

HISTORY
OF
LANCASTER COUNTY,
PENNSYLVANIA,
WITH
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES
OF MANY OF ITS
PIONEERS AND PROMINENT MEN.

BY
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AND
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ILLUSTRATED.

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No. 43 (Freemasons) as to a superstructure upon the market-house for the use of the lodge. This shows that some preparation had previously been made for building by the borough authorities. Plans were now drawn and agreed upon by the burgesses and the Masonic committee, and a stipulation was jointly signed by them March 22, 1798, that the market-house should "be built agreeably to proposals this day signed." A contract was made April 5th "with George Peters, brickmaker; Jacob Albright, mason and brickmaker; and Gottlieb Schrier, carpenter, as workmen and persons to procure materials for said building, agreeably to the contract signed by them." The 30th of January, 1799, was appointed as the day on which the butchers should select their stalls, and fourteen of them did so. There were twenty-four stalls in all, but the corporation reserved Nos. 1, 2, and 3. The others rented for £3 each per annum. Business was commenced in the new market on the day that the stalls were selected and let, and has since been carried on there on a large scale until comparatively recent years, and a portion of the building is used for market purposes even now. The offices of the mayor and city treasurer are in the building, and the front portion has been occupied by the post-office since 1855.

Nothing worthy of note appeared concerning the markets in the period between 1799 and 1835, but in September of the latter year we find that a committee was appointed to ascertain what improvements were necessary, and upon October 6th a resolution was passed in favor of building an addition to the market-house, and authorizing that proposals for the work should be advertised for. "The committee took into consideration the situation of the citizens residing back of the market-house, and for the purpose of interfering as little as possible with their comfort, agreed to place the piers of the contemplated building back so as to range with the second pier in the wing, leaving a space about the breadth of the other streets between the new building and the houses of the citizens, with sufficient room at the east end to drive round with wagons. A contract for erecting the building was made with Joshua Jack. The committee was also authorized to confer with Mrs. Reichenbach as to the price of property which she owned adjoining the market-house, and reporting that it could be bought for twelve thousand dollars, one-fourth cash. The Councils determined to purchase, and, by an ordinance passed December 21st, authorized a loan for the total amount necessary. The purchase was not consummated, owing to difficulties arising from the fact that Mrs. Reichenbach was not the sole owner of the property, and no further action was taken concerning the market until 1845, when another profitless effort was made to secure, at a fair consideration, a suitable piece of ground, and the matter was dropped, and no measures resorted to until 1854. In that year another committee was appointed to inquire as to property for

a market-house, and their examinations led to the purchase of the following lots now occupied by the market-houses north of old market-house square. A lot with two-story brick house from J. Jungling for \$6250, lot and dwelling-house from Sarah Wolf for \$3300, lot from Christopher Hager for \$3000, from John W. Forney \$3700, and from G. W. Reichenbach's property at \$16,600, making a total outlay for ground of \$32,850. A contract was at once made with Stoner & Evans, in the sum of \$8042.32, which resulted in the erection of the present building. J. Siner was appointed superintendent of the work. From the time this building was completed until the present, the city has done nothing more than to keep the market in repair, and the demand for new markets has been met by private enterprise.

In the fall of 1868 the Farmers' Northern Market Company was chartered, and on Sept. 30, 1871, a lot measuring ninety-six by two hundred and forty-five feet on the corner of North Queen and Walnut Streets was purchased of David M. Hess for twenty-two thousand dollars, and in 1872 the present commodious market-house, eighty by two hundred and forty feet in dimensions, was erected, at a cost of sixty-seven thousand dollars. This market contained originally two hundred and fifty stalls, but the west end having been diverted to other uses it now has only two hundred and thirty-eight. The company is controlled by nine directors, of whom Christian Zecker is president, and Joseph Sampson, secretary. The Central market controlled by the city was inclosed and otherwise improved in 1876-77, at a cost of ten thousand dollars, as the result of an agitation which was commenced in 1872.

The increasing demand for markets led to the incorporation of the Farmers' Eastern and the Farmers' Western Market Companies in 1882. The property known as the "Indian Queen" tavern was purchased by the Farmers' Eastern Market Company, in April, from Dr. Henry Carpenter, and a large market-house is now in process of construction where the old tavern stood. It will contain one hundred and sixty-eight farmers' stalls and twenty-three butchers' stalls. The president of the company is Martin Kreider, and the secretary is Allen A. Herr. The Farmers' Western Market Company purchased at a cost of eight thousand dollars land on the corner of West Orange and Pine Streets, on which a commodious house is building which will contain one hundred and eighty stalls. The president of the company is John Hager, and the secretary Henry R. Fulton.

The Water-Works.—The initial effort to secure the benefit of a regular water supply for the inhabitants of the town was made in 1822. In April of that year the Legislature passed an act "to supply the city of Lancaster with pure water." The work of exploring for an adequate source of good water was entered upon by the Councils, who from time to time appointed committees for that purpose. Under date

of November 9th, in the treasurer's account appears an item of \$161.43 paid S. Slaymaker as "expenses on account of searching for water to introduce into the city of Lancaster;" and again on December 6th there occurs an item of \$35.94 paid to the water committee. From this time onward to the summer of 1826 efforts were occasionally made under the direction of the city authorities to discover a water supply. On May 13th of the latter year the water committee, Frederick Hambright and J. Longnecker, were paid \$148.07, "for searching for water." Nothing was, however, accomplished for several years.

The Lancaster Water Company was incorporated by act of April 23, 1829. The act appointed George L. Mayer, Robert Evans, John Longnecker, Henry Keffer, and Philip W. Reigart as commissioners, limited the capital stock to \$60,000 in shares of \$50 each, and authorized the Councils of the city of Lancaster to subscribe for such number of shares as they saw fit, not exceeding one thousand. That nothing was accomplished under this corporation is obvious from the fact that a petition was presented to the Council by a number of progressive and public-spirited citizens on Jan. 4, 1831, urging the formation of a new company and the trial of a new plan for the realization of their important object. The petitioners dwelt upon the need that existed of introducing running water into the city, and suggested the propriety of calling a town meeting to ascertain more fully the public opinion in regard to the expediency of the city undertaking and completing the said work. "But as owing to the difficulty of accomplishing it," they say, "from our local situation, and other causes, all attempts heretofore made have proved unavailing, it is believed that the only practicable mode of accomplishing the work would be by procuring an act of Legislature authorizing the issue of stock, with the proviso that the city of Lancaster shall have the privilege at any time within a given number of years of redeeming said stock." A committee was appointed in pursuance of the desire of the petitioners to present the case to the Legislature, asking for the incorporation of a stock company for the purpose of introducing running water into the city of Lancaster. Mr. Longnecker, of this committee, reported Feb. 1, 1831, that an act of Assembly was passed April 23, 1829, incorporating the Lancaster Water Company, and asked the Council to examine it and ascertain if it would answer all purposes now wished for.

A town-meeting was held on February 12th, at which it was voted that the Council should be requested to appropriate a sum of money to employ a competent engineer to ascertain the best manner of introducing water into the city and the probable cost of the same. Some further action was taken, but about this time considerable excitement arose concerning a contemplated change in the railroad route, and the subject of water-works was dropped out of

consideration, not to be seriously taken up for five years.

On Jan. 5, 1836, the question of water supply again arose, and a joint committee of Councils was appointed to ascertain the most practicable place for bringing water into the city, and the probable cost of the same. At a subsequent meeting, in the same month, the Councils received a communication, signed by a number of citizens, expressing their satisfaction that the Council were giving the subject proper attention, and suggesting that various points along the Conestoga, from which water could be obtained, should be examined; that a committee should visit the water-works of Philadelphia and Wilmington to ascertain the best improvements, and also to take into consideration the question whether the work of providing water-works could be best accomplished by a stock company or by the city through a loan. A committee was appointed in compliance with the suggestion of the citizens, and on Feb. 8, 1836, they reported that they had employed Gen. Mitchell to prepare an estimate of the cost of procuring water from five different localities. On March 29th the water committee reported that Mr. Erdmann, of Philadelphia, had examined several points, and thought that it was most feasible to conduct water from the vicinity of Swan's Mill, and that the best site for a reservoir was on the high ground at Cross' Corner. The cost of constructing the works was estimated at a little less than thirty thousand dollars, but the expense which it was necessary to incur for land made the total cost more than double that amount.

On March 30, 1836, an ordinance was passed authorizing the mayor to borrow seventy thousand dollars for the purpose of carrying into effect the supplement of an act entitled an act to incorporate the city of Lancaster. The water committee bought of Edward Parker, for sixteen hundred dollars, eight acres of land at the east end of King Street as a site for a reservoir, and entered into contract with the executors of John Swan for the purchase of the mill-property, on the Conestoga, at thirty-eight thousand five hundred dollars, the purchase being approved by Councils. Contracts were now made for building a dam, furnishing pipe, and pumping machinery. Mr. F. Erdmann was elected engineer at a salary of twelve hundred dollars, and operations were at once commenced and pushed forward with energy. Trenches were dug through the streets for the purpose of laying pipes in August and September, 1836, and in December of that year the water committee reported that the reservoir was nearly completed. Water was introduced into the city Feb. 22, 1837, and the first rents paid for the period from May 11, 1837, to April 1, 1838, by the following persons, viz.: Zeph. McLenigan, Charles Sheaff, M. McGraun, Jacob Griel, Henry Flick, Henry Rogers, R. Frazer, Farmers' Bank, Mrs. Fahnestock, Dr. William Fahnestock, Abraham W. Brenneman, George H. Bomberger, Samuel Dale, John F. Long,

J. & P. Long, Benjamin Champneys, William Norris, George Ford, John Myers, the Office of Discount and Deposit, Catharine Yeates, and Margaret Yeates. The aggregate was \$187.96, which was a small beginning in receipts for an institution which had cost \$104,168.41, as the water-works did when completed. This amount, however, covered the cost of a farm purchased in connection with the Swan Mill, which the city subsequently sold for \$16,903.15. From the completion of the works until 1851 nothing was done upon the water-works but making small repairs and extending the main pipes throughout the city. In 1851 the reservoir was found inadequate, and another one was built adjoining it at an expense of thirteen thousand seven hundred dollars, which had a capacity of 4,500,000 gallons. This was subsequently somewhat reduced, and the total reservoir capacity is about 6,000,000. From time to time since extensive improvements have been made and costly pumping machinery added, the repairs and additions in 1870 including a turbine wheel and pump, alone costing \$27,000. Notwithstanding improvements made in 1873 and 1875 the pumping capacity of the works was found in 1878 to be inadequate, and a contract was entered into with Henry R. Worthington, of New York, for a compound condensing pumping engine at a cost of \$17,450. This engine was and is capable of pumping 3,000,000 gallons of water in twenty-four hours, but the authorities having the works in charge contemplate increasing the capacity to twice that amount. In 1882 a stand-pipe was erected in the centre of the western reservoir for the purpose of serving the higher parts of the city with water, and with this last valuable improvement the Lancaster water-works may be considered as reasonably satisfactory and effective.

Various Actions of the Borough Authorities on Fire Protection.—The earliest mention of fire implements in the borough is a reference to the condition of the ladders, hooks, and buckets, which occurs under date of 1744, and indicates that these articles had been provided at some former time, probably as early as 1742. There is some reason to believe that as early as 1761 an engine-house, or place for keeping such primitive fire implements as were in the borough, stood upon Lot 379 on West King Street, between Water and Mulberry. The earliest positive knowledge we have upon this matter, however, is that of action taken in 1765. It was "considered and agreed by the burgesses," in July of that year, "that a house be forthwith erected fit to contain three fire-engines at least, in and on the northwest corner of the market-house, to take up in length of the market-house three pillars, and not to take up any more than four feet of the inside of the market-house, and Mr. John Feltman and Mr. Jacob Felter are hereby appointed to erect the aforesaid house as they think most advantageous to the corporation."

The first action taken by the borough authorities

to secure or provide a water supply to serve as a protection against fire was upon Sept. 14, 1772. Under this date the following appears in the records of the burgesses:

"It being represented that Casper Singer, of this borough, Tanner, hath lately obtained permission from Isaac Whitelock, of the said borough, to take and lead the water of a certain spring which rises in the ground of the said Isaac Whitelock, near his Brew-House, into Water Street, to the intent that the said Casper Singer may by pipes or other proper conduits carry and convey the water thereof to building and tanyards of him, the said Casper Singer, in King Street, in the same Borough, and the said Casper Singer, now requesting the privilege of laying pipes and conduits for the purpose aforesaid along Water Street, and to break the ground to fix them properly, and he engaging in return and satisfaction for the privilege aforesaid to have a stock or jet d'eau fixed in such a pipe or conduit at such place as the Burgesses or Assistants of the Borough shall direct in King Street aforesaid where such pipe or conduit shall cross the said street so that the public (in cases of fire and at such other times as it shall not be injurious to the said Casper Singer to be deprived of the said water) may be supplied with water from the same, and that, at his own expense, that he, his heirs and assigns, shall and will maintain and keep in good order and repair such stock or jet d'eau at his and their expense. Upon consideration had upon the premises, the privilege aforesaid of breaking the ground in the said streets, and of laying pipes, trunks or conduits in and through the streets aforesaid for taking and conveying the water as aforesaid is granted unto the said Casper Singer, his heirs and assigns, forever. He and they in laying and fixing such pipes or conduits, and in keeping them in good order and repair from time to time, taking care to cover them as not to obstruct or hinder the easy and convenient passage in and through the said streets, and that expeditiously and without unnecessary delay, and he and they, from time to time, and at all times, fixing and keeping the said stock or jet d'eau in good order and repair for the use and benefit of the inhabitants of the said Borough at the time and seasons before mentioned."

There is no account of the purchase of the first engine, but it appears to have been in the possession of the borough for some time prior to 1764, for in August of that year William Henry was paid £7 10s. for repairing it. About this time the inhabitants of the borough subscribed money for the purchase of another engine, and in accordance with the suggestion made by the committees of the three fire companies,—the Sun, Union, and Friendship,—one was imported from London, England, through the agency of William West, merchant, of Philadelphia. This engine, which was a small affair, was kept in use for many years, and finally sold to the borough of Manheim. It was not until 1790 that another engine was purchased for the public use. The cost of this engine was £720, and £4 10s. was paid to Henry Pinkerton for hauling it from Philadelphia.

The borough authorities appear, from various entries in their records, to have taken in early days pretty good care of the engine and other apparatus. On May 22, 1776, we find that Charles Hall, jeweler, was paid, "for taking care of and repairing the fire-engine in this borough for two years and six months," the sum of £7 10s.

On March 9, 1789, it was resolved that E. Hand, Esq., Mr. Frey, and Mr. Reigart be a committee to view the market-house to determine the repairs necessary for the preservation of the ladders, hooks, etc., belonging to the fire engine, and also the repairs necessary to be made on the fire-engine-house.