

II.

ITEMS FROM LETTERS

(Relating to Early Events in Lancaster, Pa.)

Made by Dr. John W. Jordan

- 1774
Nov. 24 Wm. Henry is getting better but very slowly. He dare not go out yet. There are many sick in the town.
- 1775
Jan'y 19 Early in the month Tobias Riem died, and shortly before three died in the house of young Melchoir Schneider in the space of five weeks, his wife, her sister and child.
- Feb'y 16 Mathias Graff goes to Bethlehem to visit his sister, Mrs. Thomas.
March 14 These restless and uneasy times, when we hear among men nothing but about wars and commotions, many persons in Philada. have already rented houses here, whither they intend to flee should Philada. be attacked.
- April 10 With Mrs. Spore, nothing further has occurred in regard to the Government. Dickert went bail for her until word is received from Philada.
- May 8 At present we have a very uneasy and restless time here. Nearly all adult men are obliged to exercise. Money will not give exemption. There are already 300 in this town scattered in companies. The spirit of confusion reigns in the land. Bushar (?) Graff became Justice of Peace at last Court.
- June 6 Today considerable noise in town. The Mennonites had sent in a petition to the Committee asking to be exempted from exercising. The Committee granted the request, but this made such an uproar that the old Committee was at once dismissed and a new one selected and among them Wm, Henry and John Hopson. A few of the old Committee were badly.....by the soldiers, and the advertisements which the Committee had issued about the Mennonites were handed in to the Council, and the Mennonites are very much hated by the people.
- Aug. 19 The Committee went from house to house this week to make a list of everybody. No one exempt from 16 to 50 years. They must all exercise or pay a fine.
- Oct. 7 Geo. Graff's daughter will soon be married to a man from Philada.
- 1776
Jan'y 10 The many soldiers here, more than 400, create disturbances, but every night there are 16 Militia soldiers on guard to arrest disturbers and prevent destruction of property.
- April 12 Wm. Henry returned from Philada; he conversed with "White Eyes" (a famous Delaware Chief).
(In this letter the high cost of living is mentioned.)
- Sept. 4 The first of the Militia have returned; this week the others who remained at home are to go away to Jersey. Among them probably Demuth, Petri, Leon. Rathvon, Nath. Shee, etc. Geo. Graff was severely wounded in Long Island battle.
- Oct. 19 Our people who for 6 weeks have been in camp are to return next week. **Not one of the whole Battalion went to the Flying Camp.**
- Dec. 18 In Lancaster everything in confusion. Militia notified to hold themselves ready to march. Every day soldiers arrive who are going to Gen. Washington. Many people fleeing from Philada. to Lancaster. Among them Geo. Schlosser with all his children (wife remains at home); Jacob Franklin, Jr., wife and children; Herrguth and daughter and her children. Wm. Henry has been

in Philada. these days; now returned. The Assembly adjourned and Congress gone to Baltimore.

1777

March 27

Day before yesterday Wm. Henry returned from Philada. He told me the Militia Act had been passed and that he had seen a copy. The 8th man must go or supply a substitute.

May 19

Col. Slough, Adam Reichard and Leonh. Rathvon have resigned. Wm. Henry ought now to be in the Assembly, but his son John is very ill and cannot leave home. His brother John not long ago died here.

Oct. 17

Great excitement. It is reported that Howe would come to Lancaster. 50 wagons came from the neighborhood to take away the things. Today the Militia from here went to the army.

March 3

Here are confined over 1200 prisoners and it is said more are to come; that here the army stores will be kept. Many sick with fever and prices very high.

1778

May 11

Yesterday evening, for the second time, they fired off the cannon and illuminated the Court House, to express their joy at the alliance with France. 14 English prisoners escaped from prison here night before last.

1779

Oct. 23

On Oct. 13 old Leon'd Bender died.

1780

Feb'y 7

Old Dr. Adam recently died. He had dropsy more than 2 years. Cost of living high.