

1998

09 Additional notes from William Darlington's 1857 West Chester Borough Directory

James Jones

West Chester University of Pennsylvania, JJONES@wcupa.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.wcupa.edu/hist_wchest



Part of the [Public History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Jones, J. (1998). 09 Additional notes from William Darlington's 1857 West Chester Borough Directory. Retrieved from http://digitalcommons.wcupa.edu/hist_wchest/108

This Resources for Genealogists is brought to you for free and open access by the History at Digital Commons @ West Chester University. It has been accepted for inclusion in History of West Chester, Pennsylvania by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ West Chester University. For more information, please contact wressler@wcupa.edu.



**Additional notes from William
Darlington's
1857 West Chester Borough Directory**

compiled by Jim Jones

This page contains additional notes from the Directory of the Borough of West Chester, for 1857: containing a complete history of the borough from its first settlement to the present time ... by William Darlington (West Chester, PA: Wood & James, Publishers, E.F. James, printer, 1857), 63-93. Copies of the book are available in the West Chester University Special Collections and at the Chester County Historical Society library.

The First Burgesses of West Chester (page 20)		
	Name	Year(s)
1	William Sharpless	1799
2	Jacob Ehrenzeller	1800
3	Philip Derrick	1801
4	Jacob Ehrenzeller	1802
5	Richard M. Hannum	1803
6	Joshua Weaver	1804-1805
7	William Bennett	1806
8	William Sharpless	1807
9	Emmor Bradley	1808
10	George Worth	1809
11	Joshua Weaver	1810
12	William Sharpless	1811
13	Jacob Ehrenzeller	1812-1813
14	Joseph M'Clellan	1814
15	Daniel Hiester	1815-1817
16	Jacob Ehrenzeller	1818-1824

17	Ziba Pyle	1825
18	Jacob Ehrenzeller	1826
19	Ziba Pyle	1827-1830
20	Thomas S. Bell	1831-1832
21	William Williamson	1834-1835
22	William Everhart	1836-1837
23	Thomas S. Bell	1838
23	Joseph J. Lewis	1839-1843
24	William Williamson	1844
25	Uriah V. Pennypacker	1845-1846
26	William Darlington	1847
27	Uriah V. Pennypacker	1848-1849
28	Francis James	1850
29	James H. Bull	1851
30	Townsend Eachus	1852-1854
31	Joseph P. Wilson	1855-1857

West Chester's fire companies were the West Chester Fire Company, founded 1799; the Good Will Fire company founded 1833; and the Fame Fire Company founded 1838. (page 21)

West Chester's population (page 22)		
Year	Population	Note
1800	374	
1810	471	
1820	553	
1830	1244	
1840	2152	
1850	3172	451 blacks
1857	4357	1823 white males, 2091 white females, 190 black males, 253 black females

West Chester's First Criminal Executions (page 23)		
Name	Race	Date
Hannah Miller	black	1805
Edward Williams	black	1830
Charles Bowman	black	1834

Jabez Boyd	white	1845
George Pharaoh	white	1851

In the 1780s, the nearest Quaker meeting houses to West Chester were at Bradford, Birmingham and Goshen. (page 25)

BANKING

The Bank of West Chester was founded in 1814 on High Street almost directly across from the court house. (page 28)

Starting Date	Bank President	Head Cashier
Sep. 9, 1814	Joseph M'Clellan	Daniel Hiester
Nov. 25, 1816	James M. Gibbons	Daniel Hiester
Oct. 1, 1817	James M. Gibbons	David Townsend
Nov. 24, 1817	Joseph M'Clellan	David Townsend
Nov. 22 1819	Richard Thomas Jr.	David Townsend
Feb. 23, 1830	Dr. William Darlington	David Townsend
Apr. 10, 1847	Dr. William Darlington	Washington Townsend

West Chester received its first sidewalks in 1823. They were made of brick. The first MacAdam streets were laid in 1829-1830. (page 28)

RAILROADS

The West Chester Railroad was the first and only railroad in the state that was completed on time and in advance of the deadline. (page 37)

Completion of the West Chester Railroad led to the construction of Price's Boarding School in 1831, and the Mansion House Hotel in 1832. (page 37)

In 1857, the author referred to Media as "the new seat of justice" in Delaware County. (page 38)

The founders of the "direct road" (West Chester & Philadelphia Railroad) believed that they would exert a good influence on Philadelphia. The author added "In this age of Progress and annexation, we all go incontinently for the annihilation of time and the monopoly of space." (page 38)

Other Consequences of the West Chester Railroad: the town obtained a "town clock" in 1835, built by Isaiah Lukens of Philadelphia. New schools opened including Joshua Hoopes' Boarding and Day School (1834), Townsend Eachus' Young Ladies' Boarding School (1837-1838) (later Anthony Bolmar's Young Gentlemen's Boarding School in 1840). Also a county prison (1838) at NE corner of New and Market Streets. (page 39)

In 1838, the town added several tracts of land in order to expand: the Matlack farm on the north, the Patton land on the east, and the John Rutter estate on the northwest. (page 40)

The town received water service in 1841 from the old "Bath Spring" on the north side of town. Additional water service was acquired in 1854 from a plant on the Chester Creek. (page 40)

From August 1825 to spring 1827, a group of "worthy Burghers" tried to drill an Artesian well through solid rock at a point on the west side of Church Street, a few yards south of Gay Street. After spending more than \$700, they finally gave up. (page 40)

A large public school house was erected in 1841 on the south side of Barnard Street between High and Church (Denney Tag). (page 41)

AGRICULTURE

In 1846, the Chester County Horticultural Society was formed. It got its first building on High Street in 1848, only the second horticultural hall in the USA. (page 41)

Paschall Morris, John Rutter and Josiah Hoopes all founded nurseries, as did J. L. Darlington & Co., who expanded the Morris Nursery. (page 41)

A large agricultural warehouse was built in 1851 at the southeast corner of High and Chestnut Streets. In 1856, the Chester County Agricultural Society built its fairgrounds on the south side of the Borough. In 1848, Marshall Square was designated on the north side of the Borough, and dedicated on March 13, 1848. (page 42)

In 1853, a first attempt was made to remove the burial ground from the square bordered by Union, Barnard, New and Wayne Streets. The plan was to call it Wayne Square, but some of the churches objected and the plan was shelved.

The author called for the preservation of Everhart's Grove as a park within the Borough. (page 44-45)

West Chester received its first telegraph connection in 1851 and the gas company (for lighting) was founded in 1852. (page 45)

The Oaklands Cemetery was founded in 1852. It contained about 23 acres and was located about 1.5 miles north of the village of West Chester. It was dedicated on December 10, 1853 at a ceremony on Chapel Hill, the highest point in the cemetery. (page 45)

Statistics (page 59)			
Year	1856	1850	1857
Taxpayers		596	1014
Value of Real Estate	\$1,110,173	x	x
Value of Personal Property	\$1,019,774	x	x

In 1857, the borough debt was \$72,785, of which \$20,000 was incurred in 1854 when the Borough bought shares in the West Chester & Philadelphia Railroad. The rest was due to street improvements and the installation of the water system. (page 59)

Directory of people who lived in West Chester Names ending in A-L and Names ending in M-Z. (pages 63-93)

There were two Friends Meetings in West Chester. One met at North High Street and Lafayette under pastors Stephen Paschall, Ann Jackson and Sarah Hooper. The other met at Chestnut Street between High and Church under Ministers John Wood and Hannah Gibbons. (page 99)

SCHOOLS

Directors of West Chester Public Schools: Henry Sharples, Jesse C. Green, R. Maris Frame, Benjamin Bates, Washington Townsend, Minshall B. Broomhall (page 101)

Other West Chester Schools (pages 101-102)			
Name	Address	Students	Teachers
Bolmar's Institute for Young Gentlemen	Boot Road	90	12

Miss Barclay's Select School	96 W. Miner St.	17	?
Miss Emma Dennis' Primary School	64 W. Gay St.	30	?
Miss Hannah Embree's Primary School	northeast corner Church & Barnard Sts.	18	?
Miss Mary C. Pratt's Day School for Young Ladies	rear of Chester County Cabinet	45	2
Private Boarding School for Boys, Thomas B. Jacobs proprietor	102-104 W. Miner St.	15	1
Miss E. W. Richards Young Ladies' Boarding School	96 E. Gay St.	25	3
Isabella B. Butler & Sarah hughes' Student's Home	northeast corner Market & High Sts.	19	2
The Misses Evans' West Chester Female Seminary	W. Union St. between High & Church Sts.	30 boarders & 35 day	4 male & 3 female
West Chester Academy	W. Gay St. above Darlington St.	81	6
Friends School	N. Church St. between Chestnut & Washington Sts.	16	1

The trustees of the West Chester Academy included Joseph J. Lewis, Dr. William Darlington, John W. Townsend, Dr. Isaac Thomas, Dr. Wilmer Worthington, John Marshall, Washington Townsend, Joseph Hemphill, Joseph P. Wilson. (page 102)

LIBRARIES

Libraries: Chester County Atheneum (45 E. Gay), Working Mans' Institute (2nd floor of Townsend's Building at 30 E. Gay. Incorporated September 25, 1855. 600 volumes, 50 cents/year membership). Officers of the Working Mens' Institute include President L. W. H. Kervey, VP Daniel Nields, Sec. Cyrus P. Painter, Treasurer R. Maris Frame, Librarian Paul F. Whitehead, Managers Lewis Marshall, William Shields, Jos. B. Gray, D. Clinton Lewis, & Joseph Kift. (page 102)

BOROUGH OFFICIALS

Chief Burgess Joseph P. Wilson, 2nd Burgess William B. Waddell, Assistant burgess (Wm. Ingram, George Brinton, Lewis W. Shields, Robert Mercer, Samuel S. Heed), treasurer William s. Kirk, Superintendent of Water Pipes

William Apple, Street Commissioner Paschall Cope, Water Committee (Wm. B. Waddell, George Brinton, William Ingram), Street Committee (William Ingram, Lewis Shields, Robert Mercer), Gas Committee (Lewis Shields, Samuel S. Heed), Committee on Mill Property (George Brinton, Robert Mercer, William B. Waddell), Borough Constable and Clerk of Market G. A. Macartney, Lamp Lighters (William Lynch, Andrew Ferrell) (page 103)

Bank of Chester County: President Dr. William Darlington, Cashier William W. Jefferis, Assistant Cashier & Paying Teller John W. Torrey, Receiving Teller William S. Kirk. Directors: Dr. William Darlington, Smith Sharpless, Richard M. Thomas, Dr. Isaac Thomas, Jacob B. Morgan, Dr. Wilmer Worthington, George Brinton, John Marshall, William Darlington Esq., William Windle, Joel Hawley, Joseph Dowdall, Joseph P. Wilson (page 103)

West Chester's postmaster was William A. Moore. (page 104)

Horticultural Society officers: President Jonathon C. Baldwin, VP Pierce Hoopes, Recording Secretary Joseph B. Gray, Corresponding Secretary Josiah Hoopes, Executive Committee (J. B. Wood, Wm. S. Kirk, J. C. Baldwin, James Powell, Alexander Marshall). (page 194)

LINES OF TRAVEL

West Chester Railroad, depot at 47 E. Gay Street. Departures at 7h30 and 15h00. Fare 75 cents. President Joseph J. Lewis, Esq., Secretary and Treasurer S. M. Painter, Superintendent Philip P. Sharpless. (page 105)

The Reading Stage was owned by John G. Dunwoody, \$2.00 fare, three times a week. The Cochranville Stage was owned by Francis Conway, \$1.00 fare, three times a week. The New Holland Stage was owned by R. Fox, \$1.875 fare, three times a week. The Wilmington Stage was owned by George Court, \$1.00 fare, three times a week. The Philadelphia Stage was owned by Stackhouse & Co., \$0.625 cents daily. The West Chester & City Express was owned by John Roe and operated three times a week. (page 105)

MISCELLANEOUS

Josiah Hoopes had a market stall (nø57) at the West Chester Market. He was a resident of W. Goshen. (page 114)
