

# HISTORICAL MEMORANDA.

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## An Act of Vandalism.

The following is an excerpt read by S. M. Sener, Esq., from "The Oracle of Dauphin," Harrisburg, Pa., under date of 6th of January, 1820:

"The Lancaster Free Press contains an advertisement of the Trustees and Elders of the German Reformed Church in the village of New Holland, Lancaster county, offering a reward of \$100 for the discovery and conviction of the person or persons concerned in entering the church about the 15th or 16th of December, 1819, and destroying the new organ of the church, by removing and despoiling the pipes thereof, and taking some of them away, and otherwise cutting up and despoiling many parts of the same."

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## A Visit to Lititz, Lancaster County, in 1799.

In his diary, Jacob Peirce, of Longwood, East Marlborough township, Chester county, Pa., thus describes his visit to the Moravians at Lititz, Lancaster county:

1 Mo. 19, 1799.—"Made ready to go to Lancaster County I and Jno Mercer went in even to Doe run staid till morn.

1 Mo. 20, 1799.—"Started early rode to Hollis fed then to bull Tavern fed & took a snack then rode to Painters at two Taverns fed and dined then rode to A. Forney's Tavern staid till morn.

1 Mo. 21, 1799.—"Took breakiast and rode to Littets town by some called Moravien town we thire fed our horses and went in Company of Landlord named Lanins (?) to the Sister House or Nunnery when we entered the door we were met by the steward who was to appearance a woman of Middle age

her Countenance quick and cheerful she gave us a guide who conducted us up to the garret Chambers which were four in number two for the sick which appeared vacant the other two Large ones & Closely filled with beds sufficient in number to lodge the whole family separately they being near Sixty in Number we then came to the underground story it being the bake house Cook shop and dining room &c &c on the first story above ground there is a very large room wherein they perform evening and morning devotion, another room they keep school and teach Musick &c &c the other rooms on sd story & several on the next are fitly adapted for the purpose of spinning knitting sewing &c they being a very Industrious People and withal very neat and Cleanly, they receive great encouragement from the neighbors who bring them work and Likewise the Necessarys of Life. We then bid adieu and came away without seeing the brothers, who live within about 100 yds in a house considerably less than theirs the Church standing betwixt them, all which buildings being on the south side of the main street and about 60 or 70 yds distant therefrom from thence we came to the inn mounted and rode back to Forney's in even, staid till morn, settled Affairs with him and started homeward rode 2 tavers fed then to Hollis fed then to Doe run fed took supper then home at bed time."

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### **Evidences of Masonic Activity in This City One Hundred and Sixty-Four Years Ago.**

At a meeting of the Grand Lodge of F. and A. M., of Pennsylvania, on St. John's day (last Tuesday), Brother Julius F. Sachse, of Columbia Lodge, No. 91, presented a communication in reference to a number of entries in Benjamin Franklin's "Journal" of 1731

to 1737, relating to Franklin's business dealings with the Masonic lodges in Pennsylvania at that early day. This valuable document was found by Brother Sachse among the unclassified MSS. in the archives of the American Philosophical Society. Two entries show that among the earliest shipments of the Book of Constitutions in 1734 were those to Lancaster, one by Brother John Catherwood and the other by Brother John Reynells. This proves the fact of the existence of a Masonic Lodge in Lancaster as early as August, 1734. Another remarkable fact shown by these business entries is that the Masonic bodies of both Massachusetts and Carolina were subordinate to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania at that time. Further, these entries presents the earliest evidence of active Masonic life in America.

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### Continental Currency.

It is pleasant to note what curious and interesting historical finds are continually turning up all over the county. We have at this moment lying before us a relic of the Revolutionary era whose very existence was unsuspected as well as unknown a few weeks ago.

It is an original sheet of Continental paper money, just as it came from the press, still uncut and unsigned. The sheet consists of eight bills or notes each of different value. The denominations are \$4, \$5, \$6, \$7, \$8, \$20, \$30 and \$40. Each bill has an ornamental circular device, with a Latin or English motto around the outer edge. A corresponding sheet, making up the other side of the bills, accompanies it. These backs of the bills, if we may so term them, are also highly ornamental, but rather rudely done, as the art of wood engraving at that period was not what it has since become. The designs for the back consist mainly of leaves and branches of twigs.

The date of the bills is 1778. This issue of Continental money is stated to be issued according to a resolution passed by Congress at Yorktown, April 11, 1778. It will be remembered that Sir William How entered Philadelphia during the preceding December. Up to that time the Continental printers of the money of the new government were Hall & Sellers, of Philadelphia. Of course Howe's occupancy of the city put an end to the printing press mint which the government had set up. The work could no longer be done there. It had to be done elsewhere, and that fact is demonstrated on this sheet of bills. The plates for the five lower denominations are those used by Hall & Sellers, while the \$20, \$30 and \$40 are set up in the type of the Ephrata press, making it very clear that the plates of the Hall & Sellers bills were sent to Ephrata, where three more were set up in their own old and battered type, and the whole then printed as one new sheet. The Ephrata font of type is so different from that sent from Philadelphia as to be at once apparent.

This find was made in the collection of a gentleman of Philadelphia. The finder, Mr. Sachse, will use the entire sheet in his forthcoming work on the Ephrata Brotherhood. Along with it will also be printed photographic fac-similes of all the known Ephrata imprints, more than fifty in number, we believe. The book itself will make its appearance some time during next fall in two large and finely illustrated volumes.

F. R. D.

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