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# THE GERMAN NEWSPAPERS OF LEBANON COUNTY

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READ BEFORE THE  
LEBANON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

APRIL 15, 1910

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BY  
DANIEL MILLER  
READING, PA.

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# THE GERMAN NEWSPAPERS OF LEBANON COUNTY

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By DANIEL MILLER

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The "Pennsylvania-German" for November, 1909, contained an article from the writer on the early German newspapers of Lebanon.

It is an interesting fact that, as in the case of Reading, Lancaster, Allentown, Easton and several other Pennsylvania towns, the first newspaper published in Lebanon county was a German paper. On the other hand, a somewhat sad fact is that at present, after a history of over a hundred years, no German newspaper exists in Lebanon county. Here, as elsewhere, the change of language among the people has told its story. During many years the German papers were more widely circulated and more profitable than the English papers. For a long time nearly all the public sales of farmers were advertised almost exclusively in the German papers.

But now conditions are changed. Many of the formerly prosperous German papers have ceased publication, and nearly all of those still issued are on the wane. The change was only natural, and its results could well be anticipated. Originally the schools in eastern Pennsylvania were nearly all conducted in German. But German instruction was gradually diminished,

and finally ceased almost entirely, especially after the introduction of the public school system. Then, too, German immigration ceased almost entirely in the agricultural regions of eastern Pennsylvania. Besides, the courts were conducted in the English language, and nearly all business, legal and commercial, was transacted in that language. Under these conditions the great change was natural and unavoidable. In short, the German parents died, and their children became rapidly English. At the same time, it may be noted that German preaching has been maintained to a surprising extent in eastern Pennsylvania, especially in the country districts. In several counties fully one-half of the preaching in country churches is still done in the German language.

It is a rare exception that a young man subscribes for a German paper. It is, therefore, not surprising that many German papers have gone out of existence. I could name at least a dozen German weeklies in Berks and adjoining counties which have suspended publication during the last forty years. The number of German papers in the district named is now small, and the probability is that if the man of fifty of today will be permitted to die of old age, he will outlive nearly all of the German papers. It is a sad fact to contemplate, but there is no escape from this fate. There are now no German papers published in the counties of Montgomery, Bucks, Lebanon and York. The language of our fathers is passing, although their spirit and genius remain.

The first paper published in Lebanon was *Der Freimuthige Libanoner*, first issued on January 1, 1807. The publisher was Mr. Jacob Schnee. It is my good fortune to possess a copy of this paper of February 10, 1808, being No. 59, Vol. 2. This paper, as did all the German papers in Lebanon, spelled the name of the town "Libanon." They followed Luther's spelling in the German Bible. This custom was continued until the



papers died out or had their titles changed. Even as late as 1859, when the writer entered the office of one of the papers at Lebanon, it bore the title "Libanon Demokrat."

The *Der Freimuthige Libanoner* was small in size, 16 by 25 inches, which was the average size of the German papers of that day. Its motto was a declaration of Benjamin Franklin: "Where freedom dwells, there is my fatherland." The subscription price was one dollar per year, one-half payable in advance, and the balance at the close of the year. Letters which were of no benefit to the publisher had to be prepaid. (In those days prepayment of postage was optional with the writer.) One of the difficulties in the way of the early papers was the absence of mail facilities. The postoffice at Lebanon was established in 1793, with Jacob Karch as postmaster. It is doubtful whether there was another postoffice in Lebanon county when the first paper was published in 1807. The paper was delivered in the town by carriers, and to country subscribers in various ways. The *Reading Adler* was sent to country subscribers "by first opportunity." Of course, Lebanon was then a small town, and the circulation could not be large. Mr. Schnee commenced the business of a publisher in 1799, and continued it until 1816. He was a Lutheran, and a member of Salem church, then the only congregation of that denomination in the town. At first and for some years his office was located at the southwest corner of Eighth and Willow streets, on the site now occupied by the office and dwelling of Hon. J. Henry Miller. In 1807, when Mr. Schnee commenced the publication of his paper, his office was in an old stone house, known as the Greenawald building, a few doors north of the *Advertiser* office.

A glance at the contents of the paper in my possession, dated Feb. 10, 1808, is of interest. The first article on the first page is a report of an important meeting in the city of Washington. On January 23, 1808, 98 members of Congress met

in the Senate Chamber for the purpose of recommending to the people of the United States candidates for President and Vice-President. With an almost unanimous vote James Madison, of Virginia, was recommended for President, and George Clinton, of New York, for Vice-President. Mr. Clinton at the time occupied the same position under President Jackson. It is stated that the members of the conference acted in the capacity of private citizens, and were led to this action by the importance of harmony among the Republicans on account of existing foreign and domestic affairs. Stephen R. Bradley acted as president and Richard M. Johnson as secretary of this meeting.

The State Legislatures were then already quite proficient in the enactment of new laws. The Legislature of Maryland adjourned on January 20, after having enacted 160 new laws.

The several States were organizing militia systems. South Carolina appropriated \$80,000 and Delaware \$10,000 for this purpose. In Virginia a puny and frail youth enlisted in the militia, who upon examination was found to weigh just one pound less than his musket, cartridge box and knapsack. His case was an evidence that a large heart may exist in a small body.

At this time many people were without employment in New York City, and the authorities employed them in levelling certain city lots and planting trees along the public streets as far north as the Harlem boundary. It was hoped that other cities would follow this commendable example.

The above paper was vigorously opposed to slavery. It publishes the number of negro slaves who were imported at Charleston during several years, as follows: 1804, 5,386; 1805, 6,796; 1806, 11,468; 1807, 15,576. During these four years a total of 39,310 slaves were stolen from their families in Africa and imported into the United States, which fact must

bring a blush to the face of every liberty-loving American. Fortunately this wicked business must now cease, since Congress by law prohibited the slave trade after January 1, 1808.

A remarkable case of longevity was reported from Spottsylvania county, Va. John Wilson died last October at the great age of 104 years. He weighed 300 pounds, and was well until the end. His wife died one month later, at the age of 90 years. The couple had lived together during the long period of 76 years.

The country was considerably excited on account of the strained relations between England and the United States, and news from England was eagerly awaited. This paper brings the report that the people of England and France do not expect that war between our country and England would result.

Advices from Ireland report short crops of wheat, oats and potatoes. A strong demand for American breadstuffs was expected, but on account of the disturbed conditions on the sea it was believed that much suffering in Ireland would follow.

In those days many farmers of Lebanon county conveyed their farm products upon wagons to Philadelphia. There are some persons still living whose fathers were thus engaged. My father-in-law, who was born in 1791, was one of these. He frequently accompanied his father to the City of Brotherly Love. The paper reports that in the month of January, 1808, a farmer thus engaged, when within three miles of the city, was held up and robbed by two negroes. After disposing of his goods and when ready to enter upon his homeward trip, his landlord advised him to take several loaded pistols with him. Near the place where he had been robbed, he was again confronted by the same two negroes. He drew a pistol and shot one of them dead, whilst the other escaped.

The paper states that the Legislature had by a vote of

44 to 41 resolved to postpone indefinitely the impeachment of Governor McKean. He had given great offence by removing many officials who had been appointed not on account of merit, but for personal considerations only. He had shown conclusively that he had acted within his rights, and the matter was dropped.

Mr. Schnee, the publisher of the *Libanoner*, at this early date engaged to some extent in book publishing. Nearly all books were then published upon subscription. In this number of his paper Mr. Schnee announces the completion of the German book entitled: "Directions to a Christian Life and Happy Death." Subscribers are requested to call for their copies. All who wish to read something thrilling and calculated to draw their souls to God are advised to secure this book. All who will read it must bear testimony to the excellent truth which it contains. In the same paper Mr. Schnee publishes the prospectus of a new book entitled: "Explanation of the Book of Revelation." The book will contain nearly 1000 pages (a large undertaking for that time) and will be printed on clean, good paper, by Jacob Schnee in the town of Libanon, at \$1.00 per copy unbound. Those preferring bound copies must pay additional for the binding. Whoever will subscribe for twelve copies will receive one copy free. The printing will be commenced as soon as a sufficient number of subscribers is obtained. The book was never issued.

The paper contains several advertisements of sales of real and personal property. Jacob Keller, of near Kimmerling's church, advertises personal property, and concludes its enumeration with the words "too numerous to mention," a form which has been handed down to the present generation. Jacob Fisher, of Bethel township, Dauphin county (now Lebanon), advertises five stray sheep which the owner may recover upon

proving ownership and paying reasonable costs. David Fisher, of near Lebanon, advertises a stray ram.

In those days Lebanon was still widely known as Steitze after its founder; Anville was Millerstown; Jonestown was Williamsburg, and Fredericksburg was Stumpe or Stumps-town. There was then no Lebanon county. The territory now embraced in Lebanon county then belonged to Lancaster and Dauphin counties. Lebanon county was erected in 1813, and Lebanon borough was incorporated in 1821.

The *Freimuthige Libanoner* bore its original name only about two years, when Jacob Stoever purchased the paper and changed its name to *Der Libanoner Morgenstern* (Lebanon Morning Star): Mr. Stoever was a son of the well-known Rev. John Casper Stoever, the first Lutheran pastor in Lebanon county. His office was located on the site now occupied by the building No. 19 North Ninth street, in which the law offices of Grant Weidman, Esq., are located. Mr. Stoever continued the paper under the above title during many years. Some time after 1830 the firm was Stoever & Scott. In the year 1837 the paper was sold to Samuel Miller. The latter continued the paper only a very short time, and then suspended its publications. He had been reared in the Evangelical Association, in which his father had been a minister. Mr. Miller now united with the Reformed Church, and entered its ministry. He died in Lebanon in 1873, and was buried at the First Reformed church in this city. I had the pleasure of knowing this gentleman, and have distinct recollection of him. He was a scholarly man, and the author of a volume entitled "Mércersburg and Modern Theology Compared."

The writer is in possession of copies of the *Morgenstern* of the years 1823, 1828, 1830 and 1835. In 1823 the paper vigorously supported J. Andrew Schulze for Governor. The politicians then already knew the art of cheating at elections,

and the paper cautions its readers against fraudulent tickets. Andrew Gregg was the Federalist candidate for Governor. In an article sixteen reasons are given why the people should not vote for Mr. Gregg. One was that as U. S. Senator he had voted in favor of limiting the right to vote to persons who owned at least fifty acres of land, or a town lot valued at \$100. The *Morgenstern* was the German organ of the Democratic-Republican party. That sounds strangely.

In 1828 the *Morgenstern* supported Andrew Jackson and John C. Calhoun for President and Vice-President. John Quincy Adams, the President, was the opposition candidate for the position he then occupied. Party spirit rose to a high point during this campaign. The vilification of candidates was then far greater than at the present time. Here is an example: The paper recites the charges made against Gen. Jackson by the Federalist papers. They claimed that he had ordered the shooting of six militiamen for a trifling offense; that he could not spell, although he had been a Supreme Judge, United States Senator, Commander-in-Chief of the Army, and Governor of Florida; that his mother was a low woman who had come to this country with the British soldiers; that he was a mulatto; that he was an adulterer; that he had made an attempt to cut off the ears of Senator Eppes, but was prevented by Commodore Decatur, etc. Ohio was then as much a part of the west as the Dakotas are now. It is stated that 60,000 acres of land were recently sold in Ohio in parts of 80 acres at about \$1.25 per acre. At some places improvements were already being made.—The Democratic-Republican ticket included Innes Green for Congress.—Wheat was then \$1, rye 30 cents, oats 20 cents, and flaxseed \$1 per bushel.—Frederick Stoevev, offers for rent the mill at the Quittapahilla, two miles west of Lebanon, which was erected by his grandfather, the well-known Rev. John Casper Stoevev, first pastor of the Hill

Church, which was organized in 1733. This mill is still standing, but has been enlarged.

The *Morgenstern* of 1830 reports the results of the elections for Congressmen and Legislators in this State. There were elected to Congress 20 Democrats and 6 Anti-Masons. The paper states that the Anti-Masons tried to destroy the Democratic party and place a lot of aristocrats into power.—The paper contains very little news.—A Washington paper states that processions of people going to the White House to congratulate the President upon his return may be seen daily. On October 5th all the ministers of the city paid him such a visit. Andrew Jackson was the President.—Lotteries flourished in those days. H. S. Goshert informs the public that he has established a lottery office in his drug store and keeps on hand an assortment of legal lottery tickets. All are invited to try their luck. For 75 cents one may win \$2,000 to \$3,000, which is far easier than to earn such amounts by splitting rails, digging trenches, braking flax or raising potatoes. "Nothing risked, nothing won." The paper states that the southern hot-heads are still opposing the American tariff.

*The Morgenstern* of 1835, the latest copy in my possession, is still championing the cause of the Democratic-Republican party. An interesting story is published about Gen. Jackson while he was a Judge in Tennessee. During a session of court a desperate criminal escaped from the custody of the sheriff, seized a loaded musket with bayonet, and fled. He was located at a place between two walls, but defied arrest. He threatened to shoot the first man approaching, and to bayonet the second one. The sheriff called upon a number of citizens for aid, but no one ventured to lay hands upon the desperado. The sheriff reported the facts to the court, when Judge Jackson directed him to summon a hundred citizens. He did so, but soon returned with the same message. Jack-

son replied: "Then summon me," stepped down from his seat, followed the sheriff, went fearlessly to the criminal and arrested him with his own hands. Everybody was astonished at the heroism of Judge Jackson.—Jennings Allen died in South Carolina at the age of 114 years. He was a soldier in the Revolution.—In this paper various wool-carding mills are advertised. Farmers then kept many sheep and raised large quantities of wool.

On January 1, 1816, Mr. Joseph Hartman commenced the publication of *Der Upartheiische Bericht*. Its motto was "We are all Republicans—we are all Federalists." This indicates the change in the meaning of words since then. In 1826 the title of the paper was changed to *Der Pennsylvanische Beobachter*, and in 1837 it was still further changed to *Wahrer Demokrat*. Under this latter title the paper was published by Mr. Hartman until his death in 1860, and subsequently some years by his son, Henry Hartman, who had been assisting his father. The latter was not successful, and he sold the paper to Mr. John Sowers. Neither did he succeed. It then passed into the hands of Mr. Otto Eichholtz and subsequently into those of Dr. E. Morevitz, of Philadelphia, who was interested in a number of German papers at various places. After continuing the paper a few years longer, its publication ceased in the eighties. For some time the paper was printed in Reading in the office of William Rosenthal. An office was maintained at Lebanon in 1883 by Mr. S. Danelius at 136 North Ninth street.

The paper was during many years an organ of the Democratic party, but its circulation was always small, it being the organ of the minority party in a small county. The paper, from its beginning until after the founder's death, was printed upon a primitive, so-called Ramage press, which was constructed almost entirely of wood. I often saw this press oper-



ated. The impression was made by means of a wooden screw, resembling the screw connected with the old-style country cider press. Two pulls of the lever were required for each side of the paper, or four pulls for a complete paper. This printing press was similar to the original *Adler* press described in my former article on page 558, "Pennsylvania-German," 1909.

The office of the *Wahrer Demokrat* was during many years in an old stone building on the site of the present property at Nos. 36 and 38 South Ninth street, Lebanon, now owned by George R. Ross. In connection with the printing office Mr. Joseph Hartman during many years and until his death in 1860 also conducted a small marble yard, and cut many a tombstone in his time. His son Henry assisted the father in this line of business. After the death of the father a somewhat ludicrous incident occurred in connection with this double business. One day the son came to my employer and asked his advice in reference to purchasing the business of his father. Mr. Y. said: "Certainly you must take the business. You are your father's logical successor," and then asked Mr. Hartman, Jr., what was his view on the subject. He replied in Pennsylvania-German: "Well, ich hab gedenkt, wann ich die Business nemme daht, dann musst ich die Grabsteh Yard hart pusche for die Druckerei im Gang zu halte." (Well, I thought that in the event of my taking over the business I would have to push the tombstone yard hard to keep the printing office going.)

I have in my possession a copy of the *Unpartheiische Berichte* of Nov. 1, 1823. The paper is small and the contents of meager character. One of the first news items is the report that oysters of a good quality have been discovered in the Connecticut river, about five miles from its mouth. Last week a span of the bridge across the Hudson river at Albany

collapsed and fell into the water, which was eight feet deep, carrying with it three wagons and two carts, but fortunately no one was injured.—A similar accident occurred in Russia while the Czar was passing over a bridge. The monarch was considerably injured. He called the supervisors of the district and exiled them to Siberia.—Married people had their sorrows then as now. John Brossman cautions the public not to trust his wife Catherine, nee Yungst, on his account, as he will not pay one cent for her. Three times he tried to live with her, but her high temper made it impossible.—Publisher Hartman advertises for a journeyman printer, who must be honest, and capable of managing a printing office.—The paper contains market reports of Reading and Philadelphia. Butter was only eight cents per pound (now our farmers get about 40 cents) and whiskey 30 cents per gallon. Living was then cheap. It was a kind of golden age for toppers.

The paper of 1827 contained an account of the crime, trial and execution of James Quinn for the murder of his wife. The execution was attended by the writer's father, who was then seventeen years of age. He often rehearsed the story of this hanging, and of an accident connected with it. The rope broke, and the culprit fell to the ground. His fellow Irishmen present exclaimed: "Jimmy is free," but the murderer was strung up once more, and this time successfully. A military company was present to preserve order. The exact spot of this execution was often pointed out by my father. It was on a little elevation on the western border of Lebanon, and the older inhabitants still know the place as "Gallows Hill."

The *Beobachter* of June 9, 1839, contains much matter in reference to the prevailing financial panic. The financial affairs of the county were in a deplorable condition. Specie payment had been suspended, and the notes of many banks

were worthless. In the issue mentioned, Christian Schnebely, George Leineweber, David Greenawalt, John Seibert, George Karch, Daniel Frantz, J. Marquart & Co., John Ermentrout, David Bauman and Charles Greenawalt, merchants of Lebanon, announce that they will accept the notes of the Lebanon Bank. The same paper contains a lengthy report of a meeting of 20,000 citizens of Philadelphia to consider the financial situation. The resolutions adopted denounce banks as a moral and political evil, and calculated to make those connected with them rich without working. The whole banking system is denounced as a fraud and an oppression, and specie is declared the only real money. The so-called shinplasters were denounced, and it was resolved to prosecute all persons and corporations offering such instead of real money. It was also resolved to organize a military force of 10,000 men in Philadelphia to enforce the laws of Congress. This force was to be known as Philadelphia United States Minute Men.

*Der Libanon Demokrat*, a weekly German paper, was started in 1827 by John and Joseph Miller as an anti-Mason paper. Subsequently it became a Republican organ, but its inconsistent title was long-continued, all the way down to 1865. How long the Messrs. Miller published the paper I am unable to state. Their successor was John P. Sanderson, Esq. He was a member of the Lebanon Bar, having been admitted September 23, 1839. He took an active part in politics, and was elected a member of the House of Representatives at Harrisburg in 1844 on the Anti-Mason Whig ticket. In 1845 he was elected a member of the State Senate by a majority of 281 votes over his opponent, Jacob Weidle. In a copy of the *Demokrat* of November 6, 1846, Mr. Sanderson stated that the office of publication was located directly opposite the parsonage of Salem Lutheran church. There is a difference of opinion as to the exact location. Some claim that it was in the first building north of the court house, on the site long

occupied by the late Anthony S. Ely, Esq., whilst others maintain that it was on the lot now occupied by a frame building used as a fruit store, adjoining the Ely property.

In 1851 the *Libanon Demokrat* was purchased by John Young and John L. Becker, the former becoming editor. Some time afterward the office was removed to the second story of the building opposite John Krause's general store on South Eighth street near Chestnut. Here the business was carried on until the latter part of the year 1859. I entered this office as an apprentice on April 6, 1859. During this and the following year I delivered the paper all over the town. During the summer months I did this barefooted. The population was then only a little over 5,000, and I knew the names of the occupants of at least one-half of the houses.

During the summer of 1859 an important change took place in the ownership and management of the paper. Mr. Young insisted upon larger and better quarters. At that time Mr. David M. Karman, long a hardware merchant and still living (1910), erected three three-story buildings at the corner of South Eighth street and Walnut alley, immediately north of the county prison. Mr. Young proposed that the firm purchase one of these new buildings, but Mr. Becker did not agree to the proposition on the ground that the investment of \$1850 in a three-story building situated in the very heart of the town was too hazardous. Rather than do this, he withdrew from the firm.

On October 18, 1859, the building at Nos. 14 and 16 South Eighth street was sold by Mr. D. M. Karman to Messrs. John Young, J. Henry Miller and John C. Seltzer, who now composed the firm owning the *Libanon Demokrat*. Mr. Young continued as editor of the paper and manager of the printing office, which was located on the second and third floors of the building, while Mr. Miller opened and conducted a book and

stationery store on the first floor. Mr. Seltzer, who resided at Jonestown, was never active in the firm. Mr. Miller remained in the partnership only six months, when he withdrew and continued the book store on his own account.

After conducting the enterprise for some time he sold out to the above-mentioned John L. Becker and entered the insurance business, in which he has been eminently successful, being still engaged in it. In 1877-78 he was a member of the House of Representatives at Harrisburg, and in 1892 he was a candidate for Congress. He is still living. After the withdrawal of Mr. Miller, the firm was John Young & Co. The building purchased in 1859 has been occupied during many years by the book and stationery store of Mr. D. P. Witmeyer.

In 1865 Mr. Young changed the title of the paper to *Der Pennsylvanier*. In 1880 he changed it once more, to *Volkszeitung* ("People's Gazette"). The paper bore this name until its demise in 1909. Mr. Young continued to publish the paper until 1885, when, on account of his age, he sold it to Mr. F. F. Hauck, and retired from business. Some years previous to that date he removed the office to the building at the northeast corner of Eighth street and Walnut alley, years before occupied as a residence by the Hon. John W. Killinger. Here the paper was published until the year 1909, when the proprietor, on account of the lack of patronage, gave it up. Mr. Hauck still continues the job printing business. Thus this once prosperous journal shared the fate of many other German papers in consequence of the people's change of language from German to English:

John Young was financially the most successful of all the publishers of weekly papers in Lebanon. He was in business here for 34 years, and became wealthy. His periodical had the largest circulation of all, and it enjoyed a profitable advertising patronage. Mr. Young was a native of Lehigh county.

After serving an apprenticeship in Doylestown, Bucks county, he, when quite a young man, with Mr. Schuneman, started the *Neutralist* at Skippack, Pa. In 1851 he removed to Lebanon and, as previously stated, became joint-owner of the *Libanon Demokrat*. He died April 8, 1886, aged 62 years, 2 months and 2 days.

The writer entered the office of the *Libanon Demokrat* on April 6, 1859, as an apprentice, and was employed there during ten years. During the war the price of printing paper was raised so high that many papers were compelled to reduce their size. In some instances the blank paper cost more than was received for the printed sheets. In the beginning of September, 1862, when the Southern army was marching toward Pennsylvania, a considerable number of men went forth as "State Defenders." One day my employer said to me: "Dan, I am going to the army. You get out the paper as best you can." The inexperienced young man was suddenly made editor, and he succeeded in issuing two numbers of the paper, when the editor returned. Some of the State defenders were brave until they had been carried into Maryland and heard the cannon boom at the battle of Antietam, when their hearts sank within them. They suddenly discovered that they had enlisted to defend the State, and they wanted to return home. One of them, an acquaintance of the writer, declared that he had a wife and three children at home. Col. Knoderer, a brave officer, now resting in Charles Evans' Cemetery, Reading, became very angry at them. He is quoted as saying to them: "You men went out to defend your State, and this is just the place to do it. Besides, it does not matter on which side of the State line you will be shot." Dr. J. L. Lemberger, one of these defenders, urged the men to be faithful to duty, and said to them: "A soldier's duty is to obey orders. The State expects us to perform what we volunteered to do." But some of the men "skedaddled" and went home. Likely they shared the feeling

of the soldier who claimed that during a certain engagement he was shot in the left chest. He was told that that could not possibly be true, because in such an event the ball would have pierced his heart and killed him instantly. But he claimed that at that moment his heart was not in its natural place. "Where was it then?" "In my throat," was his prompt reply.

Thus there were three, and only three, German newspaper ventures in Lebanon, but all have passed into history, and there is now no German newspaper published in Lebanon county.

One of the interesting facts in this history is the publication of a considerable number of books by the early printers of Lebanon. The publication of pretty large volumes at that early date is a tribute to their spirit of enterprise. The first venture in this line was a small book on fruit culture which Jacob Schnee published in 1799, eight years before he issued his German newspaper. One of the interesting early publications is a small book of forty-five pages which Schnee issued in 1809. It is a biography of Dr. Geo. de Benneville, a remarkable Frenchman and champion of the Reformation, who after narrowly escaping martyrdom in his native country, came to America in 1745 and located in Berks county, and became the first preacher of the Universalist doctrine in America. The house which he erected is still standing. It contained a chapel on the second floor, in which he preached. This chapel remained intact until a few years ago. I am in possession of a copy of this interesting little book. It was republished in 1815 by Joseph Hartman. In 1819 Mr. Hartman published a volume of 464 pages on "True Christianity" by the well-known Pietist Gerhard TerSteege. In 1829 Mr. Hartman published a Reformed Hymn Book of 432 pages. In 1840 Samuel Miller published a New Testament of 428 pages. Schnee, Stoeber and Hartman issued numerous German books, nearly all of a religious character. Another German printer in Lebanon was Henry B. Sage, but he published few books and no newspaper.

He was here only a short time. He appears to have commenced business here in 1809, and must have removed early in the following year, for in 1810 Mr. Sage commenced the publication of a German newspaper in Reading. Mr. Schree, the first publisher, issued a German almanac for some years besides books and the first newspaper.

It is a noteworthy fact that Mr. John Young, financially the most successful publisher in the history of Lebanon, never published any books.

In 1845 John Foose started a German newspaper in Myers-town, Lebanon county, entitled *Die Myerstown Gazette*. In 1849 it passed into the hands of Mr. J. F. Fasnacht, who a few years previously had been publisher of the *Womelsdorf Gazette*, as we learn from a note in the *Lebanon Demokrat* of November 6, 1846. The Myerstown newspaper was 17 by 22 inches in size, and had a short history. The year of its demise is unknown to me.

Great changes have taken place in the personnel of the printing business in Lebanon since my apprenticeship here. "Your fathers, where are they?" I had the pleasure of knowing Joseph Hartman and his son Henry, of the *Wahrer Demokrat*; John Young, John L. Becker, J. Henry Miller and John C. Seltzer, of the *Lebanon Demokrat*; Col. T. T. Worth and Tobias Reinoehl of the *Courier*, and William M. Breslin, of the *Advertiser*. Of all these, only Mr. Miller remains. It is the old story which is being ever repeated—one generation goeth and another cometh. Not only have all of the German editors and publishers of those days gone, but their newspapers have also died out. And the youth of sixteen of 1860 has since then spent just fifty years in the printing office and realizes that he, too, is nearing the evening of life and shall soon be numbered with the departed ones.

Many interesting and amusing incidents in connection



with the printing business in Lebanon might be recited, but time forbids. However, we must relate one or two.

At the breaking out of the Civil War in 1861, public feeling was intense. People were a good deal divided on the great question which had been convulsing the nation. But when the southern people commenced actual war and fired upon Fort Sumter in April, 1861, the day of decision had come. Every man was forced to declare his position. A self-appointed committee passed around in Lebanon and demanded the hoisting of American flags. The printing offices were among the first to do so. But there was at once a flag famine. The *Libanon Demokrat* office possessed no flag. What was to be done? Presently Mr. Young, my employer, sent me across the street to Mr. Curtis Smith, proprietor of a confectionery, to ask the loan of his flag, which had often floated in front of his store. I secured it and it soon floated from the second-story window of the German printing office, and testified to our loyalty to the American Union. The only unpleasant feature of it was the fact that the flag contained in large letters the words: "Ice Cream." But it could not be helped. In time of war many unusual things are allowable. It was somewhat annoying to see passersby smile when they beheld the ice cream flag floating from the printing office.

One morning a lady called up the stairway of the printing office: "Hello, printers, you shan't publish it in the paper that Rose Schroeder broke a limb." This was the first intimation we had that an accident had befallen the lady so generally known. But why not publish the fact? Because, as many of you will remember, the lady was a fortune-teller, and it was feared that the publication of her accident would affect her business. And she continued to ply her trade. Whilst for weeks she was confined to her bed, she continued to inform foolish and too credulous young people who their future part-

ner in life would be. I always think of the incident when I pass her old place at the fork of the pike and Old Cumberland street in the western part of Lebanon. She, too, has passed to that bourne from whence none ever return. But, to the shame of our people, the profession which she represented in the days of old is still flourishing.

It is often astonishing to see how slow some people are to comprehend things. During the war the papers were regularly filled with reports from the field of conflict. After the war had progressed several years and great battles had been fought, an aged farmer came to the printing office to pay for his paper. Before departing he inquired of the publisher: "What is the news about the war?" Mr. Young replied: "Well, they are still fighting;" when the old gentleman made the prophetic remark: "If the war won't soon be settled, there will be some dead people."





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