Trenton's Newspapers

1778-1932

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These articles were published serially in the Sunday Times-Advertiser and the Trenton Evening Times from October 17, 1932 to November 14, 1932, inclusive.

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This booklet is a reprint with corrections and additions of a series of articles that appeared in the Trenton Evening Times. They constitute a comprehensive history of journalism in Trenton, and were written for the Times Newspapers by Elma Lawson Johnston, after exhaustive research by Harry J. Podmore, well known Trenton historian. The series was published in observance of this anniversary year of the Trenton State Gazette, the Trenton Evening Times and the Sunday Times-Advertiser.

It is a fascinating story of local newspapers and their makers, of the political feuds that made thrilling copy during most of the nineteenth century, of colorful personalities who, as editors and reporters, served the more than 50 newspapers Trenton has had in a century and a half

Many of these older newspapers are all but forgotten. Some of them lived long enough to make a thin folio Others had a longer existence and their yellowing pages are a chronicle of Trenton life and the life of the nation from the troubled days of the American Revolution. Of all the half hundred that have come into being, only three survive—the Trenton State Gazette, the most venerable, which was 140 years old last September; the Times, rounding out its first half century this year, and the Sunday Times-Advertiser that in January will complete its fiftieth year. These today are combined under one ownership as the Trenton Times Newspapers.

JUDGE JAMES KERNEY

Editor and publisher of Trenton Times Newspapers

CHAPTER I

New Jersey Gazette.

NEWSPAPERS are contemporaneous history, written from day to day. There may be, as some say, nothing so dead as yesterday's newspaper, but certainly the papers of yesteryear furnish illuminating and often amazingly entertaining reading.

Within their columns men and women of the long ago live again; events, pleasant and unpleasant, take place once more. The life of the day still exists.

Trenton's life story, from the time it was just a little town at the Falls of the Delaware until today when it is an influential modern city, is retold for those who peruse the yellowing pages of the newspapers that have come and gone in the past century and a half. For newspaper history in Trenton dates back to Isaac Collins' neatly printed, four-page paper that made its appearance in the village streets March 4, 1778. It was the New Jersey Gazette and forerunner of a long line of more than 50 papers that have come, had their day and vanished. Of all that number only three have survived—the Trenton State Gazette, the Trenton Evening Times and the Sunday Times-Advertiser, known today as the Trenton Times Newspapers.

For these three surviving journals this is an anniversary season. The State Gazette was 140 years old September 12; on October 12 the Times reached its half-century mark, and on January 7 next the Times-Advertiser will complete its fiftieth year.

In recognition of these anniversaries, the Times Newspapers have had prepared a comprehensive history of journalism in Trenton. Exhaustive research work into the past of that half-hundred or more newspapers has been done by Harry J. Podmore, well known Trenton historian, and from his data the present account has been written.

A fascinating tale it is, most of it laid in the 19th century, when men took their politics with an intensity unknown today and when, to further their party or favorite candidate, they inveighed with deadly cruelty against their opponents. Vituperation and vilification were commonly indulged in when men's passions were inflamed with the heat of political campaigns. Editors paid one another back in bitter terms. In fact, politics and the feuds they engendered loom large in any account of Trenton journalism.

Its pages are colored, too, by the vivid personalities of picturesque editors. Trenton has been fortunate since newspaper-making began here, in having as editors men living in the town, known to their fellow citizens and having at heart the interests of the community, despite their unbridled attacks upon their opponents.

Among these have been such men as James Jefferson Wilson, an early editor of the True American. Fearless, energetic, he wielded a powerful pen for Jeffersonian Democracy. In the spirit of his day, he waged a campaign against the rival Federalist, that for brutality of expression seems almost unbelievable in this more temperate age.

Then there were the Shermans, father and two sons and at a later time, associated also with the True American, that gifted family, the Naars. They were father, nephew and son. Intense Democrats, their paper was always an influential organ for the party. During the Civil War days Judge David Naar's Southern sympathies brought down upon him and his offending sheet the wrath of his Unionist neighbors.

Among the editors who left a definite impress upon both local journalism and the city was John Lawrence Murphy who, with his partner, Charles Bechtel, was for some years owner and publisher of the State Gazette. The span of Mr. Murphy's life covered amazing development in the newspaper business, especially in the mechanical side of news gathering and printing.

Keeping things lively in the field of reporting a few generations ago were Franklin S. Mills and "Charlie" Jay. Mills had his fling not only as reporter, but as editor and publisher, serving nearly a dozen of the papers of his time. Jay, a prolific founder

of newspapers, will best be remembered for his unflagging zest in news gathering and for his recklessness in starting newspaper controversies.

In more recent years there came Lawrence S. Mott, "Larry" to his intimates, who, founding what has become the Trenton Times of today, indelibly stamped that newspaper with his personality. The ideals of service to the community and of fidelity in news reporting that he set for his paper were something of a novelty for his age. Today they are commonly accepted as the standards of all reputable papers.

Each of the editors who has followed in Mr. Mott's footsteps has carried on his traditions. Gifted with real vision, unfaltering courage and ready wit and with a sympathetic understanding of the foibles and weaknesses of his fellow men, Judge James Kerney, present owner and publisher of the Times and its associated papers, has realized more of Mott's ambitions than the older editor would probably ever have believed possible.

Many of the men who founded and served these old newspapers are almost forgotten. Some of their papers make a thin folio. Others had a fuller span of life and their files are a little larger. Many are merely a name, not a single edition surviving in 1932.

Isaac Collins's little New Jersey Gazette, Trenton's first newspaper, made its appearance in the troubled days of the American Revolution. Trenton was then the scene of a good deal of war activity. Continental troops were passing and repassing through the streets. Brigadier General Count Casimir Pulaski and his troop of cavalry had headquarters in the town. Admiralty Courts were being held here and prisoners of war were confined within the jail. Goods and valuable papers, removed from Philadelphia when that city was taken over by the enemy, were stored here.

The British were well aware that Trenton was a vantage point and twice enemy troops had occupied the place. The fear that they would invade it again was not without foundation. Yet this threatening condition of affairs did not prevent Isaac Collins, Quaker, one of the notable printers of Colonial and Revolutionary times from moving his printing establishment from Burlington to the village at the Falls of the Delaware.

It was probably no mere chance that brought Collins to Trenton, but rather the fact that the town was a safe distance from both New York and Philadelphia, then in possession of the British, and was a more central point for publishing than Burlington.

It was in the latter town, in December, 1777, that the New Jersey Gazette came into being. Encouraged by Governor William Livingston, Collins established his journal to combat Tory propaganda. He printed it in the quaint little one-story shop on High Street, where in 1729 Benjamin Franklin had printed the first Continental money. It is likely that the issue of March 4, 1778, was the first piece of printed matter to come from the new shop at Trenton.

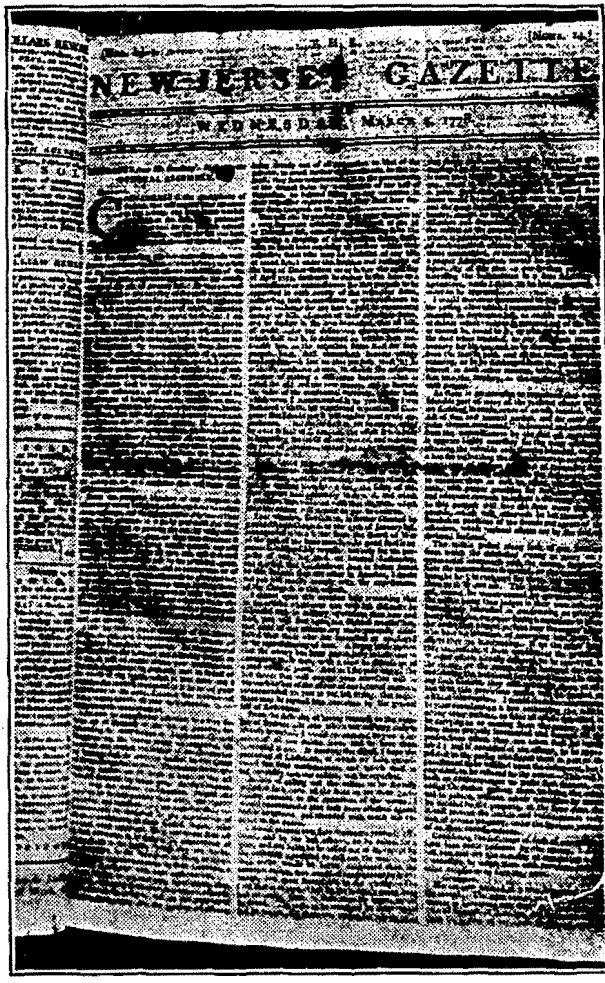
The new printing establishment had been in the village less than ten weeks when there was another war alarm. On the morning of May 8, 1778, a British expedition, consisting of armed vessels and flat-bottomed boats invaded Bordentown as a reprisal for the mechanical explosive kegs sent from that place in the Winter previous to destroy ships anchored off the down-river city. The day following the expedition headed for Trenton.

The local militia with several pieces of artillery, under command of General Dickinson, fired upon the enemy at Biles Island where they were destroying buildings. This forced their retirement and saved Trenton from threatened invasion. A few weeks later, in June, General Clinton's large army of British and Hessians were en route across the Jerseys to New York City, after vacating Philadelphia. Infantry, cavalry, baggage wagons, machine and blacksmith shops on wheels and wagons of army supplies, having crossed at Cooper's Ferry into Jersey, headed north.

General Maxwell's brigade, whose heavy baggage was left in the barracks here, together with local militia hurriedly left to harass the approaching enemy. Meanwhile General Washington and his army, en route from Valley Forge, was preparing to cross the Delaware at Coryell's Ferry (now Lambertville) to head off the enemy.

Just at dawn on the morning of June 23, an advance party of the British passed through Bordentown on their way to Crosswicks Creek drawbridge, near White Horse. An engagement with the Continentals here checked any further advance to Trenton.

But the foraging party had come


NEW-JERSEY GAZETTE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 1778

THE NEW JERSEY GAZETTE

Isaac Collins' newspaper, the first published in Trenton, issued March 4, 1778. The photograph shows the first page of the first issue printed here.

near enough to Trenton to give the villagers grave con.ern and to interfere with the business of the town. In the issue of the New Jersey Gazette for July 1, 1778, Collins inserted this brief statement:

"The near approach of the enemy prevented the publication of this paper last week."

The title page of that issue was dated June 24, but the remainder of the paper was printed under date of July 1, clearly indicating that the June 24 edition was in preparation when the alarm caused its temporary suspension.

Just where the original printing shop of Isaac Collins at Trenton was located is not definitely known, but it appears to have been a two-story wooden building that stood on the east side of King (now Warren) Street, near East Hanover Street. This shop is referred to in records of the day as the "printing office." It is mentioned again by that name in an advertisement that Charity Britton, who lived in a large house on or near the site of the Trent Theatre, had inserted in Collins' paper in the issue of January 22, 1783. Four years earlier, Peter Crolius, merchant, advertised in the same paper, giving his place of business as "opposite the printing office." These notices apparently all referred to the same shop, for there is no record of any other printing establishment in the town at that time.

No description of Isaac Collins' printing shop has been handed down to us, but from contemporary references it seems that in all probability the shop was housed in a large front room on the first floor and the other rooms were occupied by the family.

Very much more is known of Collins himself for he was an outstanding Jerseyman of Colonial and Revolutionary days. He was born February 16, 1746, near Brandywine Creek, two miles from Centre Meeting House, New Castle County, Delaware. Following death of his parents when he was quite young, he was reared by his uncle, John Hammond, who apprenticed him to James Adams, printer, at Wilmington, Delaware. Several years later he was employed in the printing shop of William Rind, Williamsburg, Virginia. In 1766 Collins moved to Philadelphia, where he found employment in the printing shops of William Goddard and others. For a brief time he was in partnership with Joseph Cruikshank, printer. In the Autumn of 1770 the Provincial Assembly of New Jersey granted Collins a commission as King's Printer for the Province. After the outbreak of the Revolution he was made printer for the State.

During his residence in Trenton Isaac Collins became one of its most prominent and highly respected citizens. He was a member of the Union Fire Company of Trenton and one of the founders of the Trenton Academy.

ISAAC COLLINS

Famous Jerseyman of Revolutionary days, who founded first Trenton newspaper, the New Jersey Gazette.

Collins was a staunch member of the Society of Friends, and was well known for his honesty and fair dealing.

The famous printer was married twice and the father of fourteen children. His first wife, Rachel Budd, was a great-granddaughter of Mahlon Stacy, the first settler at Trenton. Collins died at Burlington March 21, 1817.

As printer for the Colony, Collins

published its laws. Like Benjamin Franklin, he printed and sold books. Like Franklin, too, he printed and published an almanac that came from his press for 26 years without interruption. The first number of that annual bearing the Trenton imprint was the one for 1779. Three lines in the New Jersey Gazette announce its publication:

"On Saturday next will be published
THE NEW-JERSEY ALMANACK
for the year of our Lord, 1779."

Collins' printing shop was not a lucrative enterprise. In order to eke out a living for his large family, he supplemented the income from his press by the sale of medicines, paper, tea, stationery, books. He acted also as an agent for the sale of slaves. In 1783 or earlier he became a partner with James Ewing, later Mayor of Trenton, in a general merchandising business. It is presumed that this new concern began operation under the same roof with the printing shop, but soon after removed to larger quarters at the southeast corner of Broad and State Streets, as indicated by the following advertisement in the New Jersey Gazette, July 2, 1783:

"Collins & Ewing—Have removed their store to the house in which Mr. James Paxton lately lived, directly opposite Samuel Tucker's Esq., in Trenton, where they have just opened a very general assortment of European, East and West India goods, suitable for the season, which they are selling on the lowest terms for cash or country produce."

With the issue of Wednesday, July 16, 1783, Collins suspended the publication of the New Jersey Gazette because of very feeble support. "Large arrears" and "unsettled state of accounts" had forced him to take this action. He made it clear, however, in his closing announcement that the paper might be revived when conditions warranted it. His position in this matter is shown in the following excerpt from his statement:

"The revival of The New Jersey Gazette will depend on the Publisher's success in collecting the arrears due to him on account of it, and on the prospect he may have of publishing it in future to some advantage."

Suspension of the Gazette, coming as it did on the heels of the announcement of the removal of the merchandising business, would seem to indicate that Collins intended to devote most of his time to the new enterprise. In the next few months, however, things must have taken a brighter turn in the printing shop for, on December 9, the plucky publicist resumed the publication of his newspaper.

In June of the following year, Collins removed his printing shop to the house at Broad and State Streets. The announcement of his removal in The New Jersey Gazette, June 31, 1784, reads:

"The printing office is removed to the House occupied as a Store by Collins & Ewing, where the Printing is carried on as usual. . . . Isaac Collins and James W. Ewing."

The new quarters were located on what was destined to become Trenton's famous printing and publishing corner. They occupied a spacious dwelling that faced State Street. It was considered one of the best locations in the town and offered excellent facilities for business. A room on the first floor was used as a store, and the large front room on the second floor was occupied by the printing shop. Above this room was a wareroom of the same size. There was a large garden, a storehouse, smokehouse, carriage house, stable and other outbuildings on the property.

A little less than two years after the removal, the partnership of Collins and Ewing was dissolved by mutual consent.

The New Jersey Gazette, published at Trenton from 1778 to three years after the signing of the peace treaty with Great Britain, was the first paper in the State to survive for a period of years, and was a forerunner of the present Trenton State Gazette. The paper had its beginning as a tiny sheet, nine by fourteen inches, with four columns to a page. War news, advertisements, notices of various kinds, political letters, communications, but very little local news, made up its contents. When the paper was resumed, December 9, 1783, after its brief suspension from July, it appeared in enlarged form, ten by sixteen inches.

Although subsidized by the New Jersey Legislature to the extent of a guarantee of seven hundred subscribers within six months after it was started, and fostered by special provisions including the exemption of the printer and four workmen from service in the militia, the New Jersey Gazette had a hard struggle to exist. James Melvin Lee, author of an excellent history of journalism,

mentions the Gazette as one of the very few State subsidized newspapers in his "History of American Journalism." Numerous difficulties had to be surmounted and a larger patronage secured.

The urgent need for rags during the Revolution, which added to Collins' difficulties in publishing his paper, is revealed in an announcement of Stacy Potts and John Reynolds, who in 1778 built a paper mill in the village. They appealed to the patriotism of the women and to mothers in particular who had children in school, to save every particle for the mill. Their announcement in Collins' paper, January 20, 1779, reads:

"The subscribers having heretofore addressed the good women of this State, intreating them to save all the rags that they possibly could in their families, the smallest pairing being useful in the manufacturing of paper, which as friends to their native country, the subscribers hope they have paid attention to. Therefore as a farther inducement to them they now promise one shilling per pound for all clean linen rags they deliver at any of the places mentioned in the former advertisement.

"They would offer to the consideration of those mothers who have children going to school, the present great scarcity of that useful article, without which their going to school would avail them but little. . . . Stacy Potts, John Reynolds."

The scarcity of paper was a continual worry. Collins repeatedly announced in his publication that he would pay a good price in cash "for clean linen rags, and hogs' bristle." About five weeks after coming to Trenton the scarcity became so acute that he was compelled to announce: "No more subscriptions can be received at present for this Gazette for want of paper."

The need of journeymen and apprentices was another problem that faced Collins, and he continually advertised for them offering exemption from service in the militia and "handsome wages" as special inducements. The holdup of the mail by inclement weather, or its non-arrival caused by capture of the post rider by the British, added to the difficulties of distribution.

The biggest problem of all, however, was to collect for subscriptions. Deflation of paper currency in 1779 and 1780, called for a number of increases in rates for subscriptions and advertising space. After endeavoring to collect in cash for his paper, Collins offered to meet the situation by taking debts owed to him on a part cash and part barter basis, "one-third of a dollar in produce and half a dollar in gold or silver."

The discouraging conditions confronting Collins were reflected not only in his many announcements and the suspension of his paper from July, 1783, to December, 1783, but also in its demise in 1786. The first paragraph of his farewell announcement in the last issue of his paper, Monday, November 27, 1786, tells the story of his final struggle to maintain the publication. It reads:

"This day's Gazette, No. 446, completes the year. The little encouragement given to the circulation of it during the last eighteen months, and the impossibility of collecting payment, has determined the Printer to drop the publication. To those who punctually fulfilled their engagements, and to his correspondents, he returns his sincere thanks."

A complete file of The New Jersey Gazette—December 5, 1777, to November 27, 1786—is a narrative of at least half of the American Revolution. One of the most interesting first-hand documents published in paper is a letter appearing in a July issue of 1778 from General Charles Lee, in which he pleads for a "suspension of judgment" on the charges against him for his behavior at the Battle of Monmouth. The letter, according to the New Jersey archives, was "probably the first public announcement made by Lee after his fiasco upon the field of Monmouth."

In another issue of the same month appears the first weather record published in a New Jersey newspaper. It reads:

"Princeton, July 14—On Thursday, the 9th inst., at two o'clock in the afternoon, the Mercury in Fahrenheit's thermometer rose to 98 3-10, on Friday at the same hour to 97 7-10."

A political communication, written by a woman who signs herself "Belinda," appeared in the paper May 6, 1778. This is believed to have been the first contribution of this nature by a women to an American newspaper. The writer was probably Annis Boudinot Stockton, of Princeton, wife of Richard Stockton, the Signer.

In issues of July 25, August 1, 8, and 15, 1785, Lieutenant John Fitch, advertises for sale his map of the territory northwest of the Ohio. The money Fitch obtained through the sale of these maps he devoted to his early experiments in steam naviga-

tion. Isaac Collins was his Trenton agent.

After the newspaper ceased to exist, Collins devoted his time to his store and the printing and publishing of some pretentious works, which are eagerly sought today by bibliophiles. One of his outstanding works was a quarto edition of the Bible—the first Bible printed in the State and one of the first two-quarto Bibles printed in America. This was issued in 1791, and was popular for many years. It is considered a creditable specimen of typography. Collins, and his children read the proof, being assisted at times by the Rev James Armstrong, pastor of the Presbyterian Church. In 1793 he issued an octavo edition.

Collins also printed and published, in 1788, the first New Testament printed in New Jersey. One of the first books, if not the first, that came from his press at Trenton was by Anthony Benezet, and bore the lengthy title, "The Mighty Distroyer Displayed, In some Account of the Dreadful Havoc made by the Use as well as the Abuse of Distilled Spiritous Liquors, by a Lover of Mankind." The imprints from Collins' press while at Trenton total more than one hundred and thirty, and those at Burlington number fifty.

In February, 1796, Collins advertised for sale his business place at Broad and State Streets. At that particular time he still occupied the premises. Later in the year he removed to New York and opened an office on Pearl Street.

Early in 1797, Henry Drake, a prominent tavernkeeper, opened a hostelry in the former dwelling of Isaac Collins. It did not remain a house of entertainment very long, for in the next year it again became a printing office and the home of another Gazette.

CHAPTER II.

Trenton Mercury and the Weekly Advertiser.

Within six months after the New Jersey Gazette suspended publication, a newspaper entitled The Trenton Mercury and the Weekly Advertiser, was founded in a printing shop on Warren Street, opposite St. Michael's Episcopal Church. Its publishers were Frederick C. Quequelle and George M. Wilson. James Prange

Probably the need of Isaac Collins' former subscribers for a local newspaper and likewise the hope its publishers had of securing some of the public printing prompted its publication. In the one week that two numbers were printed, the paper achieved some fame, being the first newspaper in the State to issue twice in seven days.

For a small paper of two pages, only 10 by 16 inches, it carried a lengthy name. After several issues this was altered to The Federal Post, or, The Trenton Weekly Mercury. Under its banner head appeared the following motto, characterizing the principle of the free press: "Here Truth unlicens'd reigns: and dares accost—e'en Kings themselves, or Rulers of the Free—Thomson's Liberty."

The date of the first issue of the paper is not definitely known, as a complete file does not exist. From the few preserved copies it is ascertained that it was started May ~~15~~, 12, 1787. Tuesday was the regular day of publication.

Two of the serious problems that confronted Isaac Collins in the publication of The New Jersey Gazette also confronted Quequelle and Wilson—the scarcity of paper and the difficulty of collecting for advertisements and subscriptions.

In September, 1788, the need for paper became urgent, as the following announcement from the issue of September 9 indicates:

"The reason of this Paper's not being published this morning, as usual, was owing to a scarcity at present of printing paper, there being no denny to be procured in New Jersey."

To meet the conditions the newspaper was reduced in size to 9 by 15 inches and its name abbreviated to The Federal Post. The publishers desiring to make up for this deficiency announced that thereafter the journal would be issued semi-weekly, the days of publication being Tuesdays and Fridays.

In launching this innovation, it is evident, the publishers planned for greater things than they were able to accomplish. While the paper was reduced in size, in accordance with the announcement, only one additional issue was published. This appeared under date of October 3.

Once more the difficulty of collecting cash for advertisements and subscriptions arose, and in the issue of October 28, the publishers declared that they would accept in country produce the money owed them.

The Federal Post probably suspended publication early in 1789. The last known issue is January 27. It is presumed that the printing office closed about the same time. During the life of the newspaper, books were sold at the shop, and a table for measuring lumber was published by the firm.

Frederick C. Quequelle and George M. Wilson are both obscure figures as far as Trenton history is concerned. A Frederick Quequelle in conjunction with James Prange published for a few months The New Jersey Magazine and Monthly Advertiser, an early periodical of New Brunswick.

In October, 1787, Quequelle and Wilson petitioned the New Jersey Assembly, "praying that they be appointed to print the Laws and Minutes of the Legislature." The petition was given a second reading, ordered "to lie on the table."

CHAPTER III

The State Gazette.

Of all Trenton newspapers the Trenton State Gazette is the most important historically. As this is written the venerable publication is striding along in its 141st year. As a matter of fact it is the second oldest newspaper in New Jersey and one of the oldest in the country, with a continuous publication dating from post-Revolutionary times.

Founded when the town's population was small, its early numbers are typical of newspapers in the day when stage coach and post rider were the main means of communication. Although almost devoid of local news, it supplied the needs of the time, and our great-grandfathers who read its pages by the flicker of candle light were just as entertained by its contents as is the more sophisticated reader of today's newspapers.

Because of its existence of nearly a century and a half, the State Gazette is a valuable historical record. As source material on American life, its files, particularly the earliest ones, rank very high. The death of Washington and the deaths of every Chief Executive of the nation since that time are recorded in its issues. Its pages are a chronicle of Trenton life and of the great events in American history since the beginning of the Republic.

A newspaper that has witnessed the beginning and passing of literally dozens of its contemporaries must necessarily have an interesting history. In the State Gazette's case, involving merger after merger, not to mention frequent modification of name, the history must also be an involved one. Only the most recent research has thrown a clear light upon its heretofore vague story.

The State Gazette was first published as the New Jersey State Gazette on Wednesday, September 12, 1792, by Mathias Day & Co. Volume one, number one, of this newspaper is still on file in the archives of the New Jersey Historical Society in Newark.

This file in the Historical Society not only establishes definitely the first publication date of the newspaper, but also clears up doubts that have previously existed about its original name. It shows, too, that the original owner was a company and that whatever claim Mathias Day is entitled to as founder of the paper must be shared with some one else who evidently gave him financial backing.

Mathias Day, one of the founders of the later True American as well as the State Gazette, was a practical printer. Like printers of his time, he published an almanac and sold books, medicines and general merchandise. Several rare works bear his Trenton imprint. After leaving the town he went to Newark, where he received appointment as postmaster. In later years, he conducted a publishing business in New York City.

The first issue of his paper informs the public that its place of publication is "near the Market." In the Wednesday, December 26, paper, a little more than three months later, its place of publication is given as "in King Street." There seems to be good reason to believe that the King (now Warren) Street location, was none other than the printing shop supposedly occupied by Isaac Collins, when he came to Trenton in 1778.

In announcing their first issue, Mathias Day & Company had the following to say:

"Although the time which was first proposed for the publication of this paper, has been considerably exceeded, the publishers, after surmounting many difficulties peculiar to an undertaking of the kind, are at length happy in being enabled to lay before their liberal patrons, the first number of the New Jersey State Gazette; in the prosecution of which, it will ever be their invariable aim, by the strictest assiduity and attention, to render it at all times a vehicle of such interesting information and rational amusement, as will amply compensate for the generous encouragement which has prompted them to attempt."

The publishers also make an apology for the appearance of the paper in old type, explaining, however, that a supply of new metal was expected daily and would be substituted as soon as possible.

The first issue contains only three

advertisements, one of which is the publisher's own, expressing a desire to buy "Linen and Good Rags." Another advertisement is inserted by John Singer, merchant, who offers for sale medicines, snuff, "Essence for Tooth Ach," "also a few plays and books." John Wiggins, the only other advertiser, applies for an apprentice to the "tailoring business."

Isaac Collins, who at the time had quite a book trade at State and Broad Streets, was one of the first Trenton merchants to appreciate the value of extensive advertising. In later issues he subscribed to an entire column of the paper to inform the public of his wares.

The price of the New Jersey State Gazette was 12 shillings a year, postage to be paid by the subscribers, if sent by post, one-half of the subscription price to be paid down.

Improved in its appearance by "handsome new type," the State Gazette for March 27, 1793, sets forth that it is now printed by Mathias Day and George F. Hopkins. There is every reason to believe on the face of this announcement, that Hopkins was not a new partner in the business, but that his identity in the firm had only been obscured by the former trade name of Mathias Day & Co.

Hopkins was another of the well-known printers of his time. After leaving Trenton he went to New Brunswick to become eventually editor and publisher of The New Jersey Federalist, previously Arnett's New Jersey Federalist. A little more than three months after taking over the paper he changed its name to Genius of Liberty and New Brunswick Advertiser. Hopkins soon gave up the newspaper and went to New York. There he was associated with Noah Webster, celebrated lexicographer, and others in the American Minerva, which was issued May, 1796, under the title of The Minerva and Mercantile Evening Advertiser, by the firm of Hopkins, Webb & Co. In after years Hopkins operated a paper mill in New Jersey.

The partnership of Day and Hopkins did not long survive, and on Wednesday, February 26, 1794, there was carried in the columns of the paper the statement that the firm had been dissolved. Mr. Day continued as owner, and for some reason changed the paper's name. On July 12, 1796, it appeared as The State Gazette and New Jersey Advertiser.

When on August 29, 1797, the paper had completed its fifth year, Mr. Day took the opportunity to request those who were indebted to him to make a cash payment. He stated that "in these hard times a little cash would be very acceptable." The plea was certainly justified, some of his subscribers being from two to five years in arrears.

"The printing office is removed to the House formerly occupied by Isaac Collins," said the paper on April 24, 1798. This was the southeast corner of what is now Broad and State Streets, Collins' last printing office in Trenton.

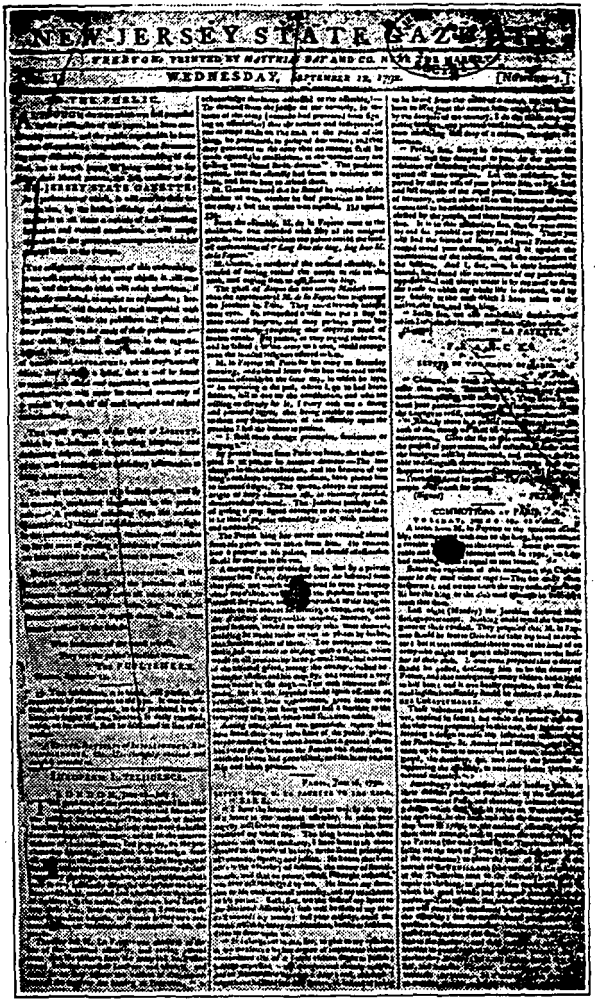
One of the Gazette's many changes in ownership occurred March 4, 1799, when Mathias Day informed the public that he had sold his enterprise to George Sherman and John Mershon. This sale inaugurated a fifty-four year control of the Gazette by the Sherman family. The new owners published the paper March 5, 1799, under its original name, New Jersey State Gazette, and began a new numeration.

George Sherman, the first of his family to be associated with the State Gazette, was, like Isaac Collins, a member of the Society of Friends. Born at New Haven, Conn., he belonged to a family that counted among its members many prominent men. After an elementary education he entered the office of the Connecticut Journal as an apprentice. He came to Trenton about 1797. For years he was active in politics.

Less than a month after Mr. Sherman and Mr. Mershon acquired the Gazette one I. Thomas became a partner in the firm. A few weeks after his arrival the place of publication was changed. The paper of April 9 carried the statement that "tomorrow this office will be removed to the Main Street, opposite the Indian Queen Tavern." A year later it was moved again to the shop of James B. Machett, three doors north of the tavern. The Lincoln Theatre now covers the site of the building.

In respect to the memory of George Washington, the papers of December 31, 1799, and January 2, 1800, containing notices of the death of the nation's first President, appeared with heavy black borders.

The first of the many mergers that have marked the Gazette's career took place in June, 1800. The paper, under the management of Sherman, Mershon and Thomas, was a conservative Federalist journal, which now absorbed The Federalist: New Jersey Gazette, a radical Federalist organ founded in 1798. Previously the two



NEW-JERSEY STATE GAZETTE.

TRENTON, PRINTED BY MATTHIAS DAY AND CO. NEAR THE BRIDGE.

No. 1. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1792. [Number 1.]

THE PUBLIC.

NEW-JERSEY STATE GAZETTE.

THE PUBLISHERS.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

LONDON, June 16.

PARIS, June 16, 1792.

COMMOTIONS at PARIS.

THE FRENCH.

LA FAYETTE.

THE FIRST STATE GAZETTE

First page of Volume 1, No. 1, the very first issue of the New Jersey State Gazette. It is from this paper printed by Matthias Day and Co. that the present Trenton State Gazette is directly descended. One of the rare copies that has survived nearly 150 years is in the New Jersey Historical Society at Newark, and this photograph is by courtesy of that Society.

papers were rivals, but with all differences forgotten, Gershom Craft, editor and owner of the Federalist, joined hands with Sherman, Mershon and Thomas in a vigorous campaign for the Federalist cause.

Accordingly in July, the combined papers appeared with the title, The Federalist and New Jersey State Gazette, bearing the names of Sherman, Mershon, Thomas and Craft, but with no new numeration, the numerical order of the Gazette being continued.

In September, Mr. Craft withdrew from the firm and the paper was continued by Sherman, Mershon and Thomas. Late in the same year Thomas also withdrew. Another change in name was made May, 1802. The Federalist and New Jersey Gazette then appeared as the Trenton Federalist. The issue of June 1, 1802, contained the obituary of Lady Washington printed within a black border.

With the death December 16, 1806, of John Mershon, who had been a journeyman in a number of printing offices in the East before coming to Trenton, George Sherman came into control of the Trenton Federalist. The following March 24, he moved the office to "the building of Samuel Paxson, Druggist, directly opposite the City Hotel."

The dwelling was previously the residence of Pontius D. Stelle at the southeast corner of Perry and Warren Streets. In Colonial days it was a tavern, and when Colonel Rall, commander of the Hessians, occupied Trenton, he used the place as headquarters of the watch guard. The Gazette remained at this location only a short time, moving in 1811 to the head of a court on Warren Street, opposite St. Michael's Episcopal Church.

The Shermans, George and his son William P., were responsible for the second merger. Purchasing the True American, a Democratic paper founded in 1801, they combined it with their own journal in June, 1829, and published them both under a title that went back to the original name of the Gazette.

The purchase and change of name was announced by George Sherman June 29. His statement was:

"George Sherman, in conjunction with his son, William P. Sherman, having purchased of the Proprietors, the newspaper established in Trenton called True American, believes it most advisable at this juncture to unite that establishment with this paper, and in the future to issue one, instead of two papers weekly, under the title of the New Jersey State Gazette."

In accordance with the merger announcement, the paper appeared July 4, 1829, as The New Jersey State Gazette with a new numeration, and the motto: "Devoted to the interests of our Republican institutions; and decidedly opposed to any measure to violate the Constitution, to impair the rights of Conscience or the sovereignty of the People." William P. Sherman is listed as the editor, the elder Sherman having retired from active participation in the publication.

With the elevation of William Potts Sherman to the editorship of the State Gazette, a public-spirited and able man came to the helm. He had been born in Trenton December 20, 1807. His connection with the Gazette was brief, for he relinquished his position to study law. He was the first Surrogate of Mercer County, and served three successive terms in that office. He was long a member of Common Council, and in 1855 he was elected Mayor of Trenton to fill the unexpired term of William Napton, who resigned. Mr. Sherman died in October, 1857.

As soon as the Gazette discontinued publication of The True American, The Emporium, a Jacksonian Democratic paper which had for several years bitterly opposed the now defunct journal, was quick to take up its name and add it to its own, appearing as Emporium and True American.

This move, of course, raised the ire of the Gazette editor, who made the following announcement in his issue, July 18:

"Some notice may perhaps be expected in this paper of the assumption of the title of the True American, by a certain party print in this place.

"The acknowledgment of the person who signs the address on this subject in the Emporium, that the True American had been sold to another, leaves him to account for the liberty he has taken of appropriating that to his use, which he confesses he does not own.

"On this subject it is thought proper briefly to state—That the establishment of the True American was purchased of the proprietors for a valuable consideration, and with full understanding of the course intended to be pursued, and which has been pursued. . . . Adding the title of the True American as a recommendation of the Emporium, after

the former had for years been represented by the Emporium as a thing loathsome and vile beyond endurance, is really a most happy thought—and the course which the paper has so judiciously taken, of recommending itself to the republican party by bitter denunciations of federalism and federalists, and anon making it a matter of triumph, whenever democratic men are turned out of office by General Jackson, and old federalists appointed in their stead, is admirable indeed."

This was Gazette's opening shot of the "battle of titles" between it and the Emporium that was revived from time to time in the next twenty years.

In the meantime George Sherman resumed the editorship of the Gazette, a position he held until his death in February, 1835. His son, James Tuttle Sherman then became the owner and editor of the paper. The younger Sherman was born in Trenton December 21, 1814, and received his early education at the Trenton Academy. He afterward attended Yale College, graduating in 1833. James Sherman studied law in local law offices until the death of his father brought him into the Gazette office. Nearly 20 years later, in 1853, he sold his interest in the Gazette and retired. He died May 20, 1862, after a busy life in which he devoted much time to local institutions.

On April 1, 1837, the Gazette removed from its office from the head of the court on Warren Street, opposite St. Michael's Episcopal Church, to the second story of the brick building at the northeast corner of Warren and State Streets. The editor took pride in announcing the great convenience that the new quarters offered, stating that "we have moved out of our stand, into the very centre of motion, where we can see all and be seen by all. If anything happens in the town, which the people ought to know, we shall be able to see it and tell it; and if the public wish anything of us, here we are, in the sight of everybody, ready for business with all men."

The issue of the Gazette, May 11, 1838, appeared in enlarged size, a column having been added to its former size. The paper then claimed to be the largest in size in the State.

Henry Harron, printer, who had learned his trade in Philadelphia, entered into a partnership with Mr. Sherman in 1839, the new firm trading under the name of Sherman & Harron, with the latter in charge of the mechanical department.

Need of more frequent publication of the State Gazette was felt the next year, and it was planned to issue the paper three times a week. The first tri-weekly edition was published January 14, a small sheet, afterward gradually enlarged. It retained the title of State Gazette.

It was a full seven years later, on January 12, 1847, before the State Gazette appeared as a daily. It carried the name Daily State Gazette, for a few issues and then dropped the word "Daily" from its title page. It sold for one cent a copy. One of the motives behind the change is evident in the following announcement:

"The change from publishing our paper by subscription to publishing it almost for nothing for cash is, of course, expected to give us a much more numerous circle of readers, to whom we anticipate introducing ourselves every morning at breakfast time."

Franklin S. Mills was reporter on the daily, but retired in the Fall of that year, having been nominated for the Assembly. Enoch R. Borden followed him on the paper for a few weeks and was in turn succeeded by Charles W. Jay, who held the position for about a year.

One of the greatest innovations in local journalism was the installation of telegraph service, and the Daily State Gazette took considerable pride in informing its readers in the second number that it would hereafter publish news received in this manner. The announcement read:

"NEWS BY TELEGRAPH

"We have the greatest satisfaction of publishing this morning the report of the proceedings of Congress yesterday, transmitted by the Magnetic Telegraph. We thus issue the congressional news, simultaneously with the morning daily papers of Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York—a feat never before accomplished or thought of in New Jersey."

The daily Gazette in 1850 had 900 subscribers and the weekly edition 1,100, according to the Federal census of that year.

Early in February, 1853, William Brown, graduate of Princeton College, and Thomas Clayton Borden, proprietor of the Bordentown Register, purchased the Gazette. Their names appear in the February 5 edition as owners and publishers. In the same

issue Sherman and Harron make their farewell announcement. James T. Sherman, retiring editor, third and last of his family associated with the Gazette, informed his readers that "the act which separates him from the State Gazette must ever be one of great importance. His connection with the paper is hereditary. For fifty-four years it has borne the name of his father or nimself. In retiring from it, he breaks up associations which have subsisted not merely as long as, but much longer than he has lived. There are persons on the subscription list who were there fifty-four years ago. He need not say that his connection with these, has long ripened into a friendship which, as a father's legacy, has been very sacred to the son, and which more than half a century has hallowed. In separating from these friends, his heart is filled with saddening memories."

Mr. Borden retired from the firm in 1854, and in the same year Mr. Brown sold the paper to Edmund Morris, of Burlington.

When the Republican party was organized in 1856, the Gazette took a stand in support of its first candidates for the presidency and vice presidency—General John C. Fremont and William L. Dayton—and their names appeared on the masthead of the paper. But in the issue of July 30, the names of Millard Fillmore and Andrew J. Donelson as candidates for president and vice president had been substituted or those of the official Republican standard bearers. Beneath the names appeared the motto: "Opposition to Union Nomination." The change was the result of the purchase of the paper by Cornelius W. Tolles, of Newark.

This deflection from the party led a local association of Republicans to publish a rival daily and weekly paper, the Daily Republican, later the New Jersey Republican.

Mr. Tolles's contiol of the Gazette was brief. The paper soon passed into the hands of Enoch R. Borden. He held it until it was purchased by J. L. Swayze, who acquired as well the rival publication and merged the two under the name of Daily State Gazette and Republican. This journal made its initial appearance July 17, 1857, with no new numeration. Enoch R. Borden, of the Gazette, and Jacob R. Freese, editor of the rival paper, were made editors of the Gazette-Republican.

In after years the title on the banner head was shortened to Daily State Gazette, the name Daily Gazette and Republican appearing on the inside page.

In the next few years new owners and publishers followed one another in rapid succession. Mr. Swayze sold the Gazette to Mr. Freese who, in 1865, disposed of it to Brook and Vannote, purchasers in December of that year of the Monitor. They merged the two papers.

The Gazette's next owners were Murphy & Bechtel, proprietors of a job printing plant at the northwest corner of Broad and State Streets. They bought the Gazette in 1869, and the building that housed their printing office was made the home of the Gazette.

Under the new ownership, with Mr. Borden as editor, the paper gained in circulation and prestige. New types, presses and equipment resulted in a more attractive paper. In July, 1875, Mr. Bechtel sold his share in the enterprise and retired. Mr. Murphy continued the business, which was later known as the John L. Murphy Publishing Company.

Mr. Murphy made more improvements to the State Gazette from time to time, and the newspaper became gradually recognized as the official Republican organ in the State.

The firm of Murphy & Bechtel was an old established Trenton concern. John Lawrence Murphy was a native Trenton boy, who, when only ten years old, was employed as errand boy and paper carrier on the Gazette. Later he became an apprentice to the printing trade in the Gazette shop under James T. Sherman. After completing his trade he remained with the Gazette until 1856, then securing a job as foreman in the Free Press office. After six months that paper failed. Mr. Murphy then purchased equipment and opened up a job printing shop. He took Charles Bechtel as his partner three months later. The new firm moved to the Broad and State Streets corner, which then began its career as a noted publishing centre.

Mr. Murphy died May 4, 1900. During his life-time he had witnessed many changes in the newspaper field. He saw the beginning of Trenton's first daily newspaper, the first telegraph installed in a local paper, the first steam power press, the beginnin of the first Sunday newspaper and many other innovations in the world of local journalism.

His partner was a native of Philadelphia. Sometime after serving his apprenticeship to the printing trade

PROGRESS OF STATE GAZETTE HEADLINES

These headings of the State Gazette indicate the outstanding changes in the paper from 1798 to the present day. They show the changed ownership and mergers of other papers with the original New Jersey State Gazette published by Matthias Day. The New Jersey State Gazette shown at the top is the first issue under the ownership of Sherman & Mershon. The Federalist and New Jersey State Gazette head resulted from a combine of the old Federalist; New Jersey Gazette with the original paper. The Trenton Federalist is still the State Gazette under a shortened name. The second New Jersey State Gazette title was used when the True American and the State Gazette (or Federalist, as it was then) were merged. It shows a new numeration. The State Gazette head was the tri-weekly issue. The Daily State Gazette appeared on the first issue of the daily paper, and the Daily State Gazette and Republican head was used after another combine. The Trenton State Gazette is today's masthead. Photos by courtesy of the New Jersey State Library.

in that city, he came to Trenton and for a number of years was employed on the Trenton Daily News At one time he also held the office of State printer. He died August 16, 1908, in the 81st year of his age.

William Cloke, Freehold schoolteacher, was one of Mr. Murphy's proteges who, after serving as reporter for a time, was advanced to the position of editorial writer. There he made a reputation for himself, especially in combat with the lively Joseph L. Naar of the True American.

The death of Mr. Murphy in 1900 brought more changes to the State Gazette, which then passed to a new concern, the State Gazette Publishing Company. Officers of the company were Henry W. Comfort, president; Charles B. Case, secretary, and Charles H. Baker, treasurer.

In the editorial epartment Thomas B. Holmes replaced Mr. Cloke. A well informed, interesting and able writer, Mr. Holmes served on several Western papers before coming to Trenton. He also contributed to magazines. He was born at Uncasville, near New London, Conn., May 15, 1859. Upon the death of Mr. Holmes some years later, Forrest R. Dye, who had previously worked on the True American, assumed the editorship. Another of the city's leading newspapermen on the Gazette staff was Henry C. Buchanan. He afterward was a prominent member of the editorial department of the Trenton Times.

In June, 1908, the newspaper and job printing plant, which included also a book bindery, moved to a new building erected by the company on the south side of East Hanover Street, between Broad and Montgomery Streets. The first issue of the Gazette from the new building was June 13, 1908.

The Gazette continued under the joint ownership of Messrs. Comfort, Case and Baker until December 1, 1925, when it was purchased by a new organization of which Colonel Edward C. Rose was president; Ferdinand W. Roebling, Jr., vice president, and Frank D. Schroth, treasurer and publisher.

To his new post Mr. Schroth brought extensive newspaper experience. He was once identified with the True American and for a number of years was legislative reporter for the Trenton Times and several out-of-town papers.

The new owners made extensive improvements to both the Gazette and its property.

Six months later the newspaper was consolidated with the Trenton Times, and Judge James Kerney became its editor and publisher. Mr. Schroth assumed the general managership of the combined papers.

The present title of the newspaper is "Trenton State Gazette." Outstanding for the high character of its editorial page as well as for its dignified typographical make-up, the Gazette ranks high among New Jersey's newspapers, and has received citations from the Newspaper Institute at Rutgers University. The Gazette's chief editorial writer is Raymond A. Schroth, who received his early newspaper training on the True American and subsequently on the reportorial staff of the Gazette during the ownership of the former State Gazette Publishing Company.

CHAPTER IV

The Federalist; New Jersey Gazette.

Founded as an organ to espouse the cause of radical Federalism, The Federalist; New Jersey Gazette is probably deserving of more consideration than local historians have given it. It was published by Gershom Craft and William Black on Second Street, the first issue appearing Monday, July 9, 1798. The editorial motto was: "The Public Shall be Our Invincible Guide—Public Good Our Friend." The first number informed its subscribers that the newspaper would be delivered to them "at 15 shillings per annum, one fourth in advance, and one fourth at the expiration of every three months." The first impression was 800 copies, and contained a supplement with the following announcement:

"The anxiety of the Editors to give the Public the latest ommunications and Intelligence, and the necessity of inserting a lengthy advertisement, has induced us to publish the present Supplement." The subscribers were also advised that "a letter box will be placed at the Window for the reception of Communications," a service that was in all probability an innovation in early newspaper publishing in Trenton.

A week later the newspaper informed its readers that William Black had transferred his interest in the paper to Mr. Craft and that the partnership had been dissolved July 14. Mr. Craft, who continued the publication as the sole owner, was a lawyer. He retired from the newspaper business in September, 1800. Afterward he was one of the original incorporators of the Trenton Water Works Company. Mr. Craft died on his farm, Falls Township, Bucks County, Pa., in November, 1808.

As a rival of Mathias Day's publication, the New Jersey State Gazette, Craft's newspaper grew rapidly in circulation. On October 8, the publisher reported with considerable pride that "one thousand and eighty copies of the Federalist are this week struck off." The following March 4, when Mr. Day informed the public that he had sold his paper to Sherman and Mershon, the Federalist editor acknowledged with gratitude one hundred new subscribers in ten days. This marked the beginning of keen competition in local newspaper publishing, for the Federalist was swiftly advancing as a formidable rival of the older journal.

The original printing office of The Federalist; New Jersey Gazette, according to the paper itself, was "opposite J. Milnor's store." Mr. Milnor's establishment (store and warerooms), was on the northwest corner of Broad and State Streets, and extended quite a distance westerly along the latter street. This would place the printing office on the south side of State Street between what is now Broad and Warren Streets.

By April 22, 1799, Mr. Craft had moved the office and gave the place of publication as "the main street," now Warren Street, "between the Indian Queen and City Taverns, opposite Mr. Howell's." A month later he gives his new address as on the same street "between the Indian Queen and City Hotel." It is evident that he had made an error in his first announcement, confusing the City Hotel and the City Tavern. The Indian Queen Tavern stood on the site now occupied by the Trent Theatre. The First Mechanics National Bank occupies the site of the City Tavern, whereas the City Hotel occupied land on which St. Mary's rectory now stands. Therefore, the Federalist office was somewhere between the present Trent Theatre site and the present St. Mary's rectory.

In spite of its promise of success, the radical Federalist survived a brief two years. By June, 1800, it was merged with the New Jersey State Gazette. Editors of both papers had by that time decided to forget their differences and to unite to offer stronger support to the cause of Federalism generally. The consolidation, announced in The Federalist; New Jersey Gazette on June 30, reads as follows:

"Believing that our mutual benefit


The Federalist
NEW-JERSEY GAZETTE.

Above is shown a portion of the title page of the initial issue of the Federalist; New Jersey Gazette, published here from 1798 to 1800. The paper, afterward merged with the New Jersey State Gazette, had a brief but interesting history.

and convenience will be promoted and the public interest advanced, we have agreed to unite the offices of The Federalist, and New Jersey State Gazette.

"Henceforth, therefore, but one paper will be issued, under the direction of the subscribers, to be entitled, 'The Federalist and New Jersey State Gazette.'

"G. Craft, G. Sherman, I. Mershon, I. Thomas."

Though short-lived, The Federalist; New Jersey Gazette, was a "fierce and bitter advocate of the Federal cause."† It is said that during its brief existence it became the leading Federalist organ in the State.

† Lee's History of Trenton. p. 244.

CHAPTER V

The True American.

With the rise of the Jefferson Democratic Party to power in American politics, the True American, first Trenton newspaper of that name, came into existence. It ushered in an era of unbridled vilification in the newspaper world, the outgrowth of intense political activity. Party feeling ran high and expressed itself in the newspapers of the day. The True American, defending Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence as the true republican and defender of republican principles, reflected the sentiments of the great leader's political adherents. The paper likewise denounced the Federalists, whose party organ was the State Gazette, as monarchial and aristocratic.

Mathias Day, one of the founders of the rival State Gazette, it will be recalled, and Jacob Mann, were publishers of the new newspaper. Mann had had some experience in the business. He had learned the printing trade with Shepard Kollock, a noted Jersey printer at Elizabethtown. Early in 1794 he had charge of the printing office of the Morris County Gazette at Morristown. From there he came to Trenton. The partners published their new journal Tuesday, March 10, 1801, in a building that stood on the south side of Market Street (now State), near Greene (now Broad Street). The following statement appeared in the first issue:

"This paper was to have made its appearance some time since, but on account of other business, in which the editors have been engaged, its publication has been unavoidably protracted to the present time. It was also contemplated to be entitled the Organ of the People—it, however, bears a title appropriate to the character which it shall ever support, that of the True American."

James J. Wilson, fiery, energetic and certainly one of the most picturesque figures in Trenton journalism, became a partner in the paper within the next three months, his name appearing as one of the three editors and publishers in the issue of June 23. Wilson was destined to be not only a formidable opponent of the Federalists, but a stormy petrel in the entire field of newspaper publishing in Trenton.

Rapid changes followed in the publication. Early in November, Day sold his interest in the paper to Wilson and left the town for Newark.* Wilson and Mann continued as partners until February, 1802, when Mann disposed of his interest to Lewis Blackwell.†

The office of The True American was moved in April to a dwelling formerly occupied by Gershom Craft "in Warren Street directly opposite to Mr. Probasco's."‡ Mr. Probasco was a tavernkeeper, and at this particular time he kept a "house of entertainment" called the Eagle Tavern, two doors north of the Indian Queen Tavern, which occupied the site of the Trent Theatre. The Lincoln Theatre is now where Probasco's tavern stood. While the exact site of Craft's house is in doubt, it would seem that it stood just north of East Hanover Street, then known as Pinkerton's Alley.

Subscribers were still sadly remiss in paying for their newspapers and when the True American on February 27, 1804, completed its third year, Mr. Wilson, senior editor, took the opportunity to explain conditions under which he and his partner were laboring to keep the publication alive. His announcement said in part:

"We are sorry to remark that many of our subscribers are much in arrears, and that some have not paid a cent who have regularly been supplied with the paper ever since its establishment."

By May, 1804, the partnership between Wilson and Blackwell was dissolved and the former remained as owner. James Jefferson Wilson was not only an outstanding figure in local journalism, wielding an able and fearless pen for the cause of Jefferson and the Democratic Party, of which he was a State leader. He was also prominent in the life of the city. In 1815 he was elected to the United States Senate, resigning in 1821 to become postmaster of Trenton. He

*True American—November 3, 1801.
†True American—February 9, 1802.
‡True American—April 27, 1802.

was captain in the Trenton Light Infantry and afterward served in the offices of Brigadier General, Adjutant General and Quartermaster General of New Jersey. He was first president of the State Bank at Trenton. Like most of the editors of his time, Mr. Wilson was a printer by trade. For several years, in connection with his paper, he published Wilson's Farmers' Almanac.

While the True American was under his ownership, Mr. Wilson moved its office to his residence in a tavern building that stood on the east side of Warren Street, a short distance south of the canal feeder. The printing shop was in an adjoining frame building.‡ In all probability the tavern was what was once known as McCarrier's Hotel, a small stone building, with frame addition, that for many years occupied the southeast corner of McCarrier's Alley, now Risdon's Alley, and Warren Street. In later years the place was a beer saloon. The place was also known as the Warren Hotel, and then as Belvidere Hotel.

Later Wilson built a two-story frame building on the opposite side of Warren Street, which he occupied as the printing office. Subsequently he erected a brick residence for himself on the premises. In 1818, when he bacame involved in financial difficulties his home and printing office were advertised to be sold by his assignees, John Wilson, Robert McNeely and Daniel Coleman.

It was during the years that James J. Wilson was identified with The True American that political animosity was most intense. Some of the bitterest political controversies that Trenton had ever seen occurred in that period. Verbal mud-slinging and vile epithets were a part of the journalism of the day. The Federalist (now the State Gazette), as the mouthpiece fo the Federalist Party, and The True American, organ for the anti-Federalists or Republicans, kept the town agog with pages of highly colored political news. The Federalist paper dubbed The True American "The Gibbet," and referred to Wilson as the "Gibbett Man." In retaliation the Jeffersonian paper called the Federalists the "lawyer-party" and ironically characterized them as "friends of law and order," when their political activities were particularly boisterous and disturbing to the peace.

Political activities in those days were not always confined to the newspaper page, and on one occasion Wilson suffered the lashes of the cowhide in front of his office in Warren Street. Drunken brawls were common affairs, and wirepulling and intrigues were all a part of the political life of the era.

Thomas Paine, journalist of the American Revolution, returned to America from France where he had taken an active part in the French Revolution and suffered the tortures of the Luxembourg. President Jefferson, recognizing Paine's abilities as a sterling worker for the Democratic

THOMAS PAINE

Journalist of the American Revolution and cause of the bitter feud between the Federalist and The True American.

‡ Raum's History of Trenton, p. 216.

cause, was largely responsible for his return.

Thomas Paine was an 18th Century deist, and his book, "The Age of Reason," written in support of his views, brought the wrath of many upon his head. In fact it so prejudiced them against the author that his fine deeds for the cause of American Independence were obliterated by their resentment. Soon after landing on American shores, Paine came to Trenton to visit one of his warmest friends, Governor Joseph Bloomfield, who then resided at Government House, now incorporated in Hotel Sterling.

Knowing the visitor's unorthodoxy, his opponents seized upon this as means of arousing opposition toward him. They called him an "infidel," "a defamer of Christ," and a "drunken Democrat." He was mobbed in the streets and the Rogues' March was played for his benefit. When he endeavored to leave the town for New York, two of the tavern keepers who were representatives of the stage lines, refused to sell him tickets or allow him a seat on the coaches. Only through the kindness of his friend, Colonel Joseph Kirkbride, of Bordentown, a distinguished Revolutionary patriot, and an ardent supporter of Jefferson, who loaned his chaise, was Paine able to proceed on his journey.

Paine's visit marked the beginning of a bitter feud between the Federalist and The True American, a contest of words that was revived several months later when a Democrat received appointment as mayor. It evidenced not only the Federalist's antagonism to Paine, but also to Governor Bloomfield who had been host to the writer. President Jefferson, like Paine, a non-conformist in his religious views, was a target, too, for the political outbursts and he and Paine were dubbed the "Doubting Thomases."

The True American, not to be outdone, indulged in unrestrained language in defense of its party men. At the time the contest reached fever heat following Paine's visit, Mr. Wilson threatened to publish the names of the Federalist leaders who had incited the mob against the visitor, and this brought a lull in the controversy for the time being.

The Federalist did not soon forget the rebukes they had received from the Democrats, and when Governor Bloomfield was reelected to office, somebody plugged and spiked the town cannon to prevent the members of his party from announcing the occasion with a salute. The Democrats who could afford to take the act good naturedly, since they had won another victory, got the cannon in service again after considerable trouble. Just as the sun was going down, seventeen rounds were fired in honor of the reelected Governor.

The time spent in getting the cannon in working order was, of course, amusing to the Federalists, and Mr. Wilson when giving an account of the celebration in The True American remarked that "some of the Feds observed that they (meaning the seventeen rounds) were more like minute guns which denote distress, than signals of rejoicing."

After the death of Wilson, July 28, 1824, Allan N. Wilson, his son, conducted the business for Mrs. Wilson until the next June when William L. Prall was employed as editor and publisher.* Prall, later proprietor and editor of the New York Transcript and editorial writer on several other papers, purchased the True American in May, 1826.

One of Prall's innovations was the semi-weekly publication of the True American. This began October 31, 1827. In the initial issue, which was printed with new type and with improved style, appeared the following statement:

"We commence this day the publication of the True American semi-weekly, viz. on Wednesday and Saturday. Although we have not yet been able to procure a press to print our paper on an imperial sheet, as we expect to ere long, yet by the aid of new types, as the public will perceive, we have made considerable improvements in the appearance of the True American, and have introduced a much greater quantity of matter therein, by lengthening its columns."

So many subscribers were in arrears in the following January, that the editor offered to take firewood or articles of family use in place of cash from those who were indebted to him. His brief announcement is reproduced here from the issue of January 19:

"Those desirous of paying their subscriptions or accounts in wood, or articles of family consumption, are now requested to do so. Anything to keep us warm (but ill humor, or abuse), and anything we can eat,

*True American, Aug. 7, 1824.
True American, June 18, 1825.

drink, or wear, almost, will be received at fair prices, if seasonably delivered."

The difficulty of procuring paper during the time the True American was published twice a week was one of the numerous problems that confronted the editor in offering this novel service. While he usually managed to have enough stock on hand to meet the twice-weekly requirement, he found himself with an insufficient supply on which to print an issue in the middle of August, 1828, when his order from Philadelphia had failed to arrive on time. Accordingly, he was compelled to skip the issue of Wednesday, August 20. This is shown in the following brief announcement in the Saturday issue:

"Owing to the non-receipt of paper, which had been previously purchased in Philadelphia, the Wednesday's paper was not published."

In October, the True American returned to its old policy of printing but one number a week. This presaged its demise. It is not surprising therefore that George Sherman, of the Trenton Federalist, in conjunction with his son, William P. Sherman, should purchase the True American in June, 1829. The Shermans united the two publications under the name of the New Jersey State Gazette. In other words, the True American was discontinued.

CHAPTER VI

The Emporium and Revival of True American.

The Emporium, which became the leading mouthpiece of Democracy when the Gazette purchased the True American, was started in 1821 by Joseph Justice, Sr., a printer, and Stacy Gardner Potts, a lawyer, in a printing shop that stood on or near the site now occupied by Murphy & Sons' Undertaking Establishment, Warren Street.

In the first number, which appeared Saturday, June 2, 1821, the owners presented their respects to their patrons stating that their publication was "three-fold in character, literary, religious and political." The first two years of the publication, however, were more of a literary nature than political. Mr. Potts, the editor, was a polished writer and in those early numbers appeared a series of popular sketches from his pen which were afterward published in a volume entitled, "Village Tales."

Mr. Potts, son of Stacy Potts, came to Trenton as a young child in 1803 from Harrisburg, Pa., where he was born November 23, 1799. He received a preliminary education at the Trenton Academy and then was an apprentice in the printing shop of his uncle, George Sherman, proprietor of the Trenton Federalist.

Mr. Potts was editor of The Emporium from the day it was founded until late in May, 1827, when he retired to take up the practice of law. He served twice in the State Assembly, and for nine years was Clerk of the Court of Chancery. In January, 1852, he was appointed Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. He was a well known figure in the life of Trenton until he died April 9, 1856. Upon his retirement from The Emporium, he left Mr. Justice as the owner and publisher. His brother, Joseph C. Potts, succeeded him in the editorial chair.

The Emporium was launched with about 400 subscribers, a fairly good beginning in view of the fact that Trenton proper had less than 4,000 population at that time. At the end of the first six months it had nearly doubled its circulation. *

When General Andrew Jackson became a candidate for the presidency, The Emporium took up his cause, precipitating a bitter clash with the True American which lasted until that paper was taken over by the Gazette.

Beginning with issue, June 2, 1827, the paper changed its name to Trenton Emporium. Then after the True American was discontinued, the Emporium added to its title that of the old Democratic organ, appearing with the name, Emporium and True American. This move led to the "battle of titles" with the Gazette—a controversy that was revived from time to time over a period of twenty years.

In appropriating the title of the paper that the owners of the Gazette had purchased and discontinued, The Emporium took the following stand:

"To the Public—It will be perceived that an addition has been made to the title of this paper. It will, in future, be published under the head, 'Emporium and True American.' In uniting the title of the True American with that under which this paper heretofore appeared, the subscriber is influenced by feeling of attachment to an old name, for many years the Talisman of the Republican party in New Jersey, and which though for a time past, a wanderer from its ancient principles, is still venerated for what it was. The regeneration of the great republican party, in the prostration of the younger Adams, and the election of Andrew Jackson, has just taken place—and the True American left a wreck in the hands of disappointed politicians, with whom, in an unfortunate hour, it entered into a still more unfortunate alliance, having been made to serve their purposes, until its services had been useless, is sold to George Sherman, who appropriating by bona fide purchase, its patronage to himself, has left its name and its early principles, matters too indigestable for his consumption, to the use of others. * * * Joseph Justice."

This, of course, was quick to bring

* The Emporium—November 24, 1821.

a retort from the Gazette and the battle was in full swing.

At this particular time the paper was published in a property on the east side of Warren Street opposite West Hanover Street, having removed there April 1, 1828.

In 1838, Franklin S. Mills became associated with the Emporium. In the same year, Joseph Justice, Sr., retired from the establishment and Joseph Justice, Jr., and Mr. Mills continued the publication. Just how much interest Mills had in the enterprise at this time, if any, is uncertain as his name does not appear as a partner with Justice until August, 1841.

According to Raum's History of Trenton, on August 28, 1838, a tri-weekly paper for electioneering purposes was issued from the Emporium office by Mills and Joseph Justice, Jr. This paper was discontinued in October. Late in 1839, a daily was issued from the same office with Mills and Dr. Daniel Levy Maduro Peixotto, noted physician and newspaperman, as the editors. During the three months that this paper lived, Mills and Peixotto were also editors of the Emporium.

When Captain Joseph A. Yard came into possession of the Emporium, following dissolution of the Mills-Justice partnership February 24, 1843, the paper immediately became a Tyler organ—a move that most of the Democratic leaders in the State resented. President Tyler at this time was not altogether popular in his own camp, and the change in policy of a paper that made its reputation by advocating the principles of Andrew Jackson, came as a shock, not only in Trenton, but throughout the State. Even the rival Gazette, in a measure regretted the change, remarking that "the Emporium was the first paper in the State to espouse the cause of General Jackson." In after years a writer in the Gazette who seems to have been well informed as to how the change was brought about, had the following to say:

"The sale was not made directly to Capt. Joseph Yard, but to a third party, with the distinct understanding that it should come out for Tyler, and his name was hoisted before the transfer was made. We have always understood that Mr. Mills was offered the editorship, but Tyler was rather more than Mr. Mills could swallow and he refused at once, left the concern and started a new paper, which would probably have still flourished, had not some kind friends assisted him from time to time, until they finally succeeded in relieving him of his paper and printing office altogether."

Captain Yard was a native of Trenton and member of a prominent family that settled at the Falls of the Delaware before the arrival of Judge William Trent for whom the city is named. A popular speaker, he was active in Democratic politics and on several occasions he stumped the State for the party. At the outbreak of the Mexican War he was commissioned captain in the United States Tenth Infantry, and raised the first company in that regiment. He went to the front with his company, but had to return home in the Spring of 1848 because of ill health.

For a number of years, Captain Yard was an inspector in the New York custom house. In 1849 he was elected to the New York Assembly. At the outbreak of the Civil War, Captain Yard raised a company in Trenton called the Olden Guards and served with them in the field. He died at Farmingdale October 17, 1878.

When all differences in the Democratic party were healed in 1845, the Emporium merged with the Newark Evening Post, with Samuel G. Arnold as editor and manager. In the next year the paper passed into the hands of William B. Brittain and Edward C. Jones, Arnold being retained in the editorial chair. In the same year Brittain and Jones purchased the "Trenton Daily News."

After passing to the ownership of the firm of Potts and Perdicaris, and then to Samuel J. Bayard, the Emporium came into the possession of Morris R. Hamilton, who merged the two papers into one publication which he named the True American.

When Mr. Hamilton merged the Trenton Daily News and the Emporium and True American, he changed the names of both papers. The Daily News became the Daily True American and the Emporium and True American title was shortened to Weekly True American. This act kindled a flame that had been smouldering in the editorial offices of the Gazette for many years.

In the initial number of the revived True American, Tuesday morning, November 13, 1849, bearing the motto, "Principles, not Men," Hamilton made his new stand as a crusader for Democracy:

"Some years ago, a glorious, high-toned, weekly paper styled The True American was issued in this city by an able, honest, well-tried Democrat,

James J. Wilson. A man remembered with respect by all. 'His memories were two hosts—his friends and foes!'

"That paper has been continued by others to the present time. Of late, there has been connected with it, in accordance with the unpretentious spirit of the age, a daily, known as the Trenton Daily News. Having passed through many hands, they have at last fallen into mine; and I hope, through your support, to maintain my position permanently, as their sole Editor and Publisher.

"I have thought it admissible to avail confession, and as a small tribute to the memory of the fearless projector of the original paper, to drop the title 'The News' and to call them the 'Daily' and 'Weekly True American'."

The Gazette was quick to remind Mr. Hamilton that it had purchased the original True American twenty years before and discontinued its publication and that the paper therefore no longer existed. This renewed the old "battle of the titles."

Colonel "Morrie" Hamilton, as he was known, was long a picturesque and delightful figure in Trenton life. He was born in Sussex County, in 1820, son of General Samuel R. Hamilton, Quartermaster of New Jersey for 25 years, and great grandson of John Hamilton, Provincial Governor of New Jersey from 1736 to 1747, and of Andrew Robeson, Surveyor General of the Province at the same time.

The later editor of the True American was educated at the old Trenton Academy, Lawrenceville School and Princeton College, from which he was graduated in 1839. He was admitted to the Bar in 1842, and practiced in Camden and Philadelphia. After retiring from the True American, Colonel Hamilton still retained his connection with out-of-town papers.

He gained his title from service on the staff of Governor George F. Fort, from 1851 to 1854. He was named State Librarian in 1884, and held that office for many years.

In reviving the True American, Hamilton secured William Magill, previously connected with Philadelphia publications, as his publisher, although he announced himself as holding that position in the initial number of the paper.

The issue of December 12, 1850, appeared in enlarged form. The following April 1 the paper announced the death of John C. Calhoun, the noted Southern statesmen, the back page appearing with black lines in respect to his memory.

Just three years later, the True American came under control of Judge David Naar, of Elizabeth, a fiery Democratic leader and first of a family that was to be outstanding for

COL. MORRIS R. HAMILTON

Well known figure in Trenton's public life for many years, who through a merger of two local papers, revived the True American and the Weekly True American, and launched anew the "battle of the titles."

many years in the history of Trenton journalism. When Mr. Hamilton retired as owner and editor, he introduced his successor as "a gentleman distinguished for his literary talent, political sagacity and oratorical ability." The Gazette, April 4, 1853, welcomes the newcomer in this manner:

"David Naar introduced himself yesterday as the new editor of the True American. The judge asserts his inexperience and asks indulgence. He writes, however, with a glib pen, and that will be backed by an intelligent mind. His humor, energy and industry will give points and force to the paper. He states that he will sustain the Democratic party."

Charles W. Jay was reporter on the True American when Judge Naar came into possession of the paper. His stay was brief. Later Franklin S. Mills was associated with Naar and was made assistant editor.

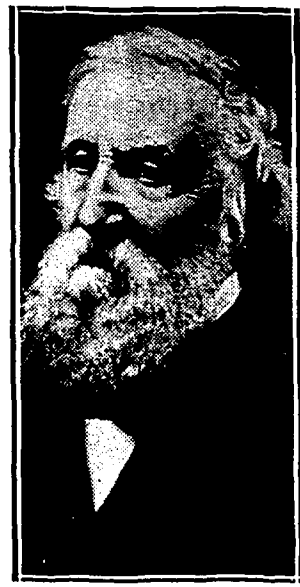
About the middle of the 1850's the newspaper removed from its old stand, 40 Greene Street, next door to the old City Hall Building, to the southeast corner of Warren and Front Streets, occupying a spacious building that years previously had been the Golden Swan Tavern, now the Hearnen Building. Here Naar established a job printing plant in connection with his newspaper publishing. Here, also, the family lived for a number of years.

Directed by Judge Naar, the True American soon gained prestige as a Democratic organ and the home of the paper became a stronghold for Democracy.

In 1856 Judge Naar published a campaign paper, called the Campaign True American, in the interest of James Buchanan, of Pennsylvania, and John C. Breckinridge, of Kentucky, for the presidency and vice presidency. The initial issue appeared July 2, and the last issue November 15.

The beginning of the Civil War brought trying days for the True American. Judge Naar's brilliant and fearless pen, which did not hesitate to criticize the policy of the Government toward the South, aroused the ire of local citizens, especially the Republican element, to such an extent that on one occasion they manifested their resentment in a mob demonstration on the street directly under the editorial windows.

This was on the evening of April 15, 1861, when news of President Lincoln's famous proclamation calling for 75,000 State militia volunteers for three months' service, reached the town. A large crowd had gathered in front of the Gazette office, northeast corner of State and Warren Streets, where the American flag was displayed and where sky rockets had been shot off in celebration of the President's call to arms. Patriotism was at its height and there was wild cheering.



JUDGE DAVID NAAR

Brilliant newspaper man, one time owner and editor of the True American and first of his family to direct that notable Trenton paper.

The demonstration over at the Gazette office, the crowd moved down Warren Street to Judge Naar's True American. Seeing no flag on display there, they routed out the editor and demanded an explanation. Judge Naar appeared and in an address designed to appease his inquisitors he

declared that the newspaper was not in possession of any flag, did not consider it a necessary adjunct to a newspaper office, and there was consequently none on display. He expressed himself as ready to stand by the flag of the Union and especially invoked his audience to respect freedom of thought and speech.

The State Gazette's version of this incident is at variance with the True American's account. The Gazette reports that one of the crowd challenged the editor to "bring out his 'Blue Cockade' and burn it!" It characterized Judge Naar's address on this occasion as a 'sort of half-way Union speech," and adds editorially:

"How he could have done this after preaching dissension through his paper for months past is more than we can understand. However, the crowd accepted the apology and left."

The True American after this episode, found itself slowly losing its former popularity and at a time when the tumult of war against the South was increasing the True American voluntarily suspended daily publication. This was on August 24, 1861. It did not print daily again until October 7.

At the close of the war the True American office was the scene of another demonstration of an entirely different character. This was when the Konigmacher brothers, two eccentrics from Pennsylvania, burned a fifty-dollar Government bond before an astonished crowd in front of the newspaper office. The Konigmachers, who had been aroused by the True American's southern sympathies made a special trip to the office March 28, 1869, to flaunt their loyalty at Judge Naar's very door. Here they set fire to a war bond and urged bondholders in the crowd to follow their example, and so relieve the Government of its burden of debt occasioned by the war.

Judge Naar four months later, July 2, 1869, transferred the publication of the True American of Moses D. Naar, Joshua S. Day, and Joseph L. Naar, retaining, however, the position of editor-in-chief. The new firm traded under the name of Naar, Day & Naar.

Removal of the True American, April 1, 1872, to Trenton's most famous publishing corner at State and Broad Streets, was a real event. When the doors of the new office were formally opened, the entire front and side of the building was covered with painted signs announcing the new location. This flamboyant method of advertising attracted considerable attention among the inhabitants. On this same site five earlier newspapers had been published, the first one in the immediate post-Revolutionary period.

In 1869, when Judge Naar retired as Editor-in-Chief, his nephew, Moses D. Naar, succeeded him in that position. Moses D. Naar died January 10, 1885, and within a month Joshua S. Day, who had charge of the financial end of the firm, passed away. Joseph L. Naar, son of Judge Naar, then assumed editorial control and became sole owner. Through his tireless endeavors the True American for years continued as an influential publication.

On the occasion of its next change in location, January 1, 1893, the True American again moved to a site historic in the annals of newspaper publishing in Trenton. The paper went from the leased building at Broad and State Streets to its own building on the east side of Warren Street, between Hanover and State, in a neighborhood where three of its predecessors had been published.

At the same time, the paper was enlarged, a change which reacted to its detriment, for it had lost much of its political favor and its efforts to reestablish itself only increased its financial burden. The publisher even went so far as to cut the price of his paper to one cent a copy in the hope that it would increase circulation, but this only sliced the income. Another effort was made by Mr. Naar to refinance the business, and he sold stock in the enterprise, approximating $50,000. These stockholders, men friendly to the paper and its policies, incorporated under the name of the True American Publishing Company, with Mr. Naar as president and managing editor. This company was formed April 30, 1902. Mr. Naar died September 19, 1905.

After his death the story of the True American was like that of all other businesses struggling to keep alive under conditions of increasing financial difficulties. In rapid succession there were reorganizations and receiverships. The publication even entered the afternoon field. At a receiver's sale, August 8, 1913, the newspaper and its real estate was purchased by the Trenton Times for $47,000. Publication of the True American was then suspended.

Regardless of its early history, the True American will always be inseparably associated with the three

Naars, certainly one of the most remarkable groups of newspaper men in the history of journalism in Trenton.

Judge David, Moses D., and Joseph L. Naar were members of one of the outstanding families in the annals of New Jersey Jewry, an honored family with a record dating back to the time of the discovery of America by Columbus. Their ancestors lived on the Iberian Peninsula, where they suffered persecution because of their race and religion. Seeking freedom in the Western Hemisphere, members of the family made their way to the Virgin Islands and the islands of the West Indies.

Judge Naar was born on the Island of St. Thomas November 10, 1800. At the age of 15, he was sent to the United States to receive his education. After completing his studies, he returned home and was employed in a large exporting and importing establishment. In later years he conducted a business of his own.

In 1834 he became a resident of New York City, and in the next few years he settled on a farm near Elizabeth. He at once made himself felt in the life of the community and in 1843 was appointed one of the lay judges of the Court of Common Pleas, Essex County. From 1845 to 1848 he was United States Consul at St. Thomas.

An able political speaker, he won for himself in New Jersey the sobriquet "War Horse of Democracy." He figured largely in the early life of Trenton. His special interest was education, and he was an ardent advocate of public education. He was a promoter of the present school system. At one time he was Clerk of the Assembly, and from 1865 to 1866 he was State Treasurer. Judge Naar died February 24, 1880.

Moses D. Naar was born in 1836, in New York City, and came to Trenton in 1856 to assist his uncle, Judge Naar, in the publication of the True American. Afterward he was senior partner in the firm of Naar, Day & Naar, and for several years he was editor of the True American.

Moses Naar was a brilliant scholar, a master of four languages and a reader of Sanskrit. He was of a literary turn of mind, and devoted much of his spare time to literature and the writing of short stories. During his association with his uncle he studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1869. He was admitted counsellor in 1873. Mr. Naar is the author of the law work, "Election and Suffrage."

In the field of law Moses Naar showed great promise, and had not his health failed at a time when he was making rapid advancement, there is little doubt that he would have been a distinguished member of the legal profession. He died January 10, 1885.

Joseph L. Naar, third of the family

Photo by courtesy of Trenton Public Library

JOSEPH L. NAAR

Fearless editor and last of his family to direct the destinies of the True American, which during his regime was a staunch organ of Democracy.

to assume the editorship of the True American, was born October 23, 1842, near Elizabeth. Like his father, Judge David Naar, he was a man of remarkable energy and a strong advocate of Democratic principles. Under his control, the True American continued for years as the State organ of

Democracy. Like his father, also, he wielded a mighty and fearless pen.

Governor George C. Ludlow, in 1881, appointed Mr. Naar his secretary, a position he held until 1884. He was one of the secretaries to the State Constitutional Convention of 1873, and the sole secretary to the State Constitutional Convention of 1894.

Mr. Naar took a great interest, in public welfare. He was one of the original members of the Trenton Free Public Library, and served as a trustee of Mercer Hospital. He died September 19, 1905.

Joshua S. Day, in charge of the financial department of the firm of Naar, Day & Naar, was born in New York City, March 4, 1828. Early in life he established a newspaper route for the New York Sun, then under control of Moses Y. Beach. Leaving his native place, he removed to Elizabeth, where he entered the mercantile business with his father, Thomas Day. Upon request of Judge David Naar, in 1855, he came to Trenton and was employed in the business department of the True American. When Judge Naar retired, he selected Mr. Day as the person to associate with his son and nephew in the new firm.

Mr. Day died February 9, 1885, in the 51st year of his age. He was then the oldest member of the firm of Naar, Day and Naar.

Francis Bazley Lee, lawyer and historian, and Harry A. Donnelly, brother of Mayor Frederick W. Donnelly, were two quite noted members of the True American staff. Lee was an editorial writer who also contributed extensively to Trenton newspapers, in the form of special articles. He took a great interest in public affairs and was an advocate of converting the land in back of the State House into Stacy Park. He was a native Trentonian, son of Benjamin F. Lee, for years clerk of the Chancery Court.

Mr. Donnelly was employed on the True American, State Gazette, Trenton Times and Sunday Times-Advertiser.

CHAPTER VII

The Miscellany, The Union, The Crisis, The Trenton Argus.

Stepping back to the beginning of the 19th century, one finds James Oram, printer and bookseller, launching The Miscellany. The new publication was issued June 2, 1805, four years after the first Trenton True American began its eventful career. It was published in the printing shop at Broad and State Streets, where Isaac Collins had published his New Jersey Gazette and where Mathias Day had put out the State Gazette and New Jersey Advertiser.

The Miscellany was a literary paper. In the words of its publisher it "was for the advancement of useful knowledge, in its several departments, and the promotion of religious and moral principles." One of the few copies of this tiny paper that has been handed down through the years is owned by the Trenton Free Public Library. By mere chance this happens to be an initial copy.

None of the Trenton histories lists the Miscellany nor in all probability does it appear in any other published work. The rare copy belonging to the Library is a four-page paper, 9 by 11 inches, containing only one advertisement or notice. That is the publisher's own. Literary material, obituaries and few items of news make up this modest journal.

In making his bow to the public, Oram pledged that "the future numbers of the Miscellany shall not be inferior to the present in point of general execution." He had many interesting features to offer, and as a special inducement for patronage he promised to give a general index free at the end of the year. The subscription price for the paper, evidently a weekly, was "$1.50 per annum, transmitted to subscribers who resided at a distance by mail (at their expense)."

Just how long "The Miscellany" lived is not known. There is no doubt that the publisher had secured some subscribers before the paper was founded.

Oram became the occupant of the Collins printing shop in 1804. In 1810 he removed to a building that stood on the west side of Warren Street on a part of the site of the Lincoln Theatre.

James Oram is believed to have come to Trenton from New York City. He was probably the "James Oram" who published "The New York Prices Current," one of the first market papers in the country, in that city in the 1790's. Like Isaac Collins, he was the publisher of a number of noteworthy books which bear the Trenton imprint.

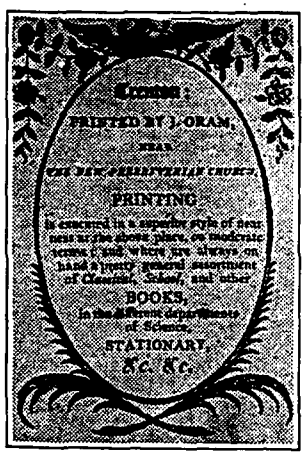


Photo by courtesy of Trenton Public Library

EDITOR'S ADVERTISEMENT

Notice by J. Oram, owner and publisher of the Miscellany, as it appeared in his paper established for "the advancement of useful knowledge . . . and the promotion of religious and moral principles."

In the period between 1831 and 1880 there appeared some twenty or more Trenton newspapers, all des-

tined to a precarious existence and a swift end. Most of them were admittedly political journals, established to espouse the cause of some party or candidate.

The first group of these was published between 1831 and 1846, when the Trenton Daily News was launched. It survived three years, finally being merged with the revived True American. From then until the advent of the Trenton Evening Times, in 1882, the Trenton public watched an ever-changing procession of newspapers.

Chronologically the first of ephemeral journals was The Union, which in its brief existence suffered a rapid and continuous change of editors and publishers. It is said to have been a Whig paper, although comparatively little is known of it. It was published Saturday evenings. Frederic P. Sheldon is believed to have been the founder, at any rate he was editor when the paper was published July 23, 1831.

In 1832, or probaly earlier, the paper was called The National Union. Philip J. Gray, subsequently editor and publisher of the Camden West Jerseyman, was editor and proprietor of the paper in that year. Publication offices were then in the former residence of Abraham Hunt, at the northwest corner of Warren and State Streets, where the Hessian commander, Colonel Rall, was entertained Christmas night, 1776. The entrance to the offices, the paper announced, was the "first door in Second Street."

Gray was succeeded as editor and owner of The National Union by Messrs. Adams and Buffington, with Elisha B. Adams as editor. Later Mr. Buffington left the firm and the paper was continued by Mr. Adams, who changed the title to New Jersey Democrat. It was not a profitable enterprise, apparently, while under Mr. Adams' ownership, and he disposed of it to a group of Whigs. Allan N. Wilson was probably the last editor and publisher. In later years Wilson conducted an out-of-town paper, the Belvidere Apollo, and was identified with the Somerset Whig.

The Crisis

Following closely upon the Union was The Crisis, a campaign paper of which little is known. It made its brief appearance in 1832. According to an article in the State Gazette of January 1, 1857, the Crisis was established to advocate the candidacy of Henry Clay for the office of President. The need of the paper past, the sheet vanished.

The Trenton Argus

The Trenton Argus, or The Argus, is another of several Trenton newspapers with an obscure history. It is said to have been an organ for the Trenton and Philadelphia Railroad, and the State Gazette fixes the year of its beginning as 1830. On the other hand, Raum's History of Trenton and Woodward and Hageman's History of Burlington and Mercer Counties, give the date as 1835. From what little is known of the journal, it is believed that it was founded in 1835, and passed out of existence the following year.

An article in the Gazette, January 1, 1857, on local newspapers, gives the following brief account of this obscure paper:

"The Trenton Argus began about 1830 by the Philadelphia and Trenton Railroad Company. At that time this railroad was distinct from the Camden and Amboy, and there was a rivalry between them for influence with the Legislature. The Philadelphia and Trenton Company purchased stock in the Straight Turnpike Company (Brunswick Road), and desired to connect their road with the New Jersey road at New Brunswick and to advocate this was one of the objects of this newspaper. It is believed to have been a Democratic publication.

"Benjamin Van Cleve, a lawyer, was its principal editor, although Edward Curtis, of New York, contributed to its columns. The rivalry between the two companies finally ended by the purchase of one of the companies and the Argus merged with the Emporium, now called the True American."

The Argus was published in a large brick building, East Front Street, near Broad Street. Peter Lott, a native of Trenton, was identified with the publication. Years later he left Trenton for Illinois and at outbreak of the War with Mexico he was captain of a company of volunteers that left for the front from that State. For several years he was superintendent of the United States Mint in California.

It was in the period that the Argus was published that the famous "Room No. 100," at the Trenton House, received its name. That particular room was the headquarters for the Camden and Amboy lobbyists who selected the number as one easy to remember since the hostelry in those days did not have a hundred rooms.

CHAPTER VIII

The Daily Emporium and True American.

The first attempt to establish a daily newspaper in Trenton was made in 1839, during the so-called "Broad Seal War," one of the bitterest controversies in Jersey history. The fight centered around a contested election between the Whigs and Democrats, and obtained national significance when the majorities of these two parties in Congress depended upon the election results in New Jersey.

Believing that sufficient interest had been aroused in the controversy to support a newspaper, the publishers of the Emporium and True American, on October 28, 1839, issued a proposal to likely subscribers to print a daily. This announcement called for the support and aid of "political friends" to make the enterprise a success.

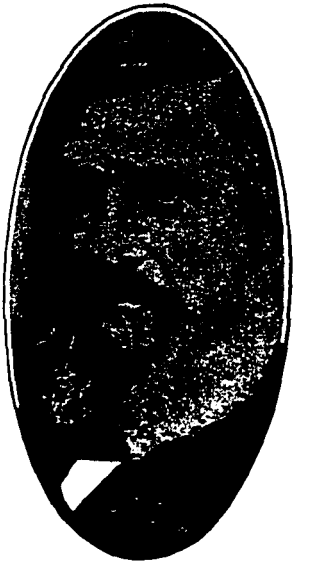
The promise was made that the paper would "contain the latest proceedings of the State and National Legislatures, and the latest news of the day, together with a variety of literary and miscellaneous matter." December 2 was given as the date of the first issue. The subscription price was "five dollars per annum, payable in advance, or six dollars at the end of the year."

In compliance with this promise, Trenton's first daily came from the press of the Emporium and True American December 2. Joseph Justice, Jr., and Franklin S. Mills were the publishers; Mills and Dr. Daniel Levy Maduro Peixotto, an eminent scholar, journalist and physician, of New York City, were editors.

The exact title of this publication is in doubt, for no copies of the newspaper are known to exist. The proposal leads one to believe that its full name was The Daily Emporium and True American. Raum in his History of Trenton alludes to it as The Trenton Daily. Lee and other local historical writers do the same.

On the other hand the title given in the proposal is corroborated in part by the Gazette of 1839, which calls it "The Daily Emporium," evidently omitting the presumed full title for reasons that go back to the time when the "True American" was purchased by the Gazette owners. At any rate, whatever the title may have been, this paper was practically a daily issue of the "Emporium and True American."

The new paper went to a small but worthy list of subscribers. Even the Gazette, which had no special love for The Emporium since the day it



FRANKLIN S. MILLS

One of most picturesque figures in Trenton journalism, at various times reporter, publisher and owner, associated with innumerable Trenton papers. Mr. Mills was also Mayor of Trenton and member of the State Assembly.

appropriated the name "True American," was impressed with the new paper's fine appearance, and gave it a good mention, questioning, however, the ability of the enterprise to last "for any length of time on such a scale." Dr. Peixotto, Mr. Mills introduced to the readers by Mr. Mills as "a gentleman of superior qualifications and one of the best political writers of the present day," was extended a cordial greeting by the Gazette, which said:

"Dr Peixotto himself, makes a not an ungraceful bow to the public, indicates an inclination to grapple with principles rather than quarrel with men, and promises to all conductors of the press the extension in public, of that courtesy, which has ever been observed in private life.

"We respect that editor who respects himself enough to determine that he will observe in public, as well as in private, the rules of intercourse observed among persons of respectability. We will waive, therefore, whatever feelings of repugnance the character of the Emporium in past lives, may be have existed in us (sic) and tender to the new editor those courtesies which are due to a stranger and a gentleman."

Possessed of a scholarly pen, Dr. Peixotto zealously began to edit the newspaper, which won favorable comment both for its printing and style. His efforts, however, were unrewarded, for Trenton was still a small town, and was not yet ready for such an innovation as a daily newspaper. On March 2, 1840, just three months after its first issue, the paper ceased publication, perishing for the want of subscribers. The Gazette's warning became a fact, and the first efforts to establish a daily in Trenton failed.

Concerning the demise of this paper, the Gazette had the following to say:

"Daily Emporium—The publication of this paper as we learn from this morning's number is, this day, suspended. The publishers say 'the patronage received is not sufficient to warrant its future publication.' It is said they have already lost $800. They promise, however, that as soon as 1,000 subscribers are obtained 'the publication of the paper will be resumed in a larger and otherwise improved form'.

"The result is not unexpected to us, though we regret that the anticipations of the publishers have been disappointed. Whether they will be able to obtain 1,000 subscribers, they, of course, are best sole to judge; though we are certain, that subscriptions obtained on mere party grounds, would not be likely to continue."

In April, 1900, sixty years after the daily paper suspended publication, Henry B Howell was the only survivor of those who had subscribed to the publication. Mr. Howell had seen the beginning of nearly every daily newspaper published in Trenton.

Both Mills and Dr. Peixotto had an interesting association with Trenton newspapers. Mr. Mills was an entertaining character in the public eye for many years not only as a newspaper man but as a political leader and Mayor of Trenton. He was identified with many newspaper ventures in the city.

Mr. Mills was born February 26, 1815, in Reading, Penna. While a young lad he was a post boy, carrying mail and weekly newspapers to rural districts in that section of the State. Later he became an apprentice in a West Chester printing shop, where Bayard Taylor, poet and writer, was once employed.

As a young man in his early twenties, after completing his time at the printer's trade, Mr. Mills came to Trenton and was associated with Joseph Justice, Jr., printer and publisher. In after years he was connected with numerous printing shops and publishing enterprises and when times were dull in those lines he worked in the town brickyards. In the beginning of his career in the newspaper publishing field, it was not unusual for him to gather the news, write it up and then set it in type, in much the same manner that village weeklies are produced today.

As an editor and reporter Mills gained for himself the name of "Steeple Crown," probably because of the high hat that he wore. For many years he was the Trenton representative of the Associated Press, and was the first to hold a seat in that capacity in the New Jersey Legislature.

A staunch Democrat and an entertaining speaker with a fund of knowledge, Mills was a popular figure not only at political meetings, but also at gatherings of various kinds. His first public office of note was as Chief Burgess of the Borough of South Trenton. He was Mayor of Trenton several times, was a member of council and served one term in the State Assembly. He died November 25, 1885.

Dr. Daniel Levy Maduro Peixotto, born July 18, 1800, was the eldest son of Moses Levy Maduro Peixotto, noted Rabbi and merchant. He was graduated from Columbia College in 1819

with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Later he was one of the editors of the New York "Medical and Physical Journal" and of "Gregory's Practice," and a contributor to the newspapers and periodicals of his time. He was especially well known in the newspaper field for his political writings. Beside being editor of "The True American," of New York City, he was also associated with the "New York Mirror."

Dr. Peixotto also gained distinction as a physician, and was prominent in several medical societies. For several years he was president of Willoughby Medical College. He died in 1843.

CHAPTER IX

Temperance Newspapers and The Plaindealer.

The temperance movement in the eighteen forties and fifties led to the publication of at least three newspapers in Trenton in those two decades.

The New Jersey Temperance Herald, the first of them, was founded in 1844 by William M. Whitely, in the printing office of the Sheet Anchor of Democracy in Warren Street. The initial issue was May 30, according to an item in the Sheet Anchor, Thursday, April 4, which reads:

"The New Jersey Temperance Herald, a new paper, made its appearance in this city on Saturday. It was edited by William M. Whitely and presents a very favorable appearance. It is well worth the patronage of the temperance community."

Soon after the paper was founded the publication office was removed to a building on the south side of East State Street, between Broad and Warren Streets. Lee's History of Trenton says that its life was short.

James S. Yard, son of Captain Joseph Ashton Yard, was founder of the New Jersey Weekly Visitor and Temperance Sentinel, the second of the Trenton papers to advocate temperance. Three months later his brother, Benjamin F. Yard, became associated with him, and from then on for a number of years the brothers were active in the publishing world.

James removed from the city not long after his brother entered the Weekly Visitor office, and in 1847 he sold the paper to Benjamin, who published it until it went out of existence in 1851 or 1852.

James Sterling Yard had been a bookkeeper for his father who was then in the auction business. Later he became an apprentice in the printing trade in the True American shop.

In 1848, the year after he sold out the New Jersey Weekly Visitor and Temperance Herald at Trenton, he published for an association at Williamsborough, Long Island, a campaign paper called the Kings County Democrat. Two years afterward he assisted his brother Benjamin to establish the Ocean Signal at Tom's River. He also founded the Village Record at Hightstown and in 1854 purchased the Monmouth Democrat. His last paper seems to have been the Long Branch News, which he founded and conducted for several years.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Mr. Yard was commissioned major of the Third New Jersey militia. He was State Commissioner of Railroad Taxation from 1873 to 1883, and in 1878 he was appointed Deputy Quartermaster General by Governor McClellan.

The Reformer and New Jersey Temperance Advocate, last of the temperance newspapers, began as a monthly publication, November, 1851. The paper was founded by a local association, with Henry B. Howell named as publishing agent. Subsequently Mr. Howell became the proprietor and editor. In 1852, the Rev. T. Crane was corresponding editor. He resigned during the year. In later issues the name of E. W. Jackson appears as assistant editor.

The paper subsequently was issued twice a month and later it appeared weekly.

Henry B. Howell was the most distinguished of Trenton's temperance advocates. He was the leading figure in the local organization of the Sons of Temperance and for many years aided the cause both with labor and money. He had a cheerful disposition and was of a philanthropic turn of mind. In 1856 he was one of the members of the association that launched The Republican for the cause of Freemont and Dayton, Republican candidates for the presidency and vice presidency.

For many years Mr. Howell conducted a small toy shop on the west side of Warren Street, near Front Street. With his snow-white hair and under-chin beard, he was not unlike Kris Kingle, and he has been referred to as Trenton's "patron saint of childhood." As most of his stock in trade consisted of penny goods, his place was popular with the children, and through the many years he kept the shop he acquired the name of "Penny" Howell. He died at the advanced age of 92 at a short distance from his toy store.

The Plaindealer (also written "Plain

Dealer," in newspaper references to it) was an anti-monopoly paper, founded in 1845 or in the two years following. Lee, in his "History of Trenton," claims it began in 1845, and names Joseph C. Potts and John C. Webster as the founders. On the other hand, Raum, in his "History of Trenton," gives Joseph C. Potts and Gregory A. Perdicaris as the founders. As far as is known at this time not a single copy of The Plaindealer has been unearthed, and it is doubtful if an accurate account of the beginning of the paper will be written until some early issues are brought to light.

In 1847, Messrs. Potts and Perdicaris were the owners and publishers. Mr. Potts, a lawyer, was at one time associated with the Trenton Gas Light Company and other local business concerns. He was editor and publisher of the New Jersey Register, a law publication. He was also an incorporator of the Mercer Cemetery Company.

The Plaindealer was discontinued when it was merged with the Trenton Daily News.

CHAPTER X

Campaign Papers—Democratic Union, Sheet Anchor of Democracy, The Clay Banner and The True Democrat.

George T. Olmstead, independent candidate for sheriff of Mercer County, had the assistance of the Democratic Union in his campaign. In fact the paper was issued in 1843 solely to promote his election. Raum, in his History of Trenton, says that Mr. Olmstead ran on the first irregular ticket ever put before the voters in this county.

When Captain Joseph Yard, new owner of the Emporium and True American, converted his paper into a Tyler journal in 1843, the Democracy of the State was aroused. The move was so entirely at variance with the desires of most of the party leaders, who were supporters of General Lewis Cass for the office of President, that they requested Franklin S. Mills to launch an opposition paper. This he did. The new paper had the significant name of The Sheet Anchor of Democracy.

Late in March or early April, Mr. Mills issued his prospectus of the proposed new newspaper. The Gazette commenting on the proposal remarked that Mills, late editor of the Emporium, "has issued a prospectus of a new weekly and tri-weekly . . . determined that Tyler men shall not have the exclusive privilege."

The Sheet Anchor came from the press Tuesday, April 25.* Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays were publication days for the tri-weekly editions, and Fridays for the weekly. The tri-weekly sold for two cents a copy.

Encouraged by its reception, Mills issued the paper April 29 of the following year in larger size. The tri-weekly publication days were then Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Another year and Trenton had seen the last of the Sheet Anchor. Mr. Mills informed his public July 11, 1845, that his interest in the journal would cease the following day. He had sold it and the printing shop to Robert Gosman, who had been connected with the editorial department for three months. Gosman, in the same issue, announced that he would continue the newspaper, but under the name of The Trenton Journal. This came out in weekly and tri-weekly editions, but the tri-weekly was suspended in March or April, 1846. It is said that the weekly was eventually merged with the Emporium and True American.

Shortly before Mr. Mills sold the paper he had printed in it a business directory of Trenton, probably the first of its kind in the town. Trenton had no regular City Directory until 1854-55.

Charles W. Jay entered the field of newspaper publishing in 1844, with a vigorous Whig paper advocating Henry Clay for President in opposition to James K. Polk. Like other campaign papers, the existence of the Clay Banner was very brief. The paper, published at 5 Second Street, had as its motto, "Never despair of the Republic." A single copy dated July 17, 1844, is owned by the New Jersey Historical Society. That reveals its price, for it contains the announcement "Terms 50 cents until Henry Clay is elected president."

Of the fifty or more newspapers that have been published in Trenton, The True Democrat undoubtedly had the shortest life. Its first issue was also its last, for as its founder later remarked, "a capital of 30 dollars was not sufficient basis upon which to found a newspaper permanently."

Yet in spite of its brief existence and its slight capital investment, the True Democrat managed to achieve national fame. This came through running the name of General Zachary Taylor, a candidate for President, on the banner head. In fact the paper, according to an article that appeared November 15, 1848, in the State Gazette, was founded for the sole purpose of advancing the claims of General Taylor as a presidential candidate. The paper made its first and last appearance March 27, 1846.

Either Charles W. Jay or Franklin S. Mills was the founder of the True Democrat, of which no existing copies are known. In the State Gazette article, written by the True Democrat's founder, he claimed that the

*State Gazette, April 27, 1843.

paper was the first in the United States to name General Taylor for President. Furthermore he contended that it was at a public meeting held in Trenton June 10, 1846, that the "hero of Alto and Resaca de la Palma" was first nominated for the high office. He defended his assertion against a claim of the Boston Herald that on April 10, 1847, it was the first to predict that the General would be the next President and another claim advanced by the Whigs of Iowa that they nominated General Taylor February 22 1847.

A bit of research has revealed that General Taylor was nominated at a public meeting held at East Ward Hotel, Trenton, or the evening of June 10, 1847. The resolution, written at that time by Charles W. Jay, follows in part:

"Resolved—That we, the citizens of Trenton, here assembled, without strict party lines do nominate General Zachary Taylor, the hero of Palo Alto, and Resaca de la Palma, to the Presidency of the United States, and that we hereby united all true hearted Republicans to unite with us in our efforts to elevate a brave soldier, a successful General, and a true Republican, to that office."

Franklin S. Mills was secretary of this meeting.

The history of the True Democrat is not entirely clear. There was published in the Gazette, June 8, 1847, a proposal by Charles W. Jay to print a paper to be called The True Democrat. In view of the statement made by the writer of the Gazette article November 15, 1848, these must have been two separate ventures. In the late eighteen fifties another newspaper, also called the True Democrat, entered the field, but that is another story.

CHAPTER XI

The Trenton Daily News.

The old subscription plan of publishing newspapers was superceded for the first time in Trenton in 1846. Just six months to the day after the first daily had suspended publication —March 2, 1846—a small paper, published on a cash basis at one cent a copy, appeared in the town streets The innovation seems to have immediately found favor with the public, and the publication gained rapidly in circulation and lived for many years.*

The Trenton Daily News, which is generally conceded to be Trenton's second daily paper, was founded by Franklin S. Mills, in association with Samuel Ralph Glenn. Mills had been prominently identified with the first daily. Glenn was an able newspaperman, who, after leaving the News, was employed as a reporter by the Plaindealer. At times he served as editor for that paper. When he left Trenton he went to Boston, following a newspaper career until some time in the eighteen fifties when he held the office of United States Despatch Agent there.

Their paper was published in a printing office on the east side of Warren Street, between State and Front Streets. In commenting upon its birth, the Gazette of March 2, 1846, says: "The Trenton Daily News, a penny paper, makes its appearance today. It looks well."

The early numbers bore the motto: "Open to all Parties—Favors to None."

The story of the struggle to establish the Daily News as told by Mr. Mills in the State Gazette, December 9, 1856, is a worthy narrative of the time of prolific newspaper publishing. His account reads:

"The sheet was a little more than one-fourth of the size of the Daily Gazette, but was neatly printed on a small type, and contained daily a good abstract of the local and general news, and a well-written leader from the pen of Mr. Robert Gosman, who was also editor of the Trenton Journal, printed in the same office. The Daily News was started on the cash plan and sold for a cent a number. It obtained a circulation of some seventeen or eighteen hundred, which is the largest number of subscribers ever enjoyed by a daily paper in this city. The advertising patronage, however, was but small, and the firm frequently labored under 'severe pecuniary embarrassment'—so much so that there were many times when the journal was on the verge of suspension for the want of paper on which to print it. Paper was a cash article in those days, and as cash was the very thing of which the Daily News was short, the proprietors only bought enough at one time for one issue, and even then the purchase was frequently delayed until 9 or 10 o'clock in the evening. But the money never failed to be obtained from some quarter, and the Daily News appeared with the regularity of the sun."

In conjunction with the daily, Messrs. Mills and Glenn issued a weekly paper entitled "The Dollar Weekly News," so-called because the price of subscription was a dollar a year.

It is doubtful if any copy of this paper is in existence. Even mention of it is very rare. In an odd copy of the Daily News, July 2, 1846, owned by the Trenton Free Public Library, appears the following:

"'The Dollar Weekly News' of tomorrow will be an unusually rich number. This interesting family newspaper is gradually growing into popularity. Price only One Dollar a year."

In the Fall or earlier the Daily News was removed to a small printing shop on the south side of Hanover Street between Broad and Warren Streets. The late Joseph Trier, who was employed in the shop when a boy, mentions the place in his reminiscences published in the Sunday Times Advertiser more than ten years ago.

Shortly after the paper was founded, Mr. Glenn left the firm, and late in the same year (1846) Mr. Mills sold the enterprise to William B. Brittain and Edward C. Jones, then the publishers of "The Emporium and True American." At the time of the purchase the Emporium was united with the Newark Evening Post with Samuel G. Arnold, a capable

newspaperman, as editor. Arnold was retained in the editorial chair, and both papers were continued by the new owners.†

With the issue of March 29, 1847, the paper appeared in enlarged size, bearing the names of Arnold and Brittain, publishers, and with special announcement to its subscribers:

"The constantly increasing patronage bestowed upon our little unpretending sheet warrants us in 'annexing more territory' to its domains, thus keeping pace with the everlasting Anglo-Saxon spirit of the age."

The paper was then published at Second and Greene, now State and Broad Streets, the same corner where Isaac Collins had his printing office.

The "Trenton Daily News" was then printed on a power press whose running so annoyed the tenant in the adjoining office that he obtained an injunction prohibiting the proprietors from operating the mechanism, setting forth in his petition that his rest was disturbed and his house damaged by the vibration.

The proprietors had been for some time contemplating a removal to other quarters, but the action of the enraged tenant, hastened their decision, and late in October the press was removed to a building in the rear of Isaac Dunn's Sash and Blind Factory, on the north side of State Street along Petty's Run. Early in December the office was removed to the same place.

Mr. Dunn lost no time in making good use of the new enterprise as a landmark to designate the location of his factory, as indicated in one of his advertisements in the State Gazette in 1848:

"Sash & Blind Factory, No. 46 West State Street, near the State House and in front of the office of the 'Trenton Daily News'. I. Dunn."

In removing to the vicinity of Petty's Run, the proprietors of the Daily News decided upon a cheap and singular means to operate the press. A water wheel was brought into use and the water of the little stream furnished the power, the first and only printing press ever operated in this manner in Trenton.

The late John Briest, founder of the second Emporium in Trenton, in speaking of the unique plant of the Daily News, in his reminiscences published in a local paper years ago, gives it the following mention:

"While the paper (Trenton Daily News) was in possession of Brittain and Jones they purchased a second-hand Hoe flat-bed press which would print four pages of the Daily News and State Gazette at one impression, and put it in a building in the rear of Dunn's sash and blind factory on Willow Street where it was run by water power from Petty's Run which was then an open stream of some force. In the season of freshets the water often caused considerable trouble and delayed the issue of the papers."

One of the freshets referred to by Mr. Briest is mentioned by the State Gazette of June 21, 1848. The newspaper reports that the office of the Daily News had been flooded the previous day, with damage to materials resulting in the non-publication of the paper. On this occasion Petty's Run had done considerable damage in its course through Trenton from Clossen's turning mill on Pennington Avenue to the Delaware River.

Joseph C. Potts and Gregory A. Perdicaris were proprietors of "The Plaindealer," an anti-monopoly newspaper especially opposed to the joint companies, Camden and Amboy Railroad-Delaware and Raritan Canal consolidation and their appendages, when in 1847, it engaged in a battle with the "Trenton Daily News." This was "the most malignant, vindictive and venemous that we ever remember to have read or seen," says The State Gazette, November 28, 1856, in a review of the life of the Emporium.

"Each represented his opponent as dishonest, corrupt and treacherous, and mutually accused each other of all the crimes known, besides some especially invented for the occasion."

It must be remembered that the journalism of the day was intensely personal and it was not infrequent for editors on opposite sides of an issue to engage in verbal sparring matches, the character of which makes present-day newspaper writing tame. These old newspaper files would shock many a modern reader. Editors called a spade by its right name and always had a reserve stock of names to fall back upon. The wonder of it is that they managed to keep out of jail.

While the forces on both sides were lining up for the fray, "Charlie" Jay, town wit and satirist who was continually in a wrangle, made a timely appearance as reporter for the Daily News. Always ready for a good fight, Jay lost no time in getting into action. When he entered upon his

†History of Trenton, Vol. 2, p. 782.--Sketch of Emporium, State Gazette, November 28, 1856.

duties, "The Plaindealer," greeted him by saying "that farmer—not John—but Jay, had been listed as 'Captain of the Organ'." The rebuke then went on to remark that Mr. Arnold, editor of the paper, "had been reduced to the rank of first lieutenant," and "Mr. B.", referring to William B. Brittain, one of the owners, "to the rank of second lieutenant."

During the course of the battle, the Daily News alluded to Mr. Potts as the "Turk," the "legal pick-pocket" and "limber conscience," and Mr. Perdicaris was called "Perdicurious or Grace of the Potts, and "Perdi, the Greek, or Potts' bull-headed man, Friday." On the other hand "The Plaindealer" called Jay a "rowdy with the honesty of a highwayman."

Samuel Ralph Glenn, who was a reporter for "The Plaindealer," after he left the Daily News, was a special target for Jay's sharp shafts of satire. Glenn, nowever, was fairly good at throwing mud, and he once remarked that:

"Thick skulls are by no means a rare commodity in the region of the Daily News office." This, of course, brought a quick retort from Jay, who was probably the most individual and therefore the most interesting of all of Trenton's early journalists. With a witty and satiric pen, which he seemed frequently to dip in vitriol, he managed to keep the town either in a state of fury or uproar nearly all of the time. As venturesome as he was fearless, he was probably the founder of more journals of short duration than any editor of his day in New Jersey.

Stories of unlimited number could be told of some of Jay's escapades. On one occasion a Jersey City editor and poet, whose verses had been mercilessly ridiculed by Jay, made a special trip to Trenton to chastise the local iconoclast. Jay met his enemy with an invitation to take a nip from his favorite flask, and before the day was over the two more embracing each other with terms of endearment and occasional bursts of song. This was the beginning of a life-long friendship.

Jay loved to fight so well that it never mattered to which side he lent his talents. As a Republican editor he could dart the editorial rapier toward the Democrats just as effectively as he did toward the Republicans when he took the Democratic side. To him journalism was truly a game in which the player had as much fun as his audience.

Jay was born at Lamberton, now a part of Trenton. As a boy he worked in the local brickyards.

In a little book, "My New Home in Northern Michigan," Jay summed up his journalistic career:

"I wrote as the humor happened to direct or necessity impelled. Careless of what I said, indifferent to public opinion, reckless of the effect upon my personal interest, I 'went in' on the Irish injunction of 'wherever you see a head, hit it'."

He died in Michigan, December 9, 1884. While still living in Trenton he was City Clerk in 1849-50.

Despite all the apparent bitterness engendered by several months of verbal "mud slinging," the owners of the two papers joined hands and discontinued the publication of "The Plaindealer." Concerning this purchase the Gazette in its review of the Emporium had the following to say:

"Notwithstanding all this (the battle between the two papers), the 'cohesive power of public plunder' brought them together. The Plaindealer was an anti-monopoly journal of the fiercest kind, while the real owners of the True American (Emporium and True American) were gentlemen largely interested in the work of the joint companies, but even this did not prove any obstacle in the way of union and accordingly on the 21st of September (1847), the day before the meeting of the Democratic State Convention the last number of the Plaindealer was issued with an announcement that all breeches had been healed and that 'local causes should no longer divide Democracy of the State'."

When the merger took place, Mr. Arnold resigned as editor and Brittain and Jones retired as active members of the firm. Mr. Brittain became identified with other publishing interests. He died in Philadelphia Dec. 6, 1857. He was at the time, a resident of Ewing Township. Potts and Perdicaris "assumed the editorial control and nominal partnership."*

Mr. Perdicaris, a native of Greece, came to the United States when he was a young man, settling in Boston. He had been in the country but a few years when he began the study of law. In 1837 he was appointed United States Consul to Greece. Resigning his consulship in 1845 he returned to his adopted land. In the next year he came to Trenton and

*Sketch of Emporium, State Gazette, Nov. 28, 1856.

was soon identified with a number of enterprises in the town. He died in Tangiers, Morocco, April 18, 1883, and was buried in the European Cemetery in that city.

As an American citizen living in Morocco, his son, Ion Hanford Perdicaris, gained international notice in 1904 when he was captured and held for ransom by the bandit chief Raisuli. "Perdicaris alive or Raisuli dead," was the famous ultimatum issued by President Roosevelt, which reulted in the freedom of the prisoner.

Charley Jay had been off the staff of the Daily News since June, leaving at that time with the expectation of joining the army for Mexico. On January 1, 1849, Potts and Perdicaris bought the Brittain and Jones interest and after a transfer of shares held by others was made, the former proprietors of The Plaindealer became sole owners of the Daily News-Emporium newspapers.† Mr. Mills then a reporter for the News was relieved of his position by the new owners. Potts and Perdicaris were eventually succeeded by Samuel J. Bayard, a newspaperman of wide experience.

During the life of the "Trenton Daily News" the conflict broke out with Mexico, and for the first time war extras were issued in Trenton, each paper fighting to be the first to get an issue on the streets. News of the engagements at Buena Vista, Saltillo and Monterey were featured.

†State Gazette, January 1, 1849.

The race between the Daily News, Gazette and Plaindealer was keen, and the News on May 10, 1847, said with enthusiasm:

"On Saturday last by special express for the Daily News, which was brought from Bristol in less than forty minutes, we were enabled to get out an extra containing the important news of the victory at Cerro Gordo, in advance of the other papers of this city. . . ."

In the evening the office "was splendidly illuminated in commemoration of the several battles by our brave soldiers in Mexico."

Early in November, 1849, Morris R. Hamilton came into possession of the Daily News-Emporium papers. At the time the announcement of the purchase was made the publication office was at 40 Greene (Broad) Street, next door to the City Hall. The printing shop, it would seem, had not yet been removed from the building on Petty's Run, for Mr. Briest in his published reminiscences concerning that place says that "when Mr. Hamilton purchased the paper he put in a second-hand press with double cylinders, which was run with a walk-around horse power, the horse having been used for a similar power by Samuel McClurg in his porter and ale brewery on Broad Street, opposite Academy."

Soon after the purchase was made, the Emporium and Daily News both lost their identity as separate papers, and out of this merger came the revived "True American," a daily and weekly publication.

CHAPTER XII

The Jeffersonian, Daily Trentonian, Daily True Democrat, Republican Privateer, Mercer Standard and Daily Republican

Between 1848 and 1882 when the Trenton Evening Times brought an afternoon journal to the people of Trenton, more than a score of newspapers were established here. Few of them survived any length of time, and little is known of most of them.

When Martin VanBuren was the Free Soil Party candidate for the presidency in 1848, Franklin S. Mills and Alexander M. Johnston published The Jeffersonian to advance his cause. Like many of these vanished campaign sheets, a copy of The Jeffersonian would be a rarity today. The Gazette on December 9, 1856, said of it:

"It was a spicy sheet and labored energetically for the success of its doomed candidates. It was published for about three months, and then the election being over, was finally discontinued."

The Daily Trentonian followed the Jeffersonian. It was published by Charles W. Jay, Franklin S. Mills and Joseph Justice, Jr., who issued it from the famous publishing corner at State and Broad Streets. The initial number of the paper was issued November 15, 1849. The next day the Gazette said:

"The Daily Trentonian made its appearance yesterday, full of life, vivacity and humor. We welcome it cheerfully into existence, and will bear an occasional rap at its hand, in consideration of the fun we expect to find in its columns."

An article in the Gazette, December 9, 1856, says that the Trentonian was a "Democratic paper and regarded as the Thomson branch of the party." Furthermore, it says, "nearly its whole career was a campaign against the Daily News or True American . . . a war which was bitterly personal, and which led to some fierce attacks from the other side."

The paper lived for a year or more when it suspended publication. Subsequently it was revived by Jay in conjunction with Israel Wells and Asher Beatty, but soon passed out of existence.

The True Democrat, a penny daily afternoon paper, was launched November 11, 1857, by Augustus Green and John Briest, Jr. Benjamin Moorhouse was the reporter. The office of publication was 35 East State Street.

On January 30 of the next year Mr. Green, who was the editor, retired, his successor being Mr. F. F. Patterson. In February the office was removed to the fourth story, Cook Building, next door to the City Hall. In April Mr. Patterson left the business and the publication of the paper was continued by Mr. Briest. On June 12 it suspended publication.

Then came the Daily True Democrat, the older True Democrat revived. The first issue was put out September 13, 1858, when a new numeration was begun. F. F. Patterson was the new editor and publisher. He had been connected with the old paper as editor. The office of the publication was 48 West State Street.

In conjunction with the Daily True Democrat, Mr. Patterson ran a weekly, called the Weekly True Democrat. Later others were associated with him in the publication of these two newspapers, and the firm was known as Patterson and Company. In 1859 J. Madison Drake was reporter for the daily.

In one of the existing odd numbers of the early sixties appears this motto: "If any one attempts to pull down the American Flag shoot him on the spot."

The True American, October 24, 1861, published the statement:

"We are authorized to say that the publication of the True Democrat will be suspended for a few days, in view of some of the changes in the office."

Charles W. Jay launched another campaign paper in 1852. It was the Republican Privateer, supporting Franklin Pierce, then a candidate for President. After the election of Pierce, the paper was discontinued.

Three years later, according to Raum's History of Trenton, Enoch R. Borden began a weekly paper, the

Free Press, of which practically nothing is known.

No existing copies are known of the Mercer Standard, published in 1854, and the Evening Express, 1857, two publications of James Madison Drake, *a printer, who was one of the picturesque figures of earlier Trenton.*

The first number of the Mercer Standard was issued July 26, 1854, from a printing office in Perry Street. It began as a small sheet, but was enlarged a few months later. The True American said of it, July 29, 1854:

"Mercer Standard—This is the title of a neatly-printed sheet published in this city by Madison Drake, No. 53 Perry Street. It will appear every other Saturday, at two cents per copy. The editor makes an excellent number. He is a young man, just starting into life, and from what we know of him, deserves to be patronized." The paper later became a weekly.

In July, 1857, Drake founded the "Evening Express," a penny paper. The Gazette gave it the following greeting:

"We mention at this time the appearance of a new paper in our midst, called the Evening Express, published by Mr. James Madison Drake. It proposes to take no part in politics, but will advocate such general and local matters as will be of the greatest good to the greatest number. The paper is small, but, as the publisher very justly remarks, 'people should not expect too much for a cent.' Mr. Drake seems to be a deserving young man."

John J. Cleary, in the History of Trenton, gives the following brief sketch of Mr. Drake:

"J. Madison Drake, who started the *Mercer Standard (a weekly) in 1854,* enlisted in the Civil War and later organized Drake's Zouaves. Subsequently he took up his residence in Elizabeth, but loved occasionally to return to the old home town, and at the head of his colorful command, shaking his unshorn locks, parade Trenton's streets amid admiring plaudits of a host of friends, including the printing fraternity. It was an interesting circumstance that Drake, his father, two brothers and sister all 'worked at the case' in this city at various times."

Mr. Drake gained more prominence in the press at Elizabeth than at Trenton. On July 29, 1889, he issued the first number of the "Elizabeth Daily Leader." Later he issued the "Sunday Leader," which suspended publication in February, 1890. His last venture was the "Daily Monitor."

When Cornelius W. Tolles, new owner of the Gazette, in 1856, substituted the names of Fillmore and Donelson at the mast-head of the paper in the place of Fremont and Dayton, the official Republican standard bearers for the presidency and vice presidency, an association issued a rival sheet. James T. Sherman was editor, and Henry Harron was in charge of the printing department. This paper was the "Daily Republican," printed in the shop of Henry B. Howell in a building that stood on the south side of East State Street, between Broad and Warren, on the site of the shop in which the True American was founded. The *business office of the publication was* in the old City Hall Building.

A weekly edition of the "Daily Republican" was issued in conjunction with the daily.

After the election the paper came into the hands of Mr. Howell. Late in June, 1857, Jacob L. Swayze purchased it and vested its management and editorial control in Jacob R. Freese. In commenting upon the change, the True American, July 1, remarked:

"The 'Daily Republican' has passed from the editorial charge of Mr. H. B. Howell, who has for several months, under great difficulty, faithfully and earnestly advocated its principles and views of the 'republican party'."

Mr. Breese changed the name of the paper to "New Jersey Republican," the initial issue under that name being July 1, 1857. On July 16, Mr. Swayze merged the paper with the Gazette, with the following announcement appearing in the old established journal:

"The causes which led last Fall to the publication of two papers in this city, in opposition to the Democratic party, now no longer exists. Consequently, it has been the desire for some time past of the friends of both journals, to see them united on a common platform of reform in our National and State Governments. . . . This has at length been accomplished and tomorrow the first number of the united journals will be issued under the title of The State Gazette and New Jersey Republican, under the editorial charge of the present editors of both of these papers."

The united papers, however, did not appear with the lengthy title as given in this announcement. "Daily State Gazette and Republican" was the title selected, and this appeared July 17, 1857.

CHAPTER XIII

Wide Awake, Literary Album, The Gable, Daily Monitor, New Jersey Volunteer, Union Sentinel, The Detective and Evening Argus.

Late in July or early in August of 1860 a small campaign sheet called Wide Awake was issued in the town, and a weekly paper entitled The Literary Album appeared in 1867. During the eighteen fifties and sixties a Democratic sheet called The Gable was published for a brief time.

Probably the first newspaper issued from the printing office of Murphy and Bechtel, at the northwest corner of Broad and State Streets, Trenton's second greatest publishing corner of historical interest, was the Monitor, a morning daily with a weekly edition. The daily issue, entitled Trenton Daily Monitor, began January 27, 1864, flying the motto: "Shall maintain independence of all party views and measures." Dorsey Gardiner, editor and founder, had his office in the rear of the building.

Fred E. Goodrich became assistant editor in July, 1864. The following March the office of publication was removed to a printing shop in Warren Street, and on April 1, the daily was changed from a morning to an afternoon paper. For a short time Frank W. Potter, a native of Maine, who from March, 1873, to June, 1876, was United States Consul at Marseilles, was reporter for that paper.

The Monitor was purchased by the Gazette in 1865, and its publication was discontinued. At the time of the purchase the paper had 172 daily subscribers and 500 weekly subscribers, most of the latter in clubs raised by the Raritan and Delaware Bay Railroad Company.*

The irrepressible "Charlie" Jay was publishing another campaign paper in 1865. This time it was the New Jersey Volunteers that made its debut July 27. It was printed in the shop of Murphy and Bechtel, at Broad and State Streets. This paper, issued every Thursday, advocated Marcus L. Ward, of Essex County, for Governor.

The New Jersey Volunteer managed to crowd a good deal of bitter mudslinging into its brief life. The battle was waged against The True American and its owners, the Naars. In fact, much of Jay's paper was devoted to attacking the Democratic organ, which it referred to as the "Copperhead True American." The Naars were characterized as "Copperheads," because of their sympathy for the Southern cause.

The Volunteer suspended publication when Mr. Ward was elected Governor. A complete file, which is probably the only one of a Trenton campaign newspaper, is owned by the New Jersey Historical Society in Newark. An odd copy is owned by Monmouth County Historical Society at Freehold.

There was a very brief interval between the demise of the New Jersey Volunteer and Mr. Jay's new venture, The Union Sentinel, a weekly paper. It came out March 1, with the motto: "The Congress of the United States is the Main Bulwark of the National Safety." About six months later, M. Gillingham became associated with it. He soon retired and Henry Houghtalling and John C. Parsons became associated with Mr Jay's paper. Parsons remained about two years and a half, when he retired from the firm.

In May, 1870, Jay issued the first number of the Daily Sentinel, which, during its lifetime, also bore the titles, Daily State Sentinel and Daily Evening State Sentinel. Jacob R. Freese purchased the paper in the fall of 1870. Theodore W. Freese, brother of the owner, was the editor.

The Detective, with offices in Newark and in Trenton, was issued every Thursday, beginning June 1, 1871. Charles W. Jay was the editor, with office at 17 West Front Street. The motto of this publication was "Strike! But Hear Me."

William H. Van Nortwick, a newcomer in the local newspaper field, published the Evening Argus Saturday evening, November 16, 1872. It was a penny daily, printed at 14 East State

*State Gazette, August 13, 1869.

Street. A. F. Dusche was business manager.

The Argus took for its motto: "Pro Bono Publico" (For the Public Good), and its pages aside from the daily column was largely devoted to commerce, manufacturing and agriculture. Van Nortwick was of a statistical turn of mind and many of his special articles were about local trade and industry. The paper had an anti-monopoly policy, and was especially opposed to the railroad combines of the day. In January, 1873, the Argus announced with pride that it was the only penny afternoon paper in Trenton, and it claimed to have a circulation from 1,200 to 1,500 copies daily. Notwithstanding that fact it was destined to a quick end, and on August 15, 1873, the paper announced that with that issue it suspended publication for a brief period.

CHAPTER XIV

Daily Public Opinion, Weekly Public Opinion, The Evening Star, Trenton Herald, Evening Journal, The Programme, Daily Free Press, The Sentinel and The Emporium.

A literary and religious paper with a local news department was issued from the printing shop of William S. Sharp, south side of State Street between Broad and Warren Streets, January 1, 1874. It was the Daily Public Opinion. William S. and E. W. Sharp were the publishers and L. Field Whitbeck was editor.

Some time before 1875 the establishment was removed to the Albamra Building on the site of the present Lincoln Theatre. On May 1, the Daily Public Opinion announced that it would suspend publication with that number. This was probably the end of the daily edition. The weekly, known as the Weekly Public Opinion, was continued for two or three years. Of all Trenton's newspapers, the weekly had the most picturesque heading. It covered nearly one-fifth of the front page and embellished in it was the motto: "The Pen is mightier than the sword."

For a time Edward S. Ellis was editor of the Public Opinion. He later gained fame as an author of juvenile stories, histories and other works.

William S. Sharp was another of the many picturesque characters in the history of Trenton newspapers. Although he once operated one of the largest book and job printing shops in the State, later years found him in straitened circumstances. His misfortunes never marred his very genial disposition, which he retained until his death.

His last shop in Trenton was at the southeast corner of West State Street and Chancery Lane. Among the notable works that bear the imprint of his establishment are Hill's "History of the Church in Burlington"; a second edition of Smith's "History of the Colony of Nova-Caesaria, or New Jersey," and "Lives

PICTURESQUE HEADING OF WEEKLY

Public Opinion had probably the most remarkable heading ever used for any Trenton paper. It covered nearly one-fifth of the front page and was unusual for its size as well as for its elaborate decoration.

of the Lord Chancellors of England." A number of the latter-day printers of Trenton were once members of the Sharp force.

The Evening Star, a daily afternoon paper, was founded May 10, 1875, by Messrs. Morris and Quick This new publication received the following comment from The True American, May 12, 1875:

"On Monday afternoon a lively little sheet glorying in the name of the Evening Star, made its debut and cast itself loose upon the great sea of public patronage. It is well gotten up, and promises to be a success"

In July, Morris retired from the firm and the paper was continued by William H. Quick. The office of publication was on State Street, between Warren and Broad.

Captain Ernest C. Stahl whose active participation in the civic and cultural life of Trenton as well as his career as a newspaperman made him long a familiar figure to Trentonians, came upon the stage in 1875 as publisher of the Trenton Herald He published it for years in conjunction with the New Jersey Staats Journal, which was printed in German

In the early eighteen eighties both of these papers were printed in Stahl's printing establishment in the old State Bank Building that stood at the northwest corner of Warren and Bank Streets. The Trenton Herald was a weekly publication bearing the motto: "Justice to All"

Another evening newspaper making a bid for popularity was L. Field Whitbeck's Evening Journal. This was advertised as the only Republican afternoon paper published in Trenton. A small penny sheet, it was printed at the Public Opinion Office, Warren Street, and made its first appearance in 1875. Mr. Whitbeck had formerly been with Public Opinion.

In commenting upon the Evening Journal, the late William K. Devereux, whose reminiscences were published from time to time in John J. Cleary's articles in the Sunday Times-Advertiser, remarked:

"The Evening Journal attracted small notice until Whitbeck engineered a religious controversy between Rev. Eliziah Lucas of the First Baptist Church, and Rev. Patrick Byrne, pastor of old St. John's Catholic Church, which quadrupled the circulation for several months."

For several years Mr. Whitbeck was manager of Taylor Opera House.

In September, 1875, The Programme was issued by William Arnell, a printer, in the interest of Taylor Opera House. The paper contained some gossip and local news and was distributed gratuitously.

Charles W. Jay and Charles B Yard, formerly foreman of the Gazette printing office, issued the first number of a paper entitled The Daily Free Press January 18, 1876. Mention of the initial issue was made by the Weekly Public Opinion two days later.

The Sentinel, a weekly organ devoted to the interests of the Negro, was founded in May, 1880, under the name of The Expositor, by R. Henri Herbert, member of one of Trenton's most prominent old-time colored families. The office of the publication was in the second story of a

JOHN BRIEST

Editor of The Emporium and prominent Trenton newspaper man of his day. He was another former Mayor of Trenton.

building at 4 North Greene Street, now North Broad.

The Sentinel was a four-page, twenty column paper, containing editorials, articles of a literary nature and a local department.

Mr. Herbert, editor and owner, was for several years connected with a paper in Plainfield In 1874 he returned to Trenton and from then until 1878 he was employed on the Daily Sentinel and the Free Press. For about a year he taught in a local public school, and for several years was doorkeeper of the New Jersey Senate.

John Briest, a printer and foreman of the True American printing office, was publisher of the Emporium, a penny daily, that became popular for its newsy qualities. It was issued August 5, 1867, from a printing office that occupied the second floor of a frame building at the northeast corner of Warren and Hanover Streets. Beginning in an humble way, Mr. Briest built up a substantial circulation. He introduced into local journalism some new features, among which was the custom of publishing names of persons arriving at local hotels, an innovation that was exceedingly novel in its day.

The cheapness of the paper also had its effect upon the subscription lists, and at one time Mr Briest's Emporium boasted the largest circulation in the city. Associated with the owner as business manager was John B. Faussett, father of John D. Faussett, law librarian at the New Jersey State Library. Charles Briest, brother of the owner, was reporter.

The Emporium was published by Mr. Briest for 25 years, during which time he claimed to have issued the first eight-page paper in Trenton.

Briest's Emporium was later published in a building on the north side of East State Street, near Montgomery.

In 1892 Mr. Briest sold his newspaper to St. George Kempson, of Middlesex County, who subsequently removed it to Perth Amboy.

Mr. Briest was another newspaper publisher who found time to devote to civic affairs. In 1871 he was elected Mayor of Trenton on the Democratic ticket. The term of office was one year, and Mr. Briest had the distinction of being reelected each succeeding year until 1875. He afterward was city comptroller, school trustee and excise commissioner. He was born in Trenton November 11, 1836, and received his education at the Trenton Academy. While reporting he was a correspondent for the New York Herald and other metropolitan newspapers.

CHAPTER XV

Trenton Evening Times.

A new era in journalism in Trenton began when on Thursday afternoon, October 12, 1882, there appeared the first issue of a newspaper that was destined to have a great influence upon the future history, not only of Trenton newspapers, but of the city itself This was The Trenton Times a breezy, four-page journal, with its choicest bits of local and telegraphic news on the first page, and a clean type face which easily set it apart from its local competitors.

The paper, which announced at the top of its editorial columns that it was to be published "every afternoon in the year (Sundays excepted)" was first issued from the printing office of Edward Fitzgeorge, southwest corner of Greene (Broad) and State Streets The first proprietor was the Times Publishing Company. Lawrence S. Mott was founder and editor.

In a leading editorial, "The Times and Its Mission," the publication set forth its aim:

"That Trenton needs a newspaper admits of no doubt. It has been a standing disgrace to the city for many years that although containing nearly 40,000 inhabitants and honored as the capital of the State of New Jersey, it lacked a breezy, wide-awake daily journal. No other capital city in the United States is in so lamentable a plight respecting news and newspapers. While smaller cities have adopted the modern journalistic spirit and have awakened to the demands of the age for exponents of the signs of the Times, Trenton has continued to nourish and abide the slow-going, day and a half late, style of newspapers. It is time for the city to awake from its lethargy. The citizens as a class have long desired something better. The enterprising business men of Trenton have chafed under the old system. They want a newspaper, not a daily chronicler of ancient history.

"THE TRENTON TIMES proposes to supply the want. It will aim to give all the news, local, State and national, and all the truth about the news. It will endeavor to do this in a decent, honest way. Being free from all party preference or control, its one purpose will be the getting and giving of news. Fair play will be accorded all parties. Its columns will ever be open for the expression of honest opinions of all kinds. It will give Trenton a paper,

LAWRENCE S. MOTT

Founder and editor of Trenton Evening Times.

it is believed, that will reflect credit upon the city. It will offer a fresh, sensible compendium of news each day, gathered by its own industry, and not stolen from outside sources. It will strive to be reliable, upright and candid. In return it will hope and expect to receive the support and

praise of the citizens of Trenton, irrespective of party or creed.

"THE TRENTON TIMES comes to stay. It is not an ephemeral campaign sheet. It is not an advertising dodge. It is a newspaper in the truest, best sense. It hopes to bring the masses to appreciate wide-awake, refined journalism, by giving the people that which enlivens and instructs. It will speak of the people, for the people, and will stand by the people all the while. Everything that helps to better humanity and advance the interests of Trenton in a commercial, industrial or literary way will be advocated and encouraged.

"THE TIMES will be a reliable journal. No amount of painstaking or money will be spared to furnish the news of the day. No scandals or sensations will be published simply because they are scandalous or sensational. The truth will always be told, and so far as possible, only the truth. Personalities will not be tolerated or blackguardism indulged in. Modern journalism condemns abuse. Wrong will be vigorously denounced, no matter upon whose head may fall the condemnation or the praise.

"THE TRENTON TIMES presents itself for public inspection and criticism fearless of the result. It knows its mission and it believes there is a wide field for it. Henceforth it will be one of Trenton's permanent and most prominent features. It will be worth looking for each day, because it will have something for everybody on all occasions. THE TRENTON TIMES is a cheerful, confident, comfortable newspaper, and it proposes to spread good cheer, honest confidence and real comfort all around."

The advent of this extraordinary youngster in the field of Trenton journalism, naturally brought forth some bantering remarks from the venerable Gazette, which had had its pride piqued by the Times' editorial shots at its older contemporaries.

"Our agile young contemporary, The Trenton Times, seems to be as pleased with itself as a pullet with its first egg, a young mother with her first baby, or the small boy with a new whistle. It cackles, and coos and blows its own trumpet, with an unconscious egotism and innocent delight that excites the whole community with a broad smile."

Such editorial sarcasm, common in the earlier days of journalism, had no effect in swerving the "pullet" from its high purpose, and it is a strange and happy turn of fate that the Gazette was a companion to the Times on its fiftieth anniversary. When the Times confidently announced in its first issue of 1882, that it had "come to stay" it apparently knew what it was talking about.

An interesting incident in connection with beginning of The Trenton Times is the appearance of a rival paper on the streets of the city three days prior to the first issue of Mott's publication. This journal called itself The Evening Times, and lasted only a few numbers. It was printed at the Emporium office by the Democratic Publication Association. The explanation for the appearance of this paper is that when negotiations for the purchase of the Emporium plant by the prospective owners of the Times failed, the Emporium decided to anticipate the Times with an afternoon sheet of its own.

When the Times was born Trenton still had much of the atmosphere of a small town. The large swinging signs, the sheds that extended over the sidewalks to the curb, the red-shirted firemen, the police force with high helmets were familiar sights. The city was small in size. Wilbur and the Boroughs of Chambersburg and Millham were yet to be annexed. The old City Hall, northeast corner of Greene and State Streets, was the centre of town life. It was the municipal office building, the meeting place of Common Council and police headquarters as well, and the "cooler" was one of its adjuncts.

Taylor Opera House, known as Taylor Hall, was the leading place for theatricals. It was not uncommon, however, for this place to be dark two or three nights a week. Saturday night, when the people from the countryside came to shop in gigs and fall-tops, was the big night in the markets, the stores, the saloons, the Opera House and the town in general.

The Times has witnessed many changes in Trenton. It has seen the coming of greater industry at the turn of the century, the beginning of public squares and parks, the installation of a modern sewerage and drainage system, the first electric street lights, the great growth of the telephone system, the advent of the electric trolley car, and many other improvements and changes.

Mr. Mott was ably fitted for the task ahead of him. A graduate of Princeton University in the class of 1877, he had joined the Philadelphia Times, which was then in the hands of Colonel McClure. In assuming the editorship of the Times, the

founder had the additional advantage of financial backing of persons interested in New Jersey politics. Among those who lent their support to the young enterprise were such men as Henry Stafford Little, then a Democratic political power, Judge Garrett D. W. Vroom, Judge Edwart T. Green and Mayor Frank A. Magowan. It was natural, therefore, that the newspaper should concern itself to a large extent with the local and State political scene.

In other ways the newspaper developed an individuality which delighted its readers. It used pictures and featured such things as interviews with civic and political figures of the city, county and State. Its columns also were brightened by frequent sketches made by Edward S. Ellis, popular then as a writer of boys' books, histories and other works.

In spite of the novelty of its features and the energy with which the paper was edited, advertisers were not so readily attracted as readers and expenses were heavy. The result of this was that Mr. Mott, somewhat disheartened, decided to withdraw from the venture, and on May 12, 1885, the Times fell into the hands of its original printer, Edwin Fitzgeorge. In the days that followed, its career was faced with uncertainty, and it went from owner to owner, and from one location to another. It moved from the southwest corner of Broad and State Streets, to No. 7 South Warren Street, and from November 11, 1884, until May 12 of the following year it shared printing offices at the South Warren Street address with the Sunday Advertiser. For a short time again it removed to its original abode at Fitzgeorge's corner, only to take up offices later in quarters over the old Washington Market, southwest corner of Broad and Front Streets.

It continued to be a journal without a permanent home, for it was not long before it closed up its editorial desks at the Washington Market headquarters and removed to the former Shreve Building, on East State Street, where the present Stacy Theatre now stands.

Its ownership appears to have been quite as unsettled as its place of business. There was A. V. D. Honeyman, of Somerville, who took it over for a while and subsequently a school principal named Walbradt, from Burlington County, who acquired an interest. An effort to put the paper on a paying basis was later made by Charles W. Smith, of Flushing, Long Island, but without success, and a receivership eventually resulted.

This receivership proved to be a fortunate circumstance, for at the receiver's sale the paper was purchased by Edmund C. Hill, who maintained ownership for about three years. Mr. Hill was interested in civic development, and featured local news to a considerable degree—a policy that helped circulation. J. B. Shale and

SENATOR A. CROZER REEVES

For more than 30 years president of the Trenton Times Company.

William O. Sproull, later Governor of Pennsylvania, became interested in the paper.

In May, 1901, a new organization took control, headed by A. Crozer Reeves, as president; the Rev. A. W. Wishart, vice president, and Owen Moon, Jr., secretary and treasurer. Dr. Wishart was editor. Walter H. Savory, who had once been manag-

ing editor of the True American, was also connected with the new concern. Senator Reeves has remained as president of the company ever since, a period of 31 years.

A reorganization of the Times Company occurred February 1, 1903, when Dr. Wishart and Mr. Savory withdrew. Then there appeared a new personality in the managing force which was eventually to exert the most important influence upon the newspaper in all of its fifty years of history. This was James Kerney who had attracted attention by his reportorial ability on the Times and previously on the True American. With Mr Kerney's interest in the paper, the publication soon developed along progressive lines and realized many of those high ambitions which had been set down by the founder of the Times in 1882 Keenly interested in civic advancement and community welfare, Mr. Kerney asserted an editorial progressivism that was the more effective because it had the added ingredients of a ready wit and an unfailing optimism.

Judge Kerney, who today is editor and publisher of the Times Newspapers, is a native Trentonian, born here in 1873. His early years, like those of many another successful leader in the field of journalism, were not easy and difficulties had to be overcome by such virtues as hard work and perseverance. The future editor of the Times as a young man had laid the foundation for his newspaper training in the public evening schools of the city where he specialized in stenography. Possessed of a natural aptitude for newspaper work as well as an urge for self-expression, he naturally drifted into journalism. It was as a young reporter on the True American and the Times that he found his calling. Developing into a political writer as well as fluent correspondent for out-of-town papers, he later earned for himself a place of responsibility on the Times, becoming its editor in February, 1903.

During the World War, Mr. Kerney was appointed by President Woodrow Wilson as Director of American Information, a post which required his presence in France for about a year.

As an author, Judge Kerney gained considerable distinction by his book, "The Political Education of Woodrow Wilson," published by the Century Company in the Spring of 1926.

Soon after the election of Herbert Hoover to the presidency, he appointed Judge Kerney a member of the commission to make a survey of conditions in Haiti. Mr Kerney is a special judge of the New Jersey Court of Errors and Appeals, having been appointed to that position by Governor Morgan F Larson.

In all the years Judge Kerney has been editor of the Trenton Times, he has had associated with him, as he himself remarked on the occasion of the Times' fiftieth anniversary October 12, faithful and able companions in all departments.

In 1906 the Times purchased a building of its own on South Stockton Street. Here many improvements were made, the latest mechanical equipment was installed, and many new departments were added to meet the standards of modern newspaper publishing and an ever-increasing circulation. With the purchase of the Sunday Advertiser in 1912, and the State Gazette in 1926, the Times Building became the home of three publications, known as the Trenton Times newspapers.

In the fifty years of its existence the Times has advocated many improvements and conducted many campaigns for civic betterment.

Late in 1910 when Harry G. Stoddard, of the Trenton Chamber of Commerce, began the movement for the commission form of government for Trenton, Mr. Kerney visited a number of western cities where the system was in successful operation. Frank Thompson, Times reporter, and one of Trenton's outstanding newspapermen, was given the assignment of enlightening the citizens about the new plan of government, which he did in a series of splendid articles.

Allan B. Walsh, then a member of the House of Assembly, sponsored the Walsh bill, which made it possible for Trenton to change its form of government. Finally after considerable opposition, the bill was passed and enacted into law. A campaign was then conducted by the Times, leading to a special election on June 20, 1911, and resulting in a victory for the commission plan. The campaign conducted the year previously by the Times for better railway service had much to do in making this victory possible.

The movement for a park development along the Delaware River in the rear of the State House and up that stream to Brookville, was advocated by the True American as early as 1874. It was given impetus when Edmund C. Hill evolved a comprehensive plan for transforming the land into a park and ramble. This was published in the Times October 18, 1884.

Early in the new century the Times began a lengthy campaign for public

ownership of the property. At a suggestion made by the paper, Francis B. Lee was enlisted in the movement and through the suggestion of Mr. Hill, General Wilbur S. Sadler. The latter two, with the Trenton Times steadily advocating the improvement, interested Woodrow Wilson, then Governor of the State, and the land eventually became public property.

The Times launched a campaign for better railroad facilities in October, 1928. This was undertaken after several unsuccessful efforts had been made by the City Commission and the Chamber of Commerce to get action from the Pennsylvania Railroad. In March, 1923, the company announced it would make some minor changes at Clinton Street Station. But this did not appease the citizens nor the Times and the campaign was continued until May, when the railroad company promised to make extensive improvements in Trenton. This resulted in a rebuilding of the Clinton Street Station. Since then the company has erected a fine new freight station along Olden Avenue and made other improvements as well.

Other outstanding campaigns conducted by the Times were for free bridges across the Delaware and for the betterment of the public schools.

In 1919 the Times instituted an annual scholarship fund for the purpose of assisting worthy students of the High School to continue their education in institutions of higher learning. That first year, college scholarships were awarded to three students who had been selected by the faculty for their outstanding records in scholarship and leadership. In 1927 there were two winners for third place and the award was divided between them. Since the fund was instituted 43 awards have been given.

Another movement sponsored by the Times was the annual presentation of a civic cup to the citizen who had rendered outstanding and unselfish service to the community or to society as a whole. This beautiful trophy bears the city seal, surrounded by the words: "Propter Amplissima in Urbem Merita" ("Because of Conspicuous Service for the City"). Since the inauguration in 1922 of the custom of recognizing civic service in this manner, cups have been awarded to eight outstanding citizens.

The recipients of the cups, the year and basis of award were:

Andrew J. Berrian, 1922, for outstanding leadership in philanthropic enterprises and in projects for social betterment.

Mayor Frederick W. Donnelly, 1923, for untiring services for the advancement of Trenton, his work in getting a legislative appropriation for the New Jersey Ship Canal and his general devotion to the good of the city

Mrs. Edward W. Dunham, 1924, for her outstanding service on behalf of women of Trenton in her capacity of president of the Young Women's Christian Association, her activity in securing the new Y. W. C. A. Building, with its complete equipment for carrying on work of the association and her untiring efforts for the development of this civic institution.

Ferdinand W. Roebling, Jr., 1925, for his admirable and successful leadership of the campaign for St. Francis Hospital which permitted the expansion of the work of the hospital.

John A. Campbell, 1926, for unending service on the boards of such educational and civic organizations as the Board of Education, Trenton Free Public Library, School of Industrial Arts, State Tenement House Commission, Free Bridge Commission, for work on boards and committees of all kinds during the World War, for his chairmanship of the War Memorial Committee and his constant loyal work on church and school relief organizations

Gill Robb Wilson, 1927, for his unselfish participation in every campaign for the betterment and advancement of Trenton, for his aid to every good cause regardless of race or creed and his splendid example of high citizenship together with his devotion to his former comrades in arms during the World War.

Joseph G Buch, 1928, for his notable service on behalf of crippled children and adults in Trenton and New Jersey, which culminated in the establishment of the Betty Bacharach Home for Crippled Children in Atlantic City, establishment of State-wide clinics for cripples, in the passage of bills creating a State-wide commission to educate and rehabilitate cripples, and also for his work on that commission.

Colonel Edward C. Rose, 1929, for his leadership in every worth-while civic movement, his part in bringing about the successful celebration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of Trenton, for his work on the War Memorial Commission, his efforts to advance Trenton industrially and commercially and his zeal in working in philanthropic and civic projects, and also because of the inspiring ex-

ample of his career to young people of the city.

No civic cup award has been made since 1929. In 1930 it was deemed advisable to use the money usually spent for the cup and ceremonies to give relief to victims of the economic depression and that policy was continued last year.

The Times has been a generous donor to many drives conducted for hospitals, social, civic and charitable institutions.

The Trenton Children's Foundation, the Free Ice Fund and the Poor Kiddies' Christmas Fund were instituted by the Times.

Under the inspiring leadership of Judge Kerney, the Trenton Evening Times has achieved many of Mr. Mott's ambitions and has helped to "better humanity and advance the interests of Trenton in a commercial, industrial and literary way" for beyond the dreams of the paper's first editor.

CHAPTER XVI

Sunday Times-Advertiser.

Andrew M. Clarke, who had been city editor of the State Gazette, and William K. Devereux, a bright, clever printer and paragrapher, made their debut as owners and publishers with Trenton's first successful Sunday journal. That was the Trenton Sunday Advertiser, whose initial number appeared Sunday, January 7, 1883. It was a small four-page paper, printed in the William S. Sharp printing office, West State Street. The advent of the paper was recorded by the True American, whose editor extended the following greeting of welcome:

"A New Newspaper—Yesterday the first number of the first Sunday paper ever published in this city made its appearance. It is a neatly gotten up four-page paper of twenty columns, and is called the Trenton Sunday Advertiser. . . . We bid it welcome and wish it success."

Messrs Clarke and Devereux set forth the aim of their paper and the fields it would cover in an editorial in the first edition. They said:

"With the first Sunday of the New Year the undersigned present to the readers of Trenton and neighboring towns, the initial number of the Trenton Sunday Advertiser. It will be independent but not neutral, and will strive to make itself a welcome visitor in every family circle It will be in no sense sensational. It aims to be the organ of the people, paying particular attention to trade organization and society matters, and the latest local and general news It has no masters to serve, no grudges to pay off, and can afford to be fair in its utterances. The local Sunday newspaper field having been entirely neglected, the Trenton Sunday Advertiser has been generously welcomed in advance by all classes of our citizens, and none more heartily than the substantial business men, as will be seen by reference to our advertising columns."

Like so many journalists of former years, Mr. Devereux, a native Trentonian, began his career in a printing office, learning the trade. Afterward he was a reporter and legislative correspondent, and became a familiar figure at the State House over a long term of years. Mr. Devereux was active in Democratic politics and acquired a reputation as a witty writer and speaker. At the time of his death, he was a member of the State Civil Service Board.

With a group of other reporters, he founded The Spray in Asbury Park, and published the sheet during the Summer seasons for a few years.

Mr. Clarke, originally a printer and a G. A. R. veteran, came to Trenton from Newark, where he was well known as a reporter. In after years he was identified with newspapers in Buffalo.

Shortly after the paper was launched, the second floor of the Dippolt Building, South Broad Street, was rented by the publishers for the editorial office and typesetting department. On May 7, the partnership of Clarke and Devereux was dissolved by mutual consent. Mr. Clarke purchased Devereux's interest in the firm and continued the publication of the paper.

The issue of June 3, 1883, appeared in larger form in a new type, this being the third enlargement of the paper since it was founded The publisher announced that his circulation was more than 2,500 copies.

The Christmas issue, December 23, 1883, appeared with a supplement containing "Jack's Pension," a Yuletide story especially written for the paper by Edward S. Ellis, author of juvenile stories and histories.

In the number of February 17, 1884, the editor announced that "with this issue we begin the publication of full telegraphic news up to the hour of going to press, arrangements for the same having been made with the American Press and United Press Associations."

Toward the middle of the 1880's, when the Knights of Labor was a flourishing organization, the Sunday Advertiser was a semi-official organ of that body. The paper at this time had its editorial office and its own printing plant at 7 South Warren Street.

From time to time announcements were made that a daily paper would

be issued in connection with the weekly and on Wednesday, September 10, 1884, the first number of the Trenton Daily Advertiser made its appearance. The daily, like the weekly, was sympathetic toward labor and contained numerous items and bits of news in defense of that cause. However, it did not prove to be a profitable venture and, with the issue of October 9, it suspended publication, the editor and publisher stating that "from the first it has been a losing investment and, as it gives no assurance of immediate success, we suspend its publication to be resumed at some future time when the conditions are more propitious. Short-lived though it has been, it has filled fully the measure demanded of it, but with the average reader filled with political enthusiasm and fancies there was no room for a truly independent paper."

Thomas F. Fitzgerald, Charles H. Levy and John J. Cleary, trading under the name of the Advertiser Publishing Company, purchased the Sunday Advertiser in February, 1888. The new owners enlarged the paper and improved it from time to time, in keeping with modern standards. It became an established journal, reaching shortly a circulation of about 16,000.

Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Levy and Mr. Cleary were a well-known trio in Trenton's newspaper world. Mr. Fitzgerald came to Trenton in the seventies as special representative of the New York Herald and served that paper here for many years, specializing in political news. Aside from his association with the Sunday Advertiser, Mr. Fitzgerald will always be remembered as the publisher for a good many years of the city directories and the legislative manuals. Early copies of the manual are eagerly sought by collectors of New Jerseyana. Besides being business manager of the Sunday Advertiser, he covered State politics for the paper.

Mr. Levy, a native of New York City, was associated with several metropolitan dailies before coming to Trenton. For years he was correspondent of the New York Sun and later he was city editor of the State Gazette. Both Mr. Levy and Mr. Fitzgerald have died.

The surviving member of the trio, Mr. Cleary, was born in Trenton May 24, 1859. He received his early education in St. John's parish schools and at St. Charles College, Md. Subsequently he entered Seton Hall College, South Orange, becoming a member of the class of '79.

Mr. Cleary's newspaper experience has been varied. He was legislative correspondent for out-of-town papers, reporter on the Times and city editor of the True American before becoming part owner of the Sunday Advertiser. Since the consolidation

JOHN J. CLEARY

One of the early owners of the Sunday Advertiser, veteran Trenton newspaper man and a member of the editorial staff of the Times Newspapers.

of the Advertiser with the Trenton Times, Mr. Cleary has continued as a member of the Times Newspapers' editorial staff.

During his long career as a newspaper man, Mr. Cleary has had many civic interests. He was a member of the first Board of Park Commissioners and of Trenton's first Library

Board. The latter position he still holds.

Seton Hall College honored its alumnus June 12, 1929, when it conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

The Sunday Advertiser having proved itself a successful journal, the new owners purchased from Concordia Lodge, No. 4, I. O. O. F., a large three-story brick building at 33 West State Street, known as Concordia Hall. After some alterations were made, this became the new home of the Advertiser.

Thomas F. Waldron, then editor of the Glass and Crockery Journal of New York, in 1907 purchased a one-fourth interest in the Advertiser He resigned his New York editorship and became city editor of the Advertiser staff.

Mr. Waldron left St. John's School, this city at the age of twelve to become office boy for the Sunday Advertiser. In 1902, while a reporter for the paper, he resigned to become identified with the Crockery & Glass Journal in New York. Five years later, he returned to Trenton as a partner of his former employers. When the Advertiser was absorbed by the Times in 1912, he became a member of the Times concern. For several years, he was managing editor of the Sunday issue and then transferred his activity to the daily edition, of which he has since been managing editor.

After the Times had purchased the Sunday Advertiser, in December, 1912, its name was changed to the Sunday Times-Advertiser.

Harry A. Donnelly, late brother of Mayor Donnelly, at various times was employed on the True American, the State Gazette, the Times and the Sunday Advertiser. He was known for years as "The Man with the Pipe," the title of a series of interesting sketches of things he saw and heard in his rambles around the town. These appeared in the Sunday Times-Advertiser.

Mr. Donnelly was an attractive writer. He was connected for some years with trade and theatrical publications in New York, as well as the widely known society paper "Town Topics." He also once published a weekly in Trenton, called "Town Topics."

Among the short-lived publications in the Sunday field in Trenton were The Sunday Express, edited by Scott Snyder, and published by Cresse and Smith; The Sunday News, brought from Newark by Thomas N. Barr; the Sunday Press, with a daily issue, and Trenton Sunday Courier, published by John Briest, of the Emporium.

The Sunday Express was a rival of the Sunday Advertiser during the time it was published by Clarke. When the Advertiser was taken over

THOMAS F. WALDRON

Co-owner of the Sunday Advertiser who in 1912 became a member of the Times concern and is now managing editor of the Trenton Times.

by Messrs. Fitzgerald, Levy and Cleary they purchased the competitor for $100 and suspended its publication.

William H. Koons, Harry C. Valentine, Capt. John Matheson, W. E. Pedrick, Lafayette S. Hooper and John P. Dullard were identified with the cooperative enterprise that sponsored the afternoon and Sunday Press.

CHAPTER XVII.

Special Interest and Community Papers.

In the field of limited or special journalism, newspapers devoted to some special interest or community, excluding foreign language publications Trenton has had a small representation.

Outstanding among these was The American Potters' Journal, founded by John D. McCormick, potter-printer, in 1888. Devoted entirely to the interests of the potter, it had a circulation in every pottery town in the United States. McCormick served his apprenticeship to the printing trade in the State Gazette office. In later years he became a presser at the old Glasgow Pottery, and for a few years he was employed at the John Moses plant. He was one of the organizers of Typographical Union, No. 71, and a charter member of the local Knights of Labor.

The American Potters' Journal was subsequently taken over by Reuben Forker, a local printer, as the Trades Union Advocate, about 1900.

In the 1870's, the Mercer County News, a paper largely concerned with matters in the Borough of Chambersburg, was started by John W. Moody. His brother, Elliott G. Moody, was associated with him in the enterprise. The office of the publication was the Borough Hall, now Second Precinct Police Station. After the death of the founder, the paper was continued by his brother. The News was launched as a weekly. For a time it was issued semi-weekly. On Monday, December 9, 1878, it also made a venture in the daily field.

The Mercer County News, later called The Chambersburg News, and then the Evening News, for a short time issued a Sunday edition called The Sunday Mercury.

The Anglo-American, a weekly Chambersburg journal, was founded by William H. Beable, July 10, 1886. Concerning the initial issue the State Gazette on July 19, had the following to say:

"The first number of the Anglo-American, a weekly newspaper published in Chambersburg, has appeared. It is devoted to the interests of English-born people and contains a large amount of interesting reading matter."

Its founder had come to Trenton four years previously, when just 22 years old. He found employment in the office of Willet's pottery and later traveled for Alpaugh & Magowan. Satisfied by having seen the country, he settled down as eastern representative of the Pottery and Glassware Reporter of Pittsburgh and shortly after began to write for the Trenton Times, then owned and published by Edwin Fitzgeorge. When the latter started the Chambersburg Press, Beable was a reporter for him. Leaving the Press, he founded the Anglo-American which became so successful and so far surpassed the Press that Fitzgeorge suggested they be merged. This was done and Beable was in active editorial control. He eventually withdrew from local newspaper connections and resumed his reportorial duties with the national pottery journal.

The Wilbur Herald and Hamilton Square News was published for about five years by Andrew Irshay. During the first four years the paper was largely devoted to matters about the Wilbur section of the city. Occasionally historical articles and reminiscences of the old Borough of Wilbur and localities in Hamilton Township were published as special features. The paper had a fighting spirit and once conducted a campaign against the local trolley company. Later the name of the journal was changed to The Wilbur Herald and Hamilton Township News. Subsequently the office of the publication was removed into the township and the paper again changed its name to Hamilton Township News. It was founded by a local printer in 1925.

About twenty years ago two Socialist newspapers, The Searchlight, and The Mercer County News, were published in Trenton. Neither survived very long.

The New Jersey Catholic Journal, devoted to matters of a Catholic interest, was founded December 3, 1886. At different times C. B. Cozzens, John B. Dullard, Thomas Keating, D. J. Wallace and the Right Rev. Thad-

deus Hogan were identified with it. John A. Logue was once manager. He was succeeded by Thomas E. Keating. The paper was published every Saturday.

About 1881, The Jersey Blue, a journal devoted to the National Guard and G. A. R. of New Jersey was published every Saturday at 8 North Warren Street. Colonel Daniel Loder was the editor.

In 1888-89 a weekly devoted to the interests of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows was published at 169 Cooper Street.

In the early 1890's The Sunday Press made its appearance with Harry C. Valentine as the editor. This paper also made a venture in the afternoon field with Mr. Valentine and William H. Koons as the editors.

The Capital City News, a weekly, was published in 1892. J. D. Gray was the editor and publisher with office at 120 North Broad Street.

In 1896 The Mercer Review was published at the southwest corner of Broad and Front Streets, and The Merchant's Advocate was published at 120 North Broad by Cresse & Roberts.

In 1898 John Briest was publishing The Trenton Courier, a weekly, at 224 North Warren Street.

In 1900 or in the following year The Trenton Sunday Herald was issued from 169-171 Cooper Street by the Herald Publishing Co.

Early in 1928, the Trenton Courier was issued from an office on Clinton Avenue, near the corner of Hamilton Avenue. This began as a weekly and was later published semi-weekly. Rudolph J. Hiller, formerly compositor with the Times, was managing editor and publisher.

A number of years ago a weekly paper, entitled Trenton Record, was published by Daniel W. Morrison.

Organized labor in Mercer County has its official newspaper, The Labor News, a weekly publication. The initial issue appeared October 29, 1931. The paper is owned by Chester M. Wright, June Wright and Oliver E. Carruth, all of Washington, D. C. Mrs. Marion C. MacRobert, of this city, is the managing editor.

The latest venture in the local newspaper field is Trenton Life, a weekly which began September 2, 1932 It is published by Trenton Life, Inc., with editorial office, second floor, 123 East Hanover Street. Graeme J. Meisel is editor and Victor J. Humbrecht, Jr., managing editor.

CHAPTER XVIII

Foreign Language Newspapers.

In any history of Trenton journalism, mention must be made of foreign language newspapers, although strictly speaking, they do not fall into the category of American journalism. Nevertheless, they have had their influence upon the non-English speaking groups that have settled in Trenton.

In this particular field, Trenton can claim one of the oldest newspapers in the State. This is The New Jersey Staats Journal," founded in 1867. For many years it was owned, edited and published by Colonel Ernest C Stahl, who gained considerable fame as a speaker and writer. William Zenzer, who was a printer on the Journal for some years, purchased it about 1910. He is the present owner and editor.

The Trenton Germania, a short-lived paper, made its appearance April 26, 1873. The Trenton Freie Zeitung was published in the nineties. Benedict Prieth was its proprietor, and Charles Weidel was business manager.

In 1896 the Trenton Deutsche Zeitung (Trenton German Gazette) was founded. Otto Erdlen was its owner and editor. This paper was purchased in its seventeenth year by William Zenzer of the Staats Journal, who suspended its publication.

A recent short-lived venture was The Echo. The office of the publication was on Clinton Avenue.

The Yiddish press has been represented in Trenton by two newspapers, The Trenton Jewish World and The Trenton Jewish Weekly.

The World was founded in 1909 or 1910 by Alexander Budson, Henry Millner and Philip O. Firestein, with office of publication at 212 North Broad Street. This paper was a labor of love for journalism rather than a commercial venture.

The Weekly was founded in 1916 by H. Waxler, with office of publication at 314 South Broad Street. It was published by the Trenton Jewish Weekly Publishing Company. The first number was issued March 31, 1916. The paper survived for about a year.

Several Italian papers have been founded in Trenton. Perhaps the first of these was La Sentinella, founded about 1903 by Felice Ronca, consular agent to Trenton from the Italian government. C. Sanelli, who was printer and general manager, was a partner in the enterprise. Another of the early papers was Il Secolo XX, published by Armando Perilli.

In 1910 L'Italo Americano was launched. In the following year the publishers incorporated under the name of the L'Italo Americano Publishing Co. The members of the firm were Michael Comini, Dr. Michaele Cristiani, Vincent A. Vosa and the Rev. Vincent Serafini.

Later La Capitale, founded by Joseph Mainiero, merged with the L'Italo Americano firm, and Mr. Mainiero was made editor-in-chief of the two publications. When the firm suspended publication in 1929, Mr. Mainiero immediately launched La Nuova Capitale, which is the leading Italian newspaper in Trenton today.

Giornale Italiano is the latest venture. Amerigo D' Agostino is the editor and publisher.

Trenton's oldest Hungarian newspaper is Fuggetlenseg (Independence), founded by Alex. O. Zambory. Anthony J. Orocz, the present owner and editor, purchased it from the founder in July 1, 1920. An earlier paper, now defunct, was Koztarsasay (Republic), edited and published by Mr. Varady.

Heti Szenle, a Hungarian paper that features a department in English, is edited by Ferdinand Lutter. It is printed at the Commercial Press, South Broad Street.

The Jersey Hirado, Morris Gerenday, editor and publisher, is printed at 27 Hancock Street.

The Cross, official organ of the Roman and Greek Catholic Churches, is edited by the Rev. John Szabo, pastor of St. Stepnen's Roman Catholic Church.

Volcocne Przyaciel, a Polish newspaper, is edited and published by Albin Bielawski.

Americanism is edited and published by Richard D' La Guardia.

There is perhaps no more fitting way to conclude the history of newspapers in Trenton than to reprint what Judge James Kerney wrote of

newspapers and their place in the life of Trenton in the History of Trenton:

"The newspapers have prospered with the community. They have been with the vanguard in progress; encouraging and helpful in the counsels of the makers of the city, the captains of industry and among the busy workers. They have made an honest effort to fight for what they conceived to be the best; have battered public wrongs without malice and have accepted the return battering without losing their sense of humor. Perhaps they have been overzealous at times. There is no human perfection. The newspaper staffs have experienced much joy as they observed, from the watchtower, the city's amazing growth in numbers and wealth as well as in civic righteousness.

"In the decade between 1918 and 1928, wide-awake Trenton raised by popular drives upward of $8,000,000 for civic and humanitarian betterments. There has been no single public benefaction of great magnitude. Fine cooperation was developed in all walks of life. It was no uncommon thing to have five hundred enthusiastic men and women, diligently laboring in these popular drives, each trying to outdo the other in sacrifice and unselfish service for the community. In the allotted space, it is not possible to mention all by name, only the leaders can be singled out.

"In presenting the 1926 Times' Civic Cup to John A. Campbell, for outstanding service, Governor Moore observed that one of the striking things about Trenton was the fact that those who prospered in the community continue to make their homes in Trenton and share their good things with their fellow citizens. Fortunate the editor whose lot has been so pleasantly cast among these happy, contented, God-fearing people, for 'except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.'

"Why predict the future of Trenton? Some sage has somewhere said 'history is but the unrolled scroll of prophecy.' If the city that is to come, in the remainder of the century, keeps pace with the tolerance, courage and enterprise of the past twenty-eight years, no forecast is needed.

"And so we pass on—with the comforting realization that the Trenton of Today is better than the Trenton of Yesterday and the confident anticipation that the Trenton of Tomorrow will be better than the Trenton of Today."

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