

# The Early Silk Industry of Lancaster County.

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Some time ago, in conversation with Dr. F. R. Diffenderffer, I was surprised to learn to what extent this industry had flourished in our county, about eighty years ago, and he kindly offered me the use of a great deal of information he had on the subject, if I would prepare a paper for this society. I immediately availed myself of the offer and herewith beg to submit to you the result.

Among the most indelibly impressed memories the average mind is capable of reviewing are those of occurrences in childhood's days. Particularly is that the case when we are taught the wonderful works of nature in its various and mysterious forms. When along that line of thought, I can as a child picture to myself two small boxes, with hinged glass tops which occupied conspicuous positions on a "What-not" in our home parlor. The "What-not" in those days was an ornate article of furniture which graced the parlor of nearly every household on the shelves of which were displayed many ornaments and curios such as in these days comprise the contents of a "Curio Cabinet." One of these boxes contained, ornamentally arranged a collection of "Cicada," more familiarly known as the 17-year locusts, migratory and destructive, winged insects, the buzzing sound of whose wings is so familiar to all of us on the hot, sunny days of August. The other box contained a collection of cocoons made by silk-worms nearly all of which many years previously, had been baked so as to kill the worms. A few of the cocoons, however, had been left to nature's ways, and plainly showed the opening through which the matured butterfly, which had been transformed out of the enclosed worm, made its exit from the cocoon. The killing of the worms, above referred to, was done to prevent them from making a hole in the cocoon, and thus destroying some of the delicate silk thread. Many a time when we children were being taught the mysterious workings of nature in the development of these two insects, did we shake the cocoons to hear the noise made by the little ball inside, which we were told in its earlier days was a common ordinary caterpillar.

Another cherished memory in the chapter on childhood's recollections, particularly those of us whose earlier days were spent in the rural districts, was "The old mulberry tree," under which heading an anonymous poet has written the following verses:

"Is there not one among us who wouldn't reserve  
Some spot in their earliest days,  
When dark, heavy clouds were hung overcast,  
And shadowed the sun's golden rays.

Some love a dear cottage, an old rustic seat,  
But what is far dearer to me;  
'Tis not a sly nook in a shady retreat,  
But a darling old Mulberry tree.

This reference to the mulberry tree is prompted by the fact that this species of vegetation figures to a very great extent in silk culture, and will be referred to later.

In a letter written by James Mease before the committee on agriculture February 2, 1828, as recorded in Document No. 226, House of Representatives, Washington, appears a treatise on the early production of silk and the rearing of silk-worms. From it, we learn that the first record of any efforts in this direction was in the Chinese empire 2,700 years before the Christian era, where nature had provided great forests of mulberry trees upon which large numbers of silk-worms subsisted. When the value of silk became known, the Chinese were taught to construct houses, ships, mills and other useful appliances tending to develop the industry. It was soon discovered that the artificially developed worms produced a far superior product, and great care was exercised in their development. Silk became an article of exportation and soon thereafter other nations became interested in the industry and the demand for silks increased wonderfully with wealth and luxury, the ladies of the Nobility showing a great interest in the project. Among the notable ventures in this direction were those of the island of Cos, in the Grecian empire, Germany, France and Italy.

England beheld with no small degree of jealousy the development of this industry in France and in 1608 King James I. tried to arouse the British to the benefits which they might derive by taking up this industry, but no successful results were attained by them until as late as 1820. During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, however, silk manufacturers had flourished to a considerable extent in England, the raw material having been imported from Italy. The newly awakened zeal for the culture of the raw material was aroused in 1825 when on May 27 *The Times* published an article referring to the incorporation of a company for that purpose. On October 4 of that year the same paper contained an advertisement under the name of "The Royal Charter of the British, Irish & Colonial Silk Co." with a capital of £1,000,000 sterling in shares of £50 each.

Many years prior to this time, however, the people of Philadelphia and surrounding counties were awakened to the importance of this industry, for the proposition was brought before the public there, as early as 1726 by Dr. Benjamin Franklin, yet it was not until 1734 on account of the merchants having great difficulty in making payment for the immense quantities of manufactured goods which were being imported to them from England, proposed that the government provide some means whereby some of these productions be manufactured here, whereupon Gov. Gordon in a letter addressed to the "Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations" (which letter may be found in the minutes of Council, Lib. 1, October 31, 1734) recommends the manufacture of silk and the cultivation of the *Morus multicaulus*. The letter, which reads as follows, is copied from Hazard's Register, Vol. I, page 62.

"The Mulberry tree is likewise so natural to our soil growing wild in the rich lauds, and the silk-worm thrives so well that there is a distant prospect of some advances to silk manufacture, which as it affords employment to the weakest hands would be of the utmost advantage. Some amongst us have shown how practicable a design of this kind is, by making small quantities not inferior. I am informed, in goodness and fineness to the best from France or Italy, but persons are wanting to lead us into the way of winding it from the balls, which I understand to be the most difficult part of the work, but as in time this difficulty may be surmounted, I cannot but recommend likewise a manufacture of this kind, as deserving of greatest encouragement, since by promoting it, a valuable addition may be made to the trade of Great Britain."

This letter, however, does not appear to have been fruitful of any results and there appears to have been no further effort made in that direction until 1770 when on January 5 a letter written by Dr. Franklin, who was then in Europe, to Dr. Evans, was submitted to the American Philosophical Society, in which Dr. Franklin referred to a French treatise on the management of silk-worms suggesting that a public filature be erected for the winding of silk from the cocoons and that some provision be made by the assembly for promoting the growth of mulberry trees.

Accordingly the following resolutions were adopted by the society:

1. "That a public filature be established in Philada. and such other places throughout the province as may seem expedient for the winding of cocoons."

2. "That proper managers be appointed to conduct these filatures so that people who may choose to work up their own silk, might do so, also to purchase and wind for public account, all cocoons that may be offered for sale at the filature."

3. "That all persons be encouraged to cultivate mulberry trees, raise silk-worms and bring their cocoons to the filature where not only the same prices will be paid, as are paid for a like product elsewhere, but as an extra inducement, annual premiums will be paid for 5 years from £10 to £15 annually for the largest number of cocoons brought to the filature."

4. "That to enable the managers to maintain such an industry, an amount not less than £500 should be provided by the legislature for the number of years mentioned."

Inasmuch as the Assembly took no action in the matter at its next session, a public subscription was then taken up and in a few days £800 or £900 were collected in amounts from £1 to £20, John Penn subscribing the largest amount. Shortly afterward in 1770 the filature was opened in a house on Seventh Street between Arch and High Streets and seems to have been patronized by growers in many of the surrounding counties.

During the summer of 1771 we find among the list of raisers who sold to this plant Samuel Davis and John Ashbridge, Caleb Johnson, Wm. Henry and Isaac Whitlock, all of Lancaster, who brought to the plant for sale various amounts of cocoons or silk balls in quantities from 4 to 75 pounds. Many cocoons were also raised in private families and during the year 1771 about 3,000 pound avoirdupois was brought there costing not less than £4,000

sterling. This is the first instance wherein we find Lancaster County raisers identified with this industry.

Through the courtesy of our local historian H. Frank Eshleman, Esq., the author of this paper was permitted to make extracts from transcripts which had been previously copied from various issues of the *Pennsylvania Gazette*.

In this publication appears on March 15, 1770, an extended article on silk-worms. Here we learn that a great many people in various parts of the province, have turned their attention to the subject, however, the lack of a sufficient number of persons who were able to reel silk properly, and a market for the sale of the silk-balls is a hindrance to the industry. About 10,000 cocoons were spoiled because those who tried to reel it, did not understand how it should be done. On March 22 succeeding the above issue of this paper we learn that a meeting of Philadelphians was held at the court house to promote silk culture.

In this publication we find that on October 3, 1771, the managers for the promotion of silk-culture, submit a petition to the Legislature, in which they state that they have ready to report, 150 pounds, and ask that bonuses or premiums be offered, so as to encourage silk culture. John Ashbridge, of Lancaster, wants one of the prizes for fine silk. In the same publication on July 29, 1772, we find that premiums for the promotion of silk culture were offered as follows: 50,000 cocoons of merchantable quality raised in Pennsylvania, £50; 40,000 cocoons of merchantable quality raised in Pennsylvania, £10; 30,000 cocoons of merchantable quality raised in Pennsylvania, £6; each of 6 raisers who will bring reeled not less than 20,000 cocoons of merchantable quality raised in Pennsylvania, £3.

In Sharp and Westcott's history of Philadelphia, Vol. 1, page 262, we learn that 64 families had now enlisted in the new industry, raising from 10,000 to 20,000 cocoons and a bright future seemed in store for the new venture. However, being overzealous, the management paid so much for the cocoons that after discarding those of inferior quality the net result showed a loss. In Vol. 3, page 2312, of this history, we find that prizes having been offered, the first one for the number of cocoons came to Lancaster County, having been won by Susanna Wright, of Columbia, out of her product. Watson's Annals, Vol. 2, page 437, says that the Philadelphia filature made a mantua for Miss Wright, 60 yards in length, also a great quantity of sewing silk. Dr. Benjamin Franklin, who at that time represented the company in London, presented this dress-pattern to the Queen, and her majesty promised to wear it on the King's birthday. Samples of it were deposited in the public library. The Assembly thereupon voted the society £10,000. It was in this year (1772) that the historian, Robert Proud, speaks of his visit to James Wright at Columbia, where he saw 1,500 worms at work under the charge of Susanna. She claimed that she could have one million if properly encouraged.

On March 17, 1773, *The Gazette* has this to say: In silk production in Pennsylvania for the greatest number of cocoons and best reeled silk, Lancaster County led the entire state (including Philadelphia) in quantity and quality, the Widow Stoner herself having raised 72,800 cocoons, Casper Falkney 22,845, and Catharine Steiner 21,800. All these raisers were Germans from Lancaster County. Chester County and Philadelphia which were

also striving fell far behind. Sharp and Westcott, Vol. 3, page 2312, says the Widow Stoner won first prize for the largest number of cocoons and Rebecca Parks, also of Lancaster County, won first prize for the best reeled silk. Silk fabric when not openly exposed is said to have surprisingly durable qualities. We read in Watson's Annals, Vol. 2, page 424, that Gov. Dennis' daughter, after having been buried for 30 years was re-interred and the ribbon was so well preserved that the grave-digger's daughter wore it afterwards. On April 7, 1773, the *Gazette* shows an advertisement offering premiums for the largest number of cocoons raised at one crop with claimants family out of which crop 5 per cent. must be reserved for raising good eggs for the following season. The prizes offered were as follows, to wit: For

60,000 cocoons £15 sterling, a silk reel and a copper kettle.

50,000 cocoons 10 sterling, a silk reel and a copper kettle,

40,000 cocoons 5 sterling, a silk reel and a copper kettle.

For best sample of raw silk of applicants raising not less than 32 ounces, a silk reel and copper kettle. For first crop bought before July 1 1773, 3 shillings per 16 ounces; July 25. 1773, 3 shillings, 6 pence per 16 ounces; August 5, 1773. 4 shillings per 16 ounces; August 25. 1773, 4 shillings, 6 pence per 16 ounces, providing they are good and dry.

This early effort at silk raising and manufacturing terminated when the Revolution broke out and was not again revived until 1828 when the *Morus multicaulis* fever sprang up. It was then that the Pennsylvania Society for the promotion of the culture of the mulberry and the raising of silk-worms was organized and soon thereafter a new filature was built in Philadelphia. Although it turned out some of the finest product, it was a financial failure and was soon discontinued. The silk culture agitation, however, was continued until in 1835 The Philadelphia Silk Culture & Mfg. Co. and many similar organizations were formed. In 1838 the Pennsylvania Legislature added to the excitement by offering a premium of 20 cents per pound and 50 cents for reel silk produced in the state.

During the succeeding years, special activity was developed in Lancaster County as well as elsewhere and few persons now living have any knowledge of the great excitement caused by the establishment of this industry which promised great returns to its promoters. Thousands of trees were planted. The trees thrived but the silk industry failed. A serious question in the venture was the matter of food for the worms. Many varieties of trees and shrubbery were experimented with, but the only ones on which the worms would thrive were the osage orange, the local black mulberry and the Chinese white mulberry, or *Morus multicaulis*. The worm ate and waxed fat on all of these varieties, but the quality of silk produced from the latter was far more satisfactory than that of the others. The superiority of the latter consisted of its being clothed 15 to 20 days earlier than the other species. The worms therefore matured earlier and many developed before the hot summer weather was upon them. The white mulberry, moreover, not only grows more rapidly, but has more abundant foliage being more delicate and more nutritive thus producing a silk of a much finer quality. As the excitement increased so did also the price of the trees ranging from \$3 per hundred to \$7 per tree. The latter price being named in the American Silk Grower for April, 1839, as having been paid in Northampton, Mass. From these varied

profits, for the demand was far greater than the supply.

In the congressional document previously referred to page 57 we learn that mulberry trees can be raised in four different ways: first, from seed; second, from roots; third, from layers; fourth from cuttings. In propagating from seed, it should be steeped in water for several days before sowing, and should then be sown in a light loamy soil, when it will sprout in about two weeks. If grown under favorable conditions they may be transplanted the following season; or perhaps later, if slower in developing. In the *Lancaster Journal* of April 21, 1837, appears the following advertisement: "Chinese mulberry seed—The subscriber can furnish a supply of Chinese Mulberry Seed, if application be made soon. Address the subscriber, Black Horse P. O., Chester County, Pa. John W. Mason." In as much as the rearing of trees from seeds required much care and attention, and required considerable time, the other methods were more popular.

In propagating from roots, a 3 or 4-year old tree was cut off about 6 inches above the ground, when probably 5 or 6 suckers would sprout near the ground. The ground was then heaped around the stem and the suckers would take root and could then be transplanted as separate trees. Raising from layers was done in the springtime when the sap began to rise. The branches of low trees were pinned to the ground with pegs and there covered with ground, after which they soon took root, and could then be detached from the parent tree. In raising from cuttings, sprigs about 10 or 12 inches long were taken from sound and well-grown trees a few years old, and were placed in the ground so that about 3 inches thereof extended above the surface. The wood of a full-grown mulberry tree was very useful for various purposes. It was said to be the most durable wood known for fence posts, and was extensively used for making water vessels, such as barrels, kegs, and the old-fashioned bucket with a wooden lid, known among the old-time farmers as the "Shtitz," which Fisher has so vividly recalled in his poem "Seeding, and the Plow-boy's Song," in his book on "Olden Times." In the early days of the Glacier Spring Water Company of Ephrata, Mr. J. L. Steinmetz told me that he had 9 mulberry barrels made at a cost of \$16 each for shipping water, for it was the only wood available, in which water could be shipped indefinitely without imparting any taste from the wood.

In the "Old Guard" published in this city July 6, 1840, appears the following advertisement:

"Dr. W. L. Atlee offers for sale a superior lot of genuine *Morus multicaulis* trees now growing in the city. Persons may find it to their advantage to call and see his trees before buying elsewhere, at the corner of East King and Lime Streets."

Mulberry trees were planted either in hedges along the borders of fields or in orchards, and to this day, there are the remnants of those hedges, which during severe winters freeze to the ground, and then again grow up in the form of bushes. The *Lancaster Intelligencer* for September 18, 1838, March 26 and May 21, 1839, contain articles and instructions on the culture of the *Morus multicaulis*. To illustrate the magnitude of this industry the *Baltimore Chronicle* informs us that a raiser near that city has sold 15 acres

of *multicaulis* for \$32,500; another sold 2 acres for \$8,000; while a Mr. Alsop refused an offer of \$15,000 for 4 acres.

I have here an exhibit of the silk-worm in its various stages of development, as well as some of the silk, which has been loaned for this occasion by Mr. R. F. Stauffer through the courtesy of our member Mr. Wm. F. Woerner, both of whom are identified with the manufacturing firm of Messrs. Stehli and Company.

The silk moth exists in 4 stages—egg, larva, chrysalis and adult. The egg is nearly round, closely resembling a turnip seed. When first laid it is yellow, soon turning a gray color if impregnated.

The eggs of the silkworm may be kept a long time in a temperature above freezing and below 50 degrees, and can be hatched in 24 hours by placing them in a temperature of 75° or 80°. Then three times a day for 10 days they should be fed on broken mulberry leaves, then for 15 days on whole leaves after which for about 10 days more they can forage for themselves on branches of the trees. During all this time they fast and sleep four or five times, from 10 to 15 hours each time. These are called its molting periods. At each of these molts it sheds its old skin, for the growth of the worm is so rapid that the skin cannot keep place with it. After the last molt the worm hunts a place to make its cocoon, in order to do which it must be able to fasten its body at both ends. If they fail in this, they simply waste their energies in spinning a flat tangled web. It takes the worm 24 hours to spin the cocoon that encloses it. This is a continuous thread about 4,000 yards long. If by accident the thread breaks, that is not only the end of it but the end of the worm. He cannot mend it, he does not begin over again and makes no attempt to do either. He simply drops from his partly made case and dies.

After the cocoons have been dried for about two weeks, the lives of the worms must be sacrificed, so as to preserve the silk. If the worms were not killed they would soon be butterflies, and in eating their way out, would cut the thread into many pieces in which event the silk could only be woven into combed stock like wool or cotton is woven and produce a material of much less value. The worm is killed by either baking or cooking the cocoon, after which the thread may be unwound, and the process of manufacture then begins. To continue the supply of worms some must be allowed to become butterflies, and after this they have only twenty-four hours to live. During that short time they lay from 500 to 700 eggs and then die.

The *Lancaster Intelligencer* on January 1, 1839, announces a meeting of silk growers of Lancaster County to be held on the Saturday following at the house of John H. Duchman. This referred to the hotel later known as the "Leopard" and which now flourishes under the name of "The Weber." Mr. Duchman had formerly conducted a general merchandise store at Blue Ball. The result of this meeting was the organization of "The Lancaster County Silk Growing Society," with Dr. Samuel Parker, a practicing physician of East Petersburg, as its treasurer. It is my pleasure to present to the Society with this paper, the treasurer's account book in which the first entry which the treasurer charges himself with is \$11, for the payment of annual contributions of 11 members on February 2, 1839. On March 2 a similar charge of \$4 appears. On April 17 W. A. Delano, Dr. H. B. Bowman

and Aaron S. Evans were credited with \$1.00 each. On July 6 Maris Hoopes, Wm. Mathiot, W. G. Goheen, J. F. Houton, James Barber and Joseph Konig-macher likewise made annual payments. On that date Dr. Parker turned over to his successor, as treasurer, Henry R. Reed, \$14.25, being the balance in the treasury. On September 2 Michael Herr paid \$1 as his annual contribution and W. L. Atlee, H. B. Bowman and W. G. Gohen are credited with the payment of \$1.75 in fines. On March 7, 1840, they evidently procured new members, for we find W. G. Goheen, Adam Diller, R. D., and H. P. Carson, A. V. and Christian Herr, Jac Klugh, H. B. Bowman, Hugh Long and Henry Reed each credited with \$1.

The following disbursements were made, June 17, to wit: to Hammersley & Richards, who then had a dry goods store on North Queen Street, \$2; John Kauffman, for rent of room, \$1; R. W. Middleton, who had a book store at 29 North Queen Street, \$7.50; Col. J. W. Forney, \$8.50; Col. Forney was one of the most prominent democrats in this city, who was credited with wielding greater influence in the nomination and election of James Buchanan to the Presidency of the United States than any one else. He was the publisher of the *Intelligencer and Journal* of this city for many years. This last named payment ended the accounts in said book without any funds in the treasury. Henry R. Reed, the above named treasurer, was cashier of the branch bank of Pennsylvania, and was the father of the well-known financier and banker George K. Reed. He lived on South Prince Street, one door north of where George Steinman now resides.

Dr. Henry B. Bowman was a practicing physician at Neffsville, Recorder of Deeds from 1848 to 1852, served two terms in the Legislature in 1862 and 1863, erected a woolen mill at Neffsville in 1856, and died in 1869.

Maris Hoopes was identified with the iron works at Safe Harbor.

Wm. Mathiot was a lawyer with an office in the office building which formerly occupied the site of our Central Market house.

J. F. Houston, a native of this city, held a position in the U. S. Treasury for 50 successive years.

Jos. Konigmacher was one of the most prominent citizens of northern Lancaster County, was proprietor of the "Mountain Springs" summer resort at Ephrata; was a member of the State Legislature in 1838-39, of the State Senate in 1848. He died at Michael's Hotel, April 4, 1861.

Jacob Klugh was a hotel keeper at Mountville.

Adam Diller was sheriff of this county in 1827.

W. A. Delano was an extensive raiser of trees at Columbia. *The Columbia Courant* says: "Perhaps it is not generally known to the community that there are two gentlemen, Messrs. Delano and Clapp, now in Columbia who are extensively engaged in the cultivation of the *Morus multicaulis* or Chinese mulberry, which is universally conceded to be by far the most profitable species for the rearing of silkworms. They have already about 30,000 trees and intend to enlarge their operations in the spring, as the enterprise has been successful beyond their most flattering anticipations. They also have a large number of trees at Harrisburg. We are informed by Mr. Delano that the cost of buds for planting is 3 cents, and that they are raising 12,000 trees on an acre which they are selling at 50 cents each."



In the same issue of *The Old Guard* previously referred to appears this advertisement:

"Sulphur silkworms and eggs. The subscribers offer for sale a quantity of double crop and single crop silkworms and eggs of a very superior quality from the largest cocoons in the country. These eggs are warranted good and can be had only at the store of R. and H. Carson on West King Street and at the cocoonery of the subscribers 2½ miles south of Lancaster. At either of the above places samples of the cocoons may be seen. Abraham Herr and Christian Herr."

In June, 1839, *The Lancaster Union* issues the following local article on Lancaster County silk: "We were shown a few days ago a number of very beautiful handkerchiefs made of Lancaster County silk, reeled and spun by R. D. and H. P. Carson, merchants of this city. We feel quite confident we never saw a better article of the kind. They were woven in Philadelphia, and were nearly twice as heavy as imported ones of the same size retaining all the softness which characterizes the fabric. We were also shown a quantity of sewing silk, but not having much confidence in our knowledge of such matters, we submitted to the inspection of one in every way qualified to judge of its merits, some skeins presented to us by the manufacturers and it was pronounced to be for evenness of thread, beauty of color and strength not to be surpassed." The Messrs. Carson have an extensive cocoonery and feed a great number of worms. One leaf of the *multicaulis* grown by them this summer measured 15¾ inches across. We hope they may succeed fully in an enterprise so beneficial to the community.

The Carson brothers and Henry Reed sent a representative to France to learn the most modern principles of the industry, who returned with glowing reports and giving such information that aroused fresh enthusiasm here. At an expense of \$1,000 they imported a small bundle of cuttings so as to be sure of getting the genuine article, for unscrupulous tree agents were already in the field, selling trees that were not genuine, and not until the leaves appeared could the fraud be detected, when they sometimes proved to be maple or other varieties.

The Carson cocoonery was a long frame building located on West Chestnut Street between Charlotte and Lancaster Avenue. The firm also conducted a general merchandise store on West King Street, adjoining Hager's store. Robert was cashier of the Lancaster County Bank. This lot was afterwards sold to B. B. and J. B. Martin, who sold sufficient ground on the west side of the lot, to the city, for the opening of Lancaster Avenue for the sum of \$1. They sold the cocoonery to a Mr. Dietrich, who removed it to North Queen Street, between James and Frederick Streets, where on the west side of the street, the building was converted into three dwelling houses, one of which, No. 548, a one-story frame dwelling, with dormer windows and a steep flight of steps at the front door, still stands there.

These personal sketches of the organizers of this silk growers society were mostly furnished by Mr. Jonas B. Martin, to whom the author feels greatly indebted. It is plainly evident that the society was composed of many of the leading citizens of the city and county.

Sun Hill, a little hamlet about two miles from Manheim, boasted of two extensive cocooneries, one of which was known as the "Warwick cocoonery."

and was owned by David M. Eberly. It was my good fortune, recently, to call at the home of Mrs. A. S. Kauffman, 921 North Prince Street, this city, who is a daughter of Mr. Eberly. Besides being an expert silk raiser he was one of the most prominent horticulturists in the county. He was widely known as a raiser of the finest kinds of fruits and berries, making a specialty of the luscious strawberry. Among Mrs. Kauffman's treasures are a pair of homespun silk stockings, made in their own family, cocoons in white and cream colors, and numerous skeins of homespun silk, some of which had been exhibited at various fairs and exhibits of agricultural products. She also has in her possession one of two medals which Mr. Eberly had won at the "American Institute" in New York City, on the one side of which, within a wreath of mulberry leaves and heads of wheat is this inscription: "American Institute, N. Y., awarded to D. Eberly for the second best cocoons, 1846." On the reverse side is an American Eagle, mounted on a shield, a lady, a ship, a bobbin, a sheaf of wheat, the horn of plenty, etc. In the report of the state fair held in Lancaster in 1852 we find that a premium of \$5 was awarded to Mr. Eberly for the best exhibit of cocoons. To Miss Harriet Summy, also of this county, \$3 for the second best lot of same variety and \$3 for beautiful specimens of silk spun from cocoons. Mr. Eberly also won a premium of \$3 for the best specimens of raw and reeled silk and \$3 for the best specimens of sewing silk. This cocoonery was, in later years removed to the rear end of the Kauffman lot, where it has been in use as a butcher shop for many years, as it is at this time. Mr. Eberly had an orchard of about 4 acres of *multicaulis* trees.

John Summy, one of Mr. Eberly's neighbors, was also an ardent silk raiser as well as a florist and nurseryman, who had several acres planted in mulberry trees. He was familiarly known by the nickname "Flower Summy."

Jacob Hensel owned a cocoonery and silk mill on New Holland Avenue, near Shippen Street, close to Bachler's greenhouses.

A number of farmers in Manor township became enthused in this new venture, the most extensive of whom were John Wissler and Dr. Mellinger. They planted large tracts in mulberry trees and erected large buildings in which to house the worms, and the outlook was very promising. For several years they prospered until the spring of 1841, when a continuous spell of cold, damp weather, killed many of their worms and caused the raisers to suffer heavy losses. This discouragement was so keen that they abandoned the project, and uprooted many of the trees.

The *Lancaster Intelligencer* of August 7, 1838, announces the arrival of the first number of a monthly magazine issued by Chas. Alexander, Esq., of Philadelphia, conducted by several able silk culturists of New Jersey, known as the "American Silk Grower and Farmers Manual." Subscriptions are solicited by the *Intelligencer*. The writer of this paper is the owner of Volume 1 of this magazine. On page 25 of this volume is a beautiful poem in which Miss H. F. Gould personifies a silkworm, which while feeding on a mulberry leaf was approached by a haughty princess who in scorn and disgust "declared she never yet could see, why a reptile form like this should be," "that she was not made with nerves so firm, as to calmly stand by a crawling worm." "With mute forbearance the silkworm took the taunting

words and the spurning look," and in the last verse gives expression as follows:

No more, said the worm, will I drink or eat!

I'll spin and weave me a winding sheet,  
To wrap me up from the sun's clear light,

And hide my form from her wounded sight.

In secret then, till my end draws nigh

I'll toil for her, and when I die,

I'll leave behind, as a farewell boon,

To the proud young princess, my whole cocoon,  
To be reeled and wove to a shining lace,

And hung in a veil o'er her scornful face!

And when she can calmly draw her breath

Through the very threads that have caused my death;  
When she finds, at length, she has nerves so firm

As to wear the shroud of a crawling worm,

May she bear in mind that she walks with pride

In the winding sheet where the silkworm died.

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