EARLY LANCASTER TAXABLES—1754

A document, entitled “The Return of the Borough of Lancaster, 1754,” has just come to my hands. It has never been in print, and its contents are not recorded in any book of record in the Court House or elsewhere. It consists of five sheets of paper, not bound together at all, kept, evidently, for some years, in a folio cover. It seems to be complete. That these five loose sheets were kept together 155 years is a surprising and a very fortunate fact.

This return contains the only list in existence of the names of persons who were the lot owners and tenants, the male heads of families of our town of Lancaster in 1754. More than this, it is the earliest list now in existence anywhere. The return or assessments of Lancaster borough or town, prior to this date, have all long since been lost, cast away or destroyed. But it seems that when Samuel Evans wrote the history of Lancaster county, which bears his name, some of the earlier lists were in existence and likely seen by him, because on page 365, speaking of William Henry, he says that his name first appears on the assessment lists for Lancaster borough, in 1754, from which a fair inference arises that Mr. Evans saw or knew what was contained in the prior lists. There were twelve of these prior lists up to 1754, because the town was made a separate municipality—a borough—in 1742, and had a separate assess-
ment. From its beginning in 1728 to 1743, of course, it was a part of the township from which it was taken.

This document contains not only the names of heads of families, from which we can determine the ratio of the Germans, English and other nationalities of the residents, but it sets forth also the number of lots owned by each; specifies landlords and tenants; the names of those who owned horses, cows, sheep, bound-servants, hired-servants and slaves, and how many in each case. While there is a column entitled "sheep," there is not one entered in that column to the credit of any owner. Evidently it was the New York stock brokers who first discovered the "lambs" in our town, and sheared them.

It is set forth in Haz. Reg., Vol. 5, p. 115, that in 1752 the town of Lancaster had three hundred and eleven taxables. The assessment of 1752 is not to be found. But the local authorities made that report of 311 to the Council of the province that year.

Comments of Gov. Pownall.

Of our town in 1754, the year for which the return or assessment now lies before us, Governor Pownall (6 Haz. Reg. 29) wrote: "The houses are chiefly of frame, filled in with stone—of logs—and a few of stone. When Lancaster was laid out it was the desire of the proprietor to raise an annual revenue from its lots; no lots were, therefore, sold to any large amount; but settlers were encouraged to build and receive a lot, paying an annual ground rent—hence, the large number of poor persons who were induced to settle in Lancaster. The Lancaster Town was, therefore, too large at an early date in proportion to the population of the surround-
ing country, and its inhabitants suffered much from a want of employment, as from its local situation remote from water, it was not or could it ever possibly become a place of business. The proprietor was therefore wrong in forcing the building and settlement of Lancaster. The town outgrew its strength and looks dull and gloomy in consequence."

But he also adds, "Lancaster is a growing town and making money—a manufactory here of saddles and packsaddles, also of guns—it is a stage town—five hundred houses—two thousand inhabitants."

These two comments are so different, though written about the same time, the latter while making the journey, and the former, it seems, in the shape of a foot note after the trip was ended, that it is thought by some the foot note was made by another person. But it may be that that note was written on his return trip, when something displeased him, and that he wrote about our town, much in the same spirit as did the cynical Witham Marshe, ten years earlier, in 1744.

The Population in 1754.

Directing our attention now to this return of 1754, we find it made up of 390 names, of which 261 are German and 129 English, as I divide them. A few of the men were single men. And if we take the rule of six members to each family (which was found to be the ratio in the census of 1790) it would show about 2,000 population of Lancaster borough at that time—the same number mentioned by Pownall.

Forty-nine of the persons whose names appear are not accredited with ownership of any lots, leaving 341 lot holders. Some of these have more than one lot, and thus there may have
been 500 houses at the time, as Pow-
nall states. These Hamilton lots were
of pretty good size, 40 by 240 feet, I
think. They would accommodate two
small houses. This return further
shows that there were 149 cows gra-
zing in the town at the time, and 96
horses, 42 bound servants and seven
slaves owned by the people

Largest Property Owners.

The largest property holders were
John Spoor, Christopher Franciscus,
Martin Snyder, Wm. Bowsman and
Melker Fortner, each owning 4 lots;
John Grove, 5; Valentine Crug own-
ing 7; Jacob Witmer, Adam Simon
Kuhn, each owning 3; and Mathias
Slow, John Fiere, Daniel Mydinger,
Geo. Groff, Roger Conner, Leonard
Nutt and David Cunner, each owning
2. Those who owned more than one
horse were: Christian Franciscus, 7;
John Grave, 5; Simon Snyder, Val.
Crug, each 3; and about eight others
each 2. Slaves were owned by David
Stout, Isaac Norris, Adam Lyon, Geo.
Sanderson and Eliz. Smout.

The men most bountifully blessed
with property were Wm. Bowsman,
who had 1 lot, 4 horses, 1 cow and 1
servant; Adam Simon Kuhn, 3 lots, 1
horse, 1 cow and 3 servants; Valentine
Crug, 7 lots, 3 horses, 2 cows, 4 ser-
vants and 2 slaves; Catharine Huff
(Hoff), 3 lots, 3 horses and 2 cows—
and a few others. There was also a
Jewish firm, Levy & Franks, there,
likely in the fur business.

Many Changes in Nomenclature.

One is driven to the conclusion that
either the assessor was very ignorant,
or the names of these early settlers
have changed very much in the years
that have intervened since that day.
Either from bad spelling or the
changes that names go through in 155 years, we can hardly recognize the relation of those names to those of today. For instance, Kauffman is spelled “Coughman,” Kuhn is spelled “Cohune,” Kendig is spelled “Condic,” Fordney is spelled “Fortnner,” Hubley is spelled “Hubyhley,” Reichart is spelled “Reighard,” Sehner is spelled “Seanner,” Wendler is spelled “Wayndeler,” Eberman is spelled “Abraham,” Crawford is spelled “Crophford” and “Craford,” and there are other examples that make the names at first sight seem to be those of an entirely different race from that of the descendants of these very same people.

Occupations of Early Taxables.

The occupations of these people are not set forth in the “Return,” but in a return of 1780 some of the same names appear (though they may be names of sons of those of 1754) and their occupations are as follows: John Alspaugh, Nicholas Jobe and Coleman Creiner were shoemakers; Conrad Fiere and Andrew Lutz were butchers; John Hopson, Sampson Lazarus, Andrew Levy and Meyer Solomon were shop-keepers; Jos. and Joachin Nagle were bakers; Geo. Ackerman, Samuel Boyd, George Franciscus, Valentine Soofman and Christian Jobe were blacksmiths; Jos. Algier, Chris. Franciscus and Frederick Mann were carpenters; James Davis, Widow Feltman, Martin Lowman, John Messencup, Jonas Metzgar and Geo. Weiss were tavern-keepers; Jos. Walter was a barber; Geo. Messersmith and Kraft Reisser were tailors; Leonard Benedict, Henry Heir and Bernard Kreider were weavers; Henry DeHuff, Henry Fortney, Philip Leanard, Adam Messencup, Geo. Swatz and Bernard Wilff were sad
driers; Jacob Flubacker, Peter Brotzman, Robert Sense and Philip Thomas were joiners; Chas Boyd, Conrad and David Crug were coopers; John Remley, Fred. Remley and Michael Hook were wagon makers; John Offner and Geo. Yost were hat ters; John and Geo. Lutman were masons; Valentine Crug was a brewer; Christian and Abraham Neaff, Daniel Newman and Henry Huber were doctors. This will give some idea of the diversified industry of the times.

Early Lancaster Notables.

The earlier lives of the men who afterward became quite prominent and the names of some who at the time had prominence appear in this list or return also. Michael Beirley and Richard Marsden were two of the first four men who purchased Hamilton lots in 1735 (Evans and Ellis, 361). When the town was made a borough in 1742, Thos. Cookson, John Gibson, Sebastian Graeff, Michael Beirly, Ed. Shippen, Mathias Young, John Fouke, Peter Worrall, John DeHoff, Samuel Bethel, Geo. Sanderson, Michael Hubley, Jacob Loughman, Geo. Hoffman, Jos. Pugh (Pew), Robt. Thompson, James Webb, Casper Shaffner and a few others were the leading men of the town (do., 362). The Graves (Graeffs) built the Shober Hotel in 1775 that used to stand where the Y. M. C. A. Building now is (do.). Michael Beirley was assistant Burgess in 1742. Casper Shaffner is first mentioned as a "blue dyer" in 1744, and later as assistant burgess (do., 363). Michael and Bernard Hubley came to Lancaster in 1740 and Bernard was Chief Burgess in 1759 (do.). Michael was Burgess in 1764-5, Justice of the Common Pleas Court in 1777, and bar-
Adam Simon Kuhn was a doctor on West King street in 1744 and Chief Burgess from 1750 to 1756 (do., 364). Isaac Whitlock, who came here in 1745, carried on a brewery on South Prince street till 1769 (do.). Val. Crug was a brewer and had a tanyard later. Mathias Slough had the old “Swan Tavern” in Center (Penn) Square built by his father, in 1750 Assistant Burgess and later he performed many public services. William Henry came in 1750 and had a long public career. He is set down here as a tenant of Leonard Bender. Geo. Mayer (Mier) lived on East Vine street and was prominent in Trinity Lutheran Church. Chris. Haine was a tinsmith, located where the Steinman Hardware Store now stands (do.). William Bowsman came in 1754, was Assistant Burgess, Chief Burgess, active in the Revolutionary War and died in 1784 (do., 364 to 366).

We also miss several prominent names from this list. Thomas Cookson had just died the year before, 1753. Edward Shippen came in 1752. I do not know why his name is not on. Peter Worrall was living here then, and was prominent in the Assembly. His name does not appear. Samuel Bethel died before 1754. Samuel Boule was Chief Burgess in 1757. It is strange his name does not appear. Ulrich Reigart in 1742 bought two lots in town and later others, and his sons, Christopher and Adam, later owned respectively the Fountain Inn and Grape Hotels, but the only Reichart on this list is Francis Reigart (do., 362-4). Other prominent familiar names are also omitted.

These general observations are used here by the writer only as introductory and explanatory of the “Return” itself, which as an original
manuscript, containing the only evidence of who lived here in 1754, and it crumbling and fading, is a paper of great historical value, which this transcript aims to preserve, the earliest list now in existence.

**List of German Taxables.**

The following is a list of the German (or so-called Dutch) taxables, property-holders, etc., in Lancaster Borough, 1754, referred to in above paper:

**A.**

John Abraham, 1 lot; Jacob Alspaw (Alspaugh) Jacob Aholls (Ahles), 1 1/2 lots.

**B.**

Gaspel Brenner; Ephraim Benedict, tenant to Widow Springman, 1 lot; Barnett Backer, 1 lot; Geterce Benedict, 1 lot; Christopher Bream, 1 lot; Martin Bumbarger, 1 lot; James Bacom, 1 lot; Mathias Benger, 1/2 lot; John Barr, 1/2 lot; Samuel Bare, 1/2 lot; Jacob Butcher, 1 lot; Garrett Beamer; Peter Bear, 1/2 lot; Jacob Barkersterol, 1/2 lot; Wm. Bowsman, 1 lot; Michael Bowsman, 1/2 lot; Peter Bowsman, 1 lot; Wm. Bowsman, 1 lot; James Ba-com, 1 lot; Mathias Bough, 1/2 lot.

**C.**

Daniel Curner, 2 lots; Peter Clements, tenant to Widow Stout, 1 lot; George Cerlough, tenant to Garrett Beamer, 1 lot; Eberhart Coughrought, 1/2 lot; George Cimble, 1 lot; Adam Coughman (Kauffman), 1 lot; George Cripps, 1/2 lot; Antoney Counceller, 1/2 lot; Faltin Cruck (Crug); Adam Simon Cohune, 3 lots; Peter Condic (Kendig), 1/4 lot; Melcher Cough, 1 lot; Daniel Choufman, tenant to Bernard Jew, 1 lot; Coleman Cinnen, 1 lot.
lot; Adam Simon Cohune, 1 lot; Wm. Cheaylor; Michael Creamer, ½ lot; Abraham Couchman (Kauffman); Michael Cend; Manuuel Carpenter; Frederick Carrenass, ½ lot; Kunrod Coal, 1 lot; Wm. Coble, 1 lot.

D.

John Dehooft, 1 lot; Wm. Duran, 1 lot; George Adam Dutchburg, 1 lot; John Doughadey; Jacob Demor, 1 lot; Mary Doughadey, ½ lot; Peter Deitch, ½ lot; John Dubinham, ½ lot; Frederick Doughterman, 1 lot; John Dougherty; William Deunlap.

E.

Andrew Enston; Lenard Eallor, 1 lot; Philip Erringer, ½ lot; Mary Earn, ½ lot.

F.

Christopher Franciscus, Sr., 1 lot; Michael Fortner, ½ lot; Wm. Fritzell, tenant to John Clark, 1 lot; George Fultz, 1 lot; Jacob Fortner, ½ lot; Stophell Franciscus, 1 lot; John Feltman; Francis Fortner, 1 lot; Stophel Franciscus, Sr.; Melker Fisher; Adam Fulls, ½ lot; John Fultz, 1 lot; Christian Farryht (Farich), 1½ lot; Margret Funk, tenant of Isaac Whitelock; Tobias Fleager, 1 lot; John Funk; Stophel Franciscus, Jacob France, ½ lot; Michael Fundaugher, 1 lot; John Feire, ½ lot; Hance. Michael Frank; Melker Fortner, 1 lot; Christian Fredshon; Isaac Freeborn, ¾ lot; Stophel Franciscus, Jr., ½ lot.

G.

Frederick Grick, 1 lot; John Grush, 1 lot; Wm. Gardener, 1 lot; George Glar, tenant to Lutheran schoolmaster, ½ lot; Michael Grosse, ½ lot; George Grove, 1 lot; Frederick Guiesser, ½ lot; Robert Gibbony, ½ lot; John Grave, 1 lot; Michael Guiserd, 1 lot;
Jacob Giger, 1/2 lot; Jacob Good; Yett Grainer, 1 lot; John Guyer, 1/2 lot; George Grove, 2 lots; Englehart Guyser, 1/2 lot; Jacob Good; Martin John Grove, 3/4 lot.

H.

Catharin Hooft, 2 lots; Balser Hisselbarger, 1 lot; Christian Hair; John Hanger, tenant to Wm. Bowsman, 1 lot; Jacob Howser; Jacob Hollinger, 1 lot; Valentine Hofman, 1/2 lot; Madler Hinebarger, 1/2 lot; Michael Hubley, 1/2 lot; Ann Hooftman, 1/2 lot; Peter Hermon, 1/2 lot; Michael Hubley, 1/2 lot; Barnett Heisell; Barnett Hubyley (Hubley), 1/2 lot; Jacob Hain, tenant to Jacob Bare, 1 lot; Rury Hair; Abram Hair, 1 lot; John Hohnagle, 1 lot; Jacob Haining, 1 lot; Konrod Heafft, 1 lot; John Hocetswiler; Valentine Hooftman, 1/2 lot; Christopher House, 1 lot; John Hutsman, 1/4 lot; George Highday, 1 lot; Michael Hooperland, 1/2 lot; Hauness (John) Halldy, 1 lot.

K.

Christian Kirdic, ye lot belongs to Linnard Nutt, 1 lot; Adam Knei, 1/2 lot; Jacob Kunts, 1 lot; Nicholas Kearbough, tenant, 1 lot; Peter Kepher, 1/2 lot.

L.

Daniel Lenards, with tenant, 1 lot; Michael Link, 1/4 lot; Jacob Leobold, 1/2 lot; Jacob Lutman, 1 lot; Michael Lutman; Adam Lowerick; Levie & Franks, firm; Isaac Lander; Derrick Linneberger, 1 lot; Martin Loman, 1/2 lot; Mary Lollar; Jacob Leasser; Johannes Legelleu, tenant to Dr. Adams, 1 lot; Ernst Ladledollar, 1/2 lot; John Lightener, 1/2 lot; Loderwick, 1/4 lot; John Chattle Lennett, 1/4 lot; Hance Yeanick Lutz.
M.
Frederick Mentisel; Peter Mier, 1 lot; Nicholas Messersmith, 1 lot; Melker Mainhold, 1 lot; John Marriseough, 1 lot; Philip Melsker, 1 lot; Henry Muckmungle; John Miller, ½ lot; Henry Mull; George Hance Markwork, tenant to Jacob Hurtisse; Stephen Mann; Peter Morrow; John Mesingcup ½ lot; Abram Mier, 1 lot; Joseph Miers, tenant to Leonard Bender, 1 lot.

N.
Abraham Neaff, 1 lot; Leonard Nutt, 2 lots; Christopher Nonsel; Frederick Nagle, 1 lot.

O.
Vendle Ockerman, rented from Henry Walter, 1 lot; Wm. Oiysler, 1 lot; Lawrence Opmler, 1 lot; Martin Offnear, 1 lot.

P.
David Pontess, ¼ lot; George Pitts, 1½ lots.

R.
David Rassler, 1 lot; Martin Righsinger, tenant to Mr. Stedman, ½ lot; Frances Reighard, 1 lot; Christopher Reydenhart, ½ lot; Mulick Ressor, 1 lot; George Righall, 1 lot; Jacob Regar, 4 lots; George Rishall, 1 lot; Jacob Reach, ½ lot; Dorothy Rendenbaugh, 1 lot; David Rissler, ½ lot; Tobias Ream, 1 lot.

S.
Martin Shrader, 1 lot; Rudy Stoner, rented of Mathias Razer, 5 lots; Geo. Swats, ½ lot; Matthias Sitler, ½ lot; Henry Sank (Shank), tenant to Learner Nutt, 1 lot; Kunrod Steckel, ½ lot; David Stout, 1 lot; Philip Sower, tenant to David Stout, 1 lot; John Spoor, 1 lot; Lodwick Sillor (Sellers), tenant to Faltin Cruck, ¾ lot; George Mich-
ael Swope, 1 lot; Henry Shoeman, ½ lot; David Stout, ¼ lot; Nicholas Shiar, 1 lot; David Sorpaugh, 1 lot; Kerneloss Sul- 
pleon, 1 lot; Mathias Slow (Slough), 1 lot; Kunrod Swatts, 1 lot; John Shank- 
min, ½ lot; Philip Sheats, 1 lot; Si- 
mon Snyder, 1-3 lot; Elizabeth Smout; Gudlip Seanner (Sener), 1 lot; John 
Sheiber ½ lot; William Sted- 
man; Elizabeth Smout (wid- 
ow), 1 lot, 1 slave; John Snider, ½ lot; Melcor Snyder, 1 lot; Benjamin 
Spicket; Michael Syock, 1 lot; Edward Shiping (Shippen), ¼ lot; George 
Shank, 1 lot; Michael Stovyer, 1 lot; Tobias Stone; Reinhart Swine 
(Swayne), 1 lot; David Stout, 2 lots, 
1 slave; Casper Shoffner, 1½ lots; 
Joseph Simons, 1-3 lot; Anthony Sny- 
der, 1-3 lot; George Stull, 5 lots; Lud- 
wig Stone, ½ lot; Balzer Shafer, 1 lot.

T.
Craftt Trysce, 1 lot; Jacob Ticker, 
1 lot; Philip Tingloagh, ½ lot; Richard 
Thompson, 1 lot; Jacob Tanner, 1 lot; 
Daniel Tepott, ½ lot.

U.
Frederick Ullman, 1 lot; Michael 
Utts, 1 lot.

V.
Michael Vetts; Michael Vindley 
(Findley), 1 lot; Michael Vetts; Gudlip 
Veanner, 1 lot.

W.
Nicholas Winegardner, tenant to 
Jacob Aholls, 1 lot; Peter Wilt, tenant 
to Melchor Fortnney, ½ lot; Lodwick 
Work, tenant of Wm. Bowsman; 
Esasias Wissecup, 1 lot; Michael Wayn- 
deler, ½ lot; Jacob Frank Whitmer, 
his widow Cattarena, 3 lots; Brigel 
Weaver; Henry Wagginner, 1 lot; Dan- 
iel Wydinger; Shelto Weaver, 1 lot; 
Michael Wisseman, ½ lot.
Y.
Honce Yeanukhuts, 1 lot.

List of English Taxables.
List of the English taxables, property holders, etc., in Lancaster borough in 1754:

A.
John Apley, 1 lot; Perphinger Andlehivve, ½ lot.

B.
Peter Baney, 1 lot; Thomas Brown; Samuel Boude, 1 lot; Michael Beirley, 1 lot; Samuel Boude, ½ lot; Wm. Bradley; Christian Book, ½ lot; Mary Bizellon, ½ lot; George Burk, 1 lot; Rebecca Baker, 1 lot; Andrew Beirley, 1 lot; Margaret Boyd; Michael Beirley, 1 lot.

C.
Charles Conner, 1 lot; Hambleton Carson, tenant to Dennis Conoly, ¼ lot; George Frederick Coysk, tenant to Dennis Conoly, ¼ lot; Frederick Curtise, ½ lot; John Cross; Christopher Crawford, 1 lot; Rogyer Conner, 2 lots; John Curtiss; Dennis Conoly, 1 lot; Jacob Carman, ¼ lot; Godfred Cline, tenant to Dr. Vanlon, 1 lot; Wm. Coburn, tenant to Dennos Conoly, ¼ lot; Philip Crophford, 1 lot; Christian Cooper, tenant to the Lutheran schoolmaster, 1 lot; Christopher Craford; Leonard Cline, ½ lot; Christian Henry Curtiss; Jacob Frederick Curtiss; Andrew Cline, ¼ lot.

D.
Thomas Diell, 1 lot; George Duke, ¼ lot; John Davis; Daniel Darby, ½ lot; John Dull, 1 lot; Henry Davis, tenant of Isaac Whitlock, 1 lot; Felix Donnelly, 1 lot; Philip Dean, 1 lot.
F.
Nicholas Firestone; Ferdinand Farmer, ¾ lot; Maria Fetteborn, 1 lot.

G.
James Gelesspy, ¼ lot; George Gibson, 1 lot; Mathias Gilbert, 1 lot; Michael Goodacre, 1 lot; George Goodeur, 1 lot.

H.
Richard Hayes, 1 lot; John Hopson, 1 lot; George Huts, 1 lot; Isaac Harris, tenant to Wm. Bowsman; John Hart, ¼ lot; William Henry, tenant to Leonard Bender, 1 lot; Kunedrad Heavlisp, 1 lot; John Hopson, ex. of E. Smout’s estate, 1 lot; John Christopher Haine, ½ lot; Henry Helm, 1 lot; John Hopson, 1 lot.

I.
Margin Ice, 1 lot.

J.
Wm. Jarvin, ½ lot; Wm. Jevan; Thomas James; Widdow Johnston, 1 lot; Nicholas Jobe, 1 lot.

K.
Andrew King.

L.
Philip Leonard, 1 lot; Abram Lyon, ¼ lot, 1 slave; Sampson Lazorus, 1 lot.

M.
Learnse Margetton, 1 lot; Francis Maye, 1 lot; John Martin; Henry Mason, ½ lot; James McConnel, 1 lot; James May, 1 lot; Daniel May, 1 lot; Charles Moss, 1 lot; Henry Mazden, ½ lot.

N.
John Neale, 1 lot; Isaac Nonas, ½ lot, 1 slave; Philip Night, tenant to Christian Hair, 1 lot.

P.
Philip Peal, 1 lot; Thomas Poultnay,
1 lot; Thomas Poultney, 1 lot; John Pew.

R.
Frederick Rimley, 1 lot; Jacob Rose; George Ross; David Reazer; Mathias Razer, 1 lot; Joseph Rose, 1 lot; John Rice, 1 lot; Wallerick Reasor, 1 lot.

S.
Anamaria Smith, widow, 1 lot; Philip Smith, 1 lot; Joseph Solomon, ½ lot; George Sanderson, 1 lot, 1 slave; Aughter Simpson; Rutter Smith; Thomas Street; Wm. Seylor; Philip Sing, ½ lot.

T.
Frederick Tomlow, ½ lot; Robert Thompson; John Thomas, Jr., ¼ lot; John Turner, ¼ lot; John Thompson, ½ lot; Thomas Thornburg, 1 lot; Frances Tarlon, 1 lot; Robert Trotter, 1 lot; Charles Taylor, 1 lot.

V.
Thomas Veasley, 1 lot; George Varner, 1 lot.

W.
Isaac Whitlock; Henry Walter, 2 lots; Jacob William, tenant to John Davis, 1 lot; William Wilson, 1 lot; John Whitecraft; Joseph Williamson, 1 lot; Carnnott Wolf; Christopher Whitley, ½ lot; Abram Wood, 1 lot; Paul Whitesell, ½ lot; John Webb.

Y.
William Young, tenant of Isaac Whitelock; John Young, ¼ lot; Marks Young, 1 lot.