

SOME OLDTIME LANCASTER PORTRAITS OF WASHINGTON

Some old-time pictures of Washington are still owned in this city, and others that formerly belonged here have been either taken away or sold by their owners. It is said that two of the latter class were painted by Gilbert Stuart, one of which was originally owned by General Edward Hand, and the other by Alexander Scott. The authenticity of these two pictures and several more that I have seen may prove worth pursuing the search.

It is hardly necessary to state that General Edward Hand occupied a foremost figure in Lancaster Borough and County during revolutionary days, and that even up to the time of his death he was one of our foremost citizens. He had been a close friend of Washington's and had occupied the position of Adjutant General of the Continental Army. He was a member of the Court Martial that tried Major John Andre. It was, therefore, natural that he should have a portrait of his distinguished friend, and, as a matter of fact, the evidence which I shall present to you is conclusive upon the point that he did have one. Whether or not it was a Stuart is not entirely clear. But I will give you the facts as I have found them relating to both the Hand and the Scott pictures, and you may determine the question for yourselves.

General Hand died in the then Borough of Lancaster on September 2, 1802, intestate. He left surviving him a widow, whose single name was Katharine Ewing, and six children, namely: (1) Sarah, married to Samuel Bethel, of Columbia, born December 8, 1775; (2) Dorothy, wife of Edward Brien, born November 26, 1777; (3) John, born in March, 1782; (4) Jasper, born in 1784; (5) Mary, born in 1786; (6) Edward, born in 1792. Letters of administration on his estate were granted on October 7, 1802, to his widow, Katharine Hand, and Charles Smith. An inventory of the personal property was only filed by them on February 22, 1805. Included in it is the following item: "Portrait of General Washington, Gilt Frame, £3 15s." After enumerating a number of household effects and articles of vertu, amounting to £764 16s 9 p., an entry was made in the inventory: "The above articles were kept for the use of the family." On March 25, 1805, the two administrators presented their petition to the Orphans' Court and obtained an order for the sale of a farm in Bart Township. In this petition it was stated that the decedent's personal estate, as per inventory, amounted to £764, 16s. 9p., and his debts to £4,257, 6s. 10p. On June 22, 1805, after this property was sold but before the order was returned, Mrs. Hand died, and the return was made by Charles Smith as the surviving administrator. On November 14, 1805, Samuel Bethel and Edward Brien were, on petition of Charles Smith, added as administrators. On November 20, 1806, these three administrators applied for an order to sell the Rockford farm of 160 acres, lying along the east bank of the Conestoga

Creek; but this proceeding, for some reason or other, was not pursued. In the meantime, on November 15, 1805, the following advertisement appeared in the Lancaster Journal: "To be sold by public vendue, at farm of Gen. Edward Hand, in Lampeter Twp., one mile from the Borough of Lancaster, on Saturday, the 23rd of November inst.: Wheat, rye, Indian corn, oats, hay and potatoes; horses and cows, sheep of the Barbary breed, a good carriage and one horse chair with harness, beds and bedding, carpets, looking glass, chairs and tables, three Franklin and one ten plate stoves, an eight day clock, with a variety of household and kitchen furniture." The personal property was, therefore, not retained after this date "for the use of the family," but was sold at this sale, and while in the advertisement the Washington portrait is not specifically mentioned, it may perhaps have been disposed of along with the other personal assets of the deceased. No account was ever filed in the estate.

On November 16, 1807, Jasper Hand, who was a physician, deeded his interest in his father's real and personal estate to his brother-in-law, Edward Brien, and he afterwards moved to the State of Ohio, where he died. On July 14, 1810, Samuel Bethel and wife, Edward Brien and wife, and Mary Hand, deeded their interests in the Rockford farm to William Montgomery, the father of John R. Montgomery, afterwards a very prominent attorney at the Lancaster Bar. On February 5, 1813, Edward Hand deeded his interest in Rockford to William Montgomery, and on February 13, 1813, he transferred all his interest in his father's estate to Edward Brien. On February 9, 1814, Mary Hand transferred to Edward Brien all her interest in her father's estate, and in like manner, on June 29, 1814, Samuel Bethel and wife executed a similar transfer. By these conveyances, the whole of the estate became vested in Edward Brien, and, of course, it was not necessary to file accounts nor obtain releases. John Hand had, in 1807, died intestate, unmarried and without issue.

Edward Brien died on June 26, 1816. His will was proven before the Register of this county on July 13, 1816. By it he gave to his sister-in-law, Mary Hand, \$1,000, and to each of his brothers-in-law, Edward Hand and Jasper Hand, the same sum. He gave to his wife \$1,200 a year during life, and left the residue of his estate to his three children, Edward Hand Brien, Sarah Bethel Brien, wife of Henry Rogers, born Sept. 20, 1810, and Henry William Brien. An inventory of his estate was filed by his executors on August 10, 1816. The first item appearing in this inventory is: "One portrait of Washington, \$15." No account was filed in this estate, but releases were executed by all parties in interest, which set forth that full statements had been rendered, and that every one was satisfied as to their correctness, and they, therefore, waived the filing of an account.

Edward Hand Brien died in Lancaster on June 27, 1834, leaving his estate to his mother for life, and providing that, after her death, \$10,000 should go to his aunt, Mary Hand, and the balance should be held by Dr John L. Atlee during the life of Sarah Bethel Rogers, and, after her death, should be distributed among Mrs. Rogers' children. Mrs. Dorothy Brien died on August 21, 1862, and likewise gave her estate to Mrs. Rogers for life and after her death to Mrs. Rogers' children. Mrs. Rogers died on February 13, 1886. Her husband, Henry Rogers, was at that time deceased.

Henry Rogers and Sarah Bethel Brien Rogers had six children, namely: (1) Anna Russum Rogers; (2) Sarah Hand Rogers; (3) Catharine Brien Rogers; (4) Mary Hand Rogers; (5) Harriet Dorothea Rogers; (6) Edwin Brien Rogers. Anna Russum Rogers married Edward Reilly Esq. He was a member of the Lancaster Bar. Mrs. Reilly and her family left Lancaster about 1873 and moved to New Haven, Connecticut. Her husband subsequently

died. Mrs. Reilly is yet living in Trenton, N. J. Mrs. Brien and Mrs. Rogers, when both were widows, lived on East King Street, where the house of Andrew B. Rote is now located. Mr. and Mrs. Reilly built the house No. 231 East King Street, now occupied by Dr. Harry M. Sultzbach, and she and her family lived there until they moved away from this city. My father lived, and I was born at 232 East King Street, just across the street, and I quite well recall Mr. and Mrs. Reilly and their family.

There was a portrait of Washington in the family of Mrs. Brien and Mrs. Rogers that finally came into the possession of Mrs. Reilly. She sold it to Charles Allen Munn, of the City of New York, who is connected with the Scientific American.

In Mr. Stuart's "List of Gentlemen Who Are to Have Portraits of the Presidents of the United States," as set forth in Mason's "Life of Gilbert Stuart," at page 85, the following is to be found: "—Scott, of Lancaster." This undoubtedly was Alexander Scott. He moved from Donegal to Lancaster Borough and was a man of prominence here for a number of years. He represented the county in the Legislature in 1797-8-9 and 1800. He was married to Mary Slough, daughter of Col. Matthias Slough. He died on March 21, 1810, and was buried in St. James' Churchyard. He lived on South Queen Street, in a house owned by William Webb, and he was what we would now call a real estate agent. He had his office in the book store of Joseph Clendennin, on East King Street, two doors west of Slaymaker's Inn. In the Lancaster Journal of March 24, 1810, the following funeral notice appeared: "On Wednesday morning last, in the 47th year of his age, Alexander Scott, Esq., of the Borough of Lancaster. Yesterday his remains were deposited in the burial ground of the Protestant Episcopal Church. Mr. Scott was so well known that his character can acquire no lustre from a newspaper panegyric. In the several public stations in which he had been placed, he always evinced a strong and penetrating mind, devoted to the public good. In private life, he was amiable and agreeable. His generosity and benevolence of heart was unbounded. He was an affectionate husband, a tender parent, a good master, and an obliging neighbor." In the next week's Journal, there was an advertisement, signed by Mrs. Scott, as executrix, requesting all persons interested to call on Mr. Clendennin for their papers, and notice was also given that Mr. Clendennin would continue the business. By his will, Mr. Scott left all his estate to his widow. She must have very shortly thereafter moved from the Webb property, for there is an advertisement by Mr. Webb in the Journal of March 31, 1810, offering for rent his house in South Queen Street, lately occupied by Alexander Scott. Until the early part of 1812, Mrs. Scott remained in Lancaster; for, during the latter part of 1811 and for a few months in 1812 she offered in the Journal a reward of ten dollars for the apprehension of a servant girl who had run away from her home. Her father, Matthias Slough, moved to Harrisburg in the spring of 1812, and he died there on September 12, 1812. His body was brought to Lancaster, and it was buried in Saint James' Churchyard. This appears from a funeral notice in the Journal of Friday, September 18, 1812, as follows:

"Died at Harrisburg early on Saturday, the 12th inst., Matthias Slough, Esq., aged seventy-nine years, and on Sunday afternoon his remains were interred in the burying ground of the Protestant Episcopal Church at Lancaster, attended by a great number of its citizens, with whom were joined many respectable inhabitants of Harrisburg, where the deceased had resided a few months prior to the time of his death. Mr. Slough was born in the vicinity of Lancaster, of which he was a resident almost four score years, being nearly coeval with that ancient inland town. In the course of a long and active life,

he acquired and merited the esteem of his fellow countrymen. Before the American revolution, he served as one of the representatives in the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, and both during the war and after the restoration of peace he filled with reputation several military and civil offices under the government of his country. In short, Mr. Slough was a worthy man and an useful citizen. He left as few enemies as most men, if indeed he had any, and very few who lived so long were more generally esteemed in this life."

Mrs. Mary Gibson Slough, his wife, also died in Harrisburg, on May 26, 1814. An advertisement in the Pennsylvania Republican of May 31 states that she died very suddenly; that she was in the seventy-seventh year of her age and that her remains were removed to Lancaster and interred by the side of those of her deceased husband. Funeral notices concerning Col. Slough also appeared in Poulsen's American Advertiser, in Philadelphia, and the Pennsylvania Republican, in Harrisburg, and concerning Mrs. Slough, in the Lancaster Journal. The disputed question, therefore, as to where Col. Slough and his wife were buried, is thus conclusively settled.

Mrs. Scott likely removed to Harrisburg with her father and mother. She there opened a dry goods store. On April 5, 1814, she offered her stock of store goods for sale, and on June 21, 1814, which it will be observed was shortly after her mother's death, she sold them and also her household and kitchen furniture at public sale. On October 16, 1814, she became the third wife of Governor Simon Snyder. They were married by Rev. F. C. Schaeffer, and the notice of the marriage gives Harrisburg as the place of residence of the bride. She died in that city on October 8, 1823. She left a will, in which she bequeathed her estate chiefly to her sister, Elizabeth Clendennin, and her brother-in-law, James Peacock, and appointed them her executors. No inventory was ever filed by them, but there was an account and a distribution, neither of which, however, made any reference to a portrait of Washington. Eugene Snyder, Esq., of the City of Harrisburg, who is a grandson of Governor Snyder by his first wife, informs me that he never heard of such a portrait in the family. There was no inventory nor account filed in this county in the Alexander Scott estate. The Slough family and the Hand family were intimate. I have been told that Mary Slough, afterward Mary Scott and Mary Snyder, was the God-mother of Mary Hand, the daughter of General Hand. As this Mary Slough, however, was then only 17 years old, the probability is that it was her mother, Mary Gibson Slough.

Now, Mrs. Reilly writes to me that the Washington picture, which she had and which she sold to Mr. Munn, came from Mr. Scott, it having been purchased in 1805 by Edward Brien at the sale of Mr. Scott's property, after his death. It is apparent that she is in error as to when the portrait was purchased, if it was purchased after Mr. Scott's death, because, as we have before stated, he died on March 21, 1810. This, however, is a minor detail, as mistakes in dates are more than likely to happen, when resting upon recollection of by-gone events. I have examined to see whether there was any public sale notice of the Scott effects in this town, but I have so far been unable to find any. However, a sale may have been had without a newspaper notice, or the picture may have been sold at a private sale to Mr. Brien before Mr. Scott's widow left Lancaster, or even after she left and before she married Governor Snyder. At first, it seemed to me that this picture was the one coming from Edward Hand; but Mrs. Reilly is a truthful woman, and she would have no reason for stating that it was the Scott picture if it in fact came from General Hand. A picture from General Hand would likely have more value than one coming from Mr. Scott. Mrs. Reilly states that, after her grandfather, Edward Brien's death, her grandmother, Dorothy Brien, received the picture from her

husband; that her mother, Mrs. Rogers, owned it next, and that she sold it to Edward Reilly, Mrs. Reilly's husband, and that he gave it to her; that it was in the house from the time she was born in 1829. Miss Mary Hand, who was Mrs. Reilly's great aunt, moved with Mrs. Reilly to New Haven, Connecticut, and lived in her family there until her death, which occurred in 1879. Miss Hand died in the 95th year of her age and Mrs. Bethel lived in Lancaster or Columbia. Mrs. Reilly was, therefore, in contact with persons who were likely to know the history of the picture, and there is no reason to think that she has not told the true story of it. In addition, the picture has been exhibited at times as a Gilbert Stuart at the Union League in Philadelphia, in A. T. Stewart's Gallery in New York, at the New Haven Art School, and other public places, and it has been examined by experts, among whom was Charles Henry Hart, formerly of the City of Philadelphia, now living in New York. It has been pronounced by them as a genuine Stuart. (See article by Charles Henry Hart in New York Sun of January 21, 1917.)

Some years ago, a picture was sold by Edward R. Zahm, of this city, to Charles H. Barr, for Capt. J. K. Barr, of Philadelphia. This picture was purchased by Mr. Henry T. Coates, and it now belongs to the Alexander Smith Cochran collection at Manor House, Yonkers, New York. Mr. Hart asserts that this picture is also a Stuart's Washington. The story is told that Matthias Zahm purchased the same at the Hand sale. I have been unable to secure any proof to substantiate this claim. It is stated in Harris' Biographical History of Lancaster County that Matthias Zahm was born on August 17, 1789, so that he was only sixteen years old at the time of the Hand sale. He could hardly have been an auctioneer, as has been claimed, at that early period of his life. He left some old diaries, some of which are in German. Some of them are scattered among three or four of his descendants, from whom I have not been able so far to obtain them and many of them were intentionally destroyed by one of his descendants. I have also endeavored to ascertain the period they cover, but without success. They might throw some light upon the question, if carefully examined, though the certainty of such result is very remote.

These, however, are the facts in regard to these two pictures up to the present date. Perhaps something will develop to make the identity more certain. I have introduced herein a good deal of genealogy, which is generally somewhat foreign to such a discussion; but my thought is that the surroundings may help to throw some light upon the possibilities or the probabilities of the situation.

There is a portrait of Washington owned by Miss Margaret K. Heinitsh, of this city. This picture was shown at the Portrait Exhibition held here in 1912. It is a bust facing left and is in size 23x28½ in. On the back of it are the letters "H. B." and "1796." It was purchased by John Frederick Heinitsh in 1824, and it has been in the family ever since. Mr. Heinitsh was born in this city on May 30, 1792, and he died here in December, 1858. He married Susan Hager, a sister of Christopher Hager. He was a druggist, and his place of business was where the present Heinitsh drug store is located, in the first block of East King Street. It is not known where he purchased it. It is an excellent portrait. I have been informed that the only artist with these initials who in that early time is likely to have painted such a picture was Henry Bembridge. This painter was born in Philadelphia, somewhere between 1740 and 1750, of wealthy parents. While yet a youth, he painted the panels of a room in his father's house with historical designs, and his skill then attracted attention. He went to Rome in 1770, and studied art under Pompeo Battoni and Mengs, who were then the two leading painters in that city. About 1774,

he returned to America and settled in Charleston, S. C. Subsequently, he came back to Philadelphia and married a Miss Sage. Several small pictures of Commodore Truxton and his family and a picture of Benjamin Franklin are said to have been painted by him. William Dunlap, in his "History of the Rise and Progress of the Arts of Design in the United States," says that Bembridge died in Philadelphia about 1820 "in obscurity and poverty." Of course, the letters "H. B." may not be the initials of the painter, but may refer to one of the former owners. The work of Bembridge is fairly well known to some experts: but I have not had the opportunity to have any such examine this portrait. The probability is that this picture is by a competent artist after Gilbert Stuart.

There is a beautiful painting of Washington owned by Miss Anna M. Deaner, of this city. It is small in size, about 12 inches x 18 inches, and it is painted on a peculiar kind of canvas and faces to the left. It is said to be by Rembrandt Peale. The name of the grandfather of Miss Deaner was Frederick Herbert Nenninger. He was born in Germany, and was married in that country to Anna Lutz. Together they emigrated to America about 1820, and they lived for a number of years in the City of Baltimore. Afterwards, they moved to Cumberland County, in this State, about twelve miles from Carlisle. They lived there on a farm which Mr. Nenninger owned, and their winters, towards the latter part of their lives, were spent in this city, with their daughter, Mrs. Anna C. Deaner, the wife of the late John Deaner. When Mrs. Nenninger died, which was during the Civil War, she requested that this picture should go to her daughter, Mrs. Anna C. Deaner, during her life, and at her death, to her granddaughter, Miss Anna M. Deaner, and this disposition was accordingly made of it. That is the way it came to its present possessor. Rembrandt Peale, the son of Charles Wilson Peale, was born in Bucks County, on February 22, 1778, and he died in Philadelphia on October 3, 1860. Washington sat for him in September, 1795, when the painter was not yet of age, and also, it is claimed, on several other occasions. He painted in Philadelphia, New York, Boston, and the other large cities of this country. It was, therefore, possible for Mr. Nenninger to have obtained a portrait by him. I am told that a number of art critics, who have seen this picture, have pronounced it to be a genuine Rembrandt Peale.

Mr. George Steinman also has a very good picture of Washington. It is a copy of Gilbert Stuart's Marquis of Lansdowne portrait. It is a full sized picture, which faces to the left. It was painted by Bass Otis. This artist was born in New England in 1784, and he died in Philadelphia on November 3, 1861. In 1808, he painted in New York, and in 1812 he settled as a portrait painter in Philadelphia. He was the inventor of the perspective protractor, which has since been used by many of his associates in the profession. This picture was brought to Lancaster by Sidney H. Myer, the grandmother of Mr. Steinman, when, after her marriage, she came to Lancaster about June, 1822, and it remained in her possession during her life. It then passed to the late George M. Steinman. Upon his decease, it came into the possession of its present owner. It will be observed that it has been in this family for almost one hundred years.

There may be in this city, other old pictures of Washington, with interesting histories; but, outside of a miniature in the possession of Mrs. John F. Griel, a satisfactory history of which I have not yet been able to obtain, none have come to my knowledge.

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