The subject of this sketch was so prominent in the affairs of Lancaster Borough, and also of the province and State, that one wonders why the historian of the past, who was in closer touch with his activities than we possibly can be, did not give more at length the story of his life. It would seem to yet rest upon some member of his profession to gather together as much information concerning him as is now obtainable. Details give life and charm to a narrative, and I have, therefore, endeavored to pick out some of the incidents of a career which I think can be truly said to have been fairly full. It seems to me that the reader will more fully comprehend the life of Judge Yeates if he can mentally transport himself to the scene of his labors and consider the same from that view-point.

Three lawyers of the Lancaster Bar stood forth most prominently during the days which preceded and covered the period of the war of independence. These men were George Ross, William A. Atlee and Jasper Yeates. The first was a signer of the Declaration. He died in 1779, while a Judge of the Court of Admiralty in the City of Philadelphia, before the struggle was ended. He was admitted to the Bar of Lancaster County at May Term, 1750. The two latter finally occupied positions upon the Bench of the State Supreme Court. William A. Atlee was admitted at Lancaster to practice law on August 13, 1758, and Jasper Yeates, when he was only a little over twenty years of age, was admitted there on May 8, 1765. The preceptor of Judge Yeates was Edward Shippen, Jr., afterwards
Chief Justice. It was on Mr. Shippen's motion that Mr. Yeates was admitted to the Lancaster Bar.

In a letter dated New Castle, August 22, 1765, written by him to his father, and which I have in my possession, he says:

"I left Lancaster yesterday and have but just alighted from my horse, & obtained an admission in the Courts here, but would not neglect, tho' fatigued with my journey, to answer your letter by this post, who I am informed is expected to pass through town in a few minutes."

Jasper Yeates was born on April 17, 1745, in the City of Philadelphia. He was the son of John Yeates and Elizabeth Yeates, whose maiden name was Sidbottom. John Yeates was a merchant, doing business in Philadelphia, and, in conjunction with others, owned ships which plied chiefly between the Barbadoes and England and this colony. The son was educated at the College of Philadelphia, and he received his degree of Bachelor of Arts there in 1761. On May 23, 1768, there was conferred upon him the degree of Master of Arts, signed by William Smith, Provost; Francis Allison, Vice-Provost; Ebin Kinnersley, Professor of English and Oratory; John Beveridge, Linguist Professor, and John Morgan, Professor of Theory and Practice.

From his receipts, in possession of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, it seems that he was in and about the Town of Lancaster for almost a year before he established his permanent residence there. An account with Christian Wirtz, storekeeper, for 12s. 2d. was by him paid as early as February 20, 1765; and another for £6, 10s. 10d., covered a period from March 6, 1765, to May 4, 1765. On June 20, 1765, he paid Peter Weaver £1, 11s. 6d. in full "for hyring my horse ten days and a half day at 3/p. day." And on October 16, 1765, he paid George Hoofnagle
17s. 6d. for hiring horse seven days, at 2s. 6d. a
day. On September 23, 1765, he sent by George
Shank "one small chest of clothes, marked JY," to be
delivered "safe in the City of Philadelphia at the
Sign of the King of Prussia, to the care of Mr. Farmer
Dewees, Innkeeper," for which he paid half a crown.
These receipts indicate that he was in Lancaster
during almost the whole of the year 1765. But I also
find receipts from James Simpson and John Bayles,
for Daniel Bailey, for the carriage of sundry household
goods from the "Head of Elk to this place." These
are dated April 10, 1766. On the same day, he paid
Zebulon Hollingsworth "for trouble of storage, &c., of
household goods to Head of Elk." Prior to this time,
namely, on November 21, 1765, he paid to Robert
Creighton £5 in full for the carriage of a piece of house-
hold furniture "together with the family" from Vi-
enna "in the sloop Sally & Betty by me freighted of
Capt. McCloyster." Vienna is located on the eastern
shore of Maryland, on Sharp River, between Salisbury
and Hurlock. This place had, before he settled in
Lancaster, evidently been his home.

On March 24, 1766, Jacob Brubaker gave a receipt to
Mrs. Ewing for 14 shillings for a cord of hickory wood
delivered that day. This fixes the time she arrived
in Lancaster. On March 18, 1766, Mr. Yeates paid
Jacob Coleman £7, 10s. in full for the carriage of Mrs.
Sarah Ewing with her family from Philadelphia to
Lancaster, in a stage wagon. This is the first mention
of a stage from Philadelphia to Lancaster that I know
of. Mrs. Ewing was Jasper Yeates' sister. She con-
tinued to live in the borough until her death, which
occurred October 3, 1823. Her age was ninety-two
years and six months. She survived all her children.
Judge Yeates in his will stated that he had "maintained" his "sister for many years," and he gave her
an annuity and directed that she might live with his widow.

He and the family first lived in a house belonging to Marcus Young. Here is the evidence of it:

"Lancaster, 10th Nov'b'r 1766. Rec'd of Jasper Yeates six pounds fifteen shillings in full for a Quarter's Rent of my house he lives in, due the 5th instant.
£6, 15/.
Marcus Young."

This house was situated on the north side of East King Street, between Duke and Lime Streets, in the Borough of Lancaster, about where the Westernberger, Maley & Myers store now stands. Marcus Young owned three adjoining houses, the westernmost of which he occupied himself. I cannot say in which of the other two Judge Yeates resided. He must have continued there for some years, for I have found receipts for the rent paid by him for these premises up until February 4, 1771. Marcus Young kept a grocery store. He had a son Matthias Young, who afterwards figured considerably in the affairs of the town.

On December 30, 1767, Mr. Yeates married, in Philadelphia, Sarah, daughter of Col. James Burd and Sarah Shippen Burd, his wife. On September 4, 1775, he bought, for thirteen hundred pounds, a half lot of ground in Lancaster Borough, containing 32 feet 2½ inches in front, on South Queen Street, and in depth 252 feet, to a 14 feet wide alley, bounded on the north by a 14 feet alley (now Mifflin Street), and on the south by a lot then in the tenure or occupation of David Tressley. Here he lived from that time on until his death.

When Jasper Yeates first came to the Bar, George Ross, William A. Atlee and John Currie practically monopolized the law business of the county. It is the usual experience of young lawyers that clients do not eagerly enlist their services. But Mr. Yeates seems to
have been an exception to this general rule. His first appearance upon the Common Pleas Docket was in the case of Paul Zemberling v. Barnet Jacobs, to No. 251, November Term, 1765. He was associated with John Ross for the plaintiff. It was an appeal from the judgment of John Philip DeHaas, Esq., and the amount involved was £3. 4. 0. John Currie, Esq., represented the defendant. The result of the litigation does not appear. He speedily secured a firm hold, for the next year his name was entered in eighty-five litigated cases, in 1767 in two hundred and two cases, and in 1768 in two hundred and nineteen cases. Thence forward he led the Bar of his county, his activity as a lawyer continuing until about 1789, when he apparently gradually retired from active practice. From the time of his admission to the day when he was appointed to the Bench, his name was entered on the Common Pleas Dockets of Lancaster County in five thousand, two hundred and seventy-nine cases. In those days, when a warrant of attorney was given to confess judgment, a lawyer regularly appeared and confessed the judgment. Jasper Yeates' name appears in four hundred and ninety-eight cases of this character, in addition to those above enumerated. The first of this kind was the case of Jacob A. Loeser and John Backenstoes, Executors of Teterick Shope v. Jacob Kline, to May Term, 1766, No. 32. His briefs and notes of testimony also show that he practiced considerably in the Criminal Courts, and besides this large business at Lancaster, he traveled the circuit and attended the Courts in York, Dauphin, Cumberland, Franklin, Northumberland and Berks Counties. In the year 1780, litigation almost came to an end. Thomas Hartley, a lawyer from York, and afterwards a member of the first Congress, writing to him on June 27, 1780, from that place, said: "I am one of your unfortunate men—for just as I had determined to pursue the law
duly for a livelihood, it has nearly ceased. I fret a little sometimes, but (who would think it) I have some philosophy.” On October 18, 1780, Mr. Yeates wrote: “The judges will not hold Court at Lancaster, Carlisle or York this fall. They will have one at Reading on the 6th of November.” On October 27, 1781, he wrote from Carlisle: “We have a great deal of business, little sleep and less money. All that we get from clients is an account of their distresses and their willingness to pay, if they had it. Thank Heavens, we are better off at home.” Of course, many of the cases in which he was employed were probably not large, as to the money involved, nor important as to principles; but they required attention, and made him a very busy man.

To give an idea of the fees charged in those days, I present a copy of a receipt in my possession given by him to the County of Lancaster: “Received of Wm. Henry, Esq., Treasurer of Lancaster County, Four Hundred Dollars, viz.: Two Hundred Dollars for Edward Shippen and Two Hundred Dollars for myself, for counsel to the Board of Commissioners and Assessors on divers points of law, and as a retaining fee for ourselves in case any suits should be brought on the matters referred to us. £150. By Order of the Board. J. Yeates. Aug. 5, 1779.”

On or about June 9, 1784, the Court House in Lancaster burned down. William Hamilton, writing to him from Bush Hill, on July 14, 1784, said: “I am sorry for the accident to the Court House, which must certainly have occasioned you & its other neighbors a great deal of trouble and uneasiness. It could not have happened at a more inconvenient time for rebuilding. Pray, could it not be contrived to have the new one raised in some other place & to leave the Square unincumbered with any Building in its centre? It would certainly conduce very much to the Beauty of the Town.
The Public might have any lot of mine that would suit the purpose."

The burned structure was the first Court House building erected in the town. It stood in the middle of Centre Square, on a plot of ground donated by Andrew Hamilton for that purpose. Instead of taking Mr. Hamilton’s suggestion, a new building was put up in the same place, which was finished in 1787. It was in 1854 that the third Court House was constructed, and the Courts were removed from the former place to the corner of East King and North Duke Streets, its present location.

By an Act of the General Assembly, passed June 13, 1777, it was required “that all male white inhabitants of the state . . . above the age of eighteen years” should on or before the first day of July next, take and subscribe an oath whereby they renounced and refused all allegiance to George the Third, King of Great Britain, his heirs and successors, and promised that they would be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a free and independent state, and that they would not at any time do or cause to be done any matter or thing that would be prejudicial or injurious to the freedom and independence thereof, as declared by Congress, &c. Supplementary Acts of the same general character were subsequently passed. It became necessary, under them, that all the members of the Bar should take the oath of allegiance and be re-admitted to practice. Therefore, at August Term, 1778, on motion of Jonathan D. Sergeant, in behalf of Edward Shippen, Jun’r, George Ross and Jasper Yeates, these gentlemen were added to the Roll of Attorneys of the Court, and they accordingly took the oath prescribed by the Act of Assembly.

Jasper Yeates was appointed one of the Justices of the Supreme Court quamdiu se bene gesserit the 21st
day of March, 1791. His commission was published in the Supreme Court April 2, 1791. On November 11, 1793, he wrote to Capt. John Inglis: “I have vanity enough to flatter myself you will expect to hear something of myself. I have quitted the practice of the law near three years & have taken my seat as one of the Judges of the Supreme Court.” The cases in which Judge Yeates sat are reported in the four volumes of Yeates’ Reports, six volumes of Binney’s Reports, and two volumes of Sergeant & Rawle’s Reports. His briefs, notes of testimony taken upon trials, and copies of many of his opinions are among the Yeates Papers in the custody of the Historical Society.

I find the following bill, dated June 3, 1797:

The State of Pennsylvania,

To Jasper Yeates, Dr.

To his expenses in attending the Supreme Court in Philadelphia, March Term, 1797, from 18th March, 1797, to 3 April, both inclusive,

17 days at 4 doll’s 68 dollars

To do in attending Nisi Prius Courts for Franklin, Bradford, Westmoreland, Allegheny, Washington and Fayette Counties, from the 14 April, 1797, to 30th May, both inclusive,

47 days at 4 doll’rs 188

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While the seat of government was at Lancaster, Judge Yeates generally drew the pay of Chief Justice Tilghman and forwarded it to him. Judge Tilghman, writing from Philadelphia on June 24, 1806, said: “When you receive my quarter’s salary due July 1st, I beg the favor of your reserving the amount of my travelling expenses on the Circuit. . . . I am
going on steadily with the Court of Nisi Prius here. The weather is hot, but a good deal of business will be dispatched. I have great hopes that we shall be able to make a serious impression on the Docket in a year or two. Mr. Rawle is at present disabled from attending Court by the gout; but it is probable he will be able to come out next week when the period for special juries commences. We are sitting in the old Assembly room, which I think is the most convenient in the city for our purpose. It is newly painted and in very decent order. I will consult with Judge Smith and fix some time and place for meeting you on our journey to Pittsburg.”

The estimate which the Chief Justice had of Judge Yeates is contained in a letter written by him to the latter on May 5, 1809. He said: “On my return from Maryland, I received your favor of the 23rd April, and a packet containing the opinions you received from Mr. Binney. I very well know your industry, but I am afraid you hurried yourself more than the occasion required, for I consider any paper of mine as safe in your hands as in my own.”

Judge Yeates was a student and a lover of literature. He had the largest law library and private library of any one living in the vicinity of his home. A number of his miscellaneous books are now in the possession of Redmond Conyngham, Esq., his great-great-grandson. As early as September 2, 1767, William Henry, Executor of William Jevon, a book-seller, whose place of business was on a lot now covered by Watt & Shand's store, near Centre Square, Lancaster, gave him a receipt for two American Magazines. Such magazines were not in common circulation in those days. On February 4, 1783, he paid Paul Weitzel, for Bacon’s Abridgement, 5 vols., £14, 10s.; for Burrows’ Report, 2 vols., £6, 6s.; and for Lord Raymond’s Reports, £6,—£26, 16s. On September 14, 1792, he wrote the following letter to Phineas Bond: “I yesterday received your favor of
the 15th July, and beg my acknowledgments for the trouble you have taken with the tea urn and books. Your unremitted attention to the wishes of your friends leave no doubt that my Library in the Law Line will be fully completed, provided the execution of the commissions is at all practicable. Permit me to request you to add to the list the additional notes in the Second Edition of Douglas’ Reports. I find they are advertised by E. Brooks, Temple Bar, to be sold separately at 2/.

I think that there is a prevalent opinion among the members of the Lancaster Bar that he left his law library to the Lancaster Law Library Association. When it is considered that that association was organized under the leadership of Thaddeus Stevens on November 16, 1854, it is apparent that such a disposition of it was impossible. By his will, proven March 27, 1817, he gave the house “wherein I live, situated in South Queen Street, in the Borough of Lancaster,” to his wife, Sarah, “during her natural life,” and directed that, after her death, it should be sold by his executors. When she died, it was conveyed by his and her heirs to Margaret Yeates and Catharine Yeates, two of his daughters, in fee. On April 19, 1855, the heirs of Margaret Yeates conveyed her undivided half to Catharine Yeates. The will made no reference to his library, and it was appraised at $2772.00. It was, however, kept by his daughter, Catharine, as far as possible in the same condition as that in which he left it. It remained in the same apartment, arranged on the same shelves and in the same order as it was during his life. When she died, in 1866, she gave the following directions in her will concerning it: “I request that my revered father’s library be undisturbed, and that ten dollars a year be given to some person interested in the family to dust the books throughout once a year, always restoring them to the same places, as this is a habit I have always
practiced." Her executors were Townsend Whelen and the late Judge Alexander L. Hayes. On December 27, 1867, they sold and conveyed the house to Jasper Yeates Conyngham. It then became necessary to make some other arrangement relative to the library. Upon a consultation being had between the heirs of Judge Yeates, it was determined by them to tender it to the Lancaster Law Library Association, with a sum which would make an amount equivalent in interest to what Miss Yeates had directed should be annually paid for its custody. The offer was accepted by the association, and the books were removed to the Lancaster Court House and labeled as "Yeates Library," and there they now remain. I am afraid they have not received the care which Miss Kitty (as she was called) desired should be bestowed upon them. He who delves among these ancient tomes is soon covered with the dirt and dust which his temerity has brought upon him.

The library at the time of the transfer consisted of ten hundred and forty-three volumes. Some have since disappeared, and among these is the valuable report of the trial of Peter Zenger, published in Lancaster in 1735. A few years ago, I made a list of old Philadelphia newspapers which in bound volumes were in the collection. A more recent examination has disclosed to me that some of them have since that time been carried away. While the old law reports have ceased to be of use as books of reference, they nevertheless are valuable for their antiquity, containing, as they do, the sources of the common law.

Judge Yeates was not only a successful business man, but a prudent and a just one. In his will he says: "I owe but few debts, having through the course of a long life scrupulously endeavored punctually to discharge them, and I warmly recommend the same line of conduct to my children." No better principles can be advocated or followed by any one. He believed that,
when a debt was owing, it was his duty as an honest man to liquidate it, so that his creditor at a proper time might have what was justly due. On the other hand, he then knew exactly what belonged to him, and was not deceived by false appearances. This plan of living brought him success, and probably will produce the same results for any one else who follows it.

His fortune was large for the time in which he lived, and the character of his investments as shown in the inventory of his estate indicates fully the conservatism of the man. The inventory of his personal estate amounted to $240,700.53. His private library was inventoried at $800.00. No account was filed by the executors in the estate. A settlement and division must have been made by mutual agreement of the heirs, who were all of age, and the law library was allowed to remain in the old house, as we have before stated.

His associates on the Bench knew his financial methods. Chief Justice Tilghman, writing to him on November 8, 1814, said: "What do you think of the debt of the United States? You need be under no fear, now that Sec'y Dallas is at the helm. We shall have a National Bank certainly. I expect to see you a great stockholder in it. A little space & a great deal of paper will make out your subscription."

On June 21, 1781, Judge Yeates wrote to Edward Shippen, at Philadelphia: "I have lately been offered some small bills of the British Officers here for subsistence money drawn on their Paymaster in London at 30 days' sight, at an exchange of 12 shillings currency for £100 Sterling. I have some thought of buying a few of these bills to a small amount in order to have a little money in England at the conclusion of the War." Mr. Shippen advised him that "many private bills of the officers have been protested, and it will be most prudent to take those drawn by the Paymaster of the Corps."

Judge Yeates died on March 14, 1817, and his re-
mains lie buried in Saint James' Episcopal Churchyard in Lancaster. Upon his tombstone is inscribed this fitting memorial:

"He filled the various duties of his office with fidelity. His integrity was inflexible. As a judge he was most learned and sincere, and in the exercise of public functions he deserved the confidence of his fellow citizens, and has left behind him a name which will only perish with the judicial records of his county."

Any one to whom such words of tribute can be justly paid has played his part in life well.

Outside of his professional and judicial duties, he served in numerous public stations. In 1775, and at least for a time during the pendency of the Revolutionary War, he was Chairman of the Committee of Correspondence for Lancaster County. He was a Captain in Col. Matthias Slough's Battalion of Associates, of Lancaster County, who left for the camp in the Jerseys on September 9, 1776. (See Penn's Archives, 2nd Series, Col. 13, p. 336.)

But about this time he was appointed one of a Commission to treat with the Indians at Fort Pitt. In answer to a notification of his appointment, he, on July 6, 1776, wrote to Benjamin Franklin and James Wilson: "I have received your favor of the 4th instant this afternoon, and conceive it my indispensable duty to inform you without delay that I cheerfully acquiesce with the appointment of the Honorable Congress. My company's being under marching orders to Trenton makes my separation from them somewhat uneasy to me, but I submit and shall be happy in rendering my country any services, however small, in the station assigned to me. Be so good, Gentlemen, as to express my most grateful acknowledgment to the Congress for the honor they have done me." In his memorandum book, he says: "I was adopted into the Six Nations and named Guy-wee-ho, i. e., the Messenger of Good
While on this mission, he wrote home the following interesting letter:

Pittsburgh August 21st 1776.

Dear Sir:

We yesterday made a party to visit Braddocks Field. We went in a large cannoe with six oars, fourteen persons in number. A platform was raised on each end for a place to sleep, and then hoop poles bent over about four feet in height on which blankets were stretched to keep off sun or rain. We were well supplied with provisions and refreshments. One of our companions played delightfully on a German flute; our time therefore did not pass heavily while we ascended the Monongahela. We arrived at the field in about four hours. We made a hearty dinner not far from the battle ground, near a fine spring,—it was wise in eating before we visited the field, for I would have had but little appetite, if we had pursued a different course. When we commenced our ramble, our Hearts sickened; the skulls and bones of our unburied countrymen met our eyes, and we contemplated in imagination as an event but recently happened. Any person of common humanity would have experienced pain from the reflection that between five and six hundred brave men fell victims to the merciless savages. The marks of cannon and musket balls are still to be seen on the trees; many of the impressions are twenty feet from the ground. My indignation was greatly excited against the commander of the British army, in suffering so many brave men to perish from an obstinate adherence to European rules of war. The observations I heard Sir Francis Halket made of that bloody day and his filial expressions of affection to the memory of his worthy father, Sir Peter Halket, rushed to my recollection. My feelings were heightened by the warm and flowing narration of that day's events by Dr.
Walker, who was an eye witness. He pointed out the ford where the army crossed the Monongahela (below Turtle Creek 800 y'ds), a finer sight could not have been beheld,—the shining barrels of the muskets, the excellent order of the men, the cleanliness of their appearance, the joy depicted on every face at being near Fort Duquesne, the highest object of their wishes,—the music re-echoed through the mountains. How brilliant the morning,—how melancholy the evening! The Savages and the French had hardly an idea of victory when they made the attack. Braddock appeared almost to have courted defeat. Against every remonstrance of Sir Peter Halket, Major Washington and other of his officers, he refused to let a man leave his rank; they fired in platoons against no object,—how very dispiriting to a gallant soldier; they were shot down in whole ranks. The enemy, observing the infatuation of the General, felt assured of victory, redoubled their exertions and fired with such fatal precision as to cause our men to throw away their guns and run off in the greatest disorder. The officers in vain attempted to arrest their course,—they were compelled to follow their example. How differently did they cross the river now,—without arms, order or music, the hellish yells of the Indians and the groans and shrieks of the dying and the wounded falling upon their ears. I will not pain you by a further recital, suffice it that the enemy pursued them no farther than the ford. The dead bodies of our troops were suffered to remain a prey to wolves and crows. When the English took possession in 1758 of Fort Pitt, a party was sent out, who buried upwards of four hundred and fifty skulls. Many have since been buried, and many remain as monuments of our shame. That the enemy derived any advantage from the ground I cannot believe; their real advantage consisted in their mode of fighting and the blunder of Braddock. We returned
home late in the evening; the music of the flute was delightful and solemnly impressive.

What a waste of blood and treasure has this little spot cost France, England and America. The prospects around here are most charming on the Allegheny and Monongahela, and the walks pleasant beyond description. I had often heard of the celebrated Fortress of Duquesne in my youth,—what is it now? A little irregular ground, a few graves and the fosse of the Fort are only visible. I remarked the grave of Col. Chaplain.

Fort Pitt stands 100 yards from Fort Duquesne, fronting the junction of the waters. A garrison and guard reminds me that we are still in a state of war. May God grant that peace may soon be restored to us, and the Liberty of our Country placed beyond the arm of Tyranny to reach.

Yours, &c.,

J. Yeates.

In 1787, he was one of the delegates from Lancaster County to the State Convention, which ratified the Constitution of the United States, and with Thomas McKean and James Wilson constituted the Committee which reported and recommended the form of ratification. On August 17, 1789, a meeting was held to consider the improvement of the Susquehanna River, and on October 19, 1789, a more formal Convention was held "in the house of Archibald McAllister in Paxtang Township, Dauphin County." At this meeting, Jasper Yeates headed the list from Lancaster County, and Generals Ewing and Simpson were present from York County. A Committee was made up from Lancaster, York, Cumberland, Northumberland, Huntingdon and Mifflin Counties, and General Ewing was elected as chairman. Active Committees were appointed to solicit subscriptions for the purpose of a sur-
vey, and an appeal was made to the Assembly. An original unpublished letter upon the subject, dated "Penn's Valley, 16th Oct'r 1789," is as follows:

"I have been under the necessity of being abroad since the time I received your letter 'till last Monday. And Gen'l Potter, to whom you also wrote in the same neighbourhood has been & continues to be in so poor a state of health that neither he nor I have had it in our power to attend as yet to the taking in subscriptions for the valuable purpose you mention. We have communicated your proposals to several of our neighbours who all unite with us in approving the undertaking & express'd their willingness to subscribe. We are exceedingly sorry that no person from our neighbourhood can attend at your proposed general meeting on the 19th Inst., but we expect our absence will not be considered either as a neglect of or unwillingness to cooperate with you in whatever measures may be thought most expedient for accomplishing the business. I can with confidence assure you the case is quite the reverse. You may rely on us for every assistance we can possibly render you. Gen'l Potter authorizes me to assure you that he will subscribe as much as any man who lives west of the Susquehannah. For my own part, I shall subscribe as high as my circumstances will admit, & use every exertion to take in subscriptions, & therefore think you may depend on receiving as much assistance from us as from any other District in this part of the Country of the same Bounds.

"I am, Gentlemen, with esteem, your most Ob’d’t & very Hon’ble S’v’t

"A. Greggor.

"Jasper Yeates, Paul Zantzinger,
Adam Reigart, John Miller & Jacob Krug, Esqs."

An engineer was appointed and a Committee of Supervision, consisting of Samuel Boyd, Bartram Ga-
braith and Thomas Hulings, was named, and directions were given to have a survey made from Susquehanna, Wrightsville Ferry, to the Head of McKees Half Falls, and of the Juniata River to Aughwick Falls. All this was done in three or four years, at a cost of about $15,000. But, before the State had settled its policy, a company was incorporated to construct a canal at “Conewago,” and a canal was built at York Haven. The improvement-enterprise was then abandoned. After many years, it has again been revived, and the prospects are that, in another form, and for the purpose of generating electricity, it will be carried out in some manner.

On August 8, 1794, he, with James Ross and William Bradford, was appointed by President George Washington on a Commission to repair to the Western Counties and confer with such bodies and individuals as they might approve to quiet the whiskey insurrection. After various conferences, an agreement was arrived at, and a report was made to the Government. (See Penn'a Archives, 2nd Series, Vol. 4, p. 163.) An original copy, in his handwriting, inscribed “Treaty between Com’n & Committee of Insurgents, Sept. 2, 1794,” which has come into my possession through the courtesy of Simon Gratz, Esq., is in the following words:

“(1) That the said Citizens resident in Allegheny County shall meet in their respective Election Districts on the same day & proceed in the same manner as if they were assembled in Townships.

“(2) If the said Assurances shall be bona fide given in the manner prescribed, the Com’n, on the part of the U. S., do promise & engage in manner following, to wit:

“1. No prosecution for any Treason or other indictable offence against the U. S. committed within the 4th Survey of Penn’a before the 22d Day of Aug’t last
shall be commenced or prosecuted before the Tenth Day of July next agst any Person who shall within the Time limited subscribe such Assurances & every Agreem’t as afsd. & perform the same.

"2. On the sd Tenth Day of July next there shall be granted a general Pardon & Oblivion of all the sd offences, excluding therefrom, nevertheless, every Person who shall refuse or neglect to subscribe such Assurances & every Agreem’t in manner afsd, or shall after such subscription violate the same or wilfully obstruct or attempt to obstruct the execution of the sd Act or be aiding or abetting therein.

"3. Congress having by an Act passed on the 15 Day of June last authorized the State Courts to take cognizance of offences agst the sd Acts for raising a Revenue upon Distilled Spirits & Stills, the President has determined that he will direct Suits agst such Delinquents to be prosecuted therein, if upon experiment it be found that local Prejudices or other Causes do not obstruct the faithful administration of Justice. But it is to be understood that of this he must be the judge & that he does not mean by this Determination to impair any Power vested in the Executive of the U. S.

"4. Certain beneficial arrangements for adjusting Delinquencies & Prosecution for Penalties now depending shall be made & commenced by the Officers appointed to carry the sd Acts into execution.

Pittsburgh Sept’r 2, 1794.

Signed in behalf of the Committee representing the Fourth Survey of Penn’a unanimously by the numbers present.

J. Ross J. Yeates W. Bradford

John Probst Robert Dickey Jno. Nesbitt
David Philips J. Marshall Sam’l Willson
Geo. Wallace John McClelland
"We the underwritten do also promise on behalf of the State of Penn’a that in case the Assurances now proposed shall be bona fide given & performed until the 10th Day of July next, an Act of free & general Pardon & Oblivion of all Treason, Insurrections, arsons, riots & other offences inferior to riots, so committed, counselled or suffered by any Person or Persons within the four Western Counties of Penn’a, from the 14th Day of July last past, so far as the same concerns the sd State or the Gov’t thereof, shall be then granted, excluding therefrom every Person who shall refuse or neglect to subscribe such Assurances or who shall after such subscription willfully violate or obstruct the Laws of the State or of the U. S.

"Tho. McKean
"Wm. Irvin."

His Colleague on the Supreme Court, Judge Hugh H. Brackenridge, was incensed at the conclusions of the Commission, and the relations between the two were ever afterwards very much strained.

On February 28, 1803, a petition, signed by Thomas Passmore, of the City of Philadelphia, was presented in the State House of Representatives by Mr. Ferguson, asking that body to take into consideration the impeachment of Chief Justice Edward Shippen, Judge Yeates and Judge Thomas Smith. The ground of the impeachment was the imposition of a fine and imprisonment for contempt of Court. The proceedings arose chiefly out of a party feeling, which at that time ran strong. Judge Yeates was an ardent Federalist. Articles of Impeachment were adopted, and on January 7, 1805, the Senate commenced to sit as a Court of Impeachment to hear the case. The Senators from Lancaster County were Christopher Mayer and John Steele. The prosecution was represented by Cæsar A.
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Rodney, of the State of Delaware, and Alexander J. Dallas and Jared Ingersoll appeared for the defense. On Monday, January 28, 1805, a vote was taken on the charges, resulting in eleven votes Not Guilty and thirteen votes Guilty. Senator Mayer voted Not Guilty and Senator Steele Guilty. As a two-thirds vote was required to convict the defendants, they were declared Not Guilty.

Judge Yeates was most precise in the conduct of his private affairs. He kept many if not all of his receipts, and from them we can view in retrospect his home life, and, at the same time, ascertain in a general way the cost of living as it then prevailed.

On April 15, 1777, he paid to Mary Henry for three quarters schooling £1 4s.; to Andrew Brown, on February 12, 1782, for teaching two children three months £2; to Nathaniel Grier, on November 3, 1783, for instructing his son John, £1; on June 18, 1782, to Jacob Hubley for four months' instruction on the Spinnet at 35s. a month, £7; and to Elizabeth Commins, on October 14, 1783, for three months' services as housemaid, £4, 10s. John Powell and Robert Andrews were also employed as teachers at various times. A receipt, dated August 4, 1781, from George Burkhart, for £1, 2s 6d., appears for making a coffin for his negro, Prime.

During the Revolutionary War, every one embraced within certain classes was obliged to serve or furnish a substitute. On February 8, 1777, he paid Frederick Doersh £20, as a substitute, and on June 25, 1781, and later, he paid Adam Keller two half Johannes in gold for performing his (Yeates') "present term of duty in the 3rd Class of the 8th Batallion of Lancaster County."

On January 2, 1783, he bought from Francis Sanderson a copper kettle; on December 21, 1782, he paid Paul Zantzinger, merchant, for linen at 4s. 6d. a yard, for 14 large double gilt buttons at 9s. a dozen, and for one
pound of green tea, at £1, 12s 6d. He bought from Jacob Reigart 38 lbs. of beef, at 15s. 10d.; 5\(\frac{1}{2}\) lbs. of veal, at 1s. 11d., and 4 neat’s tongues at 8s. He also bought from Ludwig Lauman 4 butter plates, at 2s. 6d. a piece, and 1 dozen plates at £3, 10s. a dozen. As early as June 4, 1770, his neighbor, William Bowsman, who kept a tavern on King Street, sold him wine, rum, &c., for £2, 14s. 8d.

Mr. Yeates lived and dressed according to the manner of the gentlemen of his day. On November 21, 1764, he purchased from Christian Wirtz, storekeeper, for £1, 14s., a pair of leather breeches, a pair of buckskin gloves for 7s., a clothes brush for 1s. 3d.; and paid for altering a pair of breeches 3s. 6d., and for altering a blue jacket with silk lining, 1s. His bill, due to Wirtz from March 6, 1765, to May 4, 1766, was £6, 10s. 10d. On June 22, 1766, he paid for making two pairs of breeches, 6s. each. On November 28, 1767, he bought of Philip Dean, tailor, a scarlet jacket great coat, and on December 18, 1767, his bill to John Cameron, for store goods, amounted to £25, 2s. 4d. On January 11, 1770, he bought a scarlet coat. The following letter, dated January 27, 1771, was sent to him by Phineas Bond, Jr., from London:

Dear Sir: I send by this opportunity the watch you desired me to purchase, in the Care of Mess ’r Carson, Barclay & Mitchell, to whom I have enclosed a bill of lading signed by Falconer.

The watch is made by Wagstaffe, whose character as a workman and a man of integrity is much respected here; he warrants her for seven years, and if you should not like her, he will return your money or give you another more agreeable to you. He will repair her at any time you think proper to send her over, without making any charge.

I shall think myself happy in rendering you any service in my power while in England. My best com-
pliments to Mrs. Yeates and to Mr. Shippen and his
good family.
    I am, D'r S'r
    Y'r most h'ble Serv't

Phineas Bond, Jr.

Middle Temple, London,
    Jan'y 27, 1771.

The cost of this watch was £27—0—0.

On June 21, 1779, he bought another watch. He
purchased it from Ignau Labot, for £525. This was
no doubt in Pennsylvania currency, which was rated at
$2.66 to the pound; and, in addition, it was bought
during the war, when prices for such articles were in-
flated. It was a gold watch, studded with brilliants,
made by L. Epina in Paris. On the other hand, the
economy which he practiced is exemplified in a settle-
ment which he made with William Hoofnagle, from
April 14, 1766, to November 16, 1766. He sold to
Hoofnagle a coat and waistcoat for £1, and a hat for 7s.
6d.,—no doubt his old clothes,—and he received, in pay-
ment, labor,—carrying and sawing wood, work in gar-
den, &c.

His domestic life was a happy one. In his letters to
his wife, he frequently lamented his absences from his
home. To a correspondent he said: "I have four chil-
dren living. My oldest daughter is married to a son of
Dr. Smith, our old Provost at the College. My circum-
cstances are easy, and I have every reason to be thank-
ful to Heaven for the best of wives and a family of
affectionate and dutiful children." His wife, writing
to him on October 29, 1781, said: "All our dear chil-
dren are well. The two eldest expect you will leave
them go to dancing school on your return. The gentle-
men of the town are about getting a master from Read-
ing. What the terms are I do not know, but Mr. John
Hubley asked me if he should put your name down for
two, if they found him a proper person for the purpose.
I consented, as I thought it would be agreeable to you.’” She then added: “On the news of taking Cornwallis, our town looked beautiful with the illuminations, the colors flying, cannon and small arms firing, and the young fellows of the town parading the street with laurel in their hats. Mr. Trumbull and a few others broke some windows that had not been illuminated.” In a letter dated July 4, 1791, she wrote: “I hope my dear Mr. Yeates found no ill effects from the rain. I have not heard from you since you left me, therefore continue in a state of suspense. I have had a cold in my head and sore throat that has been very disagreeable, but find myself much better today. Mrs. Hand has invited all our family to drink tea this afternoon with His Excellency, Gen’l Washington. He entered Town about half after six last evening. The colors were fixed in the cupola of the Court House and all the Bells rung at his entrance. This morning before day the cannon was fired, the drums beat and fifes played. There is a grand dinner preparing to be in the Court House. Sebastian Graff was buried at four o’clock yesterday afternoon. I am afraid Mr. Atlee will be gone, therefore must conclude with desire you to accept a great deal of love from your children and your affectionate Sarah Yeates.”

His health was not any too robust, though he lived to a ripe old age. Reference to frequent illnesses appear in his correspondence. On August 30, 1784, William Hamilton, writing to him from Bush Hill, said: “I was sorry to hear of your confinement. Two such disagreeable companions as the ague and the gout must have put your patience pretty shortly to the trial. I sincerely hope that by this time they have taken their departure.”

General Edward Hand was married to Catharine Ewing, a daughter of his sister, Sarah Ewing. The
General died very suddenly on September 3, 1802. Letters of administration on his estate were granted to his widow and Judge Charles Smith. They filed an inventory, showing personal assets to the amount of £764, 6s, 1d. The General's library, containing about two hundred and fifty-five volumes, was not valued, nor were six shares of the Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike and two shares of the Lancaster and Susquehanna Turnpike. The relations between General Hand and Judge Yeates were very close. The latter wrote to Governor Mifflin:

Lancaster, Aug’t 1, 1775.

Permit me, My Dear Sir, to introduce to your particular acquaintance Lieut. Col. Hand, of the Rifle Battalion. He served in the Regiment of Royal Irish some years with reputation both as an officer and surgeon, but upon quitting that service had fixed his residence amongst us as a Physician. The intimate friendship I have for him has been cemented by his intermarriage with my niece. His appointment by the Honorable Congress was unsought for by him, but he obeyed their commands with alacrity & pleasure. Our Association here will feel his loss as much as his Patients, since to his indefatigable care, we are much indebted for our progress in the military art & discipline. In the glorious cause wherein you are both engaged, I trust you will ever find him a man of the strictest Honour & Probity & warmly attached to the true principles of Liberty. Give me leave, then, Sir, to hope that he will experience from you every office of civility which you can bestow on him amongst other Friends. Nothing can be more obliging to me than the kind marks of your esteem towards him.

I most unfeignedly wish you both every success and honour which the Goodness of our common cause
merits, & that you may ere long be restored with Glory & Safety to your Friends.

I am very truly, D'lr Sir,
Your most Affect. & Obed't Servant,
Jasper Yeates.

Recommending
Gen. Hand to Governor Mifflin.

At the time of General Hand's death he was Inspector of Customs for the 3rd District of Pennsylvania. His accounts seem in some way to have become complicated. On September 27, 1802, Judge Yeates, who was a surety on his bond, wrote to James Crawford:

Lancaster, Sept. 27, 1802.

Dear Sir:—

The sudden and unexpected death of our dear friend, Gen'l Hand, has plunged us all into the greatest affliction. He quitted this stage of existence on the 3rd instant, after an indisposition of four hours. I requested Mr. Burd to give you & Mrs. Crawford early intelligence of the melancholy event.

We find to our great surprise that large balances appear against him in the office of the supervisor of the United States for this District, but are confident there are great errors therein.

I now send down a clerk for investigation of them. The General went to Philad'a the latter end of April last to make a final settlement of his public accounts. We have reason to believe that it was not owing to him that they were then unsettled. A number of his later papers appear to be missing, and we think he may have deposited them in the hands of some friend, or in the office. They were bulky & he complained of carrying them backwards and forwards.

Mrs. Hand is also strongly inclined to believe that he must have left a sum of money there arising from the sale of some public securities made by him on the 26th
of April, amo't'g to $3385.53. He brought up with him only $1,500 or 1,600. You will oblige me by giving me information on both particulars by the return of Mr. Keefe, the bearer. If you have any of the papers, pray deliver them to him.

I am, &c.

Y's Very Ob't Serv't,

J. Yeates.

Mr. James Crawford, Merch't,
Third Street near Union Street, Philadelphia.

He also wrote to Edward Burd:

Lancaster, Sep'r 27th, 1802.

Dear Sir:—

The wound in my leg is not perfectly closed & I am forbid to use any exercise which I can avoid. Dr. Kuhn thought that my proceeding on a journey immediately would be absolutely impracticable and that the tender flesh would separate on a few miles ride. Thus circumstanced I am compelled to remain here for a while. When my leg gets well, I hold myself bound to join Judge Smith on the circuit.

Our pain on the late calamitous event is greatly increased by intelligence we have received within a few days past of large balances appearing on the books of the supervisor of U. S. (Mr. Coxe) against Gen'l Hand. He became inspector of the revenue of this survey by a commission dated 21st March, 1791, and continued in office until 30th Sept'r, 1801. His style of living was frugal, tho gentlemanly, and on his own farm, and his medical practice was handsome. It is impossible that he could have expended more per annum than the amount of his official emoluments and the profits of his profession. His emoluments as inspector amounted on the half year ending June 30, 1800, to $896.20, and on the succeeding half year to $975.62, making in the whole $1871.82. But estimating the average sum at a much smaller sum, say 1200 d'rs, he
must have been entitled in the course of 10 y’rs (besides his practice) to $12,000. He has sold public securities since 1792 to April, 1802, for specie,

12,000.
13,829.

He is said to be indebted on 30th June, 1801, on internal revenue only 16,560.63
and for the balance of direct tax 1,765.14

$44,154.77/100

General Hand was no speculator nor castle builder, nor ever indulged himself in making purchases. He only bought to the following amount since his appointment as inspector:

On the 4th Feb’y, 1792, a small tract adjoining his homestead, of 17 A’rs 113 P’rs for £141.13/9th Nov’r, 1793, one moiety of a tract of woodland, 167 A’rs 96 P’rs for 170.
8th March, 1795, the other moiety thereof for 415.
4th Sept’r, 1792, three warrants for 900 A’rs in Lycoming Co’ty 45.
2500 Acr. on Chilliquothe in the territory of Congress at 30 d’rs per 100 A’rs 262.10
6 shares of Philad’a & Lancaster Turnpike stock at 300 d’rs 675.
2 do of Lancaster & Susquehanna do 225.

£1934.3/

I pledge myself for the accuracy of this statement. His sale of stock in 1792 produced $5,392.34, and in 1795 $3,460.44; in 1796, $1,591.33; and on 26th April, 1802, $3,385.53. I have the accounts before me. And now can it be possible that, exclusive of the interest he drew on his certificates in the intermediate periods previous to his sale thereof, and his professional emolu-
ments, that he expended £1500 per annum on his farm, entertaining none but a few selected friends? *Credat qui potest!* *Non ego.* He never appeared defective or depressed in spirits, which from his extreme sensibility would certainly have been the case if he had been embarrassed in his circumstances. He never whispered a sentiment of his being involved to his wife, myself, or any of his confidential friends. He was highly punctual and regular in money matters. He expressed great indignation that he could not procure a final settlement of his public accounts when he was down in April last with Mr. P. Muhlenberg, after staying several days there, and told Mrs. Hand that his reputation could not possibly be injured. Firmly believing him to be a man of honor and integrity, what must be our sensations on these unexpected balances, after our recent misfortune! (An unlucky combination of circumstances present themselves to us. My own wound and the indispensable duty I labour under of proceeding on the circuit when my health will admit of my traveling, the prevailing malignant disorders in the city, which prevent Mr. Smith from going to town, the distance of Rockford from hence, which has prevented an easy access to the official papers there.) For the first time since his funeral, I left my house yesterday and brought home in a carriage such papers as I thought might be useful in explaining the amounts. For six weeks before, I was not allowed to leave my chamber. Errors there must surely be therein. I find by a letter to Wm. Miller, Esq., in 1800 (a copy of which I now send down) that the General is charged with 2,000 d’rs & 10 cts. doubly. I shall write to Washington on that subject. I have concluded on sending down the clerk who formerly lived with the General to examine the accounts in the supervisor’s office and take the necessary copies. The chief object of my present letter is to request your good offices with Mr. Tench
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Coxe, that the clerk may be allowed full inspection of the accounts passed by General Hand at different times, and liberty to take copies of all such papers as may be thought necessary. In two letters to Mr. Smith, he has expressed a friendly sentiment for Mr. Hand and offers to go into a full revision of them. I view my request as a mere act of justice, and cannot think it will be denied. Under existing circumstances, it seems to me peculiarly proper and reasonable. I shall write to Mr. Wm. Parker for his assistance, and a letter to Mr. James Crawford. Should the latter not be in town, I beg you will send my letter to him. Some late papers are missing & must I think have been deposited by the General either in the office or some friend’s hands when he was in the city in April last. If they had been placed with you, I should certainly have been informed of it. We have also reason to think he must have deposited a sum of money there,—part of the sum produced by his certificates in April last.

If the malignant fever does not make the request improper, I must ask you to inquire if the General did not deposit money in one of the banks from the 26th April to the beginning of May last, and let me know the result by the return of the bearer. Inquire particularly at the bank of U. S. I make no apology for giving you this trouble. I became the General’s security in his official bond in $10,000 in 1798. I also know that you have respect both for his memory and his family. Whatever sums shall be found really due from the estate, prompt measures shall be taken for the payment of by myself and the friends of the family. The most complete justice shall be done to the government early & speedily; but the family are also entitled to justice. I see my way clear, tho it may put me to difficulties for the moment. If I want assistance, I can command it in a few hours. All the money in the General’s house shall be at once sent down on the balance
being ascertained. My next payment of quarterly interest shall remain for the same purpose. Of this be pleased to assure Mr. Coxe and show him such passages of my letter as you think proper. My reason for not personally addressing myself to him you are no stranger to. Mr. Smith has written to him, and I request, if it is convenient, that you will accompany the delivery of this letter. It will be a real obligation to the family if Mr. Coxe will suffer papers to be copied out of office hours. It will save delay as well as expense. I will become responsible for the safe re-delivery of papers, and you will be good enough to pass your word for them in my absence.

I have been busily engaged in writing since sunrise without quitting my desk, and I am much fatigued with keeping my leg down. I transmit you Mr. Rigart's rec't for the last $150, the balance of your turnpike shares, which I paid immediately on the receipt of your last letter.

Our best love to Mrs. Burd. I ever shall be

D'r Sir
Your affectionate Brother

J. Yeates

E. Burd, Esq.

The instructions given to Mr. Wm. Keefe, who was sent to Philadelphia as a representative of the family, were:

"Immediately on your arrival in the city, deliver the letter to E. Burd, Esq., who will, if at home, probably accompany you to Mr. Coxe's with his letter.

"If Mr. Crawford should not be in town, Mr. Burd will have it conveyed to him at his country seat. Also deliver Mr. Parker's letter at the office.

"I wish to have fair copies of all the accounts rendered by Gen'l Hand into the office, respecting the direct tax. It would seem by your statement that he
has paid more than he has rec'd. Probably some error
may have intervened, or some of the cash payments of
the Internal Revenue may be blended therewith.

"Examine particularly the last account of Internal
Revenue, wherein Gen'l Hand designated a balance as
due from himself in amount. Copy all the subsequent
accounts exhibited by him, & take copies of all the off-
ficial statements 1798, 1799, 1800, 1801, wherein the
large balances are struck against him. Let all the
copies be strictly correct.

"It will be of considerable moment to examine
whether the yearly salary of $500, the Commissions,
Clerk Hire, printing & stationery, &c., are allowed in
the official statements. I find on examination that the
compensations to Inspectors are fixed by law, as fol-
lows:

"Commissions on stills to 30 June, 1794...1 pr centum
Do do from do to
30 June, 1801, ......................... 1\frac{1}{2} p. cent
Do on retailers' licenses, snuff,
carriages, sugar refined
& sales at auction...... 1 p. cent.
Salary from 30 June 1791, to 30 June, 1794, $450 p. ann.
Do from 30 June, 1794, to 30 Sept'r, 1801, 500 p. ann.
Clerk Hire for do 200 p. ann.
"Signing & issuing certificates to accompany domes-
tic distilled spirits...................... 2\frac{1}{2} cents

"Hope and trust no unreasonable difficulties will be
thrown in your way, & that you will be permitted to
take copies of all the necessary papers as above, & that
Mr. Wm. Parker will be good enough to assist you.
Should it be otherwise you cannot with any propriety
be refused the examination of the papers, as the Clerk
of the family sent for that purpose, & in such case you
will carefully examine whether the debits & all the
credits are correct, noting on paper such things as may occur to you.

"Inquire of Mr. Dunwoody at the stage office whether Gen'l Hand left any of his public papers with him last April when he was in the city, or any other person that he knows of, & in such case receive them into your safe keeping to be brought up here, & take particular care of all the papers you carry down.

"I have no doubt that you will use due diligence & care in the execution of the important trust committed to you, & that you will return as early as possible. If you should be detained longer than you expect, Pray inform me how matters turn out on examination, by letter.

J. Yeates."

Wm. Keefe
Sept. 27th, 1802."

On October 3 and 7, 1802, he followed up these communications to Edward Burd with letters of the same tenor. How the matter terminated, I do not know. A petition presented to the Orphans’ Court of Lancaster County for the sale of a portion of General Hand’s real estate fixed his debts at £4257 - 6s. - 10d. An itemized account of them is not set forth, and the amount, if any, due the United States can, therefore, be with difficulty ascertained. No account was filed in his estate, because the interests of all the heirs were subsequently transferred to Edward Brien, his son-in-law, and this rendered a formal account unnecessary.

I crave pardon if I have taxed the patience of my readers by a too lengthy dissertation on this almost forgotten theme. I have endeavored to record some of the occurrences in the life of Judge Yeates which I thought might prove interesting, and I hope they will not be found unwelcome.