

Early Lancaster County History in the Provincial Records and Archives

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(Original notes by H. Frank Eshleman)

It is an old saying in the legal profession that the question is not so much what the law is, as it is where to find the law. It is also true of the undigested and uncorrelated history of a locality, that it is not so difficult a matter to write that history, as it is to find the data from which to write it.

With this thought in view I desire to set forth in chronological order, and in outline, the items of our county's history found in the four principal source books or records of early Pennsylvania. These records are the Colonial Records, the Votes or Records of Assembly, the Statutes at Large, and the Pennsylvania Archives. These repositories of our local history, as well as of the local history of every section of Pennsylvania, in early times, not being adequately indexed, are an unexplored mine of the history of every section of the State or early Province of Pennsylvania. It will be a very welcome aid to the searchers of our local history to know in the form of a digest what records of our local activities in early times appear, in these ancient repositories -- to have a key or index-topical to all of Lancaster County's relations to those times in this Province, as it then was, in those early days. A careful research from the beginning of our county down to 1750 has been made, and all the local items and references to the county's appearance in the historical movements of those times have been set out in brief outline, together with the book and page in each case where the matter is to be found.

These items thus set out for easy reference are needed for another reason. It is this: If there is no more general interest in future ages than at present in local history, it is evident that a needed service right now, is to index or digest the mass of historical data of our county so that those who wish to gather up and develop that history may find it a very easy matter to turn to such indices or digests in order to know where to find the historical mass. This sort of digest will be a chart of the historical mines. Judging by the present, practically no one in the future, will expend the time and effort to make the laborious searches necessary to find and collect the matter. It will be left undone, except for the efforts of the very few who interest themselves in the matter. Some day these matters will be as entirely forgotten and as unknown as the tomb of old Pharaoh Tutankhamen, unknown for three thousand years and more until in our present age almost 40 years of searching finally located it on the banks of the Upper Nile.

We can safely assert that practically no one thinks there is very much value in bringing our local history to light, and very little merit in the efforts being made to preserve it. Some people even ridicule it. Immersed generally in selfish pursuits they blind themselves to the value of history generally and more particularly to the value of local history. They must not forget that it was the historical tradition and honor and the age-long implanted ideals living in patriots' hearts which inspired the great and brave souls of the past, even to wage war for our land and its blessings—it was this that enabled us to conquer—this, that was the spirit which saved our nation in all its great crises. Let us not be weary of this well doing.

Our local history does have virtue and we should do all we can to preserve that history.

I will now proceed to read the items digested as I have said above, as the items appear in the books mentioned. Each of the four records are indicated by abbreviations denoting the book and page where the material may be found at large of which the item in each case is a mere index. The initial letters are "C" for Colonial Records; "A" for Pa. Archives; "V" for Votes of Assembly, and "St. L." for Statutes at Large. These items are as follows:

1727

Great election irregularities in parts of Chester County and the citizens petition for strengthening the law — 3 Votes of Ass. 6.

Much violence in the back parts and irregular taking up of land. In Donegal Township, John Scott and his wife had peaceable possession in a home they built. — 3 C., 267.

Indians say they refused to sell Penn lands at Conestoga when he first asked for it. — 3 C., 272.

They say that Penn sent to them; not that he came to them. — 3 C. 272

The Five Nations now say that they are willing to sell the Susquehanna lands. — 3 C., 272.

Gordon calls attention to the fact that 400 Palatines are just landed and many more coming and taking up the back lands without permission. — 3 C., 282.

A paper drawn up which all incoming Palatines must sign; they are called in and 55 in all, signed, but many lying on board sick, did not come. — 3 C., 283.

Among those who signed were, Meyers, Fiell, Wolf, Zimmerman, Creef, Muller, Hoboraker, Bowman, Seytz. — 3 C., 284.

Another lot came in and signed. — 3 C., 284.

Thomas Wright killed, forty miles above Conestoga. — 3 C., 285.

The Indians were Munscoes on the East branch of the Susquehanna River. — 3 C., 286.

1728

Lands extending to the Susquehanna belonged to Delawares. 3 C., 322.

Some of the Palatines settled on lands belonging to the Delawares without right beyond Tulpyhocken and toward Susquehanna. — 3 C., 322.

The Delaware Chief says he saw the houses there. — 3 C., 322.

In the list of 200 Palatines (80 families) who came over in September are many Lancaster County names. — 3 C., 327.

Also see the list of others. — 3 C., 328.

1729

Governor acquaints the Assembly that the inhabitants toward Susquehanna have petitioned for a separate County. -- 3 V., 69.

Debated and ordered on the table. — 3 V., 69.

Assembly favor erection of Lancaster County. — 3 V., 71.

The Palatines in the remote part of the Province who settled without license on Proprietor's land want relief. — 3 V., 72.

A bill to enable the Mennonites to hold land and trade in the Province is now considered. — 3 V., 72.

A petition against erecting Lancaster County. — 3 V., 76.

Petition to erect the County read. — 3 V., 77.

Copy of the petition against County made out and sent to John Wright. — 3 V., 78.

A second petition against Lancaster County is filed. — 3 V., 78.

Warrant and return laid before the Assembly and copies of the same ordered. — 3 V., 83.

House is busy with other matters and refuses to act at this time. — 3 V., 83.

The County of Lancaster to have members in Assembly. — 3 V., 86.

Suits entered before division to continue. — 3 V., 86.

Magistrates appointed for Lancaster County. — 3 V., 87.

Lancaster County Asseblymen just elected. — 3 V., 95.

Three Hundred Pounds lent to build Court House and Prison. 3 V., 96.

Petition for Lancaster County presented. — 3 C., 343.

Action of the Council on the same favorable. — 3 C., 344.

Further steps in the erection of Lancaster County. — 3 C., 345.

Survey ordered and surveyors appointed. — 3 C., 345.

Further steps in the erection of a new County. — 3 C., 347.

Return of division line for Lancaster County surveyed. — 3 C., 355.

Great disorder up in Lancaster County region. — 3 C., 357.

The Lancaster County act again before the Governor. — 3 C., 360.

Results for elections returns for Assembly, coroner and Sheriff, etc. — 3 C., 370.

Act to erect Lancaster County. — 4 St. L., 131.

Chechocecan writes to Gordon and says that when they sold Penn land he deeded back a strip a mile wide on each side of Brandywine to the head of the river. — 1 A., 239.

1730

A petition of many Germans of Lancaster County praying for naturalization. — 3 V., 100.

Bill up again to lend Lancaster County 300 £. — 3 V., 116.

Lancaster County excise paid from November, 1729 to May, 1730, 44 pounds and 14 shillings. This is as large as the Bucks County excise and only 15 £ less than Chester County. — 3 V., 119.

A Lancaster County man to be appointed as Trustee of the Loan office, and John Wright appointed. — 3 V., 123.

The land for the Prison and Court House selected. — 3 C., 380.

A place selected "for a town"—Proprietor's land. — 3 C., 381.

A lot for the townstead of Lancaster pitched upon. — 3 C. 381.

The Commissioners report of a place of a townstead of Lancaster—and for Court House, etc., confirmed. — 1 A., 252.

Isaac Miranda grievously complained against for irregularities in Indian Trade near Lancaster. — 1 A., 266.

Inquisition into the death of three Indians in Lancaster County. — 1 A., 267.

Captain Civility at Lancaster and says there is much talk of the Dutch and English settling over Susquehanna. — 1 A., 271.

The boundary dispute between Lancaster County and Maryland finally settled in 1761 in Chancery Court. — See Veasy Trial, Sr., p. 444.

Proceedings in the matter of boundary trouble. — 1 A., 281.

See list of Germans naturalized—see Act. — 4 St. L., 147.

Most of them Lancaster County names—see same. — 4 St. L., 147.

The Act for 300 £ to build the Court House. — 4 St. L., 149.

1731

Complaint that Stephen Atkinson has dammed up the Conestoga Creek and the fish can not come up. — 3 C., 129.

The dam to be viewed and if proper, condemned. — 3 C., 129.

The Governor's favorable comment to the Germans who have applied to be naturalized. — 3 V., 131.

Commissioners and Assessors of Lancaster County file a petition asking for a second sum of 300£ to erect Court House and Prison. — 3 V., 132.

Assembly agree to lend Lancaster County 300 £ more. — 3 V., 134.

John Wright allowed 50 £ as services as trustee of the Loan Office representing Lancaster County. — 3 V., 139.

Stephen Atkinson comes and defends his dam in Conestoga Creek and his mill. — 3 V., 154.

The Assessors and Commissioners of Lancaster County refuse to pay their members of Assembly for attending the Assembly as Assembly ordered contending that it is not a debt which the County should pay. — 3 V., 154.

Liquor causes a death in the Delawares, which may bring on a war between them and us. — 3 V., 156.

Lancaster County excise from James Mitchell, collector is 21 £. — 3 V., 159.

Hemp bounties of Lancaster County; see "Hemp," etc. — 3 V., 159.

The Attorney General allowed 20 £ more to his salary on account of Lancaster County, that he suppress crime in that County. — 3 V., 164.

Joshua Lowe of Lancaster County, presents an excessive account for viewing bodies of three Indians — Coroner. — 3 V., 164.

The Assembly sustain the position of Lancaster County in refusing to pay her Assemblymen mileage. — 3 V., 165.

Election returns of Lancaster County, October, 1731. — 3 V., 166.

John Wright defeated for the Assembly. — 3 V., 166.

Lancaster County now in the throes of border trouble. — 1 A., 289.

Blunston at Lancaster and helped raise Court House. — 1 A., 295.

Craesap and others at Conejehala and disturb the tranquillity of western Lancaster County. — 1 A., 295.

Wright and Blunston inform Chartier they are going over the river to survey for Pennsylvania. — 1 A., 299.

Edward Cartlidge from Lancaster sends a letter to Governor Gordon, saying he cannot come to Philadelphia to give testimony. — 1 A., 304.

Cartlidge examined at Pequea, Lancaster County, tells about the Indian conditions at Allegheny. — 1 A., 305.

Thomas Craesap's testimony as to boundary troubles. — 1 A., 311.

He contends that he was arrested, assaulted and knocked down by Lancaster County men near Washington Borough—Blue Rock. — 1 A., 311.

Gordon's reply to Ogle, giving his view of the border troubles. 1 A., 313

Gordon says the Government was not concerned in the fight. 1 A., 314.

Germans pray to be naturalized—Lancaster County, et al. — 3 C., 393.

Lancaster petitions to have a public road to Philadelphia. — 3 C., 394.

Lancaster County returned for Sheriff, John Galbraith and David Jones; Joshua Lowe and Ed. Smout for Coroners—Galbraith is appointed Sheriff, and Lowe Coroner. — 3 C., 416.

1732

The members of Lancaster County are joined to the Committee for settling the account of the General Loan Office. — 3 V., 175.

Excise from Lancaster County this year, 24 £. — 3 V., 176.

Lancaster County files a petition in the Assembly but the purpose is not disclosed.

See Lancaster County new members of Assembly; John Wright is again defeated. — 3 V., 183.

Petition of John Wright contesting the seat in the Assembly of Andrew Galbraith. — 3 V., 184.

Both parties heard before the Assembly. — 3 V., 184.

Decision in favor of Galbraith. — 3 V., 184.

The Sheriff of Lancaster County sent for to correct his return. 3 V., 184

Margaret Shitts convicted of concealing birth, death and burial of a bastard child is sentenced to death. — 3 C., 429.

Petition for clemency signed by 60 citizens. — 3 C., 429.

Election: Robert Buchanan and John Galbraith returned for Sheriff and Joshua Lowe and Samuel Bethel, coroners—Buchanan and Lowe are appointed. — 3 C., 465.

See Samuel Blunston's letter about boundary trouble. — 3 C., 470.

Another letter of Blunston on the same subject. — 1 A., 316.

Cartlidge to Governor Gordon on Indian trade. — 1 A., 327.

Petition of Ross and Carol that Pennsylvania oppresses them. 1 A., 333

More border trouble. — 1 A., 335.

Indian deed for land—it may effect Lancaster County. — 1 A., 344.

The boundary troubles with Maryland. — 1 A., 347.

The above found also — 1 A. 394.

When Lancaster County was organized: no one lived over the Susquehanna River. — 1 A., 364.

1733

George Stuart of Lancaster dead, and John Wright elected in his place. — 3 V., 185.

Sheriff Galbraith appears with amended return. — 3 V., 188.

John Wright takes seat for Lancaster County. — 3 V., 189.

Peter Harp imprisoned in Lancaster County Jail in suspicion of being a murderer, broke jail. — 3 V., 189.

John Wright elected to Assembly. — 3 V., 188.

In the election of 1733 Galbraith who stood lowest last year now stands highest. Edwards next, Wright next and Koyle at the bottom of the list. — 3 V., 195.

Ferry at Paxtang and Susquehanna needed and applied for. 3 V., 197.

Lancaster County petitions to be allowed to distill corn, apples and peaches raised, into liquors without paying any excise because it is too expensive to move them. Petition denied. — 3 V., 200.

Citizens of Lancaster County petition that Assembly that one who is a Trustee of General Loan Office be not allowed to be a member of Assembly, (Wright's enemies at work against him). — 3 V., 200.

No settlements west of the Susquehanna and North of Nottingham at this date—Road from Lancaster County to Philadelphia. — 3 C., 477.

Wright and Blunston are sent to the Governor as special friends to tell him the Assembly think his commission is of no validity. — 3 C., 509.

Border troubles stir Pennsylvania and Lancaster County. — 1 A., 370.

The same subject also — 1 A., 366.

Depositions on the boundary troubles. — 1 A., 396.

1734

James Mitchell appointed collector of the excise for Lancaster County by the Assembly. — 3 V., 203.

Lancaster County has not paid in her excise tax, as the County and Collector owe the Province 53 £ of excise. — 3 V., 214.

John Wright on a Committee with Andrew Hamilton and others to remonstrate to England against her calling all our statutes laws within a year to inspect or repeal. — 3 V., 215.

Election returns for Lancaster County—Sheriff and Coroner. 3 C., 575.
The Six Nations intended to hold a big meeting at Susquehanna. — 3 C., 578.

Blunston's letter to Penn on the Craesap matter. — 1 A., 410.

The Maryland and Pennsylvania boundary dispute. — See 1 A., 412.

A letter to the Government from the Indians about Conestoga on violations of the Indian trade law about Conestoga and the use of rum. 1 A., 425.

Ganawese Indians implicated in a murder in Virginia and the Governor's inquiry about it. — 1 A., 436.

Samuel Blunston's answer to the same. — 1 A., 437.

Lancaster County petitions for a bounty on flax, so it will pay to grow it—wheat is too heavy. — 3 V., 231.

Lancaster County wants the ferriage over Susquehanna to be controlled. — 3 V., 232.

Members of Assembly elected in October, 1735. — 3 V., 246.

The number of ferries over the Susquehanna to be ascertained. 3 V. 247

John Pownell's testimony about the Maryland dispute. — 3 C., 612.

See Lancaster County election returns. — 3 C., 615.

Depositions from Donegal on the Maryland dispute. — 1 A., 439.

Before 1731 not one person over the Susquehanna. — 1 A., 483.

The Maryland border troubles and Lancaster County. — 1 A., 464.

The same found also — 1 A., 488.

An act naturalizing a lot of Palatines. — 4 St. L., 283.

1736

Excise from Lancaster County this year 126*l*. — 3 V., 231.

Edward Cartlidge applies for pay as messenger to Indians. 3 V., 283.

Election returns for Assembly of October, 1736. — 3 V., 285.

A plot to dispossess 60 Palatine families across Susquehanna. 3 V., 288.

Maryland prevails on the Dutch to accept Maryland as their Government across Susquehanna. — 4 C., 56.

Boundary troubles with Maryland have again broken out. — 4 C., 60.

The same subject further agitated. — 4 C., 66.

Proclamation — fight in Wright's wheat field. — 4 C., 73.

Depositions taken on the fight. — 4 C., 75.

The Five Nations at Stenton—Logan's Home—they are also interested in the Conestoga doings. — 4 C., 79.

Election in Lancaster County: Samuel Smith and James Galbraith for Sheriff and Joshua Lowe and William Caldwell for Coroners. — 4 C., 86.

Land to be purchased from Indians from the mouth of the Susquehanna to Kekachtarorum Hill. — 4 C., 88.

Lands on Susquehanna belong to Five Nations by conquest. — 4 C., 94..

Chester County men have framed a plot to steal the lands of the Dutch across the Susquehanna. — 4 C., 100.

Depositions on the subject. — 4 C., 104.

More of the same subject set forth. — 4 C., 104.

The same up to. — 4 C., 149.

Samuel Blunston goes to Philadelphia from Lancaster. — 4 C., 149.

Proceedings on the same subject in Lancaster County. — 4 C., 149.

The same up to. — 4 C., 159.

The Boundary trouble again. — 1 A., 492.

Release of the Six Nations for Susquehanna lands. — 1 A., 492.

Craesap's depositions on the boundary trouble. — 1 A., 500.

Samuel Blunston says Lancaster County is in an unhappy state of affairs — Craesap. — 1 A., 530.

1737

More depositions on same subject. — 1 A., 532.

Depositions of Anderson and Montgomery—same subject. — 1 A., 536.

Warrant to arrest several rioters. — 1 A., 538.

See the Walking Purchase. Does it extend to Susquehanna? 1 A., 541.

More Craesap antagonists — Miles Fay. — 1 A., 546.

Lancaster County has not yet paid back any of the 300*l* borrowed. — 3 V., 293.

John Wright's salary as trustee of Loan Office is 50*l*. — 3 V., 293.

Excise from the County of Lancaster is 25*l*. — 3 V., 294.

See Lancaster County Election returns of October, 1737. — 3 V., 300.

Lancaster County criminals now in Philadelphia Jail. — 3 V., 304.

Assembly appoints James Mitchell excise collector of Lancaster County. Lancaster County prisoners abused in Maryland jail. — 4 C., 160.

A lot of Germans who came over in 1736 were deprived of their goods by the Government under importation laws and the Government will not give them back to them again. — 4 C., 171.

Road from Harris' Ferry to Kemeson's. — 4 C., 181.

More Maryland boundary and Susquehanna troubles. — 4 C., 205.

More boundary troubles set forth. — 4 C., 209.

The same up to — 4 C., 226.

Chester County now form a combine to oust the Germans. — 4 C., 227.

The same subject up again for adjustment. — 4 C., 233.

The Shawanese are excited over the Senecas selling us land at Susquehanna where they lived. — 4 C., 234.

Men who murdered two Indians in Lancaster Jail sent for to go to Virginia to be tried. — 4 C., 245.

Election in Lancaster County: Samuel Smith and James Mitchell for Sheriff; Michael McClose and William Caldwell for Coroners; Governor appoints Samuel Smith and Michael McClose. — 4 C., 247.

Rogues from Maryland come to Lancaster and force the Keeper of the Jail to let some desperate criminals out. — 4 C., 250.

More boundary trouble with Maryland. — 4 C., 253.

Rudolph Myers in Jail at Lancaster for killing a man. — 4 C., 255.

More border troubles with Maryland. — 4 C., 256.

Unruly Indians come to a home in Conestoga and demand liquor. Threaten lives if refused. — 1 A., 547.

1738

Lancaster County elections returns, see — 3 V., 319.

Governor Thomas says the prosperity of Pennsylvania is largely due to Palatines. — 3 V., 324.

Also see — 4 C., 314.

Stephen Atkinson of Lancaster says he has undergone many hardships and desires help of the Public Treasury. — 3 V., 327.

Atkinson's petition refused. — 3 V., 329.

The Derry Township people petition that they have more time to pay quit rents; and if the Proprietor immediately enforces the same, there will be great hardship. — 3 V., 329.

Hard times in Lancaster County — cannot pay quit rents. — 3 V., 329.

The Palatines of Lancaster County petition the Penns not to remove them from their lands because they took the title irregularly — they did not know better — they will pay. — 3 V., 334.

Lay out of road from Lancaster to Coventry Iron Works. — 4 C., 266.

Complaint as to Harris' Ferry road not cleaned. — 4 C., 278.

Proceedings for and against the John Harris Road. — 4 C., 283.

Lancaster County elections returns for Sheriff and Coroner. 4 C., 309.

The Governor appoints Justices of the Peace for Lancaster County. — 4 C., 313.

Lancaster County depositions on Maryland outrages. — 1 A., 555.

1739

Lancaster County Presbyterians wish to be relieved from kissing the Bible in taking an oath. — 3 V., 338.

In a vote whether the Proprietor shall receive a bonus if he take paper money for quit rents instead of silver as reserved in the Charter, Lancaster County voted "Yes"; Chester County, "No," and Philadelphia and Bucks, "Yes." — 3 V., 338.

Petition of the Lancaster County Presbyterian ministers and a large number of members as to kissing the book and laying on of the hand, read the second time. — 3 V., 338.

Allen, James, Hamilton and Smith, a committee to draw a law to relieve the Presbyterians of Lancaster County from kissing the Bible. — 3 V., 339.

The citizens of Eastern Lancaster County petition to have the Eastern end of the County divided off. — 3 V., 343.

At the October election John Wright stands highest on the list from being lowest the year before and James Hamilton who stood at the head is now in the delegation. — 3 V., 352.

Judge Edwards stands at the bottom. He was not in last year's election. — 3 V., 352.

Thomas Edwards did not take his seat until November 20th though elected in October and the Assembly met then. — 3 V., 354.

(He was likely holding Court at Lancaster. — 3 V., 354.

People of Lancaster County and Limerick Township present a map and petition to have Lancaster County divided. — 4 C., 317.

Justices on the other side of Susquehanna needed and appointed, Viz: Richard Oecham and John Reynolds. — 4 C., 348.

Lancaster County election returns; Mitchell and Buchanan as Sheriffs — Joshua Lowe and Rudy, Coroners, and Buchanan is Sheriff, and Lowe Coroner. — 4 C., 352.

The petition of John Wright and others was read about a road to Lancaster, and to further considered. — 4 C., 365.

The Question of arming for war, on which Governor Thomas takes the side that Pennsylvania should do so and the Assembly says they will not do it, brings on the fatal disagreement between John Wright of Lancaster County and the Governor, which two years later ends in his dismissal from the Office of Justice of the Peace and Judge of Court. — 4 C., 371.

Commissioners on boundary line trouble — depositions. — 1 A., 556.

More on the boundary line trouble — Commissioners repeal it. — 1 A., 561.

A lot of Germans naturalized. — 4 St. L., 470.

1740

The Quakers control the Germans and their votes by false posters. — 4 St. L., 470.

The Quakers give presents to influential Germans to control the vote—graft. — 4 St. L., 475.

Petition by Conrad Weiser, et. al. for division of the County of Lancaster. — 3 V., 361.

Chester County files a petition against allowing bought servants to enlist. It became a political issue. — 3 V., 378.

John Wright partly in charge of the bill to raise money for the use of the Crown. — 3 V., 393.

Officers were entering warrants in great numbers in the County, the Assembly found when they went home. — 3 V., 395.

Lancaster County has now paid back one-half of the 300£ borrowed. — 3 V., 414.

The revenues from Lancaster County now 62£. — 3 V., 415.

At the October election Judge Edwards was defeated by Anthony Shaw — the other three re-elected, Sively stood highest — Wright second — Ewing third and Shaw, the new man, fourth. — 3 V., 424.

Election returns: Robert Buchanan, Sheriff, and Joshua Lowe Coroner of Lancaster County.

John Wright and four others, a committee to draw an answer to the Governor's action (an address on same) putting an embargo on the exporting of wheat during the time the Spanish fleet is in the West Indies—the answer attacks the Governor's legal right to do this and even hints that England in her war policy should not have that right—it also says wheat is such a great export that it is not right to cripple our trade—here Wright further widens the breach between him and Governor Thomas. — 3 V., 430.

The Province is now much angered at the Quakers since they are about to adjourn in the face of real war without making any provision for defense. Petition signed by 85 merchants of Philadelphia. It affects Lancaster County also. — 3 V., 433.

Wright is Chairman of the Committee to draw the sense of the Assembly in the petition for defense filed by 85 merchants of Philadelphia (with Pemberton, Norris, Hall and Owens); and the Committee say that it is the right of anyone to petition in a decent manner; but this one is in harmony and similitude with former suspicious petitions; its motive is to injure the Province—at least by some signers—the thing is extraordinary—it insinuates facts not true and reflects on the Assembly—a breach of their privileges—destructive of their freedom and deserves censure and to be rejected; and the Assembly did reject it. This hot language brought Wright in further disfavor with the Governor. — 3 V., 434.

Lancaster County now only owes 50*l* as balance. — 3 V., 438.

The same members were elected to Assembly as in 1740 and in the same order (except that Ewing lost to Blunston), viz: Lindlay, first; Wright second; Blunston, third, and Shaw, fourth. — 3 V., 446.

The Palatines bring contagious diseases. — 3 V., 447.

In appointing Justices of the Peace Governor Thomas says some (John Wright) did not behave and not re-appointed. — 4 C., 482.

The names of the Justices of the Peace appointed for Lancaster County — 4 C., 483.

A petition respecting improvements of the High road from Lancaster County to Philadelphia. — 4 C., 495.

The Question of quarantining the Poor Germans. — 4 C., 496.

Return of the road from Lancaster to High Street, Phila. — 4 C., 503.

The Germans petition that a house for their sick immigrants be built — a quarantine. — 4 C., 507.

1742

The Proprietor orders that no land be granted away in Lancaster County west of Blue Mountains on account of Indians. — I A., 629.

Samuel Blunston takes sides against the Governor and Council (signing with the balance of the Committee) the report that the Governor went beyond his powers in the case of the sickly vessel loads of Germans. — 4 C., 523.

The question of the Susquehanna lands and the Six Nations comes up again. — 4 C., 566.

The Justices of Lancaster County hold a conference with the Shawnese on the subject of the imprisonment of the Nanticokes in Maryland. This conference is condemned by Council as Indian complaints are in charge of the Governor only. — 4 C., 588.

The Germans are said to be concerned in the Philadelphia election riot. — 4 C., 620.

The Germans petition for a quarantine station for the sick on their arrival. — 3 V., 448.

The Parliament of Great Britain by a late act have given great encouragement to the Germans though many people in Pennsylvania are jealous of them. — 3 V., 449.

The Germans are now becoming a factor and both the Assembly and Governor vie with each other in trying to receive their good will. 3 V., 450.
Also found in — 4 C., 509.

John Wright, et. al. a Committee to propose a bill for a pest House for sick Germans arriving. — 3 V., 451.

The Governor again says that he is in favor of Germans and that they need a pest House. — 4 C., 510.

Also found in — 3 V., 451.

See the message and resolves, etc. — 3 V., 459.

Wright, Blunston and others a Committee to draw an answer to the Governor's speech. — 4 C., 549.

Also found in — 3 V., 466.

Blunston, Wright and others a Committee to draw an answer to the speech of the Governor. — 4 C., 602.

Also found in — 3 V., 480.

Lancaster County seems at last to have paid back her 300£ borrowed. — 3 V., 492.

The Assembly seem to be absolutely in control of Pennsylvania because every man of Assembly of 1741 was re-elected in the Province in 1742—Wright was one of the leaders, and also Kinsey—Wright at this time had great power. — 3 V., 497.

Wright, et. al. a Committee to draw a bill to naturalize Germans and relieve against oath; see Act 4 St. L., 390. — 3 V., 500.

The Assembly find that the election riot was a political conspiracy between the thugs and Philadelphia magistrates, against the Germans and Quakers to advance Governor Thomas' military party—the Germans were an element. Were any of Lancaster County there? — 3 V., 501.

The Dutchmen accused of trying to vote at the Philadelphia election. — 3 V., 564.

Thomas Lloyd a witness, said that the Recorder of Philadelphia contended that 300 unnaturalized Dutch had come down to vote and the voting sailors had as much right as they had. — 3 V., 565.

The Mayor says the Dutch who were unnaturalized and came down to vote came from McCall Manor, and this caused the anti-Quaker party to get the sailors to riot.

1743

Lancaster County suffers under the importation of the Flour Act and begs that the shilling penalty for flour not up to the standard be taken off. — 3 V., 513.

John Wright made chairman of the Committee of the whole on the question of support of the Governor which has been cut off for two years. (Wright makes still more enmity). — 3 V., 515.

Lancaster County again asks for an amendment to the flour act, (Ordered to lie on the table). — 3 V., 522.

The Great treaty at Lancaster as arranged for as engineered by Governor Thomas. The thing began by a compact between Maryland and some of the Six Nations, and the Shawnese claiming lands in Maryland. 3 V., 523.

The Lancaster County petition for a change in the Flour Act is met by a big petition against any change from Philadelphia. — 3 V., 523.

In Lancaster County all the old members of the Assembly are elected, except that Blunston is displaced by Patterson. — 3 V., 536.

Thomas Lindsay of Lancaster County is dead. — 3 V., 536.

John Edwards writes to be collector of excise in Lancaster County. (Was he a relative of Judge Edwards?) — 3 V., 539.

Thomas McKee of Lancaster, about the Shawanese Indians. 4 C., 630.
The events which brought on the treaty at Lancaster of 1744. 4 C., 634.
Directions to Conrad Weiser in the Indian matters. — 4 C., 635.
A conference at Lancaster involving the Five Nations. — 4 C., 656.
First steps to bring on the great treaty at Lancaster had. — 4 C., 658.
Conrad Weiser makes trip to the Onondagoes and they will come to the Lancaster Treaty. — 4 C., 660.
An act passed to naturalize foreigners, not Quakers who have settled in Pennsylvania — the Germans. — 4 St. L., 391.
Returns for Lancaster County, James Galbraith, Sheriff, and John Morris, Coroner. — 4 C., 669.

1744

John Armstrong murdered near Lancaster, (West of Lancaster) by Delaware Indians—Daniel Cookson sends word to the Governor—the Five Nations arrest the murderer and send him to Lancaster Jail and Conrad Weiser sent to investigate. — 3 V., 546.

Samuel Blunston added to the Committee on accounts in place of Anthony Shaw, deceased. — 3 V., 547.

Lancaster County citizens send a petition to the Assembly asking that further measures be taken to prevent rum from being sold to the Indians of Lancaster County. — 3 V., 549.

The Governor now wants to impress on the Assembly the fact that by negotiating the coming Lancaster treaty he has achieved a great feat of statesmanship and demonstrated his great zeal for Pennsylvania. 3 V., 549.

Also found in — 4 C., 685.

The Assembly goes into a Committee of the whole to answer the Governor's message and John Wright of Lancaster County is Chairman of the Committee of the whole. — 3 V., 550.

Arthur Patterson made collector of excise in Lancaster County. — 3 V., 551.

The Assembly decides that as to selling rum to the Indians that there are laws enough enacted to prevent it but that the executive officers of the County do not put them into force. — 3 V., 551.

The Assembly vote 300£ for Indian presents for the coming Indian treaty at Lancaster. — 3 V., 552.

The Assembly vote Governor Thomas 1000£ because his back pay was small and because of his expense of going to the coming Lancaster Indian treaty and also 1000£ for his support during the year. — 3 V., 552.

The Assembly are very desirous that the Governor should not depend on the Commissioners at the Lancaster Treaty but go himself and negotiate that the Indians all remain loyal to the English and do not go over to the French during the French War. — 3 V., 552.

The Governor says that as soon as the French War is declared he will go to Lancaster and negotiate with Maryland and Virginia to keep our Indians loyal. — 3 V., 555.

Governor says all the Indians at the Lancaster Treaty wanted to cleave to the English. — 3 V., 554.

John Musser of Lancaster County sent a petition to the Assembly stating that at the last Indian treaty the Indians barked several walnut trees on his plantation; he did not oppose them as they used the bark for cabins and he claims 6£, (Patriotism not very high in Lancaster County; but rather a mercenary spirit). — 3 V., 555.

This seems to show something of the attitude of the Dutch at this time. — 3 V., 555.

The excise now collected from Lancaster County amounts annually to 110£; (this same year there was collected from Philadelphia County, 590£; Bucks, 100£; Chester County, 336£, and old arrears, 8£ — 1200£. 3 V., 560.

Thomas Cookson's letter to Governor Thomas about the Delaware

Indians killing Armstrong — letter from Lancaster. — 1 A., 646.

Letters of brother of the dead man to the Indians. — 1 A., 647.

List of the Indians at the Lancaster Treaty. — 1 A., 656.

Cookson's letter to Secretary Peters — about 100 Indians coming down from Harris' Ferry. — 1 A., 657.

More about the Armstrong killing by the Delawares — Mr. Cookson's letter. — 4 C., 678.

Conrad Weiser's report of his trip to Shamokin. — 4 C., 680.

The Assembly beg the Governor to attend the Lancaster Treaty. — 4 C., 688.

The Governor says he will go and attend the Lancaster Treaty as soon as war against the French is declared. — 4 C., 689.

The Great Lancaster Indian Treaty of 1744. — 4 C., 698.

The Indians decide that the Pennsylvania Governor should be the master of ceremonies. — 4 C., 698.

The first question taken up was of the back lands in Maryland and Virginia, which the Five Nations owned and Maryland settled without asking the Five Nations. — 4 C., 699.

The old treaty between Maryland and the Susquehannocks of 1652 laid on the table at Lancaster Treaty. — 4 C., 704.

A treaty also made seventy years ago, 1674. — 4 C., 704.

The Lancaster Treaty was first proposed to be held at Conedgowinet, but only a few houses there. — 4 C., 705.

The threat which the Commissioners of Maryland say the Five Nations made probably, the said Indians say was foolish. — 4 C., 706.

Indians complain that for seven years Maryland paid no attention to their claim and that the Governor of Pennsylvania did not report to England how badly they were used as he promised to do. — 4 C., 706.

The murder of Armstrong is up before Lancaster Treaty. — 4 C., 714.

The Indians value the goods for Maryland lands. — 4 C., 715.

A map of the Susquehanna and Potomac Rivers and the country between was drawn. — 4 C., 719.

The Indian orator, Gachadodow, said at the Lancaster Treaty that it looks as if God did not intend the Great King of England to conquer the Indians or he would not have placed the ocean between us. — 4 C., 720.

The Indians complain of how fast the Indians became poor and the whites rich. — 4 C., 721.

The three provinces, Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania entertained the Indians at Lancaster treaty, June 30th at a handsome dinner. 4 C., 722.

They Christened the Governor of Maryland at this time also. 4 C., 722.

They then proceeded to the Court House on business. — 4 C., 722.

The new deed for Maryland lands signed. — 4 C., 723.

The Five Nations promise that they will co-operate in having the murderer of Armstrong punished. — 4 C., 724.

The grievances of the Conoys discussed and to be alleviated — Lancaster Treaty. — 4 C., 725.

Virginia offers 400£ for Indian claims in Virginia. — 4 C., 726.

The Governor proposed to educate four of the Five Nations boys to be interpreters; but the Indians said that they could not spare them. 4 C., 730.

The Five Nations at the Lancaster Treaty ordered the Colonies of America to act in Union and become strong as the Five Nations by that means became strong. — 4 C., 735.

The leave taking at the end of the great treaty is quite dramatic. — 4 C., 736.

Governor Thomas reports the Lancaster Indian treaty to Council. — 4 C., 738.

The Governor meets the Delawares and the Five Nations in consultation over the killing of Armstrong near Lancaster by a Delaware. 4 C., 744.

The Conoy Indians have moved further up the Susquehanna to be near the Delawares. — 4 C., 747.

The Conestogas invite the Conoys to come back and also the Shawanese. — 4 C., 747.

Election returns for Lancaster County: John Sterrett, Sheriff, and Robert Thompson, Coroner. — 4 C., 748.

Letter of Mr. Cookson of Lancaster to the Council on the death of John Armstrong, an Indian trader near Lancaster. — 4 C., 675.

The Murderers are in Jail at Lancaster, that is, one is, see an account of this in the Pennsylvania Gazette, also — 4 C., 675.

Further steps taken in the matter of this murder. — 4 C., 678.

The coming great Lancaster treaty is now being spoken of as being fully planned and agreed upon. — 4 C., 678.

The Assembly urge that the Governor attend the Lancaster Treaty and not simply send a message. — 4 C., 679.

1745

Some citizens of the east part of Lancaster County want the County divided. — 4 C., 756.

Peter Chartier accepted a commission from the French King. 4 C., 757.

The treaty of Lancaster succeeds in having an application made by the Catawbias for a place with the Five Nations. — 4 C., 757.

Chartier is a pertidious fellow. — 4 C., 757.

Samuel Blunston from Lancaster County appears. — 4 V., 7.

Eastern part of the Lancaster County citizens want to leave Lancaster County and divide the County. — 4 V., 8.

Governor says there is a map of Lancaster County that wants to divide off. — 4 V., 8.

The Catawbias send a message to Peace to Virginia pursuant to the treaty of Lancaster. — 4 V., 9.

Sheriff of Lancaster County exonerated from 17£ lost. — 4 V., 10.

Many English traders were present last year at Lancaster. — 4 V., 13.

The Sheriff wants pay for conveying the Indian, Mishamelon, 50 miles to Lancaster jail. — 4 V., 15.

Lancaster County's excise on skins amounted to 40£ this year. 4 V., 16.

John Wright chosen speaker of the Assembly of October, this year. — 4 V., 21.

He is sick and unable to attend the meetings of Assembly and in Wright's stead John Kinsey is chosen Speaker. — 4 V., 22.

Arthur Patterson of Lancaster County came in late. — 4 V., 23.

Back parts of Lancaster County in deadly fear of Indians. — 4 V., 24.

The Lutheran minister of Lancaster has joined the Moravians and many of the flock with him, they fear he will steal the Church, etc. 4 V., 24.

1746

Lancaster County wants fire arms to defend against the Indians—about 400 guns are wanted. — 4 V., 25.

Several citizens in eastern part of Lancaster County want a new County made out of part of it. — 4 V., 26.

Assembly say it was wise to keep Lancaster informed of rumor of danger from the Indians. — 4 V., 27.

The Lutherans of Lancaster County are told to avail themselves of such remedies as they have at law. — 4 V., 28.

The Lancaster members excused from attending the Assembly next week. — 4 V., 30.

Thomas Edmondson of Lancaster County asked the Assembly to make him satisfaction for a colt killed by the Indians. — 4 V., 33.

The Clerk of the Supreme and Oyer & Terminer Court said that he kept a record of the prosecutions in Lancaster County and the parties could not pay his fees, therefore, he asks the Assembly to pay him. — 4 V., 44.

They allow him 10£ for preparing the bills as the Attorney General was not present. — 4 V., 44.

Lancaster County selects the same four Assemblymen in 1748 that she had in 1745. — 4 V., 48.

The back inhabitants of Lancaster County are in fear. — 5 C., 2.

For the new Justices of the Peace for Lancaster County. — 5 C., 3.

And also the Chief Burgess of Lancaster Borough. — 5 C., 3.

The Lancaster people want arms to defend themselves. — 5 C., 26.

1747

Diggs, a property owner at Conestoga is encroaching on others about him. — 1 A., 680.

Thomas Cookson has the matter in charge and will make the Marylander go back. — 1 A., 681.

The same subject more at large set out. — 1 A., 682.

The tract in issue is part of the 10,000 acres of land claimed both by Pennsylvania and Maryland. — 1 A., 684.

More on the same subject. — 1 A., 693.

Adam Furney of Conestoga testifies on the same subject. — 1 A., 704.

The whole subject is one of conquest or contest between the Germans or Palatines of Conestoga and Maryland. — 1 A., 709.

See Digg's side of the case stated. — 1 A., 713.

More Conestoga troubles. — 1 A., 724.

The same up to — 1 A., 733.

Conrad Weiser in Lancaster, says several Indian deputies are coming to the town on treaty matters. — 2 A., 9.

The Indians halted at Harrisburg on account of rain. — 2 A., 10.

Conrad Weiser tells the Indians at Shamokin that they must keep what they agreed to at the Lancaster Treaty. — 5 C., 84.

John Deiner's Company in the War Ensign, Franklin. — 5 C., 135.

The Lancaster County people west of Susquehanna want a new County framed; (thus it took two years to erect York County). — 4 V., 51.

Lancaster County wants the cheap cattle from Virginia kept out. — 4 V., 51.

Philadelphia and Chester people have bills for feeding soldiers who came from Lancaster County. — 4 V., 51.

John Wright on the Committee to answer Governor Thomas' speech as he retires from the Governorship. — 4 V., 54.

Some of the Magistrates for Lancaster County are complained against for corrupt practices by the people. — 4 V., 55.

Another petition for a new County presented. — 4 V., 55.

This year the Lancaster County excise reached 198£. — 4 V., 63.

Arthur Patterson was the collector of excise for Lancaster County this year and his total collections were 220£, less 20£ off for Commissions, and 2£ for other expenses. — 4 V., 64.

In the Assembly of October, 1747, John Wright is first Arthur Patterson, next; James Webb, next, and Peter Worrel, last. — 4 V., 65.

1748

See the pay roll of John Deiner's Company. — 5 C., 179.

The Lancaster Court is to dispose of a case of a man who robbed an Indian of his home and goods. — 4 V., 77.

The Lancaster County Grand Jury is ordered by the Council to prosecute all who carry rum to the Indians and a great number of bills of indictment have been found against those carrying rum to them. — 4 V., 31.

John Wright, because of his age and infirmities, wants to be discharged from the General Loan Office Board. — 4 V., 82.

The Indians of the Susquehanna are again at Philadelphia. — 5 C., 285

Indian treaty held at Lancaster by the Five Nations and the Ohio Indians, with Commissioners representing Pennsylvania. (See Commission and instructions). — 5 C., 299.

The minutes of the Lancaster Treaty set out. — 5 C., 307.

Captain John Harris was appointed in addition to former Captains for military purposes, for Lancaster County. — 5 C., 325.

The expenses of the Lancaster Treaty returned which leaves a net balance of 149*l*. — 5 C., 327.

Our members in Assembly of October, 1748, are John Wright, Arthur Patterson, James Webb and Peter Worrel. — 4 V., 91.

Lancaster County Sheriff ordered to come and amend his return of elections of Assemblymen. — 4 V., 92.

He simply had dated the return, 1745 instead of 1748. — 4 V., 93.

Journal of Conrad Weiser in his travels on account of Indian treaty for the Province. — 5 C., 348.

Weiser writes another long letter from Lancaster about the cunning Indians and the murder of the Senecas. — 2 A., 11.

Indian traders licensed — see full list — some of them are Lancaster people — in fact nearly all of them live in and about Lancaster County. — 2 A., 14.

1749

Lancaster County presents a petition to have a workhouse erected. — 4 V., 157.

Those west of the Susquehanna River appear before the Assembly. — 4 V., 99.

The people of Lancaster County are opposed to a new County being erected. — 4 V., 100.

A great number of People west of Susquehanna want a new County. — 4 V., 107.

Indians do damage to a poor widow of Lancaster County. — 4 V., 108.

A lot of Lancaster County people state that since the passing of the late law for erecting houses of correction and work houses are thought not to be entitled to the privileges of the same; the inhabitants of the County are now very numerous and suffer for want of the same, to correct vagabonds. And they pray that the Justices be empowered to erect the same. — 4 V., 109.

Lancaster County representatives are Arthur Patterson, James Wright, Peter Worrel and Calvin Cooper. — 4 V., 115.

James Webb filed a petition in the Assembly stating that at the late election there were gross frauds whereby he was not elected. — 4 V., 117.

The good people thereby are defeated of their privileges. — 4 V., 117.

Many petitions of the inhabitants of Lancaster County set forth that at the last election the people crowded in a body and that they stuck tickets in the end of cloven sticks; and other frauds committed; tickets put in by boys; and many repeated voting; and the number of votes was double the number of people who live in the county the officers did not call for the lists to correct; and they pray that the house shall send for all the officers of election and ascertain whether the election was void or not. — 4 V., 119.

Additional petition for erection of a new County. — 4 V., 119.

The Lancaster County election fraud taken up. — 4 V., 121.

The Lancaster County election fraud up, (November 22), and the witnesses testify that the election was tumultuous, that no regular lists could be taken of the voters' names, that votes by proxy were allowed, and two received by Christian Herr, one of the inspectors; votes given in by persons under age were allowed; that persons acted as inspectors not legally chosen, that many of the voters voted three, four and five and even ten times; that one of the candidates who is returned a representative encouraged the giving in of more than one by the same person, that the number of voters did not exceed one thousand, though the tickets found in the box were more than 2300. — 4 V., 123.

Counsel for petitioners examined several other witnesses, adjourned to afternoon. Other witnesses heard and adjourned until tomorrow. Heard in forenoon, and adjourned to afternoon, and heard again. —

The counsel for the Sheriff and inspectors examined witnesses. Counsel for petitioners object, because the inspectors and Sheriff are interested witnesses. Adjourned until the next day. November 24th., the proceedings again opened. They examined witnesses, only two tickets were handed in by proxy and the owners of the tickets were in sight but because of the Press could not get near; that though the inspectors took the votes from minors to get rid of them, they were not counted; that the person not elected inspector took only a few votes, and he was pulled off of the table as soon as he was perceived receiving them, and the tickets he had taken he destroyed; that the number of those voting was not as small as represented, but about as many as there were tickets found. — 4 V., 123.

November 25th, the Lancaster County cases resumed and the Sheriff and inspectors are sworn, adjourned to afternoon. Ordered that the case be again adjourned and the clerks produce their papers, etc., and the speaker to issue as many warrants as he desires. — 4 V., 125.

After all this Arthur Patterson was seated Jan. 1, 1750. — 4 V., 125.

Adam Furney shot dead by an Indian as he stood at his own door. — 5 C., 377.

A new commission of peace for Lancaster County; and a list of 31 Justices of the Peace appointed. — 5 C., 378.

Indian deed for land between the Delaware and Susquehanna. 2 A., 33.

List of inhabitants over Susquehanna at this time. — 2 A., 38.

1750

The House still has under its consideration the Lancaster election case. The case adjourned over to tomorrow. — 4 V., 126.

Lancaster and Chester Counties object to entailing of estates. 4 V., 126.

Objected to because people who have such estate cannot pay their debts by selling land. — 4 V., 126.

The Lancaster election case continued and several witnesses are heard in favor of the Sheriff and inspectors. — 4 V., 126.

The list of taxables of Lancaster County amounting to 4598 is produced to show that there were no duplications or repeating of votes. — 4 V., 126.

Lancaster County sends in another protest against entailing estates. — 4 V., 126.

The Lancaster County election fraud is again before the Assembly and the minutes and evidence produced by both parties were read and considered; and the House again proceeded to hear more witnesses. — 4 V., 126.

The representative who was charged with encouraging plurality of votes in favor of himself on his oath purged himself and also by witnesses supported the same. — 4 V., 127.

A vote was taken on January 5th, on the question of issuing writs for a new election in Lancaster County; but passed in the negative. 4 V., 127.

January 6th, the Sheriff called in and admonished; that, though the proofs are not sufficient to throw out the members, the method of manag-

ing the election in Lancaster County is not regular and orderly as the law requires. — 4 V., 127.

The Sheriff is warned that hereafter the names of those for Assemblymen must be on one ballot, those for Sheriff on another, those for Coroner on another, those for Assessors on another, and those for Commissioners on another and not all be on one ticket as has been the custom in Lancaster County. — 4 V., 127.

The inspectors must be more particular in the choice of Clerks and if possible to make such choice that excessive drinking will not disable them from service. — 4 V., 127.

The Sheriff must be careful to call for the list of voters and tallies taken by the clerks when the election is ended and preserve them safely. — 4 V., 127.

The inspectors must not act separately as heretofore but two or more of them take the votes in the presence and with the concurrence of the others. — 4 V., 127.

All due care must be taken to prevent tumult and disorders by placing Constables near the door, to prevent more offering tickets at the same time than can be received. — 4 V., 127.

After the case was over, the Sheriff and Inspectors asked the Assembly to see that they be paid for their great trouble and expense in defending the case, (Lie on the table). — 4 V., 128.

All must take care to prevent the fraud of repeating. — 4 V., 127.

Lancaster County's petition as to the work house is up again. 4 V., 130.

Ordered that the admonition given to the Sheriff of Lancaster County be printed in the Gazette. — 4 V., 135.

The Sheriff of Lancaster County wants 20£ as his expenses in defending against the Lancaster election case and subpoenaing witnesses. 4 V. 142.

The excises collected from Lancaster County this year are: from June 1 1749 to June 1, 1750, 272£; balance of last year, 138£; paid into the Provincial Treasury, 233£, and the balance is due. — 4 V., 149.

In the Assembly of October, 1750, Lancaster County's Assemblymen are Arthur Patterson, Calvin Cooper, James Wright and James Webb. — 4 V., 150.

Our old friend, Canassatego was buried September 30, of this year, he having died near Bethlehem. — 5 C., 467.

Indian deed for lands between Delaware and Susquehanna. — 2 A., 33.

There is no mill for slitting iron, nor rolling iron, plating forge, to work with a tilt hammer, nor steel mill in Lancaster County. — 2 A., 55.

See the Act passed to bar estates tail. — 5 St. L., 100.

Author: Eshleman, Henry Frank, 1869-1953.

Title: Early Lancaster County history in the provincial records
and archives /read by Benj. B. Lippold (Original notes
by H. Frank Eshleman).

Primary Material: Book

Subject(s): Lancaster County (Pa.)--History--18th century.
Lancaster County (Pa.)--History--Chronology.

Publisher: Lancaster, Pa. : Lancaster County Historical Society, 1923

Description: 19-35 p. ; 23 cm.

Series: Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society ; v. 27,
no. 2

Call Number: 974.9 L245 v.27

Location: LCHSJL -- Journal Article (reading room)

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