one of the robbers was so badly wounded that he fell from his horse whereupon his companions fled. The wounded man gave his name as Geo. Sinclair, a tanner, and claimed to reside in Pennfield, New Brunswick. Upon his person was found a letter of credit for £433 sterling. Two of his companions were arrested in West Chester the following day, giving their names as Jno. and Jas. Wilson.

March 26.

Samuel Boyd & Co. advertise that they manufacture whetstones, and are in a position to supply merchants, peddlers and others who may apply.

April 16.

Last Saturday the 12th, inst., Anton Steiner, printer, and one of the editors of this paper, in his 24th year died from a dropsical affliction.

April 23.

Messrs. Albrecht & Lahn, the surviving publishers of this paper, announce that they will continue its publication.

May 21.

Adam Reigart, Jr., offers for rent the store at the house of Mrs. Breitenhart on the west side of Queen street, 10 doors from the Court House.

Nicholas Kohl, of Frankford on the Main, announces that he contemplates taking a trip abroad visiting Holland. Up the Rhine to Frankfort, to Wurtemberg, thence to Switzerland, and offers to carry letters and papers, charging for the letters 2 shillings 6 pence.

June 4.

The publishers give a list of persons for whom letters have been left at their office, each letter costing 50 cents.

June 18.

John Wolfkill offers for sale at his hotel goose-quills taken from live geese.

June 25.

Samuel Tannenberger, son of the Lititz organ builder, died yesterday in his twenty-third year. An anonymous friend writes a poem of seven verses which appears in this issue.

June 25.

Tuesday the 10th, inst., appears to have been a gala day, when the boat 'Federal;' from the borough of Lancaster to the river was as follows: First, the boat "Federal;" second, the captain F——y; third, the crew and lastly the



citizens by files. The boat was launched with dexterity and agility worthy of praise. After giving three cheers they retired to the house of John Swenk upon the banks of the river to regale themselves, and after toasting the new constitution, retired to the borough in the most perfect harmony.

July 9

Almost a column is given to the 4th of July demonstration in this borough and a like space is given to a similar celebration in Strasburg on the following day.

July 16.

An advertisement headed "Columbia" states that Samuel Wright has laid out a plot of ground into building lots on the east side of the Susquehanna opposite Wrights Ferry, which lots he offers for sale at £15 hard money, free from ground rent forever, or £10 at the time of purchase with an annual ground rent of 8 shillings 4 pence until £5 additional purchase money be paid on same when said ground rent will thereby be liquidated. Among the advantages named are the healthy location, good drainage, fertile soil, the cheap manner of obtaining lumber for building purposes and the close proximity to the wealthy and prosperous settlements of Lancaster and York counties, all of which are helpful to the erection of a new city for trading and manufacturing purposes; furthermore, a port road is about being laid out through this proposed city, and in all probability navigation on the Susquehanna will become an attractive feature. At present the following methods of transportation by Conestoga wagons are a great advantage, to wit: A route to Philadelphia, by Major Samuel Nicholas, to Lancaster, by Samuel Boyd, Thos. Edwards and Geo. Moore, to Yorktown, by Baltzer Spangler and Aud. Johnson, to Strasburg by Dr. Eberhard Gruber.

August 27.

"Christ Church, at Tulpehocken, built by the Evangelical Lutheran denomination, was dedicated on Sunday, the 18th inst., the pastor being Rev. Emanuel Schulze. Rev. Muhlenberg, of Lancaster, offered the dedication prayer. Rev. Kurtz preached the morning sermon, and Revs. Muhlenberg and Wildbahn preached in the afternoon. A poem of seven verses, suitable for this occasion, is supplied in this issue.

September 10.

The publishers of this paper announce the second edition of their German almanac, this one being for 1789.

September 17

Carl Cist, of Philadelphia, announces the publication of a German almanac for the same year, known as "Der Americanische Stadt und Land Calendar." (The American town and county calendar).

September 24.

Announcement is made that the new bridge across the "Conestoga" being built by Abraham Witmer is nearing completion and it is supposed that in two weeks it may be driven across.

A gentleman writes from Muskingon to a friend in this city saying that Lieut. Peters while going down the Ohio River with thirty men was attacked by Indians which resulted in eight of his men being killed and ten wounded.

Solomon Etting advertises the sale of a colored woman with two beautiful children, a boy and girl. The mother is twenty-five years old, and is bounden as a slave for life, while the children are bound until they are twenty-eight years of age. Mr. Etting, who lives near the Court House, offers to accept in payment, flour, whiskey or farm products.

October 8.

John Swarr, of Hempfield township, informs the public that he has rebuilt

his fulling mill, (Walckmühle) and is now prepared to do all kinds of fulling at the most reasonable prices.

John Michael informs the public that he has opened a hotel on King street, near the Court House, under the sign of "Prince Ferdinand."

October 8, 1788.

Samuel Davis offers his services as fuller at his father's fulling mill. Orders can be left at John Michael's hotel.

October 15.

Another fulling mill on Mill Creek, two miles from Lancaster, is called to the attention of the public by John Gibbony, who also says that he is prepared to do dyeing of yarn, etc. Work and orders can be left at Adam Reigarts.

October 22.

An advertisement calls attention to an exhibition of a camel, the same which was exhibited here about a year ago. It can be seen during the entire Court week at the house of Thomas Edwards, on Queen street. Price of admission for adults, 11 pence. Children, half price.

Matthias Schlauch informs the public that he will again open a hotel at the stand so well known as the "White Swan" directly across and south of the Court House. He has provided for his trade the finest kinds of liquors and accommodations together with splendid stabling for horses.

Robert Lewis & Son who have a store and mill-stone manufactory under the draw-bridge at the fourth wharf (near Levi Hollingsworth) in Philadelphia, offers mill-stones and bolting cloth for sale.

November 19.

Johanes Scheible, organmaker, of New Holland, offers for sale the most improved styles of organs, pianofortes, spinnets, hammer claviers with 23 or 4 changes as per the new English methods, also turning organs with 10 to 50 melodies.

November 26.

Word was received here of the death of Rev. Faber, who evidently in the best of health was in the midst of a sermon in the new Goshenhappen Church when he was suddenly overcome by heart trouble and disabled. He was taken from the pulpit to the school house close by where he died a short time thereafter, aged forty-seven years.

December 3.

John Brubaker offers for sale his plantation in Manheim township, one-half mile from Lancaster, on Donegal street, containing 105 acres and allowances. Eighteen acres thereof being in meadow. An interesting bit of Lancaster's early history might be inserted here referring to Donegal street which at that time extended from the corner of North Queen and Orange streets on out into Manheim township, now known as North Queen street, and its continuation the Manheim pike. Such sketch, however, would be simply a repetition of a very interesting sketch written by Dr. F. R. Diffenderffer, and published in volume 5, page 134, of the publications of this society.

December 24.

Father Tammany's almanac for 1789 was offered for sale by its publishers.

Some years ago I became the fortunate owner of a bound volume of this publication, dating from January 28, 1789, to July 14, 1790, and from it Dr. Diffenderffer wrote a very interesting paper for our society, which paper is published in our proceedings.

I will therefore bring my paper to a close and refer you to volume II, page 177, for the above named continuation, which begins with No. 78 on January 28, 1789, and closes with No. 154, July 14, 1790.

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