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A History of Lebanon County

Prior to 1876

By WILLIAM M. BRESLIN

READ BEFORE THE

LEBANON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OCTOBER 31, 1913

By EZRA GRUMBINE, M.D.
Mt. Zion, Pa.

VOL. VI

No. 6

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INTRODUCTION

In the year 1876 the United States government made a special request that the history of each county should be written up to the end of the Centennial year, and a joint committee of the Council and citizens of Lebanon requested Willam M. Breslin, editor of the LEBANON ADVERTISER, to perform the work for our county.

Mr. Breslin complied with this request, and on the Fourth of July, 1876, he read his history to a large crowd of persons, assembled in Lehman's Grove north of this city. It was printed in the Lebanon Advertiser in the following issue, clipped from that paper and preserved in my scrap-book.

A number of persons remembered the paper as read by Mr. Breslin, and deemed it of much historical value and worthy of reproduction and preservation in the archives of the Lebanon County Historical Society. It was learned that mine is one of the very few copies of that paper yet to be found in our county, and I was requested to edit it, revise it, and read it before this meeting today.

With very few changes in diction and some slight omissions, the paper is here presented as originally prepared by Mr. Breslin.

E. GRUMBINE.

October 21, 1913.

FOREWORD

The paper bearing on the history of Lebanon County, written and read by William M. Breslin in 1876, is of such general excellence, and so interesting in its character, that it has been deemed worthy of preservation by publication, in its present form, as a part of the printed monographs issued by the Lebanon County Historical Society.

When we consider that much historical data has come to light within the past forty years which was practically unknown in 1876, it need cause no surprise, and must not be considered as derogatory to the value of Mr. Breslin's paper, when the statement is made that errors exist in it at some points here and there. It is not the purpose of this Foreword to enter into a complete criticism of the work, which would be both discourteous and uncalled for, but merely to avoid a perversion of true history by calling attention to a few especially prominent discrepancies contained in his remarks concerning the period embraced by the French and Indian War.

Hostilities, in connection with this war in Pennsylvania, lasted from the Fall of 1755 until 1763. Two of the defenses erected by the Provincial Government, as links in the chain of forts along the Blue Range, were Forts Manada and Swatara in Lebanon County. The former was located near the entrance to Manada Gap, the latter not far from the Swatara Creek at Swatara Gap. There was no block-house or defense at Indian-town Gap between these two forts.

Fort Henry, built in 1756 and commanded by Captain Busse, stood near Millersburg in Berks County, and was entirely separate and distinct from Fort Swatara. It and the block-house called "Sixes" were one and the same defense.

The mansion of Jacob B. Weidman, at Union Forge, did not occupy the site of Fort Henry, nor that of any other fort. Like various other buildings of some prominence it was, at times, used as a house of refuge.

The reader is kindly asked to substitute these facts for the statements of like tenor incorrectly made in the narrative which follows herewith.

H. M. M. RICHARDS.

A HISTORY OF LEBANON COUNTY UP TO 1876

By WILLIAM M. BRESLIN

The first white men who set foot on the soil of Pennsylvania, were Swedes. They bought lands on the banks of the Delaware river from the Indians and made some settlements, but were not allowed long to enjoy their homes in peace and quietness. The Dutch of New York, then New Netherland, in the same spirit that afflicted all European nations in the 14th and 15th centuries, for oppressing their weaker neighbors and the acquisition of territory, attacked the Swedes on the Delaware, and brought them under their rule. This was in the year 1655. A short time thereafter, the Dutch in turn had to yield to a stronger arm, not only their dishonorably acquired possessions on the Delaware, but also their whole power in America. The English took possession of the country, and held the same uninterruptedly, with the exception of a short period in 1673, down to the revolution of 1776.

On the 4th of March 1681, Charles the Second, of England, granted to William Penn a charter for the land now embracing nearly the whole of Pennsylvania. On the 27th of October, 1682, Penn arrived in America, bringing with him a large number of emigrants and adventurers. During that and the following year several thousand more arrived from various parts of Europe, seeking homes and fortunes in the new world. Many also sought in America for that freedom to worship their God according to the dictates of their conscience, which was denied them in the homes upon which they turned their backs.

The new colony rapidly swelled with settlers. The purchasers of the lands moved upon them at once, commenced the work of subduing it and making comfortable homes; while Penn and his assistants put the wheels of government in motion.

One of the first, but often recurring, acts of the new government was the purchase of lands from the Indians. Although Penn held the land by a sufficient title, in the estimation of the courts of law of all civilized countries, and to maintain him and his sub-purchasers in possession, the whole military power of England would have been brought into play, if necessary; yet of peaceful habits, and an honest heart, he made it his duty to acquire by purchase from the Indian the lands he already held by grant from the mother country. The first Indian deed to Penn was made on the 15th day of July, 1682. It conveyed, for the consideration of a quantity of merchandise, paltry in value to the lands granted, a considerable tract of land along the banks of the Delaware. Penn sold the lands in England in tracts varying from 125 acres to ten thousand, and we presume in most cases for what he could obtain for them.

The lands now embraced within the limits of Lebanon County were sold and conveyed to Penn, in part, on the 10th of September 1683, by Kekelappen of Opasskunk and finally on the 18th of October, of the same year, by Machaloha, who styles himself the "owner of the lands." The conveyance was sealed and delivered in the presence of Peter Arlicks, J. DeHaas, Arnollus de la Grange, and Lasse Cook, the noted Indian Interpreter. It is probable that Arlicks, De Haas, and his companions had before this penetrated into the wilderness thus far, and that they were the first white men who set foot within the limits now comprising this county.

Penn at an early day saw the necessity of enacting and enforcing stringent regulations for trade between his colonists and the Indians, and troubles multiplied as rapidly as he enacted laws, to prevent them.

It is probable that the first white settlers in Lebanon County were Mennonites who located within the present limits of Millcreek township in the spring of 1724. They located in the neighborhood of what is now known as Millcreek Centre, and erected a mill and a house of worship, but all traces of mill and church have disappeared, even the oldest inhabitant seems to be ignorant of such buildings having ever existed in that neighborhood. Possibly the same year, certainly not later than the following year, the Moravians settled at

Hebron, about a mile east of Lebanon, where they built a church in 1750—the walls of which are standing to this day (1876), on the property owned by Daniel Fulmer, near the toll-gate. The first church within the limits of Lebanon County (if we except the place of worship of the German Baptists at Muehlbach,) was the Hill Church, about three miles north-west from Lebanon. It was erected in 1733. Its first minister was Rev. J. C. Stoeber. It has been rebuilt several times.

The French then held Canada, and they not only encouraged their emissaries, who roamed the country in the guise of traders, to stir up a bad feeling among the Indians against the colonists under the protection of Penn and the English; but debauched them with rum, so that they soon became, instead of the quiet and noble savage, blood-thirsty fiends, embracing every opportunity to tomahawk not only men, but women and children who fell in scores before their vengeful, merciless, debauched natures. The first and most prominent traders during the early days of the province were two French brothers named Beeselon, who monopolized the trade between the Susquehanna and the Schuylkill. Without character, and in defiance of law and morality, (their grand object being the making of money,) they pandered not only to the tastes of the savages by a liberal supply of rum, but instilled into their minds sentiments affecting their fidelity to the Penn government. These evils were already noticeable as early as 1700, and measures were taken to arrest the French brothers and put them in confinement. Their places were, however, speedily supplied by scores of others. By the free use of presents, kind treatment and glowing speeches, the open rebellion of the Indians was kept smothered for nearly fifty years, when the long pent-up volcano of hatred and revenge, for imaginary wrongs, broke forth in intense fury, depopulating and laying waste the country even to the banks of the Schuylkill.

William Penn made a visit to the Indians, in this and the adjoining counties, as did also his son, when governor. Frequent visits were also made by the principal men of his government, individually and collectively,—all designed for the purpose of keeping up a feeling of friendship with the Indians,

—and obtain their lands,—the “consideration money” usually, being the same as supplied by the French,—articles of debauch to the Indians; or such as placed in their hands the means to slaughter the whites a few years after and contend with them, very often successfully, on the field of battle. The articles given in exchange for the lands ceded by the treaty of 1736—their second purchase,—(many of the lands being purchased several times over from the Indians,) now embracing the counties of Northampton, parts of Lehigh, Berks, all of Lebanon, except the valley beyond the Blue mountain, Cumberland, Adams, Franklin and York; were 500 pounds of powder, 600 pounds of lead, 45 guns, 1,000 flints, 25 gallons of rum, 200 pounds of tobacco, 1,000 pipes, 24 looking-glasses, besides kettles, combs, knives, hatchets, hoes and a lot of dry goods. The principal articles, however, as will be seen, were, first, articles of warfare; and then the appliances necessary to arouse the savage nature of the Indians. A few years after, the white people of the valley found, to their horror, that they had not only nursed a viper, but also armed him with the weapons to slay all he could lay his hands upon.

We could never feel that romantic sympathy for the Indians, that many people seem to entertain. Brave they may be by nature, but it is not the bravery of true nobility. They would fight as brutes do, but they preferred assassination to meeting an enemy fairly. When they could not escape, they would stand up and fight, but they preferred to do their work by stealth.—to fall upon the unprotected by night when unprepared and unsuspecting; they would strike the blow, apply the torch, then take to their heels like cowards and assassins.

They would not attack men if they could help it, but the aged, and women and children, were the foes they preferred. They rather plunged the tomahawk into their heads than into those of any other, because it was safer to do so. They were blood-thirsty, cruel and cowardly; assassination was their nature; like the serpent they would strike from an ambush, generally the defenceless.

All the history of the terrible times in this valley from 1740 to 1756 does not present a single manly act on the part of the Indians. They gave their lands for the most they could get for them, knowing that they would lose them, anyhow,

eventually; sold them several times over, then disputed among themselves over the ownership and the price received for them. They would receive presents, kind treatment, make nice speeches of eternal friendship, smoke the pipe of peace, then apparently depart for their homes; but twenty-four hours after, the same fiends, would be engaged in the work of murder and arson upon the defenceless settlers and their little property. On several occasions, it is recorded that some of the savages who decimated this valley from 1740 to 1756, and had to run for their lives, found themselves hampered with, and had to cast aside, the very goods they had received as presents a few days before from the Proprietary officers at Philadelphia. The noble savage was not known by those who came in contact with him, in the early days of our county.

The ranges of mountains in the northern part of this county, were known by the Delaware Indians, from whom the first purchase was made, as the Kechachtany Hills, since converted into the Kittatinny mountains. The Five Nations from whom the lands of this county were finally obtained by treaty in 1736, called them the Endless Hills. The whites called them the Blue Mountains, in consequence of their appearance, which appellation they retain to this day. The range of hills to the south of us, now called the Cornwall Hills, was first known as the Leshaig Mountains. The name of Cornwall is an importation from England.

After the several purchases and treaties by which these lands were obtained over and over again, the lands embracing the several chains of the Blue mountains and their valleys were still claimed by the Indians under the plea that they were not included in the other purchases. To settle the troublesome claimants and spare the settlers from the tomahawk, a treaty was made at Philadelphia in August, 1749. The lands embraced within a line running along the southern base of the mountains from the Susquehanna to the Delaware of a uniform breadth of 20 miles northward, was ceded, for the third time, for the consideration of 500 pounds in money. These Indian cedes were evidently a squad of red scalawags, members of ten different tribes, and without authority. They made the claim for the purpose of making a raise, and the government thought it best, for the sake of peace, to accede to their demands. This treaty cleared the

county of all Indian claims; and should also have cleared it of the Indians themselves, but it did not.

The valley between the Blue or First mountain and the Second mountain was then known as St. Anthony's Wilderness; Swatara Gap was known by the beautiful Indian name of Talihalo—Talihaló Gap.

The Indians being thus bought out of the valley, were still not satisfied, and, knowing that the presents and treaty business were about exhausted, they turned their eyes to the French of Canada, for encouragement and support. These were only too ready to give them all the aid they desired.

The settlements in this county were then the frontier; all beyond to the north and west, except along the rivers and traveled roads, was wilderness filled with savages. Following their own natures, as well as the incitements induced by the French, they inaugurated, not war, but assassination, arson, theft and cruelty. The several gaps through the mountains were doors of easy access for them to enter upon the settlements of this county. Indian Town and Tallihalo Gaps were the gates by which they entered; the other gaps, through the same range of mountains afforded them entering places to other parts of the valley above and below.

As said before, the scenes of cruelty that then took place, during a number of years, were terrible. The settlers were driven back upon the banks of the Schuylkill. Indian raids became so frequent, the murders so many, that the people could not work in the field without running the risk of being pounced upon and scalped; nor could they go outside their doors without the fear of seeing their property in flames in a short time, or finding their wives and children murdered upon their return. Even in their attendance at church they had to go armed. As some preventative to these Indian incursions, and the consequent cruelty and murders, a chain of forts, block-houses and stockades, were erected at the gaps and along the mountains from the Susquehanna to the Delaware. The only fort of the series erected within the limits of this county, that we have any record of, was Fort Henry (also called Swatara and Captain Busse's fort,) in 1754, by order of Governor Morris, at Talihalo Gap, and was the most considerable of the chain between the Delaware and Susquehanna, it garrisoning about fifty men. The forts were from ten to

twelve miles apart. The mansion house on the estate of the late Jacob B. Weidman at Union Forge, as has with certainty been ascertained, occupies the site of Fort Henry. The eastern portion of that building is supposed to be part of the fort, and bears evidences of its former use. There was a block-house, or stockade, at Indian Town gap, but the exact location and name have been lost. The fort at the gap, west of Indian Town was Fort Manada, at the head waters of Manada Creek; that east of Talihalo, in Berks county, on the head waters of the Little Swatara, at the foot of the mountains, was a block-house called Sixes. Fort Swatara proper was on the Swatara Creek, in Dauphin County.

These forts were a means of protection to the inhabitants, although it is recorded that the Indians frequently raised the war whoop of defiance within sight of the soldiers, and very often committed murders within range of their guns.

During the years, 1754, 1755 and 1756, the troubles were greatest, a perfect reign of terror overspread this beautiful valley; many of the settlers with their families, goods and stock, withdrew to the larger towns for protection and safety.

In 1756 the backbone of the Indian power was broken. From thence the settlers were only occasionally annoyed by bands of marauding red men, and in a few years they were entirely driven out of the valley. The last hostile Indians within the limits of Lebanon county, were seen during the year 1763; but even then the settlers still went armed to their fields and to church.

The Indian troubles being at an end, prosperity and plenty abounded in this smiling valley; population rapidly increased; but the people were not long permitted to enjoy their improved conditions,—in fact they did not desire to do so. The Indians driven away, the people of the Colonies began to direct their attention to the exactions of the mother country, soon worked themselves into an excitement, and, eventually into a war with England.

The settlers of the Lebanon valley, who at best had no love for England, being mostly immigrants from German Principalities, were not the last to feel the irksomeness of the government of England, and we find that at an early day they were ripe for rebellion. The papers and documents of the period show that citizens of this town and county, took

a very active part on the side of the colonists, not only in contributing aid and comfort, as well as to the fomenting of discord and opposing the British, but that many also participated in the battles of the revolution.

Lebanon was so loyal to the cause, that although a frontier town, it was considered the best place in the country for the location of an ammunition magazine by the general government; also a proper place for the safe keeping of prisoners taken at Trenton and other battles.

It is an uncertainty where the magazine was located in town,—the oldest persons of today having no recollection of ever having been advised thereon; but we know this, that it was found expedient at one time to remove the ammunitions to Lancaster, because of its more convenient location, and that twenty wagons were employed for the removal, each making from four to six trips; so that the quantity must have been very considerable. The probabilities are that the old building on Tenth street, a short distance north of the Quittapahilla creek, known as "Gibson's," which was torn down but a few years ago, was the magazine. Tradition has it, that the Hessian prisoners were quartered in that building and in the old Lutheran Church, then standing on the northeast corner of Willow street and Doe alley; and it is worthy of belief, that the building alluded to, after having been used as a magazine, and emptied, was then used as a barracks. When it was torn down it was examined and found that it was built much stronger than its outside appearance would indicate, or than was necessary for a residence.

The town of Lebanon, laid out by George Steitz in the year 1750, although some persons would make it from ten to twelve years later, was already, during the revolutionary period, a place of considerable size. It was first called Steitztown, and some of the old citizens remember the time when the farmers of the surrounding country generally called it Steitzta. It was, however, called Lebanon long before it was incorporated into a borough. In old newspapers, printed in 1807, dated at Lebanon, all reference to the town is as Lebanon,—in fact the name of Steitz, being entirely ignored in writing and print. Lebanon seems to have been a popular name with the early settlers, as one of the chain of forts, erected during the war times with the Indians was also called Leba-

non. It was built in 1754, was located on another branch of the Schuylkill, a few miles southeast from Pottsville, and was of great importance.

The first Palatines came to this country as early as 1717. They were three ship-loads, comprising 363 persons. Governor Keath called the attention of Council to their arrival, and that they landed without license and dispersed themselves immediately to the back parts of the country where they settled upon the proprietor's lands without leave. A resolution was immediately adopted requiring them to take an oath of allegiance. There are no records of any additional arrivals of these people for the ten years following, owing, no doubt, to the troubles both in Germany and England, which prevented emigration to a great extent. In the summer of 1727, however, they commenced coming again by hundreds and by thousands. Not only individual members of families came, but whole families, in fact all the relatives came along—men, women and children. Those who had means paid their passage, those who had not, engaged themselves in a kind of semi-slavery, to last for years after their landing to pay their passage money. These were known as redemptioners. So anxious were these people to come to the new world, where they would find plenty, comfort, many of them wealth. Nor were they disappointed; as many of the wealthiest, most honored and respected families of the land count their ancestors from the immigrants, who in those days paid their passage to America by a sacrifice of their personal liberty for a term of years.

The names of the Palatines who immigrated from the old country, as well as from New York, are recorded in the Colonial Records. Rupp's book of 30,000 names contain the most of them.

The settlement of the country being very rapid, and communication by the settlers with each other, as well as with their neighbors of the adjoining counties, and with the seat of government, being from necessity frequent, the subject of roads for travel, conveyance of merchandise and ammunitions of war, early attracted attention. By order of Council of January 1735 and 1736, a public road was ordered to be laid out from Harris's Ferry on the Susquehanna, a few miles above Harrisburg, through the valley of the Quittapahilla, to

a point in Chester county, to intersect with a road from Lancaster, and thence leading on to Philadelphia.

The principal town with which Lebanon of old was in communication, was Lancaster, and a road to that place soon also became a necessity. In 1733 it was laid out and opened, and is to this day a principal highway of communication with that venerable city. Market street, now Ninth, from the southern borough line to Lehman street, is a portion of said road. At Lehman street it made a bend to the east, passing where are now the gardens of the citizens residing on the east side of Ninth. Near Guilford it made a turn to the west and kept on to the old distillery, where it then ended, but was afterwards joined at that place by the Jonestown road. In the sale of land by the proprietors ten per cent. was allowed for roads.

At an early day in the history of the country, the subject of canal navigation, between the Delaware and the Susquehanna, also engaged the attention of the colonists, and was encouraged by the Penns. In fact William Penn suggested the canal from the Susquehanna to the Delaware through the Lebanon valley as early as 1690. It was a subject of continuous discussion by the members of the Colonial government, as well as by the Colonists; but it was not until 1792 that the first route for a canal was surveyed,—a company for the building of a canal having been incorporated in 1791. Other companies were incorporated for the same purpose by subsequent legislatures, but in 1811 the companies were consolidated under the title of the Union Canal Company, and the work was commenced. About fifteen miles of the heaviest work had been completed when the consolidated companies failed. Some of their abandoned work is yet to be seen a few miles east of Lebanon. A new company was then organized out of the debris of the old. The work was begun afresh in 1821. A portion of the bed of the canal was used; the remainder was pushed ahead as rapidly as possible, so that in six years this ponderous work, as it was for those days, was finished throughout its entire length, about 77 and a half miles, and open to navigation.

The entire cost of the canal and fixtures was 5,907,850 dollars. In 1854 the canal was enlarged to its latest dimen-

sions; and became as complete a work of the kind as any in the country. Railroads have since seriously interfered with the prosperity of canals, and the Union Canal has not been an exception to the rule.

The Berks and Dauphin turnpike, extending from Reading to, near Hummelstown, was finished in 1817, at a cost of \$3,800 per mile. Turnpikes were a great improvement on the ordinary country mud roads; the pity is that all the principal roads in this section of the country, were not macadamized when built. The older roads certainly would not cost as much to turnpike at once as they did in repairs, and how infinitely better they would have been. As it is, notwithstanding their cost, they are mud roads still, to the distress of horses, the breakage of vehicles and the disgust of travelers.

The Downingtown, Ephrata and Harrisburg turnpike, better known as the Horse Shoe Pike, built a few years before the Berks and Dauphin, extended from Harrisburg, through the southern part of the county to Downingtown in Chester county. These roads were built by corporations and, notwithstanding the practice of collecting tolls from persons using them, many of them failed to pay. Many thousands of dollars were lost by the stockholders, contractors and others. The Cornwall turnpike was built in 1853, as the Cornwall and Lebanon Plankroad. After a few years of usage as such, the plank road in this section of the country was found poorly adapted for the purpose contemplated. The Colemans then purchased the road, took up the planks, and converted it into the present splendid turnpike—one of the finest in the state. At the time, and previous to the construction of the plank road, ore and iron from Cornwall, were brought in to the canal by teams, through muddy roads and over heavy hills. It was thought that on a graded and even road bed, such as is afforded by a plank road, much heavier loads could be hauled, with a great saving of horse flesh, wagons and time. The heavy loads, however, soon broke and wore out the planks, so that the cost of keeping up the road far exceeded the income. The day of canals and plank roads, save for local travel and transportation, was short lived. Railroads stretched out their iron tracks in every direction from the centres

of population; the locomotive's scream was soon heard in every part of the land. Lebanon county felt the needs of the iron horse at an early day, and through the energy, enterprise and wealth of far-seeing capitalists, remained not long unprovided with this expeditious and powerful servant of man. The first railway built within the limits of this county, was the Dauphin and Susquehanna, running through the Stony Creek Valley, between the Second and Third Mountains, in the northern part of the county, in 1850. Then followed the Lebanon Valley, subsequently a branch of the Philadelphia and Reading, through the Lebanon Valley from Reading to Harrisburg, built from 1853 to 1857. Both these roads were afterwards acquired by the Philadelphia and Reading, the latter in 1858. The next railway in order of construction, was the North Lebanon (now Cornwall) built in 1853 by R. W. Coleman, from the West Lebanon Landings, on the Union Canal to Cornwall, a distance of 7 and one half miles. The Lebanon and Pinegrove—now Lebanon, Pinegrove and Tremont Railroad—was next, built by the P. and R. Company in 1869. The South Mountain from Harrisburg, through the Valley of the Swatara, is now in course of construction, to Hamburg. (This road was never completed, though a considerable portion of it was graded—Ed.) A considerable amount of work was also done on the Lebanon and Lancaster Railroad, by the Philadelphia and Reading Company, but for some cause the work was abandoned, and has thus far remained idle. A railroad called the People's Freight Railway, has also been surveyed through the southern townships of the county, but no work for the construction has been done. In 1852 work was also done on the Lebanon and Phoenixville Road, but that too was abandoned.

The Philadelphia and Reading Railroad has telegraph wires along the line of all its roads in this county; as also has the Cornwall Railway company. The Western Union lines also pass through this county, along the line of the Berks and Dauphin turnpike.

Lebanon county was erected into a county February 16, 1813, the territory being mainly taken from Dauphin county, which had previously been detached from Lancaster county. The number of taxable inhabitants of the county at that time

was 2,695. Walter Franklin was the first President Judge, and John Glöninger and David Krause, Associates. The Court House officers were then made by appointment of the Governor, and John Andrew Shultz, afterwards Governor of the State, had the appointments to the offices of Recorder, Register, Prothonotary, Clerk of Quarter Sessions, Orphans' Court, and Oyer and Terminer—all in one batch. The first Treasurer of the county was Frederick Embich, by appointment of the County Commissioners. Charles Gleim was the first Sheriff, by appointment of Governor Snyder. Abraham Doebler was the first elected Sheriff in 1816. The Court House offices were afterwards frequently divided and subdivided. Samuel Achey, Jacob Capp, and Philip Greenawalt, were the first County Commissioners. Peter Shindel was the first member of the Assembly; partly in connection with Dauphin county. The first Assemblymen after the full organization of the county, and properly its own, were Jacob Bucher, Jacob Goodhart and Peter Shindel.

In those days Lebanon county was strongly Democratic. Had it not been for this fact, we might possibly still be territory of Dauphin and Lancaster. It was the large democratic vote cast in the part designed for Lebanon, that reconciled Dauphin and Lancaster counties, to give up a portion of their territory, for the sake of getting rid of the democratic votes it contained. Bethel and Hanover townships were unanimously democratic, the opposition polling but one vote in 1813 and none in 1814. In 1814 one hundred and eighty voted in camp in the army, of whom 139 voted for Snyder. In 1820 James Buchanan represented this county in Congress. The district was composed of Lebanon, Lancaster and Dauphin counties. He ran as the Federalist candidate and was elected by a majority of 1,303, though democratic Lebanon county gave 215 majority against him. John Andrew Shultz, a resident of Lebanon, was elected Governor of the State in 1823, and re-elected in 1826,—receiving no opposition at his last election.

In 1820 the population of the county was 17,309, distributed as follows,—the town of Lebanon, 1,489; Lebanon township (embracing what is now North and South Lebanon and Cornwall townships,) 3,044; Hanover. (now East Han-

over, Swatara, Union, Jonestown and Cold Spring.) 1,009; Bethel, 2,593; Annville, (then one), 2,487 Londonderry, 1,662; Jackson, 1,786; Heidelberg, (now Heidelberg and a part of Millcreek.) 2,452. In this enumeration were included 118 free colored persons and two slaves.

In 1820, the taxables were 3,681 in the county; in 1855 the number was 4,501. The population in 1830 was 20,457, of which Lebanon Borough contained 1,826.

Lebanon was selected as the county seat after a spirited contest with Jonestown; and a jail and court house were among the first requisites of the new county. Work on the jail, which was considered the most important in those days, as it probably is now, was commenced at once on the lot where it now stands (in 1876,) purchased from George Karch for 550 dollars. The jail was erected under the supervision of the County Commissioners, and cost \$7,982.65. The wall and stable cost \$5,161.60; so that the cost of Jail, Lot, Wall and Stable, amounted to \$13,714.25. The jail was built in 1814, and the wall and stable in 1815. In 1860 it was remodelled and enlarged under the supervision of David Hollinger, assisted by Captain John Ulrich. It was arranged in cells and a turret built on top, at a cost of \$8,500.

A court room was fitted up in the second story of the large building now (in 1876) owned and occupied by Amos R. Boughter, Esq., as his residence, on Cumberland street. Here James Buchanan frequently attended court and practiced law. Steps were also taken for the erection of a Court House. As in the case of the selection of the county seat, so with the site of the Court House. The contest was between the present location and the site now occupied by the *ADVERTISER* printing office, Market street being at that time the principal street of Lebanon. The present site was the winner, and was purchased from Peter Shindel, on the 27th of April, 1814, for the sum of \$2,000. The building was also erected, under the supervision of the Commissioners, by Stephen Hill in 1816 and 1817; the county jail having been completed by that time. It was soon found that there was not a sufficiency of ground, it being desirable to have it loose all around, particularly to secure the benefit of the light on the west side. Therefore 33 feet additional ground was purchased from

Philip Greenawalt, it being the vacant lot between the Court House and the residence of Charles Greenawalt, for \$1,200. The cost of the building in round figures, amounted to \$26,000.

The clock was constructed by Joseph Eberman in 1818 at a cost of \$1,521.39. In 1854 the court house was enlarged, remodeled, frescoed, and otherwise improved, under the superintendence of Cyrus M. Schools, county commissioner, at a cost of 7,500 dollars, and now the workmen (in 1876) are again engaged in giving it an overhauling. Our court house is a very substantial building, and, with proper care, may last a thousand years, although with the increase of population and the consequent bustle of business in the streets, its proper location, for court purposes, is already questioned.

The only other public building which Lebanon possesses, if we except "the lockup," is that magnificent structure on Ninth street near Cumberland, known as the market house. That grand architectural addition at the north end was an afterthought, and only became part of the market house in recent years.

The original Lebanon market house, in which the great fairs were held in the olden time, say 100 years ago, was on the south side of Cumberland street, but, it becoming dilapidated and time worn, a new market house became the excitement of the people of this goodly borough. The people of the north side wanted it on the south side where the old market house stood. The people on the south side wanted it on the north. An election was held to decide the question, and, as the minutes of council say, "a majority was for the north side." Proposals for the erection of the new house were invited, when the contract was awarded to Geesaman and Beiszel for \$850. This was in 1833. The amount of the borough tax duplicate for that year was \$650.53,—it being considerably higher that year than usual on account of the extraordinary expense attending the erection of the new market house.

In the year 1813, when this county was organized, wheat sold at \$1.33 per bushel, rye at \$1.06, flaxseed at one dollar, corn at 94 cents, rye whiskey at 60 cents a gallon, apple whiskey at one dollar. A panic of some kind must have taken place shortly after, for in 1822 wheat sold at 60 cents per

bushel; rye, thirty, corn, 34; oats, 20; clover seed, \$5; flaxseed, at \$1.12; wheat flour, at \$3.00 per barrel; rye flour, at \$1.50; gin at 30 cents a gallon, and whiskey at 20 cents. With such prices, no wonder the Chief Burgess was able to serve at \$5.00 a year, and the councilmen for three dollars.

Lebanon was incorporated into a borough under the title of "The Burgesses and Town Council of the Borough of Lebanon," by act of the Legislature approved the 20th of February, 1821.

The first election for borough officers took place on the first Monday of the following May, with this result:—Jacob Goodhart, Chief Burgess; Assistant Burgess, Jacob Arndt;—Councilmen, Jacob Nagle, Conrad Fasnacht, Leonard Greenawalt, Jacob Light, Adam Ritcher, and John Uhler; High Constable, Rudolph Kelker.

The borough was originally of contracted limits, being bounded on the east by Seventh street, on the north by Church street, on the west by Twelfth street and on the south by Linden alley. Various additions and alterations were made to these boundaries until the 4th of April 1868, when the act of consolidation with North Lebanon Borough was made, and the division of the same into six wards took place.

The Borough of North Lebanon was organized in 1855. The first Chief Burgess was George Hoffman; Assistant Burgess, Charles H. Meily; Councilman, S. P. Shour, Cyrus Mutch, Abraham Sherk, William Kain, D. C. Forney, and Abraham S. Dutter. It continued a borough until 1868, when a consolidation with Lebanon Borough took place.

The church and Sunday school history of Lebanon county, is a very interesting one, but it can not be brought within the scope of this paper. So with the educational, legal, medical, industrial and political history of the county.

The first newspaper printed in Lebanon was a German one, three columns to a page, entitled "Der Freie Libanoner," established by Jacob Schnee, on the first of January, 1807. It was published in the old stone building a few doors north of the present location of the Lebanon Advertiser office, on North Ninth street, in what is known as the Greenawalt property. Its fortunes under Schnee were varying, and in 1809,

Jacob Stoever obtained the establishment, and issued the paper as the "Lebanon Morning Star."

Mr. Stoever continued its publication until 1837, when he sold the paper to Samuel Miller, by whom it was published for a short time, when it was discontinued, and the material taken back by Mr. Stoever. In 1851 it was incorporated with the Advertiser office, where it still remains in 1876, in as good condition as when brought from England 70 years ago. In 1826 Joseph Hartman established the "Pennsylvanier Beobachter" on the site of the building now occupied by Mrs. Buck's confectionery store. In 1837 he changed the name of the paper to the "Wahrer Demokrat." The "Lebanon Democrat" was established by John and Joseph Miller, as an anti-masonic paper. It is still published by John Young and Company as the "Pennsylvanier." After a number of attempts to establish an English paper in Lebanon, the "Lebanon Courier" managed to keep its legs, in 1836, under the proprietorship of Joseph Gleim. The "Lebanon Courier" was followed in 1849, by the "Lebanon Advertiser." The Advertiser was followed by a short-lived paper called the "Boy of '76"; in 1871, by the "Lebanon Valley Standard"; then came the era of the dailies—of the "News" and the "Times." Various other experiments were tried in the publishing business in this place, but all proved failures.

Now as to the military history. During the War of the Revolution, the people of Lebanon county were among the most bitter of the rebels against the authority of England. They did not like the English in the old country, and that feeling was intensified here when they came under their actual domination. From the first day they placed their feet upon the soil of this state, they were in rebellion, in act and thought. They received little or no protection from the Provincial Government against the inroads and murders of the Indians, but were continually annoyed by calls for arrearages for rents, purchase money for their lands, and taxes to pay the proprietors for their hangers-on. It is no wonder that the people of this section resolved as early as 1756, that if no assistance was rendered them by the Council and Proprietors, they would take care of themselves. This feeling of antagonism and hate, by the original immigrants, was instilled into the

minds of their sons, so that they were earlier ripe for rebellion than the people of any of the other colonies, and showed their feelings by an earnest and determined support of the war, when Independence was declared. They were a people accustomed to arms, and to a vigorous life,—in fact the only people who could have withstood the hardships of Valley Forge.

Lebanon county was for independence, first, last, and all the time; many of its people enlisted for the war, and participated in the battles of Germantown, Brandywine, Trenton, and others. After the battle of Trenton the loyalty of the people of Lebanon was recognized by the transfer of many of the Hessian prisoners to this place, feeling assured of their safe keeping here. At the same time the general government selected this place for the storage of its munitions of war. This would not have been so had there been a doubt of the loyalty of its people.

In a private report made to the council of safety, by Col. Philip Greenawalt, of the feelings of the people, in regard to the prosecution of the war, when reverses had overtaken our armies on a number of battle fields, and when it looked as if the rebellion might be suppressed, if it did not cease of itself from the want of money and material, he said that there was but a single individual in his district who felt disposed to yield.

When independence was achieved they hung their muskets over the fireplace and returned to their fields and labors,—their corn huskings, their applebutter parties, their fairs, their horse racings, not forgetting their battalion drills and shooting matches, the latter to keep the hand accustomed to the use of fire-arms, should another war present itself.

During the war of 1812 the enlistments in the army, in the three years, from Lebanon county, were in full proportion to any other section of the country. When the capital of the nation was captured, and Baltimore was menaced, two companies from this county marched to that city for its defence. The last, lingering veteran of that band is, or should be, on this stand today, in the person of George Gerhart.

The war with Mexico in 1846, '47 and '48, found also quite a number of representatives from Lebanon county, some of whom are with us today. It was left, however, for the war

against rebellion, for Lebanon county to show its patriotism. Individual enlistments were many, whole companies were raised and an entire regiment went from our town in a body to the field of war. There was scarcely a battle of the civil war that had not its soldiers from Lebanon county. When the long roll went forth every corner of our county sent forth its bone and sinew to the front. Call after call for more men received a prompt response from this valley.

The history of the times, when the brave-hearted American people, the men who loved the Union, followed the Stars and Stripes, and kept step to the music of freedom, is an illuminated chapter in our centennial history of Lebanon county.

From that small beginning on the 4th of July, 1776, we have become the most powerful and enlightened nation in the world. From a small and scattered population one hundred years ago, we have become 40,000,000 of free men, living under a government and flag, so powerful, that not one of them dare be harmed with impunity even in the uttermost parts of the earth!

Our lands have been reclaimed from the wilds of nature, from the wild beasts and the more dangerous wild men. Now every hamlet, village and town has its churches and schools. Our country is checkered with lines of railroads and telegraphs. The Atlantic ocean is now crossed in six days, instead of three months, as was the case a century ago. The continent, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, is now traversed in three days and a half. The fires of industry are burning by day and by night, with scarcely an interval, from the eastern seaboard to the Mississippi, and from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico. One hundred years ago many parts of our great state were tracts of wilderness where the feet of white men had never trod; and all beyond the Alleghenies was a vast forest, through which the roads leading to the Ohio, followed the Indian trails. Beyond the Ohio was an *ULTIMA THULE*—the ends or outposts of the world.

Here in Lebanon county, nestled between the Kittatiny Mountains on the north, and the Leshaug iron hills on the south, we have our happy homes; where every man and woman, if they choose, may sit down under their own vine and fig

tree.—a land truly flowing with milk and honey. A delightful healthy climate, fields, as far as the eye can see, waving with the choicest grains, trees covered with luscious fruits, and breezes wafting to us the perfumes of Araby the blest.

But better than all, beyond all, we have our women. Who can describe our mothers and daughters, our wives and sweethearts, and do justice to them? They are the loveliest of the lovely, the pearls of our valley. In health and sickness, in prosperity and in adversity, they are always equal to the task placed before them. And then our men! Are they not in the image of Jove himself? Industrious, intelligent, kind-hearted and charitable in peace; patriotic and brave in war; always ready for the emergency, whether the drum and life, or their sweethearts, call TO ARMS!



