

GRANDFATHERS' CLOCKS: THEIR MAKING AND THEIR MAKERS IN LANCASTER COUNTY.

Whilst Lancaster county is not the first or only home of the so-called "Grandfathers' Clock," yet the extent and the excellence of the clock industry in this type of clocks entitle our county to claim special distinction as one of the most noted centres of its production.

I, therefore, feel the story of it specially worthy of an enduring place in our annals, and it is with pleasure and patriotic enthusiasm that I devote the time and research necessary to do justice to the subject that so closely touches the dearest traditions of our old county's social life and surroundings. These old clocks, first bought and used by the forefathers of many of us, have stood for a century or more in hundreds of our homes, faithfully and tirelessly marking the flight of time, in annual succession, for four generations of our sires from the cradle to the grave.

Well do they recall to memory and imagination the joys and sorrows, the hopes and disappointments, the successes and failures, the loves and the hates, hours of anguish, thrills of happiness and pleasure, that have gone into and went to make up the lives of the lines of humanity that have scanned their faces to know and note the minutes and the hours that have made the years of each succeeding life.

There is a strong human element in the existence of all such clocks, and that human appeal to our thoughts and memories is doubly intensified when we know that we are looking upon a clock that has thus spanned the lives of our very own flesh and blood from the beginning. It is not strange that so many of our people have sought, and once possessed, have cherished them verily as the apple of their eye. Nor are we surprised that strangers have come from afar to purchase them at four times the values that were set upon them by the first cost of making.

Nor do we marvel that the possessors of them give them front rank in the household furnishings, for they are, indeed, a thing of life, aye more, they have that within them that is the embodiment of many lives.

To collect such clocks is the pride of the rich and powerful, and is a royal fad. King Edward made a fad of it, and at his death he was the proud possessor of more than two hundred and fifty that were rich in memories and rare in worth and beauty. Among which was one which Henry VIII had given to Ann Boleyn when he made her his bride. What stories of love and passion, of vaulting ambitions and blasted hopes could it tell if we could but read in its face the scenes that passed before it!

The Grandfathers' Clocks, as we have them to-day, began first to take form in the countries beyond the sea, about one hundred years before they were made in Lancaster county. The clock that is run by a weight and governed by a pendulum is not an ancient invention by any means, and it is really the only enduring and accurate clock in general use to-day; and that, of course, is the type of the grandfather clock. It is an open question whether this form of clock was first made in England or across the channel, with the probability that they were first made in the Dutch or German countries

on the continent and were simultaneously developed on both sides of the channel to their present perfected mechanism.

The "long case clock," as they were called, first made its appearance about 1732 and they were looked upon as a great improvement over the smaller mantel clocks, the motive power of which was a coiled spring, and the governor was a crown wheel escapement, after the manner of watches of the present day. The mechanical principle was entirely different, including, as it did, the weight and cord, the anchor escapement, and the long swinging pendulum, to be regulated by its weight and length solely.

History tells us that a Dutchman, by the name of Ahasueris Fromanteel first introduced this clock, with all its refinements, into England, though the general type had been made there before. Fromanteel was a charter member of the Clockmakers' Company of London, and advertised this clock extensively in "Commonwealth Mercury," a newspaper of London, on November 25, 1661. A picture of a Fromanteel clock in appearance is almost an exact counterpart of most of our Lancaster county grandfather clocks, which were first made in this county just one hundred years afterward. They were advertised to run a week or a month at one winding, and claimed to be the only accurate clock of that day, according to Fromanteel's advertisement. The writer has recently seen such a clock running and all in good shape, in possession of John B. Oberholtzer, at Hotel Wallace, in Lebanon, Pennsylvania, which bears on its face a plate marked "Made in London, 1674." This clock is an eight-day, shows the seconds, minutes, hours and days of the month, but not the moon movements.

It is difficult to determine definitely just what date the first clocks were made in this county. Tradition would place it, in one or two instances, early in the 1750's, and, while we know to a certainty that at least three men who later made many clocks were in business in Lancaster as "Clockmakers" prior to 1760 by a few years, yet we have been unable to get reliable evidence that they actually made a grandfather's clock in the first years of their work.

None of the makers of that period marked the date of its making on their clocks. A few of them numbered them, and the earliest clock I have found of that period bearing a number was a Gorgas, which bore the date 1771. This clock was somewhat crude and unusual in some points of its mechanism, and I have every reason to believe it was among the first, if not the very first clock, that Gorgas made, as he later made many superior clocks and a different type than this 1771 in some essentials.

In corroboration of the fact that I have not found any positive evidence, further than family traditions, that any clocks were made prior to 1770, are these facts:—

1. At that period there were but few families of sufficient affluence in this county to have indulged in such a luxury prior to the Revolution, and houses were generally not of a kind or character to either require or accommodate them in their furnishings.

2. All clock makers procured their raw material already turned out or turned in blank form from England, and all faces were imported in a finished condition, and nothing in the advertisements of dealers who would be likely to supply such material and did keep it later, show that they had it prior to 1780, nor do the advertisements of "clockmakers" make any reference to the form of grandfather clocks which they naturally would have done at a period when it was new and novel and worthy of special attention.

3. During the period of the Revolution, 1774 to 1782, it would have been impossible to get the raw material from England; even if conditions in this country had been such as to make a market for such a luxury.

Therefore, I conclude that, while there were a few clocks made possibly prior to 1771, they were very few, and were then experimental, and not till the end of the Revolution did this particular handicraft begin to assume the proportions of a regular business in this county, and it continued to grow and flourish steadily from 1790 until about 1830, when the so-called "Yankee clock" made its appearance, and the business began to languish until 1840, after which but few of the clocks were made.

The actual making and finishing of the clocks required three separate departments of industry through which they passed, as follows:

1. The blanks or raw material for the works were imported by the hardware men or larger clockmakers from England or the continent, and included in the sets in which they were packed and sold to the clockmakers were, the dial finished and ready to be put on, the necessary wheels in blank brass discs of required size and thickness, the steel rods for making the pinions, all cut to size and length, the plates for the frame, the other metallic parts of frame and gear.

2. The clockmaker then cut the gears, bored the holes for his pinions in wheels and frame, polished, finished and fitted accurately all parts together complete, constituting the works ready to set into the frame and to put the dial in place and the hands, made by himself, ready to attach in place.

3. The case made of some fine wood, cherry, mahogany, walnut or maple, was a separate part of the business and was made by some good cabinet-maker for the clockmaker, at so much per case, according to the kind of wood, style and finish of the same as ordered by the prospective buyer. Some of them were handsomely inlaid, others were trimmed with metal mountings, others delicately carved, and no one maker seemed to have preserved or retained any particular model, either as to form, type or size.

The eight-day clocks range in height from six and a-half feet to eight feet, and the following are the exact dimensions of a good average type:

Total height	7 feet 9 inches
Total height of hood.....	2 feet 5 inches
Length of waist.....	3 feet
Height of base.....	2 feet 3 inches
Breadth of hood.....	1 foot 6 inches
Breadth of waist.....	1 foot 2 inches
Breadth of base.....	1 foot 9 inches
Depth throughout.....	9 inches

The one-day type averaged smaller than the eight-day, and seldom have the moon movement and often lack the days of the month. The dials were mostly made and imported from England, and nearly all bear the mark "Osborne, Birmingham, England," and a few of them the name "Wilson."

They were usually of iron, painted or enameled in white, with the figures in black and with decoration in colors of flowers, trees, landscapes, sea with ships upon them, sea shells, etc., but many were of hammered brass or bronze, very handsomely decorated with figures, according to the workman's fancy, and no consistent rule as to pattern or style, but some of them show great skill in the artisan and no small degree of artistic talent.

In the course of my research I have discovered the names of no less than thirty-three people who put out grandfather clocks under their names, but probably less than half this number can really be classed as "makers" or had the necessary tools to make a clock, and they most likely bought the works from some source, the case from another, assembled and put their names on the clock and sold it to some personal friend whom they were able to secure as a customer.

The greater number of the clocks made in this county were from the shops of the following well-known men: Shreiners, of Lancaster; the Ebermans, of Lancasters; Hoffs, of Lancaster; Fords, of Lancaster; Gorgas, of Ephrata; Stauffer, of Manheim; Eby, of Manheim; Heintzelman, of Manheim; Bowman, of Strasburg; Baldwins, of Lampeter; Esterlie, of New Holland; the Carpenters, of New Holland; Frasiere, of Lincoln; Breneisers, of Reamstown and Adamstown. In most of these names were fathers and sons in continuous business.

I shall confine the contents of this paper mainly to three heads: 1, Grandfathers' clocks; 2, to the makers of Lancaster county, and 3, deal more particularly with their own lives and ancestry, and not extensively with the family history of their descendants; to go beyond this would make the length of the paper far beyond the limits allowed by our rules. It may be a later paper will deal with the history of many individual clocks, and the story of the families that have had them for generations, as I have uncovered many very interesting facts along these lines that would make good material for a historical paper.

HOFFS—Among the clockmakers of Lancaster city who made many and good clocks were the Hoffs, George and John, father and son. George Hoff, the progenitor of the family in this country, was born in Westerberg, Germany, about 1740, married Justina Margareta Schneitzel, in 1761, and came to this country in August, in 1765, and soon thereafter settled in Lancaster and followed watch and clock making the balance of his active life, died July 21, 1816. George Hoff, by deed from Adam Simon Kuhn and wife and William Bausman, jointly, dated Dec. 30, 1769, recorded in Book No. 1, page 610, bought a property on West King street, first door west of the old Cooper House, and now numbered 37 and 39 West King street, owned and occupied as a hat and fur store by Edward Kress. The lot at that time was thirty-two feet six inches front and ran back to an alley, 245 feet.

Thereafter, until their deaths, George Hoff and his son, John, continued in the business at this stand. In 1793 George Hoff took in a partner by name of Frederick Heisley, advertised as an expert in the manufacture of surveyor's instruments, land compass and projectors, etc. Heisley was born in Lancaster in 1759, had served in the Revolution as a soldier, and had been in business in Frederick Maryland, from 1783 to 1793, as an instrument-maker. He married Catharine Julianna Hoff, daughter of George Hoff, in 1783. He was with George Hoff as a partner about eight years. He afterwards moved to Harrisburg and became a prominent citizen there, having been treasurer of Dauphin county, where he died, Dec. 3, 1839, leaving six children to survive him.

Just when John Hoff took over his father's business is not apparent, but he seems to have worked for his father for many years and been with him at the time of his death, but for a period in 1800 he ran a business for himself as a clock and watchmaker, at a place formerly occupied by John Gallagher, next door to Slaymaker's Tavern, on King street, and carried on the business in all its branches. In 1801 George Hoff advertised that he had on hand clockmakers' tools and supplies; and, in 1796, one Philip Shaffer, on North Queen street, advertised for sale at the "Sign of the Mill Saw" English clock faces and brass works. At the time of his death, in 1816, George Hoff bequeathed all the tools of his clockmaking business to his son, John, at a valuation of thirty-four pounds, and the balance of his estate he bequeathed to all of his children, Catharine Heisley, George Michael Hoff, Magdalena Rutzer, Elizabeth Hippey, Valentine Hoff, George Hoff and Susanna Winland.

John Hoff, the son, had become active and prominent in Lancaster's busi-

ness and public affairs, and died soon after his father, in 1819. His wife was Ann Mary Boyer, and their children were Anna C., wife of Henry R. Reed, the banker; Anna Mary, wife of Henry P. Carson; Margaret Justina, Justina Rebecca, Anna Eliza, wife of Dr. Washington L. Atlee; George Frederick, John George, Henry A., and Susan Ann, wife of Thomas Baumgardner.

The Hoff's manufactured a fine clock. In number somewhat over one hundred, and they made some four or five that struck the quarter hour with the chime, which feature is rather unique in the grandfather clocks, though a few others of this type are known to have been made by other of our Lancaster makers.

JACOB GORGAS was a famed clockmaker who would seem to have been the earliest among the Lancaster county makers of this type of clock. He came from Germany to Lancaster county about 1760, and started business where Ephrata is now situated, in "Cocalico township." Here, in 1767, by deed from James Anguis and wife, Mary, dated January 15th, for consideration of two hundred and forty pounds, he purchased sixteen acres of land on the west side of the road, now the Hinkeltown turnpike, and his land extended down to the small stream running west of the town, a branch of the Cocalico creek. On this he built a house and shop and lived in it during his life and made his clocks there. The tract is now occupied by the Cocalico Hotel, and the trolley line from Lancaster, just before entering the town, runs across it. This home property continued in the family for many years and Jacob Gorgas, a grandson of the famous clockmaker, sold the property finally to Jacob L. Steinmetz, Esq., at about the time he erected the Cocalico Hotel, some twenty-five years ago.

It is estimated that he made one hundred and fifty clocks or more, quite a number of which are running in this county and many have been sold out. C. H. Nolt, of Lancaster, has a Gorgas clock, which bears the date on its face with the maker's name, as follows, "Jacob Gorgas, at Ephrata, 1771." This clock, while handsome in many respects, with hammered brass face, is rather smaller than the average Gorgas clock and bears evidence of having been among the first made by him, in that, parts of the movements are of odd construction and are not found in his later clocks, showing that he improved over his first make. It has no moon movement and the striking device is peculiar and modeled mechanically after the type of a tower clock.

Gorgas bought another tract of land in Cocalico township some years later, containing sixty acres of land, from Henry Mohler, Sr., record N-563. This was at a point south of Ephrata and it is believed that he retired there and died on this farm. Jacob Gorgas died in October, 1829, leaving a will proven October 16th of that year, in which he bequeathed his property to the following persons: Solomon Gorgas, Joseph Gorgas, Maria Gorgas, his children. His wife's name was Christie, and she, apparently, died prior to her husband. Of these, Solomon Gorgas followed the business and made at least one clock and probably more. Joseph Gorgas also is known as a clockmaker, but I have not discovered any clocks under his name and apparently neither of them engaged in the manufacture of grandfather clocks to any great extent.

JOSEPH BOWMAN was among the notable makers of a somewhat later period, and he was located at Strasburg, in this county. He made many of the clocks yet in use hereabouts, which attest the excellence of his workmanship. He was the son of a clockmaker, Joseph Bowman, and was born at New Holland, December 10, 1799, and moved with his father to Lampeter township, when ten years of age, where it seems his father turned his attention to farming and lived on the farm just east of what is now "Elliott's Corner," on the Strasburg trolley line, which trolley line runs through the farm: this the farm has been owned and in the Herr name since its first settlement.

At the age of seventeen he went to learn his trade with Anthony Baldwin, a noted clockmaker of Lampeter Square, who had married his oldest sister, Maria. On December 14, 1820, having finished his trade, he married Anna Bauer and soon thereafter started business for himself in Strasburg borough, where he lived the balance of a remarkable long and active life. He died April 14, 1892, at the age of ninety-three years.

His home and workshop is the brick house along the turnpike or Main street of Strasburg, at the western end of the borough, located on the south side of the street, between the large Gontner residence and the building where Senator Homsher has his newspaper and printing office.

He was a small man, but noted for his physical strength and agility, and it is told of him that even at the age of eighty years he could jump farther than any man in the town, and could play leap-frog over the hitching post with any of the young men. He served as Chief Burgess of the town for twenty-five years, continuously. He also held office in town Council and as School Director for a great many years. He carried on business for fifty-five years though it does not appear that he made many clocks later than 1850. Captain Andrew Charles, who commanded a company in the War of 1812, made most of his cases, though some were made by Jacob Bachman, of Bachmanville, a few miles from Strasburg. A large family was born to Bowman, but a majority of them died comparatively young, and of the thirteen children but six of them were living at the time of his death. They were: Mrs. Catharine Warner, widow of Wesley Warner, Esq.; Edward Bowman, of Sterling, Illinois; Emma Girvin, wife of John E. Girvin, of Philadelphia; Mrs. Harriet Carruthers, of Allegheny, Pa.; Mrs. Salome Darling, of Sterling, Illinois; Elam Bowman, of Atglen, Pa. It is believed that none of these are living at this date.

THOMAS BURROWES—The father of the great Thomas H. Burrowes, famous as the founder of the public school system of Pennsylvania, was a clockmaker in Strasburg at one time. His home and shop was on the southwest corner of the Square, as it is now located. He did not make many clocks; at least there are only a few of his now attainable. It was in this property that Thomas H. Burrowes was born, in 1805, although the original house is not now standing. Thomas Burrowes, the clockmaker, was born in County Cavan, Ireland, and, coming to this country, landed first in Delaware, in 1784, and came thence to Lancaster county in 1787. He had been educated for the Episcopal ministry in Ireland, but never entered the ministry. History states that he settled at Strasburg and was engaged in "mechanical pursuits," and it was from 1787 to 1810 that he resided there, and during that period made some clocks. In 1810 he returned to Ireland, where he inherited an interest in an estate, which he collected, and, in 1822, he returned to the United States and to Strasburg. After his return he also lived for a period at Oak Hill, the present country residence of Chief Justice J. Hay Brown and family, though it does not appear that he owned it at any time. His wife, Ann H., by name, was born in the County of Monahan, Ireland. Their children living at his death were: Issac B., Francis F., Jane A. Carpenter, Susan C. Caldwell, Robert W., Thomas H., and Sarah Ann Burrowes. He died in 1839, leaving a will and the above surviving children, and, as is well known, survivors of his family are among our best citizens of the present period.

MARTIN SHREINER—Considered among the best, and certainly the most extensive maker of clocks in this county was Martin Shreiner. He was well equipped for the work and prided himself on his business and followed it indefatigably for forty years, during which time he made some of the best and handsomest clocks now to be found here. He was unique in the fact that

he numbered all his clocks, and the highest known number is 356, which is twice as many as are known to have been made by any other one person or firm. Martin Shreiner was born in 1767 in Lancaster, and was the son of Philip Shreiner, who came to this country from Germany, in 1760, and bought ground and erected a home just above the site of the old Grape Hotel, where the Lancaster Trust Company is now located, and here the subject of our sketch was born and afterwards lived and carried on his business. He learned the trade of clockmaker and started business for himself in 1790 at the home place, as stated, and continued in business until 1830, when he retired and was succeeded in business by his two sons, Martin and Philip, who continued it under the firm name of M. & P. Shreiner. They carried it on for some six or eight years only, when, owing to the competition of the so-called "Yankee" clock, it no longer paid to make the grandfather clock. Martin Shreiner and his sons were also noted as the makers of fire engines, and his engines in their day were considered the leading fire engine of that time, and, indeed, this business became the main business, finally, for both him and his sons, who succeeded him.

He prospered and became the owner of considerable land and real estate in the then western section of the city, which he sold into building lots. This land lay just west of Water street, approximately between West Chestnut and West Orange street section, for several squares. He made his name permanent in our midst by laying out and dedicating Shreiner's Cemetery, which Thaddeus Stevens rendered immortal by selecting it as his burial place.

Many descendants of his remain in our midst, the patriarch of them all to-day being Henry M. Shreiner, grandson of the original Martin Shreiner, and son of Martin Shreiner, 2d, the skillful watchmaker known to many of our readers, who had his shop next to the "Yellow Front Cigar Store" for many years. He followed his business up to within a couple years ago and is proud of his calling and his ancestry, as he now lives in retirement at No. 241 West Chestnut street, at the age of eighty-four years, but hearty and alert, with good memory. He, too, has one of the finest clocks of his grandfather's make and one of the rare ones of the grandfather clocks, in that it strikes the quarter hours with chimes. Mrs. H. B. Cochran, of this city, is a lineal descendent of Martin Shreiner, and was born in the house where he conducted his business for many years, and she is the proud owner of several of his clocks, and has number five, which is the lowest number I have heard of, hence among his earliest make.

ALEXANDER DANNER made most of the cases for the Shreiners, as well as cases for other of the Lancaster makers. He was counted a fine workman and his cases were in demand and easily picked out at this day by connoisseurs in the business. His shop was up North Queen street, above Walnut, on the east side, about where the new R. S. Keppel candy factory is now located.

GEORGE FORD--Among the other makers of the early 1800s was George Ford, of Lancaster, who was of English descent, and his period of activity was from 1811 to 1840. He did not push the business so hard and watchmaking and repairing and the manufacture of nautical instruments and surveyors' instruments was a more important part of his business. So far as we can learn about twenty-five or thirty clocks would count the number he made, and his business prospered. His place of business, which he owned, was on West King street, just west of the establishment of the Hoffs, where he carried on business for twenty-nine years. He died April 8, 1842, leaving to survive him the following children: A son, George Ford; a daughter, Marie, intermarried with Philip K. Brenneman, who was the mother of Franklin Brenneman, President of the Lancaster County Bank, and George Ford Brenneman, a

member of the Lancaster Bar, was a grandson. Ford's third child was Elizabeth Ford.

At his death he gave his engines and tools, mathematical instruments and machines as also his home property to his son, George Ford, who continued the business awhile after his father's death. Just how long does not appear.

JOHN ESTERLIE made grandfather clocks in New Holland, his period being from 1812 to 1830, during which time he made about fifteen clocks. He was of German descent and was born at Klingerwor, near Shamokin, Pennsylvania, in 1778, and was in business for awhile in Lebanon, and after he had been in New Holland for some time he returned to Lebanon, but again came back to New Holland, where he carried on the business until about 1830, when he retired. His place of business was on the south side of the turnpike, not far from the present toll gate, on a lot fifty feet in front and running back two hundred and fifty feet, on which was erected a one and a-half story frame house. He was uncle of our President, Frank R. Diffenderffer, and of his sister, Mrs. Sutton, of New Holland. Both of them have clocks made by Esterlie, Mrs. Sutton's having been presented her as a wedding present by her father.

ANTHONY CARPENTER was a contemporary of John Esterlie, and made clocks in a small way in New Holland at about the same period, and of about the same number. He was born near New Holland, of English parentage, in 1790, and began business in New Holland, in 1820. Thereafter he carried on the business for some years, which was also continued by his son,

Anthony Carpenter died at New Holland, July 26, 1868. William Frasier, the clockmaker referred to hereafter, worked, alternately, for both Esterlie and Carpenter, as a journeyman for ten years, and made many of the clocks put out by them, as he was an expert mechanic. He worked for them on piece work, getting \$35 for making and finishing a clock. Carpenter also had a son, A. W. Carpenter, who was born January 1, 1814, and died June 6, 1869, who is sometimes confused with his father, their first names being Anthony. He succeeded his father in business some time in the thirties and continued as a watch and clockmaker until 1860, but it is not believed that he put out many clocks.

JOHN GUNKLE—A clockmaker made and sold clocks at a place in Cocalico township, now Ephrata township, called Trout Run. His period was from 1830 to 1840. He was fully equipped with machine and engine, and personally made his own clocks, and while he made but few, it is said that anyone who has a John Gunkle clock has a good one. The name is also spelled Kunkle. He was German by birth. We have been unable to learn anything of his family.

CHRISTIAN HALL—The borough of Lititz claims one clockmaker among her ancient citizens, in the person of Christian Hall, and he appears to have made some good ones, among them one of the rare ones, with the quarter-hour strike. One such, at least, being in the possession of Henry Myers, ex-President of the Columbia Bank. He was of German descent, born in Bethlehem, Pa., May 10, 1775, and began business in Lititz early in the 1800s and continued in business for about twenty-five or thirty years, during which period he made a good many clocks, some of which are still about. He retired from business in 1830 and died June 30, 1848, and is buried in Lititz, in the Moravian Cemetery.

WILMER ATKINSON—Our lady members no doubt will take great pride in the fact that possibly the first clock made in this county was the product of the skill of one of the fair sex, odd as it may seem, though, as usual, I must head this sketch with the name of a mere man, her husband, Wilmer Atkinson. Wil-

mer Atkinson, though, apparently, never personally engaging in the clockmaking business, put out at least one clock under his name. He, with his wife, carried on the business of watch and clock repairing, though he himself began life as a cutler, and, if tradition is true, she made one of the first of these clocks made in Lancaster. The story, as I have succeeded in unravelling it, is rather interesting and somewhat romantic, as follows:

Abraham Leroy, a Swiss, was an expert clock and watchmaker and repairman and was in business as such in Lancaster at a very early period. In 1757 to 1765 he was the man who kept the Court House clock in order, for which he received compensation at the rate of four pounds per year. About in 1848 Wilmer Atkinson, a cutler by trade, came to Lancaster from Baltimore, though report has it he was born in Lancaster, and soon thereafter married the oldest daughter of Leroy. In 1850 Leroy returned for a period to his native Switzerland, leaving his daughter, who was said to be as expert mechanic as her father, in charge of the shop, and it was during this period that they made the clock and sold it under the name of Wilmer Atkinson. Dr. Geo. Rohrer has this clock. It is a fine finish, with brass face, all movements, and has this peculiarity which I have seen in no other clock, in that the date is on the dial of the moon and not on the outside margin and the days are numbered by an indicator fixed point as the moon dial revolved. We also find his name as "Wilton Atkinson."

EBERMAN—Among the most extensive and best-known families of old clockmakers were the Ebermans. They rank with the Shreiners, Hoffs and Gorgas, both in the extent and quality of their work, and in point of time they were among the earliest in the field, and three generations of them were engaged in the business in Lancaster City, and specimens of their handicraft are found in many of our modern homes. To them, also, belong the distinction of having made the town clock that for many years told the time for our city and, no doubt, marked its flight for hundreds of our people who had no clocks in their houses. This was the clock in the Court House belfry. This old clock itself is still in the loft of the Court House, though no longer in use. The main place of business of the Ebermans was on the East side of North Prince street, now No. 215, where a garage is located, and later generations also seem to have had at least a store on North Queen street, at a property afterwards owned by Major Howell, now occupied by the Grand Theatre. There was a Joseph, two Johns, Jacob and Charles. The progenitor of this family in this country was a German, John Eberman, who was a son of John Eberman, who came to this country in 1849. The first John Eberman, who was a clockmaker, was born November 14, 1749, and died January 15, 1835, and seems to have been a man of some learning and importance, as he carried the title of Esquire at the time of his decease. He was a clockmaker, according to the assessments of that period, but whether it was he or his son, John, whose name afterwards appears on many grandfather's clocks of the period, is uncertain; but I am inclined to think it was the second John who, undoubtedly, did make a good many of these clocks. First John had three sons, who all followed the business. John, 1776-1846; Jacob, 1773-1837; Joseph, 1780-1844.

Jacob made but few clocks under his name. The Johns, both senior and junior, made quite a number, but Joseph seems to have been the most active of them, and his clocks are best and most favorably known. It is doubtful if any of them made grandfather clocks prior to the Revolution. If they did we have been unable to verify it, though in 1773 John Eberman, Sr., and John Eberman, Jr., are both in the assessment lists at clockmakers, and John, Jr., is noted therein as living with his father. There is evidence that these

three brothers at times worked together at their business and also at different times worked with their father, John Eberman. John Eberman, Sr., made the town clock for the Court House in 1784, and a John Eberman, also Joseph Eberman, were paid for taking care of it in the latter part of the 1700s and the early years of 1800, and it appears that, in 1799, a John Eberman was paid one hundred and thirty-five pounds for repairs to the tower and the clock. The period of their greatest activity was from 1780 to 1820, though some of them continued the business for some years longer. Joseph, at his death, left four sons and three daughters. His son, Charles, followed the business of watchmaker and jeweler in later years at the North Queen street store.

Many of the descendents of this family are still numbered among our good citizens, whose active lives have gone far towards putting Lancaster in the list of good cities to live in. Most of their ancestors are buried in the old Moravian Cemetery, on Prince street, which has been lately purchased by the United States as a site for the new postoffice to be.

ANTHONY WAYNE BALDWIN was born near Strasburg, in 1783, and died at Lampeter Square, in 1867, at the age of eighty-four, and is buried at the Mennonite Church at New Providence, beside his wife, Marie Bowman Baldwin, who was one year his junior and died three years after him.

His father came from England prior to the Revolution with two brothers, one of whom located in Massachusetts, the other in the then far West, and the father, himself, settled first in Delaware, but later removed to this county.

Baldwin learned his trade of clockmaker at New Holland, with Joseph Bowman, who was the father of Joseph Bowman, the extensive clockmaker, in after years, in Strasburg. He started business for himself as clockmaker in 1810 at Lampeter Square, and was located in the first house on the west side of the road north of the store, and here he continued in business for many years; just when he quit is hard to determine. He married Maria, the oldest sister of Joseph Bowman, and this Joseph Bowman learned his trade with him, as we have stated elsewhere. The Baldwins were all very large men, and it is said that Anthony W. was the smallest of five brothers, and he was six foot eleven and a-half inches, while his oldest brother was six foot four inches. On the contrary, his wife, Maria Bowman, was quite small, as were all the Bowmans, and could easily walk under his extended arms. They had born to them fifteen children, but only seven of them reached maturity, five boys, namely: John, William, Harlan, Anthony and Levi, and two daughters, Eliza Ann, who married Gust Urban, and Maria, who married John Eberly.

Of these sons, John Baldwin was the father of ten children, and the others left more or less descendants of the name still in the county. John's family mostly followed mechanical trades. Martin A. and Frank, who are still living, were carriage builders, located within recent years at New Providence. Others of them are in the railroading lines and are located at Harrisburg. There seems to have been a George Baldwin, who made clocks at Sadsburyville, in Chester county, in the 1800's, who is said to have been a brother of Anthony, but we have not been able to corroborate this definitely.

Anthony Baldwin made a goodly number of clocks, some of which are still in the county and show evidence of good handiwork.

JOHN BACHMAN sold some clocks under his name, although he was a cabinet maker only, and made no pretense to making or assembling the works. He was located at a village which became known as Bachmanville, about a mile south of Soudersburg, and he made cases for Joseph Bowman, of Strasburg, and Anthony W. Baldwin, of Lampeter. His custom was to make two

cases for one set of works completed, for this set of works he would make a case and sell the third clock on his own account. His father, John Bachman, was born January 20, 1775, and this John Bachman, the case maker, was born near Willow Street, September 24, 1798, and was married February 12, 1822, to Barbara Kendig. He began his trade as cabinet maker, which had also been the trade of his father and grandfather, and has likewise been followed by his lineal descendants to the present time. Ellis Bachman, a leading citizen of Strasburg, is the seventh generation of cabinet makers, he being now engaged in cabinet making and undertaking in Strasburg. His grandfather was born in Switzerland in 1746, and came to the United States when a young man. His wife, whom he married in 1771, was Mary Rohrer, and they had nine children, and thus was founded the large and influential family of Bachmans located in and about Strasburg.

CHRISTIAN EBY was an early maker, located at Manheim. He was rather an extensive maker, and many fine specimens of his work are still extant, some of his cases being among the finest that I have seen, though who made them I have not learned. A make of his clock is in the possession of Dr. Kauffman, of East Walnut street, which has this particular feature different from those heretofore seen, the months and the days of the month for the full year are marked and designated in one circle around the face of the clock, and one circuit of the hand shows each day of the month in a full year of time. It has a fine case and is a fine specimen of the grandfather clock. Christian Eby was the first clockmaker of the name located at Manheim. Afterwards his business was carried on by Jacob and George Eby, his sons. He lived and did business on Prussian street, half way in the block north of the Square, and on the west side of the street. He started business in about 1830 and the business was still being carried on in 1860, though it is doubtful if any grandfather clocks were made at that late date by them.

WILLIAM FRASER—Unique among the old clockmakers of Lancaster county is the family of William Fraser, who started business in this county for himself in 1834, and his business is still being carried on by his two grandsons at the same stand, in, Lincoln, near Ephrata. Lincoln was then known as "New Ephrata." William Fraser was born in Philadelphia on February 14, 1801, and died October 18, 1877. His father, whose name, likewise, was William, was a sailor on board the privateer Argos, in the War of 1812, was taken prisoner in China but returned in three years to his home.

Fraser learned his trade in Philadelphia, and worked at it from 1814 to 1821 as apprentice and journeyman in the large clock manufactory of Solomon Park, who was then the largest manufacturer in Philadelphia, and employed many workmen of different nationalities, French, German and Swiss. When he left Park he carried his tools in a very small leather-covered trunk not larger than a tool box, which trunk or tool box is still sacredly preserved by his grandsons in their shop at Lincoln, and kept in a safe.

In 1828 he came to New Holland and engaged himself as a journeyman clockmaker to Carpenter, of New Holland, and afterwards to Esterlie, and worked for them alternately for some years, and was really the maker of many of the clocks which were put out by them. He also worked for firms in Philadelphia for some years, finally started business for himself, as stated, in Lincoln, across the road from where his sons and grandsons are now located. This business was afterwards carried on by his son, William Fraser, who was born August 28, 1835, and died in 1910, and is now carried on by his two grandsons, Samuel K. Fraser and William K. Fraser, and worked at the bench for 65 years altogether.

They have the engine used by the Shreiners in the manufacture of clocks

at Lancaster, still in a good state of preservation. They also have the lathes used by the first Gorgas in his shop at Ephrata, and it is yet in condition for rougher work. Also a grooving tool as likewise eye glasses used by their grandfather. William Fraser, as a journeyman, got from \$32.00 to \$35.00 for making a clock. Casemakers then received from \$15.00 to \$20.00 for the cases. The dial, chains, weights, brass castings and pinions, necessary to make a clock, were sold by the Hoff's and Steinmans and some hardware dealers of Lancaster, and thus put up in a set in the rough, to be finished by the maker, they sold from \$11.00 to \$12.00 per set at that time. The present Frasers are the oldest firm of clockmakers in continuous business in the United States.

JOHN ERB, of Conestoga Centre, a clockmaker by trade, who did extensive repair work for many years, made at least one clock under his name while at that business in Conestoga Centre, from 1830 to 1860. I did not find that he made any number of clocks, though he was known as a clockmaker for many years. His work was mainly in the repair line, as he came into the game when it was pretty well at an end. He was one of the Erbs of Conestoga township, and a son of his, Mahlon Erb, is now a resident of Lancaster city.

CHRISTIAN FAVER—Augustus Rhoads has a clock, a rather small one, but with all the movements, which has the name of Christian Faver, Lam-peter, on the face. We have no knowledge of any other clock having been made by him, and careful inquiry has produced no information of the man, and no other clocks with his name on seem to be extant now, and it is doubtful if he made any.

GEORGE MARTIN, who was a ropemaker, established a rope walk and carried on business for many years on West King street, just east of the Plow Tavern. He was an extensive manufacturer of rope of all kinds and he furnished the cords which were extensively used in the hanging of weights in the one-day clocks. He was the first ropemaker in Lancaster, and started business in 1780 at the above mentioned place; he was succeeded by his son, George, in the business, and it was continued by him well into the Nineteenth century. The cat gut usually used in all eight-day clocks was imported from England in the days when the clocks were made and for many years afterward. It came in rolls or balls and at that early day was comparatively cheap, enough for a clock costing but a few cents. At this date it is difficult to obtain and is said to cost ten times as much as it did then.

SAMUEL BRENEISER was a clockmaker at Adamstown and made a good many clocks, which are still in use in the northwest part of our county and over in Berks county. He was among the later manufacturers, and seems to have been located at different times at both Reamstown and Adamstown. His period was about from 1840 to 1860. We know of one of his clocks which had a price mark of \$80.00, which is still in it, which was rather more than they cost in the earlier years. Quite a number of his works can still be found and indications are that he made more clocks than some of the better known makers. Samuel Breneiser also had a brother in the business, at Womelsdorf, Berks county. His clocks are not rated as of a high grade of workmanship.

ELIAS AND JOHN LEINBACH made grandfather clocks in Reamstown, and their period was from 1788 to 1810, a few of which clocks are still in use. The Leinbach clocks were made very strong, of heavy material and very handsome faces, but were not of good mechanical workmanship, and there are but few of them now about. Many of their clocks were the one-day type, and it is a notable fact that few of this type are found running to-day, though a good many of them were put out by the various makers. The weights were

hung on ropes and to wind them the ropes were simply pulled down by hand over a pulley and ratchet to the end, on the same principle as the cuckoo clocks of the present day.

JOHN CONRAD HEINTZELMAN was a well known maker of Manheim, who flourished in the latter part of the 1700s. He did business where Dr. Snavelly was formerly located on the south side of Prussian street, Manheim, in the building now occupied by Stoneroad's confectionary. His full name was Johannes Conrad Heintzelman. He was born August 27, 1766, and died September 1, 1804. He was a son of Hieronymus Heintzelman, who was born in Switzerland August 9, 1730 and died in this country, November 28, 1796. Both are buried in Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, in Manheim.

His greatest distinction was derived from the fact that he was the grandfather of General Samuel Peter Heintzelman, the well known commander of the United States Army in the Mexican War, as also in the Civil War, in which he reached the rank of Major General. John Conrad Heintzelman, the clockmaker, had a son, Peter Heintzelman, who, for a short time, continued his father's business, but, owing to failing eyesight, he quit the bench. He, Peter, was the father of Samuel Peter Heintzelman, the Major General. General Heintzelman was born at Manheim, in 1805, entered West Point in 1821 and graduated in 1826, saw his first service in the Seminole War, in Florida, and afterwards, for many years, on the Western border and California, principally fighting Indians; was engaged in the Mexican War, where he reached the rank of Major, and served throughout the Rebellion, in which he became a Major General. He died in 1867.

SAMUEL C. STAUFFER was among the grandfather clockmakers of Manheim. He made them in a log building, where the Manheim Bank now stands, on Prussian street, early in the 1800s. At one time he operated or did business with Christian Eby, under the firm name of Stauffer & Eby. He was survived by a son, Christian Stauffer, who was the father of Henry C. Stauffer, the present cashier of the Manheim Bank. Samuel Stauffer, the clockmaker, was a Swiss Mennonite. He was the grandfather of David McNeeley Stauffer, well known to the present generation as a very apt artist of pen and brush. His pen sketch of Postlethwaite was the basis for most of the pictures of the old Tavern Court House now in print. He was, for many years, editor of the Engineering News. Capt. W. D. Stauffer, of Lancaster, is a lineal descendant:

Samuel Stauffer was the maker of quite a number of clocks, and seems to have been very proficient in his business and paid minute attention to the finish and appearance of them. He, too, was among those who kept at it late, and this, no doubt, accounts for more of his clocks being found than those of the older makers who made more at an earlier date. He has to his credit several quarter-hour strikes which are rather a rarity in the business.

ABLE WITMER was a member of the Cloister, of Ephrata, in the latter parts of the 1700s, made a few clocks, but all made by him were of the twenty-four hour type, but considered of exceptionally good workmanship of that type. He worked at the Cloister.

It is worthy of note here that a tower clock was made for the Ephrata Cloister, in 1750, by G. Hockers.

JOHN BROWN was another of the early makers of Lancaster. He was the grandfather of J. H. Rathfon, present City Controller, who has one of the Brown clocks. He did business at the corner of East King and Christian streets, later occupied by the Bursk grocery store, now the McCrory Five and Ten Cent Store. But he was rather known as a jeweler and repairer, and we do not find that he made many clocks. He kept a jewelry store at the place designated above.

GEORGE H. DANNER—It is appropriate to this article to mention the name of George H. Danner, now eighty-four years of age, of Manheim borough, who has assembled, collected and prepared a very extensive museum in that borough, and has handled very many of the grandfather clocks and now has thirteen in his possession, and has sold a great many out of the county.

Mr. Danner is a remarkable character personally, and is decidedly the most extensive collector of antiques in this county. They run up into the many thousands, some of them are exceedingly rare and valuable on account of their antiquity, and Mr. Danner can still give you the full history of each and every one of them with dates and names, without reference to memorandum of any kind. He was a son of George Danner, who was a son of Daniel Danner, who was the son of Adam Danner, who was the son of Christian Danner, who first emigrated to this country in its earliest days. In his large collection of clocks he has No. 10 of the Joseph Eberman clocks, also an Eberman which strikes the quarter-hours, and among others a clock which runs four weeks with one winding, as also a wonderful mechanical clock of French make, which cost \$5,000 at the Paris Exposition, in 1873.

The period of the Renaissance of the grandfather clock in this country began with the agitation and preparation for the great Centennial exposition, in 1876. Prior to that they had been neglected and were looked upon to a great extent by their owners as junk. When the fad for their collection opened a great many of them were bought by dealers in Lancaster and the ruling prices were from \$10.00 to \$25.00, and we have an account of some good ones being bought as low as \$5.00, and one farmer from Lampeter township hauled one to Lancaster and sold it for \$1.50, although it was a one-day clock and, of course, not then in good condition. Many hundreds of these clocks were sold out of the county thereafter, and they were assiduously sought for, especially in New York. Many were sent to the far West, and some to California by those who collected them here. When people discovered the real value of them, had their works properly repaired, cases polished and finished, as, is well known, prices advanced, and from \$200 to \$300 were the ordinary prices asked and obtained for the best types of them, and none could be had for less than \$100.

DAVID RITTENHOUSE was a learned man and an astronomer, and at times held high official positions under the National Government. He made clocks in Philadelphia, some of which are in this county. His period was from 1751 to 1777, and he was first located at Norristown, Pa., but afterwards moved into Philadelphia, where he achieved fame for his learning and ability.

Thus, I bring to a close my story, and trust it may be of value to our society, as stated in the beginning, it was intensely interesting to me, and in the course of my inquiries unfolded to me family history and tradition that are wound about the story of old clocks that is, indeed, of rare value, such as would of itself make a paper well worth hearing. This research for new material has proven how rich is our county's history, and how much of it remains unwritten. It is well worth the work our membership has put upon it and should spur our members, whose talents lie in that direction, to renewed industry to work up and transcribe to our archives the inexhaustible material that yet awaits the light.

This old song made its appearance about in 1876, and I quote the first verse and chorus as a fitting close to this paper:

Grandfather's clock was too tall for the shelf,
And it stood for many years upon the floor.
It was taller by half than the old man himself,
Though it weighed not a pennyweight more.

It was bought on the morn of the day that he was born,
And it was always his joy and his pride,
But it stopped short, never to go again,
The minute the old man died.

Ninety years without slumbering,
Tick-tock, tick-tock,
The time seconds numbering.
Tick-tock, tick-tock,
It stopped short, never to go again,
The minute the old man died.

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