CUMBERLAND County History

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Number Two

In This Issue

Contributions Solicited

The editor invites articles, notes, or documents on the history of Cumberland County and its people. Such articles may deal with new areas of research or may review what has been written and published in the past.

Manuscripts should be typed double-spaced. Citations should also be double-spaced; they should be placed at the end of the text.

Authors should follow the rules set out in Kate L. Turabian, *Manual for Writers* (5th edition, 1987), especially chapters 1-5.

Queries concerning the content and form of contributions may be sent to the Editor at the Society.

Membership and Subscription

The basic annual membership fee of the Cumberland County Historical Society is $25. All members receive *Cumberland County History* as part of their membership. Individual issues may be purchased for $5 each.

Correspondence concerning membership and subscriptions should be addressed to the Executive Director at the Society.

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CUMBERLAND COUNTY HISTORY

Cumberland County Historical Society and Hamilton Library Association: Carlisle

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Contributors

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DANIEL J. HEISEY, president of the Monroe Township Historical Society, is the author of *Pages of History* (reviewed in this issue of *Cumberland County History*) and has written on such diverse topics as John Dickinson, Calvin Coolidge, and Roman history. He is Deputy Recorder of Deeds for Cumberland County.

ELIZABETH FLOWER JAMES, a graduate of Dickinson College, was librarian of the public schools of Fluvanna County, Virginia, and has long been a volunteer in the Cumberland County Historical Society. She was a pupil of Nellie C. Cornman, about whom she writes here.

MARK J. LAFAVER majored in history at Gettysburg College and was a graduate student under Robert G. Crist, for whom he wrote an article on the late State Senator George N. Wade that was published in *Cumberland County History* in 1991. He lives in Harrisburg, where he is employed by Blue Cross-Blue Shield.

TERRY L. NICKEY is a graduate of Temple University and has made the genealogy of Cumberland County church members his special interest. Many of the people he writes about are his ancestors and relatives, for his own family has lived in the County for eight generations. He is a budget analyst in the Department of Education in Harrisburg.

ROBERT D. ROWLAND was one of the founding partners of Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc., a Harrisburg consulting engineering firm. He has published a family genealogy and several articles on the early history of the eastern end of Cumberland County. He prepared the maps for *Lower Allen Township: A History,* by Robert G. Crist (1993).

A Musical Romance: Correspondence of Robert Tempest and Nellie Cornman

Elizabeth Flower James

Nellie Clayton Cornman was born in Carlisle, and Robert Tempest in Philadelphia. Music was their common bond, but in personality and temperament they were complete opposites. Both were born in 1868 and were 39 years old when they met.

Carlisle in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was a town that provided many cultural opportunities. Social, scientific, literary and musical clubs existed. Concerts, operas, pantomimes, dramas, operettas, recitals and readings were frequently held in the Carlisle Opera House, the Armory, and Metzger, Lloyd, and Bailly Halls. The Oratorio Society first performed in 1907, with Frederic Martin conducting both the local chorus and the Boston Festival Orchestra in Haydn's "Creation." This was followed in 1908 with Mendelssohn's "Elijah," Handel's "Messiah" in 1909, the "Erl King's Daughter," Saint Saëns's "Samson and Delilah" in 1910, and Verdi's "Requiem Mass" in 1911. Before each performance the Carlisle *Evening Sentinel* published an exhaustive description of the music by Father Henry G. Ganss of St. Patrick's Church, and on the day following it printed Father Ganss' review. The paper's issue of May 19, 1908, reported that the 5:39 and 6:00 p.m. trains brought such large numbers of people to attend the evening presentation that it was necessary to add a local train at midnight to accommodate people going home to Greason, Newville, Shippensburg and Chambersburg. The Mechanicsburg, West Shore, and Harrisburg patrons were able to use the scheduled late evening train.[1]

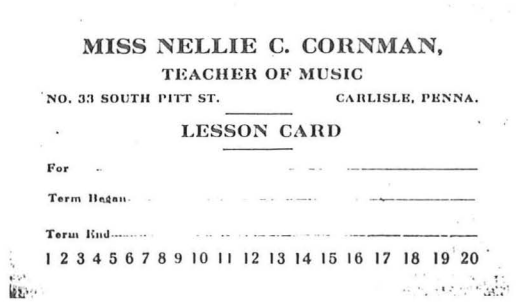
It was this musical atmosphere that Robert Tempest became aware of when he came to Carlisle in 1896 to visit the Indian School, where his friend Dennison Wheelock was director of the school band. The

ROBERT TEMPEST, about 1920
(Photo in Collection of Cumberland County Historical Society)

Sentinel of January 8, 1896, carried the following notice: "Robert Tempest, the celebrated pianist of Philadelphia, recently visited the Indian School and has composed a march, 'The Roosters of Carlisle', which he dedicated to Dennison Wheelock, leader of the band."[2]

Before reading their correspondence, it is important to understand the different backgrounds of the two musicians.

Miss Cornman, teacher of music, was born on June 3, 1868, the daughter of Annie Bretz and William Cornman of 33 South Pitt Street, Carlisle. Mr. Cornman kept a livery stable in Liberty Avenue and was also tax collector of the borough of Carlisle. Nellie was educated at Metzger Institute. A clipping from the *Sentinel* in her scrapbook, undated but probably of about 1886, reports that among the pianists at the annual musical exhibition at the Institute were the Misses Cornman, Norcross, Halbert and Campbell, "whose technique reflects great credit on their instructors." In another clipping from the *Sentinel,* preserved later in the scrapbook, appears the notice: "The Musical Kindergarten, formerly under the management of Miss Prince, will reopen September 24 under the joint management of Miss Prince and Miss Cornman. Pupils desiring to take this course will please register this week with Miss Prince, 101 S. College Street or Miss Cornman, 33 S. Pitt Street." This "musical kindergarten" later became Miss Cornman's alone. Of one performance by her pupils the Harrisburg *Telegraph* reported: "The kindergarten School of Miss Nellie C. Cornman of Carlisle, rendered an exceptionally interesting program at YMCA Hall yesterday afternoon."[3]



MISS NELLIE C. CORNMAN,
TEACHER OF MUSIC
NO. 33 SOUTH PITT ST. CARLISLE, PENNA.

LESSON CARD

For _____

Term Began _____

Term End _____

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

After her mother's death Nellie and her father moved to 123 West Pomfret Street, a double house, which was made into two apartments, the Cornmans living on the second floor. In addition to teaching, Nellie sang both in the chorus of the Oratorio Society and in the comic operas performed with local talent under a travelling director. Miss Cornman was also very much involved in community affairs, belonging to the Musical Arts and Civic Clubs; in her later years she was regent of the Cumberland County Daughters of the American Revolution. Nellie Cornman was a well known and respected member of Carlisle society, a warm, caring person, conservative in her outlook and a strict teacher, who taught only those who had talent and would practice diligently.[4]

Robert Tempest was born in 1868 in Philadelphia, the son of James and Frances Eugenia Tempest. James Tempest was a well-to-do wholesale tobacconist and Frances Eugenia was a vocalist and pianist. The census of 1870 lists their home at 464 North Sixth Street valued at $5000, with four occupants: James, aged 35, Fanny, aged 25, Robert, aged 2, and a live-in servant, Annie Otto, aged 17.

When he was four years old his mother taught Robert piano, and when he was six he gave a private concert that was attended by George W. Childs, the Philadelphia publisher and philanthropist, who was so impressed by the child's performance that he offered to assume the expenses of his musical education. This offer the Tempests declined out of pride. Robert now studied piano and musical theory for ten years under Carl Von Amsburg, of Philadelphia, a pupil of Liszt. Because of the talent of his pupil Von Amsburg refused all compensation. Subsequently, and during the whole of his public career, Tempest was a pupil of Edward Zerdebelyi, who also lived in Philadelphia, a Hungarian teacher and great friend of Liszt, who dedicated his "First Hungarian Rhapsody" to him. It was Zerdebelyi who made his pupil a Liszt specialist of the first rank.

Tempest's career was brilliant but brief. He was the pianist for the Del Puente Concert Company, and under the management of the English Clifford Halls he had two seasons abroad, playing in England, Paris and also in Germany. His retirement from public concerts

extended over a period of five years from 1904 to 1909.[5] Tempest moved to Carlisle in 1907, where a year or so later it was reported that,

> aided and encouraged by a musician of ability and note,[6] [he] has been preparing in the quiet, tranquilizing atmosphere of Carlisle for the Concert Season of 1909-1910. His repertory consists of about 1,000 selections—all played from memory. It embraces the works of Beethoven, Chopin, Schumann in their entirety, nearly all of Liszt, all notable contributions to piano literature, not excluding the ultra-modern schools represented by Debussy, Max Reger, Strauss and Rachmaninov.[7]

Mr. Tempest never lived anywhere in Carlisle other than in a boarding house. His income came from rental properties in Philadelphia and, in later life, from the lessons he gave. He kept his piano at the Hamilton Library (now the Cumberland County Historical Society), to which he paid $6.50 a month rent. He gave his final concert in 1948 on his eightieth birthday.[8] While Miss Cornman was calm and considerate, Mr. Tempest, perhaps because of his early but short-lived success, was more self-centered, volatile, and temperamental—which perhaps explains why a marriage between the two never took place.

After Robert Tempest and Nellie Cornman met in Carlisle, they studied and played together, giving many concerts between 1915 and 1930, in which Tempest played the first half of the pro-

PIANO RECITAL

—BY—

MR. ROBERT TEMPEST

Technical High School Auditorium

MAY 12, 1921

PROGRAM

1. National Anthem. The Star Spangled Banner.
2. Fantasie on Polisd Airs. Op. 13. *F. Chopin*
   The orchestral accompaniment arranged for the second piano played by Miss Nellie C. Cornman.
3. Sonate Op. 109, in E major ..... *Beethoven*
4. Papillons Op. 2 ..... *Schumann*

INTERMISSION

During the intermission, a few numbers will be played on the Edison, Diamond Disc, by request.

5. The Fauns ..... *Chaminade*
   Valse Op. 54 ..... *Dvorak*
   Eclair de Lune ..... *Debussy*
   May Night ..... *Selim Palmgren*
   Arabesque. Fantaisie Piece ..... *R. Tempest*
   Tarantelle Op. 43 ..... *Chopin*
   Berceause Op. 57 ..... *Chopin*
   The Nightingale ..... *Alabieff Liszt*

INTERMISSION

Twin numbers on the Diamond Disc.

6. Concerto in B flat minor Op. 23 ..... *P. Tschaikowsky*
   The orchestral accompaniment arranged for second piano played by Miss Nellie Cornman.

Chickering Pianos furnished through courtesy of J. H. Troup Music House

gram and was joined by Miss Cornman for the second half. They played everything from memory.[9]

They were friends from their first meeting, and wrote many letters to each other. Mr. Tempest proposed marriage to Miss Cornman three times by letter, but, rebuffed three times, finally settled for friendship. The letters printed below are typical of the entire correspondence. The earliest surviving letters are Tempest's to Miss Cornman. Many contain musical symbols, which, however, are difficult to reproduce and are therefore omitted here.[10] No replies from Miss Cornman are found either in her or in Robert Tempest's papers; and it is the opinion of the writer that they were destroyed either by Mr. Tempest or by Miss Cornman, who went through her friend's papers after his death.

The earliest letter in this long correspondence is Tempest's letter of July 7, 1910, written to Miss Cornman while she was visiting friends in Walkersville, Md. In it he describes a "saunter" he had recently taken "along the Conedoguinet [sic] . . . dotted here and there with small pleasure boats that skimmed lazily along its smooth surface. The blue sky, with a few scattered clouds were [sic] reflected in the water and the only sound that one could hear was the song of the birds as they chirped out their glad carols to eventide." It reminded him, he went on, of Stratford-on-Avon and the scene by the brook suggested in Beethoven's "Pastoral Symphony."

> I will miss our evening this week. Why should I not? It is a privilege to hear the symphonies of Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, Mendelssohn, Tchaikovsky and Brahms, not to speak of the other classic's like the "Roman Carnival," "Benvenuto Cellini" of Berlioz, "Les Preludes," Liszt, "A Midsummer Night's Dream," or "Oberon." . . . It is not only a chance for me to familiarize myself with all these things—including quartettes, and quintettes, but you now have the opportunity of learning these masterpieces which you would never have known. I hear that [Josef] Hoffman comes here next fall, and also [Mme. Ernestine] Schuman Heink [Schumann-Heink] follows later. So we will have quite a galaxy of artists in Carlisle.
>
> There is nothing new here, except that the trolley is moving towards Newville, and the Hamilton library still stands. . . .
>
> As I have made a musical * [pause], I will now also make a graceful * [pause] to you for the present and hoping you will have a good rest, I am, Very sincerely yours,
>
> ROBERT TEMPEST

On October 23, 1910, Mr. Tempest wrote Miss Nellie from Philadelphia that he "was a stranger in my own city" after four years

NELLIE C. CORNMAN, about 1915. Photo by Gustave Hensel, Carlisle (Photo in Collection of Cumberland County Historical Society)

away; his aunt was "old and grey," his friends were ill or dead, and his neighborhood no longer was as desirable as it had been. In addition, his tenants were unsatisfactory.

> I had trouble in getting my books and antiques I had stored some eight years ago, as I had lost the agreement I made with them and had to have everything readjusted. However, everything is fixed up, and I will leave here tomorrow bringing for the Hamilton library an ancient drum which I am going to lug in the cars [the railroad] for fear it might [have] been broken in the freight office, or in packing. The books will come later, and at last I will come myself. *** . . . .
>
> Well now I shall come to a conclusion like Dunkas and hoping to see you soon, I am Yours Sincerely,
>
> ROBERT TEMPEST

The year 1911 seems to be one in which the correspondence was very slim or else was destroyed, for there are no letters of that year. But on January 13, 1912, Mr. Tempest wrote Miss Nellie in Philadelphia.

> My dear Miss Cornman,
>
> * * *
>
> I am very glad to learn that you are having such a nice time, and since you desire it, I will call at your house this Thursday. It is a pity you could not have heard the Schubert number, for you are so familiar with the score. It seems a long while since we played those duets, which embraced such beautiful works in music. . . .I am, sincerely Your Friend,
>
> ROBERT TEMPEST

Mr. Tempest's affections for Miss Nellie seem to have intensified, and on March 20, 1912, in a hand-delivered letter, he addressed her as follows:

> My dearest Love:
>
> This morning, I got you some of those sweet, and dainty flowers, which gave you so much pleasure. The lovely creations are so fragrant, their tints so delicate, that you, with your artistic temperament, cannot fail but appreciate them more than most others.
>
> You know that it gets dreary and lonely, in this old room of mine; in fact I feel lost to the world, at times. Of course each day I make an effort to attain something in my music, and since I intend taking up Chopin, Liszt and Brahms again, my life will be very busy after all.
>
> You could help me to regain my technique, if you only would,

as my scales, and broken chord passages are very irregular, and lack speed. Will you help me, dear? You have helped me immensely in the past. Just think of the numerous symphonies, quartettes, and miscellaneous numbers we have went [sic] through since the time I first met you! But you liked me better then, than you do now! Such is quite the reverse with me * * *

I always liked Miss Nellie Comman [sic], from the first time I met her—and after I found out that she had musical talent and ability I liked her better:—and now, I would cheerfully promise to marry her, if she would accept me!!! Largo, moderate, presto, assai vivacissimo. And since you have it down in white and black, I can no longer defend myself, but must end by saying, sincerely, Your Most Lovingly-

ROBERT TEMPEST

On a letter dated only "Friday night 11 P.M.," again hand-delivered, and directed "To be read before the party," Tempest wrote:

My dearest one,

Tomorrow will be your party [perhaps a recital by her pupils]—and I just want to wish you one grand success in your undertaking. I take an interest in you, because I am aware that you are talented, because I know the possibilities of your musical nature; because you possess a rare personality mixed with a kindliness of heart, which appeals strongly to the better part of my nature, and urges me to act the nobler part in my life's work.

When the Klavierstück is published you must play it, for I am going to show you the idea of this fanciful arabesque. There are two moods: the one pensive, inclining to melancholy; the other agitated, unrestful, capricious. * * *

Now what more shall I, or date I say? Dare I say, "Many, many sweet enduring Kisses of my purest love's tribute to you?" Can I forget the fond embraces, which makes [sic] us arise from the ashes of earth, to the higher ideals of beautiful Nature? Can I forget that I was close and near to one who could in reality percieve [sic] the beautiful part of my true innately refined sensitive nature in music so seldom revealed by me to any, except through the lovely art of the Muses. How can one be blind to what is plain? Yet most of us are so. * * *

My dear Nellie, I only hope as Beethoven has said before, that [you] may have a happier life than I have had. Do not forget the art of the Muses lest she revenge herself, since it is so easy to go backward.

Once and a while [sic], think of me—but, do not think of my grotesqness [sic]! That would indeed be a mockery, for my soul is not altogether so obtuse as some of the denizens of the wonderful

town of Carlisle, are prone to picture it after all. Now, "Good bye" but I hope—not Farewell." . . . And now once more wishing you all success and happiness I am still Your most loving one

ROBERT TEMPEST

There are no answers from Miss Nellie, but it appears that neither of these two letters from Robert was well received. On August 18, Robert's tone was business-like.

Dear Miss Cornman:

I will be unable to come to your house tomorrow evening, but will come to see you some time in the near future, if you desire it. You are always welcome to come to the Hamilton Library, where what little knowledge I have of music is at your service.

Will you please mail me the card which I asked you to keep for me, concerning the box I have in the Fidelity Trust Co., as I wish to pay another year's rent which is now due. With kind wishes, I am, Your Friend as ever

ROBERT TEMPEST

Apparently not one to admit defeat, the next day, August 19, Tempest purchased a 14K gold ring from August Gehring, jeweler, at 36 South Hanover Street, for the sum of $4.25.[11] Three days later, on August 22, he delivered the following letter to Miss Nellie:

My dearest Nellie:

Will you not accept this pure little ring from me? Place it on your finger, and wear it, dearie, and let it be an emblem of either my love and affection for you, or it may signify our engagement, if you so desire it.

Of course I have not much to offer; but my music seems to please you, and I hope to have a few other acquisitions of manliness besides—altho nature is usually so chary in her gifts. With the disposition you have seen [in] me lately no one could care for me—but then blame it on the erratic portion of my make up.

Sometimes I divine that you have been up against people, whom you trusted and who have proven false. This might have a tendency to make you suspicious of mankind in general. I am awfully sorry. Under such circumstances you would be terrified to death, if you had written such a letter as this one, to a "man," who might have taken advantage of the power and ascendancy which it would give over your person: Wouldn't you?

But darling girl, dont you know, that, altho I also have been in the hands of those that I trusted,—those that have taken unfair advantage of me—dont you know that I still have a most

unbounded confidence in noble loyal womanhood, for one of my kindest and sweetest friends of all, belonged to that sex—my own mother.

Think over what I have said, and take it well to heart, but believe me to be always Your loving, devoted and sincere friend

ROBERT TEMPEST

Robert Tempest seems finally to have realized that Miss Cornman did not love him in a romantic way. They remained friends, however; indeed they seem to have regarded themselves, and been thought of, almost as members of one family. A Christmas card of 1912, preserved in Miss Cornmam's papers, was addressed to Miss Cornman, her father, and Mr. Tempest; and in his journal for February 1914 Tempest noted that he and Mr. Cornman had bought a cemetery plot together in Mount Holly Springs.[12]

In letters of April 18 and May 8 Robert Tempest asked to be excused for some rudeness to Miss Nellie; but by July they were on good terms again. "Please let me know that you got this sealed, & do not show to anyone,"[13] he wrote on his letter of July 15.

My dearest Nellie—

Your letter reached me this afternoon, and I just wonder if you will not be somewhat surprised at the fact, that I am answering it at this particular moment: however, I did not go to Mechanicsburg this evening, and so I am sitting all alone in my room, thinking fondly of a distant friend whose presence I very much miss. Through my window peeps [sic] the soft rays of the moon, and here and there in a blue Italian sky drift the silver tinted clouds; one is wont to recall the stanza's by Mickle, a poet of Elizabeth's time:

The dews of summer night did fall,
The moon, sweet regent of the skies,
Silvered the walls of Cumnor Hall,
And many an oak that grew thereby.

. . . The other day, my dear, I met that talented lady, Mrs. Russel. She tells me, she is learning Paderewski's Variations. Are you not familiar with them? Today, I saw your old chum Peach,[14] also your papa. There are so many new books you know: some tedious and labored, others interesting from start to finish. Not relying on my own personal judgement, I asked Peach to select one that she considered really worth going over. She did so, and tomorrow you will recieve [sic] a book just out, unique in its way of fiction, and may you enjoy it, crescendo, crescendo, crescendo!! * * *

It is so strange that I have been thinking of you the entire afternoon—in fact it seems intuitive for me at times to be "en

rapport" with you, if such a thing could be.

This day I took my bicycle, and wandered far into the country. How beautiful it was! Nature never spoke so eloquently to me nor appealed so strongly in her loveliness. As far as the eye could discern, were the outlines of the high mountains; for miles around the landscape unfolded itself, and then a still small voice sang out so delicately, yet so audibly, so distinctly, "Whip poor will. Whip-poor-will." You can see some of the reaper's have been at work, for many sheaths are now cut—here they are, lying all over the fields: and as I gazed a sadness crept upon me, e'en in all the rudness [sic] and wildness of these verdure clad fields. "Sad and great is the destiny of the artist," says George Sand, and she is right. As I strolled onward and spires and domes of the town loomed up: first very faintly, but soon more and more pronounced. Vividly were my recollections aroused, and in my retrospect you were very prominant [sic]. At last on my return the old familiar host greets me, and the day has again ended.

Of course, you want to know what is going on here. Don't you? Well—to begin with: Mrs. Fowler died, and will be buried Thursday. The other day I saw Miss Krause, who by the way is now nicely fixed and this fact I know will please you for the poor woman is in a similar position to both you and I, and it must be lonely and desolate for her at times—besides, she must do something by way of employment, I believe. We had a regiment of color here also, but they have gone, thank goodness, to their next headquarters.

I miss you very, very much, and only hope, you will get well and strong, because I take an interest in you. Don't you understand? Now good bye and with many dear Kisses and love I am Yours Devotedly,

ROBERT TEMPEST

On April 19, 1915, he writes to Nellie in Philadelphia:

My dear friend—

Today and I am Just 47! The day is stormy outside: the wind blows the dust in clouds, little April showers gently refresh mother earth, whilst fantastic music echo's [sic] in the distance—up the chromatic scale, down the diatonic scale, now and then a whole tone scale, perhaps a wild Norwegian one of Grieg or the Hungarian clashes of the Magyar[?]. A veritable—let me remark— 'tempest in a teapot'! * * *

But Carlisle is calm. Indeed, it is one of the quiet days here.

I received your card this morning, and I assure you that I appreciated your kind remembrance. You must have enjoyed the Symphony concerts, for you still cherish in your heart the true

love for music which will remain eternally beautiful to all who are refined enough to understand it in the true sense. The sea air has done you good for I am told that when you are drowsy after a trip to the sea shore, you should sleep as much as possible. The sea air is in itself such a tonic that I believe I would have stayed a week longer, had I been you. My health is better—but for all that I do not feel myself yet. But I am not dizzy any more, thanks to fate. You are in my native city—and I am in your native town. Yet it is quiet today, and restful to my tired nerves, Since Mrs. Ryder thought the Arabesque clever, why did you not ask her to play it for you? If you would have done the same for her, it would have been just the thing to do. Besides, you at least ought to be able to play your own piece.[15] Have more confidence in your own achievements. Your sincere Friend,

ROBERT TEMPEST

After a telephone was installed in the Cornman residence, local letters were few, but Robert continued to write Nellie whenever she was out of town. In 1924 she was a patient in Mercy Hospital in Baltimore, where he wrote her on March 19.

My dear Friend:

The fire is now completely out, but since I last wrote you, the Berg building caught and was destroyed. The limit of the fire was from Haversticks to Garber's shoe store. I am glad that no more damage was done.

I heard that Miss Brindle was done [down] to see you.[16]

Tonight I will send you a copy of the Sentinel and you can see all the details of the fire.

I passed your home last night and everything looked natural as usual.

The weather has been cold and stormy and I think we will all feel better when it becomes more settled.

Hoping you are steadily improving I am Your sincere friend

ROBERT TEMPEST

Again, on April 20, he writes to Nellie, still in Mercy Hospital. The letter is warm and long, even with a gentle humor.

Easter Sunday. Carlisle, April 20, 1924

My dear old friend:

Easter came in with rain, hail, thunder and lightening [sic]. Perhaps it was because I had just turned the 56 mark.

I am not at all surprised to learn that you feel the effects [of] all the strain you have undergone in the last three months. It is

enough to make a well person nervous, and besides, you are naturally of a nervous temperament. You will improve very much when you get out in the air again and amongst your old friends.

Do not imagine too much! Of course I ought to be just the one to advise you in that direction. I am sure that a few weeks more will be good for you to stay for at least you get the rest which was the thing that you needed most.

I have a beautiful overture by Sterndale Bennett (1816-1875), The Naiades. You would be surprised to see what a charming and graceful work it is: although the composer was English. The book I have puts a new phase on everything we have—For instance: Mendelssohn's overture to Melusina has this plot: Melusina is transformed one day each week into a serpent. She marries Count Raymond exacting a promise from him not to inquire into her actions of that day. He does so and dies and the overture ends with Melusina's cries at her husband's death.

We often played this piece for 4 hands but never understood the underlying story to which it was written as programme music. I am going to get the score of Scherzahade [sic] this week and Liszt's "Faust Symphonie" so hurry up and get well, As I say, we can play one of these duets and then see the story to which it was written.

Dr. Exley died this week in Harrisburg as you can see by the *Sentinel.* Tomorrow, you will get a Philadelphia *Inquirer* as I thought it would cheer you up to read it. It is a pity that we had such a bad day for Easter, but I hope the weather will be more settled now, and that it will get warmer for it is too cold for this time of year.

Everything is all right here. Your various friends often inquire about you, and Miss Emma Fowler told me she was going to send you a card. She seems a very kind person. But, my gracious! the woman who lives next door to you gave me the shake proper. For all that I miss the Caruso-like echoe's that used to come floating in to us, and the trills and roulades although not at all "in tune" yet with an ardor and strength that seemed to imply—veni-veno-victim—the last word applying to two unwelcome listeners that drank in the dulcet sounds, with epithets sometimes sharp and boisterous. Cheer up! That is easy enough said but hard to do sometimes.

I have a tone poem by Richard Strauss called "Don Quixote."—A wind-machine makes the noise of the wind-mills. At the end of the piece his reason returns—but alas, it is too much for him—he dies. It is a theme with about 8 variations. Each represents a scene or tone picture and each picture represents some comic act of Don Quixote. Perhaps this will cheer you up and if so write soon and to an old friend.

ROBERT TEMPEST

In their later years, from 1940 until Robert's death, the correspondence is sketchy; few letters survive, and they are mostly Miss Nellie's to Mr. Tempest. A New Year's card to Tempest in the late 1940s has this note:

> We did not decide, last evening, where we are to finish the chicken and other things Mrs. Masland [17] was so kind to give. Dr. G.[18] will be away until Friday so you will not be annoyed with the radio. Try to plan for either Tuesday or Wednesday evening and then have a happy time. Phone and let me know the time. Your true friend,
>
> NELLIE

Apparently as Mr. Tempest grew older, he became more testy and querulous, as is shown in the foregoing letter and in the advice on a card Nellie sent him when he was in the Carlisle Hospital in 1950: "Try to be cheerful and cooperative and you will soon be with us."

Four years later Mr. Tempest was in a nursing home in Colonial Park, Harrisburg, where Miss Nellie wrote him.

> December 10, 1954
>
> My dear friend—
>
> Cannot tell you how pleased I was to receive your kind letter and to know you are much better. I, too, enjoyed the ride and delicious luncheon.
>
> Phoned now to Mrs. Masland to find she came home last night at 11:30 and leaves tomorrow for Philadelphia. I told you Mother Masland is in a Philadelphia hospital—a very sick woman so Mrs. M. does not know when she can leave her. Everything is very uncertain. . . . Do you know it was sweet of you to think about the Inquirer. I appreciate the thought—we can think about that later. You are always wanting to do a kindness and that is the finest religion.
>
> Cannot get down this week but will early next week and bring the check for you to sign.
>
> With love and best wishes for your happiness,
>
> NELLIE

Robert Tempest died on March 21, 1955. He bequeathed all his books and musical scores to Nellie Cornman. She died on July 27, 1958, and left the contents of her house to Dr. and Mrs. William D. Gould, whose family gave the Tempest and Cornman papers to the Cumberland County Historical Society in 1990. Robert Tempest and Nellie Cornman are both buried in Mount Holly Springs cemetery, Mount Holly, Pennsylvania.[19]

Notes

1. Clippings from the (Carlisle) *Evening Sentinel,* 1896, 1907-16, in Robert Tempest and Nellie Cornman Papers (Cumberland County Historical Society.
2. Tempest Papers.
3. Cornman Papers.
4. As a pupil of Miss Cornman for a brief period of time, I remember Miss Nellie at the Steinway and myself at the Liester, trying to play the music with her. I failed to measure up to her standards.
5. From a brochure of "The Robert Tempest Concert Series—1909-1910," as announced by John Faller, Esq., Manager (Tempest Papers).
6. Father Henry G. Ganss of St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, Carlisle. He wrote both the introductions to the music performed by the Oratorio Society and the reviews, which were published afterwards in the Carlisle *Evening Sentinel.*
7. From the Concert Season brochure (Tempest Papers).
8. Tempest Papers.
9. See the musical programs in the Cornman Papers.
10. Omission of musical symbols are indicated by asterisks (***); other deletions, deemed of no interest, are indicated by (. . .). All letters are in Cornman Papers.
11. The receipt is in the Tempest Papers.
12. Tempest Papers.
13. The hand-delivered letters were the more personal ones; this letter is an exception.
14. Mrs. John ("Peach") Carroll, who lived on South Pitt Street, across from the Cornmans.
15. This is the *Arabesque* composed by Robert Tempest, dedicated to Miss Cornman and published by Briet Kopp & Hartel, Inc., of New York in 1915.
16. Helen Brindle, later Mrs. Urie D. Lutz, was a cousin through her mother's family.
17. Mrs. Frank E. Masland, Jr., whose home Tempest often visited and played the piano.
18. Dr. William D. Gould, professor at Dickinson College, rented the first floor apartment of Miss Cornman's house.
19. Robert Tempest's obituary was printed in the Carlisle *Evening Sentinel,* March 21, 1955. He directed his executor to publish 100 copies of his composition entitled "Judy's Cradle Song," which was in Miss Cornman's possession; she was to receive and distribute the copies. The accounting of the estate records payment to Zabel Brothers Co. for 500 copies.

Nellie C. Cornman's obituary was printed in the *Evening Sentinel,* July 28, 1958.

Some Benefactors of St. Patrick's Church, Carlisle

Terry L. Nickey

The year 1993 marked the centennial of the building of St. Patrick's Shrine Church in Carlisle. Just as the Rev. Dr. Henry G. Ganss published a comprehensive history of the parish in 1895, so it was deemed appropriate to prepare a brief history of the present church and its people during the last century.[1]

Catholicism was represented at the founding of Carlisle in 1751 by a few individuals such as Philip Pendergrass, his father-in-law John Hastings, and Felix Doyle. In 1757, when the Rev. Mr. Robert Harding, S.J., rector of St. Joseph's church in Philadelphia, conducted a survey of Catholics in Pennsylvania above the age of 12, Cumberland County was listed as having six men and six women of that faith.[2] For the next 60 years this tiny Carlisle Catholic community was served by missionary priests from the Conewago church (now the basilica of the Sacred Heart) in Heidelberg township, York (now Adams) County.

William Penn's charter for Pennsylvania provided that all religious groups should be tolerated in his colony, and this principle remained inviolate after his death in 1718, when his widow and sons succeeded to the Proprietorship. Although the Penns, their lieutenant governors, and most citizens were tolerant of Roman Catholics and their church, they were suspicious that the church might be allied with Britain's enemies, especially the French during the intercolonial wars. Perhaps such latent fears explain why, when the Rev. Mr. Charles Sewall, S. J., purchased from Robert Guthrie the lot in the second block of Pomfret Street where the present Shrine Church and cemetery are located, the deed did not identify Sewall as a priest or indicate that the ground was acquired for a religious use. Five years after the lot was purchased, a

Acknowledgement: I wish to thank Miss Barbara D. Miles, the parish archivist, for her contribution.

log building was erected on the site in 1784. Known locally as the "mass-house", it stood until 1806, when a modest brick church, measuring 40 by 35 feet, replaced it. This building was enlarged and remodeled in the 1830s and 1840s; it stood until 1893, when the existing edifice on East Pomfret Street was erected.

Families of diverse nationalities—Irish, English, and German—have dedicated their lives to this Carlisle parish and surrounding community. For example, members of the earliest families served in the Revolutionary War; remains of their grave markers may be seen in the old Pomfret Street cemetery—Pendergrass, Quigley, Faust, Lechler, McManus, and Swartz.[3] The economic history of Carlisle also records a range of parishioners, from professional men and capitalists to farmers, inn-keepers, and laborers. In the early nineteenth century still other families entered the town and church—Faller, McGuire, Sheafer, Eckert, Schumpp, Dawson, and Smith. A few of the families that arrived in mid-century were here to greet the church's first resident pastor, Louis J. McKenna—Miles, Dorner, Yeager, Linnekuhl, Herman, Diffely, and Farabelli. Members of these families, as well as of the older ones, witnessed the formation in 1879 of the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, whose presence was to have a significant bearing on the local and national identity of the St. Patrick parish. The procession of members of the church continues to the present time; all can record events, have their memories, and cherish lore of Fathers Ganss, Welsh, Schmidt, and Yeager.

When the church on East Pomfret Street was built in 1893, the parish roster listed members of the following families, whose names reveal the increasingly varied origins of the parishioners: Beetem, Brennan, Berger, Byrne, Chaney, Corcoran, Davis, Diffely, Donovan, Dorner, Dougherty, Eckert, Fachler, Faller, Farabelli, Faust, Fletcher, Gallagher, Gibson, Gilmer, Gottsworth, Harris, Hatton, Hecker, Herman, Hoffman, Huntt, Jackson, Klein, Lehman, Lewis, Linnekuhl, Meck, McCullough, McSorley, Miles, Mulgrew, Myers, Norman, Parker, Phillips, Pollinger, Schrom, Sheafer, Shumpp, Smith, Stanton, Thayer, Thomas, Thurston, Weakley, Yates, and Yeager.[4] Most of the individuals and families in this list made contributions to the new structure either in the form of money or of memorials.

One of the major benefactors was Frances Huntt Gibson (1832-1915), widow of Colonel George Gibson (1826-1888). In addition to significant monetary gifts Mrs. Gibson provided the main altar (of Italian marble and Mexican onyx), the Sacred Heart altar (of French marble), the sanctuary window (made at the Munich Art Institute), the chalice, wood carved communion rail, four American Indian rugs, the missal and stand, altar cards, ablution cup, altar linens, credence

table, a fresco painting of St. Frances of Rome, and two candelabra.[5]

It is an interesting coincidence that Mrs. Gibson was related to several different George Gibsons; to identify each and keep them separate one almost requires a genealogical chart. Her father, Henry Huntt, was a physician of Washington, D.C., where Frances was born. One of the family's best friends was General George Gibson (1774-1861), a career army officer from central Pennsylvania; the Huntts named their son for him, and after the parents died in early middle age General Gibson was named guardian for Frances and young George Gibson Huntt.[6] As a result Frances spent many summers in Carlisle at the home of the General's brother, Judge John Bannister Gibson (1780-1853); and there she met her future husband, the judge's third son, named George for Judge Gibson's father.

Judge Gibson was a remarkable man, a profound legal mind, with many skills and talents.[7] He was born on his maternal grandfather Francis West's farm, "Clover Hill," on Sherman's Creek in what is now Perry County. West was an Anglican, the Gibsons were Scots Irish Presbyterians, but after the marriage of George Gibson (1747-1791) to Ann West, the family became Anglicans and members of St. John's Episcopal Church in Carlisle. As George Gibson was away from home for long periods, the education of John Bannister and his brothers and sisters fell largely to their mother, Ann West Gibson. John is said to have been able to read and speak French and Italian before he entered grammar school; he attended Dickinson College but did not graduate in the class of 1798. He was admitted to the bar in 1803 and was appointed to the state Supreme Court in 1816, serving on the court as justice and chief justice until his death at Philadelphia on May 5, 1853. A great lover of Shakespeare, he was also interested in medicine and the fine arts, and was a skilled mechanic and even a competent dentist who devised a plate for his own teeth. Three of Judge Gibson's children converted to Catholicism: Sarah, whose husband, Richard Anderson of South Carolina, became a Confederate general; Annie, who married William Milnor Roberts, a civil engineer who had designed parts of the Pennsylvania canal system, including the famous portage railroad, and been chief engineer of the Cumberland Valley Railroad; and George (1826-1888), who became a career army officer and married Frances Huntt. Another son, John Bannister, Jr., was also a soldier; commissioned in 1847, he served in the Mexican War, resigned from the army in 1854 and died two years later.[8]

Colonel George Gibson (1826-1888), mentioned above, is memorialized by an inscription at the base of the Sacred Heart altar at St. Patrick's church. A member of the Dickinson College class of 1847, he joined the army, was captain of the 11th United States Infantry at the

outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, was cited for gallantry at Gettysburg and in the battles around Richmond in 1865, eventually becoming colonel of the regiment, and died of a fever at Hot Springs, N.M., in August 1888. The Carlisle *Evening Sentinel* described the ceremony at his interment. The body was received at the railroad station on High Street and was escorted to the church by seven pallbearers: Captain Edward Biddle Watts, Montgomery Mahon, William Henderson, William Shumpp, Charles Thurston, John I. Faller, and William Mulgrew. There the funeral mass was celebrated by Father James Huber, Father Fohn of Elizabethtown, Pa., and Father Barr of Harrisburg, and the address was delivered by Father McBride of the Pro-Cathedral in Harrisburg, Pa.[9] Gibson's widow Frances resided in the Mansion House hotel in Carlisle until her brother, Colonel George Gibson Huntt, retired from the army in 1898 and purchased a house at 24 North College Street, where she took up residence.

The work of Annie Gibson's husband, William Milnor Roberts, took him often and for protracted periods to distant states and countries. She and their seven children remained in Carlisle, where they attended St. Patrick's church from 1840 to 1860. The aumbry[10] was given to the church in memory of Annie's daughter, Annie Gibson Roberts Yates, whose husband was also a career army officer, who was cited for conspicuous gallantry at Fredericksburg and Gettysburg and was a captain in the Seventh Cavalry when he died. A memorial stone in St. Patrick's church cemetery records the event: "Captain George W. Yates lost his life at the side of General Custer at Little Big Horn, Montana in July, 1876." Mrs. Yates' life also had a tragic ending. On December 9, 1914, she fell to her death from a subway platform in New York City while visiting her son.[11]

The house of Colonel Huntt and his sister Frances at 24 North College Street was not without significance in the history of St. Patrick's church.[12] That is where Rev. Mother Mary Katharine Drexel (1858-1955) received hospitality on her visits to Carlisle. The wealthy daughter of a Philadelphia banking family, Katharine Drexel founded a religious community of women called the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People, whose purpose was to establish schools and churches for American Indians and African Americans, supply them with teachers, and educate minority men for the priesthood. In 1900 Mother Drexel established her first dual apostolate at St. Patrick's church. It was the first school in the United States where Indian and Negro children were educated under the same roof. From 1900 until 1916 St. Katharine's Hall was the location of both the Select School for Colored Children and the center of Catholic religious education for children attending the Carlisle Indian School.[13]

Another major benefactor of the church was Anna Scheafer Beetem. She gave the Tiffany rose window, located at the entrance of the church, that depicts the symbols of the Four Evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Mrs. Beetem also contributed the monstrance (a vessel used to host the communion wafers during the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament), half the cost of the confessional, and the cost of the stained glass window, made by the Munich Art Institute, memorializing Dr. Robert Nebinger, who was a Lancaster County physician.

Most of the articles given by Ann Scheafer Beetem were memorials to her parents, George Washington Scheafer (1796-1868) and Charlotte Cecilia Price (1811-1886). Mr. Scheafer, a resident of Carlisle from as early as 1832, operated a dry goods store. His granddaughter, Charlotte Beetem Chadwick (1881-1958), donated the mural of St. Ann and her daughter the Virgin Mary in memory of her mother; this was after a fire in 1923, caused by electrical failure, that destroyed the entire upper vault and roof of the church, including all the original frescoes and oil paintings placed throughout the nave at the time the church was built in 1893. After the fire the Rev. Father Francis Welch restored the basic structure of the church to provide a place of worship for the growing congregation. In the 1940s, under the direction of Father Joseph Schmidt, art work featuring local and ancient church history was placed between the triumphal arches of the nave.

Both Ann Scheafer Beetem and Charlotte Beetem Chadwick were married to non-Catholics who were, however, supportive of St. Patrick's. Ann Scheafer's husband, (Abraham) Luther Beetem, born in Huntsdale, Cumberland County, in 1847, owned a large lumber company on West High Street, Carlisle. Charlotte's husband, George I. Chadwick, a native of New York state, taught history in Dickinson College's preparatory school, Conway Hall, and was for many years secretary of the Carlisle Chamber of Commerce.[14] A daughter of George and Charlotte Chadwick, Ann Chadwick Hurst, is an active member of the parish today.

Funds for the altar of Mary, Mother of God, were given by the Diffely family. They also gave a stained glass window, the statue of St. Joseph, and half the cost of the confessional. John Diffely (1838-1904), a native of Ireland, maintained a residence and a business in both Philadelphia and Carlisle. In the latter place he was a building contractor and also operated a wholesale oil business at the corner of Hanover and North Streets.[15] He died at his other home in Germantown, Pa., in 1904. Diffely's wife, Cordelia Foland (1848-1930), was born in Cumberland County; her parents' names appear in the sacramental register in the 1830s.

Another important church artifact is the 3000-pound bell, which was given by Margaret Mulgrew Meyers in memory of her husband, Frederick Meyers, and her father, William Mulgrew. William was married to Mary McGuire, whose father, Patrick, had been associated with the parish since 1819, the year of his immigration to the United States. The Mulgrews operated a bakery in the 200-block of South Pitt Street for many years. Several other owners of small businesses made gifts to the church, among them the Farabelli and Minchella families, who attended the old market house on the Carlisle Square. The daughters of the latter family, Helen Burkholder and Flora Wolf, still attend the parish. Another foreign-born member of the parish was Henry Linnekuhl, a native of Hanover, Germany, who came to Carlisle in 1858 and opened a barber shop in the second block of North Hanover Street. He served in the Union army in the Civil War. Linnekuhl's granddaughter, Georgie Brubaker Barrett, is also a member of the parish. Another immigrant was George Herman, who at a young age in 1871 was employed as a journeyman by the Carlisle merchant John Haas.[16] Two children of George Herman, George Herman and Catherine Herman Stetts, are current members of the parish.

Two related families, well known to many citizens and parishioners, are the Yeagers and the Fallers. The progenitor of the latter family was John (1797-1872), who came to Baltimore from Baden, Germany, in 1823 and was naturalized at Carlisle in 1829.[17] His wedding to Maria Snyder (1815-1886) of Cocalico Township, Lancaster County, took place at St. Patrick's one year later. Maria's mother was Elizabeth Trexler, whose family had been associated with St. Paul's church in Goshenhoppen, Berks County, in the early eighteenth century.[18] John Faller kept a grocery store on West High Street. In the parish's sacramental register, dated 1820-1848, John and Maria Faller are named more often than any other individuals as sponsors for children baptized in the church. Among their present descendants are George Faller and his children, Josephine Yeager McCullough, Laurence Yeager, and Michael Blumenthal, Jr.

One of the Yeager family's ancestors was Nicholas Dorner (1837-1911), who immigrated from Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, in 1868. His sponsor at his naturalization was John Faller, who became his father-in-law when he married Cecilia Faller. Among the children of Nicholas and Cecilia Dorner was Mary (1871-1927), who married George Yeager (1870-1954). Yeager gave the church the Pieta that is situated on the northwest side of the church. George was the son of Leonard Yeager (1842-1921), a veteran of the Civil War and an early employee of the South Mountain Railroad, who became a member of

the parish when he moved from Chambersburg to Carlisle. When Leonard Yeager died in 1921 his grandson Louis was a seminarian at Mount Joseph's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., the oldest Catholic seminary in the United States, founded in 1808.[19]

Another family connection was made when Mary Yeager's brother, Louis Dorner (1879-1934) married Sarah Hoke of an eighteenth century Catholic family of Emmitsburg. Sarah was one of three sisters who married into Carlisle families—Sarah into the Dorners, Anna into the Minnicks, and Frances, who married John Fortney. The last-named couple had a daughter Dolores, who is still an active member of the parish. In addition, a former assistant priest at St. Patrick's, Father John Hoke, is a grand-nephew of the three Dorner sisters.

This is a sampling of the records of parishioners of St. Patrick's church, of their origins, intermarriages, and the relations of newcomers with the original families. Their numbers had grown so large by 1966 that a new church building was erected on Marsh Drive on the southern side of Carlisle. At that time the old building on Pomfret Street was designated the Shrine Church of St. Patrick's. This Shrine Church, however, is no historical artifact; services are held there daily, as they have been for more than a century; and it continues to be an object of affection and veneration to the parishioners, many of whom represent the third, fourth, and even fifth generation in its membership.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH. Erected 1806; replaced 1894 (Collections of Cumberland County Historical Society)

Notes

1. Henry G. Ganss, *History of St. Patrick's Church, Carlisle, Pa.* (Philadelphia: D. J. Gallagher & Co., 1895); *St. Patrick Shrine Church Centennial Celebration, 1894-1994* (Carlisle: Printed Image, 1994).
2. *Pennsylvania Archives,* 1st ser., III, 145.
3. F. W. Beers, ed., *History of Cumberland & Adams Counties* (Chicago: Warner, Beers & Co., 1886), 58. It should be noted that a veteran of the French and Indian War, Philip Pendergrass, is also buried in the cemetery.
4. Contributions were recorded and described by Father Henry G. Ganss in Memorial Ledger, 1893 (Parish Archives).
5. *Ibid.*
6. (Carlisle) *Evening Sentinel,* February 26, 1915.
7. Thomas P. Roberts, *Memoirs of John Bannister Gibson* (Pittsburgh: Jos. Eichbaum, 1890); *Dictionary of American Biography.* Gibson performed a kindly act on an occasion embarrassing to St. Patrick's. In 1821 Father George Hogan had accumulated debts for room and board that he could not pay, and was about to be put in debtors' prison. As he was being paraded through the streets to jail by one of his own parishioners, Judge Gibson rescued him and paid his debts. Ganss, *St. Patrick's Church,* 159.
8. For the military record of these men see Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army* (Washington, 1903).
9. *Evening Sentinel,* August 14, 1888.
10. The aumbry is a bronze closet measuring ten and a half inches in each dimension, built into the left wall of the main altar, in which holy oils are kept. The oils are blessed annually by the bishop of the diocese (formerly the Diocese of Philadelphia, now of Harrisburg), and are used by the parish priest to baptize infants and converts, confirm young adults, and anoint the dying.
11. *Evening Sentinel,* December 12, 1914. The celebrant of the Mass was Father Mark Stock. Pall-bearers were Constantine Faller, John D. Faller, Fisk Goodyear, W. W. Fletcher, R. W. Irving, and Robert Beetem.
12. *Carlisle Directory,* 1882, 1906, 1908.
13. *Notable American Women: The Modern Period,* IV.
14. *Carlisle Directory,* 1908.
15. *United States Census,* Philadelphia, 1880, 1900; *Johnson and Lynch Directory* (Carlisle, Pa., 1896-97).
16. Henry J. Young, *Abstracts of Naturalization Papers of Cumberland County, 1798-1906* (Carlisle, Pa., 1983), 31.
17. *Ibid.,* 20.
18. Andrew Lambing, *Michael Anthony and Anne Shields Lambing: Their Descendants* (Pittsburgh: Fahly & Co., 1896), 3.
19. *Evening Sentinel,* February 18, 1921.

The Mechanicsburg Legend of Washington Irving

Daniel J. Heisey

Perhaps if a symbol were to be chosen for historians, it would be an owl. The wise old owl, who listens more than he speaks, just as the historian is supposed to observe and study before he publishes his essay into the past. Yet, upon reading historical essays, one begins to sense that historians might more appropriately march beneath the sign of the parrot. History, which began as the most inquisitive of arts, often degrades into repeating accepted wisdom, and the received tradition replaces individual inquiry.

In the history of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, is a seemingly minor item illustrating this phenomenon. One learns that when in 1856 Solomon Perry Gorgas founded in Mechanicsburg a college for women and named it for Washington Irving,[1] the venerable old storyteller bestowed upon the new college an autographed set of his collected works. Washington Irving, one also learns, was never able to attend to his duties as a trustee of the college, and, so, this donation of books became the college's only link with the great man. This anecdote charms, perhaps beguiles, and if one is a romantic and compulsively curious sort who loves books, one might be inclined to ask what happened to those books. The result of that asking would have amused Washington Irving himself.

Washington Irving is remembered as a jolly, red-faced raconteur, the first American acclaimed in Europe for his writing. Born to British parents in New York in 1783, he received a liberal but desultory education, read law, and practiced briefly on Wall Street. Instead, he turned to satire, his first and most famous being *Diedrich Knickerbocker's History of New York* (1809). Neither writing nor the law at first paid the bills, so "[l]ike most young lawyers with little law and less clients, he began to dabble in local politics."[2] Although Irving was by temperament and background a Federalist of Hamiltonian stripe, he worked in Democratic politics, the only game in town, when bosses

such as Aaron Burr and DeWitt Clinton even then practiced the wily factionalism later symbolized by Tammany Hall. Irving, though, preferred moving in fashionable circles and delighting in the witty society of Dolley Madison, George Bancroft, and Albert Gallatin, in Philadelphia, New York, and London.

Weary of grimy urban electioneering and drab provincialism, Irving toured Europe from 1815 to 1832, finding, as he had hoped, a gold mine of the picturesque and exotic. He wrote of the charms of English country life, drew upon German folklore, and recounted tales of mediaeval Spain. Worth noting here is "The Legend of the Engulfed Convent;" the Spanish convent disappeared, but the singing of the sisters could still be heard centuries later.[3]

Irving received diplomatic appointments, first to Spain, then to England, under presidents James Monroe, Andrew Jackson, and John Tyler. Actually, his ambassadorial role was in reverse; he brought the perceived romance of the Old World to the New. In so doing, his reputation grew on both continents. In 1831 the *Encyclopaedia Americana,* under the entry "United States (Literature)," listed "this accomplished writer" twice—the only author so designated—under the subheadings "Romantic Fiction" and "History and Biography," the latter for his life of Christopher Columbus (1828).[4] The encyclopaedia does not, however, have a separate entry for Irving; the only American writers so treated—other than statesmen or ministers of the Gospel—are two Pennsylvanians, the novelist Charles Brockden Brown and the historian David Ramsay. From abroad came praise from Sir Walter Scott and Charles Dickens.

Naturally Irving's fame spread into Pennsylvania. Bayard Taylor of Kennett Square, poet and world traveler, went to the Middle East and dedicated his *Lands of the Saracen* to Irving, who "more than any other American author" had "revived the traditions, restored the history, and illustrated the character of that brilliant and heroic people."[5] In 1837 Irving accepted honorary membership in the Goethean Literary Society of Marshall College (now Franklin and Marshall) and also in the Union Philosophical Society of Dickinson College.[6]

Otherwise, Irving had little to do with Pennsylvania. As early as 1807 he was a popular guest at dinner parties in Philadelphia, but Pennsylvania was for Irving what it is for many, a place to pass through. Although he does not seem to have passed through Cumberland County, the absurd scene in *Knickerbocker's History* wherein General Jacobus Van Poffenburgh orders "old Kildermeester" to cut his hair, is supposedly based upon the true story of General James Wilkinson's order to Colonel Thomas Butler of Carlisle.[7] In late July, 1841, Irving and some friends went into the coal regions near Hones-

dale; upon returning to New York Irving spent part of August bedridden with a "bilious fever."[8]

Irving had never been robust of health, mentally or physically. In March, 1833, he passed through Pennsylvania *en route* to Washington to see his old New York friend, Martin Van Buren, sworn in as Andrew Jackson's vice president. A friend then described Irving as apparently "no longer subject to those moody fits which formerly obscured his fine intellect at times."[9] From Boston William H. Prescott—whose admiration of Irving led him to order a marble bust of him for his library—wrote to a Spanish scholar, "[Irving's] is too fine a mind to go to sleep, though his body does, I believe, easily."[10] Some attribute Irving's melancholia to the early death of his first love, others to his having been jilted by another. Regardless, he was beset by nostalgic longings and a desire for order and tranquillity. When not traveling, Irving lived a comfortable bachelor's life at "Sunnyside," a lush estate secluded along the Hudson. There he planned to spend his declining years, finishing a cherished and daunting project, a life of George Washington.

As he did so, Irving learned that nearly all his books, once best sellers on two continents, were no longer in print. His vanity was bruised, and his bank account was dwindling. So, he welcomed an offer from George P. Putnam to issue a uniform edition of his works.[11] From 1848 to 1850 they appeared, eventually filling fifteen volumes. If Irving gave a set of his collected works to the fledgling Irving College, it would have been this edition by Putnam.

Yet, what evidence exists that Irving donated any books to the college? In 1905 Jeremiah Zeamer, local historian and genealogist, wrote:

> [Irving College] was named in honor of Washington Irving, the father of American literature, who showed his appreciation of the honor by donating a complete set of his works and by serving as a trustee until his death.[12]

In 1928 Robert L. Brunhouse, even as an undergraduate a keen student of history, wrote:

> To return the honor [of naming the college for him] he presented to the college a beautiful autographed set of his literary works. Unfortunately these books have passed from the possession of the institution.[13]

In 1976 Jean Dodge Keet, an alumna of Irving College, wrote:

> The college was named in honor of America's first distinguished

> author, Washington Irving, who served as a member of the Board of Trustees from 1856 until his death. The college library boasts [sic] a complete set of the author's works, a gift of appreciation for the honor accorded him.[14]

One hears the parrot squawking.

The college's annual catalogue, thin and terse, mentions neither books nor library until 1892. Then it says only, "Books have been presented by both pupils and alumnae," and notes certain standard reference works, such as the *Encyclopedia Britannica.*[15] Then, amidst other new details, the catalogue for 1896 declares:

> The College was named Irving in honor of one of America's most distinguished authors and truest gentlemen, who recognized the compliment and honored the College Library with a complete set of his works.[16]

This statement was repeated verbatim in each catalogue until the college closed in 1929.

One wonders why it took the college forty years to recognize such a treasure. Probably the answer lies in the arrival at Irving in 1890 of a new president, Edmond Ernest Campbell of Waynesboro.[17] His paternal great-grandfather had been an Episcopal rector in Carlisle, but E. E. Campbell himself was a Lutheran, with an honorary doctorate from Susquehanna University. He taught the men's Sunday School class in his church, and he was active in local Democratic politics. He had a flair for the dramatic and an impish sense of humor, perhaps most evident now in class photographs, where he took advantage of the long exposure to appear in the picture twice.

While imposing strict Christian discipline, Campbell instilled an enthusiasm for learning and a sense of fun in "the Irving girls." He also exploited connections with Washington Irving: he hung a portrait of Irving in his parlor; the ivy creeping round the college and the president's mansion came from Sunnyside, which name had been appropriated for the mansion. The students' monthly magazine was called the *Sketch Book,* after one of Irving's most famous collections of short stories (it contains "Rip Van Winkle" and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow"), and each year the girls celebrated May Day, complete with garlands, May Pole, and a Queen of the May, all as immortalized by Washington Irving in *Bracebridge Hall* (1822).[18]

Then there were celebrations of Washington Irving's birthday. In 1898, the only year for which a program survives, Miss Edna Herring read her essay, "Washington Irving;" other readings included "Seein' Things," by Eugene Field, and "Rip Van Winkle;" and the music was

Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata."[19] These birthday fetes were in Campbell's new building, "Columbian Hall," so named, one suspects, not only because its construction coincided with the Columbian Exposition of 1893, but also because Washington Irving wrote extensively on Columbus.

It seems natural for Campbell to have publicized the college's set of Irving's works. Campbell boosted his college with a keen sense of showmanship and a deep knowledge of its patron's life and writings. Still, however plausible it is to believe that Irving gave the college his books, there is no direct evidence. Christine Metcalf, curator of the Irving College Collection in the Mechanicsburg Area Public Library, has found no trace of the supposedly donated books. Curators of Washington Irving's papers tell her they have no record either. Campbell's only surviving child, Jane Campbell Beard, says she does not remember any set of Irving's works. Like every old American college, Irving had the obligatory fire; in 1938 Columbian Hall was gutted. Some would have the books lost in that fire, consuming as it did untold boxes of stored college residue.

Despite the excellent memory of Mrs. Beard and the thorough researches of Mrs. Metcalf, I must note that Mechanicsburg has been, as Washington Irving said of another small town, "one of those out-of-the-way, but gossiping little places where a small matter makes a great stir."[20] The college library was right inside the front door of Irving Hall, the college's "old main." It is unlikely Campbell, puckish but sternly moral, would have misrepresented in print a fact so easily checked, as unlikely as a college named for Washington Irving not having a set of the man's works.

Although the psittacism of local historians does not prove anything, it is highly suggestive—a trout in the milk, to use Thoreau's image. So, I believe, with no more evidence for belief than doubters have for unbelief, that the books were there, venerated but perhaps dusty, until the college began to feel hard times in the late Twenties. To a college faced with financial difficulties, an autographed set of books by Washington Irving would have naturally, if painfully, been among the first of many treasures to "have passed from the possession of the institution."

The college's patrimony had to be sacrificed, but its spirit endures. As did its namesake, it "cherished the Federalist hope of an urbanity and excellence in the midst of democratic levelling."[21] Even now, as their numbers thin, the Irving girls repeat the legend of Irving's books, and nothing would have amused Washington Irving more than to see a romantic legend outlive its source.

Notes

A version of this paper was given before the Rotary Club, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, February 23, 1995.

1. See Saul Sack, *History of Higher Education in Pennsylvania,* (Harrisburg: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1963), II, 574-575; *cf.* Lenore Embick Flower, *Irving College* (Carlisle: Irving Alumnae Club, 1966), 3-4.

2. Charles Dudley Warner, *Washington Irving* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1881, 1909), 53.

3. See Washington Irving, "The Legend of the Engulfed Convent," in *The Works of Washington Irving* (New York: The Co-operative Publication Society, Inc., n.d.), IV, 523-528.

4. *Encyclopaedia Americana* (Philadelphia: Lea and Blanchard, 1831, 1849), XII, 462, 466.

5. Bayard Taylor, *Lands of the Saracen,* in *Prose Writings of Bayard Taylor* (New York: G. P. Putnam, 1862) VII, [iii].

6. Henry James Young, *Historical Account of the Goethean Literary Society of Franklin and Marshall College* (Lancaster: Franklin and Marshall College, 1941), 93, with a facsimile of Irving's letter of acceptance between pp. 48 and 49; "Letters of Interest," *The Dickinsonian* XXIV, (February, 1897), 210.

7. Irving, *op. cit.,* 238; see *History of Cumberland and Adams Counties, Pennsylvania* (Chicago: Warner, Beers and Co., 1886), 282; *cf.* Stanley T. Williams, *The Life of Washington Irving,* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1935), I, 97.

8. Allen Nevins, ed., *The Diary of Philip Hone, 1828-1851* (New York: Dodd, Mead and Co., 1936), 555.

9. *Ibid.,* 89-90.

10. William H. Prescott to Pascual de Gayangos, August 27, 1845, in Roger Wolcott, ed., *The Correspondence of William Hickling Prescott, 1833-1847* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1925), 551.

11. See Williams, *op. cit.,*II, 215-216.

12. Jeremiah Zeamer, *et al., Biographical Annals of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania* (Chicago: The Genealogical Publishing Co., 1905), 81.

13. Robert L. Brunhouse, *Miniatures of Mechanicsburg* (Mechanicsburg: J. A. Bushman Co., Inc., 1928), 85.

14. Jean Dodge Keet, "Irving College" in Norman D. Keefer, *et al., A History of Mechanicsburg and the Surrounding Area* (Mechanicsburg: Mechanicsburg Area Historical Committee, 1976), 83.

15. *Thirty-eighth Annual Catalogue of Irving College for Young Women* (Mechanicsburg: Irving College, 1892), 27; *cf. Forty-first Annual Catalogue of Irving College for Young Women* (Mechanicsburg: Irving College, 1895), 18.

16. *Forty-second Annual Catalogue of Irving College and Music Conservatory* (Mechanicsburg: Irving College, 1896), 7.

17. See *Biographical Annals,* 80-82; *cf.* Flower, *op. cit.,* 15-22, and "Dr. Campbell, Head of Irving College, Dies," *Evening Sentinel* (August 4, 1926). I am indebted also to the insights of Christine Metcalf, a generous scholar whose knowledge of Dr. Campbell and Irving College is encyclopaedic.

18. See Irving, *Works* XI, 589-598. See also Flower, *op. cit.,* 19-20.

19. "Annual Celebration of Washington Irving's Birthday, March 31, 1898," Irving College Collection, Mechanicsburg Area Public Library. It is fitting that Field, the American Horace, should be read at a celebration of the American Livy: William

H. Prescott, "Irving's Conquest of Granada," *Biographical and Critical Miscellanies* (New York: Harper and Bros., 1855), 108 praises Irving's *lactea ubertas,* the phrase used by Quintillian, *Institutes,* X.1.32, to describe the "creamy rich" prose of Livy.

20. Irving, *Bracebridge Hall,* 569. It is perhaps churlish to note that Campbell's second marriage, after the death of his first wife, to Grace Koser, an alumna of Irving sixteen years his junior, set Mechanicsburg tongues to wagging. The Campbells bore the talk bravely but left their church in Mechanicsburg and became members of Zion Lutheran Church, Harrisburg.

21. Henry Seidel Canby, "Irving the Federalist," *The Saturday Review of Literature* III.22 (December 25, 1926) 463.

GEN. TOM THUMB

This extraordinary personage will, we are happy to state, pay a visit to our Borough, on Monday next. He will exhibit, as will be seen by reference to the advertisement in another column, at the Odd Fellows' Hall, in the morning, afternoon and evening. To those who have never seen him we would say do not neglect the opportunity, for a sight of so uncommonly small a person, and the beautiful chariot drawn by two the smallest horses in the world is worth a dozen times the money it costs. The intense anxiety to see the "Little General," will undoubtedly draw large numbers to the place of exhibition, and particularly in the evening; we would therefore advise the ladies and children to attend in the morning and afternoon, in order to avoid the inconveniences of a crowded house.

(Shippensburg) *Weekly News,* January 25, 1849.

George B. Vashon, Educator, Writer, and Abolitionist: An Autobiographical Letter

Melissa J. Delbridge

An unusual letter from George Boyer Vashon (1824-1878), a noted African American attorney, educator, and poet, who was a native of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, was recently discovered in the Mary Wager Fisher Papers in the Special Collections Library at Duke University, Wager (as she then was)[1], an American journalist, was particularly active in the movement for education of freedmen. The letter, written in response to a request by Wager for biographical information, provides details of the education and accomplishments of an outstanding individual.

At the time he wrote this letter Vashon was assistant editor of *The New Era,* published weekly at Washington, which identified itself as "A National Journal, Edited by Colored Men." Frederick Douglass was a contributing editor.

Washington, D.C., April 9th, 1870

Miss Wager:

Circumstances have prevented me from complying with your request of a few days ago, until now that I have leisure to pen down the following notes, which, I trust, may prove acceptable.

Very respectfully yours,
GEORGE B. VASHON

George B. Vashon was born at Carlisle, Pa. 1824. Blessed with a father who was determined to secure to his only son, at whatever sacrifice, the benefits of education, he commenced his schoolboy days at the age of five years in Pittsburgh, to which

place his parents had removed. In 1840, he entered Oberlin College, and graduated as an A.B. four years thereafter. He then studied law under the direction of the Hon. Walter Forward, but as the Committee of the Pittsburgh bar declined to examine him, he concluded to leave his native country for Hayti. While at New York, however, he applied for admission to practice in the Supreme Court of that state, and was, after examination, duly admitted, Jan. 10th, 1848. The two years and a half following he spent at Port-au-Prince, Hayti, the latter portion of that time being Professor of Greek and English in the Collège Faustin, the principal educational establishment in Hayti. While there, he received from his Alma Mater his diploma as a Master of Arts.

Returning home in 1850, he settled first at Syracuse, N.Y., where he practised law for three years; and then went to McGrawville, having been appointed Professor of Ancient Languages and Belles Lettres at N.Y. Central College in that village. His connection with this institution closing in November, 1857, he returned to Pittsburgh, and took charge of the Colored Public Schools of that city. He resigned this charge in 1863, upon being appointed Principal of Avery College in Allegheny City. In 1867, he came on to Washington, D.C., where he has been engaged, first, as an assistant to the Solicitor's Office of the Freedmen's Bureau, then as a clerk in the Statistical Bureau of the Treasury Department, and lastly, as Assistant Editor of the New Era. During his residence in Washington, he has been admitted to practice as an attorney and counselor both in the Supreme Court of the United States and in that of the District of Columbia.

Although Mr. Vashon has never appeared in book form as an author, he has written considerably both in prose and verse. *Vincent Ogé*, his longest poem, founded upon an incident in Haytian history, was published in a work entitled *The Autographs for Freedom*, about 1854; and quite a number of his fugitive pieces, including translations from the French and German, have been given to the world through different magazines and newspapers. His prose efforts, published in the same manner, have consisted principally of reviews and essays upon scientific and literary subjects.

While employed as Principal of the Colored Schools in Pittsburgh, Mr. Vashon was married to his assistant teacher, Miss Susan Paul Smith, formerly of Boston, Mass. She, too, is a lady of decided literary tastes, and cordially co-operates with her husband in efforts to train up rightly the five promising children with which their union has been blessed, and their home circle made, indeed, a happy one.[2]

In 1874, four years after writing this letter, Vashon became a professor at Alcorn University in Rodney, Mississippi, where he died of yellow fever in 1878. He was buried on the campus of the institution.

Notes

1. Mary Wager (1845-1915), a graduate of Alfred University in New York, had gone to the South at the close of the Civil War to teach freedmen. By 1870 she was a practicing journalist in Washington and New York City, where, often under the pseudonym of "Minnie Mintwood," she wrote extensively on politics, women in medicine, education, and other current interests. In 1876 she was married to William Righter Fisher (1849-1932), a graduate of Dickinson College and professor of modern languages in that institution, 1874-1876. Fisher was admitted to the bar in 1876 and practiced law in Philadelphia.

2. Vashon did not mention that in 1838, at the age of 14, he was secretary of a juvenile anti-slavery society, the first of its kind in America; or that his degree from Oberlin was the first awarded to a black student. See the brief sketch of Vashon in Rayford W. Logan and Michael R. Winston, eds., *Dictionary of American Negro Biography* (New York, [1982]) and references cited there.

MR. PETICOLES,
Miniature Painter, from France,
Has arrived in this Town, and respectfully informs the public that he resides at Doctor Stinnock's, corner of York and Pomfret streets, where he intends to stay as long as he meets with encouragement in taking likenesses. Mr. Peticoles requires no payment, until his performance is acknowledged to be a good likeness.
Carlisle, June 13th.

Kline's Carlisle Weekly Gazette, July 6, 1796.

A Traveller in the County, 1809

Joshua Gilpin

Joshua Gilpin, a well-to-do merchant, manufacturer, and capitalist of Philadelphia and Delaware, travelled through Cumberland County from Chambersburg to Harrisburg in 1809 on his way home from a business and pleasure trip to western Pennsylvania. As was his custom on journeys of this kind, he made a record of observations and events. Although not notably different in content from those of other travellers on the same road at the same time, its relevant portion is nonetheless worth reprinting as a source of information about the county at the beginning of the nineteenth century.

Joshua Gilpin (1765-1840) was the eldest son of Thomas Gilpin of Philadelphia, a prosperous merchant, mill owner, and early advocate of internal improvements, who was one of a number of Quaker pacifists who were arrested and sent to Virginia in 1777 for refusing to take an oath in violation of their religious principles.[1] At the age of 19 Joshua took charge of the family's business and in 1787 extended it by erecting a paper mill on the Brandywine Creek in Delaware.[2] He continued to oversee the Gilpins' affairs until 1795, when his younger brother, Thomas, Jr., joined him. Leaving Thomas in charge, Joshua went abroad, where he spent six years living and travelling in England and on the Continent. His time there was put to good use. He visited museums, viewed antiquities, and made a collection of minerals. Visiting the Fountain of Vaucluse, associated with Petrarch and Laura, he was inspired to poetry.[3] He studied mining in Cornwall, iron manufacture at Colebrookdale, agriculture and viniculture in southern France, and made sketches of the industrial processes he saw. Understandably he was particularly interested in European paper-making. As an advocate, like his father, of a Delaware-Chesapeake canal, he also took a special interest in British canal building. He visited Mathew Boulton's Soho Works and talked with the proprietor; and he met and became friendly with such prominent Americans as the artist

Benjamin West and the inventor Robert Fulton, with Richard Penn, who had been the last Proprietor of Pennsylvania, with Count Rumford in Bavaria, and with the Baron de Montesquieu, grandson of the philosopher, who had fled revolutionary France and was living in quiet retirement in England. In England, too, in 1800 he met and married Mary Dilworth, daughter of a Lancashire banker and like himself a member of an old Quaker family. He returned in 1801 to Philadelphia, where he resumed his career in business and took up again the project of a Chesapeake-Delaware canal.[4]

With his family he visited Europe again in 1811-15. There he paid particular attention to English paper-making machinery, and from the observations and sketches that he made, his brother Thomas in 1817 constructed a machine for making paper over a wire roll in one endless sheet. The new process revolutionized paper-making, and after their mill suffered damage and destruction from flood and fire in the 1820s even the Gilpins stopped manufacturing handmade paper. The Gilpin mill survived the Panic of 1819, but was not remarkably successful. In 1837 it was closed.

Meanwhile, in 1809, with his wife and eight year-old son, Henry, Joshua Gilpin had travelled to western Pennsylvania, principally to look to the surveying of the family's extensive landholdings, but partly on vacation. The family began the return journey from Pittsburgh through Indiana County on October 1. They left Chambersburg for Carlisle on the morning of October 16. Riding in their own coach and attended by a servant, the Gilpins travelled as comfortably as was possible in that day and place. The journal records what they saw, expected, and received on the way.

The following excerpt is taken from pages 138-43 of *Pleasure and Business in Western Pennsylvania: The Journal of Joshua Gilpin, 1809,* edited by Joseph E. Walker and published in 1975 by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, by whose permission it is reprinted here. Gilpin's text, carefully rendered by Mr. Walker, has been made easier to read and understand by capitalizing the first words of sentences and inserting some commas and other marks of punctuation.

Octr. 16. We had to settle our accounts, arrange our baggage, overlook our carriage, & at once to settle for the past & provide for the future journey. Our anxiety to get home however induced us to dispatch these in a small time & we were on the road by a little after 9 OClock.

Our course now was thro the fine valley I have already mentioned,

extending between the North & South mountain for a long distance thro the continent in a NE & SW direction. The two mountains are perhaps 20 miles apart, & hold a course nearly parrallel varying the space between by occasional indentations; of this space a part on both sides is occupied by the small ridges or spurrs of each mountain, often forming rugged and in some places indifferent land, leaving the space between or middle of the valley like a large river expanding at some times & contracted at others but of a uniform rich yellow, loamy soil not altogether level but interspersed with small eminences or rather fine undulations of [the] surface crossed diagonally with veins of dark blue limestone often forming hard knotty points. Thro this space the road pursuing a course tolerably straight meets, now & then, the hills on each side & comes in contact with their spurrs or projections.

From Chambersburg to Shippensburg—10 miles—the road is altogether thro the fine lands of the Valley of the soil I have described, & accompanied almost every where by fine farms. The road itself [is] very good. Shippensburg, where we halted to dine at 10 miles from Chambersburg, is a neat little town of abt. 100 houses. It was founded in [1733] and named after the family who were originally Quakers that came in with William Penn and held many important offices in the government. From hence a road strikes off westward to Strasburg & enters the mountains uniting with that from Chambersburg on the top of the Sideling hill; tis said this is the nearest road of the two.

From Shippensburg we pursued our journey towards Carlisle. There are two roads here, one by Mount rock, the other considerably to the right by what is called the Walnut bottom. We chose the latter, which from its course evidently brought us in 3 or 4 miles very near the South mountain whose incurvations also are here considerably westward. On this account tho the road was level we were carried into very meagre land abounding in pines. The South mountain however soon trends away to the eastward so that our road again runs over finer land than we had seen in the Valley; it is what is called Walnut land from being originally chiefly covered with that tree which is ever an indication of soil of the richest quality. We found accordingly delightful meadows & fine upland of the most beautiful undulating form, & the small knobs of limestone rock which appear here and there being left in wood, the country is as beautifully grouped as the finest Parks. We looked particularly at several and agreed that if a good house had [been] placed among the large & undulating fields & the fences taken away, they would have been equally beautiful as some of the finest planted seats in England.

It began to rain very fast. One of our horses was very dull from being left at Chambersburg where he had grown very fat; the other

was rather exhausted by travelling with us. We found therefore that it would not do to push them, so that instead of reaching Carlisle we stopped at an Inn 7 miles short of it, at a large stone house very comfortably kept by Mr. Moore[5]—our journey 25 miles.

Octr. 17th. We left Moores tavern at 6 OClock wishing to make a push for this days ride. We were however disappointed. It had continued a mizzling rain thro the night, never very hard but it had filled the road and made them very deep & bad, the rich soil of this country soon forming bad roads. Abt. 2 miles from Carlisle we broke down, one of our hind wheels coming off injured the end of our wooden axle tree. Mary & Henry walked forward & abt. 200 yards, found an inn, very dirty & indifferent kept by one Hunter. Finding nothing could be done on the road, with the assistance of our servant I moved the carriage out of the road to the side of a wood, & mounting one of our horses, with my driving coat for a saddle I came on & found Mary & Henry at the Inn. We then mustered up one or two hands & went back—but finding nothing could be done, I went back to the Inn where borrowing a side saddle for Mary & a saddle for myself we proceeded on to Carlisle rather in doleful plight. We reached Forsters Inn[7] & soon mustered up a carriage maker who we sent back with the two horses & sat ourselves down to breakfast sufficiently prepared for it by the cold & fatigue of the morning. About 12 OClock our carriage, with Henry, the Servant, and carriage maker all returned, & a new axle tree is unanimously voted as necessary which will take us till noon tomorrow. The expedition of our journey is therefore converted into leisure for seeing this town.

The approach to Carlisle is very handsome abt. $1^{1/2}$ miles from it we have a fine view of it seated in the middle of this fine valley & the houses are extended on all sides so as to give it a more important appearance even than it merits. The College stands on a fine elevated eminence at some distance from the town & adds greatly to its importance. It was founded in [1783] and called Dickinson College, from John Dickinson of Wilmington, then Governor of Pennsylvania, who was one of its principal Donors. Soon after its establishment the Revd. Docr. [Charles] Nesbitt was invited from Scotland to preside over it, which he did to his death in [1804]. and then Dr. [Jeremiah} Attwater from Vermont has been elected. In [1803] it was burnt down & has been since rebuilt from a design of Mr. Latrobes.[8] I am told it contains 60 or 70 students & has a good library & apparatus.

Carlisle is a larger town than any we have seen except Lancaster & Pittsburgh; it was founded in [1751] & now contains abt. [ ] houses & [1159 in 1810] inhabitants. It is the seat of Justice for [Cumberland] County.

Octo. 18th. Last evening there supped with us a Mr. Ege,[9] a German who is largely concerned in Iron works in this county—I think in 3 furnaces. They are all on the side or near the foot of the South mountain. They are worked with charcoal; the ore is a stone & yields abt. 40 per cent [of iron]. The iron brings $100 per ton in castings, the profit abt. $15 per ton. The vein of iron ore does not seem to be thick—there is no bog ore in this vale nor any coal.

We walked to see Carlisle or rather Dickinson College—just outside the town having 8 acres of ground allotted to it. The building is of stone, nothing remarkable for any architectural beauty. Latrobe has given the front door or entrance and the windows of the lower story some little symptom of difference from the general monotony of such buildings in the UStates, but as he had the old foundations to work upon and I doubt not the fears of expense in the Directors, he could do but little. Inside the floors are laid & a few of the rooms plaistered but all the principal rooms, staircaises &ca are unfinished which will probably be the case until the rest is rotten—this being the usual fate of such undertakings here, the funds at first collected being generally spent in erecting a large shell which is never finished. It was now vacation; of course we could see little even of what was to be seen in general; the library was locked up. None of the scholars lodge in the house, the rooms not being finished; in fact the system for education seems as yet to be but poorly filled up.

The situation of Carlisle is level for a hilly country & that country expands itself finely around. The two ends of the street in which we lodge closes with views of the north & south mountain—the former much the nearest, apparently not more than 3 or 4 miles—the latter 6 or 8 , the vale here being 10 to 12 miles in width.

Our carriage was finished by 2 OClock and after dinner we left Carlisle continuing thro the same vale. The South mountain continues 3 or 4 miles to our right and the north perhaps double the distance. Of two roads which run to Harrisburgh we took that called Trimmels or Trimbels [Trindle] road as the most level. Notwithstanding the rain it was a very good road except small hills with veins of limestone which run across it & forms knotty points or knobs to ascend; the country beautifully cultivated in fine farms & those points or knobs of limestone being scattered over the face and left in clumps of wood diversify it beautifully. The farm houses and barns are excellent being generally large brick or stone buildings. 6 or 7 miles from Carlisle it becomes more level, the points of limestone more rare & the soil more rich; indeed it is by far the finest part of the vale and one of the richest & finest countries I ever saw, meadows of great expanse being most agreeably mixed with fine corn land, & beautifully

wooded. Several roads cross the one we travel leading to different ferries on the river.

The day was uncommonly fine, the sky without a cloud, & the air most agreeably cool. We reached the Susquehanna just about sunset and crossed it with the warm red sky of the evening shed over the scenery. The ferry is a business of great bustle, a vast number of Waggons continually crossing with horsemen cattle &ca. They generally take over 4 waggons in a boat but we prevailed on them to let us have a boat alone. It is pushed by 6 men with poles pointed with iron. The river is one beautiful sheet of water 1 mile wide, but in the middle are several Islands finely tufted with wood. The north mountain crosses the river or rather its ridge comes immediately to it & leaving a gap for the passage of the river immediately recommences on the east side & on both holds the entire uniformity of a high regular ridge abt. 6 or 8 miles above us. The south mountain crosses in the same manner but softens off towards the river being considerably less elevated and on the eastern shore it appears more in a continuation of broken hills than in an even ridge. Here it takes the name of the Conewago hills from a creek of that name running on its southern side—as the Sweetara [Swatara] another Creek does on its northern.

We were half an hour crossing the ferry. The whole river is now fordable from the lowness of the water, but the bottom is rocky & uneven, so that it is by no means agreeable. Near the western shore & for one ¼ the distance across it is so low that the boats have not water to pass without throwing up an artificial damb or mound of rude stones which raises the water above a few inches & occasions a considerable ripple which frightened MG [Mary] who did not know the nature of it & especially in the evening. However we soon found the boatmen so expert that all our fears vanished & we reached a good Inn kept by Mr. Berryhill in the center of Harrisburg.[10] I sent soon afterwards for Joshua Elder Esqr. who was formerly a Surveyor & surveyed part of our Indiana lands, but is now Prothonotary of this County (Dauphine). He came & sat the evening with us.

Octor. 19th. We rose early & before we sat out took a ride along the bank of the river & to see the town which has improved the most rapidly of almost [any] one in the UStates. The family of Harris were the original settlers of a large tract of land here & the ferry was always of consequence but the town was not laid out until 1785, & the houses have been built within 21 years. It is now one of the largest in the state & contains 400 houses—most of them very good & some of them elegant. It stands on a fine plain elevated above the river, so as to be secure from all its freshes. The street along the river is very beautiful being 200 feet wide, & one side only built; the remainder left

open for a Quay, which is full of lumber & other productions of the Susquehanna. It is however not so much a depot as Columbia, the latter being on[ly] 73 miles from Philada. & Harrisburg 100, so that wheat, flour &ca go chiefly to Columbia notwithstanding the rapids in the river. The main street of Harrisburg runs parrallel with the river but at some distance from it. It is better laid out than most of the towns we have seen having a long parrallelogram, or if I may so term it, square in the center 5 or 600 feet long & 300 wide in the middle of which is a large markett house. It was incorporated in [1791], and has a Court house, Jail & several other public building being the seat of Justice of Dauphine County—so named after the last Dauphine of France.

We left Harrisburg abt. 8 & pursued our journey thro the same vale towards Reading–the South Mountain now called the Conewago hills on our right & the North mountain now called the Blue Ridge or Mountain on our left.

Notes

1. Henry Simpson, *The Lives of Eminent Philadelphians, now Deceased* (Philadelphia, 1859), 400-09.
2. Harold B. Hancock and Norman B. Wilkinson, "The Gilpins and Their Endless Paper Making Machine," *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography,* LXXXI (1957), 391-405.
3. *Verses written at the Fountain of Vaucluse, in May 1798* (London, 1799).
4. Gilpin, *A Memoir on the Rise, Progress, and Present State of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal* (Wilmington, Del., 1821).
5. James Moore's tavern ("Cumberland Hall"), seven miles west of Carlisle on the Walnut Bottom Road, at modern Mooredale, is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred D. Oyler. Merri Lou Schaumann, *Taverns of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, 1750-1840* ([Carlisle, 1994]), 168-70.
6. John Hunter's "Sign of the Mermaid" on the Walnut Bottom Road was operated after 1805 by Robert Armstrong. Schaumann, *Taverns,* 164.
7. Thomas Foster's tavern, "The Sorrel Horse," was described in 1794 as "fashionable" and "really very comfortable." Schaumann, *Taverns,* 49-50.
8. Benjamin Henry Latrobe, born in England, was one of the most successful and influential engineers and architects in the United States from his arrival here in 1796 until his death in 1820. Paul F. Norton, "Latrobe and Old West at Dickinson College," *Art Bulletin,* XXXIII (1951), 125-32; Edward C. Carter II and others, eds., *Latrobe's View of America, 1795-1820* (New Haven, 1985), 314-15.
9. Michael Ege owned several iron furnaces in Cumberland County. Arthur C. Bining, *Pennsylvania Iron Manufacture in the Eighteenth Century* (Harrisburg, 1938).
10. Alexander and Samuel Berryhill were listed among the citizens of Harrisburg who took measures to prevent the spread of yellow fever through the town in 1795. Walker, *Pleasure and Business,* 142n.

What's In A Name? Milltown/Eberly's Mills

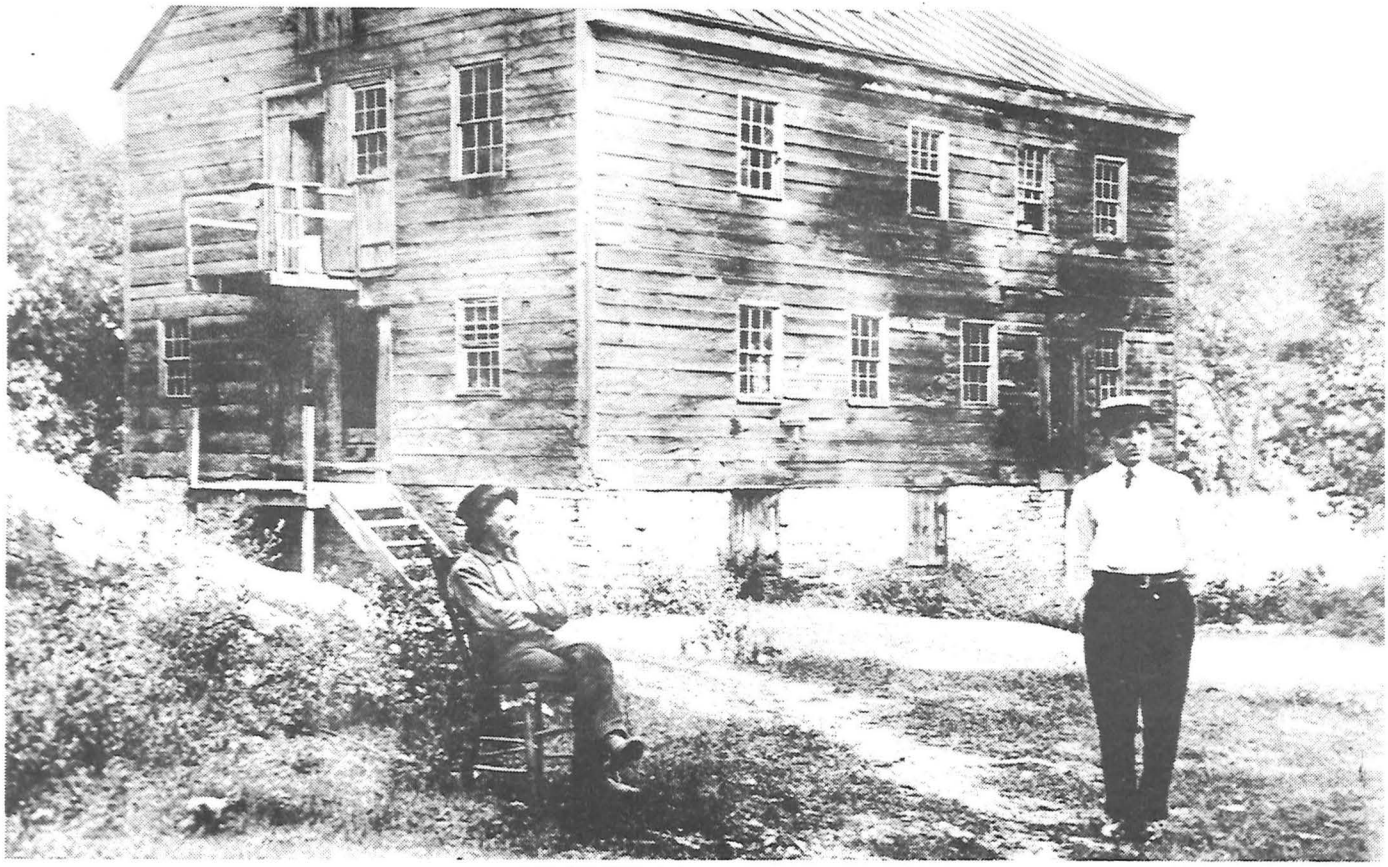
Robert D. Rowland

This village is located on Cedar Run in Lower Allen Township approximately 500 feet upstream from its confluence with the Yellow Breeches Creek. The topographic features of this site created the first interest in the area. Located in a dell cut by Cedar Run, which falls rapidly to the level of the Yellow Breeches, it offered an ideal source of water power for the operation of the early mills. In addition, there was a large spring adjacent to Cedar Run that was used by the early residents to draw their water and was reportedly also used to power one of the mills. Because of this availability of water power the area was identified as the potential site for a mill long before the subdivision of Lowther Manor in 1767.

The potential of the area was first recognized in 1736 by Benjamin Chambers (who settled at Falling Springs), who requested a tract of land for a plantation from the Proprietor, who was then visiting in Pextan. It was to be located on the west side of the Susquehanna River opposite Pextan within the tract (Lowther Manor) reserved for the Proprietor's use; in that tract Chambers desired to build a corn mill on the run of water called Cedar Spring. In his application Chambers indicated that he was a millwright. Although the Proprietor initially ordered the Secretary of the Land Office to record Chambers' application, the process was not completed and no grant was made. Obviously, the Proprietor's previous pledge of Lowther Manor to the Indians was a reason that prevented the transfer. The Pennsylvania colonial records indicate that Benjamin Chambers continued to pursue his claim for many years.

The first draft for the subdivision of the Manor of Lowther, dated January 1765, indicated a mill site on Cedar Run. It is interesting to note that the revised plan of 1767, which became the official plan, does not include this notation.

In 1767 Edward Ward, who is well known for his activities in the



DANIEL DRAWBAUGH'S SHOP, Eberly's Mills

This mill building on the Yellow Breeches Creek, called "the old curiosity shop," was the site of many of Drawbaugh's inventions, 1868-1911. (Collections of Cumberland County Historical Society)

militia and was involved in the campaign against Fort Duquesne, purchased from the Proprietors Tract No. 11, which had been part of Lowther Manor. In the following year he was taxed for one saw mill, and in the second year of his occupancy was taxed for a saw mill and a grist mill. In addition to these first two mills the village later contained an oil mill, a clover mill, and several manufacturing shops. Today Eberly's Mills is the location of Hempt Brothers, a major quarry, and several small industries.

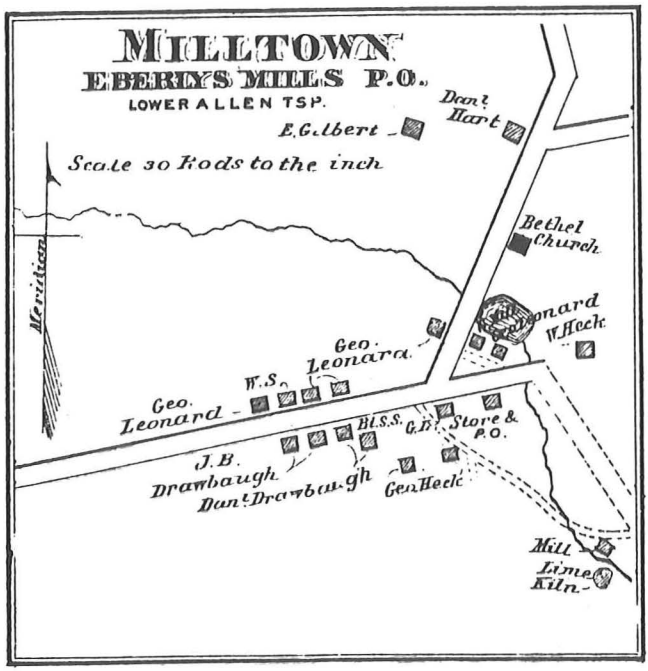
In the mid-1840s Christian Eberly settled in Milltown, where he later purchased one of the mills. Eberly's influence in the little community grew with his purchase of additional houses in the area; he became a significant landlord. In the 1850s he was instrumental in having a post office established in the village. The post office bears his name; thereafter the village was identified on township maps as Milltown/Eberly's Mills /P.O. In 1879 the village consisted of 15 houses and 83 inhabitants, a church (Church of God, 1842), store, blacksmith, shoe shop, and machine shop.

The machine shop was Daniel Drawbaugh's. Known as "the wizard of Eberly Mills" and called in our own day "the Edison of the Cumberland Valley," Drawbaugh (1827-1911) was, in his own words, a "practical machinist," who in a career of more than sixty years as an inventor received more than 70 patents, for articles and machines ranging from an electric clock to a coin-sorting machine. Christian Eberly gave Drawbaugh needed help and capital, providing tools, a work space, and encouragement; he was one of the investors in the Drawbaugh Pump Company, which became the Drawbaugh Manufacturing Company, one of the inventor's enterprises.

The telephone was one of Drawbaugh's inventions; it was made and first tested in Eberly's Mills. Whether Drawbaugh or Alexander Graham Bell was the prior inventor has been a question, especially among Drawbaugh, his family, friends, and associates; a practical answer was given by the United States Supreme Court in 1888 in a decision in favor of the American Bell Telephone Company, which had sued Drawbaugh's People's Telephone Company over several years. Warren J. Harder's book on Drawbaugh (1960) is a fascinating account of the inventor, with a reprinting of much of the evidence and testimony in the legal case of American Bell vs. People's Telephone Co.

Rich Hill, an area south of the village, which has now been partly removed by the Hempt quarries, was the reported site of Indian villages and an Indian burial ground. After Hempt Brothers purchased the Rich Hill area in 1924, twelve or more cottages were constructed at the foot of the Hill along the Yellow Breeches Creek. The cottages were occupied by Harrisburgers, who would take the trolley to the

White Hill stop and then walk south on 18th Street approximately half a mile to Eberly's Mills. The vacationers had the use of a ball field that was home for the Eberly's Mills team; and there was also a dance pavilion that served as a summer community church. The cottages were removed in the mid-1940s.



Reproduced from *Atlas of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania* (New York: F. W. Beers & Co., 1872).

Sources

I. Daniel Rupp, *The History and Topography of Dauphin, Cumberland, Franklin, Bedford, Adams, and Perry Counties* (Lancaster, 1846).
Robert G. Crist, *Camp Hill, A History* (Camp Hill, 1984).
Warren J. Harder, *Daniel Drawbaugh: The Edison of the Cumberland Valley* (Philadelphia, 1960).
Conway P. Wing, *History of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia, 1879).
Pennsylvania Archives, 3rd series.
Aerial Photographs, 1937, National Archives.
Cumberland County Tax Records.

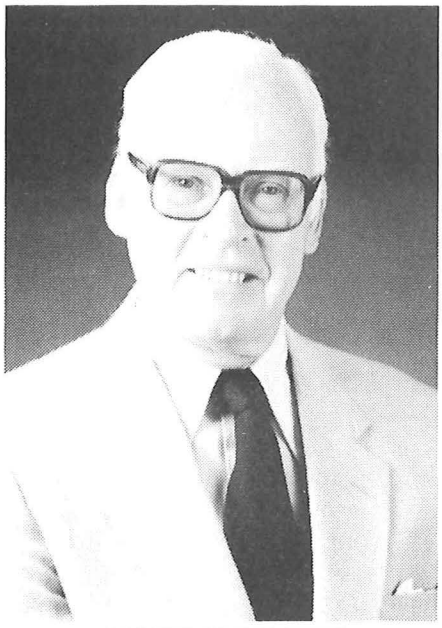
Robert Grant Crist, Historian: A Memoir for the Record

Mark J. LaFaver

Robert Grant Crist was known to many different people in many different ways: he was a husband, father, friend, colleague, and professor. Everyone, however, no matter how they knew him, knew him as Bob Crist, historian—an appellation with which I feel sure he would have been fully satisfied, and the one most familiar to the readers of this publication.

Perhaps many others could have done better justice to Bob Crist than I. Although he was a friend of my parents, I came to know him best when I was a history graduate student in his class at Penn State Capitol Campus. Of all people who ever majored in history in college or graduate school I must be the one who was least interested in writing for publication. Professor Crist, however, encouraged me to do research that resulted in a paper about the late Pennsylvania State Senator George N. Wade, which was eventually published in this journal. He was anxious to have this project proceed while many of the Senator's friends and colleagues were still available for consultation—that is, before the primary sources were gone.

Dr. Crist had an ongoing concern for the preservation of local history, and for recruiting people to do historical research for purpose of publication (notwithstanding their reluctance). He was always conscious of the uncertain availability of human source material, which stemmed from his first local historical research project: a paper about Robert Whitehill, colonial statesman. Whitehill was one of the prominent but little known political figures in the early years of this nation's history. This lack of recognition was in part due to the fact that Whitehill's activity occurred in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, which was at that time (and is still to some Philadelphians) perceived as a remote, unknown, and therefore unimportant, region. The diffi-



ROBERT GRANT CRIST
1924-1995

culty in obtaining source material for that project would have a lasting effect on Crist's views about historical research in the future.

Bob Crist had not always been headed for a career as a historian. When a student at Dickinson College during World War II, he was drafted into the United States Army, assigned to the intelligence corps, and sent to the University of Pennsylvania to study German language. By some quirk of army reasoning he was subsequently sent to the Pacific to serve on the staff of General Douglas MacArthur. After the war he returned to Dickinson, where he completed his college course work not in history but, in light of his army training, in German. His interest in history, was, however, not diminished, and he continued his research, writing and publishing material on local history for the remainder of his life.

When, in middle age, after a career in public relations he applied for admission as a graduate student in history at Penn State, there was some reluctance to admit this fellow with an undergraduate degree in German. When he submitted evidence of all the research he had done (by this time he had written and published about a dozen local history monographs) he was accepted into the history department on a probationary status. He proved to be more than worthy as a student, and eventually earned his Ph.D. in 1981 and later a place on the Penn State Capitol Campus faculty, where I became acquainted with him.

As an undergraduate I had focused on history—but that of England and Europe. I remember being very impressed with the knowledge this American history professor had about English history as it related to colonial Pennsylvania history. I recall that in class he rarely used books or notes, and preferred to discuss most of the material from memory. He appeared to have visited every historical site which he considered. I learned that whenever he traveled he made it a point to make side trips to any historically significant locations near where he happened to be. His teaching style centered on inspiring students

to do original research, rather than on testing textbook knowledge for grades. I especially remember his incredible dry wit and his sense of humor. He often made vague historical references to matters which were over the heads of most of us, but were very funny to those who "got it."

At all times within memory he was acknowledged as *the* eminent Cumberland County historian. Many writers sought his counsel and advice. Robert Fowler, a prominent publisher and author of historical novels, frequently had Bob read and comment upon his manuscripts before submitting them for publication. He was involved in almost every state and local historical society, but was best known for his untiring work for and support of the Cumberland County Historical Society, which he served as director and president. He was the father and editor of this journal. Some say that he *was* this journal. Pretty much single handedly he produced the Cumberland County Historical Society's principal publication. He contributed his own writing, solicited articles from others and edited them, and persuaded local artists to do art work for the journal covers. Many of the most important monographs which have appeared in these pages were written by Bob Crist.

It should be noted that Bob Crist's work as an historian was not primarily fueled by his membership in any organization. He had a profound interest in the search for and sharing of all historical knowledge, especially the preservation for posterity of the memories and recollections of local people. This, to him, was an end worthy in and of itself. Because of his writing and the writing he inspired, we have access to facts and faces which would otherwise be forgotten. Whenever we in Cumberland County consider our local history we cannot help but remember and be grateful to Bob Crist, the historian, even now when that very special primary source is gone.

Published writings of Robert Grant Crist

1957 *The Land in Cumberland Called Lowther.* 39 pp.
1957 *A Guide to Graduate Study,* for Ford Foundation and Association of American Colleges, with F. W. Ness, 335 pp.
1958 *Robert Whitehill and the Struggle for Civil Rights.* 46 pp.
1960 *Captain William Hendricks and the March to Quebec.* 32 pp.
1963 *Confederate Invasion of the West Shore, 1863.* 44 pp.
"Highwater 1863" in *Pennsylvania History,* XXX, 158-83.
1964 *George Croghan of Pennsboro.* 31 pp.
1966 *Peace Church.* 24 pp.

1969 *Manor on the Market: A History of Conveyancing.* 28 pp.
1973 *"Certain Agitation." Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Camp Hill. A History of Church and Town.* 32 pp.
Harrisburg Hospital: The First 100 Years. 79 pp.
1974 *She Will Do Honor,* edited and co-author. 58 pp.
1976 *Trails of Faith: Histories of Religious Groups in Cumberland and Dauphin Counties,* editor and co-author. 122 pp.
1979 *The First Century,* editor and co-author. 256 pp.
1985 *Camp Hill: A History. 188 pp.*
1985 *Atlas of Dauphin County,* revised history of county.
Pennsylvania Kingmakers, editor. 72 pp.
1986 *Pennsylvania Religious Leaders,* editor. 104 pp.
Founding Fathers, with Leonard Baskin posters.
1987 *Penn's Example to the Nations: 300 Years of the Holy Experiment,* editor and co-author. 266 pp., in collaboration with Cardinal Krol and the Pennsylvania Council of Churches.
Pennsylvania and the Federal Constitution, co-author and editor. 82 pp.
1993 *Lower Allen Township: A History,* with Christine Myers Crist. 154 pp.
1985-1995 Editor, *Cumberland County History.*

"John Armstrong: Proprietors' Man." Ph.D. dissertation, Pennsylvania State University, 1981.

Articles in *Pennsylvania Heritage, American History Illustrated, Pennsylvania Portfolio,* and *Cumberland County History;* articles prepared for Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and Pennsylvania Department of Welfare; sketches written for the forthcoming *American National Biography* (Oxford University Press).

Book Reviews

Cloth and Costume, 1750 to 1800: Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. Cumberland County Historical Society, 1995. $34.95 plus tax.

By Tandy and Charles Hersh. Illustrated; cloth. Carlisle:

With their customary meticulous scholarship Tandy and Charles Hersh have researched textile and costume to present a richly detailed study of the people who settled in Cumberland County. A vivid picture emerges through their analysis of 1,220 estate inventories, wills, tax lists, indictments, and an impressive array of other county records and resources. Eighteenth-century Cumberland County, with 33 widespread townships and three towns, offers exceptional opportunity for study of the structure of life on what was then considered a frontier. The authors observe that "people living in a community offering 138 types of cloth were very much a part of the world of fashion. Households and costumes were not limited by a lack of choice of the world's fabrics."

The complex subject of textile/costume has been arranged into chapters that include fiber and yarn production, local cloth, commercial textiles, household textiles, men's and women's clothing and accessories, and an intriguing chapter on supporting trades, highlighting the many skilled craftspeople and artisans in the county—hatters, blue dyers, bleachers, silversmiths, leather breeches-makers, peddlers, haulers and innumerable others.

Analysis of data provides a glimpse into the lives of a vibrant and diverse populace, as we observe intimate household details and daily activities of an extremely mobile and lively group. One can nearly feel the energy of Susannah Thomson, a Carlisle merchant who traveled to Philadelphia to trade and conduct business, and of peddlers like Hugh Rippey and William McConnel, who transported goods to the farthest reaches of the county.

Day-to-day life is revealed through examination of household inventories and store accounts. Implements and objects of simple farm life may be contrasted with those of more fashionable households. The array of clothing and fabric available to this "frontier" area is quite surprising. This is seen in Mrs. Charles Stewart's elegant and generous wardrobe. Her inventory of 1784 includes a "flowered worsted damask gown . . . black calimanco quilted petticoat . . . aprons: striped muslin, flowered gauze, plain muslin, cambric, lawn, white linen. . . ."

Threads or fibers fabricated into utilitarian or decorative forms remained a common denominator and an essential ingredient of Cumberland County life.

Appendices list over 100 named varieties of cloth found in inventories or stores.

Cloth and Costume. 1750-1850 is the fourth book in the "County Heritage Series" published by the Society to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the county. This exciting and important publication adds a new dimension to the study of the material culture of eighteenth century Cumberland County and to the central Pennsylvania region in general, which has not been fully explored in terms of textile and costume.

The authors have drawn extensively from area museum collections and private collectors for objects to serve as illustrations. (These include Philadelphia Museum of Art, Dickinson College, Fort Hunter Mansion, Heritage Center Museum, Landis Valley Museum, U.S. Army Military History Institute, State Museum of Pennsylvania, Chester County Historical Society and Smithsonian Institution.)

This carefully researched study is a significant and welcome addition to the existing body of work on eighteenth century textile and costume, though its appeal is by no means limited to the textile scholar.

It is hoped that documented eighteenth century garments or textiles from the Cumberland Valley might surface as a result of this study.

Shippensburg University Fashion Archives Gail M. Getz

Pages of History: Essays on Cumberland County, Pennsylvania.
Carlisle: The New Loudon Press, 97 pp. $9.95.

This relatively short volume consists of a highly personalized preface and six chapters dealing with various aspects of the history and development of our county from the mid-eighteenth century until 1931. The author provides a well-written narrative, sprinkled with delightful anecdotes and tantalizing pieces from his wide reading and learning. An excellent example of his classical knowledge is reflected in the citation of a quote from Juvenal to reflect on the fact that the narrative ends in 1931. Mr. Heisey observes that "this side of the horizon" should be a focus of local history, but with wit he escapes the implication by quoting the Roman satirist, who wrote that "it saves a lot of bother to write only of men now in the cemeteries along the roadside."

One of the most successful elements in these essays is the linking of local events to larger trends in national history. In his treatment of the appearance in Mechanicsburg of the noted public speaker and politician, William Jennings Bryan, he not only reminds us of the special role of oratory before radio and television (it was for entertainment), but connects it with the values of small-town America confronting change in 1903. The author describes Colonel Bryan speaking for two hours criticizing the moral blindness reflected in our involvement in the Philippines—the first in a long line of overseas ventures that would take Cumberland County citizens all around the globe. In passing, the reviewer wishes to note a surprising gap in the author's impressive grasp of American history. He repeats the myth that Lincoln's Gettysburg Address was given "little notice." Granted that after two hours of splendid oratory by Edward Everett, the two–plus minutes speech of the President seemed too brief, but we know that many (including Everett) recognized it for what it is—a masterpiece.

There is much more in this little book. We read of the struggle between Benjamin Rush and John Dickinson for the intellectual soul of the new college in Carlisle, and gain a rewarding portrait of Charles Nisbet, first president of the frontier institution.

The final essay is the revealing story of one of the elite families of Cumberland County. The story of Judge Sylvester Sadler is used to illustrate an important piece of social history. The author builds on the memory of his grandmother telling him that "there were Sadlers and Boslers and then everybody else."

Dickinson College James W. Carson

Recent Publications and Acquisitions

American Indian Sports Heritage. Joseph B. Oxendine, 1995. 334 pp; paper. $16.95. University of Nebraska Press, 312 North 14th Street, Lincoln, NE. 68588-0484. Phone (402) 472-3584.

At a Place Called the Boiling Springs. Richard L. Tritt and Randy Watts, eds., 1995. 247 pp; hard cover. $35. The Boiling Springs Sesquicentennial Publications Committee. Available at Cumberland County Historical Society.

Atlas of the North American Indian. Carl Waldman, 1985. 276 pp; paper. $17.95. Facts on File, 460 Park Avenue South, New York, NY. 10016. Phone: (800) 322-8755.

Cloth and Costume, 1750 to 1800. (County Heritage Series). Tandy and Charles Hersh, 1995. 211 pp; hard cover. $34.95. Cumberland County Historical Society.

500 Nations. Alvin M. Josephy, Jr., 1994. 468 pp; hard cover. $50 Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New York.

Guide to the Mortgages of the General Loan Office of the Province of Pennsylvania, 1724-1756. James M. Duffin, 1995. 142 pp; paper. $21.53. (non-member of Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania resident outside Philadelphia city limits). Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA. 19107-5699. Phone: (215) 545-0391.

Pewter in Pennsylvania German Churches. Donald M. Herr, 1995. 214 pp; hard cover. The Pennsylvania German Society, P.O. Box 397, Birdsboro, PA. 19508. Phone: (215) 582-1441.

The Reservations (The American Indians Series). The Editors of Time-Life Books, 1995. 192 pp; hard cover. $18.95. Reader Information, Time-Life Customer Service, P.O. Box C-32068, Richmond, VA. 23261-2068. Phone (800) 621-7026.

Views and Viewmakers of Urban America. John W. Reps, 1984. 570 pp; hard cover. $89.50. University of Missouri Press, P.O. Box 7088, Columbia, MO. 65205-7088.

County Will Inventory Project

In 1994 the Cumberland County Historical Society acquired over 15,000 estate inventories from the county offices. Dating from the early founding of the county through the nineteenth century, these inventories hold a wealth of local history. Documenting all material items left by a person after death and its assessed value, the inventories are helpful in many different types of research. Upon close study an individual can learn a great deal about the status, life style and the standard of living of a specific family. These inventories also reveal information concerning the economic and social conditions of entire communities when studied as a whole. An analysis of the records over a period of time can trace the transformation from settlement to a sophisticated society, revealing the material culture, changing social customs and habits, and the evolution of industry and technology. These inventories are an exciting addition to the Hamilton Library collection!

Many steps are involved in the process of moving these important records to the Hamilton Library. To begin with, each inventory is unfolded and placed in an acid-free folder. An index is also being created to make the records accessible to researchers. The inventories are filed by the first letter of the surname and the number previously assigned by the county to each inventory. The records will then be microfilmed to insure longevity of the documents. Many thanks to Dr. Paul Noyes, who has volunteered his time and energy to transport the inventories from the Court House to the Library, as well as to create the index which accompanies them.

Patrons have already begun to use these records in their conserved state. Many have remarked on the amount of information to be gained from the documents. The Society has received a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to assist in the expense of this project.

Cumberland County Historical Society — Christa Bassett

Additions and Corrections

Readers of the *Journal* sometimes respond to particular articles with additional information or corrections. When these are relevant and not argumentative or confrontational, the essence of them may be presented here.

Fort Loudon Revisited. (*Journal,* XII, 3-11). Matthew Patton and his wife Elizabeth had six sons and one daughter. Their son Robert Patton married Sarah McCullough (1782-April 4, 1834), who was the daughter of John McCulloch (b. 1740), who migrated from Northern Ireland to Mifflin Township and later settled near Newville, Pa. John McCulloch married Elizabeth Huston on June 8, 1761. Another of their daughters, Elizabeth, married on November 27, 1794, Robert McCormick, brother of William McCormick, the inventory of whose estate is referred to below. Clark D. McCullough, Middletown, N.J.

William McCormick's Estate, 1805 (*Journal,* XII, 36-56). Thomas McCormick, according to his gravestone and the cemetery records of Jeremiah Zeamer, died in 1762, not 1767, as printed on page 36.

William McCormick's house is, in fact, still standing north of Hogestown, in Silver Spring Township (p. 38). The house was in East Pennsborough Township until 1787, when Silver Spring was separated from it; it is understandable why some, including the *Carlisle Herald* and *Kline's Carlisle Gazette* reporting William McCormick's death in 1805, might think him (still) a resident of East Pennsborough. The "home farm," as it was called, remained in the McCormick family for 250 years until 1983, when the heirs donated it to the National Lands Trust, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of historically significant land areas, structures, and natural resources. A bronze marker on the Carlisle Pike just west of Hogestown, on the edge of the McCormick farm, records these facts. Manuscript notes on William McCormick's house, taken by Nancy Van Dolsen when preparing her *Cumberland County, An Architectural Survey* (published by the Cumberland County Historical Society, 1990), are in the Society's library, as are photographs of the house.

William B. Goetz, Lemoyne.

PUBLICATIONS IN PRINT

THE COUNTY HERITAGE SERIES

Cloth and Costume, 1750-1800, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania (1995). Tandy and Charles M. Hersh $34.95

Taverns of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, 1750-1840 (1994). Merri Lou Schaumann $34.95

The Indian Industrial School, 1879-1918 (1993). Linda F. Witmer $29.95

"...Drive the Road and Bridge the Ford..." Highway Bridges of Nineteenth Century Cumberland County (1992). Paul E. Gill $24.95

Other Books

Miniatures of Mechancisburg (1928, reprint 1986). Robert L. Brunhouse $19.95

Atlas of Cumberland County (1858, reprint 1987). F.W. Bridgens $30.00

Lower Allen Township: A History (1993). Robert G. Crist $31.80

Add Pennsylvania State Sales Tax of 6% and $4 for postage and handling.

Booklets and Pamphlets

Archibald Loudon: Pioneer Historian. William A. Hunter (1962) $2.00

Confederate Invasion of the West Shore, 1863. Robert G. Crist (1963, reprint 1995) $6.50

Three Cumberland County Woodcarvers. Milton E. Flower (1986) $10.00

Tower Homes of Mechanicsburg. Eva M. Williams (1988) $5.00

More Homes of Mechanicsburg. Eva M. Williams (1989) $5.00

My Friend Mary Wheeler King. Ann Kramer Hoffer (1994). $2.00

Visit of President George Washington to Carlisle, 1794. Lenore Embick Flower (1932, reprint 1994) $3.50

Made in Cumberland County: First One Hundred Years. Cumberland County Historical Society (1991) $5.00

Cumberland County History. Single issues, as available $5.00

Add Pennsylvania State Sales Tax of 6% and $2 for postage and handling.

A complete list of Society publications in print is available on request.