

# THE NEWSPAPERS OF LANCASTER COUNTY.

In 1896 I was induced to attempt the compilation of a bibliography of the newspapers, magazines and other periodical issues of the press in the city of Lancaster from 1752 down to that time. Two or three previous attempts, and very successful ones, too, had been made, and much of the work had been done. In all, the names of about ninety periodicals published in the city of Lancaster between 1752 and 1885 appear in the lists found in the local histories of Mombert and Evans & Ellis. To that list I added thirty-six new names, making the total about 126.

The general subject interested me so much that I conceived the idea of compiling a similar bibliography of the newspapers and other periodicals, which have been published in the county of Lancaster, outside the city. No labor has been spared during the past five years in attempting to make my list as complete as possible. Many names have been found by direct research, but many have also been discovered accidentally, and when least expected. Latterly my list has not grown very rapidly, which fact, while not a sign that everything has been brought to light, is nevertheless evidence that the field has been pretty thoroughly gleaned, and that while fresh discoveries are certain to be found by other searchers, they are not likely to present themselves in large numbers.

In my previous article I took occasion to allude to the wonderful literary activity displayed in this city, beginning with 1752. It was almost phenomenal. To the 126 names on my list

in 1896 I have been able to add forty more, bringing the total number to about 166.

But, while the county capital was, of course, for many years far ahead of the country in the number of its newspapers, as the people began to found towns and villages, the same literary activity began to manifest itself in them also, until there is to-day not a village of 500 inhabitants that has not now, or has had some time in the past, its local newspaper. My list contains about 104 names, which, when added to those published in the city, make a total for both city and county of about 270. Not the least surprising part of all this is that for nearly one hundred years after the first printing press was established here this was largely a German community. For a time at least there seems to have been more reading done in the German language than in English. In fact, the Dunkers (German) were the first people in Pennsylvania who availed themselves of the art preservative. Not only was the first newspaper printed in Lancaster, of which a cut is reproduced at the head of this article, printed both in the German and English languages, but at various times thereafter three German papers were published in this city at the same time. That was the case in 1809, 1826, 1829 and in 1830. Dr. Franklin, in a tirade against the Germans, written in 1753, says there were more German than English papers published in the province at that time. The first almanac published in the State was a German one issued by Christopher Sauer, in 1738. In the year 1779 three almanacs were printed in Lancaster, and all in the German language. All this is wandering away from my general subject, but I could not resist the temptation to show how far from the truth is the charge so often made, sometimes through preju-

15tes Stück.

Numb. 15.

Die  
**Lancasterische**  
Zeitung:

THE  
**LANCASTER**  
GAZETTE:

Oder,  
Ein Kurzer Begriff  
Der  
Hauptsächlichsten Aus-  
ländisch- und Einheimischen  
Neuigkeiten.

OR,  
A *COMPENDIUM*  
OF THE  
Most material FOREIGN  
and HOME NEWS.



Den 28<sup>ten</sup> July, 1752.

July 28, 1752.

Smyrna, den 14. Jan.

S M P R N A, January 14.

**D**ER Französische Consul hat alle Schiffe dieser Nation aufgenommen, um nach Volo und Salmonica, in Archipelago zu segeln und 60000 Buschel Frucht vor Frankreich einzuladen. Als nun der Abgesandte zu Constantinopel um Erlaubniß wegen Ueberführung derselben gebetten, antwortete der Türkische Kaiser, daß er es nicht nur einwilligte, sondern daß sie auch noch solten Zollfrey seyn, sich freuende, Gelegenheit zu haben,

**T**HE French Consul has taken up all the Ships of that Nation, to sail to Volo and Salmonica in the Archipelago, to take in sixty Thousand Bushels of Corn for France. When the Ambassadors at Constantinople asked Leave for such an Exportation, the grand Signior's Answer was, that he not only consented to it, but that it should also be Duty free, gladly embrace-

dice, but more frequently through ignorance, that the German settlers in this county were an ignorant class of people.

Recurring once more to the claim that Lancaster city and county were among the most important literary centres in the thirteen colonies, I may mention as an evidence of that claim that there were 36 separate printing establishments in Lancaster county during the seventy-eight years between 1752 and 1830, while Philadelphia had only 47 in the 102 years between 1728 and 1730, or eleven more than we had, although she had the advantage of twenty-four more years to her credit.

But that is not all. Our Lancaster printers were the most skillful of any in the State. I find, on page 161 of Tench Coxe's "View of the United States," published in 1794, this significant passage: "The first premium for excellency in printing was adjudged by the Pennsylvania Manufacturing Society to the publishers of a book in the German language in the inland town of Lancaster." I would reward the man or woman handsomely who could inform me who the Lancaster printer was who did such excellent work, and the name of the book that won the prize.

I am free to express the opinion that Lancaster city and county have jointly published more newspapers and periodicals of various kinds during the past 150 years than any other community of equal area and population in the whole United States. The number is about 270, so far as ascertained, with doubtless an unknown number still to be added. Of course, we cannot compare in this particular with the great cities like New York, Philadelphia and Chicago. We are a rural population, only one-fourth of our inhabitants residing in this city, and this makes our record all the more remarkable. Few

of us ever dwell on this matter, although the subject is one for congratulation and pride. These facts prove most conclusively that the people of this city and county have been a reading community almost from the time of the first settlements here. The first German newspaper published in Pennsylvania was Franklin's little venture in 1732, but which extended to only two numbers. Then came Christopher Sauer's paper, in 1739, published only once a month, and then there was no other paper published in the State, in the German tongue, until the bi-lingual sheet of Miller & Holland, in 1752. This city was, therefore, third in the field in the German language, unless we make an exception to a short-lived one, like Franklin's, published in Philadelphia, in 1748, by G. Armbruster, known only by name, not a single copy being in existence, so far as known.

An interesting communication from Mr. D. B. Landis, of Lancaster, directs my attention to the fact that about twenty-five years ago there was a very active outbreak in amateur journalism in this city and county, and he gives the names of about twenty well-known young men who issued amateur journals of more or less merit. All these have gone out of existence, but they served the purpose in some instances of converting amateurs into professionals, and thus served a good purpose. The names of as many of these journals as I was able to secure have found place in my lists:

1811. The Susquehanna Watchman (or Waterman), Columbia.

1813. The Pilot, Marietta.

1814. The Marietta Pilot, Marietta.

1815. The Village Chronicle, Marietta.

1816. The Columbia Spy, Columbia.

The Ladies' Visitor, Marietta.

1819. The Columbian, Marietta.

1821. The Hornet, Paradise.

1823. The Monitor, Columbia.

1826. The Pioneer, Marietta.
1827. The Strasburg Herald, W. J. Kauffman.
1828. Anti-Masonic Herald, New Holland.
1829. Columbia Courant, Columbia. Der Frohliche Bothschafter und Bertheidiger der allgemeinen, oder Universal Erlosung, a German monthly advocating the doctrines of the Universalists, published by Grosch & Meyers, Marietta.
1830. Columbia Spy and Literary Register. Changed to Columbia Spy and Lancaster and York County Record, June 23, 1831.
1831. The Palladium, Bethania. The Olive Branch, Elizabethtown.
1832. The Columbia Hive, Columbia.
1833. Marietta Advocate, Marietta.
1840. The Plaindealer, Col. Forney (Revived). The Columbian, Columbia. The Ant, Marietta.
1841. The Orb, Marietta.
1842. The Washingtonian, Marietta.
1843. The Protector, Columbia.
1844. The Argus, not known.
1846. The Manheim Sentinel, Manheim. The Weekly Planet and Rapho Banner, Manheim. The Columbian, second of the name, Columbia.
1849. The Guardian (Monthly), Lancaster.
1850. The Strasburg Bee, Strasburg. A paper whose name is not known, Earlville.
1854. The Mt. Joy Herald, Mt. Joy. The Marietta Register, Marietta.
1855. The Little Missionary, place of publication not known.
1857. The Strasburg Herald, Strasburg.
1864. The Trumpet, Elizabethtown.
1865. The Mariettian, Marietta.
1866. The Herald, Columbia.
1868. Columbia Daily Spy, Columbia. The Voice of Truth, Columbia. The Morning Telegram (Daily), Columbia.

1869. The Elizabethtown Chronicle.
1870. Strasburg Free Press, Strasburg. The Merrimac (or Memorial), of Colerain township; only two numbers published. Weekly Courant, Columbia.
1872. The Independent, Columbia. The Star and News, Mount Joy. The Democrat, Columbia.
1873. The Clarion, New Holland.
1873. (About.) The Cabalistic Journal, Highville.
1874. West Earl Banner, Farmersville.
1875. Milton Grove News, Milton Grove. The Lititz Gazette, Lititz. The Adamstown Press, Adamstown. Ephrata Mountain Echo, Ephrata.
1876. The Christiana Star, Christiana. The Pleasant Grove News, Pleasant Grove. Terre Hill Echo, Terre Hill. Clay Township Record. The Akron Globe, Akron. The Marietta Times, Marietta.
1877. The Linden Hall Echo (Monthly), Lititz. The Lititz Record, Lititz. The Lititz Sunbeam. The Keystone Amateur. In the following year as The Amateur, Jr. The Philomath, Rawlinsville. A stamp and coin journal, edited by J. Galen. This paper may be identical with The Coin Journal (1879) credited to the city in the list of 1896.
1878. The Ephrata Review, Ephrata. The Amateur, Landisville.
1879. The Guiding Star (Monthly), Farmersville. Human Culture, (Monthly), Farmersville.
1881. The Lititz Express, Lititz.
1883. The Christiana Ledger, Christiana. The Landisville Vigil.
1884. The Florin Independent. Milton Grove Progress. Bainbridge Banner. The Voice, Vogansville.

1885. The Quarryville Sun, Quarryville. Sporting Hill Messenger. Salunga Siftings. Maytown Monitor.
1886. Terre Hill Standard
1888. The Manheim Sun. The Ephrata News. The Columbia Daily News. Pastor's Helper Monthly.
1890. The Denver Press.
1891. The Prohibitionist.
1892. Terre Hill Times, Terre Hill.
1893. The Daily Columbia Spy.  
The Rural Banner, Creswell.
1894. Our Monitor, Quarryville.
1895. The Review (Monthly), Marietta.
1896. The Ephrata Reporter. The Akron Item.
1897. A paper at Brownstown, name not known.
1898. Strasburg Weekly News, Strasburg.
1899. The Justice of the Peace (Monthly, Strasburg. Gospel Banner, Elizabethtown.
1901. The Saturday Bulletin, Florin.
1902. The Miller Monthly, West Earl.

**Additional Titles to be Added to Lancaster City Publications.**

In Volume 1, No. 3, of the publications of the Lancaster County Historical Society, appeared a bibliography of the newspapers, magazines and other periodical publications issued in Lancaster from 1752 until 1896. That list embraces about 126 titles. The opinion was then advanced that if a complete roster of all the publications that had their birth in the city of Lancaster was possible it would be found that fully 140 titles would be found in it.

During the time that has elapsed since the previous list was made and published, I have been persistent in my efforts to enlarge it, and I have now the pleasure of adding the following additional names. It will be seen that my predicted 140 titles have been reached and exceeded.



In my former list our earliest paper, the one issued in 1752, the title page of which is reproduced above, was catalogued simply as "The Lancaster Gazette." That, however, was only one of its titles. It was a bi-lingual paper, printed both in the German and English languages. In the beginning it was published by H. Miller and S. Holland, "at the New Printing Office on King street." A few months later it was issued by S. Holland alone, at the post-office, on King street. It was a small folio sheet, 13x8½ inches.

1777. The Pennsylvania Packet. Issued by Congress in this city from November 29, 1777, to June 17, 1778.

1778. Das Pennsylvanische Zeitungsblatt, Oder Sammlung so wohl Auswartig als Einheimischer neuigkeiten. At this time the British forces under Lord Howe occupied Philadelphia. At the instance of some prominent German citizens, The Supreme Executive Council of the State paid for 500 copies.

1790. Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser, founded by Robert and William Dickson. (File in State Library. (1792 and 1794 are erroneously given as the dates of the founding of this paper.)

1799. Der Lancaster Correspondent.

1805. The Constitutional Democrat, founded in July, 1805, by John Matthews. File in State Library. Der Wahrer Republikaner.

1808. The Times. Published by Hugh Hamilton.

1812. The Pennsylvania Farmer.

1820. Deutsches Wochenblatt.

1825. The Republican Telegraph. Published by Matthew Kelly.

1826. Der Christlicher Hausfreund (Semi-Monthly). Published by Joseph Ehrenfried.

1828. The Political Sentinel. Edited

by James Cameron, near the  
Farmers' Bank.

1830. Standard of Liberty. Published  
by Herman Vilee and Luther  
Richards. Masonic Opponent,  
published by Cyrus S. Jacobs.
1833. Marietta Advocate and Farmers'  
and Mechanics' Intelligencer,  
founded by William McCay.  
File in State Library.
1835. (about). Penn Township Banner.
1840. The Plain Dealer. Renewed. The  
Log Cabin.
1846. The Family Physician. G. B. M.
1875. The High School Journal, Lan-  
caster. The Monthly Budget  
(High School).
1878. The Lancaster Commercial. Pub-  
lished by Jos. Wolfersberger.
1879. School Days.
1884. The Busy Worker, Lancaster.  
The Plumed Knight.
1886. The Criterion.
1892. School Forum.
1894. The Hullabaloo.
1896. High School News (Monthly),  
Lancaster. Sporting Life.
1899. The National Military and Naval  
Journal.
1900. The American Whip.
1901. The Rostrum (Monthly). The  
Courier, Y. M. C. A. organ.
1902. The Literary Magazine, only  
two numbers issued. Lancas-  
ter's Young Men, Young Men's  
Christian Association Organ.  
The Temple.

It has been impossible to verify the  
dates of publication of the subjoined  
list of publications in the hurry in  
which this article goes to press. Nor  
is it possible to classify them as be-  
tween the city and county, some be-  
longing to the one and some to the  
other:

Uncle Sam .

The Dwarf.

The Bankers' Review.

The Matrimonial Times.

The Light, A. P. A.  
College Days.  
Chi Phi Chacquette.  
The Owl.  
The Comet.

I regret that I am compelled to allow so many names of newspapers appear in this list without being able to assign the dates of publication. Most of these had an existence of a few months or years only. Files were perhaps not preserved by any one save the publishers, and in some cases not even by them. This fact, however, does not invalidate the integrity of the list. The papers were published and people still remember them, without being able to recall the year of their publication. The unexpected is continually turning up, and in time the dates of all those which have none assigned to them in the list will be found. This fact should be borne in mind, and as a date comes to light it should at once be assigned to the proper publication, and in this way the list of dates be made fairly complete. In a number of cases, where papers were not well known, several dates were found. In such instances the one deemed most nearly accurate is given.

From the very nature of the case, errors must occur where the paper named has not been either seen by the writer or where there is a conflict of dates. In such instances the only thing to do is to make choice of one and let it go at that. Accuracy of dates is, of course, extremely important, especially in the older and least known publications, but the fact that a certain named paper was once published here is even of more consequence than the exact period of its issue.

F. R. D.

Author: Diffenderffer, Frank Ried, 1833-1921.

Title: The newspapers of Lancaster County / by F. R. Diffenderffer.

Primary Material: Book

Subject(s): American newspapers--Pennsylvania--Lancaster County.  
German American newspapers--Pennsylvania--Lancaster County.  
Lancaster County (Pa.)--Newspapers.  
Lancaster (Pa.)--Newspapers.

Publisher: Lancaster, Pa. : Lancaster County Historical Society,  
1901-02

Description: [103]-113 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.

Series: Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society ; v. 6,  
no. 8

Call Number: 974.9 L245 v.6

Location: LCHSJL -- Journal Article (reading room)

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