
OUR HERITAGE

www.manheim1762.org 717-381-1681



Published by the Historic Manheim Preservation Foundation, Inc., 27 Market Square, Manheim, PA 17545

October 2022

Apothecaries in Manheim

George Heiges, being a pharmacist and a historian, did research in 1946 on the early apothecaries in Manheim. His findings are as follows:

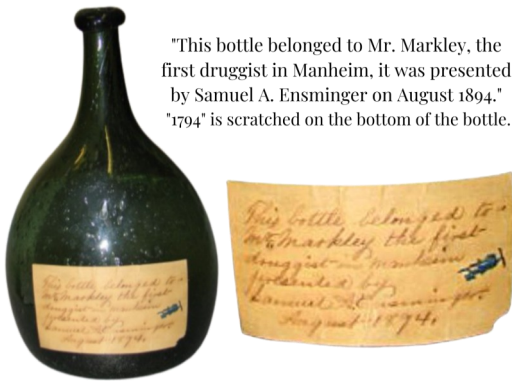
"In George H. Danner's collection, now in the Hershey Museum, is a bottle bearing a pasted on piece of paper indicating, "This bottle belonged to a Mr. Markley the first druggist in Manheim. Presented by Samuel Ensminger, August 1894." This is the only data that we have on the man, but there is no doubt that he was the first druggist here, because Sam. Emsminger, also a druggist, whose father was an early Manheim druggist, wrote the statement as a fact which he knew to be true. The next apothecary in Manheim was Michael Kauffman, who had operated a mill in his native Rapho Township before he moved to Manheim sometime after 1790, and entered into partnership with his brother, John, in the apothecary and ironmonger business. This continued until 1803, and then in the *Lancaster Journal* of August 20 appeared a notice informing the public that "Michael and John Kauffman, apothecaries and the ironmongery had dissolved partnership." On August 8, the remaining ironmongery and cutlery were disposed of at public vendue, according to the notice which went on to tell what disposition had been made of the apothecary shop. "The apothecary's shop formerly held by Michael and John Kauffman is now carried on under the firm of S. Ensminger and P. Gloninger in the house where said Ensminger lives in Manheim, where they will always keep a general assortment of drugs and medicines." Michael Kauffman, after leaving the business world, read medicine with a Dr. Bard, and then practiced medicine in Manheim until his death in 1839.

The house in Manheim, where Samuel Ensminger began business as an apothecary in 1803, was on the southwest corner of the Square and Prussian (Main) Street, now occupied by the Keystone National Bank, and here Samuel Ensminger, who had been born in 1763, continued as an apothecary until his death in 1840. His son, Samuel A. Ensminger, then took over the business and moved the store to 13 North Prussian Street. The decease of Samuel the second occurred in 1909, at which time his son, Samuel Charles, kept up the succession by continuing the store until he, too, died (1920). Then the business was in the hands of the Ensminger estate for several years until S. C. Ensminger's daughter, M. Jean, finished college and became a registered pharmacist. Miss Ensminger (now Mrs. Lloyd Mentzer) operated the store until it left the Ensminger name in 1926, after one hundred twenty-three years in the hands of this one family. The next owner was H. F. Bird, and he was followed by Lester Merkel, who moved out of the old Ensminger store to South Main Street.

In 1878, there came to Manheim a medical man by the name of Dr. H. A. Mulliner, who entered the drug business at present 75 South Main Street. But Dr. Mulliner had a defect which was a serious one for a Manheim businessman sixty-eight years old. He could not speak Pennsylvania Dutch, so he sold out and left the town. His successor was Josiah Landis who continued the business at the same place until 1891 when Harry F. Ruhl, a Manheim boy who had worked in the Landis store as early as 1884, and who had recently finished the course at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy began business in the same room; Josiah Landis at the same time moving his store to a location on North Main Street, where

he remained until his retirement from business shortly after 1900. The Ruhl store has continued at the place of its beginning, and now in its fifty-fifth year still has as its active head, the founder, Harry F. Ruhl, with whom is associated his son, Harry F. Ruhl, Jr., also a registered pharmacist."

Pictured below is the green bottle mentioned as being in the Hershey Story Museum collection. Pictured: Courtesy of The Hershey Story Museum (Bottle, cat. no. 1987.002.0187, George H. Danner Collection).



A Great Folk Art Rug



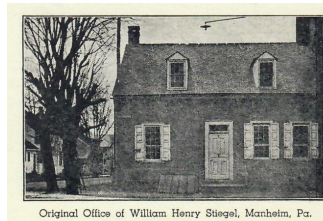
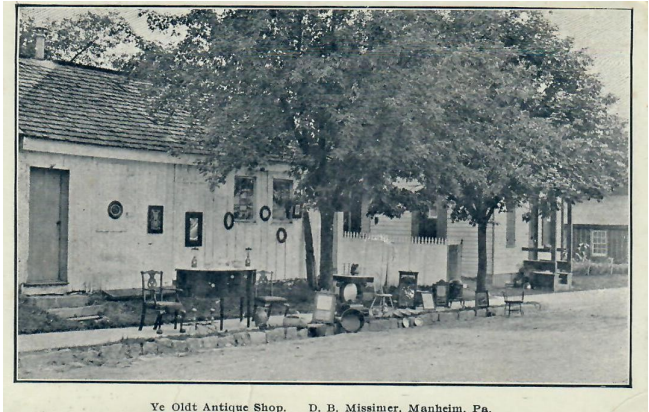
The 45"x79" hooked rug pictured above was crafted by Mrs. David (Minnie) Missimer. She and her husband were dealers in antiques and their home was located at the southwest corner of Charlotte St. and Market Square. Their shop was at the rear of the property and faced West High Street. Minnie was actually the shop keeper, since her husband, David, worked for George H. Danner in the store. Also working in the store, before he studied to become a pharmacist, was George L. Heiges. A number of

interesting and amusing stories related to David Missimer, George Heiges and the store will be told in a future article.

The writer of this article was fortunate enough to have known Mrs. Missimer and recalls many things related to her business. She wasn't only interested in antiques as an income, she genuinely loved them. She and her husband handled many very fine early antiques and sold to major dealers and collectors. Henry Francis du Pont enjoyed visiting with the Missimers and eating some of Mrs. Missimer's Pennsylvania Dutch cooking. Frederick Hunter, during his research to publish the book "Stiegel Glass", sought the knowledge of the Missimers and spent many hours with them. Henry Weil, New York City antiques dealer, made numerous trip to Manheim to purchase antiques from the Missimers. Actually, he married Mrs. Missimer's daughter, after his first wife died.

The rug pictured was sold at auction June 9th and was purchased by a local collector. It is now back in the town where it was crafted and will be exhibited sometime at HMPF. It is a wonderful folk art rug. Minnie would be pleased that her rug is treasured.

Pictured is a postcard showing Mr. & Mrs. Missimer's "Ye Oldt Antique Shop" located on West High Street. Their business card is also pictured.



EARLY AMERICAN ANTIQUES

DAVID B. MISSIMER
Market Square and West High St.
MANHEIM, PA.

U. S. Route 72 Phone
10 Miles North of Lancaster

- Books
- Prints
- Tools
- Hooked Rugs
- Chairs
- Hardware
- Furniture
- Glass
- Linens, etc.