

**HISTORICAL SKETCH
OF THE DOYLESTOWN
DEMOCRAT, 1816-1916**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649024735

Historical Sketch of the Doylestown Democrat, 1816-1916 by Webster Grim

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Cover @ 2017

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WEBSTER GRIM

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*No. 11
17160 on
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HISTORICAL SKETCH


...OF THE...

Doylestown Democrat

1816—1916

With Biographical Sketches of the Editors

In Commemoration of the First Century of the
Existence of the Doylestown Democrat

 DOYLESTOWN PUBLISHING COMPANY
DOYLESTOWN, PA.

1916
R.M.M.

17160

FOREWORD

The history of the Doylestown Democrat is a history of Bucks County during the last one hundred years. It is so woven into the affairs of this county as to be a part of it. It had its beginning four years after Doylestown became the County Seat and week after week since that time in a great diary it has chronicled the activities and accomplishments of her people and of the world at large. The memory of man fades with age, but the truth of what occurred and when it occurred is here chaliceed immutably in the archives of time. Into the storehouse of its columns the historian of the future will delve to learn the secret of the forces which have made the last century the world's epochal period of science, agriculture and invention, and from these reconstruct the whole fabric of History itself. A century ago this nation was in its swaddling clothes. Now it is the "Giant of the West," beyond cavil the greatest nation of the world, not only of our time but of all time. A century ago there was not a canal, a railroad, a turnpike in this county. Our hillsides were covered with virgin forests, our waters flowed unbridled to the sea. The wealth of coal and oil and gas that lay hidden beneath the soil, had not even

fired the imagination of our forefathers.

It is a long way from the sickle and the flail of our grandfathers to the farming machinery of today. It is still a longer way from the spinning wheels of our grandmothers to our great manufacturing plants; from the gig and the stage coach to the automobile and the pullman; from the sail ships to the dreadnoughts and giant liners; from the tallow dip to the tungsten electric lamp; from the Washington hand press to the modern Hoe. The century has almost eliminated space to lengthen time. The remarkable inventions by which man has been able to harness the forces of earth, sea and air stagger evolution and stamp the century as the marvel of civilization itself.

The forces which actuated man to such wonderful achievement are faithfully recorded in the pages of the Doylestown Democrat. Here also will be found descriptions of the changes in the manners and customs of our people, their types of character, their styles of dress, their methods of instruction, their development of fraternal societies and the many activities which have made the century distinctive. We can be pardoned, therefore, if we pause for a moment at the end of one hundred years and take a brief survey of the past, as we plunge into the untried paths of a new century. For a century is a long time when you live through it, although short in the annals of time. When we recall the many cotemporaries who have fallen by the wayside and that the Democrat stands alone in our county, it is just cause for congratulation, that the men who presided

over its destinies were able at all times to weather the storms of adversity and guide the good old ship into havens of safety. For what newspaper anywhere can call a roll of such illustrious men as edited the Democrat during the first century of its existence? Who they were and what they did will be set forth in these pages. It is sufficient now to say that the Doylestown Democrat is as strongly intrenched in the hearts of the people of Bucks County as it ever was; that it has always maintained its place as a leading exponent of good government, through party politics, and that it is better equipped in every department than it ever has been before. With a record of achievement of one hundred years it can courageously face the new century, confident that the principles upon which it was founded and the stars that have guided its course in the past, will assure it another century of life and progress.

To the newspapers that are older, it acknowledges its obligation, and from those that are younger it accepts congratulations.

WEBSTER GRIM,

President Doylestown Publishing Co.
Publishers of The Doylestown Democrat.

The following table shows the results of the experiment. The first column is the number of trials, the second column is the number of correct responses, and the third column is the percentage of correct responses. The data shows that the percentage of correct responses increases as the number of trials increases, indicating that the subject is learning the task.

Number of Trials	Number of Correct Responses	Percentage of Correct Responses
10	5	50%
20	12	60%
30	18	60%
40	25	62.5%
50	30	60%
60	35	58.3%
70	40	57.1%
80	45	56.25%
90	48	53.3%
100	50	50%

The results of the experiment show that the subject's performance is stable around 50-60% correct responses. The percentage of correct responses is highest at 20 trials (60%) and lowest at 100 trials (50%). This suggests that the subject has reached a level of performance that is relatively stable and consistent.

Century Sketch of the Doylestown Democrat

The Doylestown Democrat was first issued on September 16, 1816, by Lewis Deffebach and Company from a white frame building that stood on Main street directly opposite the present annex of the Fountain House. Unfortunately there is not now in existence the first issue. In February 1836 a fire of incendiary origin burned out the whole plant, files, records and even the subscription books, and the first issue of the Democrat added to the flames. By the aid of other newspapers printed here at the time, some of the files were regathered and there are now in existence complete files from 1829 to the present day and a large number prior thereto back to the fourth issue. This issue contains the "proposals" contained in the first issue and from this we gather that the Democrat was founded to uphold and further the principles enunciated by the men who established the National and State Governments and to supply its readers with the news of the day. The size of the paper was 11 x 19 inches a page with four pages of four columns each. Not until after the Daily was published was it enlarged to eight pages, although enlarged in size often and to eight columns. There was

only one newspaper here when the Democrat was established, the Correspondent, published by Asher Miner. This paper was subsequently issued under different names, and did not become the "Intelligencer" until 1827, but the Democrat has carried that name from its first issue. It can thus fairly claim the credit of being the oldest newspaper published in the County of Bucks.

In those days local news were scarce. The means of collecting it were very limited. The news items consisted mostly of foreign intelligence taken from the city newspapers. The advertisements were mainly of Philadelphia business houses, although Doylestown business and professional men were well represented. Lewis Deffebach, the first editor, had been a Democratic office holder before he came to Bucks County, as will be noted in the sketch of his life, and he was not mistaken in concluding that the Democrats of the county, as the Republicans were then beginning to be called, had need of a party organ. He was in advance of his party in naming the paper the Doylestown Democrat, but had the satisfaction before his death of seeing the party in Jackson's time adopt the name. The progress of the paper was slow. The Correspondent was firmly established and had the support of an influential part of the Republican party because of the neutral course which it pursued. Asher Miner had adopted this course with the idea of heading off the publication of another newspaper, and he complained bitterly to his Republican friends when he discovered that the Democrat was to commence publication. But Deffebach was not long in creating patronage and a place for his paper, although quite limited as to subscribers. The price of the paper was two dollars a year, payable six months in advance.

In 1816 the Republican party was thoroughly united in