

WASHINGTON AT LANCASTER.

There has recently come into the possession of our President, Mr. Steinman, a-half sheet of paper on which is written a song or a poem, composed one hundred and twelve years ago, and especially prepared to meet a very important occasion that transpired on July 4, 1794, in the old Court House, which stood on the spot where the soldiers' monument now stands. The poem, while written in fairly good taste and well suited to the occasion that called it forth, can hardly lay claim to superior poetic fancy or literary attainment. It is just such a piece of verse as a man of good literary culture at that day would write.

The good patriots of Lancaster had decided to celebrate the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence on the Fourth of July, 1794. No doubt they were in the habit of doing that annually. We know that they did the same thing in 1791. We learn also from that sturdy, patriotic diarist, Christopher Marshall, that they did the same thing in 1779, for he describes it in his usual graphic way. The Fourth of July in that year fell on a Sunday, so the celebration was held on the following Monday. There was a meeting at the Court House at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, when a local committee, headed by Marshall himself, who writes: "Two by two, with the Corporation officials, Glatz's regiment, other officers and their battalions, with colors flying, drums beating, fifes playing and a band of

music, went in procession down (South) Queen street to a spacious piece of woodland, adjoining Conestoga Creek, with a fine Spring,¹ where after some time spent in social cheerfulness, the men having grounded their arms, they then formed in order, whereupon the following toasts were drank, I being the Toast Master, viz.:

"First. The True Independence and Sovereign States of America.

"Second. The Great Council of America.

"Third. His Most Christian Majesty, Louis 16th.

"Fourth. His Excellency, General Washington.

"Fifth. The American Army and Navy, may they be victorious and invincible.

"Sixth. The Nations in Friendship and Alliance with America.

"Seventh. The American Ambassadors at Sovereign Courts.

¹There is nothing like publicity to bring out unknown or forgotten facts. When this paper was read before the Historical Society various inquiries and surmises were made relative to what spring was referred to in Mr. Marshall's account of the Fourth of July celebration in 1779, but no satisfactory conclusion was reached. The question has since been referred to that veteran antiquarian, Mr. John F. Sehner, who was prompt to shed a flood of light on the subject. He is the owner of the only copy of the "Lancaster Zeitung und Anzeigs Nachrichten" still in existence. In that newspaper for June 25, 1788, appears the following brief, but interesting paragraph: "Tuesday, June 10, 1788. The Federal procession, in honor of the adoption of the new Federal Constitution, was formed in the borough as follows: First came the boat Federal; Second Captain F——y, then Captain F.'s company and citizens by files—marching to the big spring at Conestoga, and, repairing to the river, the boat "Federal" was launched into the stream, amid thirteen rousing cheers. The crowd then adjourned to the nearby public house of John Swenk, near the river, and regaled themselves and toasted the new Constitution, after which the procession re-

"Eighth. The Memory of the Officers and Soldiers Who Have Fallen in Defense of America.

"Ninth. Pennsylvania.

"Tenth. May Only Those Americans Enjoy Freedom Who Are Ready to Die for Its Defense.

"Eleventh. Liberty Triumphant.

"Twelfth. Confusion, Shame and Disgrace to Our Enemies; May the Foes of America, Slaves to Tyranny, Humble and Fall Down Before Her.

"Thirteenth. May the Rising States of America Reach the Summit of Human Power and Grandeur by Enjoying Every Blessing.

"Each of these toasts was attended by a discharge of musketry that would have done honor to old veterans, after which they all returned under the same regularity, marched through some of the principal streets and drew up in front of (the) Court House, where they discharged three regular volleys of musketry (and) received every man some cool drink. I then

turned to the borough." The hill and spring, now embraced by what is known as "Gable's Park," was after that occurrence known as "Federal Hill" and "Federal Spring." To this day the spring is called by that name by our older citizens and some not so old. Mr. Sehner informs me that when he was a boy public gatherings were commonly held at Federal Hill. The march of the processions was generally down South Queen street to the Conestoga and thence along that stream to Benjamin Hertzler's lane, to the spring and woods. Sometimes the route was varied by going down Prince street. All the foregoing once more demonstrates the great importance of preserving and recording not only old newspapers, but also the recollections of old citizens, who, in the course of nature, must in a few years take their departure, bearing along with them many valuable facts and incidents illustrative of our local history. The sources of history are many, and where certain facts may at times seem trifling, they are always valuable, for there always comes a time when they become available for the historian's purposes.

went into the front, thanked the officers and privates, in the name of the Committee, for their great zeal shown in the support of the Freedom of Independency in general, for their manly prudence, good conduct and sobriety on this memorable occasion, for which they returned me their hearty thanks. The Col. then dismissed them and they departed in good humor, peace and harmony, the Committee broke up and I returned home completely tired, yet pleased with our conduct."

Friend Christopher was a Quaker, but the above shows that his attachment to the cause of the Colonies was as strong as that which he held for the gentle Quaker faith. Unfortunately for us, there are no old newspaper files of that early time to refer to, else, no doubt, we would know how the birthday of the nation fired their patriotic hearts as often as it came along.

But this is digression, and I must return to the poem and its author long enough to state that the poem, of which the original is shown to you, was the product of John Moore, Esq., a member of the Lancaster Bar, to which he was admitted in 1789. The name of "Liberty Hall" could, of course, be applied to the old Court House itself, in which these worthy sons of liberty, the members of the Continental Congress, had met for a short time in 1777 when driven out of Philadelphia by the approach of Lord Howe's army. If you should ask me further about our poet author, who and what he was, I would have to reply, I do not know. I have been unable to find any further record of him and his career. Doubtless he was one of the many legal luminaries, past, present and to come, admitted

to practice in our courts, who, being of mediocre ability, continue to eke out some sort of an existence without leaving much of an impression on their day and generation. That he was singled out from among his legal brethren to write this song, and sing it also, leads to the inference that he must have had a reputation both as a writer and vocalist.

Since the above was written and read further inquiry has brought to light a few additional particulars relative to John Moore, Esq. When the matter was referred to Mr. John F. Sehner, than whom no man living has a better knowledge of old Lancaster, its people and its history, he at once recalled some interesting facts relative to our patriotic minstrel. Mr. Moore lived on the north side of East King street, between Lime and Shippen streets. How long he lived there or when he died is not remembered. One of his sons, George, became postmaster in this city. A daughter of John Moore married a brother of John Andrew Shulze, who was Governor of Pennsylvania from 1823 to 1829. Some of her descendants are still living in this city.

Miss Elizabeth Batterson Gara, of this city, whose granduncle John Moore, Esq., was, has kindly contributed the following further information relative to that individual and his family:

John Moore, Esq., of Lancaster, was a member of the Lancaster Bar, a man of ability, of fine social qualities, a fine musician and vocalist. He was a son of George Moore, who lived on East King street, between Lime and Shippen streets. He was on the Committee of Safety for Lancaster (Penna. in the Revolution, Volume 4, page 295). The family were wealthy and owned considerable property around Lancaster. The family were devoted Episcopalians, and among the earliest members of St. James' Church; all are buried in St. James' churchyard. John Moore, Esq., was a grandson of Alexander Moore and Susanna, his wife, who lived near Reading, Pa. Alexander Moore was a Scotchman, who came to this country very early, and his wife was a descendant of John Gardner, who came over from England with William Penn at the first settling of Pennsylvania (The

LIBERTY HALL.

Composed for the Anniversary of
American Independence at Lancaster,
July 4th, 1794.

Sung by John Moore, Esquire.

Here with Freedom, we act, Here with
Freedom we think,
Then let us fill for a toast such as
Freemen should drink.
'Tis a toast we will stand by, not fear-
ing to fall,
An American Birthright, 'tis "Liberty
Hall."

This building so spacious America
framed,
When freedom was first in this Coun-
try proclaimed.
We've fought for, We've gained it, at-
tend to the Call
To prepare a grand charge in our
"Liberty Hall."

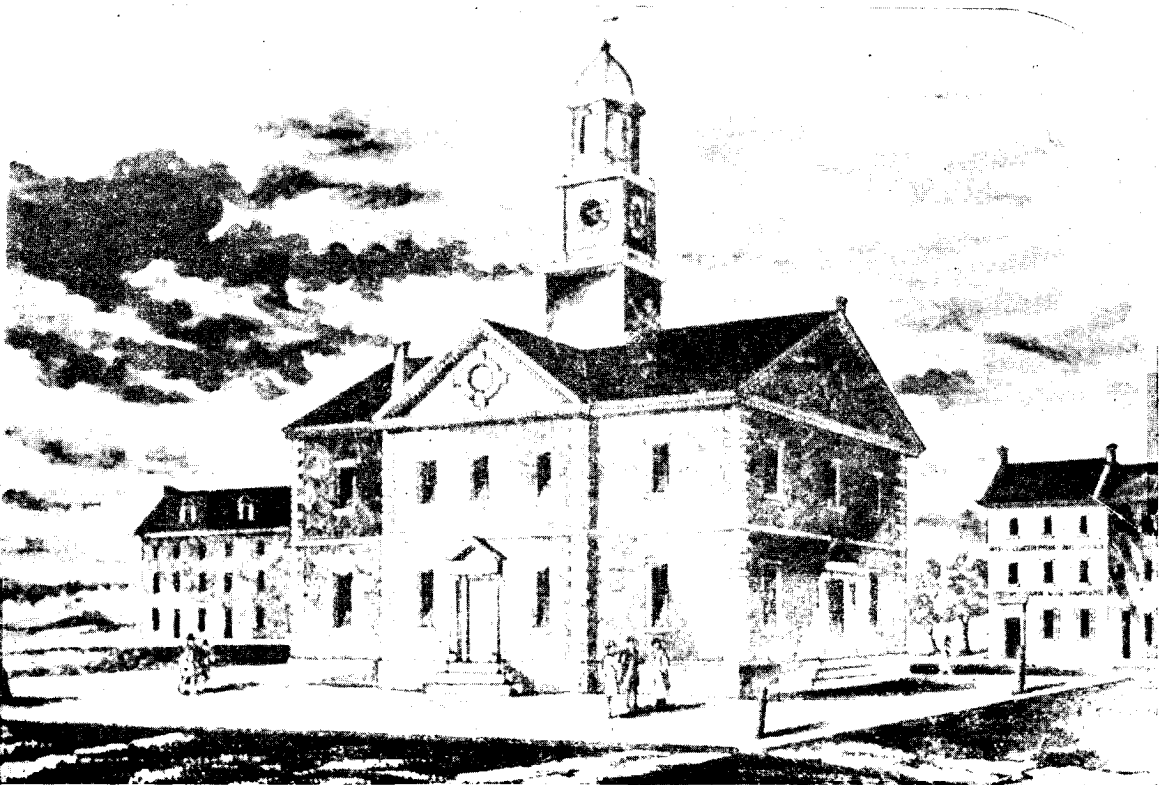
Lo! far distant Nations behold our
great plan
And approve by adopting as soon as
they can.
See the Efforts of Tyrants exploded by
all,
See the World is on fire for a Liberty
Hall.

In vain shall the Despots together
unite
To enslave all their race and to tread
on man's right.
Fell misfortune will ever their purpose
enthrall
Who oppose the erecting of Liberty
Hall.

Oh! where is this Hall the sly Tory de-
mands.
Since you praise it so much I would
know where it stands.
Its foundation so firm is, it never can
fall,
For each soul uncontroll'd has its
Liberty Hall.

Then in this glorious cause let the sail
be unfurl'd,
And the Blessing extending encompass
the world,
May Liberty's Sun still illumine this
Ball,
And the universe be one great Liberty
Hall.

Moravian records at church in Lancas-
ter). The Moore family moved to Lan-
caster about 1767. One of the sisters,
Margaret, married Matthias Graeff, a
Revolutionary soldier, who died at
Bethlehem. She afterwards married
John Okely, Esq., of Bethlehem, Pa.



The Court House Where the Fourth of July Celebrations Were Held.

This celebration on July 4, 1794, serves to recall one other and more important celebration in our old Court House in that historic day. It was in 1791, when General Washington, then the President of his country, reached this city on that eventful day and joined our fathers in celebrating the auspicious event.

General Washington, as is well known, thrice visited Lancaster. These three visits are perfectly authenticated, as you all know, not only by contemporary documents but also by Washington's entries in his well-known diary. While all this is familiar to most of you, there may still be some who have forgotten the attending circumstances; therefore, with your permission, I will set forth the events of this earlier recorded Independence Day to go with the one when our poem was written and sung.

In the centennial issue of the Lancaster Intelligencer, March 9, 1895, there is an account of the visit of General Washington to this city on July 3 and 4, 1791. On the 21st day of March he left Philadelphia to make a tour of the Southern States, during the course of which he went as far south as Savannah. On his way back to Philadelphia he reached the town of York July 2, where he was accorded a public reception. He left that place on July 3 for Lancaster, to which place he had been invited by the citizens of Lancaster. Of that tour the following record is to be found in his diary: "March 21.—Left Philadelphia about 11 o'clock to make a tour through the Southern States. Reached Chester about 3 o'clock, dined and lodged at Mr. Wythes. In this tour I was accompanied by Major Jackson—My equipage and attendance consisted of a Chariot and four

horses drove in hand—a light baggage wagon and two horses—four saddle horses besides a led one for myself—and five—to wit—my Valet de Chambre, two footmen, Coachman and postillion.” There was nothing slow about that outfit. It is well known that Washington liked style, and a good deal of it, and when he went traveling the public was pretty sure to find it out. But then, who had a better right to do this than the man own owned 50,000 acres of land and was worth more than half a million dollars?

Under date of July 3 he says that he departed for Wright’s Ferry, accompanied by a delegation of York citizens, in order to be present at Lancaster at the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of American Independence. Of this visit we cull the following remarks from his diary under the dates of July 2, 3 and 4: “Reached York town where we dined and lodged—After dinner in company with Col. Thomas Hartley & other gentlemen I walked through the principal streets of the Town and drank Tea at Col. Hartley’s. The Ct. Ho. (Court House) was illuminated.” (All the bells of the place were rung in honor of the event, and in the evening there was a general illumination, and in the Court House a light was set in every pane.)

“Received and answered an address from the inhabitants of Yorktown—& there being no Episcopal Minister present in the place, I went to hear morning Service performed in the Dutch (German) Reformed Church—which being in that language not a word of which I understood, I was in no danger of becoming a proselyte to its religion by the eloquence of the Preacher.

“After Service, accompanied by Col. Hartley & half a dozen other gentlemen, I set off for Lancaster—Dined at Wright’s Ferry, where I was met by Genl. Hand & many of the principal characters of Lancaster & escorted to the town by them, arriving ab’t 6 o’clock.” On the 4th (Monday) at Lancaster he writes: “This being the anniversary of American Independence and being kindly requested to do it, I agreed to halt here this day and partake of the entertainment which was preparing for the celebration of it. In the forenoon I walked about the town—At half passed 2 o’clock I received and answered an address from the corporation and the Complim’ts of the Clergy of different denominations—dined between 3 & 4 o’clock—drank Tea with Mrs. Hand.”

In an old Philadelphia newspaper of July 13, 1791, “printed by Hall and Sellers, issued from their new printing office near the Market,” the entire top of its four pages having been torn off and missing, but which I have since ascertained from other sources was the “Philadelphia Gazette,” I found the address sent to General Washington, inviting him to stop over in this Borough of Lancaster on his return to Philadelphia, and be present at the anniversary celebration of the Declaration of Independence. As I have never seen that letter in a local print, I have transcribed it that it may appear in our proceedings, and as a matter of easy reference hereafter.

The following is the extract copied from the Lancaster correspondent of the Philadelphia Gazette:

"Lancaster (Pennsylvania) July 3, 1791.

"This evening at 6 o'clock, arrived here, on his return from his Southern Tour, his Excellency, the President of the United States, accompanied by Major Jackson. He was escorted from Wright's Ferry by a respectable number of the inhabitants of this borough; and on Monday, being July 4, being the anniversary of American Independence, the Corporation, at the particular request of the inhabitants, waited on him with the following address:

"To George Washington, President of the United States:

"Sir: On behalf of the inhabitants of the borough of Lancaster, the members of the Corporation beg leave to congratulate you on your arrival at this place. On this jovial occasion, they approach the First Magistrate of the Union with hearts impressed with no less grateful respect than their fellow-citizens of the East and South. With them they have admired those talents, and that firm prudence in the field, which finally ensured success to the American arms. But at this time, reverence forbids the language which would naturally flow from the recapitulation of the events of the late glorious revolution. The faithful page of history will record your illustrious actions for posterity. Yet we cannot forbear to mention what we, in our day, have beheld and witnessed. We have seen you at the awful period, when the storm was bursting around us, and our fertile plains were deluged with the richest blood of America, rising above adversity, and exerting all the talents of the patriot and the hero, to save our country from the threat-

ened ruin; and when, by the will of Heaven, these exertions had restored peace and prosperity to the United States, and the great object for which you drew the sword was accomplished, we have beheld you, adorned with every private, social virtue mingling with your fellow citizens. Yet that transcendent love of country, by which you have always been actuated, did not suffer you to rest here;—but when the united voice of myriads of freemen (your fellow citizens) called you from the repose of domestic life, actuated solely by the principles of true glory—not seeking your own aggrandizement, but sacrificing the sweets of retired life to the wishes and happiness of your country, we have beheld you, possessed of the confidence of a great people, presiding over their councils, and, by your happy administration, uniting them together by the great political bond of one common interest.

“ ‘It is, therefore, that the inhabitants of this borough seize with joy the only opportunity which has offered to them, to testify their approbation of, and their gratitude for, your services.

“ ‘Long, very long, sir, may you enjoy the affections of your fellow-citizens. We pray for a long continuance of your health and happiness, and the choicest blessings of Heaven on our beloved Country—and on You—its Father and its Friend.

“ ‘July 4.

“ ‘Signed on behalf of themselves and the inhabitants of the borough of Lancaster.

“ ‘EDWARD HAND

“ ‘PAUL ZANTZINGER,

“ ‘JOHN HUBLEY,

“ ‘Burgesses;

“ ‘ADAM REIGART,
“ ‘JACOB KRUG,
“ ‘CASPER SHAFFNER,
“ ‘JACOB FREY,
“ ‘Assistants.’

“To which the President was pleased to return the following

ANSWER:

“ ‘To the Corporation and the Inhabitants of the Borough of Lancaster.

“ ‘Gentlemen: Your congratulations on my arrival in Lancaster are received with pleasure, and the flattering expressions of your esteem are replied to with sincere regard.

“ ‘While I confess my gratitude for the distinguished estimation in which you are pleased to hold my public service, a sense of justice to my fellow-citizens ascribes to other causes the peace and prosperity of our highly-favored country. Her freedom and happiness are founded in their patriotic exertions, and will, I trust, be transmitted to distant ages through the same medium of wisdom and virtue. With sincere wishes for your social, I offer an earnest prayer for your individual welfare.

“ ‘G. WASHINGTON.’

“At 3 o'clock the President and a very large number of citizens sat down to an elegant entertainment, provided for the occasion, in the Court House.”

“Fifteen regular toasts,” the Intelligencer’s brief account states, “were given, and finally President Washington gave the toast, ‘The Governor and State of Pennsylvania’ and retired, when the company arose and volunteered a toast, ‘The Illustrious President of the United States.’ ”

His Second Visit.

General Washington's second visit was made a little more than three years after the first. This visit was occasioned through the stress of official business--the well-known "Whisky Insurrection" in the western counties of the State. He set out from Philadelphia on Tuesday, September 30, to visit the army being collected at Carlisle, to march against the Insurrectionists. He says in his diary under the above date:

"Having determined from the Report of the Commissioners, who were appointed to meet the Insurgents in the Western Counties in the State of Pennsylvania, and from other circumstances—to repair to the places appointed for the Rendezvous, of the Militia of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia; I left the City of Philadelphia about half-past ten o'clock this forenoon accompanied by Col. Hamilton (Secretary of the Treasury) and my private secretary (Bartholomew Dandridge)—Dined at Norris Town and lodged at a place called the Trap—the first 17 and the latter 25 miles from Philadelphia."

I shall not follow his itinerary as given in his diary any closer than to say it led him to Reading, Harrisburg, Carlisle and Chambersburg. Thence to Cumberland, Maryland, Bedford, Penna., and eastward until we again find him at York. At Wright's Ferry he made this entry in his diary:

"I rode yesterday afternoon, (Oct. 25) thro' the rain from York Town to this place (Wright's Ferry), and got twice in the height of it hung (and delayed by that means), on the rocks in the middle of the Susquehanna.....I do not intend further than Lancaster to-day (Sunday 26). But on Tuesday, if no accident happens, I expect to be

landed in the city of Philadelphia." No accident appears to have happened and the American Daily Advertiser, of Philadelphia, duly announced his arrival in that city on Tuesday morning, October the 28th.

From these extracts it is very clear that Washington spent the night of October 26, 1794, in this city, leaving for Philadelphia on the 27th. As his homeward journey was hurriedly made, and as the time of his coming was not known, no special preparations for his reception appear to have been made.

It has been a matter of considerable speculation where General Washington lodged on this occasion. Tradition has it that it was at the Grape Hotel, then kept by John Michael, the elder. I have never been able to determine whether there was more truth than fiction in this report. It is possible that he may have lodged with one of his old-time friends.

The Third Visit.

It has been established by incontestable evidence that General Washington passed through Lancaster a third time. It was while he was President, in 1796. The testimony is brief, but decisive. I will give all of it that has so far made its appearance.

On September 21 the Pennsylvania Gazette, of Philadelphia, had this announcement:

"Monday last (September 19) the President of the United States left this city on his journey to Mount Vernon."

On September 23, the Lancaster Journal contained the following brief paragraph:

"The President of the United States arrived here on Tuesday afternoon last, September 20, and on Wednesday

morning at 6 o'clock proceeded on his way to Mount Vernon."

The Philadelphia Gazette republished this item from the Lancaster Journal.

That makes it clear that he passed the night of September 20-21, 1796, in this city. There is no evidence to show where he lodged. Between his first and last visit he passed from Philadelphia and New York to Mount Vernon and back again many times, but not by the Lancaster route.

He only came North once after his retirement from the Presidency. It was in 1798. He left Mount Vernon, on November 5, 1798, and reached Philadelphia on November 10, to consult with the Secretary of War, where he remained until December 14, when he set out on his homeward journey, going by the route generally taken by him, that is by the way of Chester, Wilmington, Elkton, Baltimore and Washington.

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