

## MEDIA

### 1889 Business Directory

Media, the county seat of Delaware County, occupies a most charming site near the center of the county. It is located on the line of the Philadelphia and West Chester Railroad about 14 ½ miles of land bought of William Penn by Peter and William Taylor, in 1681, and settled upon by them about a year later. In 1848, when it was decided to move the county post here as being more central, there were about 12 buildings on the ground now included within the limits of Media. The county commissioners having purchased quite a tract of land upon which to erect county buildings, etc., divided a part of it into building lots which they sold at auction, active building operations soon began and in less than 18 months from the time it was laid out application was made for a borough charter which was granted in 1850. A clause in this charter makes it unlawful for any person to vend or sell vinous, spirituous, or other intoxicating liquors within the limits of the borough, except for medical purposes, or for use in the arts, which clause has been strictly adhered to.

At the present time we find it a place of nearly 3,000 inhabitants and one of the most beautiful towns in the state, much pains and money having been expended in improving and beautifying the streets and general surroundings. About 1856 a system of water works was completed and since extended, a plentiful supply of excellent water being thus provided, while the Media Gas Company furnishes gas for domestic purposes. The educational interests in the borough are very important. Aside from an excellent system of public schools there are several seminaries for both males and females, largely attended and ranking high as institutions of learning. The religious element is also well provided for there being organizations of the Friends, Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, Episcopal and Catholic denominations. There is also a well conducted press, good hotel accommodations, and ample banking facilities. The beauty and healthfulness of the place and the picturesqueness of its surroundings, induce many persons to seek summer homes in the town or its neighborhood, the high moral and intellectual status of the community adding much to its attractiveness as a place of residence.

There are a number of important business houses here the enterprising of which we describe in the series of articles which follow.

#### **A. J. Quinby – Funeral Director, Orange S., Branch Office: 219 W 3rd St., Chester**

The above-named gentlemen is prepared to do embalming in the most satisfactory manner. A full line of undertakers' supplies are kept on hand, including coffins, caskets, mountings and burial clothing of all kinds. Mr. Quinby is a native of this county and established himself in the business in 1844. He attends funerals in all parts of the county and he officiated at the obsequies of many of the oldest and best-known citizens.

#### **George C. Webster – Apothecary, 20 E. State Street**

A first class, reliable apothecary store is an absolute necessity in every municipality and that of George C. Webster is just such establishment for he gives his personal attention to the management of the pharmacy and does not conduct any side shows, nor does he divide his energies between a drug store, a cigar store and a paint store, but manages the place as a purely pharmaceutical and chemical laboratory. His stock in drugs and chemicals is always fresh and complete, prescriptions are compound at all house of the day and or night. He also keeps all the popular patent and proprietary remedies and a good assortment of toilet goods. The salesroom is 18 x 20 feet in size, but he contemplates in near future to enlarge it. It is elegantly fitted up and well adapted to the demands of the business. Competent assistants are employed to aid in making preparations, etc. The soda fountain is attended to by and agreeable young man. The proprietor is a native of Delaware County and a graduate of the Philadelphia

College of Pharmacy. He took possession of the store about four years ago and enjoys the esteem of a large circle of friends.

**C. P. Adams – Dealer In Furniture and Bedding, East State Street**

This important house has been established about three years, and now claims a good share of the public patronage. The stock carried embraces a full line of kitchen, dining room, parlor, bedroom and household furniture generally. Goods are purchased in all cases from the best houses in various parts of the Union. Although office furniture is not carried in stock it will be purchased on order at the shortest notice. The warehouse occupied is a two-story structure 30 x 30 feet in dimensions and is well-appointed throughout. An extensive business is also transacted in cabinet making and upholstering in all branches of which the proprietor makes a specialty. To all orders for either custom or repair work he gives the most careful attention, executing them with all possible dispatch and guaranteeing first-class work. He employs three assistants in the various departments of the business. This gentleman is a native of Delaware County and is much esteemed in this community.

**J. H. Sloan – Mill Work of All Kinds, South Avenue and Washington Street**

This business was started two years ago under the firm name of Newlin & Sloan, the former having retired from the business, it is now conducted solely by J.H. Sloan. The premises occupied by the warerooms embrace a three-story structure, 30 x 60 feet in size and a two-story structure of 30 x 50 feet. The stock carried comprises everything in the nature of wood work that goes into the general make-up of a house, such as doors, blinds, sash, moldings, flooring, mantels, porch posts, etc. Only Nos. 1 and 2 grades of mill work are handled, and specialty is made in hardwood and hard oil finish. Four men are employed, and two double teams are kept in constant service and the trade reaches to the remotest corners of the county. The gross income of the business last year was \$45,000 and this year's business will far exceed that amount. The proprietor of this extensive enterprise is a native of Media and is one of her best-known citizens. He is a cabinet maker by trade and previous to embarking in this business was assiduously engaged in the practice of that calling in which he was a recognized master workman.

**Wm. H. Calvert – China, Glass, Queens, Wood and Willow Ware, State and Olive Streets**

Among the houses established during the present year none rank higher in point of either importance or public estimation than the china store of William H. Calvert. This gentleman's stock is full and varied, embracing imported and American china ware, glass and queens ware, specialty however, being made in the finest decorated ware. Here will also be found at all times, a complete line of such household necessities as buckets, brooms, brushes, tubs, clothes lines and pins, baskets, mops, lamps and lamp goods, shoe and stove polish, corks, earthen and stoneware, etc. The salesroom is advantageously displayed with taste and judgement. There are also warerooms for storage of duplicate stock and two assistants are employed. This gentleman is a native of Delaware County and has been in this borough for 23 years and up to the time of embarking in this enterprise was employed in one store as a clerk and under four different firms. He is highly esteemed in the community.

**Van L. Wolf – Carriage Factory, State Street**

This gentleman is one of Media's most enterprising business men. He established himself at his present quarters, in the spring of 1887, and has built up a trade extending all over the county. The premises occupied comprise a two-story structure, 40 x 50 feet in dimensions, fully equipped with all the necessary appliances of the latest and best device. The first floor is occupied by wood shop and show room, while the second floor is devoted to the painting and trimming departments. An assortment of all kinds of carriages is kept on hand, including, phaetons, falling-tops, Surreys, jump-seats, Germantowns, road carts, etc. Also, milk wagons and light business wagons. Work is all of best material, built in the most skillful manner and elegantly finished, eight skilled workmen being employed, and all work warranted for a reasonable time, about 40 new jobs being annually turned out. The leading

specialty is made in the Wilmington wagon gear used under Dayton bodies, which for general usefulness and cheapness is unsurpassed. Mr. Wolf is a native of Washington County, MD., where he was born in 1852 and he has had years of experience in this line. Careful attention is given to repairing, satisfaction being guaranteed in every case.

**John H. Liggett – Plummer, Steam and Gas Fitter Tin Ware, Etc., S. Orange Street**

This is an important house in its line and was established in the spring of 1888. Two rooms are occupied and there is carried an excellent stock of plumbing material, gas and steam fixtures, including bath tubs, water closets, copper and wrought iron boilers, cast iron fittings, wrought iron pipe, hot air registers and ventilators, valves, stop cocks, etc. The proprietor is a thoroughly practical mechanic and is prepared to execute all branches of the work at the most reasonable rates. He also does all kinds of country plumbing and pump work and is agent for Humphrey's soil pipe fittings. A full and complete line of stoves, heaters and ranges is carried, estimates given, and contracts taken for heating of private residences or public houses by either hot air or steam. Specialty is made in tin and sheet iron work of all kinds, roofing and spouting included. A full and complete assortment of tin ware and house furnishing goods generally is carried at the store and orders for new work and repair work in any line receives prompt and careful attention, the basement of the store being thoroughly equipped as a workshop, four mechanics and an apprentice being employed. An excellent trade is had coming from miles around. This gentleman has resided in Media for 23 years and is one of her best known and highly esteemed citizens.

**J. S. Chapman – Watchmaker & Jeweler, E. State Street**

Perhaps nothing so adds to the attractiveness of a business thoroughfare as a well-equipped jewelry store. J.S. Chapman established his business in Media nearly two years ago and by careful attention to business and fair and honorable methods of dealing has secured a very large share of the public patronage, not only of the borough, but of the whole county. His salesroom is 24 x 10 feet in dimensions, and contains an elegant assortment of watches, clocks, jewelry, solid and plated silver tableware, diamonds and other precious stones and glasses of every description. Specialty is made in music boxes. The proprietor contemplates enlarging his facilities in the near future, and will, to still better meet the demands of his growing trade. Repair work of every description skillfully executed with all promptness. In the repairing of watches of finest mechanism this gentleman is an acknowledged expert. He is a native of England and was formerly engaged in this line of trade there and has been in America nine years.

**D. B. Williamson – Practical Electrician, P.O. Box 523**

This gentleman, who is a native of Media, is a young man of superior intellectual capabilities, is a professional book-keeper and while engaged in the practice of that calling has at the same time been making a study of electrical phenomena, and a few months ago determined to give the citizens of this community the benefit of his researches in this direction and accordingly established himself as a practical electrician. He is now thoroughly prepared to supply houses and offices with everything in the line of call bells, annunciators, burglar alarms, push buttons, door and window spring, etc. He is also prepared to furnish telegraphic supplies, switches, arresters, etc. Prompt and careful attention is given to repairing in all its branches and satisfaction is in all cases guaranteed. His rates are fully as low as city electricians and he is deserving of an extensive patronage. He is building up quite a business and has lately contracted for the electrical outfitting of the 14 new houses being built in this borough by the Brooks Bros. His headquarters are at the office of Wolf's carriage works, where he is always pleased to see his friends and give estimates of his work. Orders by mail or left at the office promptly attended to.

**F. W. Cook – Ornamental Confectioner and Caterer, 36 E. State Street**

This business was established about two years ago and has since occupied a prominent position. The products of the bakery comprise all kinds of bread, including Vienna, Cream, French and homemade, also all kinds of fancy cakes, pies, pastry, et., which are delivered daily to families and

dealers throughout the borough and surrounding country and full stock is kept at all times in the store, as is also a fine assortment of French and American confectionery, fruits and nuts. Specialties are made in fine Mountain cake, and fancy creams and in serving weddings, banquets, parties, suppers and other social gatherings with fine and fancy cakes, meringues, table ornaments, jellies, ice cream, fruit ices, salads, croquettes, oysters, etc. City and country orders promptly filled at all times and satisfaction guaranteed. The salesroom is 18 x 50 feet in dimensions and is one of the most finely fitted up in this section of the state, containing elegant show cases, pictures, etc. The rear is fitted up as an ice cream parlor and will seat over 40 persons. Some idea of the trade here transacted may be gleaned from the fact that about 15 barrels of flour per week are consumed in the bakery. The proprietor is native of Washington, D.C. and was formerly engaged in this line in Philadelphia. He is an expert cake baker and attends to that part of the business himself. Nine assistants are employed in the various departments. His courteous wife and daughter wait upon the store.

**Emil Holl – Watchmaker and Jeweler, N.E. Cor. State and Orange Street**

The fine building here illustrated, occupied by Emil Holl was built for him in the year 1888 and is the finest building in the county devoted to the jewelry business. Many changes have taken place in this establishment since it came into the hands of Mr. Holl in 1877; then a very small business, up to the crowning one—the erection of this beautiful building, which is an ornament to the town and a credit to the energy and push of its owner. By careful attention to the wants of the people, coupled with a thorough knowledge of the business in all its details and strict integrity in all his transactions have won for him an enviable reputation and brought to him patrons from all parts of the country. Justice cannot be done in a short article to the harmony and symmetrical arrangement of his handsome store and his fine stock of gold and silver watches, silverware, clocks, diamonds and jewelry and everything which can be found in a complete jewelry store.

**W. T. Howell- Pianos, Sewing Machines and Musical Instruments, E. State Street**

This business is one of Delaware County's best verifications of the maxim "Great oaks from little acorns grow". It was established in a small way about five years ago and by fair and honorable dealings he has built up a business now extending all over the county. He carries a full stock of pianos, organs, sewing machines and small musical instruments, and keeps a complete line of all the popular sheet music. His specialties are in the Bridgeport organ, the Wilcox & White and Bradbury pianos and Singer sewing machines. The salesroom occupied is 18 x 38 feet in size and fitted up in the best style. He employs three agents who are kept constantly on the road. The proprietor's sister waits on the store and his father also assist in the business. W.T. Howell is a native of Burlington County, N.J. and was engaged in clerking for four years. He is a young man of push and energy, a thorough business man and much esteemed in social circles.

**P. L. Webster – Milk & Butter Dairy, Next Post Office**

This deservedly popular dairy café was established about six years ago by the present proprietor. The salesroom is of convenient size and thoroughly equipped. The stock embraces a full supply of fresh butter, cream and cottage cheese, new milk, skimmed milk and buttermilk always on hand, fresh and pure, by the quart or glass. This place is also a popular resort for that new, healthful and refreshing beverage known as "milk shake", made with milk thoroughly shaken up with the addition of pure fruit syrups of various flavors. The proprietor is a native of Delaware County and has lived here most of his life. He is also the proprietor and operator of the Media Creamery, where he manufactures a fine line of prime butter. He offers there daily a fresh supply of butter, milk and cream. As his terms are cash, honest careful patrons are not obliged to pay for the debts of others.

**W. J. Stiteler – Livery Stables, Washington Street**

The proprietor of this enterprise is a young man of push and energy. These stables were originally conducted by Thomas Byers and after his death they lay idle for some time until the spring of the current year this enterprising young man revived them. He keeps five head of horses and a

proportionate number of carriages. Individuals, funerals and social gatherings are accommodated at reasonable rates. He expects in the near future to have hacks. He deals extensively in horses and being a thorough judge of stock, purchasers may rely upon him as he always represents in accordance with facts and guarantees stock to be as represented or money refunded. He is a native of Upper Providence, but has resided in Media most of his life. One assistant is employed.

**R. W. Suter – Boots and Shoes, 22 S. Orange Street**

This house dates its establishment from 1885 and has been successfully conducted by its founder and presents proprietor since that time. The stock carried embraces a complete line of boots, shoes, gaiters and slippers for men's, women's and children's wear, also rubber boots and shoes for the same. The salesroom is 14 x 14 feet in dimensions and is neatly arranged. Repair work of all kinds is skillfully executed with dispatch. A nice, large trade is had from borough and surrounding country. The proprietor is a native of Delaware County and a lifelong resident. Previous to starting this store he was engaged at his trade of shoe making.

**Lucretia M. Rice – Restaurant and Bakery, Orange Street**

This lady is a native and lifelong resident of this county. For the purposes of her business she occupies two rooms having a combined front of 80 feet. One is occupied as a general salesroom where is kept a fully supply of products of the bakery, such as bread, cakes, pies, etc., also a line of French and American confectionary, foreign and domestic fruits, nuts, etc. The other room is occupied by the dining room and here meals are served at all hours, the table being supplied with the best the market affords. The rear of the salesroom is curtained off and fitted up as a ladies' eating saloon, another room is equipped as an ice cream parlor and the place is popular.

**George J. Stiteler – Fish Market, Orange Street, Above Jobson's Market**

A fish market has been conducted at the above stand for a number of years, the present enterprising proprietor having been in possession about a year. He keeps constantly on hand a full supply of fresh fish of all kinds, oysters, clams, crabs and lobsters. The room occupied for the purposes of the business is 12 x 16 feet in dimensions and is kept clean and neat and at all times presents the appearance of a well ordered market. The proprietor is a native of Chester County and was born in 1844. He served nine months in the war of the rebellion as a member of the Co. A, 124<sup>th</sup> Pa. Vols., Carrying himself with credit throughout and received an honorable discharge. He is an excellent business man and a live citizen. An assistant is employed and good trade had.

**Ed. L. Derrick – Sign Painter, 105 E. State Street**

This gentleman has been engaged in this line since 1886. He does all kinds of work properly coming in this line, such as the painting of business and professional signs and the decorative lettering of business wagons in either paint or gold leaf, guaranteeing satisfaction in every case and his work is recognized as being equal to that executed by metropolitan artists. Among specimens of his work to be seen on the streets here daily is Williamson's ice wagon, Rorer's grocery and Cook's bakery wagons, the first named representing his fine work in paint while the latter two are specimens of his work in gold leaf. He occupies a well-equipped shop at the rear of S.P. Derrick's grocery store, and all orders left at the store will receive prompt attention. A native of Media, he was born in 1861.

**Samuel M. Dunsmoor – Paper Hangings, Window Shades Etc., 30 S. Orange Street**

This representative house has been established and conducted by the present proprietor for about 18 years. The salesroom is 30 x 16 feet in dimensions and well arranged. The stock carried embraces a full and complete line of mattings, oil clothes, window shades and paper hangings elegant in design and of the best quality. He also does an extensive business in plain and decorative paper hanging and for this purpose he employs two skilled hands the year around and in busy times has five or six employed. A native of Philadelphia, he was born in 1849 and has always been engaged in this line of trade. He is a man of superior business qualities and an enterprising citizen, having held the thankless position of school director in this borough and has always favored the cause of popular education.

**Charles Zehnder – Merchant Tailor, Orange Street, Next to Dickeson’s Drug Store**

The merchant tailoring business has been carried on at the above site for some years the present proprietor taking possession in 1884. This gentleman is a practical cutter and merchant tailor of many years’ experience. He carries a large line of samples of the best styles and grades of imported American fabrics for gentlemen’s wear which he is able to supply at short notice and bottom figures. He gets his goods direct from the best Philadelphia and New York houses and manufactures to order fashionable suits and garments in the most elegant and workman like style and finish. He devotes his personal attention to cutting and fitting and employs two tailors in the manufacturing department, occupying two rooms, each of ample dimensions. He is a native of Switzerland but has resided in the United States since 1866.

**C. Schur – Caterer and Bakery, State and Orange Streets**

This gentleman is one of Media’s most popular caterers. The products of his bakery are Vienna, French, cream, Graham and homemade bread, fancy cakes, biscuits, rusk, pies and pastry generally, all of which find a ready sale. A full stock of these goods is kept at the store as is also a complete line of French and American confectionary, foreign and domestic fruits and nuts. The premises occupied have a front of 40 feet on State Street and extend back to a depth of half a square. The front of the building is occupied by the general salesroom and ice cream parlor, fitted up in metropolitan style, the latter being equipped with marble top tables sufficient to accommodate comfortably 40 persons. The place has been established since 1860 and the proprietor is assisted in the store by his two daughters. Two skilled bakers are employed and all goods are of absolute purity. This gentleman is a native of Germany, but has resided in America since boyhood.

**Chas H. Pedrick - General Blacksmith, Corner of State and Jackson Streets**

This gentleman is first class mechanic, having followed this line of trade during the whole of his business career. He established this shop in 1871, its dimensions are 75 x 20 feet, with an additional 16 feet of shedding. Four hands are employed and a general blacksmithing business is done, embracing both new and repair work for of all descriptions. The shop is headquarters for the repairing of agricultural implements as well as for carriage and wagon work. The leading specialty is made in horseshoeing upon scientific principals with reference to the preservation of the hoof and the prevention of interfering. This gentleman is a native of Media and highly esteemed citizen.

**Miss E. C. Valentine – Dry Goods, Trimmings, Notions**

This is the fines store in its line here. The business was established in 1880 and occupies a neatly and well-arranged salesroom of capacious dimensions. The stock embraces a large and varied assortment of dry goods, trimmings, hosiery, underwear, gloves, notions, fancy goods, etc. A specialty being made of dress linings, spool cotton and silks and other supplies for dressmakers. Two assistants are employed and customers always receive prompt and courteous attention. The proprietress is a lady of practical and liberal business views, kind and obliging and always endeavors to give her patrons as good a class of goods for the money as they could find elsewhere. A native of Delaware County, she has resided here most of her life and is much esteemed.

**A. E. Paul – Hardware, Cutlery, Etc. 42 E. State Street**

This gentleman is a native of this county and was formerly engaged in the banking business. He is a man of sound business views, honorable and upright in all his dealings. The premises occupied embrace a well-stocked salesroom and cellar underneath and the stock carried comprises a full line of light, shelf and building hardware, cutlery, tin ware, hollow ware and house furnishing goods of every description, paints, oils, varnishes, putty, glass, etc., and specialty is made in the Gem ice cream freezer, considered the best on the market. A very fine trad is had.

**Mrs. Jos. G. Cummins – Hats, Furnishing Goods, Stationary, Etc., D.O. Cummins, Manager, State Street**

This business was originally established by the husband of the present proprietress 34 years ago. His death occurred in December, 1887, and since that time it has been conducted as at present. The stock includes all the latest and best approved styles of hats and caps, men's furnishing goods, straw and fur goods in their respective seasons. A fine trade is had in the department devoted to stationary, where is kept all kinds of plain and fancy note and cap paper, blank books, school supplies, etc., a special feature being made in lawyers' supplies. A line of notions, fancy goods, toys and games are also kept in stock at all times. The room occupied is 30 x 50 feet in dimensions and is well-equipped, containing four elegant show cases, and ample shelving, etc. The business is under the management of D.O. Cummins who is a native and life-long resident of this county. Two assistants are employed.

**J. Taylor Neal – Clothing, Cummins' Store, State Street**

This gentleman about 18 months ago started this enterprise in connection with one already established. He occupies a room in an old and well-known store and the assistants of said store also assist him and he in turn aids in the prosecution of that business, thus his expenses are moderate and his facilities for securing a first-class trade unrivaled. As a consequence of these superior advantages he is prepared to offer a line of pants, overalls, light coats, boys' knickerbockers, etc., making a specialty of working pants for men and for durability, material and workmanship or cheapness of price is not surpassed by any house in town, and the business has already become quite popular here. J. Taylor Neal, the proprietor of this flourishing business is a native of Delaware County and a young man of energy and good business qualities.

**William L. Stiteler & Bro. – North Ward Market House, E. State Street**

The individual members of this firm are William L. and Burton M. Stiteler. The business which they have managed for the last two years was on two occasions of several years each conducted by their father, D. H. Stiteler. The stock carried embraces a complete line of fresh and cured meats, groceries, provisions and green truck in season, likewise fish, clams and oysters in their respective seasons. Country produce is received in exchange for goods at the highest market price. Both home-dressed and Chicago fresh meats are sold. Chicago smoked meats being handled exclusively. The room occupied is 30 x 30 feet in dimensions and is well equipped. Both gentlemen are natives of Nether Providence Township and are men of high business attainments.

**Wm. H. Anderson – Tonsorial Rooms, E. State Street**

This gentleman is a practical and expert tonsorial artist of over ten years' experience and practices all branches of the art as hair cutting and dressing shampooing and shaving. He is also prepared to cut ladies' bangs and hair and gives especial attention to the careful cutting of children's hair. This gentleman is sole manufacturer and proprietor of "Anderson's Lavender Cream", and elegant toilet preparation, excellent for clearing the complexion, removing tan or sunburn, and good for chapped hands and roughness of skin. It is nicely perfumed and used after shaving is cooling and refreshing, being warranted to make the skin soft and smooth and is highly recommended as a hair dressing. It is put up in small bottles and sells cheaply. The large trade transacted is on the increase and the proprietor expects in the near future to build a large tonsorial establishment and fit it up in metropolitan style, placing in it seven chairs and several bathrooms in the basement with an entrance from the street. At present he has four chairs and employs two assistants with an extra hand on busy days. He is a native of Delaware County.

**M. A. Noblit – Fancy Goods, Notions, 108 E. State Street**

Among the ladies engaged in business here the subject of this sketch takes prominent rank. Her stock consists of a complete and varied assortment of fancy goods, notions, trimmings, ladies' furnishing

goods, etc. She makes a specialty of stamping for embroidery and outlines other fancy work. She also has the agency for the Universal Fashion Company's perfect fitting patterns and has their album of fashions. She enjoys a very fine trade drawn from all parts of the county and employs a competent assistant. A native of Philadelphia, she has been established in her present quarters about four years.

**Mary Turner – Trimmings and Notions, S. Orange Street**

The subject of this sketch is a native of Delaware County and a life-long resident. She has been established in her present enterprise since 1870. Her stock embraces a superior line of trimmings, notions, spool cotton and silks, fans, ladies' furnishing goods, hosiery, lace goods, fly netting, etc. The salesroom is 20 x 16 feet in dimensions and is well adapted to the purposes of the business and very nice trade is had. This lady understands her business thoroughly and is considered a lady of high attainments.

KEITH LOCKHART COLLECTION