

ter, who are desirous to support by their subscription such a valuable and profitable undertaking, where the subscribers are supplied with intelligence and news of the whole world, and men of every station will find it to their benefit. The store-keeper will find prices, auctions, scarcity, plenty, importations and exportations of goods and merchandise; particularly, there will be news of war and peace, of cultivating and improving arts and sciences, etc.,—in short, there will be plenty of matter for all classes to pass away agreeably and usefully the long and tiresome winter nights.

“All those who have not yet subscribed, and may desire to become subscribers to such a beneficial establishment, will please to apply to the subscriber.

“John Erben.”

Three years later, the Lancaster Journal of Monday, October 19th, 1818, contained an advertisement in which Mr. Erben offered the Lancaster Coffee house for sale. The property was described as having a frontage of 21 feet, 9 inches, on Penn square, and extending in depth 80 feet to a 5½ foot alley. The house was of brick, three stories in height, and there was a well of water and a pump in the yard on the division line; also an excellent cistern. The ground rent was 17s and 6d sterling.

Whether Mr. Erben sold his property and discontinued the coffee house, or whether it was conducted by another, is not known. The last reference to the coffee house appeared in the Lancaster Journal of Tuesday, June 8th, 1819. The Lancaster Phalanx were notified to parade at the court house on Monday, June 14th, and in this notice it was stated that the band would meet at the coffee house on that day, at half-past twelve.

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## Bathing Rooms in Lancaster in 1833

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

**T**HE first bathtub in America, according to George A. Reid in an article in The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, Vol. XLV, pp. 292-3, was placed in the home of Adam Thompson in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1842. Made of mahogany, and designed by Mr. Thompson, who got his idea from the Prime Minister of Great Britain, it measured seven feet long by four wide, and weighed seventeen hundred and fifty pounds. It caused a heated discussion in the Cincinnati papers as to whether or not such an innovation was inimical to health. Many physicians of that city asserted that “it invited rheumatic fever, phthisic, inflammation of the lungs,” and other physical sufferings.

It was not until 1850 that Millard Fillmore, then President of the United States, had the first bathtub installed in the White House. It was made in Philadelphia, of thin cast iron.

It is interesting to note that nine years before Adam Thompson introduced the first bathtub into this country, Lancaster boasted of a bathing establishment, operated for the benefit of the public, and had on sale "bathing machines," as is evident from the following advertisement, which appeared in the Lancaster Journal of Friday, April 5th, 1833:

### "BATHING ROOMS.

"The subscriber respectfully informs the public in general, that he has removed to the corner of South Duke and Vine streets, in the city of Lancaster, opposite Mr. Luke Brown's coach manufactory and near the German Lutheran school house, where he has prepared suitable bathing rooms, on his newly-invented plan of using cold or warm baths, whereby the body is agreeably refreshed, without being too suddenly effected. Those wishing to favor him with their visits will find very good accommodations at any time of the day.

"A supply of his newly-invented and patented bathing machines will be constantly kept for sale and are respectfully recommended as a most useful article.

"Henry Bachman."

What this "machine" was like, is not now known. A writer in the Lancaster Journal of Friday, July 5th, 1833, called the attention of his fellow-citizens to its merits, stating that were its advantages known it would be considered an indispensable article in every household; and that its operation and efficacy could be tested by calling at Mr. Bachman's establishment, where for twelve and one-half cents, a most delightful bath might be had, warm or cold, at any moment.

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## Agricultural Societies in Lancaster County

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

**T**HE Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser of Saturday, November 18th, 1820, contained an announcement to the effect that the inhabitants of Lancaster inclined to unite in the organization of an agricultural society, were requested to meet in the court house in Lancaster city, on Saturday morning, December 2nd. A full attendance was requested, in order that a constitution might be adopted, a society organized, and such other measures approved as would secure the provisions of the act of Legislature, passed on March 6th, 1820, "for the promotion of agriculture and domestic manufactures."