

ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST—FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE—1776 TO 1781, INCLUSIVE.

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—1776—

NOTE:—The last prior installment of this series appeared in the March, 1921 pamphlet of this society's publications.

The most important news item of the Gazette of 1776, is one not merely local; but of province-wide importance. It is the examination of the then Governor Penn before the House of Lord in which he reveals the condition of Pennsylvania at that time. He shows that Pennsylvania has raised 20,000 volunteers for the Revolutionary War, and 4,000 minute men, and that she can raise more food than needed to feed them; she is making gun powder; manufacturing salt peter; casting cannon; they are building ships and have built one of three hundred tons; they obey Congress; they celebrate every anniversary of the repeal of the Stamp Act, by bonfires, illuminations and other exhibitions of gladness. They have no objection against the Sovereignty of Great Britain, except her taxation. This is found in the issue of February 21.

Coming down to local matters in the same issue, we find an item to the effect that Philip Baker, the innkeeper, has moved from the house he lived in, at the sign of the King of Prussia in King street opposite the market, to that noted house in Queen street where Christian Wertz formerly kept his store between Bernard Hubley, coppersmith and Christopher Breidenhard, innkeeper, where he now keeps tavern and has his former sign the King of Prussia. He follows the shoemaking business as usual and hopes for a continuance of trade. He wants a heel and last maker—signed Philip Baker.

We remember that Francis Bailey, in the issue of Oct. 18, 1775, advertised his Lancaster Almanac for 1776, which he printed near the market in King street. In the issue of Feb. 28, 1776, he advises that he has just published for sale, at the Printing and Post Office in King street, "Common Sense" addressed to the inhabitants of America with an appendix to the people called Quakers. This item is important: first as a proof that "Common Sense" was printed here during the Revolution and second as it locates the first or at least nearly the first "Post Office" in Lancaster. That spot ought to be marked by a tablet, to inform future generations.

The same issue contains an "ad" of John Fisher, the brush maker of Lancaster boro, who wants the farmers who raise large "troops of hogs", to sell bristles to him. He pays one shilling of Pennsylvania money per pound for combed bristles.

In the issue of March 13, there appears the "American Remembrancer" which sets out a list of 40 events, conditions, etc., and instances of England's broken promises which Americans are asked to remember.

The issue of March 27, contains the act of Assembly, increasing Lancaster county's number of Assemblymen in the Legislature.

Michael Bowman, of Manheim Township, inserts an "ad" in the issue of April 3rd, declaring he will not any longer pay debts contracted by his wife as she has left him and associated with dishonorable men.

In the following issue—April 10—appears an act confirming to Andrew Hershey, his lands in Donegal Township. Also appears an item that Conrad Hess, of Northampton, has fraudulently obtained 10 bonds belonging to Jacob Shull. In the following issue—April 17—Matthias Slough gives notice that he has quit tavern-keeping, and devotes all his time now

to the dry-goods business and selling wine and rum by the gallon—also bar-iron, nailing-rods and English, German and Coventry Steel, loaf of brown sugar, coffee, chocolate, spices and nails. He gives the best prices for all kinds of country-made linen, and he wants a large quantity of it for the use of the Provincial Forces. (Here is a quite complete picture of the line of goods carried by our few leading stores here in Lancaster, during the Revolution).

An important Kings Highway was laid out from Lancaster to Coventry Iron Works, in 1738. (See 4 C. R. 267.)

The issue of April 24 contains the particulars of a notorious jail breaking and delivery here in Lancaster.

May 8, John Hamilton advertises for sale, a tract of 206 acres of land at Octoraro, Lancaster county.

An item of May 8 shows the size of Philadelphia's voting strength compared with other towns or counties. At her election of burgesses (four elected), she gave Samuel Howell, 941 votes; Andrew Allen, 923; George Clymer, 923; Andrew Willer, 921; Thomas Willing, 911, Fred Kabel, 904; Amos Biddle, 903, and Daniel Roberdeau, 890.

Our neighbor, Berks county, compelled Nicholas Hermony to apologize publicly for speaking in reflection of the Continental Congress.

Brave Northampton approved the resolve moved by John Adams, May 15, and passed by Congress, abolishing all British authority in America. See issue of June 5th—York county did the same; (June 12).

At this time there were over 6,000 remonstrants from Philadelphia and other counties against the resolve of May 15th. (see issue June 12th) June 12, Pennsylvania assemblymen ordered its delegates in Continental Congress to vote for Independence.

In the issue of June 26, there appears a full report of the proceedings of June 24 and the Declaration of the Deputies of Pennsylvania in Provincial Conference assembled. Lancaster county had its deputies present. Thus, a note is made here of the event.

It is noted (July 3) that Congress resolved that four companies of Germans he raised in Pennsylvania, to compose the German Battalion. Part of these were Lancaster county men. The action of Congress was dated, June 27th.

The proceedings of the great meeting in Lancaster on July 4, 1776 (the very day Independence was declared) is set forth in the issue of July 10th. It was an immense meeting consisting of the officers and privates of 53 Battalions of the association. It was held to choose brigadier generals for the forces. George Ross was chairman, and George Clymer, secretary. The meeting adjourned till 5 P. M., and then declared Daniel Roberdeau and James Ewing, brigadier generals. The meeting resolved:

1. "That the brigadier generals have power to call out the associators;
2. "That we will march under the command of our brigadier generals to the assistance of all or any of the Free and Independent States of America;
3. "That these associators be drafted out of each county of the Province in the same proportion as that directed by the Provincial Council, held at Philadelphia;
4. "That the thanks of the meeting be voted to President George Ross, for his reasonable and excellent speech in behalf of "The Liberties of America."

The proceedings of the council of safety, sitting at Lancaster, are reported in the issue of August 14th. It, there, appears that "Whereas the committee of Inspection and Observation for the city of Philadelphia and the several counties of the State were elected and are about expiring resolved they be continued."

"Resolved that the associators of the counties of Bedford, Northum-

berland, Northampton and Westmoreland, and the guards of the city of Philadelphia, retained by the Council of Safety, and two companies of General Ross' battalion and two companies of Colonel Slough's battalion, of about 50 men each, left to guard the prisoners and about 60 carpenters and workmen, retained by the committee of Lancaster, be excepted out of the resolve that the several battalions and their officers of the State, immediately march into New Jersey, with their whole battalions."

In the same issue the quotas of the four additional battalions for the flying camp to be apportioned among the several counties of Pennsylvania are set out as they show the relative strength and position of Lancaster county, at that date and its share in the movement for Independence, I set them forth. They are as follows: The city of Philadelphia, 628 men; county of Philadelphia, 160; county of Bucks, 100; of Chester, 160; of Lancaster, 323; of Berks, 240; of York, 515; of Northampton, 278; of Cumberland, 580—a total of 2984 men. York and Cumberland included all the great territory westward and that is why their numbers were so large.

A list of the committee to make provisions for the families whose husbands and fathers have gone to the war, from our neighbor county of Berks, appears in the issue of August 28th.

According to a resolve passed August 28, the Committee of Safety and Observation distributed the salt owned by Joshua Fisher and Son and Joseph Sherwell in "equal proportions" between the city and the counties of Pennsylvania, as follows:

Philadelphia City	279	bushels	fine	and	98	bushels	coarse
Philadelphia County	300	bushels	fine	and	59	bushels	coarse
Berks County	166	bushels	fine	and	95	bushels	coarse
Chester County	269	bushels	fine	and	125	bushels	coarse
Lancaster County	353	bushels	fine	and	107	bushels	coarse
York County	303	bushels	fine	and	107	bushels	coarse
Cumberland County	303	bushels	fine	and	106	bushels	coarse
Berks County	300	bushels	fine	and	106	bushels	coarse
Northampton County	208	bushels	fine	and	73	bushels	coarse
Bedford County	141	bushels	fine	and	50	bushels	coarse
Northumberland Co.	141	bushels	fine	and	83	bushels	coarse
Westmoreland County	236	bushels	fine	and	83	bushels	coarse

There were 1059 bushels in Sherwell's hands and 3000 in Fisher's.

At various points and in various issues, notes on all proceedings of the Pennsylvania Convention on Constitution, appear. See issue of September 12 where George Ross, our signer of the Declaration of Independence, is vice-president of the Convention. In the issue of October 23, appears a stern and elaborate protest against the proceedings of the Convention, complaining among other things, that the Convention was called by the people to form a constitution, appoint delegates to Congress, and a Committee of Safety; but that the convention exercised power not committed to them; that the Christian religion is not treated with respect in the Constitution proposed; that the Constitution proposed deviates from all semblance of the former one which the people were accustomed to; that the people desired only that the Kingly, Parliamentary and Provincial powers be abolished; that it differs in important particulars from any Constitution yet established in America; and points out 311 particulars in which imperfections abound. This indicates some of the difficulties aside from actual war which our George Ross' and colonial forefathers contended.

Jacob Ferree, of Leacock Township, offers his grist mill and fulling mill for sale as appears in the issue of November 6. This shows the location of one of our fulling mills of those times. A complete list of all of them ought to be made. This mill was at or near Paradise or Pequea creek. See Docket No. 2 p. 60, (recopied) in Quarter Sessions of Lancaster County.

The issue of November 13 contains the election returns of the various counties of the State. No election figures are given. This is to be regretted. The strength of political parties should be known to students of history.

For Lancaster County, the following results are given:

Counsellor, John Hubble; assembly, William Henry, Alexander Laray, Philip Marsteller, William Brown, Joseph Miller, Josiah Crawford; sheriff, Archibald Steele; coroner, John Henry; Commissioners, Christian Wirt, Thomas Clark and Casper Shaffner; assessors, Casper Snevely, John Paxton, John Jemison, Jr., Jonathan Rowland, John Barneston and John Slaymaker.

In the issue of November 20, appears the list of officers of the 13 Regiments of Pennsylvania, appointed by Thomas Wharton, president of the State. As the 1st Regiment, that of Colonel Hand and Lieutenant Colonel Chawhee and Major Ross, is the only one that has particular local concern, it is only one whose names, I will notice here.

The month of December 1776 is missing from the bound volumes of the Gazette, which I have had access to.

—1777—

The month of January 1777 is missing from the bound volumes of this year.

In the issue of February 5th of this year, an itemized statement of the numbers and classes of prisoners taken at the battle of Trenton is given, detailing the officers, the men the munitions, etc., etc. Some of the Hessians captured there by Washington, afterwards became inhabitants of this country and their descendants live in the neighborhood of Chestnut Hill, this county.

The issue of February 26, contains notice of a special election in Philadelphia. In the issue of March 5, there is a notice of the election of Thomas Wharton, as president of Pennsylvania and of George Bryan, as vice-president.

The death of the wife of a prominent Lancaster county man, is noted in the same issue. The account of the death is as follows:

"On Wednesday the 19th, ult, departed this life at Pequea in the 52nd year of her age, Elizabeth Smith, wife of Robert Smith, and on Friday following, her remains were interred in the Presbyterian burying ground at Pequea where a sermon suitable to the occasion was preached by Rev. John Carmichael, from the First Thess IV-13-18. Those who had an intimate acquaintance with her know that she was blessed with a very amiable natural disposition and all the virtues that might render her agreeable and useful in discharging the duties of every relation she sustained in life. In her an unusual strength of judgment and quickness of apprehension united with unaffected humanity and the most human affection. But what completed her character and shed a lustre on all her endowments natural and acquired was a life of exemplary piety for which she was particularly eminent, especially in the latter years of her life. She lived a life of faith on the Son of God and in the same faith triumphed over death and the grave. As this excellent person was much beloved, so she died greatly lamented and in her death the public as well as the mournful relatives have undoubtedly suffered an unspeakable loss." Robert Smith, of Pequea was too well-known to need eulogy here.

In the issue of March 12, the proclamation of Wharton, as president of the State, is given and a description of the parade, etc. There is also notice of Washington in Philadelphia.

In the issue of March 19, the arrangements and rank of the field officers of the twelve Pennsylvania Regiments in Continental Service as agreed to by the Council of Safety, and confirmed by the Supreme Executive Council, is set forth as follows:

1st Regiment, Col. Edw. Hand; Lieutenant Colonel Richard Buller; Major Henry Miller, and in like manner the said officers of the other eleven Regiments are set forth. The Colonels ranked as follows: 1—Robert Magaw; 2—William Irwin; 3—Edward Hand; 4—James Irwine; 5—Lambert Cadwalader; 6—James Johnson; 7—Anthony James; 8—Joseph Wood; 9—Richard Hampton; 10—William Cook; 11—Daniel Broadhead, and 12—(not named).

In the same issue General Putnam praises the Lancaster County Colonel for the gallantry of the latter's command at the Battle of Princeton, in the following item:

Princeton, March 10, 1777.

The General returns his thanks to Colonel Cox, of Lancaster County for the diligence and activity with which he commanded an advance post. Is much pleased with the conduct and assiduity his command have shown during their service in his division; and hopes the spirit which brought them forth at a late and alarming crisis will insure a like behavior on every future occasion. They have now faithfully served out their time for which they were engaged, are discharged with honor and permitted to return home."

By order of General Putman.

A. BURR, A. D. C.

In the same issue appears an excerpt of "An Act to Regulate the Militia", and a list of the lieutenants, sub-lieutenants, etc., of Pennsylvania, are given by counties. Those for Lancaster county are: Bertram Galbraith, Lieutenant; James Crawford, Adam Ort, Robert Thompson, Joshua Elder, Christopher Crawford—as sub-lieutenants.

Next follows a unique sale advertisement:

"To be sold in Caernarvon Township, Lancaster County—one of the best grist mills in America; having two water wheels, four pairs of stones, five bolting cloths—on the Conestoga, a never-failing stream with 15 feet of fall, in a good wheat country; also one of the quickest cutting sawmills. One-half of the ground rent of Port Royal, equal to seventy pounds sterling per annum—a house and lot in said town, a piece of timber land in Brecknock Township, four teams, a repeating eight day clock, a repeating watch, nine hogsheds of cider-royal and sundry sorts of household goods."

HENRY WEAVER

In the issue of April 9, there is set forth the great United States lottery created by resolution of Congress of November 18, 1776, for the purpose of raising a sum of money on loan at 4 per cent. to carry on the war. Five million tickets issued. Those who draw 30 or 40 dollars shall receive treasury bank notes as prizes payable in 5 years at 4%.

The same issue notes that the Indians now in the employ of Great Britain, are now busy scalping people, in the Susquehanna.

In the same issue it is noted that the Honorable Continental Congress have promoted Colonel Learned, of Massachusetts Bay; Colonel George Clinton, of New York, and Colonel Edward Hand, of Pennsylvania, and Colonel Scott, of Virginia, to be Brigadier Generals.

The same issue notes a meeting of the Whig Society and mentions David Rittenhouse among those attending and belonging to the same.

The same issue acquaints the public that Colonel Benjamin Flowers has been ordered by General Washington to erect certain fortifications for the use of the army at Carlisle, and that a great many workmen are needed.

Also Brigadier General Hand is ordered to command the troops which are destined to oppose the Indians who have lately commenced hostilities upon the inhabitants of the western part of the State.

In the issue of April 30, it is stated "on 31st ult, Mr. Samuel Scott, of Lancaster County departed this life in the 74th year of his age; we might seem to say little on his behalf if we said he was an honest man and yet an

honest man is the noblest work of God. Such he was for he discharged the several offices in life with honor to himself and pleasure to his connections. His life was marked with religion and benevolence."

In the same issue our Berks county brethren, in a letter dated April 26, say: "Our militia will be very early incamped. They are determined that the enemy shall not divide among them the lands of the inhabitants of Berks County as it is said they intend."

In the issue of May 7, it is stated that "The War office calls for four thousand blankets to be furnished by the state on recommendation of Congress for the Continental Troops and they shall be furnished as follows: Philadelphia City, 667; Philadelphia County, 667; Berks Co., 333; Chester Co. 500; Lancaster County, 500; Bucks County, 333; Northampton County, 167; York County, 500; Cumberland County, 333.

It was also resolved that 12 men should be appointed in Philadelphia City, and 12 in each county to be commissioners to aid the War Board in carrying into execution every measure that may be recommended for the safety of the Commonwealth; and that they employ proper and discreet men in such numbers as they think necessary to collect immediately from every family their proportion of blankets—that the commissioners be provided sufficient money to pay for the blankets. Then follows the names of the commissioners from Philadelphia and for every county.

Those for Lancaster county were: Bartram Galbraith; James Crawford; Adam Orth; Robert Thompson; Joshua Elder; Christopher Crawford; William Atlee; John Hubley; Alex Lowrey; Curtis Grubb; Philip Marsteller; Mathias Slough and Adam Reigart.

It was also resolved that the lieutenants and sub-lieutenants supply the commissioners with sufficient militia to carry out the resolves and the task in hand.

In the issue of May 21st, George Ross and others address a letter to the Executive Council and Board of War, asking that a convention be called to propose a new constitution for Pennsylvania. They complain of a great languor in our State at a time when great activity is needed to defend the United States. Also that Pennsylvania has become the rendezvous for the disaffected people of other parts of America because of its mild government.

In the issue of June 18th, appears a call for a meeting to decide on further defense of Pennsylvania. Colonel Ross who had been opposed to Pennsylvania's form of government, turned in and helped the cause of the serious situation.

It was decided that a militia be called out to consist of all male white persons between the ages of 18 and 53. They are to proceed to elect a major for the first city battalion.

The Assembly met and resolved that a defense of Philadelphia was necessary; and that the families and all goods and stores shall be moved out. The poor people were to be hauled 30 miles without pay, that is free of expenses. No males between the ages of 18 and 53 were allowed to leave Philadelphia—and no one in the city allowed to keep more than two weeks' provisions. An account was ordered to be taken of all wheat, flour, grain and stores in Philadelphia, in Bucks and in Chester counties and all other places within 20 miles west of Philadelphia.

All this was necessary because of the British design to take Philadelphia. They did enter Philadelphia after the battle of Germantown; and the Continental Congress, however, had moved to Lancaster a few days earlier.

In the issue of July 2, there is an item in which John Nixon, John Wharton and Francis Hopkins tell about Howe's intended move on Philadelphia and his tactics.

The issue of July 9, relates the proceedings of the celebration of the first 4th of July in Philadelphia, as follows: "At noon all the armed ships

and galleys were drawn up before the city dressed in the gayest manner with the colors of the United States and streamers displayed; at one o'clock, the yards being properly manned they began by the discharge of 13 cannons from each of the ships and one from each of the 13 galleys in honor of the 13 United States.

In the afternoon an excellent dinner was prepared for Congress to which were invited the president of the Supreme Executive Council and Speaker of the Assembly and the general officers and colonels of the army, also strangers of eminence and members of the several continental boards present.

The Hessian Band of Music taken at Trenton, December 26th, last, attended and heightened the festivity with some fine performances suited to the joyous occasion while a corps of British Deserters taken into the conflict by the State of Georgia, were drawn up before the door, filled up the intervals with fuex de joie. After dinner a number of toasts were drunk all breathing Independence and Love of Liberty, Commemorating the Memories of Heroes and worthy Patriots who gallantly exposed their lives and fell gloriously in defense of Freedom and the Righteous Cause of their Country.

Each toast was followed by a discharge of artillery and small arms and a suitable piece of music by the Hessian Band.

"The Glorious Fourth of July" was repeated three times accompanied with triple discharge of cannon and small arms and loud huzzas that resounded from street to street throughout the city. Toward evening several troops of horse, a corps of artillery and a brigade of North Carolina forces which were in town on its way to join the Grand Army, were drawn up in Second Street and reviewed by Congress. The evening was closed with the ringing of bells and at night the city was beautifully illuminated. Everything was conducted with the greatest order and decorum and the face of joy and gladness was universal. Thus may the "Fourth of July" that glorious and ever memorable day be celebrated throughout America by the Sons of Freedom from age to age till time shall be no more. Amen and Amen."

While the foregoing Fourth of July celebration was not local, yet, since it was the first Fourth of July, and our local representative or delegate in Congress participated in it, we feel it was properly inserted here.

It was an unusual feature to have the Hessian Band furnish the music; and to have British deserters participate. It must also have been a joy with much under-current of sorrow and apprehension which was experienced, because the British were gradually breaking into Philadelphia and the city was doomed. It would seem that in spite of all the hazard and cost our forefathers knew, they were bound to win in the end.

In the same issue, Elizabeth, the wife of James Shank, gives notice that at the coming Assembly, she will apply for a divorce from her husband as he has deserted her for 7 years. She lived in Drumore. (Signed) Elizabeth McFarren, alias Shank.

The issue of July 16, states that the British and Hessian troops are on such terms toward each other that the former refuse to do duty with the latter and that General Heiseer is gone to Europe, greatly disgusted.

Benjamin Harbeson, from Philadelphia, now carries on the coppersmith business at the southwest corner of King and Queen streets, Lancaster, where he makes stills of all sizes, fullers, brewers and salt petre coppers. Issue of July 23.

A correspondent writes on the local Quarter Sessions Court here at Lancaster. He is styled a gentleman of distinction at Lancaster and his letter dated August 8, contains the following:

"Yesterday our Court of Quarter Sessions closed doing the business thereof in the greatest good order. A very respectable Grand Jury attended and returned 25 bills for various offenses against the criminals. Several offenders were tried by a respectable petit jury, convicted and had judgment

passed on them, according to law; and this morning had their punishment inflicted upon them at the public whipping post. During the whole session a large number of reputable inhabitants of the County attended and the appearance of satisfaction was visible in their countenances." Issue of August 13.

In the issue of August 20, Michael Withers, gunsmith in Strasburg Township, advertises for two of his apprentices who have run away. One is Phil Lowman, 16 years old, and the other, Andrew Fogle, 15 years old. If they appear before any recruiting officers it is hoped they will be sent back as they are much wanted.

The same issue contains the notice that "The Honorable William Atless, Esq., of Lancaster was appointed the second Justice of the Supreme Court and the Honorable John Evans, Esq., of Chester County, the third Justice.

The issue of August 27, contains an account of how "Last Sunday part of the Continental Army with George Washington at their head, marched through Philadelphia and proceeded over the Schuylkill on their way to the eastern shore of Maryland where the enemy's fleet have been lately seen.

The issue of September 3, states forth that June 14, 1777, the resolve of Congress that the flag of the United States be 13 stripes alternately red and white and a blue field representing a new constellation.

The same issue contains an advertisement of the sale of Mary Ann Furnace with lands belonging, situated on the waters of Codorus Creek in York county about 18 miles from York, 3 miles from Hanover town and 44 miles from Baltimore. The furnace is in blast and good repairs—100 acres of land near the furnace belongs to it; an overshot grist mill and saw mill adjoining her. Also Spring Forge on the same creek, 8 miles from the furnace, nearer York—has four fires and two hammers. Inquire of George Ross, of Lancaster; etc.

In the issue of September 10, it is stated that General Washington sends word to Congress from Wilmington, that "this morning, the enemy came out with considerable force and three pieces of artillery, against our light line; their loss is heavier than ours as many of our men are expert marksmen. Their purpose was to gain Iron Hill.

Owing to the fact that the British under Lord Howe, took possession of Philadelphia, right after the Battle of Germantown, October 4, 1777, the Pennsylvania Gazette was not published from the month of September for some time.

The Pennsylvania Evening Post, however, was published; but it was devoted to the British side of the conflict, at least during the time the British were in power in the city. It paid no attention to doings at Lancaster. Therefore there are no items of local importance to insert during the balance of the Year 1777.

The said paper, however, does publish certain items of general interest to us all, some of which I shall set forth.

Sept. 11, the proclamation of the Supreme Executive Council is published which states among other things that "The time has at length come in which the state of ourselves and our wives, our children and posterity must be speedily determined. General Howe, at the head of the British Army, the only hope, the last resources of our enemies, has invaded this state. Dismissing his ships and disencumbering himself of his heavy artillery and baggage, he appears to have risked all upon the event of a movement which must either deliver up to plunder and devastation, this capital of Pennsylvania, and of America, or forever blast the cruel design of our implacable enemy."

The issue of September 13, describes the battle of Brandywine. It states that the enemy have 300 killed and wounded and we have 50. Afterwards it proved that both estimates were too low.

This issue also contains General Washington's report of the battle,

written from Chester, at midnight. How significant! It was surely midnight in his heart; and as it was proved later it was midnight for the country, with Valley Forge as the darkest hour.

Washington's report shows that we lost Brandywine partly because of a larger attacking force than we had; but principally because our forces were caught divided and scattered over 6 miles along the river—it being a clever deception practiced by the British who had their main force compactly marshalled on our right wing.

Washington says: "Regret to report that we had to leave the enemy masters of the field. Unfortunately the intelligence received of the enemy advancing up the Brandywine and crossing at a ford about six miles above us was uncertain and contradictory, notwithstanding all my efforts to get the best. This prevented my having a disposition adequate to the force with which the enemy attacked our right, in consequence of which the troops first engaged were obliged to retire before they could be reinforced. In the midst of the attack on the right, that body of the enemy which remained on the other side of Chad's ford, crossed it and attacked the division there under the command of General Wayne and the light troops under Maxwell, who after a severe conflict also retired. The militia under the command of General Armstrong, being posted at a ford about two miles below Chad's Ford, had no opportunity of engaging. But though we fought under many disadvantages and were from the cause above mentioned, obliged to retire, yet our loss of men is not, I am persuaded, very considerable. I believe much less than the enemy's. We also have lost 7 to 8 pieces of cannon according to the best information I can get. The baggage having been previously moved off, it is secure, saving the men's blankets which being at their backs, many of them doubtless were lost. I have directed all the troops to assemble behind Chester, where they are now arranging for the night. Notwithstanding the misfortune of the day, I am happy to find the troops in good spirit and I hope at another time we shall compensate for the loss now sustained.

"The Marquis De Lafayette was wounded in the leg, and General Woodward in the hand. Divers other officers were wounded and some slain; but the number of either cannot be ascertained. I have the honor to be your obedient and humble servant, G. Washington."

—"It has not been in my power to send you earlier intelligence; the present being the first leisure moment I have had since the action."

There is nothing else of importance in the Post Germane to the import of these notes to set forth under the date of 1777.

—1778—

The issue of January 17, 1778, notes that the Assembly of Pennsylvania now meets at York, since the British drove both the State and Federal government out of Philadelphia.

A call is made by the government now sitting at York for artificers, carpenters, blacksmiths, locksmiths, gunsmiths and wheelwrights, to enlist in a corps of artificers and application is to be made to Colonel Benjamin Flowers at Carlisle. The challenge is sent out in the advertisement announcing the same that all gentlemen and artificers who prefer liberty to slavery and all who are friends of the grand cause of America, shall respond. Issue of February 7.

In the issue of a week later there is an article dated at York on the "Situation of Affairs," on an article of Captain Pat. Barry, in the late Philadelphia Evening Post.

May 23 it is stated that a letter from Valley Forge announces that the British are preparing to leave Philadelphia. Their ships are wooded and watered, their heavy cannon are embarked and forage and provisions are on board and stalls for horses erected.

The issue of May 30 gives a graphic account of the funeral of Thomas Wharton, President of the State, as follows: "Lancaster, May 27—On Sunday last, the remains of his excellency, Thomas Wharton, Esq., President of the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Captain General and Commander in Chief in and over the same was interred in the Evangelical Trinity Church in this Boro, the elders and vestry of that Church having politely requested that the body might be there interred.

The corpse being brought out and placed on the bier, a signal was given and the artillery on the commons began to fire minute guns which was continued during the procession—44 being fired. The bier being taken up the procession moved in the following order: Two sergeants with arms reversed—Lieutenant and Ensign—Fifes and Drums—Soldiers in four divisions ten deep, arms reversed—Captain of the Company—The Corpse covered with a pall—the pall supported by six members of Council—His Excellency's Brother—The Honorable the Vice-President attended by the Secretary on his left hand—The remaining members of Council—The State Treasurer and Judges of the Supreme Court—Such of the Delegates of the State in Congress as were in the Boro—The Honorable Speaker of the House of General Assembly, the Clerk of the House on his left hand—Members of the House of General Assembly—Door Keeper of the Council and for the House of Assembly—Corporation of the Boro and Magistrates of the County—Coroner and Prothonotary of the County and Gentlemen of the Court—Officers of the Army and Navy and Citizens.

When the grave was closed, three volleys were fired and the militia retired. The whole was conducted with solemn decorum becoming the occasion.

The attention paid by Col. Gibson, Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Bayard and Lieutenant Colonel James Ross and Captains Brown and Huston, in commanding the military on the occasion of his Excellency's funeral, did them honor; and the gentlemen of the Boro in their military character made a very handsome appearance.

It is said that a funeral oration in honor of our worthy and much lamented President, will be ordered to be delivered some time during the next sitting of the General Assembly.

The affection which the House of Assembly had for his Excellency, would not permit his body to be carried by persons hired for that purpose. Twelve members of the House bore his remains to the grave."

An interesting sale advertisement appears on the issue of June 13 as follows:

"To be sold on the 19th, instant, these valuable plantations adjoining each other on the Octoraro Creek—part in Chester and part in Lancaster county, about one fourth of the whole cleared. There are 50 acres of fine watered meadow made and 70 more to be made. There are on the place two good merchant mills, though one of them and twelve acres of land are kept in possession by a person that has no right to it, which would not have been the case had not their war stopped all courses of law and justice. The farm house, fences are in good order. To prevent trouble the property will not be sold for less than 6000 pounds continental money. For further particulars apply to John McPherson on the premises, known by the name of "Rural Bank".

It is notable here that the advertiser complains that the War of the Revolution has stopped all courses of law and justice. We have been of the opinion that the Courts were conducted the same as usual; but here is evidence that at least the processes of law were much hampered and no doubt business piled up for want of jurors, etc. We recall that when the Stamp Act was passed the Courts did not stop locally for want of stamps but conducted their business without stamps.

There is a break in the available bound issues of the Pennsylvania Gazette from June 20, 1778, to the end of the year and therefore I have made search of the files of the Pennsylvania Evening Post to supply the omission of notes of local importance which results because the said numbers of the Gazette are missing.

There are not many items in the Post for the latter half of 1778, detailing any local happenings. The Post was devoted to foreign news and to Philadelphia happenings.

It is noticeable, however, that the Post has again become patriotic to the American cause, since the British have left Philadelphia, and since it began to appear that Britain was beaten.

In the issue of June 25, there is a long list of those who were guilty of treasonable conduct in Philadelphia and their cases are being taken before proper courts at this time.

The paper contains several accounts of how the people about Easton and Sunbury are suffering attacks from Indians under the employ of the British war leaders and the British government.

In the issue of July 18 there is an item dated Lancaster, setting forth that the general loan office demands that all people who have borrowed money from the government on mortgage shall pay off their installments and interest in arrear, or foreclosing proceedings will be instituted. It also states that among the moneys sent in for these payments and taxes there is a considerable amount of counterfeit money. The names of the counties whose deputy collectors handed the same in, are given. There are none from Lancaster county.

A ten dollar reward is offered for the capture of James Fitzpatrick who lives on Lancaster road, a blacksmith who is wanted for the robbery of many people passing his way.

The issue of July 21, contains a long list of persons who pledge themselves to uphold the price of continental money and to take it in pay. There are about 500 signatories to the pledge. Lancaster County names seem to be absent.

In the issue of September 14, 1778, a statement is set forth of the houses and persons delivered over to Lord Cornwallis soon after the British took possession of Philadelphia.

There are set forth 5395 houses; 590 empty dwellings; 240 empty stores; 116 stores occupied; males under 18 to the number of 5335; males between 18 and 60 to the number of 4996, and females, 13,403.

This comprised all of the people left in the city when Lord Howe took possession.

Nothing of local or special importance other than the above appears in the Post during this interim.

—1779—

The first issue of this year—January 5—states that on December 22, George Washington arrived in Philadelphia, and on the 24th, a complimentary address was tendered to him by the Vice-President of the Executive Council of Pennsylvania. It is not established by any sufficient proof that Washington passed through Lancaster on this trip. He did make 3 visits to Lancaster, however.

The notable Fourth of July address delivered July 4, 1778, at Charlestown, South Carolina, by our former Lancaster County boy, Dr. David Ramsay, at the time one of the great men of America, is noticed in the issue of January 20th. A few quotations of the address are given to indicate Ramsay's style and his reasoning. He says: "At the Conflagration of Corinthian, the various metals running together formed a new one called Corinthian brass which was superior to any of its component parts" "It is the will of

Heaven that a new Empire should be here formed of the different nations of the old world which will rise superior to all that have gone before it, and extend human happiness to its utmost possible limits. None can tell to what perfection the art of government may be brought." etc.

Again: "The tops of corn turn in one direction; so do our people," etc.

The objection to the proposed Constitution of Pennsylvania are set forth (some of them) in the issue of March 24th. Two of the most serious are that Pennsylvania is the only state in which the Legislature is to consist of one House; and that the oath required to be taken before a citizen is qualified to vote, is such that each judges his own qualifications, and that only about one-tenth of the people selected the delegates to draw this Constitution. Among the objectors are George Ross and Jacob Hiltzheimer, the latter of whom also lived here some time. The great James Wilson, principal author of the United States Constitution, also is a signer against the new instrument. One may fairly conclude from the lead of George Ross, that Lancaster County objected to some of the provisions of the new Constitution.

Depreciation of the value of our money had now become a sore trouble. The government of Pennsylvania fixed retail prices by law, William Henry for a certain time one of our local citizens was chairman of the committee having that matter of price in charge. (Issue of June 30th) This fixing of prices was partly brought about by public meetings in Pennsylvania, demanding that it be done.

The officers and privates of the second battalion of Lancaster County, present a petition to James Reed, president of the Supreme Executive Council and Commander in Chief of Pennsylvania, in which they say: "We the officers and privates of the second battalion of Lancaster County beg leave to address you upon our first meeting for this session in the field and to congratulate you on your being raised to preside in the Supreme Executive Council of the State by such a unanimity of suffrages as has been scarcely paralleled in a similar instance.

"We cannot but applaud the high degree of virtue which led our representatives to appoint a gentleman of your firmness, integrity, public spirit and abilities to such an important station; and cannot help looking upon it as a presage that Heaven will reward those virtues among us for which you are so conspicuous and upon which your authority influence and example cannot fail to have a happy influence.

"Be pleased, sir, to accept for yourself and the honorable body over which you preside, our grateful acknowledgements for your excellent message to our representatives in Assembly at the opening of the last session and be assured that your zealous exertions to establish and give vigor to our invaluable Constitution to vindicate and maintain the honor and dignity of this Commonwealth and your singular attention to the ease, interest and liberty of its citizens have not escaped our attention and notice but meet with our high approbation and cannot fail to command your person and administration to the good people of this State, in general, and if it may be any alleviation or in any degree, contribute to strengthen your hands, amidst the unreasonable envy and opposition you have met with, you may promise yourself the most effectual encouragement and support from the Second Battalion of Lancaster County, and that your useful and important life may be prolonged to a distant period and that the remainder of your administration may be easy and happy, attended with comfort to yourself and blessings to the good people of this State, is our earnest desire and care."

By Order of the Battalion—

(signed) JAMES PORTER, COL.

President Reed replied:

Though I feel too sensible, how much my character and services are

over-rated in the obliging and affectionate address I have received, I cannot but prize it as a mark of your appreciation and regard. You will permit me to consider it as pointing out what I ought to be and to assure you that my great ambition is to be more worthy the esteem and regard of my virtuous countrymen.

To diffuse the blessings of equal liberty and to establish the freedom and happiness of our common country upon the most solid foundations, are objects to which I need not direct your views. The militia of Lancaster County have distinguished themselves in this long and arduous contest too well to leave their friends ought to wish but that they may preserve. May they and you, gentlemen in particular, long enjoy blessings of which you are so worthy. You will now, gentlemen, accept my thanks for the honor done me and believe me.

Your Obedient Servant,

(See issue of August 18, 1779)

JAS. REED

I insert this item as a fair sample of the style of courtesy and also of the composition and diction of the cultured portion of our county; and as an indicum of the loyalty of our county to the State government. It is also submitted as a probable composition of our own Colonel Porter, whose place in history we are helping to make clear. Jas. Reed's reply, contains a deserved compliment to the military forces of Lancaster County who labored often, under great difficulties here owing to the activity of a considerable local Tory element.

That we had some slaves in Lancaster County we are reminded by an advertisement in the same issue just cited, in which Christian Wertz offers \$300 for return of his negro Dan, who ran away. It is dated Lancaster, August 14, 1779.

The Lancaster County election returns appear in the issue of October 27. Those returned for Assembly are: James Anderson, James Cunningham, John Gitchrist, Christian Kircher, John Sneble, Wm. Brown, John Whitehill, James Jacks, Wm. Porter, Wm. Brown and Emanuel Carpenter, Jr. For sheriff: Joseph Work and Thomas Edwards. For Coroner: Jacob Barley and John Offiner. For Commissioners: John Slaymaker. For Assessors: John Anderson, Maxwell Chambers, John Huber, Jacob Carpenter, Wm. Wright and James Bingham.

Throughout the year 1779, several series of political articles ran such as: "The Honest Politician", and others. There is much evidence of great attention to public and political matters in these papers. The subjects of: "Liberty", and "Freedom" were continually being discussed, defended, etc. The government, its institutions and the dangers it faced, were constantly on the minds of the people in those days before the great industrialism of our late decades pre-empted such a great part of our general thought and attention.

—1780—

An item of importance to Lancaster County appears in the issue of January 12. It is a notice of the introduction of a bill into the Pennsylvania Legislature to incorporate the German Society to contribute to the relief of the distressed Germans in Pennsylvania. Many of these lived in Lancaster County. Among the names of the applicants appears the name of Jacob Hiltzheimer. (Items from Hiltzheimer's Diary appear among the records of our Society).

Somewhat aside from our subject and yet an item of importance wherever it may appear is one containing a letter from John Paul Jones to Benjamin Franklin—a fine letter containing thoughts on education. (Issue of March 1.)

An act is set out (Issue, March 8) on a means of supplying flour, corn,

hay, salt and rum for the army, and a commissioner is appointed in each county. Lancaster County's commissioner name does not appear.

An interesting article in the issue of June 21, sets out the attitude of the American women in the the Revolutionary War; at this date Lancaster County appears to be in line with the general spirit.

In the issues of Sept. 20 and 27th, announcements by and promises of candidates appear local as well as state.

Lancaster County election returns appear in the issue of October 18, as follows: For Assemblymen—John Whitehill, Emmanuel Carpenter, Jacob Cook, Christian Kreider, James Anderson, Philip Greenwald, Adam Reigart, James Coudon, Alexander Lowry, Matthias Slough and James Jack.

In the issue of December 27, the military call upon Lancaster County is noted. The call was for 348 troops out of a total of 2700 able bodied men from the State. This was made necessary, because as the Act states, the enlisting for short term hurt the service and necessitated calling out the incompetent militia. Therefore, those now called are to serve throughout the war. The commissioners of each county are required to cause the assessors to class the inhabitants and draw proportionate numbers out of the various townships, etc.

—1781—

A serious question arose throughout Pennsylvania early in 1781. It was the matter of adjusting and settling the accounts of the troops. There were several persons appointed in each county to attend to the matter. Those for Lancaster County were: William Fullerton, Jr., Samuel Boyd—to settle with the regiment of cavalry at Lancaster, commanded by Colonel Maylan. Those to settle at Lebanon, in Lancaster County, were Robert Clark and John Thom, Esq. (Issue of March 7.)

A view of early local transportation and travel is given in the issue of March 28. "The Lancaster stage established by Weaver and Shaffer, will set out from Adam Weaver's, at the sign of the Black Horse, in Donegal Street in Lancaster, on Monday April 16, and come to Philadelphia, Tuesday; set out again from the sign of the King of Prussia in Market Street, Philadelphia on Friday, and return to Lancaster, Saturday. Mr. Shaffer will drive himself and every attention be paid to the ease and convenience of the passengers. N. B. Mr. Shaffer will supply any person with the English and German newspaper.

An extract from a Lancaster letter showing certain phases of local opposition to the Revolutionary War, appears in the issue of May 23rd, as follows: "The Methodist Parson and two Mennonists have been convicted of misdemeanors in endeavoring to persuade two men to enlist in the British service; the first was fined 500 pounds and ordered to be imprisoned till the first of May, next; one of the Mennonists was fined 750 pounds and the other 250 pounds, and they are to be imprisoned for a shorter time.

A plot has been discovered among the prisoners at the Barracks by one of their own people. At the time wood was to be delivered to them for fire, they were to rush out of the the gate, seize the arms from the guards, secure the powder house, take what they wanted and probably destroy the rest and get off.

The following item dated Chester County, shows that the name "Cross Keys", a familiar hotel name to the older of those present here tonight, is upwards of 150 years old. It follows: "Those who joined the troops of Light Horne, are requested to meet on the 18th instant, at the Cross Keys Tavern in Lancaster road, to transact such business as shall come before them." (Issue of June 6).

And advertisement, (Issue of June 20) calls for good wagon drivers for the army, and states that a considerable part of the army are Germans.

Those willing to serve for 4 hard dollars bounty and 8 dollars pay a month, shall apply to Colonel Phil Marsteller, Lebanon, Lancaster County, or Richard Miles, Reading.

An advertisement appears in the issue of July 4th, inserted by the Office of Finance. It states that "proposals will be received to supply by contract, rations for troops, prisoners, etc., which are or may be in the town of Lancaster, from the day of signing the contract, till January next. The rations consist of one pound of bread, one pound of beef or three-fourth pound of pork and one gill of rum. The payments will be made in gold or silver, at the time as stipulated in the contract. These were daily rations, not per meal.

The issue the following week gives notice "Pursuant to Act of General Assembly entitled An Act to raise supplies, etc., for 1779, requiring the commissioners to put to sale all lands where the owners have neglected to discharge taxes, the Commissioners of Lancaster County to give notice that those persons who have not discharged said taxes in said county, do cause same persons to appear in their behalf and discharge said taxes with costs within 3 months, or the lands will be sold or such part thereof as will be sufficient to pay said taxes costs, etc."—Dated: Lancaster, July 1, 1781. Signed—Jacob Krug, John Slaymaker, John Jamison, Commissioners.

A list of 76 names of owners of lands on which taxes were due, in Upper Paxton Township, appears. As the list is important in pointing out to us the location of land holdings in 1781 in that part of Lancaster County now Dauphin County, in fact in pointing out where parties lived in those dates, it is here given. The names are: Jacob Reitzel, P. Landis, Reuben Haines, John Cleus, J. Tilghman, J. Leidig, G. Fry, B. Landis, I. Jones, P. Reily Alexander Reuben Haines, John Fry, Bull's Land, Isaiah Jones, Peter Reily, Alexander Barber, Timothy Matcock, John Flory, John Mumma, Parson Hirshy, Bartram Galbraith, Robert Neal, McClure's Land, Dennis Daugherty, Widow Duncan, John Long, Bartram Galbraith, George and Stroh Yost, Widow Scott, Bery Wallis, Abner Wickersham, Christ Heidig, Joel Ferrie, George Fry, James Buckham, Nicholas Mellor, Henry Winower, Albert Regnel, Andrew Boggs, Stephen Mailin, Crawford Lands, Martin Lowman, Isaac Heller, Thomas Carmichel, George Eckert, Arthur Taggare, Patrick Work, Fred Sheff, Caleb Way, Bartram Galbraith, Daniel Williams, Valentine Overlidig, Michael Miller, Jacob Witmer, William Poor, George Fry, John Climer, John Mackland, Martin Kreider, Phil DeHaas, Michal Groscape, Simon Brand, Fred Weigh, Henry Wells, Samuel Slught, Levy and Simons John Leidy, (Doctor) John Clevideman, George Fry, George Hawk, Blesher's Strand Don. Moore George Shedley, Christ Sneider, Phil Beel, Michal Welker, Henry Minisher and Jacob Shaffer. (See also issue of Aug. 22. 1781) In Derry Townships are mentioned Michael Cline, Thomas Ransay, George Stephenson, James Galloway, Andrew Hirshey and John Tanner. In Colerain Township: George Churchman and Brown, Ferris and Co. In Martic: Peter Smith, John Huber (Conestoga) and McCuthern McCave. In Conestoga: Burkholder's Island. In Bart: John Hare, Sr. and John Stoutzherger. In Brecknock: Richard Peters.. There were three taxes in which these people were in arrears—"First State Tax of 1779"—"Second State Tax" and the "First 8-month Tax". They were respectively 9 pounds, 11 pounds and 46 pounds per 100 acres. The lands specified as having said taxes varied from 100 to 4,000 acres. They were perhaps largely unseated lands.

The election returns of Berks County for 1781 election, (Oct. 17th issue) are: Counsellor—Sebastian Levan; representatives—Ballyer Gehr, Gabriel Heibly, David Hunter, Bery Weiser, Jas. Heister and John Bishop; sheriff—Conrad Foss and Phil Keener. Those for Lancaster County (same issue) are Counsellor—James Cunningham; assembly—John Whitehill, Christ Kreider, Jacob Cook, Jacob Carpenter, Abram Scott, James Jack, Matthias Slough, Wm. Brown, Jacob King, James Mercer and James Porter; for sheriff—Jas. Work, and Coroner—John Appner; commissioner—Samuel Boyd.

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