

**HISTORICAL PAPERS AND
ADDRESSES OF THE LANCASTER
COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY; VOL. III,
1898-99, NOS. 1-9, PP. 8-215**

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LANCASTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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1898-99, NOS. 1-9, PP. 8-215**

PAPERS READ

BEFORE THE

LANCASTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ON SEPTEMBER 2, 1898.

E. H. Buehler

EPHRATA COMMUNITY 125 YEARS AGO.

By F. R. DIFFENDERFFER.

OLDEST SHIP IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY.

By S. M. SENKEL, Esq.

COLONEL JAMES CRAWFORD, A REVOLUTIONARY
SOLDIER.

By J. W. SHAEFFER.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF THE BRICKER FAMILY
IN AMERICA.

By E. W. S. PARTHMORE, Esq.

LANCASTER IN 1750.

VOL. III. NO. 1.

LANCASTER, PA.
REPRINTED FROM THE NEW ERA.
1898.

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OF THE
LANCASTER COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

VOLUME III. ILLUSTRATED.
1898-99.

Library of
CALIFORNIA

LANCASTER, PA.
1899.

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and more embarrassed and less at leisure than ever they had been. Others think that by resolutely breaking off from all intercourse with the rest of mankind, retiring into gloomy woods, burying themselves, as Anchorites in caves, and denying themselves even the innocent gratifications of nature, they shall most assuredly recommend themselves to the favour of Heaven, and strictly conform to the idea they have entertained of saints upon earth. But they should consider, in the first place, that they attempt in vain to fly from their own evil dispositions, which will pursue and torment them in their closest retreats, and, in the second place, that by retiring from the world they lose the only opportunities they can possibly have of calling forth a thousand tender sensibilities and exercising a thousand tender offices of sympathy, compassion, charity and benevolence.

"Excuse, my Lord, this short digression into which my subject has almost involuntarily led me.....I will now pursue my narration.

Their Occupations.

"Beside the two large buildings above mentioned the Dunkers have several smaller ones, chiefly for the purpose of manufactures. They carry on several branches of business with great skill and industry. They have a convenient oil mill, paper mill and printing press. They make parchment, tan leather and manufacture linen and woollen cloth, more than sufficient to serve their own society. The sisters are ingenious at making wax-tapers, curious paper-lanterns and various kinds of paste-board boxes, which they sell to strangers who come to visit them.

They likewise amuse themselves with writing favorite texts of Scripture in large letters curiously orna-

mented with flowers and foliage. These seem to be rather works of patience than of genius. Several of them are framed and hung up to decorate their place of worship. Inclosed I send your Lordship a specimen of this writing, which you may perhaps think worthy of a place in your collection of foreign curiosities.



SPECIMEN INITIAL LETTER.*

"I shall at present remark but one thing more with respect to the Dunkers, and that is the peculiarity of their music. Upon an hint given by my friend the sisters invited us into their chapel, and, seating themselves in order, began to sing one of their devout hymns. The music had little or no air or melody, but consisted of simple, long notes, combined in the richest har-

*Through the courtesy of J. F. Sachse, Esq., we are enabled to present a specimen initial letter from one of the publications of the Ephrata Press. The full series will appear in Mr. Sachse's forthcoming History of the Ephrata Community.

mony. The counter, treble, tenor and bass were all sung by women with sweet, shrill and small voices, but with a truth and exactness in the time and intonation that was admirable. It is impossible to describe to your Lordship my feelings upon this occasion. The performers sat with their heads reclined, their countenances solemn and dejected, their faces pale and emaciated from their manner of living, their clothing exceeding white and quite picturesque, and their music such as thrilled to the very soul. . . . I almost began to think myself in the world of spirits, and that the objects before me were ethereal. In short, the impression this scene made upon my mind continued strong for many days, and I believe will never be wholly obliterated.

"By way of concluding this little narrative, I beg leave to transcribe a copy of verses, which P———r M———r, the present head of this society, put into my hands, telling me that they were composed by a young gentleman of Philadelphia some years ago in consequence of a visit he made him and a conversation which then passed between them. The sentiments are so catholic that I think your Lordship cannot but have some pleasure in the perusal:

"To P———r M———r, Principal of the Society of Dunkers at Ephrata.

"TH' Eternal God from his exalted throne
Surveys at once earth, heav'n and worlds
unknown:

All things that are before his piercing

eye

Like the plain tracings of a picture lie;

Unutter'd thoughts, deep in the heart

conceal'd,

In strong expression stand to him re-

veal'd;

Thousands and twice ten thousands every

day

To him or feign'd or real homage pay:

"Like clouds of incense rolling to the

skies,

In various forms their supplications rise: