

Literally, the town threw open its doors. Until barracks were constructed on the site of what would become Camp Letterman, a vast tent hospital established on the York Road after the battle here in 1863, the men were billeted in public and commercial structures in town.

During his research, Mr. Rummel made extensive use of the society's newspaper microfilm and photographic collection. These sources, interspersed with accounts from the men of the Porter Guards, give the reader a graphic picture of this period in the life of Gettysburg, an image mostly overshadowed by the events that took place here in 1863.

Copies of Rummel's book can be obtained by writing White Mane Publishing Company, Inc., POB 152, Shippensburg, PA 17257.

—E. W. Christ

DEATHS OF MEMBERS

We note with regret the death of a longtime member of the society, Mrs. Mary K. Dissinger, East Berlin. She died on December 29, 1997, in her ninety-first year.

Our current membership records go back to the year 1963, in which she was already a member, at a time when the annual dues were \$2. She had a keen sense of history, which led her to support numerous other organizations similar in purpose to our own. Over the years she gave us a number of items which helped to illuminate our knowledge of families in the county with which she was related, including the Weygands and the Klingels.

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We have recently learned of the death on February 27, 1997 of James M. McDannell, New Oxford. He was a member of the society since 1974.

NEW MEMBERS

Marion Bale	New Providence, NJ
Richard L. Bloom	Orrtanna, PA
Jim Bohn	Orrtanna, PA
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bonham	Ft. Lauderdale, FL
G. Craig Caba	Enola, PA
Ellinn C. Carter	Forest Park, GA
Margaret Creighton	Lewiston, ME
David Eisenhart	Arendtsville, PA
Marietta G. Floyd	Shelby, NC
Mary E. Goldberg	Steelton, PA
Elinor Geyer & James T. Hays	Keeseville, NY
David Hartzell Leebrick	Palm Bay, FL
Deb McCauslin	Gettysburg, PA

Lucille McTamney
 Jan Marfyak
 Clark Minter
 Richard F. Mountfort
 R.F. Myers, Jr.
 Tom Rorabaugh
 Jim & Kathie Roubal
 Margaret B. Scoggins
 Marian M. Shears
 W. North Sterrett, M.D.
 David H. Toland
 Robert Vandevort
 Frank Weaver, Jr.
 Pat Whitman
 Thomas J. Guthie
 David C. Meskers
 John & Margaret Novicki

Vineland, NJ
 Gettysburg, PA
 Telford, PA
 Biglerville, PA
 Ellicott City, MD
 Morley, MI
 Gettysburg, PA
 Poplar Bluff, MO
 Gettysburg, PA
 Arendtsville, PA
 Wilmington, DL
 North Port, FL
 Akron, OH
 Baltimore, MD
 Tappan, NY
 Strasburg, PA
 Hawthorne, NJ

A NEW EDWARD MCPHERSON SOCIETY MEMBER

We are pleased to announce that Gary W. Sterner has become a member of the Edward McPherson Society.

A member of the historical society's board of directors since 1990, Gary is chairman of the finance committee and a member of the development committee. He is also a member of the board of Historic Gettysburg-Adams County, Inc. During the past year he has been centrally involved in founding the Land Conservancy of Adams County.

Membership in the Edward McPherson Society means a special level of commitment to the ongoing operations of the historical society. We invite every member and friend to consider joining this category of membership. For a contribution of \$1,000 per member, we offer an attractive certificate and place an engraved plate on the McPherson plaque which is prominently displayed in the main floor hall.

Since the funds derived from this source are placed in our invested funds of the soiciety and only the proceeds used for current expenses, McPherson members provide the Adams County Historical Society with a truly lasting benefit.

BEHOLD, I COME QUICKLY

Part 1

Even after some sixty years, I can still remember visiting my grandfather's first cousin. A small, stout woman, she had long been a widow who made her home with one or another of her seven children. I knew then that her husband had been accidentally killed years before, but only much later did I

learn just how it happened. He was helping to place a telephone pole to carry a new line into a farmstead when, in the words of the York newspaper account, he "was instantly killed when the pole got beyond control of the men on account of a downfall of damp snow, and in falling struck him on the head." At his funeral several days later, Rev. William H. Ehrhart preached his funeral sermon on a text (in those days many if not most funeral sermons had texts) taken from the third chapter of the Revelation of St. John (as well as from a later chapter of the same book): "Behold, I come quickly." Some member of my family who attended the funeral marked the text in one of our Bibles, as indeed certain other funeral texts were marked. It made a lasting, one might even say permanent, impression on me.

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During the past year or so, the case of a Mount Joy township pioneer named Andrew Leydich has been very much on the minds of at least three of us closely involved in the concerns of the historical society. Randy J. Miller became interested in him upon learning that Leydich occupied land in the township near that taken up by one of his forbears, Ludwig Miller. Rev. Frederick S. Weiser learned of his existence when a friend in Philadelphia asked for information about him and again when he was translating and transcribing the early records of St. Matthew's Lutheran church, now in Hanover. Leydich lived close to one of his Mount Joy township distant relatives, Jacob Sheely. As I learned more and more about the Leydich family and what happened to them, I kept recalling the text which William Ehrhart had used for the Howard Shaffer funeral in January 1910.

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Before proceeding, we need to choose an appropriate spelling for this family's name. In the records consulted in preparing the following account, at least ten different spellings have been found, including *Ledich*, *Ledigh*, *Leidich*, *Leidig*, *Leidigh*, *Leydich*, *Leydig*, *Ludwick*, *Lutuk*, *Lydich*, and *Lydick*. The one chosen for use, except in direct quotations from contemporary documents, *Leydich*, may not have been the one which the family would have preferred, but it serves the purpose.

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Thus far at least, we have not been able to determine when Andrew Leydich entered Pennsylvania. In all probability it was through the port of Philadelphia and, if he was sixteen years of age or older, upon entering he took the required oaths

of allegiance and abjuration. Our first evidence of him in the province is dated December 11, 1743, when he was a witness or sponsor for one of the five children baptized by the pastor of St. Matthew's on that day. On January 17, 1748 Andrew and Elizabeth Leydich had a four-month-old son baptized at St. Matthew's. On the same day they stood as sponsors for a three-month-old son of their neighbors, Jacob and Elizabeth Sheely, who were sponsors for their son. The Leydichs named their son Jacob. The Sheelys named theirs Andrew. Another infant baptized on that day was the son of neighbors Henry Little and wife.

On September 10, 1750 the Penn proprietors issued a warrant for 200 acres of land in Mount Joy township, now Adams county, to Andrew Leydich. A warrant was an order to a surveyor employed by the province to lay out for a purchaser a tract of hitherto unclaimed land. In this particular case it described Leydich's purchase as a parcel adjoining claims of James Hunter, Jacob Rohrbaugh, Thomas Robinson, and Jacob Sheely, and including the improvement which Leydich had already made on the property by constructing buildings and tilling some of the land. The interest and quitrent on the tract were to begin on March 1, 1747, which we can take as the approximate (certainly not exact) time of settlement.

There is no available evidence that the deputy surveyor for the area, George Stevenson, moved promptly to make a survey, but surely Andrew and Elizabeth Leydich now had a legal claim upon the homestead they were making for themselves and their children. The Leydich farm was located along the present road from Gettysburg to Littlestown, just south and east of the small village which appears on some county maps as Germantown.

York was still only about a year old as a county when Andrew Leydich obtained his warrant. Since the proprietors were interested in having a steady income from the sales of their land in all parts of the province which were open to settlement (not all parts were at this time), their agents encouraged all who did not yet have them to take out warrants. Andrew Leydich's was one of some seventy-six issued in York county on September 10, 1750. His neighbors, Jacob Rohrbaugh and Ludwick Miller, had obtained theirs earlier in the year. Jacob Sheely waited to purchase his until December 1751. The Rohrbaugh and Sheely warrants both described their purchases as adjoining land of Andrew Leydich.

It is evident that the York county political leaders, whose duties included recommending and choosing the township of-

ficers, upon whom the performance of important functions of local government depended, had come to believe, only a few years after York county was established in 1749, that Andrew Leydich was a responsible and trustworthy resident of Mount Joy township. In 1753 the county court named him one of two supervisors of township highways and in 1755 constable. In 1756 the county commissioners named him tax collector for the township. In most cases these officials were chosen for one-year terms. James Hunter, Jacob Rohrbaugh, and Jacob Sheely preceded him in serving in one or another of these posts.

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In view of all of the foregoing, we might well ask ourselves whether anybody for miles around was at all prepared for what happened in the Leydich family early in the spring of 1759. In the somber words of the formal inquest which followed the catastrophe, *Andrew Lidich of Mount Joy Township in York County Yeoman not having God before his eyes but being moved and seduced by the Instigation of the Devill the third day of May in the thirty second Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the second... at Mount Joy Township in York County and within the Jurisdiction of this Court with Force and Arms in and upon Elizabeth Lidich the Wife of the said Andrew Lidich... And the said Andrew Leidich with a Dung Fork of Iron and Wood made of the Value of one Shilling which he the said Andrew in both his hands then and there had and held the afsd. Elizabeth Lidich in and upon the left side of the head... then and there feloniously voluntarily and of his Malice aforethought did knock and strike giving to her the said Elizabeth then and there with the Dung Fork afsd. in and upon the left Side of the head... one mortal wound of the Length of two Inches of the Breadth of one Inch and of the Depth of half an Inch of which said mortal Wound the said Elizabeth then and there instantly did die.*

Even though we do not know what, if anything, may have provoked the fatal attack by this husband upon his wife and mother of his children on May 3, 1759, we can say, with John of old, Behold, I come quickly.

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Andrew Leydich was at once arrested, charged with murder, indicted by a grand jury, and tried on May 18 before a jury of twelve men, most of whom were residents of the eastern part of the county. Most cases coming before the county courts of colonial Pennsylvania were heard by several of its

justices of the peace, men of good judgment and the right political connections, but not learned in the law. In the more serious cases, such as murder, several justices of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania came from Philadelphia to the county seat to preside at trials.

With Chief Justice William Allen and Justice Lawrence Growden on the bench, the trial was quickly concluded with a verdict of guilty as charged. The justices then sentenced the defendant to "be hanged by the Neck till he should be dead." The May 24, 1759 issue of the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, Benjamin Franklin's Philadelphia newspaper, reported that at two recent sessions of county courts of oyer and terminer, one in Lancaster and the other in York county, four persons were found guilty of the charges filed against them and were sentenced to death. One of these four was Andrew Leydich.

As far as the current law was concerned, there was at least one more step to be taken before the case of Andrew Leydich could be concluded. Colonial Pennsylvania had a Provincial Council, which was an advisory body to the governor and which in practice conducted much of the day-to-day business of the government. On May 25, 1759 the council reviewed the four sentences of death recently imposed in Lancaster and York. A seventeen year-old girl found guilty of killing her illegitimate child was reprieved; there appeared to the councillors to be some doubt about what had actually happened to the child. A soldier in the Royal American Regiment was referred to General John Stanwix for disposition of his case. The death sentence of a man found guilty of burglary and of being "a very bad character" was allowed to stand. In the case of Andrew Leydich, since the trial judges reported that he had committed "a most Cruel and barbarous murder," the council concluded that "his sentence should be carried into Execution and a Warrant was ordered to have it done on the ninth of June."

Andrew Leydich was the second person to be executed in York county. Six years earlier John Swales had been put to death for what was described as "an atrocious murder." Between 1759 and the Revolution three more persons were executed, all having been convicted of murder. In one case it was a woman who had murdered her illegitimate daughter.

Given the fact that fewer than six weeks had elapsed between the murder of Elizabeth Leydich and the execution of her husband, one is reminded again of the text: "Behold, I come quickly."

—(to be continued)
—Charles H. Glatfelter

cornfields on their way home from school. Now living out of state, the Morgans desired to return their collection to Adams county where it was first fashioned and used, then gathered many years ago. Representative examples from this collection and from other donors, including Frederick Haehnlen, Al Strohmeier, Raymond J. Snyder, Fred Hummelbaugh, Philip Wagaman, Anna and Alice Black, James H. Stock, Mary Louise Anawalt, Mrs. Ida Boozle, Ralph Blocher, the John S. Eiker estate and the Bair family, are included.

The identification, selection and organization of literally hundreds of objects was an enormous task and could not have been accomplished without the knowledgeable assistance of Wilson Harman of Biglerville. ACHS member Harman is an avid local collector and school lecturer who donated several hours to the project.

—Carol Kearney, Curator

BEHOLD, I COME QUICKLY Part 2

This continuation concludes Charles H. Glatfelter's article, the first part of which was featured in last month's issue of the Newsletter. Building upon the earlier discussion of the mysterious and sensational killing in 1759 by Andrew Leydich of his wife, Elizabeth—Andrew struck her on the head "with a dung Fork of Iron and Wood made of the value of one Shilling"—and the subsequent trial and hanging of Andrew, part 2 examines the fate of the couples' children and traces the mysterious transmission of the unpatented Leydich property until John Arentz obtained a "clear and complete title in the form of a patent deed" in March of 1812.

The deaths of their parents in rapid succession left five orphaned Leydich children to be cared for. They were Andrew, John, Catharine, Mary, and Jacob, at least one of whom was a minor. The family had close neighbors, some of whom were probably also good friends. Although deprived of their parents, these children were not left alone in a strange land and may well have received loving support from the Millers, Rohrbaughs, and Sheeleys.

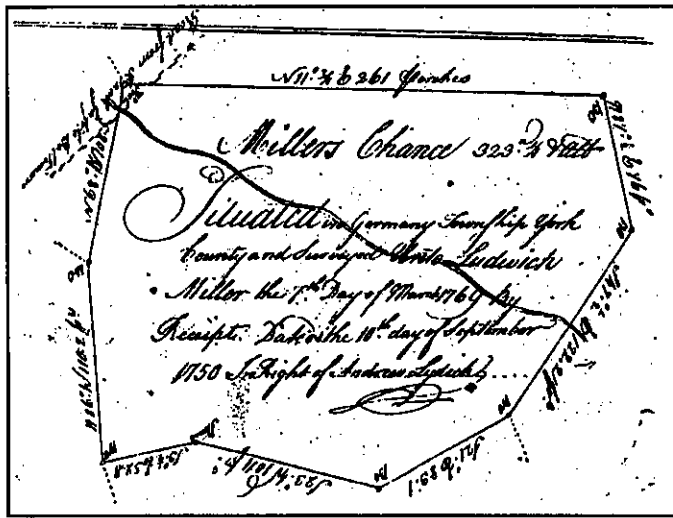
Before any legal steps could be taken to create and then settle the father's estate, someone had to determine whether the circumstances of his death would prompt the Penn proprietors, through their agents in the province, to seize his real estate, for which no clear and complete title had ever been issued. It took some time before the decision came back from Philadelphia: the proprietors had no intention of taking back (in one document the word *escheating* is used) the family property. It could be sold and the heirs could inherit the proceeds.

Once this question had been answered, steps to settle the estate took place in rapid succession. On December 1, 1762,

Jacob Leydich, minor son of Andrew, "aged fifteen years sometime in September last," came into the Orphans' Court in York and chose Jacob Sheely as "guardian over his person and Estate during his Minority." Two days later, his older brothers, Andrew and John, petitioned the same court to grant letters of administration to either or both of them "in Order That ye Estate may be settled and distributed amongst the several children of the sd. deceased." The petition recited that their father, "having been Attainted and Executed," left a tract of land, some personal estate, and "sundry Debts upaid." Upon consideration of the petitions, the Orphans' Court directed the register of wills to grant the requested letters of administration. Accordingly, on December 4, 1762, both Andrew and John Leydich were named administrators of their father's estate with two Germany township neighbors, Nicholas Frantz and John Schaun, as their bondsmen. As if to emphasize that he was creating an unusual estate, Register George Stevenson entered this endorsement on the bond: "I granted Letter Admn. of this Estate by Spl. Order of Court... because Leidich was hanged." Nine days later Frantz and Schaun appraised the real property as being worth 400 pounds. No other papers were ever filed in this estate. There was no inventory of the personal property. The administrators never filed an account of the assets which came into their hands and the expenses incurred in fulfilling their duties. Note that in preparing these estate papers there was no effort made to hide how Andrew Leydich had died.

In two deeds the Leydich children sold their shares in their father's estate to Peter Little, who is best remembered as the founder of the town of Littlestown. The deed from Andrew and John was dated January 28, 1764. That from Catharine, Mary, and Jacob was dated February 18, 1768. Andrew and John appear on the 1762 Mount Joy tax list as taxables. Neither they nor Jacob appears on the next surviving list, that for 1775.

On January 18, 1769, for 550 pounds, Peter Little sold the Leydich property to Ludwig Miller. A few months after this, on March 7, Deputy Surveyor Archibald McClean surveyed 323 acres, which he called Miller's Chance and which he claimed, erroneously, was in nearby Germany township. This is the earliest known actual survey which was based on the warrant Andrew Leydich secured in 1750. On April 2, 1772, Miller sold about half of his recent acquisition, 157 acres, to his son-in-law, Henry Myers (to use one of several spellings of his name) who from 1780 until his death about four years later was licensed to keep a tavern. This was located on the road from Shippensburg through Littlestown to the Maryland line.



The first known survey of Andrew Leydich's land, made ten years after his death. Notice how the present Gettysburg-Littlestown road passed through its northwest corner.

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At this point, the Leydich saga had not yet run its course. As already noted, the 1762 petition of Andrew and John Leydich to the Orphans' Court included the statement that their father left "sundry Debts unpaid" at the time of his death. On the day of the trial, May 18, 1759, two attorneys, George Ross and Jame Smith, each entered a judgment in the common please court of 100 pounds against Andrew Leydich. At the time, both men were probably living in Lancaster. James Smith apparently did not move to York and become its first resident attorney until 1760. The two men were friends and handled cases in York county courts since their admission to the Lancaster county bar in the early 1750s.

Although there is no direct evidence to prove it, the judgments on record may well represent an attempt to recover fees which Ross and Smith charged in representing Andrew Leydich. After his death they attempted to collect in the only way possible, by securing a court order to the sheriff to sell the Leydich real and personal estate. The first attempt, made by Sheriff Zachariah Shugart in the summer of 1759, was a failure. The property remained unsold.

According to the brief notations on the court docket, no further actions to recover were taken for more than a decade. Then, in January 1773 the court issued a new order to the then-sheriff, Samuel Edie, who sold the Leydich real estate for 150 pounds to the highest bidder, Jacob Tritt, and gave him a deed on April 30, 1773. By this time James Smith was a busy and respected York county lawyer. His friend George Ross was one of the three partners in the company which operated Mary Ann Furnace, one of the most important iron furnaces in colonial Pennsylvania. Smith had also begun investing in York county iron interests, from which he eventu-

ally lost heavily. In 1776, as members of the Second Continental Congress, both Smith and Ross signed the Declaration of Independence.

Jacob Tritt was a resident of Windsor township, York county, far removed from the area in which the Leydich family had lived. Although on the face of it he held title to their homestead for seventeen years, his name never once appeared on any of the surviving Mount Joy township tax lists. Instead, the property was assessed to Henry Myers and Ludwick Miller until they died, the former at the end of 1784 and the latter four years later.

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A 1796 deed transferring the late Ludwig Miller's remaining share of the Leydich property carefully recited all of the changes in ownership back to the 1750 warrant and then stated that "yet notwithstanding all these sales and Conveyances, it was found that the High Sheriff of York County, by virtue of his Office and the proceedings of the Court of Common Pleas for said County and for the debt of the said Andrew Lidich sold and conveyed the said above mentioned Tract of Land, which the said Andrew Leidich died possessed of to a certain Jacob Tritt his Heirs and Assigns forever."

This deed went on to state that "to render the Title Compleat" Jacob Tritt "by his Deed dated the Fifth of August A.D. 1790 Conveyed all his Right and Title to the one Moiety of the said Tract of Land, being the part hereby granted." In fact, on August 6, 1790 (not the day before) Jacob Tritt, Esquire (he was now an elected justice of the peace for Windsor and Chanceford townships), gave two deeds, one to the current owners of each half, or moiety, of the former Leydich property. The consideration in each case was ten pounds.

Both of the Tritt deeds were recorded and thus can still be read and studied in their entirety, but unfortunately neither explains the still remaining puzzle of how George Ross and James Smith received their share of the proceeds of the 1773 sheriff sale, how Jacob Tritt was compensated for what he paid the sheriff, and how Ludwig Miller and Henry Myers continued to claim ownership of the pay taxes on the Leydich property as though there had never been a sheriff sale.

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In his will, made in 1785 and probated three years later, Ludwig Miller left his remaining portion of the Leydich property to three of his children, Nicholas, Ludwig and Ann Maria. By 1791 it had passed into the hands of Adam Winteroth, an old resident of Germany township whose family now spells its name Wintrode. Within a few months he sold the property to John Tempion and John Marshall. In May 1796 they sold it to Isaac Durboraw, with the clear understanding that they

would obtain a clear and complete title in the form of a patent deed purchaser. Through some failure the patent deed which the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania issued on December 23, 1796, for 153 acres, 144 perches was made out to John Tempion instead. It took another deed, on December 13, 1797, for John Tempion to acknowledge the error and permit "the said Patent [to] take effect as was intended."

When the will of Henry Myers was probated on January 13, 1785, it contained the provision that his real estate was not to be sold until his youngest son reached the age of twenty-one. A few years later his widow Barbara married Justice Fernaw (to use the spelling in his will). It was not until April 12, 1806, that they, together with the heirs who still retained an interest in the property, sold it to John Arentz. On March 21, 1812, he secured from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania a clear and complete title in the form of a patent deed for 161 acres of land.

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Thus, almost sixty-two years after Andrew Leydich had made the first formal claim for his Mount Joy township homestead, others had at last secured complete title to all of it. Instead of returning for a third time to the funeral text which earlier seemed so pertinent, one might well walk away now mumbling something about how the sins of the fathers are visited upon the children, even to the third and fourth generations.

Note on the Sources

Until recently, very little was known about any of the details surrounding the death of Elizabeth Leydich and the trial of Andrew Leydich for her murder. When Negley K. Teeters published his 1963 history of executions in Pennsylvania, all he could say about this case was confined to one line of print: "Lutuk, Andrew, ex. June 8, 1759; York; for murder of his wife." The only source he cited was the minutes of the Provincial Council, which recorded that body's reaffirmation of the sentence of death.

Since the murder trial was held in York, one would expect to find some information in the county court records, perhaps in the form of a transcript of the trial proceedings with brief abstracts of the actual testimony of witnesses. Even after several searches by the able and experienced staff of the York County Archives, nothing was found. There are records of county Courts of Oyer and Terminer among the records of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania which are in the Pennsylvania State Archives. Even after several searches, again by the able and experienced staff there, nothing was found. There are simply no known surviving records of Oyer and Terminer Courts held in York county before the 1760s.

Eventually and in virtual desperation, in the fall of 1997 the thought occurred to the undersigned that, since the Provincial Council reviewed sentences of death imposed by county courts, quite possibly in some if not all cases an officer of the court would submit a written summary upon which the members of the council could base their decision on reaffirmation or reprieve. Indeed, the original summary or transcript which Clerk Edward Shippen, Jr., submitted in the Leydich case has survived among the records of the council.

Possibly, further discoveries may sometime yield more information on the Leydich case, but at the present time the key source for this account is the "Certificate of the Conviction of Andrew Lidick for Murder," prepared by Clerk Edward Shippen, Jr. (available on microfilm in Record Group 21; Records of the Provincial Council; Executive Correspondence; Roll B9, Frame 1221; Pennsylvania State Archives).

For the pertinent church records, see the *Records of St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover, 1741-1831*, trans. Frederick S. Weiser (Camden, Maine, 1994). The original warrants, surveys, and patents for land are in the Pennsylvania State Archives and are available on microfilm. A warrant register, also on microfilm, is a useful guide to the many thousands of land papers generated by the Penn proprietors and later the Commonwealth.

Negley K. Teeters, *Scaffold and Chair: A Compilation of Their Use in Pennsylvania, 1682-1962*, (Philadelphia, 1963) gives basic information about executions in Pennsylvania over almost three centuries and assists in gaining an understanding why the Leydich case was handled the way it was. He cites the volume and page numbers in the *Colonial Records*, 16 vols. (Harrisburg, 1838-1853) where one can find the record of the Provincial Council's actions in reviewing pre-Revolutionary death sentences.

The original papers in the estate of Andrew Leydich are in the York County Archives. These include the appointment of a guardian for Jacob Leydich, found in Orphans' Court Docket A, p. 245. The record of the judgments filed against Andrew Leydich is in the Common Pleas Docket, 1757-1761, York County, in the York County Archives.

The Adams County Historical Society has microfilm or xerox copies of many of the sources used. Other sources available in the society, such as the lists of eighteenth-century township officers, have also been used.

Randy J. Miller and Frederick S. Weiser participated in locating some of the sources upon which this account is based. Both have read the final draft. The extensive investigations of Arthur Weaner into the history of Adams county land ownership from the warrant to the patent stages have enabled us to understand the Leydich family and its neighbors much more quickly and soundly than would otherwise have been the case.

—Charles H. Glatfelter