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TREDYFFRIN EASTTOWN HISTORY QUARTERLY



Lancaster County Farmers Market
A Community Treasure





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From the Editors

The inspiration for this special issue of the *History Quarterly* devoted to the Lancaster County Farmers Market in Strafford may be traced to a recent conversation between Roger Thorne (past president of the Society and a prolific contributor to the *Quarterly*) and Daniel Weaver Neff (president of the S. Clyde Weaver Inc., the organization that operates the Market). The idea for a publication to tell the story of the market quickly became a reality as Roger—in collaboration with other Society members, as well as standholders and patrons of the market—collected stories and gathered photographs.

The Weaver organization operates eight markets in the region (Allentown, Bird in Hand, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lemoyne, Manheim, Wayne, and York) as well as two stores (East Petersburg and Lancaster), and has been a family business for 99 years. While they have a presence in their markets, they also provide support and an essential framework for the other standholders.

Probably the aspect most consistently reported by those consulted is the strong sense of community that pervades the Market and is shared by its vendors and patrons. In a fast-paced and rapidly changing world, where long-standing traditions can be difficult to find and maintain, this noteworthy sense of community is nurtured and cherished by those who recognize its value.

An early image of S. Clyde and Emma Weaver, c. 1936, with their 1930's Dodge panel truck normally used for hauling their meats and cheeses to the Main Line, here ready for a parade. *Courtesy of Dan Neff.*



Erratum for Volume 54 Number 4 (Spring 2019)

On page 39, the statement "... the old 'Clockworks' building—a small structure designed in the Colonial Revival style by prominent local architect R. Brognard Okie ..." may need to be corrected. Recently discovered evidence indicates that the former "Clockworks" building appears to have been built after the death of R. Brognard Okie in 1945. While it is possible that he (in some preliminary way) or—much more likely—his architect son Charles, was involved, further investigation will be necessary to confirm the identity of the architect.

Trash or Treasure?

It is not uncommon for us to hear from or about people who are in possession of some items that they may be uncertain how to value, but for which they would like to find a new home.

If you (or people you know) have photographs, drawings, maps, letters, documents, books, or other items of possible (or definite) historic interest that might be donated to the Society, please visit the Archives page of our website (<http://www.tehistory.org/archives.html>) and review our Collecting Policy, or contact us directly for more information. Email: archives@tehistory.org

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Cover Descriptions

- Front Cover: (UPPER) As the first rays of the rising sun provide illumination, the Strafford Farmers Market is open, as usual, on Saturday, October 12, 2019. *Photo courtesy of © Roger D. Thorne.* (LOWER) The Lancaster County Farmers Market in downtown Wayne, c. 1953. *Courtesy of Dan Neff.*
- Back Cover: (UPPER) A view of the southwestern corner of the Market building, November 2019. (LOWER) A different view of the Strafford Farmers Market presents itself on Wednesday morning, April 17, 2019 as pilot David Nelson, flying an open cockpit, WWII-vintage J3 Cub along with photographer Roger Thorne, circles the market at low altitude. *Photographs courtesy of © Roger D. Thorne.*



Lancaster County Farmers Market, Strafford, Pennsylvania, 2019

