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Dear Readers:

This is the second edition of the Upper Ohio Valley Historical Review. The first edition, November, 1972, was a greater success than we of the Wheeling Area Historical Society had hoped. Once again, we ask your continued support and interest in the journal and hope that you will enjoy reading this issue as much as we have enjoyed assembling it.

Thanks go to the following people for their articles in this issue:

Dr. David Menard of Wheeling
Mrs. Irene Smith of Wheeling
Miss Nancy Caldwell of Wellsburg, W.Va.
Dr. Kenneth Nodyne, associate professor of history at West Liberty State College

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Julia Pollock, editor
A LA MODE

A Brilliant Concourse of Fair Women and Brave Men

At the Inaugural Ball and Reception Last Night

The Decorations, The Music and the Feast

(This piece was submitted by Dr. David F. Menard from the files of the Wheeling Intelligencer)

The Inaugural Ball and Reception in honor of Gov. Mathews has passed into history, and in social record of the year its decor was in place of distinguished prominence. It was an event to which Wheeling's best society had looked forward with the greatest interest, and upon the committee having it in charge can now reflect with retroactive pride. About two weeks ago a meeting of citizens irrespective of party, was held in the City Building, and the preliminary arrangements made for a ball and reception to Gov. Mathews. The list of the committee appointed at this meeting, the arrangements made by them for the event of last evening, have been detailed in our columns. We have now only to write of the result of their labors.

GATHERING IN

About 8 o'clock last evening the Capitol began to assume an appearance of unusual activity. Bright lights gleamed from all the windows, and the doors at the broad entrance were kept almost continually surging to and fro. The sprightly servants seemed intent on the "doubling of their diligence" while the spacious staircase was crowded to its utmost capacity in the business of getting the growing crowd upon the upper floor.
On the street bounding the Capitol there was a hurry and bustle and a rattle of wheels, which indicated that the livery men had their hands full. The earliest arrivals were the gentlemen upon the different committees. For a time they were to be seen talking in little groups, evidently speculating on the success that they hoped for as a crown to their endeavors. Soon the guests began to come. The first to arrive were the "solid men" and their worthy consorts.

As the "old boys" gathered in the gentlemen's dressing room (the Secretary of State's Office) the pride of their youthful days began to manifest itself. They brushed their hair carefully, pulled on their white kid gloves tenderly, and arranged their ties, coquetting with the mirror the while, with an exactness as scrupulous as ever attempted by the younger members of "du beau monde". Soon the younger couples, married and unmarried came, and shortly after nine o'clock the apartments of the building were well filled with a fashionable company. The numbers, of course, kept increasing as the hours grew later.

THE RECEIPTION

The scene in the reception room was extremely effective and unique. The room was brilliantly illuminated, and handsomely decorated, and various floral bowers lent their fragrance to the air. On the left of the entrance, Kramer's orchestra was stationed, and with a piano accompaniment (a Steinway Grand from Adams & Lucas) made most excellent music. About 9 o'clock Gov. Mathews was escorted into the room by the Committee on Introduction, while the orchestra rendered a march. The Governor and party took their stations in the center of the room, and His Excellency
was then introduced in turn to the ladies as they came forward. There
may have been a little awkwardness and forgetfulness of etiquette in
the introductions, but both—under the circumstances—should be pardoned.

TERPSICHORIAN

The hall of the House of Delegates was fitted up for dancing pur-
poses. The room was literally hung with banners, representing almost
every nation under the sun. The shape of the room, and the overhanging
galleries, gave a fine opportunity for a tasteful arrangement of colors.
The orchestra occupied the Speaker’s platform, and were assisted by a
piano accompaniment, the instrument being furnished by Adams and Lucas.
The dancing was kept up from 10 P.M. till the wee sma’ hours of the
morning. During the whole evening the ball room was a scene of great
brilliance and beauty. Although there was a large throng upon the floor,
the best of humor prevailed, and no one seemed bothered or annoyed by
the inevitable jostling. There was an admiring concourse of spectations
in the room as long as the dancing continued. It was the piece "par ex-
cellence" to witness in all its perfection the poetry of motion.

The music furnished by the orchestra was enjoyed not only by the
dancers, but as well by all who were within sound of the inspiring
strains. Kramer’s orchestra never did themselves greater credit than
by playing for last night’s ball and reception.

THE SUPPER

The arrangements for the feeding of the multitude were excellent.
The room of the Supreme Court of Appeals was used as the refreshment
room, and was nicely arranged for the purpose. The general arrangement was very effective, and credit in abundance is due to the artisans. There was a fine display of bunting, and a variety of plants. The refreshment table occupied the west side of the room, and was universally admired for the display of confectionary. A large part of the room was filled with little tables, each provided with seats for four. Upon these the elegant collation prepared by Uncle Peter Zinn was served to order. Everything toothsome to be obtained, the most delicious delicacies of the season, meats, oysters, jellies, cake of all varieties, ices, tea, and coffee &c. were provided in abundance. It is needless to say that the tables were well patronized. Supper was served from 11 until past 2, seventy being seated at a time.

All the rooms, well warmed and lighted, were thrown open and they provided spots for those who felt the occasional necessity for a little rest or a cozy chat. The broad halls were also largely frequented by the promenaders. No special decorations were to be observed in the halls, but they were attractive enough without any such devices. The living, moving panorama of style and beauty was, of itself, a sight to see.

THE DISPLAY OF LADIES' TOILETS

From such a multitude of elegantly dressed ladies it was by no means an easy task to make a selection of fine toilets, but the following list comprises some of the most notable costumes of the occasion:

Mrs. George B. Caldwell was attired in an elegant grosgrain silk and velvet toilet trimmed in white point lace. It was certainly one of the most elegant toilets of the evening.

Miss Lillie Mendel, exceedingly handsome black velvet costume, trimmed in
point lace.
Mrs. Senator Caldwell, black grosgrain silk and velvet, trimmed in crepe lesse frais and Valenciennes lace. This costume certainly deserved all the commendation bestowed upon it.
Mrs. Robert Delaplaine, beautiful cameo silk, trimmed in flowers, lace and diamonds.
Mrs. George R. Tingle, black silk and velvet toilet, trimmed in black thread lace. There was certainly not a finer costume in the house.
Miss Lottie Hervey, flame colored silk, trimmed in blue, and Valenciennes lace and flowers.
Miss Ida Berger, black silk and velvet suit, pink trimming and flowers.
Miss Gertie Harden, armure silk bodice and white tartetan skirt, trimmed in flowers. Miss Sue Bell was dressed similar to Miss Harden. Both costumes were very elegant.
Miss Sallie Maxwell, black silk and velvet costume.
Mrs. Joseph Brady, cream white silk trimmed in silk tule and flowers.
Miss Julia Hubbard, white brocaded silk overskirt trimmed in blue, black silk underskirt.
Mrs. Jacob Berger, elegant black silk velvet costume trimmed in seashell pink silk and flowers and diamonds.
Miss Birdie Caldwell, white tarletan dress trimmed in flowers and point lace; low back and short sleeved bodice. Very becoming costume.
Miss Lide Woods, magnificent black silk trimmed in Smyrna point lace.
Miss Mame Woods, fawn colored silk dress with lace trimmings.
Miss Ada Ferrell, pearl silk with Valenciennes lace polonaise.
Miss Jennie Coen, cream silk with black thread lace, bertha and scarlet trimmings.

Miss Hattie Williams of Rochester, N.Y., black brocaded silk overskirt and bodice trimmed in white illusion.

Miss Jennie Smith of Parkersburg, elegant sea foam silk cut princess style, trimmed in silk tulle.

Miss Jennie Miller, beautiful black grenadine trimmed in flowers.

Mrs. J.R. McCourtney, black silk overskirt and basque trimmed in Smyrna lace.

Miss Emma Beck, black cashmere trimmed in Valenciennes lace.

Miss Mamie Stalnaker of Charleston, white tarleton trimmed in cardinal red.

Miss Jennie Bailey, black silk trimmed with black velvet and lace.

Miss Jennie Woodward, black cashmere trimmed with black velvet.

Miss Jennie Pryor, sea shell pink waist white tarleton skirt trimmed in silk illusion and flowers.

Miss Lydia Paulson, black grenadine trimmed in cardinal red flowers.

Miss Ella Hunter, ivory white silk waist and white illusion skirt trimmed in Mlle green.

Mrs. Frank Booth, black silk, white lace overskirt.

Mrs. Ruffner, Charleston, elegant white silk trimmed with black thread lace bertha and overskirt, pink robbons and flowers.

Mrs. Theo. Phinney, black silk and velvet toilet.

Mrs. Thomas Walton, pearl colored silk and velvet, with point lace.

Miss Sallie Handian, navy blue silk and velvet, point lace overdress.

Miss Effie Russell, black silk and point overlace skirt.

Miss Annie Wilson, white tarleton trimmed in pink silk and flowers.
Miss Lizzie Leasure, black silk dress blue waist and trimmings.
Miss Fannie Leasure, black silk and velvet costume.
Miss Paulson, white tarletan, trimmed with silk illusion.
Miss Annie Hardesty, white silk illusion trimmed with flowers.
Miss Mary Ferrell, black silk dress, with pink hat.
Mrs. Jno. L. Rice, black silk and elegant velvet toilet.
Mrs. Wash. Dunbar, black cashmere and velvet.
Mrs. James Hamilton, black silk and Valenciennes lace.
Mrs. L.E. Hanson, black silk and velvet.
Miss Mary Jamison, rich grosgrain silk black.

In the crowd and crush it was impossible to ascertain the names of all the ladies who wore noteworthy costumes. Hence many who really deserved special mention have been omitted. As a whole, the display of dress was remarkably brilliant.

The managers of the ball have every reason to congratulate themselves on the result of their labors. Their highest hopes were realized. For financially, gastronomically, and socially, it was a complete success.
HOW ABOUT A FEW MORE "OLD FASHIONED REMEDIES"?

(Frustrated doctors should enjoy this piece sent in by Wellsburg's Nancy Caldwell.)

Please do not try any of these remedies without first consulting your doctor or druggist.

ASTHMA CURE

3 Ounces Cascara Legrada
3 Ounces Berbers
Ten Cents Worth of Godile Potassium

COUGH REMEDY

Tincture of Laudanum
Digitalis
Blood Root

Equal portions of each of the above and put 10 drops on sugar.

The next two remedies are dated 1818 and are recommended both for humans and animals.

CURE FOR THE TIZECH (Anybody know what the "Tizechs" might be?)

1 Qt. Chamberly
1 Lb. Sugar
1 Gill Sweet Oil
Allum (Size of Walnut)
Small tablespoon of hogs lard

Take a tablespoon every morning and night

LINAMENT FOR PAINS (Any and all pain regardless where it might be)

6 Cts. Camphor Oil
6 Cts. Spirits Turpentine
6 Cts. Stone Oil
6 Cts. Opium (Dissolved)
6 Cts. Hartshorn (Dissolved)
OLD FASHIONED REMEDIES

Here are a few more remedies that were once used in Brooke County homes. We would like to caution you that they have not been tried out for quite a few years, so in case you decide to try them, don't blame us if they don't work.

MUSTARD PLASTER

1/2 Box dried mustard, 2 tablespoons of olive oil, 1 1/2 tablespoons lard, 1 teaspoon flour - Mix into smooth paste, spread on cotton, (do not use wool cloth), put in pie pan and place in oven over low heat about 200 or 250 F until it gets hot. Grease chest with oil and put plaster on chest for about 20 minutes. Take off and reheat as needed. Can be used about three times.

HOW TO HEAL NAIL WOUNDS

Cleanse the wound well with warm water to remove all particles of dirt. Take the yolk of an egg, mix thick with salt, spread one half of the mixture on a piece of clean cloth, apply to the wound, leave on for ten or twelve hours. Then apply the rest of the mixture. In nearly every case the wound will be well in 24 hours.
AN ARTICLE ENTITLED "THE KEY TO HEALTH AND LONG LIFE" APPEARED IN THE LOCAL RECORD IN 1910. THE ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN BY DOCTOR J.A. COX OF WHEELING, FORMERLY OF WELLSBURG.

"Dress warmly, but not uncomfortably so. All clothing should be porous so as to admit air to the body, as well as to permit the escape of the perspiration. Hence linen should never be worn next to the skin. Cotton for the hot months of summer and woolen for spring, autumn and winter, make the ideal underwear. Silk, though not generally worn, stands next to woolen as a garment for underwear.

It should not be forgotten that warmth of clothing depends more on the amount of air contained within its fibres than on either thickness or weight. Hence, two light woolen garments, for example, are much warmer than one heavy one of equal weight.

An ordinary newspaper, fastened around the body, under the coat or other outer garment, is a superior protective against cold when riding or driving. Paper is porous and a non-conductor of heat. Placed between blankets at night, or in the soles of shoes in daytime, paper is very serviceable.

The weight of all clothing should be suspended from the shoulders, not from the waist. To forbid belts, corsets, or other devices of fashion that impair the health and deform the body is a waste of words. You will wear them regardless of what any authority may say to the contrary. The latest style in dress wins out every time.

Unless otherwise directed, wear no overshoes, chest protectors,
mufflers. The wearers of such things are, almost without exception, the victims of frequent and severe coughs and colds."

Wonder what Doctor Cox would say if he could see our "mini skirts" today!
THE LEWIS BONNETT HOME *

One of the oldest houses in Ohio County, dating from the pre-Revolutionary era, is the Lewis Bonnett home which stands on Wheeling Creek just beyond the old Cedar Rocks Country Club and about three miles east of the junction of Routes 40 and 91 in Elm Grove. Lewis, whose ancestors came from Flanders, and whose surname was originally Bonet, was born in Chester County, Pennsylvania, in 1737. When his parents died within a few years of each other, his brother Samuel took charge of the family. However, Samuel was killed by a falling tree, and Lewis enlisted in the Virginia Rangers, fighting under Washington in Braddock's Defeat.

He married Elizabeth Waggoner on the South Branch of the Potomac, and they moved with his brother-in-law John Wetzel to Wheeling Creek. The story is told of John Wetzel's meeting a lone Indian who tried to dissuade him from going into the Indians' land. Upon being told that the government had bought the land, the red man queried, "Can chiefs sell air? Can government buy song of bird or speed of deer?" He could not change Wetzel's mind.

In the group journeying to the Wheeling Creek area were the Eberlys and the Rosencranzes, who had made the trip earlier to find fertile new land which could be theirs for the claiming. They returned to take their families back to Wheeling Creek, and added to the group the Zanes, Bonnetts and Wetzels.

After Lewis Bonnett had lived on Wheeling Creek for a few years,

* Written by Mrs. Irene Smith
he became discouraged and moved to Dunkard Creek on the Monongahela. Several years later he moved back to Wheeling Creek—about 1781 or 1782—and died there March 9, 1808, at seventy years of age.

The Bonnett property, presently sixteen acres in extent, has been owned by Leo Elliott for about thirty years. Prior to that time the farm was owned by the Britts for about seventy years, and earlier the McCulleys were the owners. Mrs. Britt was a McCulley, and on the death of her husband in 1870, her brother willed the farm to her.

Originally the farm was several hundred acres in size, extending as far east as the present Langmyer property and in the other direction to Middle Wheeling Creek. After the death of Lewis, Sr., his son Lewis added nearly one thousand more acres to the tract.

The original stone barn is still in use, although a wooden top has been added. The house had two large rooms and an attic. Access to the attic, both from the interior and exterior, was by ladder. A substantial addition was made to the house in 1815.

The barn and the foundations of the house were built of sandstone. Mr. Bonnett built a large stone fireplace in the basement of his home and constructed boilers in the barn. A tunnel, approximately six by four by forty feet, ran from the basement of the house under the barn, and through this were rolled barrels of whiskey which Mr. Bonnett distilled. In the storekeeper's books of Shepherd's Mills, now the Osiris Temple at Monument Place, is a record of his trading whiskey for supplies. The retail price of whiskey in 1806 was 13¢ per pint.

Mr. Bonnett utilized stones for shelves in the basement, and
they are still level and tight-fitting. Eleven large stones make the ceiling of the tunnel.

The walls of the barn are two feet thick. The "sleepers" in both the barn and the house are of walnut and have not been replaced. All the rafters are notched and pegged. The hinges on the doors were made by a blacksmith. For many years a blacksmith shop stood a few yards from the barn. Adjacent to the barn is a seven-foot well constructed of sandstone; this and the thirty-foot one by the house have never been dry.

Several large stones, sandstone again, make a walk from the porch of the home, and Mr. Britt is said to have buried under one of them a box containing Indian arrowheads, axes and spears.

The graveyard is several hundred yards from the home, and it can be reached only by climbing a forty-five degree hill. Most of the lettering on the grave stones has crumbled off, but one can still read that John, Lewis's brother, died in 1816 at the age of eighty-one; Jane, wife of Lewis, Jr., died in 1839; and a grandson, Jacob Rodafer, departed this life in 1810, at the age of four months.
A VIGNETTE OF WHEELING IN THE AGE OF JACKSON

By Kenneth R. Nodyne
Associate Professor of History, West Liberty State College

Neatly nestled between the beautiful Ohio and Wheeling hill, the budding metropolis of Wheeling sought the position of "Queen City of the Upper Ohio Valley" during the early decades of the nineteenth century. From the top of Wheeling hill, the city made an impressive sight. Brick houses, shops, and bustling mills were lined up along the narrow ledge between the Ohio River and Wheeling hill. In the distance, the traveler could observe Zane's island, the two ferries across the Ohio, and the village of Canton. On the left one could observe the Ohio River winding five or six miles downstream loosing itself amidst the ridges of West Virginia.¹

An early traveler observed in 1821 that "the site of Wheeling is extremely pleasant, the houses are new and handsome, many of which are of brick, and built in a style of architecture that would do honor to many of the towns in the northern states." At this time the towns were principally built on one street and presented a pleasant view to travelers passing down the river.²

By 1837 the appearance of downtown Wheeling was transformed from the pastoral village of the first decades of the nineteenth century to that of an urban center. Warehouses lined Water Street and a variety of retail stores were located on Main Street. The houses in the residential sector were usually constructed of brick in a contemporary architectural style. South Wheeling was connected to the
main part of town by a stone bridge over the mouth of Wheeling Creek.

South Wheeling was an idyllic residential sector in a semi-rural setting with handsome new brick dwellings surrounded by scattered trees and flowering shrubs. One writer described the city as one of "magnificent distances" and primitive pretense, like Washington, D.C. A hallmark of the proud young republic could be observed at the stone bridge over Wheeling Creek with its well executed life-size statue of the Goddess of Liberty.

Maximillian, Prince of Wied, was impressed by the colorful approach to Wheeling from the East. Unable to sail down the Ohio from Pittsburgh because of the shallowness of the river, his party traveled the fifty-seven miles to Wheeling overland and was impressed by the beautiful scenery along the way which formed a melange of yellow, vermilion, purple, and green. The elms, robinia, and willows also came in for plaudits.

Beyond the Ohio, to the west of the city, lay fine farm land. William Faux, a traveler, reported about his visit to a farm owned by one Mr. Edney in 1818-1819. Edney's farm consisted of 500 acres "hill and dale, or river bottom and mountain land," the "best and richest" in the state of Ohio, just seven miles from Wheeling. While much of Edney's farm was in woodland due to its height, eighty acres were in the "richest, finest, and most luxuriant pasture" that Faux ever saw.

Adland Welby, passing through Wheeling in 1819, remarked that the road from Washington, Pennsylvania, was a "fine drive" and would be better when the National Road opened up access to the interior of the continent.
For recollections of the appearance of Wheeling and the nature of its people during the 1830's, we are indebted to W.G. Lyford, who in 1837 published The Western Address Directory Containing the Cards of Merchants, Manufacturers, and Other Business Men. Lyford described how travelers from the East were assisted in their passage over Wheeling Hill. A substantial piece of masonry made of free stone extended from the base to the summit of the hill which both gave stability to the road and kept an even surface thus making the passage up the hill less dangerous for man and less laborious for the horses.

The physical appearance of the city was generally favorably commented upon by travelers and settlers. Joseph L. Wilde, writing forty years later, gave a detailed recollection of Wheeling in the 1830's which describes the expansion of the city during the boom years of the early 1830's. He recalled that the commercial section of the city was between a point just below 11th Street to a point not far north of Ninth Streets, bounded on the east by "Wheeling Hill" and on the west by Ohio River.

Wilde estimated the population of the city to be about 8000, the most densely populated part being above Twelfth Street. Along Main Street, between Ninth and Eleventh were a variety of businesses including a chair manufacturer, book sellers, tailors, silversmiths, a saddle shop, and eight dry goods stores. On Market Street between Eleventh and Tenth were four more dry goods stores. Much of the grocery business was done on this street but the heaviest part was done on Water [sic] Street (then known as Monroe Street). The hardware business was mostly in the hands of Samuel Ott, Samuel Neel, and Henry P. Morris—all not far from
Twelfth Street. On Water Street, John Leach and Alexander Rogers, clothiers, did a large business.\textsuperscript{11}

One of the landmarks of Wheeling in the 1830's was the old court house and jail. The court house stood in the middle of Tenth Street midway between Main and Market. The building was small and unpretentious, like a plain country church. The court house was shortly doomed to the wreckers, but the jail underwent remodeling into dwellings.\textsuperscript{12}

Early Wheeling contained a variety of churches, numerous banks, and ample hotels. Among the early churches were the United Presbyterian, the Roman Catholic, the First Presbyterian, the Baptist, the Protestant Episcopal Church, the Methodist Presbyterian Church, a Methodist Evangelical Church and others. Along with the custodians of Wheeling's souls, went guardians of their pocketbooks in the form of several banks including the Old Northwestern Bank of Virginia, the Merchants and Mechanics Bank, and the Wheeling Savings Institution. Located strategically on the National Road, Wheeling could be expected to have a number of important hotels. Two of the best of these were the Virginia Hotel and the United States Hotel.\textsuperscript{13}

The young city possessed other attractions including a newspaper, the Wheeling Gazette; a circus which made periodic visits to Wheeling; and, "the most noticeable feature" on Main Street, John McCortney's tavern and wagon yard.\textsuperscript{14}

What is now known as centre Wheeling was then called South Wheeling. This area was very thinly settled and had unpaved streets, except for an occasional brick side-walk. Everywhere mud prevailed, and in bad
storms, the streets became a quagmire.

Wheeling Island was as yet undeveloped and was noticeable for nothing more than being the home of Daniel Zane and a Mr. Le Baron. The island was still "a country place" and not laid out with any regard to building lots.\textsuperscript{15}

One of the civic improvements of which the early citizens were most proud was the water works on the margin of the river at the foot of Adams Street. The water was pumped into a reservoir on the brow of Wheeling Hill, 172 feet above the level of the river. Then the water was conveyed through the city in iron pipes.\textsuperscript{16}

Wheeling was chartered as a city in 1836 with Moses W. Chapline its first mayor. The city was governed by a Mayor and Council, chosen annually, on the third Monday in March. The plan of the city consisted of the original plot, laid off in lots in 1793 by Colonel Ebenezer Zane with additions made by individuals and companies.\textsuperscript{17}

One of the great catastrophes of the period was the great flood of February, 1832. The river was 54 feet above its ordinary level and Wheeling Island was inundated. Forty-two buildings were swept from the low lands of the city. Thirty-five frame buildings floated down the river in an upright position and uncannily failed to capsize.\textsuperscript{18}

Although in the northernmost part of Virginia, the style of Wheeling society was Southern and the term Yankee was looked-down upon. But, while Southern in manner, the citizens of Wheeling were an enterprising lot. Slavery existed, but, on a modest scale, most slaves being body servants of those who owned them. One writer describes the
Wheeling of 1837 as possessing a quiet old Virginia dignity. Among the great proprietary families of the city were the Zanes, Chaplines, Woods, Caldwells, Jacobs, and Goods. 19

The genteel community of the 1830's described by Wilde had not always been so calm as he suggests. Some twenty years before a traveler told the story of a group known as "the Rowdies" who had threatened a citizen named Birkbeck with assassination. Having replied that he would shoot anyone who tried to enter his house, he was left alone. 20

Like the rest of the country, Wheeling was seriously affected by the Panic of 1837 and the ensuing depression. This depression had its origin in the mid-1830's when President Andrew Jackson withdrew government deposits from the Second Bank of the United States. The disappearance of a regular currency in the form of notes issued by the Bank of the United States threw the people of Wheeling back on their own resources. A local currency based on fractions of the dollar and representing promises to pay were issued by the local bankers Daniel Murray, Redick McKee, Jacob Singleton and others. The denominations of the currency issued were 6 1/4, 12 1/2, 18 3/4, 25, 37 1/2, 50 and 75 cents. The money was considered reliable because it had been issued by bankers in whom the people had confidence. Wilde comments that "they went by the odd name of 'Shin Plasters', on the theory that they were the only things that could be found to mend the 'legs' of public credit. They continued in circulation for several years and when public confidence was restored, they were retired from circulation. 21

That ancient practice imprisonment for debt was still commonplace
in Wheeling. One saving grace to this humiliation was that when a citizen could give sufficient security to his bond, he was allowed a limited freedom to walk around town. Wilde remarked that "Debtors able to give the required security were often the subject of much amusement to their acquaintances when seen on the street,—as they were invited by some wag or other to "come over" to a point that would have been a violation of their parole were they to have done so."

The railroad as yet not having come into its own, the steamboat was still in its heyday. Among the regular stockboats was the "Reliance," the "Amazon," the "Embassy," the "Ben Franklin" and others. A daily packet service to Pittsburgh was run from port to port. Along the Ohio valley, the whistle of the steamboat was a familiar sound.22

In Wheeling, as elsewhere, the emergent industrial revolution brought forth its share of crackpots. An example of this was "Wandelohr's Perpetual Motion" machine docked at Wheeling wharf. Despite much expenditure of time, money, and ingenuity, his craft met the same results as similar ventures of this type.23

From the time of the completion of the National Road to Wheeling in 1818 until the completion of the Pennsylvania Railroad to Pittsburgh in 1852, these two cities were looked in a trade struggle for pre-eminence in the upper Ohio valley. To use the lingo of the day, both sought to become "the Queen City of the Upper Ohio Valley." Merchants, bankers, and citizens of both cities sought to make the city the "emporium" of the Midwest. Both cities had attractions to offer the prospective traveler and settler. Wheeling was ideally located for settlers coming from the upper
South and the Ohio Valley could be reached more easily than the route between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh separated by the high Alleghenies. Furthermore travel westward down the Ohio was more certain from Wheeling than from Pittsburgh as the river between Pittsburgh and Wheeling was often too shallow to allow steamers to pass down river.

Numerous travelers remarked upon the preferability of Wheeling as a route to the West. George W. Ogden, an early traveler through Wheeling in 1822, spoke of Wheeling as an "extremely pleasant" town of new and handsome houses and advised heading West via Wheeling rather than Pittsburgh. An English traveler Adland Welby recommended Wheeling as being better situated for travel to the West. Another traveler, W.H. Venable spoke of the route from Baltimore to St. Louis as being sublime and picturesque, and wrote "he who aims at uniting the greatest dispatch with economy and an easy route will go from Baltimore to Wheeling on the mail route. This road is excellent, and by this route one can go from Baltimore and Cincinnati in four or five days." He also recommended the Pennsylvania canal system as slower but less fatiguing for a traveler with a family.

One drawback to the greater development of Wheeling was the institution of slavery. John Woods, a traveler about 1820, remarked that he was "much pleased with the country" but Virginia "being in a slave state" he "could not think of settling there." To balance this statement, it should be added that he also noticed that the best land was taken up.

The great rivalry between Wheeling and Pittsburgh would continue until mid-century when Pittsburgh clearly achieved the ascendancy. The selection by the B & O Railroad of Wheeling as its termini on the Ohio
River quickened the heartbeat of local boosters. But, the geographic and commercial advantages possessed by Pittsburgh together with the construction of a direct rail line from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh ended any successful challenge which Wheeling could offer to Pittsburgh, the "emporium" of the Upper Ohio and gateway to the West. The railroad rivalry is an intriguing story in itself, but belongs more to the mid-century than to the less hurried tranquility of the first four decades of the nineteenth century when the budding hopes of Wheeling for future greatness were still sprouting.

FOOTNOTES


5. Lyford, p. 6


9. Lyford, p. 155

10. Wilde, p. 5

11. Ibid., p. 6

12. Lyford, p. 161
13. Wilde, pp. 7-8
14. Ibid, pp. 8-9
15. Ibid, p. 11
16. Lyford, p. 17
17. Ibid, p. 155
18. Ibid, p. 164
19. Wilde, p. 16
21. Wilde, pp. 17-18
22. Ibid, pp. 18-19
23. Ibid, p. 19