

“Portsmouth, Va.,

“November 16th, 1855.

“Dear Sir:

“Your esteemed favor of the 12th inst. came to me this morning. I have this day remitted to R. W. Bowden, Esq., treasurer of the Norfolk Howard Association, fifty-one dollars and fifty-two cents, and made him acquainted with your suggestion, relative to its appropriation; the remaining half I have already appropriated in accordance with your intimation to the use and benefit of the orphans of Portsmouth.

“I take occasion here to reiterate the expression of the gratitude of our people towards the benevolent and generous citizens of old Lancaster, who have throughout the pestilence, in so noble and prolific a manner, through yourself, manifested their sympathy and their charity. May you all be blessed with health, richness and prosperity, and have all your noble ends crowned with the indispensable blessing of Almighty God.

“I am, very truly, your friend and servant,

“Holt Wilson,

“Treasurer of the Relief Fund of Portsmouth.”

“To his honor,

“Jacob Albright, Esq.,

“Mayor of Lancaster, Pa.”

STANDARD PRESENTED TO WASHINGTON GRAYS

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

THE Lancaster Journal of Friday, February 26th, 1830, contained the following:

“The anniversary of the birth of our illustrious Washington, was celebrated [Monday, February 22nd] in this city by a very handsome military parade of the Volunteer Battalion, and Captain Ringwalt’s company of Washington Grays. A beautiful standard, painted by Lieut. Armstrong, was presented to the Grays, accompanied with a very neat address by Mrs. Armstrong, to which an appropriate and patriotic reply was made by Sergeant Brenneman.

“In the evening, a splendid military ball was given at Mr. Cooper’s hotel.”

Arthur Armstrong, the artist who painted the standard, was born in Manor township, Lancaster county, Pa., October 6th, 1798,

and died June 15th, 1851. In 1820, he opened a studio in Marietta, Pa., and there began his career as artist and teacher. In 1849, he opened a studio, and a gallery for exhibition of paintings, in Mechanics' Institute, Lancaster; and, later, had a large studio, built by himself, in Orange street, this city, with the second story fitted up as a gallery to exhibit paintings. It was there that he painted "Hamlet and Ophelia," and the "Assassination of Caesar." He had collected many engravings, and found much pleasure in showing them to friends and pupils, of whom he had a large number. At one time in his career, he painted signs and banners; he also made and gilded frames. On a silk banner painted by him for the Washington Fire Company of Louisville, Kentucky, is represented Washington and his family on the portico at Mount Vernon, with the Potomac, dotted with sails, seen in the near distance. The Lancaster County Historical Society owns a number of portraits painted by him.

The Mrs. Armstrong who delivered the address at the time of the presentation of the standard to the Washington Grays, was his wife, who before marriage was Miss Harriet Groff Wentz, daughter of Catherine Eardan and Thomas Wentz. She was born December 19th, 1808, and died July 27th, 1896.

If this standard is still in existence, it should have an honored place in Lancaster's new museum when that fire-proof structure is erected. Does anyone know where it now is?

RAILROAD BRIDGES OVER THE BIG AND LITTLE CONESTOGA

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

IN Vol. XI, No. 3, pp. 75-113, of the Proceedings of The Lancaster County Historical Society, appears an article entitled, "How the Pennsylvania Railroad Came Through Lancaster." In that paper the author, the late William Uhler Hensel, Esq., described, in minute detail, the trials and difficulties that attended the building of the first railroad through Lancaster city.

Since Mr. Hensel's paper was published, I have discovered