
OUR HERITAGE

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Manheim's Farm Show

The following are excerpts from an article that appeared in the September 28, 1939 Manheim Sentinel.

The First Community Farm Show was held in the fall of 1915. The exhibits were housed in the basement of what was then Waughtel's Moving Picture House, located on Ferdinand Street. Two years later it was taken to Market Square where a tent was erected for the display of the exhibits.

As interest in the exhibits increased it became necessary to erect two large tents. The fair was continued on Market Square for several years and then because of differences of opinion as to the methods of conducting same it was discontinued.

Other communities got the inspiration from Manheim which was a pioneer in these community affairs and they likewise held annual festivals.

Eight years ago (1921) a group of business and civic minded men revived the annual farm exhibit and amusement features and their organization obtained a charter under the name of the Manheim Community Show Association.

With this new organization the exhibit of farm products, sewing, baked goods and educational exhibits were shown in various business places in the town. School work has become a prominent feature through the co-operation of local school organization. Displays are annually housed in the Grade school building.

With the installation of a course in agriculture in the local schools, a new spirit was instilled into those farmer boys and girls.

The Farm Women's Societies, of which there are several in this community, have been a potent factor in the development of this annual affair. They have been large exhibitors of high quality goods.

Another organization which has co-operated to a large degree has been the 4-H Club.

The community as a whole is indebted to the Community Show Association and to all the men and women who have given their time and energy to the promotion and the perpetuation of a festival that has created a very splendid community spirit.

Manheim borough is the center of a prosperous farming area. The farmers, while thrifty and frugal, support the shopping area of the borough and have a direct interest in the banking institutions and the merchandising establishments of the town.



The borough is fortunate in having a group of merchants who know thoroughly the modern methods of merchandising. By experience they have learned the needs of the community. They know what merchandise the people are interested in and know the advantage of offering them the opportunity of buying same.

In the final analysis probably the most beneficial results accruing from these annual gatherings is that the buying public and the merchants are given an opportunity of becoming better acquainted, each one learning the other's requirements.

Acquisition: An early blown apothecary jar with a Bird Drug Store paper label attached. - gift

The following is a bit of information related to the above item and to the drug store:

Most likely, the early apothecary jar was first used in the Ensminger Drug Store. Harry Bird purchased the Ensminger Drug Store, located at 13 North Main St., in 1932. The Ensminger Drug Store was sold after S. Charles Ensminger passed away in 1921. Charles' daughter, Jean Ensminger Mentzer, also a pharmacist, sold the drug store. It had been owned by three generations of the Ensminger family and was the first drug store in the borough. It had its origin in the early days of the history of our borough.



**Samuel's First Location
Market Square**



The Ensminger Drug Store was established by Samuel A. Ensminger in 1798. It was first located in the old Hostetter property, on the site where the Fulton Bank now stands. Within a few years, Samuel moved to 13 North Prussian Street, now North Main Street. It was at Samuel's new location where there was now to be found a

tin shop and daguerreotype photo gallery, all in conjunction with the drug store business. When his son Charles took charge of the drug store he made renovations and installed a soda fountain. **Pictured below is Charles and the fountain.**



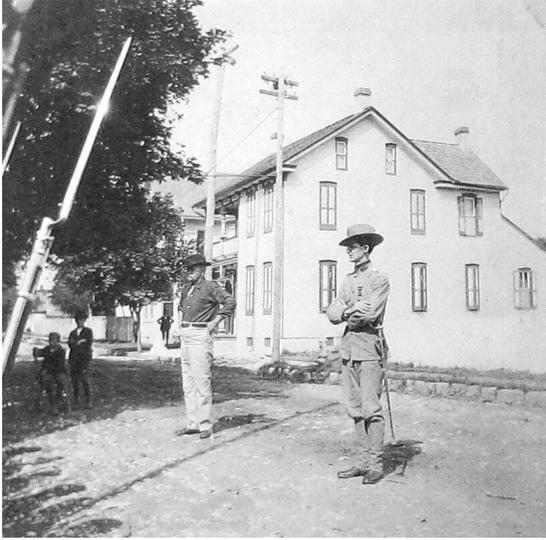
**Samuel and Charles Ensminger's
North Main Street Location**

In November 1932, Harry Bird sold the drug store to Lester Merkel and the drug store became Merkel's Pharmacy. In August 1936, the location was moved to 11 South Main Street, where a modern soda fountain with booths to accommodate customers and an attractive drug store was created.

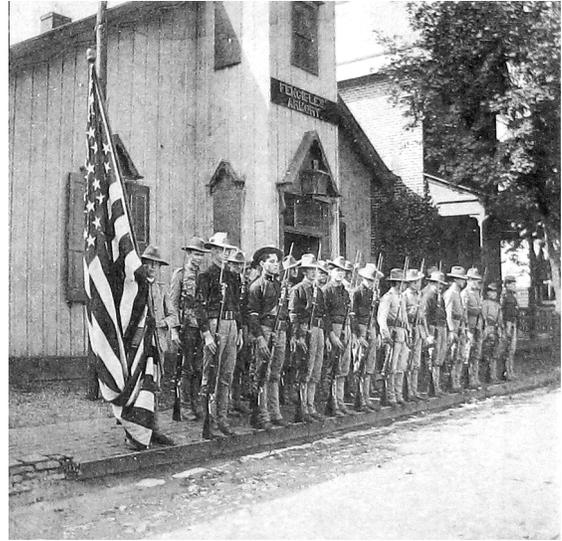
Some of our readers will have fond memories of Merkel's Pharmacy and the soda fountain.



The Manheim Fencibles



The above photo shows the uniformed Reviewing Officer issuing orders to the line of Fencibles in front of him. The ununiformed observer to his right is none other than Christian (former Major) Bear. Behind them, looking West, is the former (1912) Frecht (later Nentwig) house before Jacob Earhart's barber shop was even built on the other corner of the alley.

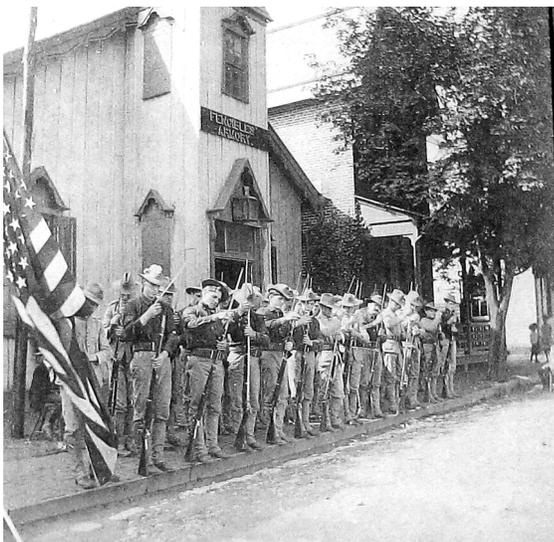


"Stand At Ease"

The third photo shows the Fencibles in formation (following the Bayonet Drill) obeying Officer's order to "Stand At Ease".

The Fencible uniforms are most certainly post-Civil War, possibly of Christian Bear's "update" influence, but the guns and bayonets are believed to be of Civil War vintage. The photos are believed to be circa 1900.

The photos were taken in front of the "Armory" (a former church), which was located in the first block of West Ferdinand Street on the South side of the street facing West.



"Fix Bayonets!!!"

This second photo shows line of Fencibles in formation obeying Officer's order to "Fix Bayonets". To the right of the formation can be seen the former Christian Bear (now Bob Schneeбели) house.

The Manheim Fencibles were a post-Civil War volunteer, part-time, uniformed military-like (not militia) collection of local men, who met and "drilled" at the Armory at 21-23 West Ferdinand St. It is speculated that the Unit was organized and uniformed by Christian (former Major) Bear, along with the Armory, which had been a vacated Methodist church, and which he had caused to be acquired and renovated into the Armory. The unit, I believe, was dissolved circa 1907. Bear had also organized a military-oriented group for young boys called the Manheim Cadets, which also held forth at the Armory.

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Additional Acquisitions:

- 1921 Farmers Day ribbon - gift - HED
- Fine condition yarn winder made by Daniel Danner, dated 1841 and signed. On loan from a collector.
- Early cast iron Manheim shipping crate branding iron w/ wrought iron handle (late 18th/early 19th century).
- Cherry wood round cove plane stamped S. H. Lehman, as owner. (see Jan. 2009 **Our Heritage**)
- Another different General S. P. Heintzelman CDV
- Receipts for labor and services related to the Manheim and Lancaster Turnpike Road. (In 1894, the hourly labor rate paid was 12¢. On one receipt, after 41 hours of labor, John Aman received \$4.92.) gift - HED
- Fine cond. Geo. Nees, Manheim, paint dec. child's chair, circa 1880s.
- Books on numismatics - gift in memory of George Flinchbaugh and the Baron Stiegel Coin Club. Library now has a small early numismatics section.



By the author of *I Lift My Lamp*



The sampler pictured here, dated 1940, by Anna Balmer Myers, is on loan in HMPF's museum. The message on the sampler reads:

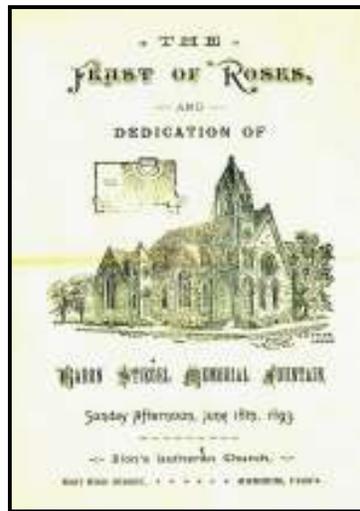
SO WHEN THE LAMP OF LIFE SHALL DIMLY BURN
 ~
 AND MY FRAIL FRAME TO KINDRED DUST RETURN
 ~
 RESIGNED AND PEACEFUL LET ME BOW MY HEAD
 ~
 AND HEAVEN ENJOY WHEN NUMBERED WITH THE
 DEAD

WROUGHT BY ANNA BALMER MYERS, 1940

The Fountain at Zion Lutheran

The original church bulletin, pictured here, was handed out at the annual Feast of Roses on Sunday, June 18, 1893, at Zion Lutheran Church.

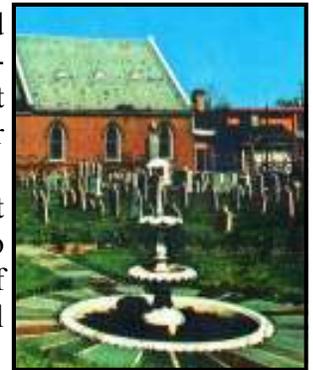
Following the Ceremonial Obligation, it was also the dedication day of the Stiegel Fountain, still standing in the



West corner of the church property at High & Wolf Streets.

This fountain, also pictured here, has featured prominently in the rose payment ceremony for most years ever since.

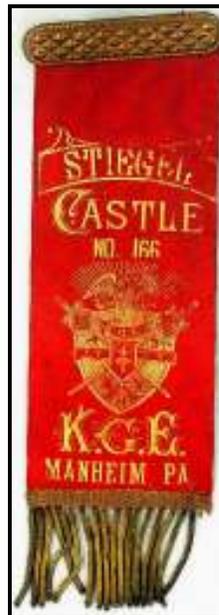
What is generally not known is that it was a gift to the church by the Knights of the Golden Eagle, Stiegel Castle No. 166 of Manheim.



This was a very prestigious fraternal organization quite active in Manheim at the time, boasting a large membership, with most of the most prominent men in town among them.

The fountain was presented to the then Pastor, one Reverend J. H. Menges, by Sir Knight John F. Becker, on behalf of the fraternity. Members attending the presentation would have worn the member badge also pictured here.

A short dedication is cast into the metal at the front base of the fountain. Though painted over, it is still quite visible.



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