

arm of their uniform for twelve months from the present time; and that an eulogy of him whose whole life gives warrant for the warmest praise, the venerable and good man and true patriot, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, be pronounced on Sunday, the 25th instant, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

"Resolved, That the committee request the chief burgess, assistant burgess, town council and citizens to join in procession on the occasion.

"Resolved, That there be martial music in time of marching." ²

The committee adjourned to meet in the town hall on Friday evening, November 23rd, at 7 P. M.

Whether the eulogy was pronounced on Sunday, November 25th, or not, we are unable to state positively as the file of The Columbia Spy, and Lancaster and York Record³ is missing from October 27th to December 29th, 1832.

² Lancaster Journal, Friday, November 23rd, 1832.

³ This file is in the library of The Lancaster County Historical Society.

AGNES NOBLE AGNEW

By HELEN NOBLE WORST

AGNES NOBLE was born January 30th, 1781, at Nobleville, Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. She was the daughter of Margaret McWhorter and James Noble, an elder in the Associate church of Octorara, and a granddaughter of William Noble, who was one of the founders of this church, which, with the neighboring congregation of Oxford, formed the original seat of Associate Presbyterianism in America.

Agnes Noble was first married to Rev. Ebenezer Henderson, whose father, Rev. Matthew Henderson, was sent to this country by the Associate Synod of Edinburgh, together with Rev. John Mason, they being the fourth and fifth ministers of that church

* Nominated by Miss Helen Noble Worst for inclusion in the "Book of Honor" to be placed in the Strawberry Mansion, Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, Pa. The article was published in the Public Ledger, Philadelphia, Pa., on Wednesday morning, March 18th, 1931, under the heading "Pennsylvania's Notable Women."

in order of time, in entering upon the work in America. Rev. Ebenezer Henderson was first settled in Pittsburgh, which was at that time in a very wild and uncivilized condition. In taking this journey, it was necessary to make the trip over the Allegheny mountains on horseback. Mrs. Henderson took this difficult journey, carrying her infant son upon a pillow on the saddle before her. Upon their arrival in Pittsburgh, Mr. Henderson entered upon the work under a great difficulty—the absence of a church-building. Mrs. Henderson, however, met this situation without a murmur, for in later years, she often spoke of sitting in those early, difficulty days, out in the open air in mid-winter, the ground deeply covered with snow, during long, protracted Sabbath services! Not only did she care for her own family in these frontier days, but she cared, also, for the members of the congregation, administering with her own hands, unto those who were in need or distress and bringing cheer and comfort to the suffering by her presence. It is small wonder that she was regarded as an “angel of mercy,” and that “none knew her but to love her.”

In time, Rev. Mr. Henderson was appointed to succeed the Rev. William Marshall, the first pastor of the first Associate, now first United Presbyterian church of Philadelphia; being ordered, however, to visit first the scattered congregations in the South. This he did, taking his family with him; but due to exposure from swimming rivers, and other hardships, he contracted a violent fever from which he died, at Staunton, Virginia.

Mrs. Henderson, in her sorrow, returned with her son, James Noble Henderson, and her daughter, Mary A. Henderson, to the home of her parents near Nobleville, Lancaster county, Pa.

A few years later, a new phase in her life began in Nobleville,—which place, incidently, was named in honor of the Noble family,—the name being changed to Christiana, in 1847, in honor of Christiana Noble, the wife of William Noble, a brother of Agnes Noble Henderson. To this village came an eminent physician, Dr. Robert Agnew, the son of David and Mary Erwin Agnew. He was from a family well-known in the annals of American Presbyterianism,—the Rev. Dr. John Holmes Agnew, Rev. Dr. Benjamin L. Agnew and Rev. Dr. John R. Agnew were near kinsmen of his. Having served as a surgeon in the United States Navy, which service he

had entered upon completing his course in medicine, the profession adopted by him after his graduation from Dickinson College, he resigned from the Navy, and settled in Nobleville. Here, he met Mrs. Agnes Noble Henderson, "a handsome widow;" a meeting which culminated in their marriage on August 1st, 1815, the Rev. Dr. Ebenezer Dickey officiating. Here, also, a few years later, in the quaint Noble homestead, near Nobleville,—the same homestead in which Agnes Noble, herself, was born and was twice married—was born the only child of her second marriage, a son, D. Hayes Agnew, who was, later, to achieve world-renown in the field of surgery. Here he passed his early life; and when, as a small lad, he often walked through the fragrant flower gardens with his grandmother Noble until becoming tired, he would suggest that they sit down on the settee under the maple tree, and that she tell him of "the olden days" and of the Revolutionary War, in which his grandfather Noble had served.

In 1840, Mrs. Agnew removed to Baltimore county, Maryland, where her husband, Dr. Robert Agnew had purchased a handsome country seat, called "Blenheim." Here Dr. Agnew died October 10th, 1858. And here, also Mrs. Agnew passed away on February 25th, 1871, in the ninety-first year of her age; her remains were laid to rest beside those of her husband and her ancestors in the old burying ground of Fagg's Manor, in Chester county, Pa.

Mrs. Agnew was well qualified to occupy the places she held as the wife of a minister and the wife of a physician; for she was a woman of extraordinary force of character, possessing a powerful mind and indomitable energy. From her descent and associations she was of a deeply religious nature. As a young woman, possessing a magnificent physique, rare beauty and charm of manner, combined with a tireless energy, she had lived an early life of severe hardships in her role of the wife of a frontier minister,—hardships so severe that her husband succumbed to them; while she endured and withstood such trials. As the wife of a prominent physician, she possessed those faculties suited to such a station. Always serene, contented and cheerful, she met with ease the many trials and sudden emergencies confronting the wife of a practicing physician. Through her sympathetic understanding and her readiness to assist those in suffering, she endeared herself

to her husband's patients and proved herself to be a woman of sterling qualities.

Perfectly guileless and ingenuous in character, she reached her great age with a mind unusually clear and full of knowledge of divine truth. The greatness of her faith may be judged by her last statements to her son, the distinguished surgeon,—at that time Professor of Surgery in the University of Pennsylvania, who was summoned to her bedside. "My beloved son;" she said, "you have come to see the broken frame of your old mother, but in my feebleness I still have great cause for thankfulness, God has left my mind untouched." As if to reassure him, she repeated her favorite chapters (John XIV) "Let not your heart be troubled," etc., and the 71st and the 91st psalms. And, as she was passing quietly into God's Great Beyond she repeated to him the passage—"O, death! where is thy sting?" "O, grave! where is thy victory?"

Such was the life and character of this noble woman—the mother of Dr. D. Hayes Agnew. Undoubtedly to her excellent training and splendid influence, her distinguished son owed many of his excellent characteristic traits and virtues.

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1. Obituary published at time of her death.
 2. History of the Life of D. Hayes Agnew, M. D., LL. D., by J. Howe Adams, M. D.
 3. History of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, by Ellis and Evans.