

What about York?

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True, York, Pennsylvania may not conjure up as many dreams of delicious chocolate concoctions as does Hershey, or offer the chance to view stunning Harrisburg skylines. It doesn't allow one to navigate the backdrop of a famous historic battle, as does Gettysburg: But York has its own heritage and Arcadia publishers is bound (pardon the pun) and determined to show Central Pennsylvania some of the many ways the city's changed through the newest addition to their postcard history series, *York*.

York features 100+ examples of postcards from decades and centuries past, which depict the city as it was then. Included are portrayals in the form of illustrations and photographs of landmarks like York Opera House, The Yorktowne Hotel, and what was then a new post office on the corner of George and Princess Streets, complete with parked horse-drawn vehicle and proper ladies in long gowns and hats. These days, you'll find the neoclassical structure with the Romanesque pillars accompanied by blue jeans and cars.

Author Scott D. Butcher, a life-long resident of the said county claims that, though he's studied the area for years, even he has learned intriguing details about York as he compiled information for the book. When asked specifically what he's discovered, Butcher supplies Highland Park as an example. According to his research, the park regularly attracted tourists in the 19th and 20th centuries; first, as a pleasant picnic ground; then, as an amusement park complete with a roller coaster, carousel and a "moving picture" theatre. "Yet, I never even knew it existed until I began this project," Butcher confesses.

What other interesting tidbits can be gleaned from a close reading of *York*? Butcher says that certain periods in the county's history of been well-recorded, such as when it was the Capitol of Revolutionary America, or when the Confederate Army took over, making York the largest northern town that they successfully occupied. While these events have received significant scholarly attention, the early- and mid-20th century have been all but ignored by historians.

Readers therefore get a taste of what York was like during these decades. Butcher hopes that his compilation of research will help citizens to develop a healthy respect for York County, and work to maintain the structures that are still standing. "I truly hope that readers of *York* will be inspired to save and restore our architectural gems."

The book is available at area bookstore, independent retailers and online bookstores and at arcadiapublishing.com.



Max Grumbacher opened a one-room millinery and dry goods store on West Market Street in 1898. From these humble beginnings, the Bon-Ton has grown steadily to become, today, a major retail department store chain. The flagship store in this postcard was constructed in 1912 at the southwest corner of West Market and Beaver Streets. It was enlarged a decade later and, in 1956, became home to York's first moving stairway.

**Excerpt taken from York.*