

HISTORY OF LOT 159 OF THE HAMILTON GRANT

Those who do not look upon themselves as a link connecting the past with the future do not perform their duty to the world.—Daniel Webster.

The town of Lancaster was surveyed and laid out by Andrew Hamilton, Esq., or James Hamilton, Esq. (1), his son, or by both, sometime between the years 1729 and 1732. On May 12, 1740, it was incorporated as a borough, and the charter was signed by George Thomas, Lieutenant Governor of the Province. Thomas Cookson was the first chief burgess. On August 19, 1742, James Hamilton, by indenture, recorded in this county in book T, page 939, for the "consideration of the sum of five shillings a year," conveyed unto Thomas Cookson lot No. 159. This consisted of a parcel of ground in Lancaster containing in front forty-five feet, bounded on the north by Chestnut street, on the west by a fourteen-foot alley, on the south by a lot then in the occupancy of George Reightzell, and on the east by North Queen street. This deed, inter alia, contains the following provisions: "To have and to hold the said hereby premises with the appurtenances unto the said Thomas Cookson, his heirs and assigns forever, yielding and paying therefore unto the said James Hamilton, his heirs and assigns, at the town of Lancaster on the first of May yearly, forever and hereafter, the rent of seven shillings. And, further, he the said Thomas Cookson, his heirs

and assigns, making, erecting, building and furnishing upon the said lot of ground within the town of Lancaster aforesaid at his and their own proper cost and charge, one substantial dwelling house of the dimensions of sixteen feet square, at least with a good chimney of brick or stone, to be laid in or built with lime and sand within the space of two years from the first day of May past, 1742."

This property was bought by Christopher Graffort, later called Crawford, inn-keeper. He and Mary, his wife, on May 7, 1761, in consideration of 250 pounds, deeded to their son, Philip Graffort, also an inn-keeper, a certain half lot or piece of ground in the borough of Lancaster, containing in front, on Queen street, thirty-two feet, two and one-half inches, and extending in depth 245 feet to a fourteen-foot alley. It was bounded on the east by Queen street, on the north by Chestnut street, on the west by said alley and on the south by a-half lot of ground. This half lot George Tedle and Dorothea, his wife, and Christian Free granted on the 23d day of October, 1751, to Christopher Graffort. Philip Graffort and Anna Maria Diller, his wife, on September 1, 1778, sold the property to Gottlieb Nauman. He dying intestate, the same was confirmed under proceedings in the Orphans' Court to George Nauman, his eldest son, on August 26, 1806.

When George Nauman made his will on March 23, 1815, he left his real estate to his wife, whose maiden name was Salomea Hall, until his youngest child became of age. Samuel Dale, who was duly authorized by a power of attorney March 30, 1830, granted and conveyed the property to Charles Sheaffer, his heirs and assigns. At that time there was erected upon it a two-story brick and stone house

with a range of back buildings. This conveyance was made subject to a lien of \$114.98, which was charged upon the same by Gottlieb Nauman, and also a dower charge of \$66.90, which was to be paid annually to Margaret Nauman, the widow of Gottlieb Nauman, deceased. On May 29, 1832, Charles Nauman, William Frick et al, released Charles Sheaffer for any and all interest which they had in said dower, the widow having then lately died. On November 21, 1835, Charles Sheaffer, Potter and Eva Catharine, his wife, conveyed this same property with buildings as heretofore described, unto John S. Gable, his heirs and assigns, for \$6,750. Mr. Gable sold the property to John S. Rohrer, who held it until 1883, when, on April first of that year, all the above described property was transferred to Silas K. Eshleman and Emma, his wife. In 1907, Widmyer & Kinard became the owners and they in turn sold it in 1912 to John Henry Miller, the present owner.

THOMAS COOKSON.

The first owner of lot No. 159 was admitted to the Bar of Lancaster county in 1737. I have not been able to ascertain where he was born, but he came from Richmond, Yorkshire, England. It is probable that he came to the county after the removal of the county courts from Postlethwaite's. He was commissioned as a Justice of the Peace on November 22, 1738, and a second time on April 14, 1741. He was Chief Burgess of Lancaster borough in 1742, 1743 and 1745, and again in 1748 and 1749. In 1744 he was Prothonotary and Register of the county. For a long time he was one of the proprietary surveyors. He was also prominent in military affairs, being colonel of an associate

regiment of the west end of Lancaster county, on the Susquehanna. He was one of the first wardens of St. James' Episcopal Church, October 3, 1744, and gave twenty pounds towards the erection of a new stone church. On April 15, 1745, he was instructed to call on friends in Philadelphia for aid, having been appointed the receiver of the subscriptions. Mr. Cookson, at the time of his death, resided on Orange street. He was a man of large means, owning property in the town of Lancaster and 1,823 acres of land in the counties of York, Derry, Lancaster and Cumberland. When the treaty with the Six Nations was held here, commencing June 25, 1744, Mr. Cookson took a prominent part in the entertainment of Lancaster's guests.(2) Mr. Witham Marshe was secretary to the Commissioners of Maryland, who were representing their Province in the Treaty. He was born in England, came to Maryland in 1737, and was a man of culture and refinement. In his journal are noted two important events which show Mr. Cookson's conspicuous place in the affairs of that time:

"One o'clock p. m. Saturday, June 30, 1744. The twenty-four chiefs of the Six Nations, by invitation of yesterday from the Commissioners of Maryland, dined with them in the Court House. His Honor, the Governor of Pennsylvania, the Commissioners of Virginia, and a great many gentlemen of other colonies. There were a large number of inhabitants of Lancaster likewise present to see the Indians dine. We had five tables, great variety of dishes and served up in very good order. The Sachems sat at two separate tables, at the head of one the famous Cannasateego sat, and the others were placed according to their rank. As the Indians are not accus-

tomed to eat in the same manner as the English or other polite nations do, we who were secretaries on this affair, with Mr. Thomas Cookson, Prothonotary of Lancaster county; William Logan, Esq., son of Mr. President Logan and Mr. Nathaniel Rigbie, of Baltimore county, in Maryland, carved the meat for them, served them with cider and wine mixed with water and regulated the ceremony of the two tables. The chiefs drank heartily and were very greasy before they finished their dinner, for by the bye they make no use of forks. Conrad Weiser, the interpreter, was a guest at the dinner. He was highly respected by the Indians. Many other prominent men were at the dinner, I presume, as they were members of the Indian Treaty, viz.: Rev. Thomas Craddock, rector of St. Thomas parish, Baltimore; Edmund Jennings, at one time secretary of the Honorable Commissioners of Maryland; Peter Worrell, who keeps an inn in Lancaster and where we procured a room and a dinner; Andrew Hamilton, son of Andrew the distinguished lawyer of that name; James Hamilton, the proprietor of Lancaster, who also made the ball and opened it by dancing two minutes with two of the ladies here, which last danced wilder time than any Indians; George Sanderson, who kept an inn and the first town clerk of the borough of Lancaster; Honorable Colonel Thomas Lee and Colonel William Beverly, both Virginia Commissioners, both worthy descended, with His Excellency Thomas Bladen, Esq., Governor of the Province of Maryland."

Thomas Bladen was a son of one of the early settlers of Maryland. In 1742 he was appointed Proprietary Governor, a position he held until 1747. In 1732, when in England, he married Barbara Janssen, the eldest

sister of the wife of Lord Baltimore. He died in England, leaving here after his term of office expired. It was his daughter about whom Lord Chesterfield, in a letter to his son, saying-- "Our friend, Harriet Bladen, with a fortune of 20,000 pounds, is to be married to the Earl of Essex."

On Monday, July 2, 1744, an Indian dance is described, it being a representation of the Indians besieging a fort of their enemies. It was given near the home of Mr. Cookson, where Governor Thomas was staying, he being an intimate friend of Mr. Cookson. After the dance was finished the Indians were treated to sangree, after which they returned to their wigwams. Sangree, or sangaree, is wine and water spiced. The following inscription may be found on a tablet in St. James' Episcopal Church: "To the memory of Thomas Cookson—Late of Richmond, in Yorkshire, Great Britain, Esq. He held and discharged with integrity several of the first offices in the county of Lancaster, and thereby, by his generous benefactions to this church, as well as many good offices to his neighbors. He deservedly acquired the esteem of mankind. He died the 20th of May, 1753, aged 43 years." He was twice married. In the burial records of Trinity Lutheran Church the following entry appears:

"Mistress Margaret Cookson, wife of Thomas Cookson, one of the magisterial personages, both English, died July 4th and was buried the 5th, 1749, by a very large funeral of all classes of people." Mr. Cookson's second wife was Mary Thompson, the daughter of Rev. Samuel Thompson, and Janet, his wife. Their son, William, was a Brigadier-General in the Continental line as early in the war as March 1, 1776, and one of Pennsylvania's most distinguished soldiers.

After the death of Mr. Cookson his widow married George Stevenson, of York, who was a prominent lawyer and surveyor, a native of Ireland and a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin. Margaret Cookson, the elder daughter, died in her minority, and Hannah, his second daughter, married at Christ's Church, Philadelphia, September 30, 1760, Mr. Joseph Gallo-way, of Anne Arundel county, Maryland.

CHRISTOPHER CRAWFORD.

Christopher Crawford, or Graffort, as the name was originally spelled, was one of the early inn-keepers. He served his country in the War of the Revolution during the Jersey campaign, from August, 1776, to February, 1777. He was Captain-Lieutenant of a standing guard in Lancaster, under the command of Colonel George Ross, on July 1, 1776. He also held the position of Sub-Lieutenant of the county in the year 1777, with Colonel Bertram Galbraith of Donegal, as the Lieutenant.

During the Revolutionary War there was the necessity of organizing and disciplining the forces of the county to have good soldiers for the army. This was the occasion which compelled the making of a law by the Supreme Executive Council, viz.: A Lieutenant and his assistant, a Sub-Lieutenant, with the rank of Colonel. Their duties were many. They had charge of the raising, arming and provisioning of the military part of the district, and collecting fines, which were imposed on the soldiers for neglect of duties required of them. As early as 1758 Mr. Crawford was a prominent member of the First Reformed Church, and in 1786 he was one of its trustees. In 1750 he was Assistant Burgess of the borough, serving for six years, and in 1764 an offi-

cer of the Union Fire Company.. When Matthias Slough, as Coroner, on December 14, 1763, summoned a jury to inquire concerning the murder of the Conestoga Indians by the Paxton boys, he, with other prominent men of the county, was chosen to serve on the jury. Casper Singer, a prominent tanner of Lancaster, in 1777 gave a generous contribution to the Pennsylvania Hospital, and he named Mr. Crawford and Mr. Adam Reigart a committee to receive other donations for the same purpose. He was one of the Trustees of Franklin College in 1786. Mr. Crawford was married twice. His second wife was Mary Culp, to whom he was married December 23, 1767.

GOTTLIEB NAUMAN.

Gottlieb Nauman was also an inn-keeper. He was born July 23, 1747. He succeeded Philip Graffort, or Crawford, at the old tavern stand at the southwest corner of North Queen and West Chestnut streets. He kept the tavern as early as 1778. As early as 1780 he had a tavern stand in Adamstown, now part of this city. He was a patriot during the Revolutionary War, having been a private in Captain William Wertz's company of Colonel James Ross' battalion. He served during the years 1781 and 1783. He died of pleurisy, in his fifty-sixth year, and was buried in Trinity Lutheran graveyard. The church record says he was a faithful worker in the church. His son, George Nauman, also an inn-keeper, was born January 14, 1774, and married Solome Hall on December 26, 1797. He died on April 2, 1815, and is also buried in Trinity Lutheran graveyard. Colonel George Nauman, of the United States Army, was the son of George Nauman and Salome Hall, and was born in Lancaster, October 7, 1802. He died in

Philadelphia on August 11, 1863. The latter was one of the most distinguished soldiers from Lancaster county during the War of the Rebellion. He served actively for forty years in the army, during which time he was in the Florida War, February, 1836, to May, 1838, and in the Mexican War, under General Taylor and General Scott.

JACOB M. WESTHAEFFER.

Valentine Westhaeffer, the ancestor of Jacob M. Westhaeffer, was born in the Palatinate, January, 1703. On the voyage to America, in 1731, his wife and son died at sea. He reached Philadelphia after a perilous trip of six months, most of the passengers having perished. At this place, in 1732, he married Christina Sandritter, also a native of the Palatinate, born June, 1713. They united with the Moravians in 1746, first at Reamstown and later joined the Warwick congregation. "Sister" Westhaeffer died in 1773, aged sixty years. Valentine, her husband, died May 12, 1786, aged eighty-three years. Jacob M. Westhaeffer was the only child of Michael and Anna Maria Messersmith, both members of St. James' Episcopal Church. He was born in Lancaster, December 4, 1818, and married Mary Catharine White, of Howard county, Maryland. She was born July 28, 1824, and died November 8, 1890. Mr. Westhaeffer was proprietor of a book store from 1856 to 1881 on North Queen street, after he sold his interest in the museum. It was situated at the southeast corner of North Queen and East Orange streets. Later his stock and fixtures were damaged by the Diefenderffer fire. He was a musician, being organist of St. Mary's Catholic Church during the pastorate of Reverend Father Keenan, of whom he was a warm personal friend. He became a

member of the First Reformed Church and organist of the same. He was a ventriloquist, and by his humor and merriment continually "kept the table in a roar." Mr. Westhaeffer was a Mason, and occupied various offices of trust and honor, both in the Blue Lodge and in the Knights Templar. Death claimed him in February, 1895, and he is buried in Lancaster Cemetery.

CHARLES GETZ.

Charles Getz, the partner of Jacob M. Westhaeffer, was a descendant of Peter Getz, private in Captain John Ewing's company of the Pennsylvania Militia during the Revolutionary War. (5). As early as 1796 an advertisement appeared in the local papers of Peter Getz, goldsmith and jeweler, on Queen street, offering a large assortment of useful ornaments and gold and silver watches for sale. We also see the same of Peter Getz, coppersmith. Charles Getz was born in Lancaster, being a son of Peter Getz. After selling the museum he moved to Baltimore, where he died not many years ago. He was a painter of stage scenery and a man of talent.

THE LANCASTER MUSEUM.

We have all heard about the Lancaster Museum. It has been written about on several occasions, but a full history of its location and contents has never been placed on record, hence the purpose of the present paper.

The museum was established by John A. Landis about October 23, 1819. By an advertisement of that date he informed the public that he had collected a large number of natural and artificial curiosities for his museum, and that it would be opened on December 4, 1819, for visitors. It was opened on that day. The price

of admission was twenty-five cents. The museum remained open every day from 9 a. m. until sunset, Sunday excepted. I cannot tell you where the museum was first located, but it is said, upon good authority, by a resident for many years of this city, that one of the first locations was the northeast corner of West Orange and North Market streets. On this spot a frame building stood, and the museum was in a room on the second story. This property later was owned by Mr. Emanuel Shober, and is now part of the site of the Young Men's Christian Association. From there to a house on the south side of Penn Square, adjoining what is now the Conestoga National Bank, it moved again to a building on North Queen street. This location is occupied at present by the Lancaster Examiner building. The final move of the Landis Museum was made to a large brick building erected by the late John S. Gable, at the southwest corner of North Queen and West Chestnut streets. Mr. Landis put in large glass windows on the first floor in order to display his exhibits, and above the upper story he placed a large sign, with big black letters on it, which read, "Gallery of Arts and Science." The principal attractions at the museum were the wax statuary, curios, works of art, mechanical genius, historical relics, specimens of natural history, stuffed or alcoholized monstrosities, minerals, fossils and shells. The Lancaster Gazette and Farmers' Register of June 15, 1830, contained the following advertisement: "Siamese Boys. Mr. Landis respectfully informs his fellow-citizens of Lancaster and vicinity that his Museum is now ready for illumination, and will commence on Tuesday, the 25th of May, 1830, and continue

open twice a week, Tuesday and Friday evenings, for one month, and then close until September next. The following new additions have lately been made to the Museum, viz: The Siamese Boys, executed by a first rate Italian artist, and which are dressed in the exact attire as they were exhibited; Mechanism, The Animated Optic Balls, which is certainly a great curiosity, constructed by Mr. Landis himself, and never exhibited in this city before. Transparency, a Transparent scene of the Hall of the 13th Century in the Museum of French Monuments, Paris. The Solar Microscope may be seen from 10 o'clock a. m. until 2 p. m. on clear days. There are a number of Mechanical Works in operation which will soon be ready, and will be exhibited at different times, which will be expressed in hand bills. Admittance, 12½ cents. Season Tickets may be had at the Museum.

The owner of the museum, John A. Landis, was born in Berks county, and died in this city. He is buried in Shreiner's Cemetery. The tombstone to his memory bears the following inscription: "In memory of John A. Landis. Born September 15th, 1777. Died March 8th, 1852, aged 74 years, 5 months, 23 days." He was a full believer in the final redemption of the world. I do not know to whom he was first married, but his second wife, Sarah Budd, is buried by his side. She was born November 4, 1798, and died October 3, 1874, aged 75 years, 10 months and 3 days. Mr. Landis left no children surviving him. He was at one time a member of Lancaster Lodge, No. 43, Free and Accepted Order of Masons, and was also a member of the Royal Arch Chapter. On his tombstone is the compass and square, insignia of the Masonic Order. In 1841 he kept tavern at the

Sign of the Wagon, now the Western Hotel, located at the southwest corner of West Orange and North Water streets. A story is told that among the collection of figures owned by him were those of David and Goliath. The latter was too tall for the ceiling of the building, and it was, therefore, laid on the floor. A hole was made in his head, which was painted red, and David's weapon, the stone, was then placed on Goliath's head, where the hole had been made. J. Franklin Reigart, in his statistics of the city of Lancaster, published in January, 1850, says that the museum, which was permanent, was an extensive and valuable collection of curiosities. He also states that many years of labor and much ingenuity were expended by this worthy, industrious and useful citizen, who for upwards of forty years had thus afforded exceeding gratification and amusement to many thousands of our citizens and country friends, adding that nothing seemed impossible for Mr. Landis to accomplish. In 1838 Mr. Landis sold his museum to Jacob M. Westhaeffer, and the latter in 1839 sold one-half interest in it to Charles S. Getz. It was then carried on under the firm name of Westhaeffer & Getz. In 1842 Mr. Westhaeffer sold his interest to Mr. Getz, and subsequently Mr. Getz sold out to Noah Smith, an Eastern man. Mr. Smith owned it until the winter of 1849, when he sold it to Wood and Peale, of Cincinnati, Ohio. They removed the collection to that place. One year later it was totally destroyed by fire. Mr. Silas K. Eshleman, who lately owned the building, has informed the writer that under the wall paper on the fifth floor he found paintings of landscapes. It is presumed that this was the work of Charles S. Getz, who was a scenic

painter. It is also said that on this floor wild animals were kept. Mr. Getz made a bust of the murderer Cobler upon securing his head from Dr. Geo. B. Kerfoot, who had bought his body for anatomical lectures. He represented the death of Cleopatra, in which the asp was so natural that it frightened the children. Death-bed scenes were shown of notable people, with slight changes to suit the character of the person.

1 Lancaster County Historical Society, Vol. V., p. 121.

2 Marshe's Journal.

3 Ellis and Evans' History of Lancaster County, page 13.

4 Moravian Burial Records, Lititz.

5 Penna. Archives, 5th Series, Vol. VII., page 847.

Author: Clark, Martha Bladen.

Title: History of lot 159 of the Hamilton grant / by Miss Martha Bladen Clark.

Primary Material: Book

Subject(s): Cookson, Thomas, 1709-1753.
Crawford, Christopher.
Nauman, Gottlieb, 1747-1803.
Westhaeffer, Jacob M., 1818-1895.
Getz, Charles.
Lancaster Museum (Lancaster, Pa.)
Deeds--Pennsylvania--Lancaster.
Lancaster (Pa.)--History.

Publisher: Lancaster, Pa. : Lancaster County Historical Society, 1916

Description: 5-18 p. ; 23 cm.

Series: Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society ; v. 20,
no. 1

Call Number: 974.9 L245 v.20

Location: LCHSJL -- Journal Article (reading room)

=====

+++++

Institution Name
Institution Address
Institution Phone Number
Institution E-mail Address