

Lewisburg's Hotels: A Critical Examination

by

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Throughout the history of Lewisburg, the town has been home to several hotels, taverns, temperance hotels, tourist homes, and boarding houses. From its founding in 1785, Lewisburg (then called Derrstown) contained several taverns which served primarily as drinking and social establishments. Some may have contained a limited number of rooms, but the dearth of material available from the early years prohibits modern researchers from ascertaining this type of information. Even details as simple the physical locations and names of these early taverns remain a mystery.¹

This article examines the histories of the major hotels in Lewisburg. Not covered are a few boarding houses, a number of tourist homes that appeared after World War I, and the motels that sprang up along Route 15 after World War II. Much of the information in this article comes from a close reading of Lewisburg newspapers. These titles include the Union Hickory (1829-1830), Lewisburg Journal (1830-1832), Lewisburg Democrat (1835-1836), Lewisburg Standard (1837-1839), People's Advocate (1838-1841), Lewisburg Chronicle (1843-1912), Lewisburg Democrat (1850-1854), Union Weekly Whig (1851-1852), Union Argus (1855-1854), Lewisburg Journal (1865-1946), Lewisburgh Saturday News 1883-1946), Lewisburg Journal & Saturday News (1946-1947), and the Lewisburg Journal-News (1947-through early 1952 issues). All sources are included in the Notes.

The American House

Located at the northwest corner of Market and Water, this hotel was preceded by a tavern that seems to have been built between 1795 and 1799, located in a two-story log structure, suggesting that this tavern had a small number of rooms on the second floor. John Pollock was the owner when this log structure

was built. Northumberland County tax assessment records show Pollock as a storekeeper until 1802, when his occupation is listed as a tavern keeper, which suggests that the store became a tavern that year. Pollock died in 1806 and the property was acquired at sheriff's sale by Andrew Shearer, who owned the tavern until 1823. During Shearer's ownership, he leased the building as a tavern to at least five individuals, including Nancy Irwin, who may have been the first woman to run a tavern in Lewisburg.²

Shearer's death resulted in another new owner, Dr. William Joyce, who purchased the property in 1823 and retained it until 1840, when he sold it to John Balliet, who kept the tavern until 1848. During the period from 1823 to 1848, there were at least seven men who rented the tavern. By 1838, the tavern was called the Washington House. William Petit's ad for his establishment in 1838 noted that "travellers and others can always be provided with separate apartments and every attention will be paid to their comfort and convenience." However, when John Balliet acquired the property, he changed the name to the Spread Eagle House, possibly because the hotel at Market and Second was also named the Washington House.³



The building with the long roofline running left to right is the American House, now the Packwood House Museum, in this undated image taken from the roof of the Lewisburg Woolen Mills, looking south on North Water Street. Behind the hotel is the brick building (to the left of the trees) erected in 1860 as a brick stable and carriage house. From the collections of the Packwood House Museum.

Adam J. Weidensaul, owner of a tavern in Hartleton, purchased the Joyce property in 1848. Weidensaul changed the name of the establishment to the American House. In 1851, the Lewisburg Chronicle, in an article on improvements in town, noted that the American Hotel “is enlarged and vastly improved.” No other details follow, but we can surmise that Weidensaul built a frame extension to the old log structure and altered its front door from Water Street to Market Street. In 1860, Weidensaul added a brick stable and carriage house to the property, located behind the hotel closer to the corner of Water Street and Cherry Alley. In mid-1866, he added a third story to the hotel. An 1869 room inventory listed a basement storage area, ice house, dining room, kitchen, setting room, bar room, girls’ room, and 22 hotel rooms.⁴



This log wall was discovered while some repairs were being done in the Packwood House Museum in the 1980s. The logs are part of the original log tavern built at the corner of Market and Water streets by about 1800.

Courtesy of Jennifer Snyder, Packwood House Museum.

Weidensaul seems to have incurred a lot of debt to enlarge the American House. When he died in 1869, he owed more than \$16,000 to creditors. His son John P. S. Weidensaul ran the hotel until 1872, when the property was sold to George C. Wolfe for \$5,500. Wolfe leased the hotel to Weidensaul, who seems not

to have been a responsible owner. The American House, perhaps owing to its location near the Lewisburg bridge (until the bridge was washed away in 1865) and the landing places for canal barges coming across the Susquehanna River from the Crosscut Canal, did not have the best reputation in town. A watch was reported stolen from the hotel bar in 1866, and a year later, a youth was jailed on a charge of theft at the hotel. In 1881, Weidensaul was cited for selling liquor to minors (one of them a Bucknell student) and there was another robbery in 1884. When Weidensaul applied for his annual liquor license in 1886, it was held in abeyance pending a court appearance. In May 1886, Weidensaul was found guilty of selling liquor to minor, fined \$15, and sentenced to fifteen days in the county jail.⁵

Weidensaul's liquor sales problems spelled the end for the American House. A brief story in the Journal of December 22, 1886, announced that the hotel would be sold at public sale on December 24. The Chronicle's issue of January 27, 1887, indicated that Weidensaul purchased the hotel for \$3,350; however, the Journal issue of April 5, 1892, shows that George C. Kelly purchased the old hotel in 1892 for \$2,525. Kelly converted the hotel building into a three-unit apartment building, adding a wing in the back that included kitchens and baths for two of the apartments. The old carriage house/stable collapsed in 1903. Kelly rebuilt the structure as a four-unit apartment building, using new bricks in front and salvaged bricks for the kitchen/bath wings in the rear.

After Kelly died, his wife inherited the property. She sold the Water Street property to William C. Kelly, whose widow sold it to John and Edith Fetherston in 1958. Edith's parents owned two of the three units in the old hotel building. After they died in 1935 and 1936, the Fetherstons moved to Lewisburg and began renovating their new home. They purchased the remaining unit in 1938 and proceeded to make the entire hotel building their home. They named it Packwood House in honor of the Fetherston family estate in Warwickshire, England. John died in 1962 and Edith in 1972. Her will established the Fetherston Foundation, which was given the task of turning the old building into a museum to house Edith's collection of central Pennsylvania historical and cultural artifacts. The museum has been open since 1976.

The Baker House

Lewisburg's largest hotel began under now obscure circumstances. Its founder, W. N. Baker, appears on the Lewisburg Vendor List for the years 1878-1881 as an "eating saloon" owner. In January, 1881, the Chronicle noted that Baker had just purchased a saloon property on North Second and would take possession in the spring. A year later, the Chronicle reported that Baker was tearing down a neighboring house to enlarge his establishment into a hotel.⁶

The Baker House opened in June 1882 on the west side of North Second just north of Cherry Alley. The original structure was a three-story frame building. It was ideally located—the depot of the Lewisburg & Tyrone Railroad was less than a block to the north on St. John Street. Baker quickly began to enlarge the hotel, purchasing Dr. Beck's estate for more space and then adding a large frame barn behind the hotel. Baker also established a livery service that was adjacent to the hotel on its south side for the use of both his patrons and townspeople.⁷



This postcard, issued by the Lindig Art Store (which opened in 1905), shows the proximity of the Baker House to the Pennsylvania Railroad (the former Lewisburg & Tyrone) depot on St. John Street. Postcard in possession of the author.

The hotel continued to grow; in 1892, Baker added a significant addition on

the north side that contained fifteen rooms, bringing the total number in the hotel to sixty. His dining room was well-known in Lewisburg and throughout central Pennsylvania:

The dining room will seat a large number of guests, while the tables are spread with the whitest of linen and brightest of silverware, and that which is served thereon is of the very best quality, and would suit the most fault finding. Mr. Baker butchers nearly all his own stock and the vegetables are nearly all raised on his own farm, therefore you are assured of the very freshest and best.⁸

Contemporary newspaper reports indicate that the hotel was heated with steam and lit by a combination of gas and electricity. The hotel also contained electric call and return bells, telephone connections, and a first class bar “where only the best of wines and liquors are served, also cigars of both foreign and domestic production.” At one time Baker also had an animal menagerie which included two bear cubs. There was a small lawn with “Baker House” spelled in flowers.⁹

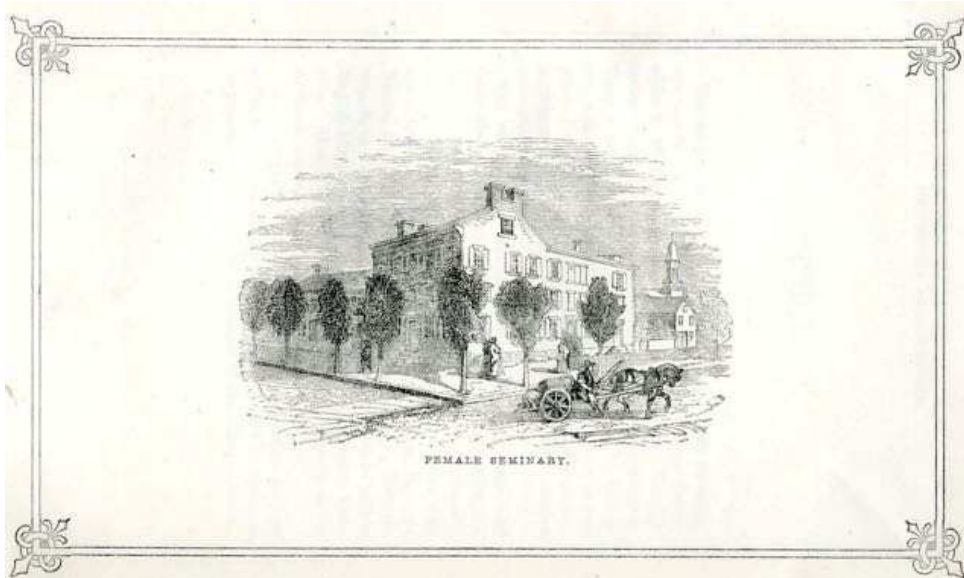
Baker retired from the hotel business in 1906 and sold the hotel to J. F. Krause, who moved from Clearfield to Lewisburg to run the revered establishment. A 1912 newspaper article noted that Krause “has made the old Baker House a spot equally as active as of old.” This article also mentioned John J. Fausnaught, the amicable clerk of the hotel, who had come to the Baker House from the Cameron House in 1894. “No man in Lewisburg or Milton or anywhere within three hundred miles is better known or more appreciated for his kindness and helpfulness and good cheer than Mr. Fausnaught.”¹⁰

The Baker House came to an abrupt end in 1916. In February, Union County voters approved a ban on the sale of alcohol and suddenly the Baker House and Cameron House both lost their liquor licenses. As a result, both hotels closed in April. The hotel was quickly pressed into service to house workers from a Milton plant that was producing artillery shells for the army. In February 1917, Jacob P. S. Strickler purchased the old hotel. He converted it into apartments and cleared away the barn and sheds on the property. In 1962, the old building was

demolished to make way for a parking lot that would serve the new Weis Markets building on North Second.¹¹

The Buffalo House

In November 1856 the University at Lewisburg sold the old Female Institute building to a New Jersey firm. This brick building was situated on the northeast corner of Second and St. Louis, diagonally across from the new Union County courthouse. A Chronicle article noted that the new hotel would open on September 10, 1857, under the ownership of L. H. Lawshe and D. B. Sebold. A year later the proprietors were Lawshe and L. D. Brower, with Brower the sole owner in August 1858. In April 1862, Lewis Geibel became the hotel's new owner.¹²



This sketch of the University at Lewisburg Female Institute building appeared in the university's 1852-1853 catalog. This structure was the Buffalo House from 1857 until 1864, then a boarding house until it burned down in 1870. Reproduced with permission from Special Collections/University Archives, Ellen Clarke Bertrand Library, Bucknell University.

The newspapers of the period contain very little information, or advertisements, about the Buffalo House. We may surmise that the hotel was opened to take advantage of its proximity to the county courthouse in hopes of enticing the people who came to town for court appearances. However, the Buffalo House seems not to have done well because it was offered for sale in February 1863. There are no follow-up stories to indicate a sale, but in March 1864 the

university trustees purchased the building for \$2,900. Later that year, in September, the trustees offered the building for sale, the sale bill noting that it was a three-story brick building measuring 48x78 feet.¹³

When next we hear of the Buffalo House, we learn that Mrs. Annie M. Moore, formerly of the Mount Vernon House, had reopened the hotel as a boarding house in April 1865. Charles S. Yoder assumed ownership in May 1866, followed by William Quigley in 1869. In July 1870, a fire started in the hotel's stables and quickly spread to the main building, rendering it a total loss. The Tuscan Villa was later erected on this spot as the home of Benjamin K. Focht, congressman and owner of the Lewisburgh Saturday News.¹⁴

The Franklin House

This hotel, in existence from the 1830s to the 1850s, is perhaps Lewisburg's most enigmatic hotel. Contemporary newspapers report no definite beginning and ending dates, and even the location is subject to controversy. We definitely know that the Franklin House was at the corner of Market and Fourth, but which corner?

The Franklin House first appears in the Lewisburg Journal of March 26, 1831, when a new painting business is noted as opening near the hotel. The same paper, in its April 16, 1831, issue, noted that Joseph Hutchison & Company had just moved into the new brick building at Market and Fourth opposite the Franklin House. In October, 1836, New Berlin's Union Times and Republican Herald noted that a confectionary and fruit store had replaced Hutchison & Company and was located one door west of Peter Kelchner's tavern. The Lewisburg Standard, in its April 19, 1838, issue, noted that Joel C. Kelly had opened a boot and shoe manufactory one door east of the Franklin House.¹⁵

The first advertisement that I have seen regarding the hotel appears in the People's Advocate on August 18, 1838. Peter Kelchner, the hotel's proprietor, thanked his friends and the public for their past support and wanted them to know that he had "extensively enlarged and refitted his establishment and thus enabled himself to afford satisfactory accommodations to all who may be so kind as to give

him a call.”

In April 1839, Charles D. Kline assumed the management of the hotel. “His lodging rooms are pleasant and airy; and his table will at all times be provided with the best the market affords, and his bar with the choicest liquors.” Kline managed the Franklin House for only a year; in April 1840, he moved to the brick hotel at Market and Second that would soon be closely identified with him for years to come.¹⁶

There is no information that I have located to indicate who replaced Kline, but in 1845, the Lewisburg Chronicle noted that Joseph Bright had assumed management, replacing Peter Kelchner. Five years later, in 1850, the Franklin House was under the management of A. H. Blair. The hotel is mentioned thrice more in the 1850s but only to note nearby businesses. The last mention of the hotel seems to have been in September 1855, when it hosted the Union County Whig Convention.¹⁷



This brick building, located on the northeast corner of Market and Fourth streets, now houses Brushstrokes. The author believes that this was the Franklin House in the 1830s-1850s. From the collections of the Packwood House Museum.

So where exactly was the Franklin House? To solve this enigma, I

referenced the 1857 map of Lewisburg and drew a sketch map that showed the buildings on each corner of Market and Fourth. I then consulted my ongoing, unpublished directory of Lewisburg businesses to list all the businesses that were identified at that intersection. On the southeast corner, John Houghton's boot and shoe business moved into a new building on that corner in 1844, and was there until 1859, when he moved across the street to the north side of Market, taking the old Kelly Temperance House space. On the southwest corner was an old mansion that had once served as the Lawshe Tavern, but by about 1837 was the home of Dr. William H. Ludwig, and after 1860, for Dr. T. A. H. Thornton. The structure was demolished in 1957 to make a parking lot for the Lewisburg National Bank.¹⁸

That leaves the north side of Market Street as the location for the Franklin House. As noted above, Joseph Hutchison & Company was located opposite the hotel in a new brick building erected in 1831. There were other businesses located in the same building, including J. C. Hartwick, George Luchenbach & B. Jones, F. A. Donehower, and S. C. Sheller. This building was replaced by a new three-story brick building in 1855, when the Lewisburg Chronicle noted that Alexander Ammons [sic] was erecting such a building at the northwest corner of Market and Fourth. Judge Martin Dreisbach purchased this building from Ammon in 1869. It would become the home of Cyrus Dreisbach's hardware store in 1874, which was destroyed by fire in 1941.¹⁹

That leaves the northeast corner of Market and Fourth as the site of the Franklin House. The hotel must have closed by 1857 because Dr. Thornton moved to the site from across the street. During the period the hotel was in existence, there are no indications that any other business was located in this building, which in future years would house Brough's Men's Wear and Roger's Men's Wear, and today is home for Brushstrokes. The Union County 1976 Historic Site Survey noted that this building was erected in 1835 by Hugh McLaughlin, but this is clearly a mistake. The building began as a tavern by the early 1830s and expanded into the Franklin House; perhaps the rear wing was the addition erected in 1838 by Peter Kelchner. Unless there is some overlooked information somewhere that

contradicts this story, we must conclude that the Franklin House occupied the northeast corner of Market and Fourth.²⁰

The Washington House (Kline's)/Riviere House/Cameron House/New Cameron House/Hotel Lewisburger/Lewisburg Hotel

Located on the northeast corner of Market and Second, this hotel is the longest-lived such business in Lewisburg, although two closings interrupted more than 170 years of service to the community. Like so many other early businesses, the origins of the Washington House, the original moniker of the hotel, are somewhat mysterious. The official story is that the hotel opened in 1834 and has been visited by every governor of Pennsylvania through 1901.²¹

The first extant mention of the Washington House is found in a December 1840 issue of the People's Advocate, where it is mentioned in conjunction with a visiting dentist who was located in the hotel. Major Joseph Hutchison is mentioned as the proprietor. His name appears on a list of tavern applications from 1840 through 1843. Otherwise, Major Hutchison is mysterious. The Lewisburg Cemetery does not contain any marked grave, nor are there any wills, and he does not appear in the 1850 census.²²



The New Cameron House was the name of the hotel at Market and Second streets from 1921-1934. Postcard in the collections of the Packwood House Museum.

In August 1844, Charles D. Kline moved to the Washington House and assumed the ownership of the hotel in place of Hutchison. The hotel must have

been one of the better establishments in Lewisburg; when the University at Lewisburg was established in 1846, Professor Stephen Taylor, the university's first president, roomed at the hotel from 1846-1851.

In the 1850s, Kline embarked on a modernization of the Washington House, which only a year earlier was described as a “public house” in the newspapers. The Chronicle reported that Kline had completed an “enlargement and renovation” of the hotel. During the summer of 1854, he added a third story to the growing brick structure. By 1856, Kline had retired as owner and manager of the hotel and turned the business over to David Herr. In 1857, Herr opened an oyster saloon (a fad of the time) in the basement.²³

Kline sold the Washington House to Riviere G. Hetzel of Dauphin for \$11,000 in August 1857. Herr remained as proprietor until April 1858, when he went to a Milton Hotel, leaving Riviere to run his new purchase. Hetzel renamed his business the Riviere House, often misspelled as the Revere House in later publications. As the Civil War was ending, Hetzel leased the hotel to C. H. Rhoads, and then in early 1866 Hetzel sold the hotel to three men, J. M. and C. F. Hess of Lewisburg, and John W. Jordan of Virginia. Jordan withdrew from the ownership a few months later, leaving the Hess's to run the hotel, which seems to have retained its old name.²⁴



This newspaper ad for Kline's Washington House shows the third floor, which was added in 1854. From the collections of the Packwood House Museum.

In January 1874, William Cameron purchased the Riviere House for

\$8,000. In June, the hotel was rechristened the Cameron House. C. F. Hess left the hotel and was succeeded as manager by George Burr, who announced that he would not sell liquor, although it seems that his alcohol ban didn't last too long because his license applications soon appear in the newspapers.²⁵

William Cameron and his wife Eleanor both passed away in the fall of 1877, leaving the hotel to their daughter, Jane Harrison, who owned the hotel until her death in 1932. She supervised the occasional redecorating of the establishment but left the daily management of the hotel to a series of managers. The newspapers of the period include the names of a dozen men who managed the hotel between 1885 and 1916.²⁶

A Chronicle article in March 1894 reported that the Cameron House contained 35 rooms, single and en suite, "elegantly furnished and kept scrupulously clean." The dining room, named as one of the hotel's chief attractions, was given high accolades, as was the parlor and bar. A barn in the rear of the property provided "the best of accommodation for horses." The establishment was heated by steam and lit by electricity.²⁷

In April 1916, the hotel closed, as did the Baker House, in response to Union County's vote to go dry. The loss of liquor licenses seems to have been a mortal blow to hotels serving alcohol. However, a February 1918 report in the Journal suggested that the last manager, Frank S. Dunkle, was keeping the hotel open, but must vacate by April 1. The shuttered hotel was, for five months in 1919, home to the local Red Cross chapter, which then moved to a house on University Avenue.²⁸

The hotel building remained closed until 1921, when Mrs. Harrison leased the property to George E. Irvin, who resigned as manager of Steininger's Café to reopen the hotel. The New Cameron House opened in November of that year, offering the European plan to guests. Irvin retired in 1933 and turned the management over to Thomas C. Peterson, who was quickly followed by George Kohler. By that time, the property was involved in the litigation that resulted from Jane Harrison's will; Kohler was appointed manager by the Union County court on behalf of the estate trustees. Mrs. Harrison had left the hotel property to Philadelphia's Presbyterian Hospital. A number of lawsuits were filed and a

heated legal battle continued until the state Supreme Court settled the issues in mid-1934.²⁹

The settlement of the legal issues meant that the hotel would continue. In November 1934, the hotel was leased to Wilbur W. Watkins, at the time the owner of the Hotel Millersburger. Watkins renovated the hotel and it opened in late December as the Hotel Lewisburger. Watkins and his wife moved to Lewisburg in early 1936 and assumed direct management of the hotel. In January 1938, Watkins purchased the building from the Harrison estate. Over the next couple of years, Watkins greatly improved the building. He added the distinctive Mount Vernon portico to the front of the hotel, added thirteen tiled bathrooms, the Orange and Blue room, and the Colonial Lounge.³⁰

Beginning in 1938, the Watkins's turned the management of the hotel over to others, and in 1941 signed a ten-year lease agreement with Grenoble Hotels, a firm that managed more than two dozen hotels in nine states. Watkins retained ownership of the hotel and in 1945 enlarged it by demolishing the house behind the hotel and adding a new wing that contained 25 rooms, each with its own bath. In 1951, Watkins improved the lobby by pouring ten tons of terrazzo flooring and otherwise completely redecorating the space; he also installed a switchboard that allowed each room to have its own telephone.³¹

Wilbur W. Watkins died in 1978. Upon his death, his widow gave the hotel to Miss Olive Smith, long-time manager of the hotel. Miss Smith continued to manage and operate the hotel until her retirement in 1986. At that time, Attorney Roger W. Fetter and his wife purchased the property and changed its name to the Lewisburg Hotel. On February 1, 1993, the hotel closed its doors after the Fetters were cited by both the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue and the Internal Revenue Service for failure to pay back taxes totaling more than \$132,000. Failure to pay taxes also meant that the hotel would be unable to renew its liquor license.³²

In October 1995, Mr. & Mrs. Norman Buck purchased the hotel property. The Bucks lived in Watsontown and had revitalized the Watsontown Hotel after it, too, had suffered financial problems. After extensive renovations, including a complete overhaul of the antiquated heating and plumbing systems, a new roof

and kitchen space, the Lewisburg Hotel reopened in November 1997. It remains open and prosperous yet today, the only one remaining of the many old hotels that once graced the streets of Lewisburg.³³

The Union Hotel

This brick hotel opened in December 1861 and was located on the south side of Market Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets, approximately where the entrance to Hufnagle Park is now located. Levi C. Cromley, born in 1817, was the owner of this establishment. The contemporary newspapers do not contain much information about the Union Hotel. In 1881, Cromley was cited for selling alcohol to minors. In 1889, the Saturday News reported that the hotel had just been overhauled and renovated. Cromley died in 1903; in 1907, hotel owner Dr. Eyer Walter sold the hotel to Lewis Chestnut of Danville for \$12,000. The hotel disappears from the literature after 1907, and I have not found any information to



This 1912 view looks east on Market between Fifth and Sixth streets. At right is the brick Union Hotel building, which opened in 1861 and was evidently still in business when this image was taken. Courtesy of Nada Gray.

ascertain its use after that year. The building remained standing until the entire block was demolished after sustaining heavy damage from the 1972 flood.³⁴

Temperance Hotels

Protests against the prevalent use of alcohol in American society spawned all sorts of businesses that catered to people who did not imbibe. The rise of temperance hotels was one facet of this anti-alcohol crusade. Lewisburg seems to have been home to at least three small temperance hotels. James Kelly opened one such hotel in a brick building on the north side of Market between Third and Fourth streets. This hotel opened on April 30, 1845. Thereafter, there are few references and no details about the hotel. It is mentioned briefly to describe the location of a nearby business in 1847, and by March 1850, another business was located in the former hotel, identified as being two doors east of the Franklin House.³⁵

The second temperance hotel opened in 1854 and was called the Union Temperance Hotel and Ice Cream and Eating Saloon. Mr. and Mrs. Peter Fishbaugh were the owners of this short-lived hotel, which was located in the former residence of William Hayes at Market and Second. In mid-1855, Lewis Overpeck opened a daguerreotype gallery in the hotel. No other details about this hotel appear in the contemporary literature.³⁶

Information on the remaining hotels is equally sparse. A Mrs. Black ran a temperance hotel that is mentioned in two newspapers, one from 1838 and one from 1851. Finally, in 1852, \$9,000 was subscribed to build a Joint Stock Temperance Hotel on a lot at Market and Fourth, but thereafter this project disappears from the contemporary literature and thus probably never opened.³⁷

The Lewisburg Inn

In 1931, John P. Ruhl purchased the Linn family home, located at 101 Market Street, from Mrs. Philip B. Linn. He opened the Lewisburg Inn, which was managed by Misses Sarah Ritter and Rhoda Berg. Ruhl sold the property to the two managers in 1941. They managed the inn until 1951, when it was purchased by Mr. & Mrs. I. A. Neff. The inn remained in business until 2001, when it closed. Although primarily known for its fine cuisine, the inn did contain a number of rooms on the second floor. Since the inn's closing, the first floor of the old Linn

building has been home to a succession of restaurants.³⁸

The Mount Vernon House

This short-lived tavern, which may have contained rooms, is another of Lewisburg's little-known establishments. Conventional wisdom dictates that the Mount Vernon House, located on the northeast corner of Front and Market, opened for business in 1868. However, the inn appears in a Chronicle story in April, 1865, which reported that Mrs. Annie M. Moore of the Mount Vernon House had moved to the former Buffalo House and opened it as a boarding house. The same article stated that C. D. Cox had returned to manage the house. Attorney J. Thompson Baker purchased the property in 1875 and converted it to his home. After the Bakers left the area (J. Thompson Baker was one of the developers of Wildwood, NJ), the property was eventually converted into apartments and yet remains an apartment house today.³⁹

And the One That Almost Was

“Developments in the hotel situation in Lewisburg have gone forward during the past few days to such an extent that an up-to-date hostelry for this place is practically assured.” So reported the Journal in May 1933. This project was pushed by the Lewisburg Business Men's Association, who subscribed the required ten percent cash needed to apply for a state charter for the Lewisburg Hotel Corporation. The May 11 issue of the Journal included an architect's sketch of the proposed hotel. The sketch shows an elegant building more than eight stories in height. If constructed, this building would have dwarfed all the other buildings in town. The project never came to fruition, perhaps because of the issues in locating a suitable site. By June 1933, articles disappear from the newspapers.⁴⁰

This concludes my survey of Lewisburg's historic hotels. I have been reading Lewisburg newspapers ever since Lois Huffines and I collected material for the Arcadia Press's *Lewisburg*, which was published in 2010. By the end of

2014, I had read all the papers except for the Saturday News issues from 1883-mid-1925, and the Home Gazette, which appeared in 1857-1858. Since I now live 1,600 miles west of Lewisburg, I have not consulted census records, liquor license applications, and other such material that may provide some answers to some of the many nebulous areas of research relevant to this article. I am pleased to hear from any readers who can fill in the gaps. My ultimate goal, after reading the newspapers and gathering a team, is to compile a new, accurate history of Lewisburg.

Notes

1. A roster of tavern owners includes the following individuals: Andrew Albright (1800), John Dunlap (1790s), Espy (1810s), John Gray (1790s), Valentine Hahn (1820s), Harris's (1830s), Frederick Henning (1790s), Thomas Jones (1830s), John McFadden (1810s), Daniel Rees (1800s-1810s), and Roland Stoughton (1820s). The various owners of the tavern that preceded the American House are mentioned in that section of this article. Named taverns included the Albright (William Poak, 1790s-1810s), Black Horse (John Lawshe, Joseph Bright, John Hause, Daniel Metzgar, 1810s-1840s), Bull's Head, Cross Keys, and Green Tree.
2. David W. Dunn, "From Adam to Edith: A History of Lot #50 in the Town of Lewisburg," unpublished paper in the Packwood House Museum files, 1980, 2-5.
3. *Ibid.*, 6-9. Advertisements for the tavern can be found in the Union Times, January 22, 1825; Journal, January 22, 1831; Union Times, January 14, June 10, 1837; Standard, April 19, 1838; People's Advocate, June 22, 1840.
4. Dunn, "Adam to Edith," 9-10; Chronicle, October 8, 1851, December 28, 1860, June 29, 1866. The Union Argus of April 15, 1856, contains an advertisement for the hotel.
5. Dunn, "Adam to Edith," 10-11; Chronicle, August 17, 1866, December 6, 1867, June 2, 1881, May 20, 26, 1886; Saturday News, March 22, 1884; Journal, May 26, 1886.
6. Chronicle, January 20, 1881, March 2, 1882.
7. Chronicle, June 8, 1882, April 21, 1887; Saturday News, April 21, 1883.
8. Chronicle, November 5, December 3, 1892; Journal, February 25, 1898.
9. Chronicle, October 23, 1884, March 31, 1894; Journal, June 15, 1892, February 25, 1898
10. Chronicle, April 21, 1894; Journal, January 19, March 30, 1906; Saturday News, January 13, 1912.
11. The county dry vote is found in the Journal, February 25, 1916. Other post-hotel stories are found in the Journal issues of April 7, 14, 1916, February 9, May 25, 1917, February 25, 1918. The Baker House apartments were sold to C. B. Comstock in 1928 and the name was later changed to the Northside Apartments. See the sale bill in the Saturday News, December 8, 1928.

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12. Union Argus, November 18, 1856; Chronicle, August 28, 1857, July 2, August 6, 1858, April 29, 1862.
 13. Chronicle, January 23, 1863, March 24, September 16, 1864. The Chronicle's April 1, 1864, issue, reported that Mr. Geibel had departed to manage the Tyrone City Hotel.
 14. Chronicle, April 14, May 12, 1865, May 25, 1866, March 5, 1869, July 8, 1870.
 15. In addition to the articles noted, see Union Times and Republican Herald, October 29, 1836. The Union Times and Republican Herald (April 22, 1837) noted that a millinery had opened next to Kelchner's hotel.
 16. Lewisburg Standard, April 11, 1839; People's Advocate, April 9, 1840.
 17. Chronicle, April 12, 1845, July 13, September 14, 1855; Lewisburg Democrat, October 1, 1850, April 13, 1853.
 18. On Houghton, see Chronicle, March 30, 1844, April 8, 1859. The history of the Ludwig house was detailed in an article in the Chronicle, May 22, 1868. See Thornton's business card address in the Union Argus, November 4, 1857. A photograph of the house is in Lois Kalp, *A Town on the Susquehanna 1769-1975* (Lewisburg: Colonial Printing, 1980), 39.
 19. Chronicle, July 13, 1855, December 17, 1869.
 20. Historic Preservation Plan of Union County, Pennsylvania, Part I: An Inventory of Historic Sites and Landmarks, prepared for the Union County Planning Commission by the Institute for Regional Affairs, Bucknell University (n. p., 1976), 56, with a photograph on page 57. The Chronicle of April 3, 1857, noted that "Dr. Thornton has bought the former tavern stand, corner of 4th and Market streets,"
 21. Undated pamphlet issued by the hotel. The 1976 Union County Historic Site Survey indicates that the building dates from 1828 (Historic Sites, 64), with note that "Nearly every Pennsylvania governor between 1831-1900 slept here."
 22. People's Advocate, December 19, 1840; e-mail from Elaine Wintjen to author, January 6, 2015, in response to query about the identity of Major Hutchison. In some articles, the major's name is spelled Hutchinson.
 23. Lewisburg Chronicle, August 24, 1844, November 11, 1853, January 30, 1857; Union Argus, May 6, 1856; Lewisburg Democrat, July 5, 1854.
 24. Chronicle, August 21, 1857, April 2, June 4, 1858, April 7, 1865, February 2, May 11, 1866. Many publications have misspelled the name of the hotel, using "Revere" instead of "Riviere."
 25. Chronicle, January 30, May 15, June 12, 1874. Burr's application for a liquor license appears in the Chronicle's issue of April 23, 1875, and in subsequent years.
 26. This paragraph is based on a large number of newspaper articles from the Chronicle, Journal, and Saturday News between 1884 and 1916. Names of managers include Henry C. Yoder, Thomas H. Hutchinson, a Mr. Swope, John J. Fausnaught, E. K. Reitmeyer, Frank Upton, McCall brothers, T. F. Moyer, S. D. Watts, Frank Aurand, Peter Burrell, and Frank S. Dunkle.
 27. Chronicle, March 31, 1894.

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28. Journal, April 7, 1916, February 22, 1918, March 10, August 5, 1919.
29. Journal, September 30, 1921, November 9, December 7, 1933, November 22, 1934; Saturday News, October 26, 1933.
30. Journal, November 22, December 13, 20, 1934, January 3, June 13, 1935, February 27, August 27, 1936, September 9, 1937, January 6, 1938, September 20, 1945; Saturday News, August 4, 1938, September 25, 1941.
31. Journal, June 15, 1941, September 21, 1944, September 20, 27, October 4, December 20, 27, 1945; Saturday News, March 3, 1938, December 28, 1938; Journal-News, March 6, 1947, December 13, 1951.
32. Kalp, *A Town on the Susquehanna*, 334; Bucknellian, February 5, 1993, October 19, 1995; telephone conversation between Betty Cook and the author, January 12, 2015.
33. Bucknellian, October 19, 1995; undated brochure issued by the Lewisburg Hotel.
34. Chronicle, December 6, 1861, June 2, 1881, June 20, 1903, November 2, 1907; Saturday News, August 24, 1889. Dr. Eyer Walter owned two drugstores in Lewisburg. The first operated from 1887-1891, when Harry Hoffman purchased the store. Walter opened a new store in the Harrison block at Market and Third and ran it for only three months in 1893. Although married, he ran off with a 21-year-old from Selinsgrove and his wife closed the store and sold it at sheriff's sale. Evidently Walter was back in Lewisburg sometime after this incident.
35. John B. Linn, *Annals of Buffalo Valley, Pennsylvania. 1755-1855* (Harrisburg: Lane S. Hart, Printer and Binder, 1877), 544-45; Chronicle, May 31, 1845, April 8, 1847, March 20, 1850.
36. Chronicle, March 31, 1854, July 13, 1855.
37. Lewisburg Standard, January 11, 1838, November 18, 1851. It should be noted that the 1838 reference does not include the word "temperance." The Joint Stock Temperance Hotel notice appears in the Lewisburg Democrat, March 2, 1852. The location on a lot at Market and Fourth is interesting. This note suggests that when Alexander Ammon began construction of a new brick building in 1855, the previous structure either had been torn down or abandoned. Further research may shed light on this mystery.
38. Kalp, *Town on the Susquehanna*, 175. Mrs. Kalp wrote that the two ladies purchased the Linn property, but see the Journal, October 30, 1941, which indicates that Ruhl sold the business at this time. The Neff purchase is noted in the Journal-News, March 29, 1951.
39. The brochure, *Lewisburg: The Middle Years 1840-1880*, has the 1868 date when describing the property, as does the 1976 *Historic Sites* (page 66). See also the April 14, 1865, and April 2, 1875, issues of the Chronicle.
40. Journal, May 11, 18, June 15, 1933; Saturday News, May 11, 1933.

✧ ACCOUNTS ✧