

Series of Articles commemoration the Quasi Qui Centennial (125<sup>th</sup>) Anniversary of the founding of Mahanoy City which appeared the Evening Herald in 1987 /1988

## MAHANOEY CITY CHRONICLES

Saturday, December 26, 1987

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March 2004

### AN ARMCHAIR STROLL THROUGH TOWN

The year 1873 found an amazing variety of businesses, craftsmen and professionals in Mahanoy City, a town that only 15 years earlier was scarcely more than a wilderness populated by a handful of settlers.

Opportunities abounded in the boomtown, not only for the laborer who came to mine the coal, but likewise for those seeking livelihoods as entrepreneurs.

We invite you to join us now in an armchair stroll through the business district as Mahanoy city celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday. Discover some of the establishments that supplied the population (6,000 and growing) with just about any goods and services they might need.

Perhaps your tour will be enhanced by coming across the name of an ancestor or learning of some pioneer who lived at your address.

Food was readily available in 1873, with many stores to supply the demand.

Meat markets were conducted by

**Schuler & Oberrender**, 2 W. Centre St

**Frank Wenrich**, 7 W Centre (Wenrich was one of the leading citizens who signed the petition for Mahanoy city's incorporation as a borough)

**William Krause**, 22 ½ W Centre (Kraus was another signer of the borough petition)

**John Knapp**, at Main and Water (Market) Streets, and

**John T. Quin**, Main and Railroad

Dry goods and grocery stores were plentiful. The following were listed on East Centre Street:

**Joseph Wadlinger**, 4

**Charles Datesman**, 12

**Ephraim King**, 17

**Peter Eichman**, 71

**Howell Jefferies**, 75

On West Centre Street were

**Hockley & Fellon, 9**  
**Mrs. Bridget Divin, 15**  
**J. Ranck, 33**  
**Haney Jackson, 37**  
**George Whittaker, 42**  
**John King, 47**  
**James Fitzpatrick, 48**  
**Abraham Brown and John Adam, 49**  
**J.C. Lance, 52**  
**Samuel Parmely, 60**  
**Martin Foley, 62**  
**Edward Jenkins, 68**

On Mahanoy Street were

**William Jones and Nathan Fehr**

At Main and Railroad,

**Bridget Fogarty**

Green grocers also proliferated in the shopping district.

On East Centre Street were....

**Henry Smith, 3**  
**Henry Pierman, 29** (Pierman was a borough petition signer)  
**Lutz and Wagner, 34**  
**Jane Wooley, 70**  
**Thomas Thomas, 82**  
**Henry Thomas, Centre and Fourth.**

On West Centre Street

**Charles Snyder, 34**

On West Mahanoy

**John Sontag, 8**  
**Wagner Brothers, 14**  
**Nathaniel Matthias, 13**

On East Mahanoy

**Henry Russell, 3**  
**Jesse Tuson, 34**  
**Henry Schreyer, 63**  
**Peter Post, 99**

At Main and Railroad

**William Wirtz**

For the sweet tooth, confectionery stores were run by

**Rebecca Brower**, 13 W Mahanoy

**Caroline Cowing**, E Centre

**Christian Dieter**, 26 E Centre

**John Schuth**, 38 E Centre (Schuth, A German tailor was another of the borough petition signers; he was engaged in the clothing business before switching to making candy, ice cream and baked goods)

**Elizabeth Seifer**, 26 W Centre

**Hugh Stride**, 41 ½ W Centre

For eating out, restaurants were operated by

**Edward Cope**, Main and Railroad

**Sam Davenport**, Main and Centre

**M.S. Geiger**, 19 E Centre

**Henry Leitenberger**, 10 ½ E Centre

**Ferdinand Metz**, Main and Water

**John Minchhof**, 37 E Centre

Nor was there any shortage of saloons in which to drink and eat. There were 17 on East Centre, 14 on West Centre, five on East Mahanoy, one on West Mahanoy, and five on Main Street.

And with Kaier's Brewery operating at the north end of Main Street, none of the saloons ran out of amber fluid (and in those days, beer was beer, so rich in malt that many folks drank it as a tonic).

As you walked through town you passed these hotels, most of which also served food and libation...

**Mansion House**, Centre and Main (Wilbert Smith, proprietor)

**Henry Baumgarten**, 24 E Centre

**Harrison Derrick**, 31 N Main

**Jacob Frank**, 22 E Centre

**John Malloy**, 65 W Centre

**Joshua Hall**, N Main and Laurel

**Owen Martin**, Centre and Catawissa

**Francis Keiser**, Centre and Catawissa

**John Knowell**, 68 E Centre

**Catharine Klitsch**, Centre and Fourth

**Patrick Ryan**, 16 E Centre

**William Phillips**, 29 W Centre

**Daniel Werntz**, North Main

Clothing needs were adequately filled by clothiers

**Marx Cohn**, 25 W Centre

**Henry Krell**, 25 E Centre

**Jacob Laverson**, 22 W Centre

**Gustav Rice**, 19 E Centre

**Moses Weinberg**, 13 E Centre

Or at the tailoring shops of...

**Charles Bensinger**, 30 W Centre

**Florenz Krenuch**, 22 W Mahanoy

**John Reinhardt**, 7 ½ E Centre

**John Richmond**, 35 W Centre

**William Roth**, 87 W Centre

**William Shirley**, Centre and Catawissa

Boots and shoes could be purchased from

**John Anderson**, 29 E Centre

**John Swalm**, 14 E Centre

**Henry Gabert**, 32 E Centre

**Thomas Goeser**, 21 E Mahanoy

**George Slitzer**, 12 W Centre

**Richard Gregory**, 35 ½ W Centre

**John Hogan**, 91 W Centre

**Joseph Hughes**, 45 W Centre (Hughes, an Englishman, was one of the borough petition signers and ran a tavern before switching to the shoe business)

**Richard Jones**, 11 W Centre

**Godfrey Laury**, 7 E Centre

**John Linton**, 48 E Centre

**Jeremiah McGuire**, 28 W Centre

**Edward Oldt**, Main and Railroad

Millinery for milady was supplied by

**Mrs. Jonas Bowman**, 33 E Centre

**Minnie Clay**, 12 W Centre

**Rebecca Conner**, 10 Main and Railroad

**Mrs. Caroline Fester**, 46 W Centre

**Ruth Jenkins**, 40 E Centre

**Dora Miller**, 4 ½ W Centre

**Mrs. M.B. Severn**, 23 W Centre

Household furnishings could be bought from

**James Haughney**, 78 W Centre (the pioneer undertaker whose greatgrandson of the same name carries on the business today at 101 E Mahanoy St.)

**John Bradley**, 50 W Centre

**Edward Hetherington**, 42 E Centre

**Daniel Scheipe**, 51 E Centre

For stoves and tinware, the men to see were

**John Hardley**, 41 W Centre

**Adam Stehling**, 30 E Centre

**Henry Stichter**, 21-23 E Centre

**David Seligman**, Main and Railroad

Sewing Machines were peddled by  
**Peter Kromer** at Main and Center and  
**William Spargo** at 18 S Main

If you wanted books or stationery, you shopped at the  
**Thomas Jones'** store, 4 ½ E Centre  
**Frank Bosch's**, 8 E Centre  
**David Phillips**, 3 W Centre  
**William Enckes**, 24 W Centre

**John Mathias**, Main and Centre, sold insurance

Tobacconists were  
**Jenkin Hopkins**, Main and Centre  
**Lewis Grim**, 20 E Centre  
**Jacob West**, 29 ½ E Centre

The weekly news (no daily news in those days) was reported by three local papers:  
**The Mahanoy Gazette**, 14 ½ S. Main, published on Saturday by **William Ramsey**, \$2 per annum  
**The Mahanoy City Local** (published on Tuesday) and  
**The Mahanoy Valley Record** (published on Saturday; subscription \$1.50 a year both located at Main and Water Streets and owned by **John Parker**.

Five Physicians were kept busy treating the many injured miners and the many illnesses, then rampant...

**Dr. George F. Brendle**, who had his office at 20 S Main St, was one of the earliest settlers here and practiced until his death in 1907.  
**Dr. Phaon Hermany** practiced at 9 E Mahanoy  
**Dr. George S. Jones**, 75 E Centre  
**Dr. Elias K. Weber**, 8 W Centre  
**Dr. Philip Weber**, 27 W Centre

Dental work was provided by **John Ritter**, 17 E Centre

Druggists were  
**Snyder & Jones**, 6 E Centre  
**Frank Myers**, 10 W Centre  
**Charles Hagenbuch**, 22 W Centre (Hagenbuch, who came here from Bloomsburg, was a signer of the borough petition and became the borough's second postmaster. He died here in 1893).

Among the craftspeople were  
**David Bowman**, photographer, 11 W Mahanoy

**Fred Dipper**, carpet weaver, 74 E Mahanoy  
**Edmund Schertzinger**, 9 E Centre, watchmaker  
**Samuel Rinehart**, Pine and Fourth, carpenter  
**Stephen Koons**, Main and Laurel, wheelwright  
**Jacob Mehle**, 20 E Mahanoy, painter  
**Henry Schmidt**, 52 E Centre, bottler  
**Sam Heil**, East Mahanoy and  
**Nicholas Oslteimer (Ostheimer)** Centre and Fourth, shoemakers  
**Patrick Carney**, cigarmaker

Local plumbers were

**William L. Davis**, 13 W Centre

**Daniel Gill**, 43 W Centre

**George Goodman**, 18 E Centre (Goodman was one of the signers of the petition for boroughhood. He ran a grocery/dry goods store at 32-34 E Centre and in 1890 opened a wholesale fruit and poultry business at 136-38 W Pine)

**David Anstock**, 14 W Centre and

**Jacob Merges**, Main and Centre were hairdressers (yes, hairdressers).

The barbers were

**Rudolph Messerly**, 4 W Centre and

**Richard Williams**, 47 E Centre

(What, no **Puck Sullivan**?)

If you wished to rent a horse and surrey for a summer jaunt, or a cutter for a winter sleighride, the local liverymen were just the ones to see:

**Evans & Brown**, at Main and Pine or

**Joseph Lutz** at Main and Water

**George Miller**, 44 E Centre was the harness maker, and

**Edward Gorman**, Centre and Second, specialized in horse shoeing.

Blacksmith shops were operated by **Andrew Deuter** and **William Wertz**.

If you were building and needed lumber, **William Reagan** kept a yard full of it in his shed along the rail siding at Catawissa and Railroad Streets.

The postal service was in charge of Postmistress **Mary Severn**, 16 S Main.

Telegrams were received and dispatched from the Philadelphia, Reading & Pottsville Telegraph Company office, 3 W Centre St

**Oliver G. Lewis** was the agent at the Lehigh Valley depot.

Justices of the peace were

**Michael Groody**, Centre and Catawissa and  
**Michael Ketner**, 50 E Centre

Lawyers were **I.Y. Sollenberger** and **George Troutman**, Main and Centre.

The churches and pastors were  
First Presbyterian, **Rev. M. Woods**  
Methodist Episcopal, **Rev. T. Montgomery**  
Saint Canicus, **Rev. C. McFaddenport**  
Primitive Methodist, **Rev. R. Catterall**  
Welsh Congregational, **Rev. D.T. Jones**  
English Lutheran, **Rev. D. Beckner**  
Episcopal, **Rev. Joseph Murphy**  
Evangelical, **Rev. W.K. Wieand**  
German Lutheran, **Rev. M. Schimpf**  
Saint Fidelis, **Rev. J.M. Maus**  
Welsh Baptist, **Rev. W.D. Thomas**  
Baptist, Main and Pine Streets

Banking needs were provided by two financial institutions...

**The Citizens Save Deposit Bank**, 4 W Centre and  
**First National Bank**, 1 E Centre (**E. S. Silliman**, president, **W.L. Yoder**, cashier)

It was a great era for organizations, as the following list indicates:

The Miners Benevolent Society met at Joseph High's  
Severn Post No. 110 GAR and  
Washington Camp No. 72 POS of A both met in Hoppes Hall  
Saint Patrick's Benevolent Society which met in Gorman's Hall  
Mahanoy Stamm No 73, met in Frank's Hall  
Mahanoy City Lodge No. 357, F&AM met on the Thursday before full moon in Masonic  
Hall and  
Mahanoy City Lodge No 94 met in Frederick Becker's  
Clay Encampment No. 174 and  
General Grant Lodge No. 575 met in Odd Fellows Hall  
Conclave SPK met in Knapp's Hall  
Iverites met in Cooperative Store Hall  
Lincoln Castle No. 4 AOK of MC  
Pioneer Temple No. 34  
Pamphylia Lodge No. 719  
Mahanoy Council No. 20 O of UAM,  
The Ancient Order of Foresters No. 5467 and  
The Knights of Phthias all met in Bensinger's Hall.

The chief burgess in 1873 was Emmanuel Boyer, who arrived in the valley in 1853 and became the town's first permanent resident. His term in office was marked by a spat with

the borough council over spending, resulting in a court suit in which he (says an 1881 history book) “contributed materially to a more economical administration”.

The council members then were

**Samuel Parmley**

**William Cowley**

**James K. Watkins**

**Henry Warning**

**Daniel Barlow and**

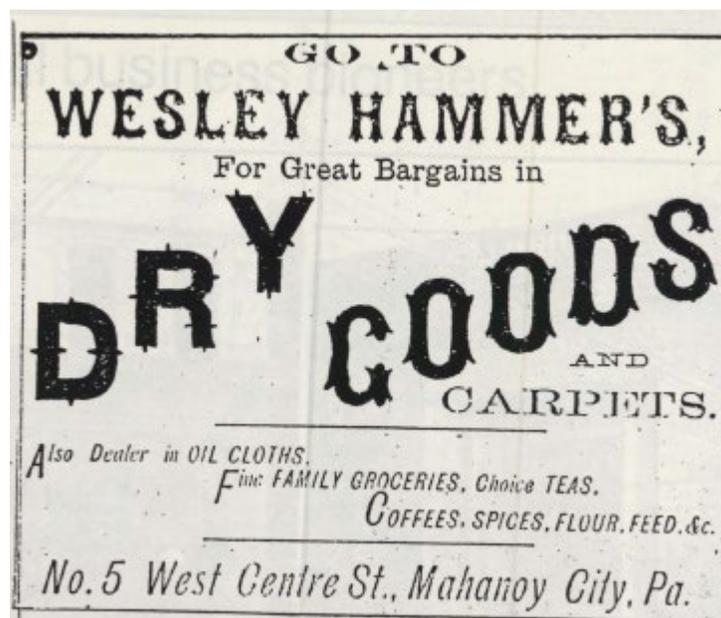
**Solomon H. Lutz**

The clerk was **Eli S. Reinhold**

One of the newer big business offices in the borough was that of the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company at 20 W Centre St. The company had been formed several years earlier to serve as an arm of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad in the building of anthracite empire. Years later the company moved into its own building at Main and Pine streets (now occupied by the McCann School of Business) where it remained until the deep mines closed in the mid 1950's.

Hope you enjoyed this little vicarious trek through the town of long ago.

Transcribed by:  
Shirley E. Ryan  
March 2004



MAHANAY GAZETTE

# Book & Job Printing Rooms

No. 141 SOUTH MAIN ST., Mahanoy City, Pa.

<p><b>C</b>ONSTITUTIONS. Handbills. Posters. Programmes.</p>	<p><b>B</b>USINESS CARDS. Letter &amp; Note Headings Envelopes. Circulars.</p>	<p><b>C</b>OAL BLANKS. Pay-Rolls. Raffle Tickets. Dodgers.</p>
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AND EVERYTHING IN THE LINE OF JOB PRINTING.

## THE MAHANAY GAZETTE

A 32-Column Weekly Newspaper, is Published every Saturday Morning at  
\$1.00 per Annum. It has the Largest Circulation of any paper in North Schuylkill,  
and is, consequently, the best advertising medium. Send for advertising rates.

W. J. RAMSBY, Supt.

**EARLY BUSINESSES** - Two of Mahanoy City's earliest businesses are represented in these advertisements. The Gazette was the town's first newspaper, publishing its first edition on Nov. 11 18(6)5, with Dr. George Swayze as editor. William Ramsey, (li)sted in the ad as superintendent, was a Pottsville printer who became co-owner in 1866. Ramsey ran the paper until 1879, when a new owner changed the name to the Mahanoy Tribune. The Wesley Hammer store was owned by a pioneer settler and a founder of Faith Episcopal Church in August 1864.