

# CUMBERLAND County History

Summer 1996

Volume Thirteen  
Number One

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### 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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*Christa Bassett, Librarian*

## Contributors

WHITFIELD J. BELL, JR., is editor of this journal. From 1954 to 1961 he was associate editor of *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*, currently being published by Yale University in cooperation with the American Philosophical Society, which owns more than half of Franklin's surviving papers.

A CONTRIBUTOR. The article on Cumberland County in the Panic of 1819 was among the papers received by the present editor from his predecessor, the late Dr. Robert G. Crist. The author's name was not on the manuscript, nor was there any indication of Dr. Crist's judgment of it. The manuscript has been checked against its source; and is published now with thanks and apologies to whoever may have contributed it to *Cumberland County History*.

CHRISTOPHER T. LIARTIS, who was graduated in May from Dickinson College, wrote this account of the flu epidemic of 1918 while a student intern at the Cumberland County Historical Society.

WILLIAM J. MURRAY, a graduate of West Chester and Shippensburg Universities and of programs in local history of the University of Pennsylvania, is a Gifted Program Specialist of the Mechanicsburg Area School District and will become president of the Pennsylvania Council for Social Studies in October 1996.

LINDA F. WITMER is Executive Director of the Cumberland County Historical Society. Her article on workers at the local iron furnaces is part of a longer study of the early iron industry.

## Historical Work of Milton Embick Flower

### *The Editor*

For nearly half a century until his death on January 2 at the age of 85 Milton Embick Flower was the best informed, most authoritative, and most widely known historian of Carlisle and Cumberland County. He was the author of books, monographs, and catalogues that recorded and interpreted the past of this area, and, in the words of one of his successors as president of the Cumberland County Historical Society, he was “our standard source” of information ranging from local characters and institutions through eighteenth century craftsmen and architecture to the Civil War and Victorian furniture. He was the repository, always informed and often charming, of a well-nigh endless fund of anecdotal information about Carlisle personalities—their families, foibles, and business relations—with whom it sometimes sounded as if he had been personally acquainted, by no matter how many generations they had preceded him.

Milton Flower belonged to a family where history was a constant presence. He grew up in the house his great-grandfather had owned. Family portraits and family heirlooms filled it, each with its own story, and after Dr. Flower inherited the place, he had the view of the Carlisle Square reproduced from Sherman Day's *Historical Collections of Pennsylvania* as wallpaper for the dining room. His mother was a genealogist and historian, the author of studies of such local institutions as Irving College of Mechanicsburg and the iron furnace at Pine Grove. She contributed a daily history column to one of the Harrisburg newspapers that ran to 83 installments; and her account of George Washington's visit to Carlisle in 1794, written for the bicentennial of Washington's birth in 1932, was reprinted in 1994 for the town's bicentennial commemoration of the famous visit. Such was Mrs. Flower's reputation that friends and strangers called with historical and genealogical queries, and if these calls came at dinner time and she was unable to answer, Milton was sent to the phone to reply. Eventually the calls were for him as well.

After graduating from Dickinson College in 1931, Flower taught in the Carlisle High School. In 1937 he wrote a play based on Mary Dillon's historical novel of Carlisle and Dickinson in the Civil War, *In Old Bellaire*. The play was performed but never published, because the owner of the copyright refused permission.

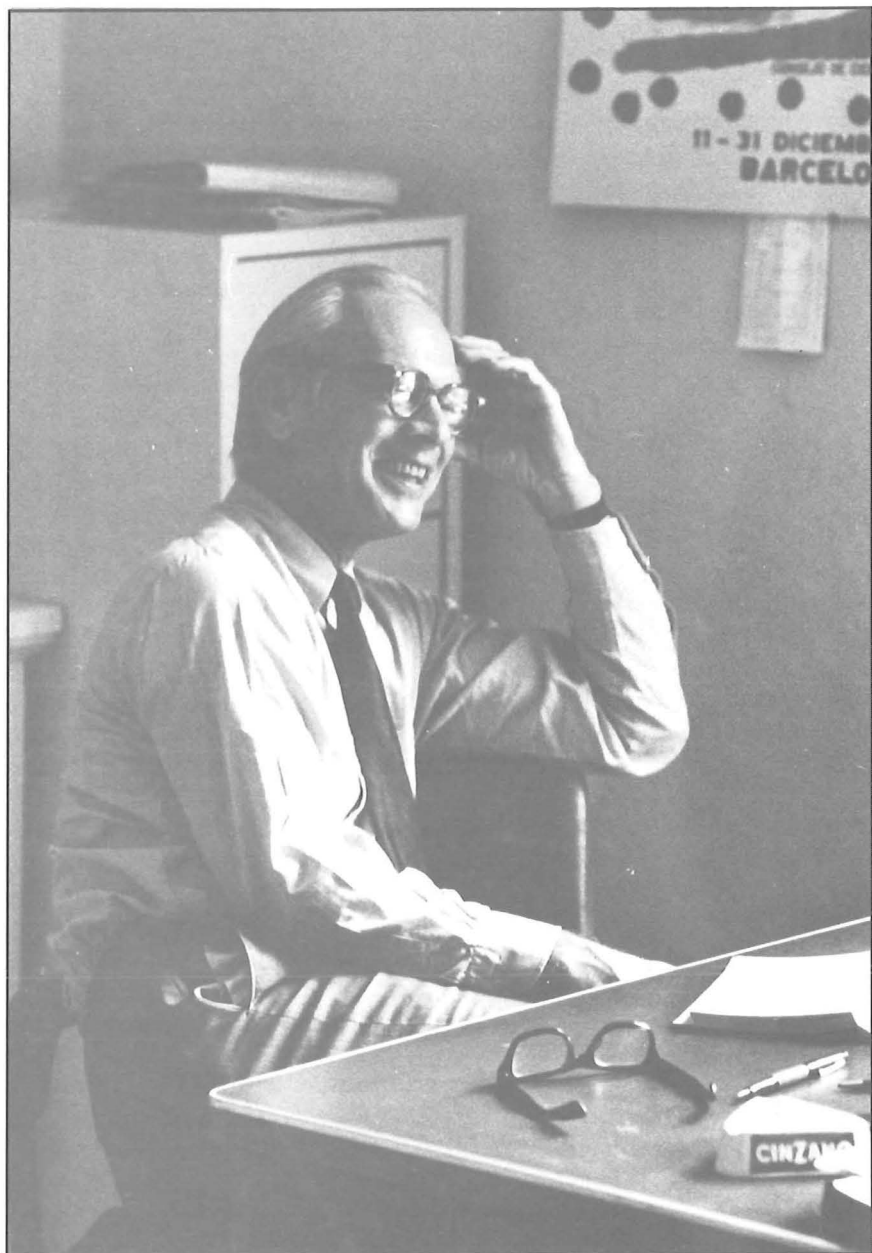
He became a member of the Historical Society—then simply the Hamilton

Library Association—in the 1930s, when the Society was moribund. He was elected a director in 1944, served as president from 1961 to 1968, and contributed importantly and permanently to the Society, not least to its revival. He presented the results of his research in ten or a dozen papers and addresses to the Society. The original idea for many of the Society's exhibitions and successful programs were his. One of these was the Antiques Forum, for which he solicited artifacts from personal friends and acquaintances and from professional museum curators, and in many instances wrote the catalogues as well. As president of the Society in the 1960s he had a large part in the expansion of the building, for which he enlisted the interest and generous support of some community leaders. He was one of three persons designated by Mary Wheeler King to draft a plan for use of the Two Mile House. In 1993 he was a member of the committee that conducted a successful financial campaign for the Society and at the time of his death he was on the committee that is currently planning the extension of the Society's building and functions. For his professional contributions to history Flower was, appropriately, named Historian of the Year in 1969 and for his many other services to the Society he was proclaimed Volunteer of the Year in 1987. At his death he bequeathed the Society several rare and coveted pieces of furniture, including a tall-case clock.

Flower's first extensive research into local history was a study of the early history of the Cumberland Valley Railroad, submitted as a thesis for his master of arts degree at Columbia University in 1938. Based on a wide variety of printed primary and secondary sources, it related the financial and engineering history of the railroad before 1850. Although the railroad's goal of reaching Pittsburgh was soon blocked by the Pennsylvania Canal and the Pennsylvania Railroad, and its hope of linking the Susquehanna Valley with Baltimore was frustrated by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, the C.V.R.R. provided passenger and freight service through the Valley for more than a century. Flower concluded his monograph with some of the eloquence and warmth with which he often wrote of his town and county.

To-day the railroad runs on the same route as that surveyed by Wm. Milnor Roberts, a tribute to that pioneer railway engineer. It remains an integral part of the valley life, having reached its golden age in the last three decades of the nineteenth century. Now no longer an independent road, its history is a shining example of a typical, early railroad company, planned by men of real foresight and, notwithstanding early doubts and difficulties, supported loyally and devotedly by the people through whose lands it ran. Beloved by citizens generally as a symbol of the people's early dreams of progress, and a work conceived by them as a link to the outside world which they themselves had fostered, it continues a hundred years later, as a branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

This account of the Cumberland Valley Railroad was an original and important contribution to the economic and political history of the Valley. No other study of the railroad and its effects has been so thoughtful, more informative, less merely anecdotal. Unfortunately, the Hamilton Library had no funds in 1938 to publish so long a manuscript, Flower did not read to the Society any



*MILTON EMBICK FLOWER (1910-1996)*

part of the story, which might have been printed as a short paper, and his thesis on the railroad remained almost unknown and mostly unused, with little influence on the subsequent historiography of the region.

Flower received his doctorate from Columbia University in 1946, submitting a dissertation on James Parton, a prolific popular journalist-biographer of the nineteenth century. Parton was the author of lives of an unlikely collection of people, including the editor Horace Greeley, Aaron Burr, Andrew Jackson, the notorious “Beast” Benjamin Butler, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and Voltaire; and in addition he wrote biographical sketches of scores of other people and many newspaper and magazine articles on such topics of the day as smoking, sewing machines, Roman Catholicism, and popular vulgarities. Concerned with “that part of history which is so important that historians seldom say anything about it,” Parton was, in effect, as one reviewer of Flower’s study suggested, “father of modern social history.”

Parton appealed to Flower as a subject on several grounds. He had been a truly significant figure in his day, and though both he and his books had been largely forgotten, he had both contributed to and reflected many aspects of nineteenth century American social and intellectual history. Furthermore, no biography of the man had ever been written and so an acceptable dissertation would surely be by definition “a contribution to knowledge.” Finally, an extensive bibliography of the man could be compiled relatively easily from his contributions to newspapers and periodicals. In addition, as Flower soon discovered, Parton descendants owned a mass of unused material—letters, manuscripts, newspaper clippings, and the like—which had never been used. Flower approached Parton’s grandchildren (and others who had known or known about Parton); and they, reassured by his scholarly attitude, gave Flower “unquestioning and free latitude” in use of the papers. Friendship grew out of this scholarly association; Flower and Parton’s grandson James often visited one another thereafter.

*James Parton, The Father of Modern Biography* was published by Duke University Press in 1951. The book was favorably reviewed in the principal historical journals. W. E. Smith of Miami University of Ohio characterized it as “an unusually interesting story of ‘the father of modern biography,’” into which the author “has woven . . . delightful vignettes of his time.” The reviewer in the *American Historical Review* called it “a faithful and meritorious biography.” And in the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* Professor Robert E. Spiller, a pioneer in developing American studies programs in universities, wrote that, observing his subject’s own rules for a successful biography, the author had “told his story fully and straight.” Flower’s *Parton* was, in short, a useful and solid contribution to our understanding of American cultural history. Had it been written on the scale of James Parton’s own biographies, one reviewer noted, it might easily have been twice as long!

A reader of Flower’s *James Parton*, however, must regret that the biographer did not follow up with studies, perhaps short but significant, of specific events and aspects of Parton’s life and work, and even of biographies of some of his contemporaries, like Benson J. Lossing and James C. Ridpath. But Flower was



turning to—or back to—the history of his native place and its institutions, which were to be the subjects of much of his professional historical work thereafter.

*This Is Carlisle*, written in collaboration with Leonore E. Flower, was undertaken in part to introduce the community where so many soldiers were stationed during World War II. Although essentially a narrative history, it did not neglect at least to allude to schools, the farmers' market, dancing assemblies and such basic, but often forgotten, events as the introduction of gas, water, and electricity, the laying of trolley tracks, and the development of the manufacture of steel, shoes, and carpets. "The architecture of Carlisle deserves attention," he declared, introducing several pages on the subject. By 1975, thanks in part to Dr. Flower's researches and to the work of the Cumberland County Historical Society, in which he was so active, information about the early years of county and town had increased substantially and become more accurate (as about Fort Lowther); and it is regrettable that Flower never revised and expanded his history of the town.

Flower contributed two publications to the bicentennial of Carlisle and Cumberland County in 1950 and 1951. For the C. H. Masland Company he wrote a short general history that appeared first in monthly installments in a company publication and was then reprinted in a commemorative volume. This was not merely a condensation of what he had already written, for it used the Penn Papers in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Kline's *Carlisle Gazette*, and manuscripts in the local historical society.

In the same bicentennial year Flower was a member of the committee that, under the chairmanship of D. Wilson Thompson, prepared a documentary history of the county. Published by the Hamilton Library Association, *Two Hundred Years in Cumberland County* was a remarkable achievement for several reasons. It was conceived, compiled, edited, and printed in only a few months. It was financed by an imaginative scheme: local businesses were asked to contribute to the cost, and in return they received a page on which to present historical facts about their enterprises. These notes about insurance companies, automobile dealers, banks, manufacturers, dairies, laundries, the "Associated Grocers of Cumberland County," undertakers, and others thus became part of the recorded history of the county. "As a record of the present," the editors declared, "they will be of historical value in the future." But what gives *Two Hundred Years* its special worth after more than forty years is that the documents selected for publication cover a multitude of subjects, events, and persons. There are, of course, references and information about such familiar subjects as the churches, Molly Pitcher, the Indian School, and famous men like James Wilson and John Bannister Gibson, but much more is about education, amusements, crime, and such episodes as the first aeroplane flight in the county, the first arrest of a speeding motorist, and the installation of the first soda fountain in Carlisle. Each of these selections was made in the hope that it might inspire inquiry and further research. Although each member of Wilson Thompson's committee proposed and helped choose the extracts, there is at least the suggestion of Dr. Flower's interest and influence in the inclusion of

illustrations of buildings and their interiors.

Flower had long been interested in the craftsmen and artisans of Carlisle and Cumberland County, and after 1939 he was increasingly identified with their history. He has left an account of how his attention was first drawn to the most famous of these local artists.

In the summer of 1939 Miss Kathleen Riley, a teacher in the Carlisle Schools, asked me . . . if I had ever heard of a woodcarver by the name of Schimmel. She had recently visited Williamsburg with her brother, Tom, and his wife. At the Ludwell-Paradise House, where the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Collection was then exhibited, Mr. Riley saw a carved eagle on a table. He commented, "That looks like old Schimmel's work." Indeed it was. The label read "Wilhelm Schimmel, Cumberland Valley, Pennsylvania. Civil War period."

The story interested me. During the next year I asked older family friends if they knew of a carver by the name of Schimmel. They did not. Only later did I realize that the family friends were all bearers of English or Scotch-Irish names. This was to have significance. Somewhat puzzled, since Mr. Riley on inquiry told me that as a small boy he remembered the "big old German" (Schimmel) walking about with a box or basket of carvings, I wrote a letter to the local newspaper asking for any information on the carver-peddler. The result that very evening was eight or ten phone calls. They were from people named Minnick, Hoffsass, Bloser, Greider, Germeyer, Waggoner and others.

Interviews immediately followed. . . . Mr. Germeyer nearly fifty years before had measured Schimmel for a coffin which he intended to make. Becky Hoffsass remembered her father telling about Schimmel screaming when, on his last trip, he was driven to the Almshouse. The Greiders, in whose wash house he spent the summers, had softer remembrances of his basic kindness, which resulted in tolerant understanding. Mrs. Annie Snyder Waggoner had a photograph. Many others, including the Bloser family, remembered him.

From these and other sources and from examination of examples of the work of "old Schimmel" in museums and dealers' shops Flower compiled an account of the man, his background, wanderings, and work. He pieced together the memories of the people who knew him and reconstructed details of his life. He heard but rejected incredible or simply questionable tales, such as that Schimmel had served in the Mexican War, the Civil War, or the Franco-Prussian War. Flower found brief references in local newspapers and, visiting the County Home, saw the official record of Schimmel's admission and death. This led directly to an obituary in the local newspaper. In 1943 Flower published his findings in *The Magazine Antiques*. Alice Winchester selected the article to be reprinted in her *Antiques Book* in 1950.

Until Flower's article appeared only a few collectors, like Mrs. Rockefeller, Henry Francis duPont, and Titus C. Geesey, had appreciated the work of the man Flower called "the last of the primitive woodcarvers." In addition, several museums, like the Metropolitan Museum of Art of New York, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts owned examples of his

work. But virtually nothing was known about the man's life and history. Thanks to Flower's research institutions and private owners could now precisely describe and identify their possessions. It gave Flower quiet satisfaction to note, on a visit to the Metropolitan Museum some time after his *Antiques* article appeared, that the curators had corrected the catalogue of their Schimmel items.

Flower was able to learn very little more about Schimmel. But the old wood carver remained in his mind: the title page of *This Is Carlisle* in 1944 was embellished with the cut of a Schimmel eagle. He continued to inquire about "old Schimmel," sometimes spoke publicly about the man and his work, and so soon learned that the old wood carver had had a young admirer and disciple in carving. Once more the trail led to the County Home, where Flower and a friend, Dr. William C. Taft, found Aaron Mountz, his mind shattered, living out his days. Flower and Taft visited John Mountz, Aaron's brother, learned something about Aaron's career, were shown samples of his work, and were able to acquire some specimens. In 1960 in another article in *The Magazine Antiques* Flower gave an account of Mountz and his carvings.

In his writings on Schimmel and Mountz Flower treated the subjects with respect and sympathy. He identified their different styles and showed which of Schimmel's poodles and squirrels were inspired by Staffordshire, other English, and earlier American productions. He made a special effort to distinguish the qualities and character of the two men, and concluded that Schimmel was a true folk artist. He grappled with the definition of folk art: "...it is only the originality that counts. And what makes folk art art is the inherent charm of the primitive." Recognizing the wide appeal and popularity of Schimmel's work, which he had had a hand in creating, Flower indicated how genuine pieces might be distinguished from copies and imitations. But, he warned sharply, "there can be no certain origin for many current carvings called 'Schimmels', a fact which must seriously be noted. There is no quarrel with signed reproductions, but much exact and imitative work currently done and offered as genuine Schimmel is both fraudulent and criminal."

The Abby Aldrich Rockefeller collection at Williamsburg added several Mountz pieces to the Schimmels it already owned; and in 1965 mounted a Schimmel and Mountz exhibition. From private collectors and museums eighty-three pieces by Schimmel (including 28 eagles) and eleven by Mountz were assembled. "Without question," declared Bruce Etchinson, director of the museum, "the sincerity, the vitality, and the timeless appeal of the carvings speak for themselves. . . ." Dr. Flower wrote the catalogue. His lecture at the show's opening was so informative, so warm and understanding, so well organized and clearly expressed that the audience responded with standing applause.

Other lectures followed, notably at the Pennsbury Manor Americana Forum in 1966; and Flower was increasingly consulted not only about the facts of the lives of Schimmel and Mountz but about the quality and authenticity of pieces (never signed) ascribed to them. Eventually Flower brought together all he had learned about these two wood carvers, as well as about Bruce A. Barrett, of Carlisle, who also carved eagles and animals, in *Three Cumberland County Wood Carvers: Schimmel, Mountz, Barrett*, which the Cumberland County Historical

Society published in 1986. This little book, which presented some data of special interest to Cumberland County residents, contained a bibliography—a measure of the reach of Flower's articles, for there could have been no such references before 1940.

Since at least the middle 1930s Dr. Flower had collected information about local architecture and builders. From the oblivion of newspapers, recorder's office, and tax lists he had drawn out the names of carpenters, cabinet makers, potters, and others. A hint of this interest had appeared in *This Is Carlisle*, which was illustrated with examples of the work of local carpenters and plasterers. In 1946 he wrote the first of several papers on the Carlisle carpenters and their work; and in 1955 he brought his data together in a history of the Carlisle Carpenters' Company. This paper included the constitution and by-laws of the Company and also several actual bills and lists of specifications for carpenter's work. In it he identified the town's log houses and earliest stone buildings, showed that the work of different artisans in different towns might reveal similar details because they used the same English builders' guides and manuals, and, regretting public indifference to the architectural riches of the town and county, he appealed for preservation and further study.

Domestic building after the Civil War is also interesting. What of William Elmer, the young German, with his interior fresco work in the Hepburn Houses on High Street and on Pomfrat, at James Bosler's "Cottage Hill," in the Asbury Derland houses in Boiling Springs, in the Hildebrand building on North Hanover Street—all of which work has disappeared. Who introduced the brownstones? Who first introduced the yellow roman bricks of the 1890-1900 decade? And, undoubtedly, mysteries existing on buildings of a century earlier may still be further unravelled.

A pioneering study, in which Flower admitted he was sometimes "guessing," the essay on the carpenters and their Company has not been wholly replaced by Nancy Van Dolsen's *Cumberland County: An Architectural Survey*, and remains useful after more than 40 years.

Inevitably, as the principal historian of the town, Flower was called on after 1961 for articles on the Civil War in Carlisle. Although this was not a subject in which he was deeply interested, he wrote for *The Evening Sentinel* a short piece principally on the disposition of troops around Carlisle at the end of June and on July 1, 1863, when the town was shelled. A longer article on the effect of the war on Dickinson College contained details not contained in the earlier familiar accounts. For this Flower gathered facts from local newspapers, faculty minutes, even fraternity records and such manuscripts as the diary of a Dickinson student, William C. Round, preserved in the Southern Historical Collections of the University of North Carolina. The College article told of the effect of the shelling of Fort Sumter on the students—how some, out of patriotism or bravado, immediately left Carlisle to join the southern armies; how President Johnson and the faculty strove desperately to reassure parents and to keep the students at their work; how East College building was converted into a military hospital. Flower recounted reactions to the approach or rumored approach of enemy troops, describing the stream of refugees, poor white farmers, free blacks,

and slaves, with whatever they could bring with them, who fled along the roads ahead of the invading Confederates. And in a simple footnote remark, he refuted the oft-repeated statement that many of the officers who bivouacked on the campus were former Dickinson students, who therefore understandably protected their alma mater from looting and other destruction.

This correction—one should say here parenthetically—was but one of several instances in which Flower quietly rejected some cherished Carlisle myth or tradition because there were no facts to support it. “Indian villages were not wigwam affairs in Pennsylvania.” The county prison on East High Street, Carlisle, often described as patterned on a castle or some other building in the English Carlisle, was, Flower pointed out, designed in a style that was popular in mid-nineteenth century America, “and in no wise was it mentioned or planned to be similar to the castle in Carlisle, England.” As for slavery and abolitionism, although there were stations of the Underground Railroad in the county before 1861 and many citizens liked to believe that their fathers and grandfathers had strongly opposed slavery, Flower stated firmly that majority sentiment in town and county (where slaves were legally held as late as 1850) was not abolitionist, but marked by “a general indifference to slavery.” He was skeptical about a pleasant tale told by the Reverend Dr. George Duffield and repeated by the Reverend Dr. Joseph A. Murray, of a silver bell of singularly sweet tone, the gift of the citizens of the English Carlisle to the Pennsylvania town, that was destroyed in the courthouse fire of 1846. “History creates legends,” Flower wrote of this romantic myth in a note to Murray’s history of the first county courthouse, “some of them often born of nostalgia, which creates faulty memories. The bell, alas, had no silver content according to metallurgical tests. It is likely that the entire account is false.”

His most important contribution to the local historiography of the Civil War was an edition of the letters of two Carlisle boys to their family. Allen D. Thomson, editor of the *Evening Sentinel* and a former president of the Hamilton Library Association, had acquired at public sale some thirty letters of Leo and John Faller, members of Company A, 36th Regiment, Seventh Pennsylvania Reserves, and had begun to annotate them for publication. As the Civil War centennial years approached and it was clear that he was not likely to complete and publish the work, Mr. Thomson put the manuscripts at Flower’s disposal. The editorial project had a strong appeal because the Faller brothers, no matter where they were or what they did and saw in the army, remained firmly rooted in Carlisle. Flower transcribed the letters, wrote explanatory and identifying notes where necessary, and prepared an introduction to the entire book, which was published with the assistance of the Pennsylvania State Historical and Museum Commission in 1963 as *‘Dear Folks at Home’: The Civil War Letters of Leo W. and John I. Faller, with an Account of Andersonville*. The reviewer in *Pennsylvania History* commended the author for “a good job of editing.”

The letters are typical of many soldiers’ letters of the time. In varying moods of bravado, monotony, pride, horror, and fear, they gave expression to much of what is terrible and exhilarating in war and battle. There was nothing in them

that was new. "These letters are devoid of pretence," the reviewer in the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* wrote,

and so convey the mood and impact of the war in a way that more official letters and reports could not hope to do. Moreover, there is a continuing identity between the writers and their home town which adds a special poignancy. All in all, *Dear Folks at Home* is good Civil War reading for the "buff" and for the casually interested reader in this period of our history.

Of the brothers, Leo Faller was killed at Antietam in 1862, and John was captured in the Wilderness campaign in May 1864 and sent to Andersonville. He survived his imprisonment, and after the war sometimes lectured to fellow veterans and others on his experience and that of other prisoners. As an appropriate conclusion to the record of the young men's military service, Flower included the lecture as an appendix to the little volume; but, recognizing the emotion-charged nature of the subject even after a century, he checked John Faller's recollections against the facts presented in William B. Hesseltine's *Civil War Prisons* (1938).

One of those who heard Dr. Flower's lecture on Schimmel and Mountz in Williamsburg in 1965 was a member of the board of the John Dickinson Mansion in Delaware, which was anxious to have a biography of Dickinson published. One of the most neglected figures in the early history of the country, no biography of him had been written since 1891. Dr. Flower seemed a likely author and was invited to take on the project. After all, his Schimmel lecture had just demonstrated a capacity to be scholarly, interesting, and clear; he was a historian of the eighteenth century; and he might be expected to be drawn to the man whose name was carried by the college where he taught.

The task proved to be more difficult and longer than was expected. Dickinson was a man of ideas, whose many statements, restatements, and revisions had to be followed through masses of surviving manuscripts. Nor was much help at hand in the form of monographs and articles by other scholars, as was the case, for example, with John Adams and Benjamin Franklin. Although Flower took a year's leave from teaching to work in Philadelphia repositories, the resources of his college library were inadequate to the demands of daily research.

Dickinson was not an easy subject. He was a man who had taken a strong and early lead in the debates over British policies and American rights in the decade before the outbreak of the American Revolution. He was elected a member of the Continental Congress, drafted some of that body's most powerful addresses, but when the issue of independence was presented to the Congress, he absented himself, resigned, but accepted a military commission and led the men of his state's militia against the British enemy. In the last years of the war and the first years of peace Dickinson served successively as president of both Delaware and Pennsylvania. He was a member of the Federal Convention of 1787 and the author of *Letters of Fabius*, which supported and defended the new constitution. Flower called him a "conservative revolutionary."

Historians have labeled John Dickinson cautious and conservative. Cautious he was, in part too bound by his great dependence on lessons

gained from both English and world history. To certain aspects of history he seemed blind, perhaps as a result of a temperamental revulsion to mass violence. His caution alone caused him to be called conservative. But his devotion to the rule of law and to the principles of liberty linked him to the radicals in the early days of the Revolution. Dickinson never changed his principles. A man of great moral courage, he refused to bow to popular clamor and support independence. A conservative stance which seeks to withstand the ongoing currents of a dynamic world cannot, inherently, be a popular one. It tends to obstruct and frustrate. Thus the defender earns calumny from the impatient. Such was the case with Dickinson in Pennsylvania at the time of independence, a fate reversed, however, once his moderation again proved desirable. His life thus is not that of the more familiar Founding Fathers, but of a man no less devoted to his country and important in its history.

The book was completed and published in 1983. It was, said the reviewer in the *Journal of American History*, "straightforward, well written, and at times perceptive." Another judged it "lucid, scholarly, and comprehensive;" it was, he concluded, "a solid point of departure" for further research. In the *American Historical Review* Professor John A. Schutz of the University of California regretted that Flower had not explored more deeply some aspects of Dickinson's thought; "the light pen, nevertheless," he added, "sketches fascinating pictures of Revolutionary life in Delaware and Pennsylvania and encourages one to appreciate John Dickinson as a conservative patriot."

Both before and after the publication of *John Dickinson: Conservative Revolutionary* Flower wrote several short articles on Dickinson. In an address to the Delaware Historical Society in 1976 he offered another interpretation of Dickinson. Pointing out that Dickinson visited Delaware twice a year and that he eventually retired there, Flower declared that for Dickinson Delaware meant "peace and contentment, understanding and home," that that was where he was happiest. For some reason, however, Flower took no satisfaction from this paper. "I dislike this article intensely," he wrote on the reprint he gave his colleague Henry J. Young. "You are the only one to have a copy."

One paper about John Dickinson, however, probably gave its author pleasure. This was about Dickinson's house and some of its furnishings. Written for the catalogue of the Delaware Antiques Show, it brought Flower back to his continuing study of early American furniture, arts, and crafts. In the ensuing few years he suggested to the Cumberland County Historical Society that they present exhibits on potters of Newville, Pa., the work of an artist who painted portraits of nineteenth century Cumberland County worthies, decorated wooden chairs, and finally a large show on cabinet makers, chair makers, clock makers, gunsmiths, and other craftsmen. He indicated where examples of their work were owned, made suggestions about the manner of exhibition, and wrote the catalogues. For the catalogue of the large show "Made in Cumberland County" Flower wrote three sections—the introduction, an essay on the clockmaker Hendel brothers, and a list of craftsmen in the county from mid-eighteenth century to 1850. This last was laborious work, for craftsmen do not often write

letters and their descendants generally make no effort to preserve ledgers and other records of the shop (which, obviously, are not “historical” and worth saving as grandfather’s commission in the Union or Confederate army—one of hundreds—certainly must be). For this list Flower combed biographical references from tax lists, the census, newspaper advertisements, bills and invoices, and in a few cases signed pieces of their work. “Nevertheless,” he complained, “searching out craftsmen of the past frustrates with woeful omissions.” Flower’s list of Cumberland County craftsmen will always be invaluable, at very least, to the increasing number of students of American fine arts and social history.

In this review and bibliography of Milton Flower’s published writings, mostly on local history, arts, and crafts, one title stands out as exceptional. It is an essay on American politics printed at New Delhi, India. The explanation is simple—that among his other experiences and achievements Dr. Flower spent one year as a visiting professor at the University of Dijon in France and some months in another year as a lecturer in Japan and India on a United States State Department program. Hence “American Political Pressure Groups.”

## Publications

“Schimmel the Woodcarver,” *The Magazine Antiques*, XLIV (1943), 164-66; reprinted in Alice Winchester, ed., *Antiques Book* (New York, 1950), 277-84.

(With Lenore E. Flower), *This Is Carlisle: A History of a Pennsylvania Town* (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, 1944).

*One Hundred Years: Carlisle Deposit Bank and Trust Company, founded 1846* ([Carlisle, 1946]).

“Cumberland County Beginnings,” *The Shuttle* (C. H. Masland & Sons, Carlisle), XII, no. 3 (1950), 6-11; no. 4 (1950), 4-8; no. 5 (1950), 4-9; no. 6 (1950), 6-11; XIII, no. 1 (1951), 6-14; no. 2 (1951), 4-9; no. 3 (1951), 6-17; no. 4 (1951), 10-20; no. 5 (1951), 4-11. Title changed with fourth installment to “Cumberland County History.” Reprinted as “A History of Cumberland County,” in Albert Carrière, ed., *Book of the Centuries* ([Carlisle, 1951]), 10-36.

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“Aaron Mountz, primitive woodcarver,” *The Magazine Antiques*, LXXVII (1960), 586-87.

“Dickinson College and the Civil War,” *Dickinson Alumnus*, XXXIX, no. 3 (1962), 1-8.

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- Editor, *'Dear Folks at Home': The Civil War Letters of Leo W. and John I. Faller, with an Account of Andersonville* (Carlisle, 1963).
- American Political Pressure Groups* (New Delhi: India International Centre, 1963).
- "Tomb of Dickinson College," *Dickinson Alumnus*, XLII, no. 3 (1965), 1-9.
- Wilhelm Schimmel and Aaron Mountz, Wood Carvers* (Exhibition catalogue; text by Milton E. Flower). (Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Collection, Williamsburg, Virginia, 1965).
- (With Lenore E. Flower), *Newville Pottery* ([Carlisle], 1966).
- (With Lenore E. Flower), *Two Hundred Years of the 'First Lutheran Church in Carlisle and Vicinity'* ([Carlisle], 1966).
- "Early American Woodcarvers," in *Pennsbury Manor . . . Americana Forum, Summary of Lectures and Bibliography* (Morrisville, Pennsylvania, [1966]).
- John Armstrong: First Citizen of Carlisle* (Carlisle, 1971).
- "Concerning '1776' and John Dickinson," *Friends of the John Dickinson Mansion, News Letter*, X (1971), 1, 3.
- "John Dickinson: Patriot and Devoted Delawarean," *The Delaware Antiques Show* (Wilmington, Delaware, 1974), 123-31.
- "John Dickinson: Delawarean," *Delaware History*, XVII (1976), 12-20.
- Historic Iron Works: Carlisle Iron Works, 1762* ([Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania, 1976]).
- [Talk on John Dickinson], *Friends of the John Dickinson Mansion, News Letter*, XVII (1978), 1-3.
- "The 1846 Court House," in *The XVIIIth and IXth [sic] Century Cumberland County Court Houses: Two Historical Papers* (Carlisle, 1978), 16-[19].\*
- "The Spirit of Christmas Past," in (Carlisle) *Evening Sentinel*, December 23, 1978, pp. 8-10.
- A Pleasing Fancy: Painted Plank-Bottom Chairs: Styles and Decorations* (Carlisle, [1979]). Catalogue of an exhibition; text by Milton E. Flower.\*
- "A Life of Continuing Contention," *Dickinson College Magazine*, LIX, no. 4 (1982), 3-5.
- John Dickinson, Conservative Revolutionary* (Charlottesville, Virginia: University Press of Virginia for The Friends of the John Dickinson Mansion, 1983).
- Three Cumberland County Woodcarvers: Schimmel, Mountz, Barrett* (Carlisle, 1986).\*
- "John Dickinson and the Constitution," *Dickinson Magazine* (May, 1986), 5-6.
- "Riots over Ratification of the Constitution," *Cumberland County History*, IV (1987), 12-19.
- "An Introduction to Cumberland County Craftsmen," in *Made in Cumberland County: The First Hundred Years, 1750-1850* (Carlisle, 1991), 1-7.\*

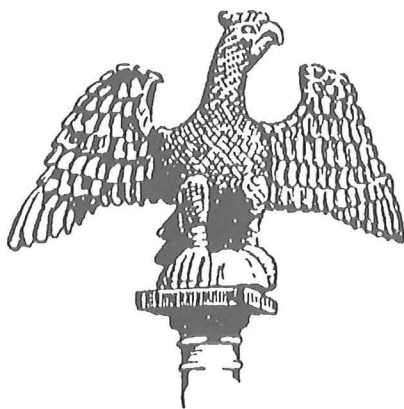
“The Hendel Brothers,” *ibid.*, 12-17.\*

“List of Craftsmen, 1750-1850,” *ibid.*, 35-45.\*

*John James T. Arnold, Painter: Folk Art Portrait Exhibition* (Carlisle, 1993).\*

\* Available for purchase at Cumberland County Historical Society.

In addition to these books, pamphlets, and essays, Dr. Flower delivered many addresses and lectures that were never printed. Some of these, as well as other manuscripts, are preserved in the library of the Cumberland County Historical Society. For example, at the centennial dinner meeting on April 22, 1975, he spoke on “The First Hundred Years” of the Hamilton Library Association and Cumberland County Historical Society. He recalled “Christmas(es) Past” at the opening of a Christmas toy exhibit at the Society on December 8, 1976. In 1962 he began to write his memories of people and events that he had known or been told about; the manuscript, unhappily left unfinished, recalls Charles H. Leeds’ *Old Home Week Letters* (1909). In addition, Flower wrote other historical notes and studies, usually short, which, serving an immediate practical purpose of town, college, or church, had no reason to be signed and therefore cannot confidently be included here.



WILHELM SCHIMMEL. Carved wooden eagle. Reproduced from title-page of Milton E. Flower and Lenore E. Flower, *This Is Carlisle* (1944).

## The Spanish Flu in Cumberland County, 1918

*Christopher T. Liartis*

In 1918, as the war with Germany and the Central Powers was coming to an end, the United States faced another, more subtle, and seemingly invincible enemy. This was the Spanish influenza. Although on a smaller scale and of much shorter duration, it made some think of the Black Death that had decimated Europe in the Middle Ages. Sweeping through Europe, where its presence went unreported because of wartime security, the flu entered the United States in the late summer of 1918 and in little more than two months is estimated to have sickened 40,000,000 people and caused half a million deaths.<sup>1</sup>

For those who lived through it the flu was an anxious time. It snuffed out thousands of lives, many of them young men's, and left permanent losses in families whose parents, children, sons and daughters died. It also produced losses and many dislocations in economic life. Although it is not possible to do more than suggest the number and character of these losses, readers of local newspapers can get some idea of the impact on particular communities of this great, but almost forgotten, epidemic.

In the early fall of 1918 people began to fall ill of a disease unlike any that they or their doctors had seen. The onset was sudden. It began as a contagious cold; high fever and pains, a sore throat and a running nose were symptoms; and the conditions sometimes quickly developed into pneumonia and meningitis. The disease spread rapidly, especially where people were thickly settled or assembled in crowds—people were said “to die like flies”; and it was soon recognized as a formidable epidemic. One feature, that of “apparent death,” in which the victim suffered cardiac arrest, was noted in grim reports of macabre and distressing episodes.<sup>2</sup> The earliest cases in Cumberland County seem to have been two sick soldiers who were removed from a troop train at Carlisle and taken to the local hospital, where Dr. R. M. Shepler recognized the disease.

The flu owed its name to the chances of politics and war. The principal European countries were fighting a war, and these nations chose to suppress reports of the epidemic for reasons of intelligence and domestic morale. Spain, however, was a neutral, had no such motives for secrecy, and therefore its physicians and public authorities did not hesitate to announce the presence of influenza. The warring powers were happy to link the disease with its source in an unoffending nation—hence Spanish influenza.<sup>3</sup>

Exactly how and when the flu entered the United States is not known. A likely explanation is that it was brought in by naval and maritime personnel on ships from European ports. The flu first appeared on naval bases, then in army camps.<sup>4</sup> In both places large numbers of young men, many just recruited from farms, villages, and small towns, with little or no immunity to respiratory and other diseases, were brought together for the first time. The flu was especially severe at Camp Devens, Massachusetts, where on September 25 it was reported to “hold sway”: 10,700 cases had been reported there thus far. The same report added that the army had a total of 22,687 cases, of which 3,000 were reported in a single day.<sup>5</sup> “Its prevalence in camps and cantonments,” it was observed a week later, “has increased the death rate, largely due to the crowded conditions.”<sup>6</sup>

Other reports were more personal and therefore had a more immediate impact. On the same day that the Camp Devens figures were published, Charles Dysert, a Carlisle soldier at Camp Holabird in Baltimore, on a visit to Hagerstown, Maryland, with three friends, was stricken with what a local physician diagnosed as the Spanish flu. Two days later another Carlisle man, Oscar Beecher, a 28-year-old naval trainee at Cape May, was reported to have died of the flu.<sup>7</sup> Some wives and mothers, on receiving news of such illnesses, hurried to the camp hospitals.

Congress acted to determine the cause of the epidemic, appropriating \$1,000,000 for the purpose.<sup>8</sup> Commissions of physicians and medical scientists were despatched to the camps to examine the sick soldiers and conduct pathological examinations. Despite the obvious facts, the first reaction of the acting state commissioner of health in Pennsylvania was one of bland reassurance. On October 2 Dr. B. Franklin Boyer declared the disease “to be nothing more than a recurrence of the old fashioned grip [sic],” and he advised the public to adopt preventive measures—get plenty of fresh air, avoid crowds, and keep one’s bowels open. “Sunshine is what is needed to keep in good trim,” was his cheery advice. But such assurances were ill-founded and deceived no one. The next day Dr. Boyer ordered the closing of places of public amusement and entertainment, churches and Sunday schools, and saloons to prevent the spread of the flu. Visits to the sick were to be limited, and funerals kept private.<sup>9</sup>

Local town councils and boards of health followed the state’s lead. In Carlisle Dickinson College was quarantined, soda fountains (of which there were eight), and ice cream parlors were closed. On October 12 businesses were instructed to close at 6 o’clock in the evening; and though proprietors of stores and the “Booze Men,” as a local newspaper forthrightly called the saloon-keepers, predictably protested, the chief burgess reminded them that the public health was the issue. Whether reluctantly or willingly, businesses obeyed the new regulations. “We desire to co-operate with the authorities of Shippensburg in safeguarding the public health,” one local store announced in its advertisement of a sale.

We need your help. Kindly come as early as you can, make your purchases as quickly as possible and leave the store immediately. We must not overcrowd and therefore will limit the number of customers in the store.

This may be an inconvenience to you but *is done for your sake*, so kindly assist to your utmost.<sup>10</sup>

Local authorities also closed the schools; and when Dickinson College, Dickinson Law School, and the Carlisle Commercial College claimed an exemption, they were sharply reminded that they must close, “as the order says ALL schools.” Tentative plans were drafted for a temporary hospital in one of the public school buildings, with Dr. C. R. Rickenbaugh in charge.

Meetings of every sort were cancelled, or did their business with unaccustomed speed. The Carlisle borough council met in October only long enough to approve bills and the payroll, and adjourned within fifteen minutes. With so many places and institutions of normal resort closed, the citizens were at a loss. As one editorial writer put it lightly, with no soda water, no beer, no movies, what were folks to do? Apparently not many stayed home, for the newspapers noted that the streets were more filled than usual in the evening—which seems to suggest that, unable to assemble in churches, saloons, and movie houses, the citizens simply congregated elsewhere, perhaps with like risk to their health.

In addition to recommendations and prescriptions issued by the public health authorities—“Uncle Sam’s Advice on Flu”—the newspapers carried other articles on treatment, especially on the management of the flu in children.<sup>11</sup> There was general agreement on the usefulness of rest, fresh air, and open bowels. One physician added salt water gargle; and Dr. George F. Baer of the Pittsburgh Homeopathic Hospital offered a preventive and “cure”—1.54 grains of iodine in a chemical combination with creosote and guaiacol.<sup>12</sup> Local authorities were strongly urged to enforce ordinances against spitting, and on October 23 the Commissioner of Health directed district attorneys to enforce all the regulations concerning quarantine, assemblies, and closing hours. Dr. Boyer advised the citizens of the Commonwealth “to face the influenza with the same Christian fortitude shown by her brave sons now facing the wicked Hun.”

At Dickinson College the 250-man Student Army Training Corps was especially vulnerable. On October 1 nine young trainees were admitted to the hospital with the flu, and 25 more were sent home. On October 3 the college was quarantined, and on October 5 the buildings were fumigated; and while this did not stop the disease among the young soldiers—27 of 37 cases of flu in the hospital on October 7 were students, and another was an officer, Lieutenant Walter H. Hitchler of the Law School faculty—military discipline was credited with confining the epidemic there.<sup>13</sup> Even the much-loved Noah Pinkney, the “portable chef” at Dickinson and the town’s chief “pretzel man,” was sick with the flu. In time the Student Army Training Corps repaid the town for its concern and care: receiving guns on October 22 and uniforms shortly afterward, the men were able to put on a colorful and patriotic drill for the citizens.<sup>14</sup>

All during October the epidemic intensified. The daily count alone was alarming. October 6, 199 new cases were reported in Carlisle; on October 7, 58 (with 150 cases among school children); on October 8, 57; on October 10, 100 new cases in Carlisle with 86 reported in South Middleton Township; on October 12, 150 new cases; on October 15, 142 cases; on October 16, 165

cases and 75 cases in South Middleton, where 75% of the population was said to be afflicted; on October 17, 171 cases; on October 18, 150 cases; on October 19, 100 new cases; on October 21, more than 100 new cases. The State Commissioner of Health estimated there were 150,000 cases in the Commonwealth, that in every community 15% might sicken, and that 5% were “likely to die.”<sup>15</sup>

The disease was not limited to the larger towns of the county. On October 16 the *Shippensburg News* carried a report of the number of cases in the various towns and townships.<sup>16</sup>

Carlisle	100	
Newville	10	
Cumberland Valley Normal School		23
Mechanicsburg	5	
Mount Holly Springs		50
New Kingston	5	
Shiremanstown	2	
Enola	20	
West Fairview	15	
Wormleysburg	0	
New Cumberland		15
Camp Hill	5	
Boiling Springs	10	
Lemoyne	5	

There were other evidences of the flu’s toll. From Reading, Pa., it was reported that the production of coal in Schuylkill County was down 12,000 tons a day because of illness among the miners. Closer to Cumberland County, on October 8 four of the five operators on the Valley Railroad were down with flu, and only one car was available to travel to Harrisburg. Production in Carlisle’s shoe factories was lagging. Stalls at the semi-weekly Carlisle farmers’ market were untended and empty—James and Ralph Farabelli, fruit and produce; George Brown and John Kutz, butchers; John Lindsey, baker; “and numerous others.” In some families the disease reached tragic levels.<sup>17</sup> Philip Schmohl of East Penn Street, Carlisle, sexton of the First Lutheran Church, his wife and eight children were all sick, nine with the flu and one with pneumonia. David Martin and his wife of New Cumberland died within 24 hours, leaving five minor children. On October 21 every member of John Gibbs’ family of West South Street was in the hospital.<sup>18</sup> The newspapers, which had customarily recorded two or three deaths a night, now had to print seven, eight, or ten obituaries.

One response was an outpouring of volunteer effort. The Red Cross Aid Kitchen and many church groups carried meals to stricken families.<sup>19</sup> Friends and neighbors brought help to those who lived alone. Dickinson students quartered in South College were called on to relieve the overburdened nurses at Carlisle Hospital; every one of them volunteered and two were accepted. Boy Scouts were mobilized to run errands and perform clerical tasks for overworked physicians.<sup>20</sup> In Carlisle William Ogilby, an insurance and real estate agent

who had formerly worked in a pharmacy in Philadelphia, kept the drug store of William R. Shearer open while the latter was in the hospital.<sup>21</sup>

As the number of deaths increased, Harrisburg appealed for grave diggers; and because “coffins are very scarce and undertakers have trouble getting them,” the Victor Talking Machine Company of Camden, New Jersey, and the J. B. Van Sciver Furniture Company of Philadelphia shifted a part of their production facilities to the manufacture of coffins. A local Carlisle company was also asked to do the same “to relieve the situation.”<sup>22</sup>

On October 23 the newspapers intimated that the epidemic was “now on the wane.” Two days later the Commissioner of Health announced that churches and saloons would gradually be opened. “Epidemic Over at the College—No Cases Now Reported,” read one headline.<sup>23</sup> News of the abatement of the flu was repeated on October 25, but there were still 100 children sick at the Scotland Orphans School.<sup>24</sup> Even as the end of the epidemic loomed, state health authorities appealed for volunteers to assist convalescents—perhaps 50,000 throughout the state. The public health bans were all lifted in Carlisle on November 6, five days before the great war ended. The return to normalcy seems to have been faster and more complete than its return after the armistice. If America after 1919 was noticeably a different place from the country in 1915, the cause was more likely the war than the flu.

The Spanish flu in the United States took its toll in lives, sickness, interrupted work and even some failed businesses. These disturbing events happened amid reports of military actions, the collapse of nations, and rumors of peace. Such public events and reports, coming almost daily during the weeks of the flu, overwhelmed the disease in public consciousness; and when the disease had at last disappeared, there was little community recollection of it. Unlike earlier epidemics, notably the yellow fever of 1793 in Philadelphia, it hardly entered into history, never became a subject for novels, and created few individual tales. There was no panic; no one fled, because there was no safe place to go—the flu was everywhere; and so the citizens accepted the dispensation with “Christian fortitude” and a stoical and fatalistic reaction to the inevitable.<sup>25</sup>

I wish to thank my professor Dr. Gordon S. Bergsten of Dickinson College for helpful criticism and suggestions for an earlier draft of this paper.

## Notes

1. Richard Collier, *The Plague of the Spanish Lady: The Influenza Pandemic of 1918-1919* (New York, 1974), 305.
2. *Ibid.*, 34, 268.
3. Alfred W. Crosby, Jr., *Epidemic and Peace* (Greenwood Press, 1976), 5.
4. Collier, *Plague of the Spanish Lady*, 35-36.
5. (Carlisle, Pa.) *Evening Sentinel*, Sept. 25, 1918.
6. *Ibid.*, Oct. 4, 1914.
7. *Ibid.*, Sept. 27, 1918.
8. *Ibid.*, Sept. 28, 1918.
9. *Ibid.*, Oct. 4, 1918.
10. *Shippensburg News*, Oct. 16, 1918.
11. *Evening Sentinel*, Oct. 10, 14, 1918.
12. *Ibid.*, Oct. 14, 1918.
13. *Ibid.*, Oct. 4, 5, 7, 11, 1918.
14. *Ibid.*, Oct. 22, 27, 1918.
15. *Shippensburg News*, Oct. 23, 1918. These figures seem rough estimate rather than accurate counts; but they were the basis of the public's perceptions.

16. *Ibid.*, Oct. 16, 1918. These figures and those in the paragraph above are taken from the Carlisle and Shippensburg newspapers. How precisely accurate they are is questionable; but they were important as the basis for public reactions.
17. *Evening Sentinel*, Oct. 18, 19, 1918.
18. *Ibid.*, Oct. 10, 17, 21, 1918.
19. *Shippensburg News*, Oct. 30, 1918.
20. *Evening Sentinel*, Oct. 7, 1918.
21. *Ibid.*, Oct. 28, 1918.
22. *Ibid.*, Oct. 13, 18, 19, 1918; *Shippensburg News*, Oct. 23, 1918.
23. *Evening Sentinel*, Oct. 25, 1918.
24. *Shippensburg News*, Oct. 30, 1918.
25. Richard H. Shryock, "The Yellow Fever Epidemics, 1793-1905," in D. Aaron, ed., *America in Crisis* (New York, 1952), 68-70.

#### MECHANICSBURG.

8 miles from Harrisburg; 112 from Philadelphia.

The first town of the valley on the line of the railroad; incorporated as a borough, April 12th, 1828. The advantages of this town as a summer resting place are many. Less than half an hour's ride by rail from Harrisburg, it is still far enough removed from the river to be entirely free of malarial influences. Thw town, which contains upwards of 3000 inhabitants, is noted for its culture and refinement, and the country around, which is accessible by well improved roads, is densely settled by a wealthy and industrious population. Gas and water companies supply the town with those necessary elements of comfort and convenience. Besides its common school system, Mechanicsburg has the advantage of two private institutions of learning, "The Cumberland Valley Institute" and "Irving Female College"; the last mentioned is a handsome and commodious building situated in the eastern end of the town in the midst of grounds beautifully laid out and thickly shaded by tall trees.

Mechanicsburg has seven churches and five hotels.

*Rural Resorts and Summer Retreats along the line of the Cumberland Valley Railroad, including Picnic Parks and Pleasure Places* ([Philadelphia], 1881), 10-11.



## Iron Workers in Cumberland County

Linda Franklin Witmer

The factors that gave rise to the iron industry in Pennsylvania are detailed in many studies of early settlement and industrial progress. Both William A. Sullivan in his *Industrial Worker in Pennsylvania* and Arthur Bining's *Pennsylvania Iron Manufacture in the Eighteenth Century* describe the rich, natural resources of the early colony and the influx of wage earners from the Old World as the perfect setting for industrial growth and development.<sup>1</sup>

Cumberland County was an example of this vital combination of factors. The Scotch-Irish were the first to settle in the county, but German immigrants soon followed in increasing numbers.<sup>2</sup> By the turn of the nineteenth century the county had attracted a heterogeneous pool of skilled and unskilled workmen, farmers, and craftsmen.

The iron workers in the county formed a diverse group. German, English, Scottish, and Irish names filled the ledgers of local works. Bining points out in his book that modifications occurred that differed from the labor system in the Old Country. Although land was plentiful, labor was scarce and expensive. The changes in labor conditions were the result of these conditions. In Pennsylvania there were fewer restrictions and regulations and more incentives to maintain a steady supply of productive, satisfied workmen.<sup>3</sup> The problem of obtaining a sufficient pool of laborers confronted all employers, including ironmasters.<sup>4</sup> Advertisements in county newspapers attest to the fact that workmen, skilled and unskilled, were constantly in demand in the 1700s and 1800s. Bining also states that "opportunities were greater for the worker and class lines were less rigid, which offered greater advancement"<sup>5</sup> than English labor institutions of the seventeenth century from which the colonial systems evolved.

The iron industry progressed differently from other industries. Its organization remained the same, with dependence on traditional factors such as natural resources and technological improvements rather than the influences of organized labor systems or guilds. Although frontier conditions allowed for less rigid conditions than the English system, servile labor occupied a more important place in the colonies.<sup>6</sup>

Workers in Cumberland County's iron industry until the 1840s could be classified in a general manner—free labor, indentured servants, slaves, apprentices, and women. This conclusion was established from tax records, advertise-

ments, and day books of local furnaces. The following ad gives insightful information on conditions of labor and culture during that period.

Four Dollars Reward

Ran-away about three weeks ago from the subscriber living at the Carlisle Iron Works, Cumberland County, a negro woman, named Bett, about forty years of age, speaks good German and English, her clothes unknown, and fond of strong liquor supposed to be about the river. Whoever secures said wench in any gaol shall be entitled to the above reward and reasonable charges if brought home.

August 18th, 1789

Michael Ege

Such ads for runaways appeared frequently. Tax lists showed that ironmasters were assessed by the number of their slaves. Women were consistently listed in ledgers when paid for services such as mending, farming, and supplying wood. Regardless of the conditions, there were many instances of families of ironworkers who remained at the same plantation for generations.<sup>7</sup>

Jacob and Margaret Weiser were residents of Pine Grove by 1840; their descendants gave early accounts of life surrounding the furnace. Jacob and Margaret had twelve children; five died in infancy (two of diphtheria, which spread through the village), leaving seven who continued their association with Pine



ORE BANK NO. 2. Nineteenth Century. Photograph Collection, Cumberland County Historical Society.

Grove. John, their eldest son, was encouraged by William Watts, the ironmaster, to attend an academy in Chester County. Two letters preserved by the family shed light on life at the furnace in 1859:

...the furnace not yet in blast and the pig metal is getting very small. The coal is not yet in the colliers are all done but Hellar the bank is in good order the ditch was brought up this week with six feet of a face over the bottom their is as much ore out now as make 200 tons of pig....

JOHN WEISER

The second letter was written to John by Mr. Watts in 1860.

...All well here I believe Fitzguard wife died yesterday and will be buried tomorrow. You have heard of Falls horrible death on the water wheel at Mine Bank. Tomorrow I go to town and probably Kentucky.

WM. W. WATTS

John returned to Pine Grove and clerked for Mr. Watts until he enlisted in the army during the Civil War in 1862.

According to the Weisers, the 1860s and 1870s were periods of growth at Pine Grove. Jacob raised the money to erect the church where he preached and taught a Bible class. Samuel, Jacob's second son, added his early recollections of the village:

There were two rows of houses for the workmen. 'Smokey Row,' and 'Workmen's Row.' Houses were constructed of log and mortar, large fireplaces, some had ten-plate stoves.

The people did not live in luxury, but they were content. Jay Cooke, the financier, gave a party every July 4th for the employees. Lemonade, sugar cakes, fireworks, races, and contests filled the day. Prizes were awarded for safety during the year.

Large farms were maintained and orchards supplied cherries and apples to employees. Deer were abundant and rabbits were snared with bent saplings stretched across charcoal paths.

Huckleberries always grew up in the charcoal pits and those not sold to peddlers made delicious pies and puddings.

In the winter we could coast two miles on Laurel Hill and in the summer, sitting on the porches you could watch the smoldering charcoal pits on the side of the mountain....<sup>8</sup>

This description of life at Pine Grove fits the surviving descriptions of life on most iron plantations in Pennsylvania.<sup>9</sup>

The operation of a furnace required many hands trained to do a variety of tasks. Most workers were employed full-time, while others were part-time or seasonal. Some tasks required highly skilled men, but other tasks were laborious and easily learned. According to furnace ledgers, wages ranged from 51 to 86 cents per day, the average work day usually being twelve hours long.<sup>10</sup> The furnace usually operated for nine months, then was shut down for repairs during the winter months.

Second in rank and responsibility beneath the ironmaster was the company clerk. He kept all financial transactions and records, controlled the pay roll, often managed the company store, and in the absence of his employer ran the operation. He was in charge of the labor, transportation, repairs, and capital improvements. Although such records do not answer all the questions asked today, they were no doubt adequate to manage a business that operated without standard currency, suffered from marginal reserves, and faced a chronic cash-flow problem. John Arthur, who kept a ledger at Pine Grove in 1795, was also a part owner of the iron works and served as assessor of Middleton Township in the late 1700s. His daughter, Jane, married Peter Ege, who became the ironmaster at Pine Grove in 1816.

Below the rank of clerk was the founder, who was in charge of the plant's physical operations. He supervised the charging of ore, limestone, and charcoal into the furnace. He relied solely on his skill and instincts in adjusting the air blast, and decided when the iron was ready to be tapped.

Moulders were also highly skilled artisans. Their craft was an art that took years to learn and was often passed from father to son. Their duty was to cast iron into finished products.

Other positions included fillers, who filled the tunnel head of the stack with ore, limestone, and fuel; miners, who dug ore and stone from shallow pits; teamsters, who were often contracted to drive wagons filled with supplies and products to and from the furnace; keepers, who assisted the founder; and gutter men, who removed slag or cinder.

Projected expenses for labor for a period of 44 weeks at Mt. Holly Furnace in 1845 were estimated in a report:<sup>11</sup>

Wages at the Furnace

A. 1 founder per month .....	\$40.00
B. 2 keepers per month .....	60.00
C. 2 fillers .....	40.00
D. 1 gutterman .....	25.00
E. 2 bankmen .....	60.00
F. 1 nightstoker .....	15.00
G. 2 laborers .....	\$20.00
Total wages per month .....	\$260.00
Total wages for 44 weeks .....	\$2,860.00

The workers had a close personal relationship with others in the community and with the ironmaster, who provided for all of the needs of his employees. His mansion served as a social center, business headquarters, and boarding house for customers as well as staff. The Ege-Bucher mansion in Boiling Springs and the Ege mansion at Pine Grove are existing examples from the era of "big house" elegance and hospitality.

Working conditions would certainly horrify those accustomed to present day labor standards, but were not worse than those endured in other lines of work at that time. Several incidents of disciplinary actions are found in various ledgers, usually in the form of fines deducted from a worker's pay. At Mary Ann Furnace in 1832, for example, George Heller was fined \$20 "for neglect of

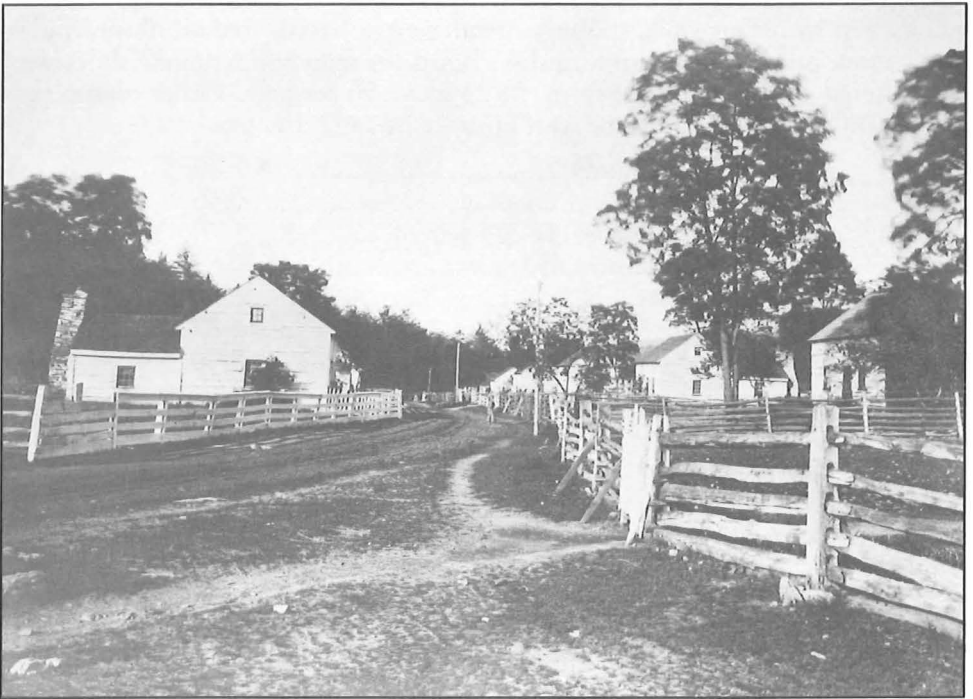
duty, leaving the job, and disappointment in two loads of coal.” Other entries showed that most fines were lower. Heller may have been a repeat offender.

Many accounts in furnace records throughout the estate reveal that drunkenness was a problem within the iron communities. Cumberland County was not an exception. A petition against renewing a tavern license dated 1834 stated that:

Philip Brechbiel who resides at the head of Boiling Springs on the road from Carlisle to the Carlisle Iron Works . . . had kept tavern at his residence during the past year. The subscribers have been informed and believe that said tavern has not been well conducted and has been resorted to only as a drinking grog shop. Situated in the vicinity of Carlisle Iron Works where a great number of laborers are constantly employed, it has been found very injurious to said Works, seducing the laborers and corrupting their morals, to the great disadvantage of their employer and the ruin of their families.<sup>12</sup>

Unfortunately for Mr. Ege, the ironmaster, and other subscribers, Brechbiel continued to operate his tavern for several more years.

The company towns operated as self-sufficient communities. The relics of what was once a thriving industry are still visible at Pine Grove Furnace and the earliest site of the Carlisle Works in Boiling Springs. Other furnace site evidence has long since disappeared, except for a crumbling stack and remaining



*IRONWORKERS' HOUSES, Laurel. Nineteenth century. Photograph Collection, Cumberland County Historical Society.*

pieces of slag. At Pine Grove, in addition to the “Mansion” house, a few other physical remains have survived.

In stark contrast to the patriarchal “big house” were the iron workers’ cottages. Several of these residences exist today at the various furnace sites. “The cottages of the laborers were log and plaster, simply furnished with painted wooden furniture and huge feather beds, and their prosperity was gauged by the number and variety of their patchwork quilts.”<sup>13</sup> A few bricks and a trace of a foundation are all that remain of a school. In the 1700s few children who lived in iron communities attended school. In a Pine Grove ledger dated 1795, however, a worker was charged 5 shillings per child for “schooling.” Several years later advertisements appeared in local papers for a teacher at Pine Grove Furnace. Children from nearby Laurel and Pine Grove eventually attended this now vanished schoolhouse. Many commuted by the train when it ran through the village.

Records of the furnace operation were kept in the company office. Much of the original fieldstone structure remains today. The building remained in use by the South Mountain Railroad and later by the Fuller Slate and Brick Company after the decline of the iron works.

A church was built for the community in 1870. Its tower bell was donated by Jackson Fuller, the last ironmaster at Pine Grove. The church continues today as an active congregation.

All of the iron communities maintained a “company store.” Ledgers list the goods that stores provided; popular items were tobacco, coal oil, flour, molasses, bacon, calico, ribbon and muslin. Boots for men and women’s shoes were also offered, ranging in price from \$1.25 to \$2.50 per pair. Other examples of items and their prices at Mary Ann Furnace in 1832 are:

1 gallon Brandy.....	\$ 1.50
1 stone jug .....	.50
20 yds. linen @ .18 3/4 per yd. ....	3.75
2 bottles castor oil .....	1.50
10 candles .....	1.00
1 clothes line .....	1.87
1 hand saw .....	2.00

The research to establish whether the workmen and their families were contented or not with the conditions of their daily lives is incomplete. There are accounts of runaways, “walking off the job,” drunkenness, and “neglect on the job.” But there are also family histories such as the Weisers’ “family memories,” about people who were given opportunities to leave, but remained a part of the community generation after generation.

Dr. Paul Heberlig, who led an archaeology project ten years ago at Greenwood Furnace in Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, described the workers’ acceptance of their situation in the following statement:

The housewife looking out her window would see only slag heaps on the landscape and nothing green that was higher than a lilac bush. The air was thick with charcoal dust, and the noise from the furnace continued round

the clock, seven days a week. Half of her children would not survive to adulthood, and she herself would probably die young. They were isolated from the rest of the world, but they worked, hunted, fished, drank, and made music.<sup>14</sup>

## Notes

1. William A. Sullivan, *The Industrial Worker in Pennsylvania, 1800-1840* (Harrisburg, Pa., 1955), ch. 1; Arthur C. Bining, *Pennsylvania Iron Manufacture in the Eighteenth Century* (Harrisburg, 1938), ch. 6.
2. Conway P. Wing, *History of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia, 1879), ch. 2.
3. Bining, *Pennsylvania Iron Manufacture*, ch. 6.
4. Petition of Ironmaster, *Votes of the Assembly*, III, 31; William Gwynn to George Ege, April 22, 1779, C.B. Montgomery Ms. Coll., cited in Bining, *Pennsylvania Iron Manufacture*.
5. *Ibid.*, 94.
6. *Ibid.*, 93.
7. Lenore E. Flower, *History of Pine Grove* (Carlisle, 1975); Frederick S. Weiser, "Family Memories of Pine Grove Furnace," an address to Cumberland County Historical Society, November 18, 1954 (Ms. in Cumberland County Historical Society).
8. *Ibid.*
9. *A Guide to Hopewell Village; Bining, Pennsylvania Iron Manufacture*, ch. 2; Joseph E. Walker, *Hopewell Village* (Philadelphia, 1966).
10. Interviews with William Rosevear, Park Director, Pine Grove Furnace, Gardners, Pa., March-May 1986.
11. F.C. Kropff, Report to F and M Bank Directors of Mt. Holly Estate, December 13, 1845 (Ms. in Cumberland County Historical Society).
12. Petition, 1834, Cumberland County Court Sessions.
13. National Society of the Colonial Dames of America (Pennsylvania), *Forges and Furnaces in the Province of Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia, 1914).
14. Telephone interview with Dr. Paul Heberlig, professor of anthropology, Juniata College, April 7, 1986.

## The Carlisle Deluge, 1779

*Whitfield J. Bell, Jr.*

On the night of August 19, 1779, there occurred on the south side of the North Mountain about ten miles northwest of Carlisle a geological phenomenon that eventually drew the attention of the astronomer David Rittenhouse, Dr. Benjamin Franklin, the Secretary of War, and the president of Harvard College, and was described both in private letters among these and other men and also in the published proceedings of the second oldest learned society in the United States. More than two centuries later the site of this unusual natural event is known at least in a general way to older residents of the Cumberland Valley.

The Carlisle Deluge, as one geologist has called the episode, was a sudden, powerful gush of water from the mountainside that carried all before it on its descent to the Conodoguinet Creek, tearing large trees out by their roots, sending great rocks tumbling over one another, flooding fields and pastures, and leaving behind a gash or ravine whose traces were visible after more than two centuries.

How a report of the incident reached Philadelphia is not known. It was probably by a private letter for no Philadelphia newspaper in the two months after the event seems to have noticed it. In any event, his curiosity aroused, Rittenhouse travelled to Carlisle in mid-October<sup>1</sup> and spent a day inspecting the area where the deluge occurred and the evidences it had left. Several possible explanations occurred to him, but none satisfied him. Guessing that there might have been an electrical cause, Rittenhouse described the deluge in a letter of April 29, 1780, to Benjamin Franklin, his fellow-townsmen then in France, and asked his judgment on the phenomenon.

Sir

Amidst the many important objects of your attention I doubt not but you sometimes unbend your mind by an Excursion thro' the fields of Philosophy [science]. I shall therefore make no apology for communicating to you a freak of Nature which seems to be new, at least it is so to us. On the 19th. of August last during a heavy Shower of Rain, not attended by any Thunder lightning or wind, a prodigious Torrent fell on the North or Blue Mountain 10 Miles from Carlisle, and Carried away every Rock and Tree however large that stood in its Course, it likewise tore up the Earth &



Stones from 4 to 10 feet deep, and from two to 6 perchers wide, for upwards of 100 rod, that is from very near the top of the Mountain down to the foot of the first Steep Ascent.

I had heard such wonderful accounts of the effects of this Cataract that I was induced to take a ride of 130 miles to view the Spot, and spent a whole Day there with satisfaction and astonishment. The facts I am perfectly convinced of by my own observation, and which appear to me most worthy of your notice are these. It was certainly a stream of water falling from the Clouds in a Spot not above 10 yards in diameter, and not any collection of waters falling in rain, on the surface of the Earth. The face of the mountain will not admit a possibility of supposing it to have been a collection of water already fallen in rain in the common way, it being a very high narrow ridge, and the Soil, Stony, Sandy and sufficiently porous to drink up rains falling in the common way. And tho' the Stream seems to have continued some time, certainly at least a few minutes, it nevertheless fell invariably in the same Spot, without moving to the right or left. I should be happy in having your opinion on this matter, my own Conjecture is that a Great Quantity of the Electric fluid, passing silently from the Cloud to the Mountain, carried the forming drops of rain from all quarters of the Cloud to one point, and by uniting them produced this prodigious Cataract.<sup>2</sup>

Franklin's reply, if he made one, seems not to have survived.

On December 16, 1780, at a meeting of the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia Rittenhouse read a letter that he had written to Franklin; it is described in the secretary's minutes as

containing conjectures founded on accurate observation, with respect to changes which the Globe of the earth in some parts hath undergone, most probably by the falling of [tantalizingly the sentence is uncompleted].

The observations are principally confined to the Western district of Pennsylvania.<sup>3</sup>

This letter may have discussed the damage done to the earth by falling meteors, the subject of a letter Rittenhouse sent to Franklin on December 31. In any case, his reflections on meteors in this letter recalled to Rittenhouse's mind the damage caused by the Carlisle deluge: "In August 1779," he wrote in the conclusion of his letter of December 31, "a prodigious Stream of water fell from the Clouds on the Summit of the Blue Mountain, of which I have already given you an account. Had this Cataract fallen on the plain whereon Philadelphia Stands, half its inhabitants would probably [have] been drowned."<sup>4</sup>

Here the matter seems to have rested, at least as far as Franklin was concerned. In the summer of 1782, however, General Benjamin Lincoln, Secretary of War in the Confederation government, set out for western Pennsylvania to inspect his lands there. Before he left Philadelphia Lincoln learned something from Rittenhouse about the cataract at Carlisle; and on his return from the journey he described it in a letter to Dr. Joshua Barker, a physician and fellow-citizen of Hingham, Massachusetts.<sup>5</sup> After giving brief accounts of the towns of Lancaster, York, and Carlisle, General Lincoln told of exploring 250 feet into

the limestone cave that opens onto the Conodoguinet Creek a mile north of the latter town (now known as Cave Hill); and he then continued:

About three years since the people in the vicinity of this town, who lived near the mountain which is about ten Miles from the Village, were alarm'd by a current of Water overflowing the banks of the river [Conodoguinet Creek]. The cause they could not investigate as there had been, the night before, but a small Rain, however they soon found the first effects of the water appeared within about twenty feet of the top of the mountain. Whether it burst forth from the mountain, or was a column of water from the clouds has not yet been ascertained. [The course in which it ran down the mountain was dry the next morning.] It was confin'd to the width of twenty feet perhaps less. It appear'd to be about thirty feet deep as could be discovered by the appearance on such of the trees which were not carried away by the water. It cut a passage in the side of the mountain of about seven or eight feet wide and near that depth. The traces of it are seen from the town tho' as I said before it is ten miles distant. One rock of a very considerable weight, was thrown into the crotch of a tree twelve feet from the ground in which it remain'd for some time. When the water came into the valley its impetuosity was so great that it was not immediately diverted but reached a small rising ground through which it cut a passage, then followed the valley and so on to the River, which was at some considerable distance. In its course it carried off all the fences and came upon the floors of some of the houses. A very particular acct. of this matter was taken by Mr. Rittenhouse, who went twice to see it. I hope some time or other to obtain his remarks. I am encouraged to hope for them but he is now sick, therefore they cannot be obtained.<sup>6</sup>

Three years later, having been elected a member of the newly-established American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Lincoln copied so much of his letter to Dr. Barker as contained observations on the springs and streams of Virginia and Pennsylvania, including "the sudden Descent of a very large Current of Water from the Mountain, near Carlisle," and sent the report to Dr. Joseph Willard, vice-president of the Academy (and president of Harvard College). The letter was printed in the first volume of the *Memoirs* of the Academy in 1785.<sup>7</sup> In only one essential did Lincoln's article in the Academy's *Memoirs* add anything to his letter to Barker. He had had "some conversation" with Rittenhouse, he wrote, and it was Rittenhouse's opinion "that it was not a column of water which bursted forth from the mountain, as it was near the top of one of the highest." Through this publication a description of what has been called the Carlisle Deluge was communicated to men of science and passed into the literature of geology.

Neither David Rittenhouse nor General Lincoln understood the cause of the extraordinary flow of water that each described. Modern geologists, however, understand what it was. The following scientific explanation of the phenomenon was given to the author of this account by Dr. Hatten S. Yoder, Jr., director emeritus of the Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

The description of the event relates most closely to the common occur-

rence of a “debris flow.” The principal requisite is water oversaturation of permeable soil on a relatively steep slope. The release event could be triggered by a heavy downpour, a lightning strike [as Rittenhouse surmised], or an earthquake, and often initiates at the head of small gullies. A hard, underlying, down-dipping surface may promote the mass movement of the soil. The rate of movement may be as little as inches per year (solifluction) and yet move blocks as large as a house. On the other hand, catastrophic flows such as that at Carlisle resulted in mass wasting that may have taken only a few minutes to move equally large blocks. A jumble of rocks (Hemminger’s “stony batter”) are usually found at the head of the scar and the lower end may be predominantly mud.

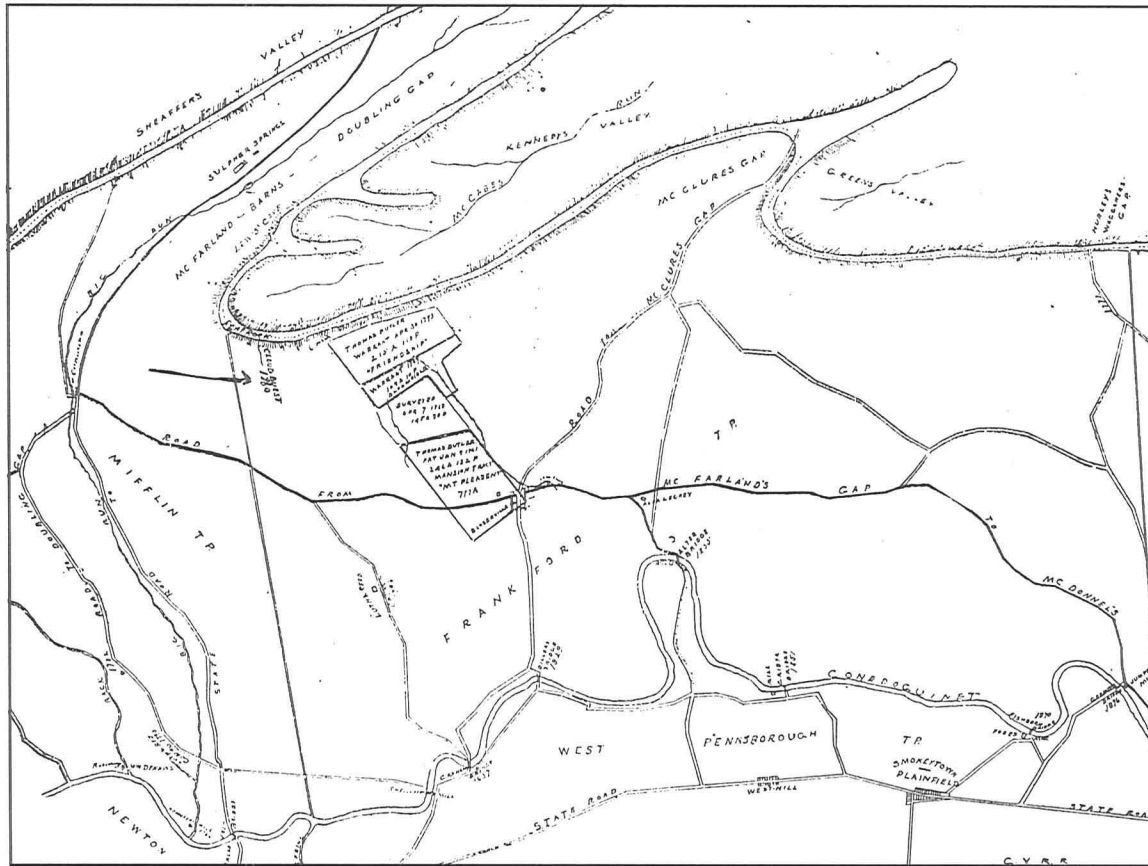
The applicable principle of slope failures is that the density of soil is decreased by the presence of water and eventually passes into a state of complete liquefaction. The slide may begin when the effective cohesion of the particles is reduced, the effective friction angle is exceeded, and the intergranular water pressure exceeds that to which the soil has been consolidated.<sup>8</sup>

In 1879 William Wagner, in a sketch of Franklin Township written for Conway P. Wing’s *History of Cumberland County* in 1879, described the area and the event, and with some additional details. The most prominent feature of the area was Flat Rock, which, offering a superb view of the Valley from the Susquehanna to the Potomac River, was “visited annually by hundreds of tourists and pleasure-seekers from all parts of the Union.” Not more than half a mile to the east of Flat Rock, Wagner continued, was

a deep ravine in the mountain, its length being from the top to the foot, and from what can be learned by tradition, its breadth was from 20 to 25 feet and the depth about the same. This was caused by what is commonly known as a cloud-break, and at the time it occurred the Conodoguinet rose about ten feet in a very short time, inundating the low lands and causing the destruction of stock, and greatly endangering the lives of the inhabitants. This cloud-burst occurred in the month of August, between the years 1778-80.<sup>9</sup>

From Flat Rock hikers, picnickers, and naturalists sometimes ventured several hundred yards eastward along the mountain to inspect the site of the Deluge. One such party of explorers, composed of members of the Hamilton Library Association and led by John D. Hemminger, a surveyor and local historian, visited Doubling Gap and its surrounding area in 1913. He reported on the tour to the Association on December 19, 1913, and this report was printed in a small pamphlet. It is not clear from Hemminger’s account of the excursion whether his party actually set foot in the area damaged by the debris flow, but one of the sketch maps that illustrate his paper clearly locates “cloud burst 1780”. Although Hemminger closely followed Wagner, he added a few details:

East from “Flat Rock” on the side of the “Knob” is a Stony batter of considerable extent, which was called “The Devil’s Turnip Patch.” The “Flat Rock” and this stony batter, are visible from the valley, miles away. About half a mile east of the “Flat Rock” there is a deep ravine from the top to the foot



"CLOUD BURST 1780." Sketch map in J.D. Hemminger, *Historical Points and Personages On the Road... to Doubling Gap Springs* ([Carlisle], 1914).

of the mountain. Tradition says it was caused by a cloud break, occurring in the month of August, between the years 1778-80. At the time it occurred, the Conodoguinet Creek rose ten feet, in a very short time, inundating the low lands, and destroying valuable crops.

By many it was remembered as the "Pumpkin" flood, for the reason that the waters of the Creek were full of pumpkins carried from the corn fields.<sup>10</sup>

EPILOGUE. In the spring of 1996 two reconnaissances of the area were made; but neither produced firm information. On March 30 the author was flown over the area by helicopter by Judge J. Wesley Oler, Jr., of the Cumberland County courts; but neither the pilot nor his passenger saw anything that could be described accurately as evidence of a debris flow or deluge, nor did photographs made from the aircraft provide a clear identification. Two weeks later Kenneth J. Boyles, superintendent of Colonel Denning State Park, within, or just outside of, which the deluge must have occurred, explored the area on foot, but with similarly negative results.

## Notes

1. On October 19 Benjamin Guild of Boston, who was visiting Philadelphia, "drank tea with Dr. [Thomas] Bond who . . . said that Mr. Rittenhouse was gone up beyond Carlisle to view an extraordinary eruption of a mountain." Guild, Diary, Oct. 19, 1779 (Massachusetts Historical Society). A brief account of Rittenhouse's part in this event is given in Brooke Hindle, *David Rittenhouse* (Princeton, 1964), 118-19, to which I am indebted for this reference.
2. Rittenhouse to Franklin, April 20, 1780, Franklin Manuscripts, Bache Collection (American Philosophical Society). This letter and that cited in note 4 below will appear in forthcoming volumes of Leonard W. Labaree and others, eds., *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin* (New Haven, 1959-).
3. Manuscript Minutes, December 16, 1780 (American Philosophical Society).
4. Rittenhouse to Franklin, December 31, 1780, Franklin Manuscripts, Bache Collection.
5. Joshua Barker (1753-1800), a graduate of Harvard College in 1772, practiced medicine at Hingham; he was a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society. James Thacher, *American Medical Biography* (Plymouth, Mass., 1828), I, 143-44.
6. Lincoln to Barker, August 16, 1782, Benjamin Lincoln Papers (Massachusetts Historical Society).
7. Lincoln, "An Account of several Strata of Earth and Shells . . . and the sudden Descent of a very large Current of Water from a Mountain, near Carlisle; . . .," *American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Memoirs*, I (1785), 374.
8. Hatten S. Yoder, Jr. to author, March 28, 1996.
9. Conway P. Wing, *History of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia, 1879), 271.
10. John D. Hemminger, *Historical Points and Personages On the Road from Carlisle to Doubling Gap Spring* (Carlisle, [1913]), 24-25.

## Mechanicsburg's Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Park: A Local Response to the National Playground Movement

*William J. Murray*

Americans have a love-hate relationship with the city. Thomas Jefferson wanted to create a country of gentlemen farmers because cities were a haven for men with radical ideas and dangerous to the “morals, the health, and the liberties of men.”<sup>1</sup> The image of the city did not improve during the nineteenth century. The city was seen as a modern Babylon, the breeding ground of sin and evil, and a trap for the good Christian.<sup>2</sup> At the end of the last century leaders in urban areas such as New York tried to reform the city by adding services that would upgrade and enhance the life of the citizens. Tax dollars were spent to build art museums and public libraries.<sup>3</sup> The period also saw the development of the city-owned park system.

Why a park in the city? Historian Charles Glaab explains, “It was in the urban park that man could attempt to regain the virtues of life in nature lost within the city.”<sup>4</sup> If the city was evil, the movement preached, perhaps a piece of the country with open land, fresh air, and sunshine would improve the life of the people who were forced to live there.<sup>5</sup>

Very early in its history New York City developed to support the needs of commerce and industry. The island of Manhattan was laid out in city lots as early as 1811 to support a population that grew from 124,000 to 310,000 in 1840.<sup>6</sup> If any area felt the pressures of urban living and needed a park, it was Manhattan.

In 1853 a total of 524 acres were purchased from 59th to 106th Streets between Fifth and Eighth Avenues. The park was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux as “the culmination of England’s picturesque landscape tradition molded to the American vision.”<sup>7</sup> Totally man-made, Central Park was built as a giant public park.<sup>8</sup> The movement moved to other cities. An ordinance of the Philadelphia City Council in 1867 created the boundaries of Philadelphia’s Fairmount Park.<sup>9</sup>

The early twentieth century saw the organization of the Playground Association of America for the purpose of organizing activities and sports for America’s youth. The philosophy of the movement was explained by Henry Smith Williams writing in *Harper’s Weekly*. “Sports represent a positive good amidst the

complexity and evils which have accompanied the rise of the city and the growth of an industrial society.”<sup>10</sup> The President of the United States concurred. Concerned by the threat of over-civilization inherent in the nation’s new urban industrial society, Theodore Roosevelt wrote:

A healthy state exists only when the men and women who make it up lead clean, vigorous, healthy lives, when the children are so trained that they shall endeavor, not to shrink difficulties, but to overcome them; not to seek ease, but to know how to wrestle triumph from toil and risk.<sup>11</sup>

Would the same movement come to central Pennsylvania, a land of farms and open spaces? Was the Playground Movement needed in the towns of that area? Though late in coming, the movement did arrive. The town of Mechanicsburg in Cumberland County is an example.

The idea of a park for Mechanicsburg did not originate with the borough council nor was it funded by taxes, but rather it was the initiative of a group of local merchants and businessmen, who took it upon themselves to raise the necessary funds. In 1919 a fund drive began in the town to raise \$25,000 for the “purchase, equipment, and maintenance of Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Memorial Park.” The pledges were due in four bi-monthly payments from July 1, 1919, to January 1, 1920. R.N. Bittle, a local merchant, served as treasurer.<sup>12</sup> Once purchased by private donations, the land was “given to the people of Mechanicsburg as a memorial to those who lost their lives in World War I.”<sup>13</sup> As a document of later date records, “said tract of land was purchase by public subscription made by the citizens of Mechanicsburg, the subscription cards signed by the subscribers *inter alia*.”<sup>14</sup>

The plot was located on the western edge of town one block north of the Trindle Road and one block east of the Hogestown Road. This land was connected to the existing football field, which was owned by the borough and leased to the Mechanicsburg High School Athletic Association.<sup>15</sup> Football, it should be said here, was in its infancy in Mechanicsburg. The thirteen members of the 1920 team were the first to compete in the sport for the school.<sup>16</sup> At the same time that the community was raising money for the park, the athletic association was raising money for new bleachers to seat 4,000 fans, a water line to the field, entrance and ticket booths, and a press box. A fence was also constructed around the area. In addition, the Mechanicsburg Club, a local service organization, agreed to fund the construction of a field house.<sup>17</sup>

Why was the park named “Solders’ and Sailors’ Memorial?” In an address about the founding of the park delivered on November 29, 1921, to the members of the Mechanicsburg Athletic Association at their banquet held at the National Hotel on Main Street in Mechanicsburg, D.R. Jacobsen, president of the Mechanicsburg Park Commission, explained:

The great World War involved our country calling for the best that our community could offer in brains and brawn. Our men responded to the best that was in them for their country’s needs. They returned to their homes and once more became a part of their communities, following the even tenor of their ways. But a grateful community memorializes their

actions and from this was conceived the idea of a Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial Park.<sup>18</sup>

A community meeting was held in the Franklin Hall annex on April 22, 1920, to plan an intensive campaign to promote the development of the park. The drive was a success.

Once the land had been purchased, the area was graded, trees planted, and a baseball field constructed.<sup>19</sup> The land for the park originally contained twenty-five acres of what had been farm land.<sup>20</sup> An additional 25.045 acres of land was purchased from Laura C. & Henry S. Gross of Harrisburg for \$11,270.25 and deeded to the borough on May 10, 1921.<sup>21</sup> The new park was administered by a Board of Commissioners appointed by the Mechanicsburg burgess, John J. Milliesen. Milliesen appointed the following local businessmen and administered the oath of office at the initial meet held June 14, 1921: R. Jacobsen, five years, elected as vice president; John Robinson, four years, elected as secretary-treasurer; L. H. Lamb, three years appointment, and Charles H. Smith, one year appointment. The Reverend Mr. George Fulton, pastor of the Presbyterian church on South Market Street, who was not present at this organizing meeting, was elected president.<sup>22</sup>

The park was officially opened in the summer of 1922. The alumni of Mechanicsburg High School provided funds for the supervision of children of all ages from "tiny tots to those in high school." Available during the summer were games of all kinds, including tennis, volleyball, baseball, and longball. Park equipment for the youngsters included maypoles, sand boxes, and parallel bars. According to the year-end report, "The climax of the first season was Romper Day, so called because the children romped through a day of activities." Merchants of the town awarded prizes to winners of the different events. The cost to run the playground for the year was \$328.48.<sup>23</sup>

The fact that the playground was open did not mean that work on the park was completed. The commission was interested in planting trees on the property and requested that the local Boy Scouts plant acorns.<sup>24</sup>

During 1923 plans for the construction of a pool were made. At the May meeting of the Park Commission, bids were taken to build a wading pool.<sup>25</sup> The contract for \$1,956 was awarded to S. B. Leach, the only bidder.<sup>26</sup> At a later meeting the use of the wading pool was limited to those under fifteen.<sup>27</sup> The pool was completed in 1924.<sup>28</sup>

Undeveloped land on the western edge of the park was leased by Borough Council to the Mechanicsburg Athletic Association for the purpose of building an athletic field<sup>29</sup> to provide a "place for entertainment and suitable grounds for playing the game of football, baseball, and other games, sport, and pastimes."<sup>30</sup> The first game on the new field was played on September 24, 1926.<sup>31</sup> The games must have been a huge success because the minutes of the Park Commission show that additional parking spaces were soon needed for cars attending the athletic field.<sup>32</sup>

The park continued to add features for young and old alike. The "jungle gym," donated by the Pottsville Manufacturing Company in memory of Jesse



V. Smith, was dedicated on Memorial Day 1926.<sup>33</sup> On June 8 of the same year, with patriotic speeches and a fireworks display, American Legion Post 109 dedicated the field piece that stands at the entrance of the park.<sup>34</sup> A bandstand was also erected in 1926; it was “appreciated, as evidenced by the number of concerts given by our local bands and singing societies, entertaining a great number.”<sup>35</sup>

Not everything went smoothly over the years. The minutes of the Park Commission of July 6, 1926, indicate that the Pennsylvania Railroad was billed \$75 for trees destroyed by fire. At the same meeting the directors authorized the purchase of \$15,000 worth of fire insurance to cover building and equipment.<sup>36</sup>

Attendance at the park grew steadily from 11,000 during 1922, its first summer of operation, to 36,130 during the 1926 season.<sup>37</sup> Still, there was concern that the park was not being used to its capacity. The playground director, Miss Dorothy Rinehard, promised to “organize teams and make a personal canvas of the town in the interest of the park,” but soon resigned her position, for which she was paid five dollars a week.<sup>38</sup> The Commissioners filled in by performing the duties of playground director for the season.<sup>39</sup>

William H. Walters was hired as the playground instructor for the 1927 summer program, with his salary set at \$400 for the season.<sup>40</sup> Miss Anna M. Smith was hired as his assistant.<sup>41</sup> When the need for employees grew, John Hawk was hired as the night watchman and lawn mower operator in 1928.<sup>42</sup> A new roadway in the park was completed in 1928 and the speed limit was set at 15 miles per hour.<sup>43</sup>

The Park Commission was instrumental in building the running track in the park. Initially reluctant because of tight finances, the Commission eventually supported the decision to build the track because they were “encouraged by a group of members of the High School Athletic Association, and a statement by our past President, Mr. Robinson, that he would volunteer his services to supervise the construction and further encouragement of Council in granting the use of Borough machinery and the services of several men.”<sup>44</sup> The Commissioners’ records show that to build the track they paid \$156.60 to haul cinders, \$30 to purchase grass seed, and \$246.62 for labor. In addition the borough provided assistance at no charge, such as trucks, tractors, and additional labor.<sup>45</sup> The total cost to build the 96 feet of bleachers at the track was \$120, which included all material and labor.<sup>46</sup> During the 1930s the word “Mechanicsburg” in thirty-foot letters was placed at the athletic field to give directions to airplanes flying over head.<sup>47</sup>

In his *History of Cumberland Valley in Pennsylvania* in 1930, Dr. Donehoo wrote:

One of the great assets of Mechanicsburg is its spacious beautiful park containing 25 acres, beautifully ornamented with trees and shrubbery and equipped with all the paraphernalia necessary to make it a place of recreation and pleasure. It has space for football and baseball fields, and other recreations, and it is the happy gathering place of the children of the town through the summer months for play and sports under the guidance of trained and competent instructors.<sup>48</sup>

There was little new construction activity at the park during the Depression and the war years. Money and the efforts of the citizens went to other concerns during this period. Expansion was resumed after the re-establishment of peace. The construction of a larger pool was authorized April 23, 1957, with the creation of the Mechanicsburg Area Swimming Pool Authority. This non-profit organization was created by the borough, and it leased land from the borough to use as a swimming pool, wading pool, necessary bath house, and other related fixtures or buildings.<sup>49</sup> The pool was constructed by the Moseman Construction Company, Inc., at a cost of \$57,000. The bathhouse was officially opened during May, 1958. The pool director was William Brubaker, a social studies teacher at the Senior High School.<sup>50</sup>

Once a private venture of local businessmen, the park today is administered by the borough of Mechanicsburg. A recreation commission, appointed by council, in cooperation with the Mechanicsburg Area School District, sponsors summer programs.

The growth of the park is not complete. An agreement with the borough and the New Penn Motor Express, Inc. changed the shape of the park as recently as March, 1990.<sup>51</sup> Even today the park continues to evolve. Commissioned by the Borough Council, the firm of H. Edward Black & Associates has submitted drawings for improvements calling for the creation of new ball fields, a soccer field, and a strength court, as well as increased parking. Construction awaits the necessary funding.<sup>52</sup>

Mechanicsburg is fortunate to have a fine park for its community members to enjoy; a place where they can go as children to play and as adults to exercise and relax. The founders of the America Beautiful and the Playground movements would have approved.

#### Notes:

1. Thomas Jefferson, *Notes on the State of Virginia* (1784).
2. Charles Abrams, *The City is the Frontier* (Harper & Row: New York, 1965), 4.
3. Lyle W. Dorsett, comp., *The Challenge of the City* (Lexington, Mass.: D. C. Heath & Co., 1968), 79.
4. Charles N. Glaab, *The American City: A Documentary History* (Homewood, Ill.: Dorsey Press, Inc., 1963), 245.
5. Galen Cranz, *The Politics of Park Design: A History of Urban Parks in America* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1982), 5.
6. Henry Hope Reed and Sophia Duckworth, *Central Park, A History and a Guide* (New York: Clarkson N. Potter, Inc., 1967), 3.
7. Cranz, *Politics of Park Design*, 16.
8. *Ibid.*, 2.
9. Theo B. White, *Fairmount, Philadelphia's Park: A History* (Philadelphia: Art Alliance Press, 1975), 16.
10. Henry Smith Williams, "The Educational Value and Health Giving Value of Athletics," *Harper's Weekly*, XXXIX (February 16, 1895), 165.
11. Theodore Roosevelt, "The Strenuous Life," in *Essays and Addresses* (New York: Century Co., 1900), 3.
12. This information comes from a pledge card distributed to raise the funds necessary to finance the project. The Memorial Park archives cited in this article were given by Mrs. Louise Nailor Shelley to the Mechanicsburg Museum Association, where they are now preserved.
13. Unsigned note. Memorial Park archives.
14. Charles P. Schaub and William B. Neff

- vs. Borough of Mechanicsburg et al. No. 3, June Term, 1926, Court of Common Pleas, Cumberland County.
15. Football program, October 12, 1945, Archives, Mechanicsburg Area Senior High School.
  16. *Torch* (Mechanicsburg High School Yearbook), 1920. Archives, Mechanicsburg Area Senior High School.
  17. Football program, September 27, 1946. Archives, Mechanicsburg High School.
  18. (Mechanicsburg) *Daily Journal*, December 1, 1921.
  19. Park Committee, Letter, April 20, 1920. Memorial Park archives.
  20. *Daily Journal*, December 1, 1921.
  21. Note, unsigned and undated. The deed is recorded in Deed Book L, volume 9, page 169, Memorial Park archives.
  22. Park Commission, Minutes, June 14, 1921, Memorial Park archives. City directories of the period identify Milliesen as a lumber and coal dealer; Robinson as a lumberman; Lamb owned a hardware store; Smith was a grocer and Biddle was a merchant. Jacobsen was not listed in either directory consulted. *Residence and Business Directory of Carlisle, Cumberland County, Pa. and nearby Communities 1913-14* (Mechanicsburg: The Letter Shop, 1914) and *Mechanicsburg/Shiremanstown Directory, 1925* (Mechanicsburg: J.A. Bushman Co., 1925).
  23. Playground Committee, Report, 1922. Memorial Park archives.
  24. Park Commission, Minutes, April 9, 1923. Memorial Park archives.
  25. *Ibid.*, May 15, 1923.
  26. *Ibid.*, June 28, 1923.
  27. *Ibid.*, August 20, 1923.
  28. *Ibid.*, January 3, 1924.
  29. *Ibid.*, May 10, 1926.
  30. Mechanicsburg Borough Ordinance, May 6, 1926. Memorial Park archives.
  31. Park Commission to Borough Council, n.d.
  32. Park Commission, Minutes, October 5, 1926.
  33. *Ibid.*, May 10, 1926.
  34. Park Commission to Borough Council, n.d. Memorial Park archives.
  35. *Ibid.*
  36. Park Commission, Minutes, July 6, 1926.
  37. Park Commission to Borough Council, n.d. Memorial Park archives.
  38. Park Commission, Minutes, July 21, 1926.
  39. *Ibid.*, July 26, 1926.
  40. *Ibid.*, February 21, 1927.
  41. *Ibid.*, March 17, 1927.
  42. *Ibid.*, April 24, 1928.
  43. *Ibid.*
  44. Park Commission to Borough Council, n.d. Memorial Park archives.
  45. D. R. Jacobsen to High School Athletic Association, n.d. Memorial Park archives.
  46. Robert E. Myers, general contractor, to John Robinson, December 7, 1931. Memorial Park archives.
  47. Park Commission to Borough Council, n.d. Memorial Park archives.
  48. George P Donehoo, ed., *A History of Cumberland Valley in Pennsylvania* (Harrisburg: Susquehanna History Association, 1930), I, 477. At this time the park had grown to 50 acres.
  49. Agreement, April 23, 1957. A copy is in the file of the Recreation Commission in the Mechanicsburg borough office.
  50. Community Development Council, Scrapbook. Mechanicsburg Museum Association.
  51. Exchange agreement, March 2, 1990. Mechanicsburg Borough records.
  52. Interview with Scott R. Eppley, Borough Manager, Mechanicsburg, June 20, 1994.

## Cumberland County in the Panic of 1819

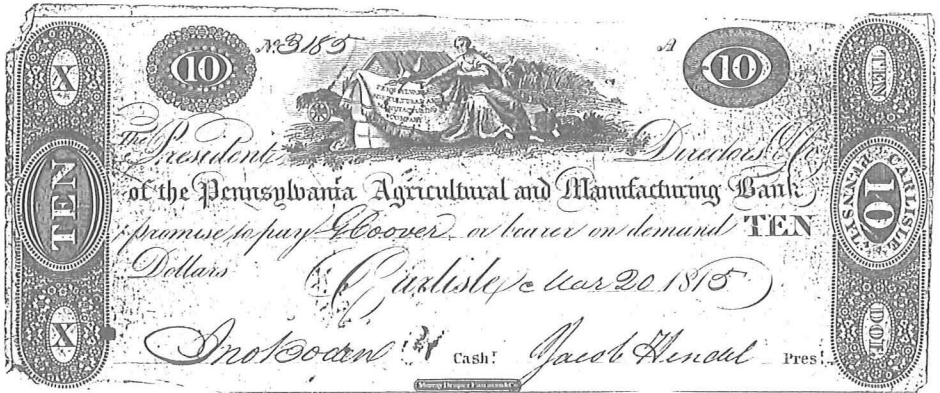
*A Contributor*

Some idea of economic condition of Pennsylvania during the Panic of 1819 may be obtained from the report of a committee of the State Senate appointed on December 10, 1819, to inquire into "the Extent and Causes of the present General Distress throughout the Commonwealth."

The long years of war in Europe and of the war of the United States with Great Britain, although they brought wealth and prosperity to some, also produced inflation and speculation. Making matters worse, the charter of the United States Bank, which expired in 1811, had not been renewed, and the country was without the controls and benefits of a central bank just as pressure increased for credit to build internal improvements, buy foreign goods, and acquire land. With respect to this last alone, such was the growth of population that in the six years after the return of peace in 1815, six new states were admitted into the federal union.

The demise of the first Bank of the United States was followed by the almost maniac chartering of banks by the states. In 1814, for example, the Pennsylvania Assembly, overriding the governor's veto, incorporated 41 banks, which thereupon issued currency, made loans, and generally operated with little caution or restraint. "A bank by many was no longer regarded as an instrument by which the surplus wealth of capitalists could be conveniently loaned to their industrious fellow citizens," the Pennsylvania Senate committee reported in its comprehensive review and analysis of economic conditions in 1819, "but as a mint in which money could be coined at pleasure, for those who did not possess it before." The speculation mania accelerated after the end of the war. "The banks urged on by cupidity, and losing sight of moral obligation in their lust for profit, launched out into an extent of issues, unexampled in the annals of folly."

The second Bank of the United States, chartered in 1816, was expected to check the extravagant inflation, but in fact its stock became an object of eager trade and its establishment of branches only accelerated the pressures created by the ill-regulated state banks. In the summer of 1818 the Bank, determined at last to curb the speculation, began to call in its loans. The result was a sharp contraction of credit. Many state banks suspended specie payment, some failed, prices fell, trade stagnated, manufacturing declined, bankruptcies and forced



*BANK NOTE OF THE PENNSYLVANIA AGRICULTURAL AND MANUFACTURING BANK, Carlisle, 1815. Cumberland County Historical Society.*

sales multiplied, and unemployment and imprisonment for debt rose. There was acute distress and even disaffection throughout the country. There were even calls for repeal of the state bank charters.<sup>1</sup>

In this situation a committee of the Pennsylvania Senate submitted a questionnaire about economic conditions in Pennsylvania to members of the legislature, county officials, and private citizens. Their responses, which were included in its report, were read in the Senate on February 14, 1820. In both the queries and the answers hostility to “the bank system” is thinly veiled. That sentiment, which was widely shared throughout much of the country, led to a Congressional investigation that turned up evidence of mismanagement and dishonesty in the Bank and to calls for repeal of its charter. The Bank, however, succeeded in reorganizing and reforming itself, and remained in existence until its charter expired in 1836.

In the conclusion of its report the Senate committee, which in effect addressed both the legislature and the citizens, reminded all of

the important truths—that labour is the legitimate source of wealth—that frugality and industry are alone to be relied on in the great pursuit of riches—that speculation is destructive of the morals and subversive of the steady employments of a people, and that the consumption of domestic manufactures, especially of those which are fabricated within their immediate dwellings, is hereafter to be relied on as an important item in restoring to the body corporate that health and vigour, of which it has been latterly deprived.

Some of the replies to the Senate’s questionnaire, especially from Philadelphia, Lancaster, and Bedford counties, were reasonably full and explicit. The respondent for Cumberland County (a member of the General Assembly) was, however, brief, almost laconic. Not even Question 32 tempted him to offer more than half a dozen words about the banking system. But, for all that, his replies give more than a hint of the economic distress of the time in Cumberland County.<sup>2</sup>

The replies for Cumberland County are printed here from the Senate report as reprinted in Samuel Hazard's *Register of Pennsylvania*, IV (August 29, September 5, 1829), 136-42, 145-53.

## Notes

1. An accessible account of the Panic may be found in John Bach McMaster, *History of the People of the United States* (New York, 1883-1913), IV, 484ff. Its social consequences are presented in Samuel Rezneck, "The Depression of 1819-1822, a Social History," *American Historical Review*, XXXIX (1933-34), 28-47.
2. A table attached to the Senate committee's report shows that in Cumberland County in 1809 the number of actions brought for debt was 134 and the number of judgments confessed was 62; in 1819 the comparable figures were 354 and 348 respectively. In the same two years the numbers of sheriff's sales of real property were 30 and 24.

### INTERROGATORIES ADDRESSED BY THE COMMITTEE TO A NUMBER OF THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND OTHER CITIZENS.

1. Is the distress so generally complained of, experienced in your district, or in any part of it?

*Ans.* General.

2. Under what forms does it exhibit itself? Is it accompanied by the embarrassments of farmers, merchants and others, by a general scarcity of money, by sacrifices of property, and by numerous law suits, particularly before justices of the peace?

*Ans.* Under all these forms.

3. What proportion of the inhabitants of your district do you suppose, are affected in their business, their revenue, or their usual punctuality, by the pressure of the times?

*Ans.* Two-thirds of the people.

4. Is money easily to be procured on mortgage where indubitable security is offered? If so, at what rate?

*Ans.* It is not without extra interest.

5. Was money, before the introduction of the banking system, easily to be procured upon such security, at legal interest?

*Ans.* It was.

6. What was the price of the best improved land in your neighbourhood, in the year 1809, or thereabouts?

*Ans.* From 40 to 60 dollars.

7. What was the price of the same land during the height of speculation? And in what year was speculation at its height?

*Ans.* From 150 to 200 dollars in 1813 and 1814.

8. What price do you suppose the same land would now sell for at public sale?

*Ans.* At sheriff's sale from 25 to 40 dollars.

9. Is there a bank in your district, and what bank, and when was it established?

*Ans.* Two until lately. One commenced during the mania, and continued until last summer. The other before 1814, and continues.

10. Did property first begin to rise when the banking system was introduced?

*Ans.* Soon after.

11. Did it begin to fall when the banks first began to call in their loans?

*Ans.* Shortly after.

12. To what has the distress in your district been generally ascribed by the citizens?

*Ans.* Excessive speculation, and depreciated bank paper chiefly.

13. Have not your merchants, storekeepers, and others, overtraded? If so, is not their overtrading to be ascribed to the facility of obtaining bank loans?

*Ans.* They have.

14. Has there been a great fall in the price of agricultural produce generally, during the last five years? If so, say how much percent?

*Ans.* Very great. In general 50 percent.

15. Do you believe there is much specie hoarded by the citizens of your district?

*Ans.* Not a great deal.

16. Have there been any great sacrifices of real estate, or of personal property within the last two years? If so, name some particulars?

*Ans.* Both to a great extent, especially real estate.

17. Has a scarcity of money been felt by men who are rich in property, as well as by the labouring classes?

*Ans.* By those who hold property especially.

18. Do the inhabitants of your district experience losses and inconvenience from the circulation of depreciated bank notes?

*Ans.* Not so much at present, as three or four years back.

19. What advantages do you conceive, have been experienced by your section of the country, from the introduction of the banking system, particularly as relates to internal improvements?

*Ans.* None at all.

20. Do you consider that the advantages have outweighed all the evils attendant on the banking system?

*Ans.* The evils have far overbalanced the advantages.

21. Have many people been deprived of their usual employment, by the suspension of manufacturing industry?

*Ans.* At least one-third.

22. Has the consumption of foreign manufactured articles much increased in your district, within the last ten years?

*Ans.* Articles of clothing especially.

23. Has a spirit of extravagance in dress, furniture and dwellings, pervaded your neighbourhood, to an extent beyond what usually results from a gradual increase of wealth amongst the people?

*Ans.* In all, but in dress in particular.

24. Has there not been of late years less domestic industry in the fabrication of articles for family use than formerly?

*Ans.* Nearly one-half.

25. Can you state the amount loaned by banks in your neighbourhood, to road and bridge companies, and whether the said loans have been repaid, or are likely to be, without a resort to legal compulsion?

*Ans.* Little loaned for public improvements; a large amount for private purposes, which must be collected by process of law.

26. What was the motive that led to the establishment of so many banks?

*Ans.* An avaricious desire for money, and a delusive belief that banks would make it abundant.

27. Have any of the farmers in your neighbourhood been so ruined by speculation in property, as to be obliged to remove from the state?

*Ans.* Some have.

28. Have usurious transactions been frequent within your knowledge? If so, enumerate some instances of extortion.

*Ans.* Excessive, beyond credibility. In one case a Mr. ———, bought a bond to the amount of \$1600 for \$400. In another, one for \$2300 for \$300.

29. Does the bank or banks in your district, if there be any, redeem their notes in specie on demand, for any amount that is presented, or are their notes at a depreciation in Philadelphia, and what depreciation?

*Ans.* The notes of one are worth nothing; those of the other are redeemed on presentment.

30. If there any specie in circulation in your district? If yes, what proportion does it bear to the paper? Is it silver or gold?

*Ans.* About one sixth, chiefly in silver.

31. Are there in circulation in your district any notes or tickets issued by corporations, which are not authorized by law to issue notes or tickets? If yes, say by



what corporations they are issued, and what is their lowest denomination?

*Ans.* None except the turnpike company bills, from 1 to 10 dollars.

32. Do you not suppose that the spirit of speculation, engendered by the facility of procuring bank loans, or by other causes, has had a sensible effect in diminishing the number of productive labourers, and that thus, whilst the nominal prices of commodities were raised, the real quantity of the products of industry were diminished?

*Ans.* I answer in the affirmative.

33. Have any of the contractors for the construction of roads or bridges, who have been aided by bank loans, been ruined by their undertakings?

*Ans.* None

34. Are you a stockholder in any bank?

*Ans.* I never held one cent, until one month since, when I was compelled to take \$100 of stock by transfer, for a desperate debt.

#### SNOW SLEIGHING

Since our last, we have had a fine fall of snow, some 16 or 18 inches deep on a level, and but little drifted—and, as we write, the merry jingle of sleigh bells proclaim in our longing ears that the old and young, married and single, are enjoying themselves in skipping over the white and slippery carpet that now enshrouds the earth.

(Shippensburg) *Weekly News*, January 4, 1849.

## A Traveller in Cumberland County, 1807

*Fortescue Cuming*

Fortescue Cuming (1762-1828) was one of the many travellers who passed through Cumberland County in the half century after 1785, and was one of those who kept and published a full account of the journey. A native of County Tyrone, Ireland, he had come to America after 1784 and been a resident of Connecticut since 1792. In 1806 he purchased land in the western country of the United States and the following year set out to the Ohio and Mississippi to inspect it.

He began his long and often arduous journey (for he travelled on foot) at Philadelphia on January 8, 1807, passed through Lancaster, Middletown, and Harrisburg to Carlisle, where he arrived on the evening of January 24. Leaving Carlisle the next morning, he proceeded by the Walnut Bottom road to Shippenburg and Chambersburg, and thence to Strasburg, on his way to Pittsburgh. The account of his trip was published at Pittsburgh in 1810 as *Sketches of a Tour to the Western Country, through the States of Ohio and Kentucky; a Voyage down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers and a Trip through the Mississippi Territory, and Part of West Florida*. In addition to the narrative of his two-year journey, with its descriptions and observations of the country, the people, and their prospects, the work contained several informative appendices, many by other writers, on the land and its features, the towns, diseases, and Indian customs and artifacts such as their impressive mounds.

The extract printed here is from pages 20-36 of the Pittsburgh edition. Some minor changes in punctuation have been made for the purpose of clarity, and several long paragraphs have been divided.

### SKETCHES OF A TOUR TO THE WESTERN COUNTY

This extract begins with Cuming's description of the view of the Susquehanna River from the "back piazza" of Mrs. Wentz' "excellent inn," The Sign of General Washington, at Middletown.

The Susquehannah is a noble river, here about a mile wide, with fine sloping wooded banks, and abounds with rock-fish, perch, mullet, eels, suckers, cat-fish and white salmon, which last is described as a fine fish from seven to fifteen pounds weight, but a distinct species from the red salmon of the northern rivers. Notwithstanding their plenty, Mrs. Wentz

assured me that she was seldom gratified with a dish of fish; for though there are many poor people in the town and neighbourhood who might make a good living by fishing, she says they are too lazy to do any thing more than will procure them some whiskey, in addition to a miserable subsistence, which a very little labour will suffice for in a country where work is so well paid for, and where the necessaries of life are so abundant and cheap.

Was it not that the Susquehannah abounds with falls, shallows and rapids which impede the navigation, it would be one of the most useful rivers in the world, as its different branches from its different sources, embrace a wonderful extent of country, settled, or rapidly settling, and abounding in wheat and maize (Indian corn), which most probably will always be staples of the large and flourishing state of Pennsylvania.

The road to Harrisburgh leads parallel to the Susquehannah, in some places close to the river, and never more distant from it than a quarter of a mile, along a very pleasant level, bounded on the right by a ridge of low, but steep wooded hills, approaching and receding at intervals, and affording a fine shelter from the northerly winds, to the farms between them and the river; which perhaps is one reason that the orchards are so numerous and so fine in this tract.

I have rarely seen in any country, a road more pleasant than this, either from its own goodness, or the richness and variety of prospect. The Susquehannah on the left about three quarter of a mile wide; sometimes appearing, and sometimes concealed by orchards, groves or clumps of wood. The fine wooded islands in the river. The mountains which terminate the ridge called the South mountain (which crosses part of Virginia, and the southern part of this state) rising abruptly from the margin of the river, in which they are charmingly reflected, altogether form ascenery truly delightful.

About three miles below Harrisburgh the mountains terminate, and the south bank of the river becomes more varied, though still hilly; and here on an elevated promontory, with a commanding view of the river, from above Harrisburgh to below Middleton [sic] is a large, and apparently fine stone house, owned by General Simpson, who resides in it on his farm, and is proprietor of a ferry much frequented by the western wagonners as the road that way is shorter by two miles, than that by Harrisburgh. He farms out the ferry on his side for about three hundred dollars per annum, while on this side the proprietor rents it at four hundred and seventy. The value of this ferry called Chambers's, may serve to convey some idea of the state of travelling in this country, particularly if one reflects that there are many other well frequented ferries where publick roads cross the river, within thirty miles both above and below this one, and which are all great avenues to the western country.

When two miles from the ferry I observed a long line of sleds, horses, men &c. crossing on the ice; which scene, at that distance had a curious and picturesque appearance, as the ice was glassy, and in consequence they appeared to be moving on the surface of the water, in which their shadows inverted and reflected as in a mirror, struck the eye with very grotesque imagery.

Some labourers who were at work in a barn at the ferry house, and of

whom I was asking some questions relative to the country, were much astonished at my double barrelled gun, admiring its work and lightness, and calling it a *curious creature*.

When within a mile and a half of Harrisburgh, the white cupola of its court-house, and the roofs of the houses of the town are seen peeping over the trees, and have a good effect.

At one o'clock I entered that town, turning to the left over Paxton creek bridge. I stopt at the ferryhouse, which is also a tavern, but appearance of accommodation not being very promising, I continued my walk along the bank of the river, and stopt at another tavern, where I asked if I could have a bed that night. A dirty looking girl at the stove drawled out that she believed I might. I then asked for some mulled wine. She said eggs were scarce, and she could not get any. From these symptoms of carelessness I thought it best to try my fortune a little further; so putting on my shot belt and taking my gun, I quietly walked out in search of a place of more civil reception, and fortunately I entered Benner's, the Sign of the White Horse, fronting the river, at the corner of the principal cross street, which leads to the marketplace. I say *fortunately*, for I found it an excellent, plentiful and well frequented house, and Mr. and Mrs. Benner, two fine girls, his daughters by a former wife, and a Mr. Fisher, an assistant and apparently some relation, all attentive and studious to please.

After getting some refreshment I wrote some letters, and carried them to the post-office. The office being shut, the postmaster very civilly invited me into his parlour, to settle for the postage, where seeing a large map of Pennsylvania, I took the opportunity of tracing my journey, which the postmaster observing, he very politely assisted me in it, pointing out the most proper route. There were some ladies in the room, apparently on a visit, and there was an air of sociality and refinement throughout, which was very pleasing.

Leaving the post-office, I walked through the town. It contains about two hundred and fifty houses, most of them very good, some of brick, some of stone, and some of wood. The principal street runs nearly east and west, and has two small market-houses in the centre, where the street is widened purposely into a small square. Parallel to this main street is a street charmingly situated on the bank of the Susquehannah, open to the river on the side next it, and tolerably well built on the other, having a wide foot way, in some parts paved, and marked in its whole length by a row of Lombardy poplars regularly planted, which serves also to shade the houses from the scorching rays of the summer's sun. This street, though at present wide enough, has not been laid out sufficiently so to provide against the gradual encroachment of the river, on its steep gravelly bank of about twenty feet high, above the common level of the water. The view from every part of this street is very beautiful, both up and down the river, about five miles each way—terminated upwards by the long ridge of the Blue mountains, through a gap in which of about three miles long, which is also open to the view, the river rolls its rapid current, contracted there to less than half a mile wide. While downwards the eye rests on the South mountain, impending over General Simpson's house, which in its turn seems to overhang the river, from the high promontory on which it is situated. Several islands add to the beauty of the view, particularly one on which is a fine farm of

nearly one hundred acres just opposite the town.

The court-house is near the market square on the principal cross street, and is a handsome plain brick building of two lofty stories, with a cupola rising from the centre of the roof, remarkable for its vane of copper gilt, representing an Indian chief, as large as the life, with a bow in his left hand, and a tomahawk in the act of cutting, in the right. The house is about seventy feet by fifty, with two small receding wings. The hall for the court is very neat, spacious and convenient; doors opening from it into the record and prothonotary's offices in the wings. A fine easy double staircase leads to the great room over the hall for the courts. This room is now used as a temporary place of worship by the English Presbyterians until their own meeting house is finished, which is of brick and in great forwardness. From each corner of this room a door opens into the register office, the library and two jury rooms.

There is as yet no other place of publick worship in Harrisburgh, except an old wooden house used as such by a congregation of German Lutherans.

This town which is now the capital of Dauphin county was laid out twenty-three years ago by the late proprietor, Mr. Harris, whose father is buried near the bank of the river, opposite the stone house he lived in, under a large old tree, which, once during his life, concealed and saved him from some Indians, by whom he was pursued.

I observed in the office of a Mr. Downie, a magistrate, a newly invented patent stove, made of sheet iron, consisting of two horizontal parallel cylinders, about a foot apart, one over the other and communicating by a pipe; the upper one is heated by the smoke from the lower, which contains the fuel. Mr. Downie informed me that it saved much fuel. The patentee lives here.

On returning to my inn, I found there a Mr. W.P.—, of Pittsburgh, just arrived. In the course of the evening he gave me much good information of the western country, accompanied by a friendly invitation to call on him in Pittsburgh, should I be detained there until his return from Philadelphia, where he was now going. He had formerly lived in Harrisburgh for some years after his arrival from Ireland, his native country. The joyful eagerness with which numbers of his old acquaintance flocked to Bennet's to visit him, evinced his having been much esteemed and respected.

On Saturday 24th I arose early, but the ferryboat not being ready, I partook of an excellent breakfast with my friendly host and his family, and at ten o'clock I embarked in a large flat, with the western mail and several passengers and horses. The flat was worked by nine stout men, with short setting poles shod and pointed with iron, to break the ice and stick in the bottom. Only one set or pushed on the upper side, while eight set on the lower side, to keep the boat from being forced by the current against the ice, while a tenth steered with a large oar behind. A channel for this purpose had been cut through the ice, and was kept open, as loaded wagons could cross the river in a flat with more safety than on the ice.

In twenty-two minutes we were landed on the western shore of the Susquehannah in Cumberland county; and I trudged on, my foot painning me very much, until half past twelve o'clock, when I stopped at a tavern seven miles from the ferry and got some refreshment. Here I found a tall

active old man of the name of Jameson, seventy-six years of age, who had crossed the ferry with me, and had afterwards passed me on the road, on horseback. He had accompanied his parents from the County Antrim in Ireland when only six years old, had resided thirty-six years at Paxton, near where Harrisburgh has since been built, (where he had been on business), and had afterwards removed to a part of Virginia about two hundred miles distant, where he has a large farm and distillery. He insisted on treating me, as he said he liked to encourage the consumption of whiskey; of which, and the telling of old stories he was so fond, that he appeared to forget he had so long a journey before him, until reminded by seeing some travellers pass on horseback, whom he hastened to overtake for the sake of their company. He did not however neglect finishing his whiskey, which he swallowed with great gout, and on mounting his horse, cracked jokes about a buxom widow, at whose tavern beyond Carlisle he proposed sleeping that night. Among other stories with which he had entertained me, he told me the particulars of the massacre of the Indians at Lancaster, and he took a good deal of pride to himself for having been one of the heroes who had assisted on that memorably disgraceful expedition. In justice however to the old man, I must observe that he related with pleasure that the party he accompanied, arrived too late in Lancaster to assist in the carnage....

At the tavern where I overtook Jameson, I saw some young men in blue jackets with scarlet binding, the uniform of a volunteer corps of militia riflemen. They had been with their rifles in search of squirrels, but unsuccessfully, the weather being too cold for those animals to come out of their hollow trees.

Apropos of the rifle.—The inhabitants of this country in common with the Virginians and all the backwoods people, Indians as well as whites, are wonderfully expert in the use of it; thinking it a bad shot if they miss the very head of a squirrel, or a wild turkey, on the top of the highest forest tree with a single ball; though they generally load with a few grains of swan shot, with which they are equally sure of hitting the head of the bird or animal they fire at.

Ten miles further brought me to Carlisle at six o'clock in the evening; the whole road from Harrisburgh being very fine and level, the houses and farms good, and the face of the country pleasant. The view on the right is all the way terminated by the Blue mountains—the longest north eastern branch of the Allegheny ridge—from six to ten miles distant.

I observed about a mile from Carlisle on the left, and about half a mile from the road, a large handsome stone house belonging to a Mr. Jackson of Baltimore, which was formerly owned by General Arden; and about half way between it and the town, and also to the left of the road, the large barrack, magazine, and depot of arms, built during the revolutionary war. Dickenson [sic] college, a spacious stone building with a cupola, was directly before me, with the town of Carlisle on the left of it, extending to the southward on an elevated plain: the whole having a very good effect on the approach.

The twilight shutting out further view, I hastened through a tolerable compact street to Fosters, to which I had been recommended as the best inn. I asked if I could have a bed that night, and was answered rudely by an elderly man in the bar, who I took for the landlord, after he had eyed me

with a contemptuous scrutiny—that I could not. The house appeared a little *would be stylish*—and I was a foot—so not of consequence enough for Mr. Foster. I turned on my heel and entered the next tavern kept by Michael Herr, an honest and obliging German, where I found nothing to make me regret my being rejected as a guest at Foster's, except want of bed linen, sheets not being generally used in this country in the inns, excepting at English ones or those of fashionable resort. A very good bed otherwise, and an excellent supper, with attentive treatment, well compensated for that little deficiency.

After supper I received both pleasure and information from the conversation of a philosophick German gentleman, an inhabitant of Carlisle, who favoured me with his company, and who discoursed fluently on opticks, pneumaticks, the French modern philosophy, and a variety of literary topicks, evincing great reading and a good memory.

Before I retired to rest, I walked to the tavern where the wagons generally stop, and had the pleasure of finding that arrived which carried my baggage, which I had not seen since I left Lancaster.

Carlisle is a post town and the capital of Cumberland county. It contains about three hundred houses of brick, stone, and wood. The two principal streets cross each other at right angles, where there is a market-house, a neat brick court-house and a large stone meeting-house. There are besides in the town a German, an Episcopalian, and a Roman Catholick church. The streets are wide, and the footways are flagged or coarsely paved. Dickenson college on the north, was founded in 1783, and was so named in compliment to Mr. John Dickenson, formerly president of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, and the author of the Pennsylvania Farmer's Letters and other writings of much merit. It has a principal, three professors, and generally about eighty students. It has a philosophical apparatus and a library containing about three thousand volumes. It has £4000 in funded certificates, and the state has granted it ten thousand acres of land. On the whole it is esteemed a respectable seminary of learning, and is extremely well situated for that purpose, in a healthy and plentiful country, and about equidistant from the capital of the state, and the capital of the United States, one hundred and twenty miles from each.

On the 25th January at 8 A.M. I left Carlisle, having previously taken an egg beat up in a glass of wine. There are two roads, one called the Mount-rock road, which goes from the north end of the town, and the other called the Walnut-bottom road, which leads from the south end. They run parallel to each other about three miles apart. I took the latter, which is the stage road, as the wagon with my baggage was to go that way, though I was informed that the first led through a better country. I found milestones on the right hand all the way to Shippensburg, placed at the expence of the proprietors of the lands on this road, to prove it shorter than the other, they having before been computed at the equal length of twenty-one miles each; but now this one is marked only nineteen. The first five miles are through a very poor and stony country, thinly inhabited and covered, except on the cultivated parts of the few miserable looking farms, with short, stunted, scrubby wood. The next seven miles are through a better improved country and a better soil, with large farms and good houses; then there are three

miles over the northern skirt of the South mountain, through gloomy forests of tall pines, with here and there a log cabin surrounded by a few acres of cleared land, and abounding in children, pigs, and poultry. The last four miles improve gradually to Shippensburg.

At eleven o'clock I stopt and breakfasted at a large tavern on the right, seven miles from Carlisle. I got coffee, bread and butter, eggs and excellent honey in the comb, for which I was charged only nineteen cents. My landlord presented me one of the largest and finest apples I had ever seen: it was the produce of his own orchard, where he had several trees of the same species, raised by himself from the pippin, and neither grafted nor budded. He had the manners of a New Englandman, being desirous both of receiving and of communicating information, but I soon gathered from him that he was a native of that part of Pennsylvania and of English extraction. On my entrance he had laid down a book, which taking up afterwards, I found to be a volume of Robertson's *Charles V.*

As I proceeded from hence, two very beautiful red foxes playfully crossed the road about a hundred yards before me; they then recrossed it, and seeing me, made up a hill to the right with incredible swiftness, leaping with ease a Virginia worm fence above six feet high.

At half past four I arrived at Shippensburg, which was laid out for a town about fifty years ago, and named after the first proprietor and settler, the father of Judge Shippen of Philadelphia. It contains between 150 and 200 straggling houses, in one street nearly a mile in length: with nothing else interesting to recommend it to notice. I stopt at Raume's, a German house about the middle of town, and apparently the best tavern in it. I bathed my feet in cold water and dressed the left one, which was much blistered and very painful: Soon after which, my wagonner Jordan, with three others in his company arriving, we all sat down together, according to the custom of the country, to a plentiful and good supper; after which, the wagonners spread their mattresses and blankets round the stove in the bar room, and I retired to a good bed, but without an upper sheet.

Monday, 26th January, at half past ten, I proceeded towards Strasburgh, in preference to keeping the stage road to the left through Chambersburgh, as I shortened the road eight miles in a distance of thirty-eight, to where the two roads again met.

The country to Strasburgh, eleven miles, is well inhabited, and the soil is tolerably good; and the Blue mountains are full in front, extending to the right and left as far as the eye can reach. Those mountains are not higher than the highlands on Hudson river above New York, about 2500 feet perpendicular from the plain below, from which they rise abruptly, and the road is seen winding up their side to a small gap near the top, which separates from the main ridge a pyramidal knob, which, apparently higher than the ridge, seems to hang directly over Strasburgh. I met on the road two wagons with six horses each, from Zanesville in the state of Ohio, going to Philadelphia for goods. They had been a month on the road. At two miles from Strasburgh I past a direction post on the left pointing to Cummins's mills, and at 1 o'clock I entered that town and stopt at Bell's, the last tavern on the left. As there was no beer in the house, they had to send for it to Merkel's, a German house. And here it may not be amiss to observe that



the German taverns on these roads are generally better provided with both liquors and provisions than the English or Irish, but their manners are not the most agreeable, they being very inattentive to any of the wants of a traveller, except the providing his meals, and the bringing him what liquor he calls for.

It is twelve years since Strasburgh was laid out. It contains about fifty indifferent houses, and does not seem to be thriving.

### *Oysters! Oysters!*

The subscriber has taken the Oyster Saloon formerly kept by John Givens, a few doors south of the Union Hotel, on Rail Road street, which has been newly furnished and fitted out in first rate style, where he is prepared to accomodate customers with

#### FRESH OYSTERS

served up to order, where they can enjoy the said luxuries free from all annoyance or intrusion.

He hopes by an anxious desire to please, and keeping good articles, to merit and receive a share of public patronage.

WM. S. DANFORD.

Shippensburg Dec. 7, 1848.

(Shippensburg) *Weekly News*, January 11, 1849.

## Book Review

### *A History of Carlisle, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, 1751-1835.*

By Merri Lou Scribner Schaumann. Carlisle: Privately printed, [1995]. Available from the author: 249 West Pomfret Street, Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013. Price \$39.95, including postage and handling.

This is an unusual book. It is a must for anyone interested in "Historic Carlisle." For the first time a list of lot owners in 1763 with a map is available, plus a description of the house on the lot, as recorded in the 1798 "Window Tax." This is followed by a genealogical record of the owners. A title search has been made for each of the 312 lots, a tremendous task.

Schaumann has spent many hours gathering data for this book, which covers the period from the founding of Carlisle through the first third of the 19th century. To the bones of the tax lists she has added flesh. This 341-page volume is a directory of early Carlisle, as well as a Who's Who. For the first time the early septennial Pennsylvania censuses, which list the occupation of each person, have been published.

The publication of Cumberland County tax lists, which the author began in 1972, is well-known. She has discovered that the "1753" list is really 1758. More recently, she has published a book on the taverns of Cumberland County. It is now possible to find out where General John Armstrong lived and to locate, five lots to the east, where Arthur Buchanan, founder of Lewistown, Pennsylvania, had his tavern. One learns that when Thomas Cookson got a "ticket" from John Armstrong, the founder of Carlisle, on May 17, 1751, it specified that within two years John McClure should build on lot 296 "a dwelling house twenty feet square at least, of brick, stone, or square timber with a brick or stone chimney."

The index of 5,000 names adds much to the book. It may be the first place searchers will look. The book is attractive and easy to read. It is an excellent account of an early Pennsylvania town. Schaumann deserves much credit for putting it together in a most usable form. Our congratulations to her.

Coralville, Iowa

Raymond Martin Bell

## Recent Acquisitions

- The American Story in Art: The Murals of Allyn Cox in the U.S. Capitol.* Paul Martin, ed., 1986. 48 pp; paper. 2/\$1.50. National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (and United States Capitol Historical Society), 1776 D Street, NW, Washington, DC 2006-5392. Phone (202) 628-1776.
- Amoebic Divisions of "Canigogig" Presbyterians.* William T. Swaim, 1996. 39 pp; paper. Free. Available from the author, 2 Pine Circle, Newville, Pa. 17241.
- The Carlisle Indian Industrial School.* John Slonaker, Linda Witmer, Lt. Col. John Falkenburg, Erin Lopez, and Thomas Kelly, 1996. 60 pp; paper. Free. R. Christopher Goodwin & Associate, Inc. Available at Carlisle Barracks.
- Colonial Virginians at Play.* Jane Carson, 1989. 182 pp; paper. \$14.95. The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, P.O. Box C, Williamsburg, Va. 23187. Phone (804) 229-1000.
- Early Architecture of Pennsylvania.* A. Lawrence Kocher, 1994 reprint of 1920-1922 edition. 220 pp; paper. \$12.00. Centre County Historical Society, Centre Furnace Mansion, 1001 East College Avenue, State College, Pa. 16801. Phone (814) 355-1516.
- To Have a Home: the Centennial History of Messiah Village.* Ray M. Zercher, 1995. 560 pp; hard cover. \$15.00. Messiah Village Auxiliary, Messiah Village, Mechanicsburg, Pa. 17055. Phone (717) 790-8206.
- A History and Genealogy of Carlisle, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania 1751-1835.* (revised edition) Merri Lou Scribner Schaumann, 1995. 341 pp; paper. \$39.95. Available from the author, 249 West Pomfret Street, Carlisle, Pa. 17013. Phone (717) 243-5627.
- The Only Documented Facts About the Cumberland Valley as of November 15, 1734.* William T. Swaim, 1995. 13pp; paper. Free. Available from the author, 2 Pine Circle, Newville, Pa. 17241.
- Oral History for the Local Historical Society.* (third edition). Willa K. Baum, 1987. 68 pp; paper. \$12.95. Alta Mira Press, American Association of State and Local History, 708 Berry Road, Nashville, TN. 37204. Phone (615) 255-2971.

*The Shippensburg Historical Society: a Fifty Year Retrospective 1945-1995.* 1996  
223 pp; hard cover. \$15.00. The News-Chronicle Company, Available from  
the Shippensburg Historical Society, 52 West King Street, Shippensburg, Pa.  
17257. Phone (717) 532-4508.

*Trivia of the Civil War.* William C. Davis, 1993. 64 pp; hard cover. Mallard  
Press, 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103. Currently out-of-print.

*Index of Church and Cemetery Records of Cumberland County,* vols. X-XII.

Cumberland County Historical Society

Christa Bassett

## Publications In Print

### THE COUNTY HERITAGE SERIES

<i>Cloth and Costume, 1750–1800, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania</i> (1995). Tandy and Charles M. Hersh	\$34.95
<i>Taverns of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, 1750–1840</i> (1994). Merri Lou Schaumann	\$34.95
<i>The Indian Industrial School, 1879–1918</i> (1993). Linda F. Witmer	\$29.95
<i>“...Drive the Road and Bridge the Ford...”. Highway Bridges of Nineteenth Century Cumberland County</i> (1992). Paul E. Gill	\$24.95

### Other Books

<i>Miniatures of Mechanicsburg</i> (1928, reprint 1986). Robert L. Brunhouse	\$19.95
<i>Atlas of Cumberland County</i> (1858, reprint 1987). H.F. Bridgens	\$30.00
<i>Lower Allen Township: A History</i> (1993). Robert G. Crist	\$31.80

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

### Booklets and Pamphlets

<i>Archibald Loudon: Pioneer Historian</i> . William A. Hunter (1962)	\$2.00
<i>Confederate Invasion of the West Shore, 1863</i> . Robert G. Crist (1963, reprint 1995)	\$6.50
<i>Three Cumberland County Woodcarvers</i> . Milton E. Flower (1986)	\$10.00
<i>Tower Homes of Mechanicsburg</i> . Eva M. Williams (1988)	\$5.00
<i>More Homes of Mechanicsburg</i> . Eva M. Williams (1989)	\$5.00
<i>My Friend Mary Wheeler King</i> . Ann Kramer Hoffer (1994)	\$3.50
<i>Visit of President George Washington to Carlisle, 1794</i> . Lenore Embick Flower (1932, reprint 1994)	\$3.50
<i>Made in Cumberland County: The First One Hundred Years</i> . Cumberland County Historical Society (1991)	\$5.00
<i>Cumberland County History</i> . 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.



