

activities of the society, until two years later. The Lancaster Journal of Friday, March 30th, 1827, stated that a special meeting of the organization would be held on Saturday, April 7th, 1827.

The society doubtless continued to carry forward its good work, although we do not find further references to it in local papers until six years later. A general meeting was held on Friday, January 18th, 1833, in the German Lutheran school house, at which time the following officers were elected: President, Adam Reigart; first vice-president, George King; second vice-president, Henry Keffer; managers, John F. Heinitsh, John Bear, Christopher Hager, John Erben, John Ehler, Henry Young and John Mumm; collector, William Ihling; secretary, Joseph Ehrenfried.⁸ A meeting was advertised to be held on Monday, February 4th, in the German Lutheran school house.

The last reference to the society appeared in the Lancaster Journal of Friday, June 28th, 1833. A quarterly meeting was advertised for Monday, July 1st, in the German Lutheran school house. Whether or not it was held is not now known.

SILVER PITCHER PRESENTED TO MRS. ROSINA HUBLEY IN 1842

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

ON July 4th, 1842, a handsome flag was presented by the citizens of Baltimore to the Lancaster Fencibles, a military company composed of some of the finest men of the community. The committee delegated by the citizens of the Monumental City to make the formal presentation of the flag, was entertained at the White Swan tavern, at that time the leading hostelry in Lancaster. It was conducted by Mrs. Rosina Hubley, a most estimable woman.¹ Mrs. Hubley entertained the Baltimore committee so generously and with a lavish hospitality so fully in keeping with the best traditions of the famous tavern, that on their return home they de-

⁸ Lancaster Journal, Friday, February 1st, 1833.

¹ For a brief biography of Mrs. Rosina Hubley the reader is referred to Vol. 11, p. 413, of the Proceedings of The Lancaster County Historical Society.

terminated to present her with a testimonial in recognition of their appreciation of her gracious welcome. A silversmith was specially employed to design a unique and original gift.

The *Intelligencer and Journal* of Tuesday, September 13th, 1842, contained the following item copied from a Baltimore paper:²

“The pitcher just finished by Mr. A. E. Warner, of North Gay street [Baltimore, Md.] and soon to be presented by the Baltimore flag committee to Mrs. Rosina Hubley, keeper of the [White] Swan hotel in Lancaster, as a token of their respect for her kindness during their recent visit to that city, is, indeed, worthy of those who present it, and of her for whom it is designed. It is of solid silver, large enough to hold three quarts, and richly chased. The body of the pitcher is covered with exquisite workmanship in bass relief. On one side is displayed the American Eagle, supporting in its talons a wreath of laurel, inside of which is the following inscription: ‘Presented to Mrs. Rosina Hubley, by the Baltimore Committee, for the kindness and attention extended to them during their visit to Lancaster, July 4th, 1842.’ Above this inscription, the American flag, with stripes and stars, gracefully floats. On the other side is represented a beautiful swan, floating in the water and sporting under the shade of a large group of trees, which overhang. The front of the pitcher presents a handsome stand, on which is a basket filled with various fruits in maturity. The handle is richly chased and extremely elegant. The foot of the pitcher is a novelty in its workmanship, and, with all the rest, will show that no pains have been spared to produce something worthy of the ardent feelings which dictated the presentation of the gift. The engraving was executed by Capt. Anderson, of the *Invincibles*; and, in the estimation of judges, we learn it could not be excelled. The entire cost is \$112.00; and the workmanship, in all its parts, shows that the mechanical skill of Baltimore is equal at least to that of any other city in the world.”

On Thursday, September 22nd, 1842, the formal presentation of the pitcher took place in the White Swan tavern. Four members of the committee, Messrs. Fraley, Lawson, Finlay and Snyder, who were quartered at the White Swan when the flag was presented to the *Fencibles* in July, were delegated to perform the

² The *Baltimore Sun*, Friday, September 9th, 1842.

pleasant task. G. Clinton Fraley, Esq., acted as spokesman for the committee, and addressed Mrs. Hubley as follows:

“Madam:

“The committee who had the honor to be the bearers, and who were charged by the citizens of Baltimore with the presentation of a flag to the Lancaster Fencibles, on the 4th of July last, have had manufactured this pitcher, as a small memento of the respect in which they held the kind, urbane and generous attentions extended to them during their sojourn under your roof, and have constituted me their delegated organ to convey the feelings of gratitude which have actuated them in selecting you as the individual upon whom to bestow this mark of esteem. It were irrelevant to the occasion to recur to the many, very many, marks of favor which they received at the hands of every Lancasterian with whom they had the pleasure of becoming acquainted. Suffice it to say that they fully appreciate and anxiously expect, aye solicit, an opportunity and an occasion on which cordially to reciprocate them.

“But to you, especially, Madam, am I at this time to declare the unfeigned and heartfelt gratitude for those distinguished marks of attention to which I have already alluded. But to express fully the estimation in which every member of that committee holds them, I am at a loss to find language sufficiently adequate to give it utterance. I shall, therefore, in presenting this token of respect of the Baltimore committee, simply add: ‘May you live longer than I have time to tell’ in the continued enjoyment of the esteem and affection of your numerous patrons; and when you shall have been gathered to your mother earth, may your many virtues be held in grateful remembrance by every son of Baltimore, be he native or adopted, to whose comfort you were the ministering angel on the 3rd, 4th and 5th days of July, 1842.”

John K. Findlay, captain of the Lancaster Fencibles, responded for Mrs. Hubley in one of his peculiarly felicitous speeches, after that lady had received from the hands of Mr. Fraley the beautiful gift. He was deputed to say for Mrs. Hubley that in the performance of the task allotted to her during the stay of the Baltimoreans in Lancaster, she conceived that she was only discharging a duty—a duty which was rendered thrice pleasant in that she

was contributing to the comfort of those who came to do honor to her native city through the Lancaster Fencibles. She would always revert to that occasion with feelings of gratification and joy; and whenever she recalled this mark of esteem from her visitors, it would be to remember with gratitude "her friends and pitcher."

The company retired to the dinner table, where in reply to a toast from Captain Findlay in favor of "our friends and pitcher," Mr. J. J. Snyder, of Baltimore, "made some very neat and eloquent remarks delivered in a very handsome manner." He concluded by toasting "Lancaster County, the Eden Spot of Pennsylvania." This was briefly responded to by a member of the Lancaster committee.

It would be interesting to know what became of this pitcher. If it is still preserved, it should have an honored place in Lancaster's museum, when that fire-proof structure is erected.

THE ALLENTOWN FIRE

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

ON Thursday, June 1st, 1848, a destructive fire visited Allentown, Pa., and left it in a deplorable condition. The fire started about three o'clock in the afternoon, and, owing to a southeasterly wind, the flames spread with rapidity. Three hours later, the progress of the fire was arrested. The loss was estimated at about \$250,000. More than forty families were rendered homeless.

Pursuant to public notice, a meeting of citizens of Lancaster was held in the court house on Tuesday evening, June 13th. Hon. Ellis Lewis was called to the chair. Mayor Michael Carpenter was appointed vice-president and treasurer, and George B. Withers and E. W. Hutter, secretaries.¹ Judge Lewis stated the object of the meeting, and read a circular from a committee appointed by the citizens of Allentown, detailing the extent of the calamity that had overwhelmed them.

E. W. Hutter proposed the following resolutions, which were

¹ Lancaster Examiner and Herald, Wednesday, June 21st, 1848.