

ity, may give an insight into this humble charity and induce those whom God hath prospered to add to the endowment of it and thus give the members a larger field of work."

It will be noted that the society was in existence at least seventy-four years, and during that time doubtless many deserving cases of suffering were relieved, and many worthy men and women were enabled to add to their meager income through honorable industry. This noble philanthropy might well be imitated in many places at the present day. The plan was an ideal one, — that of giving to needy and respectable labor a chance to be independent of charity. All honor to these noble women whose kindly thought of others, more than a century ago, was destined for more than a generation to relieve want in many humble homes and to bring comfort to many sorely troubled hearts!

"It is more blessed to give than to receive."

LANCASTER COUNTY TEMPERANCE SOCIETY

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

A MEETING of citizens was held in Saint John's chapel, Lancaster, on Friday evening, November 30th, 1832. George Bryan was called to the chair, and George H. Bomberger was appointed secretary. The following preamble and articles were read, discussed and adopted as the Constitution of the Lancaster County Temperance Society:¹

"Whereas, it is now generally known and conceded that the habitual use of ardent spirits is neither necessary to health nor to the successful prosecution of any business, trade or profession; but on the contrary, that it renders men less capable of performing labor or enduring fatigue and exposure; and moreover leads almost necessarily to intemperance by gradually and imperceptibly producing those morbid sensations and cravings, which can only be appeased by resorting to its use in ever increasing quantity; and

"Whereas, it has been found, by experience, to be the source of most of the pauperism, crimes and wretchedness of the community, to increase the number, frequency and violence of diseases, to produce in the children of

¹ Lancaster Examiner, Thursday, March 7th, 1833.

those who use it a predisposition to intemperance, insanity and various diseases, to cause a universal deterioration of body and mind, depriving many of reason, and bringing down multitudes to an untimely grave; and

“Whereas, the prevalence of this vice has so fatally impeded the success of all the ordinary means which God has appointed for the moral and religious improvement of men, thus tending to ruin them for both worlds; and

“Whereas, associations have been formed in many parts of the United States for the purpose of combining the moral influence and exertions of all who fear God and love their country, into one great and steady effort against the wide-spreading evils of intemperance, which so fearfully threaten, not only the present, but following generations; and

“Whereas, these associations have been, without an exception, eminently successful in their endeavors to enlist public feeling and co-operation in their patriotic and Christian design, not only by portraying the desolations of intemperance, but particularly the sad and certain consequences of an unnecessary indulgence in the moderate use of ardent spirits;

“Therefore the friends of humanity now present, wishing to do all in their power to promote the temporal and eternal welfare of their fellow-citizens, resolve to form a society, with the following Constitution:

1. “This society shall be called the Lancaster County Temperance Society.

2. “Any person subscribing to this Constitution shall be a member of this society.

3. “The members of this society, believing that the use of ardent spirits, for persons in health, is not only unnecessary but injurious; that their use is the cause of forming intemperate appetites and habits; and that while it is continued the evils of intemperance can never be prevented; do, therefore, agree that we will not, except as a medicine in case of bodily infirmity, use distilled spirits ourselves, or procure them for the use of our families, or provide them for the entertainment of our friends, or for persons in our employment, and that in all suitable ways we will discontinue the use of them in the community.

4. “The officers shall consist of a president, four vice-presidents, a corresponding and recording secretary, a treasurer, and eight directors, chosen annually (by ballot), who shall constitute a board of managers, five of whom shall form a quorum to transact business. They shall continue in office till a new election takes place.

5. “The board of managers shall have the general management of the society's concerns; they shall, at their discretion, either publish or circulate any publications to call the attention of the community to the evils of intemperance, their causes and remedies; secure, so far as practicable, the co-operation of the medical faculty, the public papers, and the public teachers of religion; collect and exhibit statistical and other information; endeavor to interest rulers and magistrates in the subject; take measures to raise funds necessary for these objects; be authorized to draw on the treasurer for all

expenses; have power to call meetings of the society whenever they deem advisable; and, in general, to perform all other duties in accordance with the principles of this Constitution.

6. "The annual meeting of the society shall be in the month of May, at such time and place as the board of managers may direct.

7. "Any member, by giving a written notice to the secretary, may at any annual meeting withdraw from this society; or any member violating his pledge, may be expelled by the voice of two-thirds of the members present.

8. "Any association within the county of Lancaster, formed for the suppression of intemperance on the principle of total abstinence from ardent spirits, may become a branch of this society by forwarding a copy of its Constitution to the secretary of this society.

9. "This Constitution may, at any annual meeting, by a recommendation of the board of managers, be altered by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the society present."

The Lancaster Journal of Friday, May 24th, 1833, contained the following:

"Upon the 30th of last November, this society was organized, with but thirty-two names appended to the Constitution and pledge. No little difficulty was experienced in bringing the subject home to 'the business and bosoms' of the community; and discouraging apathy on the one hand, and insidious though not openly avowed opposition on the other, retarded for awhile its increase, though they could not serve to quench the bright flame which had been so fortunately enkindled."

At the meeting on November 30th, 1832, when the Constitution was read and adopted, the members were addressed by a worker in the temperance movement whose name is unknown to us. His address, which occupied more than four columns, was published in the Lancaster Examiner of Thursday, March 7th, 1833. He began his address as follows:

"From this Constitution, fellow-citizens, you anticipate our object. It is proper on this occasion that you should be respectfully informed, as the success of our endeavors must depend on the approbation of an enlightened and virtuous community.

"Our society, is an association of citizens of all ranks, conditions, denominations, professions, trades and business, for the common purpose of making a simultaneous and persistive effort to arrest the evils of intemperance, by publicly pledging ourselves that we will not, except as a medicine when recommended by a competent physician, use distilled spirits ourselves or procure them for the use of our families, or provide them for the entertainment of our friends, or for persons in our employment, and that in all suitable ways, we will discountenance their use in the community."

The organization of the society caused considerable comment in Lancaster. A member of the society, under the signature, "A Signer of the Constitution," contributed a lengthy article, which was published in the Lancaster Examiner of Thursday, December 27th, 1832. It was entitled "A Vindication of the Third Article of the Temperance Constitution," and was addressed to the Lancaster County Temperance Society. He wrote, in part, as follows:

"As invidious observations have been made, and the plausible friends of temperance are already exerting themselves to counteract our benevolent design, we have been reluctantly induced to think that it is due to ourselves and to the interests of the temperance cause in this city, to state thus publicly the reasons which influenced our minds on the evening of the 30th of November to vote for the reconsideration and final adoption of the third article, as it now stands—

1. "Because, this article is not inconsistent with the pledge, which was signed as preparatory to the formation of a Temperance Society in this city.

"Society's pledge. 'We do agree, therefore, that we will not, except as a medicine in case of bodily infirmity, use distilled spirits ourselves or procure them for the use of our families, or provide them for the entertainment of our friends, or for persons in our employment, and that in all suitable ways, we will discountenance the use of them in the community.'

"The former pledge. 'We, who have hereto set our names, believing that intemperance is the source of incalculable evil to the civil and religious interests of man, do hereby agree and pledge ourselves to abstain entirely from the use of ardent spirits, unless in case of bodily hurt or sickness, and in all suitable ways, to discountenance their use throughout the community.'

The American Temperance Society recommended that simultaneous meetings of all associations in the United States should be held on Tuesday, February 26th, 1833. In compliance with the request of the parent organization, a large and inspiring meeting of the Lancaster County Temperance Society was held in the court house on that day.

A Junior Temperance Society had been formed in Lancaster shortly before this time. S. Humes was president, and D. Ehler, secretary. It numbered about sixty-five members. The Junior Society met at Dr. James Power's academy on February 26th and marched in procession, accompanied by music, to the court house, where they sat in a body at the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by the president. The Constitution of the society, and papers explaining the nature and design of the organization, were read. An invitation was given to

all persons who approved of the objects of the association, and who desired to cooperate in its good work, to sign the Constitution.

The meeting was addressed by Mr. Kirkwood, who lived in the vicinity of Columbia. He was followed by John K. Findlay, Esq., who delivered an eloquent address. A letter, written by a friend from Martic township, was read by Mr. H. Y. Slaymaker; after which Dr. John L. Atlee bore testimony against intemperance. Dr. W. B. Powell, who had visited Lancaster, by invitation, expressly to serve the cause of temperance, was the last speaker of the afternoon.

That same evening the friends of temperance held another meeting. The Constitution of the society and the accompanying papers were again read, and an invitation was given to people to enroll their names. Dr. Powell delivered an address, which consumed more than two hours of time, in favor of total abstinence.

The results of the meeting were gratifying to the officers. The membership, which numbered sixty-eight, was increased to more than one hundred and thirty. This splendid result was achieved in Lancaster in about three months' time.

Rev. W. Niles, agent of the American Temperance Society, delivered an able address for the cause of temperance in the court house on Friday evening, March 15th. George Washington Barton, Esq., at the request of the president, delivered a speech, which was well received. This meeting gave a renewed impulse to the movement in Lancaster. A number of people signed the Constitution, and fifty dollars were subscribed (one-half of which was given by one individual) to defray the gratuitous distribution of the "Temperance Agent."²

A meeting of the Temperance Society was held in the court house on Wednesday evening, April 17th.³ The audience was so large that many were unable to gain entrance into the room in which the meeting was held. George Washington Barton, Esq., delivered an admirable address. He was followed by a reformed drunkard from Maine, who spoke chiefly of his own experiences. John K. Findlay, Esq. made a pertinent and pleasing address.⁴

² Lancaster Examiner, Thursday, March 28th, 1833.

³ Lancaster Journal, Friday, April 12th, 1833.

⁴ Lancaster Journal, Friday, April 26th, 1833.

On Friday evening, May 10th, 1833, the annual meeting of the Lancaster County Temperance Society was held in the session house of the First Presbyterian church. The president, William Kirkpatrick, presided. G. Washington Barton, Esq., on behalf of the society, presented the annual report, which, on motion, was unanimously adopted. The following gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year:

President, William Kirkpatrick; vice-presidents, Redmond Conyngham, William Kirkwood, Christian Kieffer, George Mayer; corresponding secretary, George Washington Barton; recording secretary, George H. Bomberger; treasurer, Emanuel Shaeffer; directors, Dr. John D. Diller, Dr. John L. Atlee, Dr. George B. Kerfoot, John W. Cochran, Jacob Hensel, George Matter, Esq., George Bryan, Esq., and John S. Gable.

The board of managers presented its first annual report, which was as follows:

"Though this society is of but recent organization, the managers are nevertheless enabled with confidence to state that sufficient interest has been already developed to warrant the pleasing anticipation that a reform, no less extensive than salutary, will be accomplished through its agency and example. Its progress, marked in the commencement by embarrassments not slight or few, which gave rise to many painful apprehensions, has been steady and sure; and the permanence of the society is no longer to be considered a matter of speculation. As the wholesomeness of the principles which it inculcates and practices is becoming more generally understood, each succeeding day furnishes to its rank active and influential advocates. Nor, gratifying as is the reflection, is this to be regarded as anything remarkable. The marvel would be, that the light of public approval should be withheld from objects so philanthropic, and endeavors so laudable, that the chills of indifference or the ruder blasts of unmerited opposition should prevent the early bud of promise from expanding into bloom. The cause of temperance is one inseparably intertwined with the most sacred interests of society; and in proportion as it advances or retrogrades, will happiness and prosperity predominate, or wretchedness and degradation assert their triumph. . . .

"This society now numbers nearly two hundred members, a fact which speaks trumpet-tongued in corroboration of all that has been advanced in this report. But whatever good may have been effected, it is to be regarded rather as the happy precursor of the more brilliant triumphs of temperance, than as the successful consummation of the labors of its advocates. The corner-stone of the building has indeed been cast; an edifice towering and massive remains to be erected.

"The managers trust that an expression of their heartfelt gratification with reference to the wide diffusion of temperance principles not less in the county than in the city of Lancaster, will not be viewed in the light of a departure from the objects which it may be thought appertain with exclusive appropriateness to their report. Societies acting upon the pledge of total abstinence from ardent spirits, which alone can successfully accomplish the desired end, are fast springing into life and vigor in the townships and villages of this county.

"To these societies the managers beg leave to suggest the policy of attaching themselves to this, the Temperance Society located in the city, as one occupying a central position, a measure which mature deliberation has convinced them will facilitate concert of action, and in every way enlarge and extend those advantages which peculiarly flow from the vigor of concentrated effort. Should this suggestion meet the approval and obtain the adoption of the societies to which it is directed, it is then respectfully proposed that an Annual Temperance County Convention be held, to which each society may elect as many delegates as its members may determine upon, or such number as can hereafter be apportioned. The advantages presented by such a convention are sufficiently obvious. Eligible opportunity would thus be afforded for the periodical interchange of sentiment and the adoption of measures to render still more vigorous and general the endeavors of the supporters of the temperance cause for the promotion of its momentous objects.

"The propriety is further recommended to the several societies in the county of preparing for publication the proceedings of whatever meetings they may at any time hold, and forwarding them with that view to the temperance paper which has been recently established in this city under the title of, 'The Journal of Humanity and Temperance Beacon.' This journal has been projected not with the most remote idea of interfering in any way with the interests of other papers to whose respective conductors this society is indebted for the obliging readiness with which they have at all times inserted notices, calls for meetings, etc., and given publication to its proceedings whenever requested. But a print having for its leading object the support of the temperance cause has been deemed all important; and such an one having been established, the hope is confidently entertained that it will not be permitted to languish, much less to fail from want of adequate support, but that the patronage of the friends of temperance will be liberally extended to it."⁵

Thursday, July 4th, 1833, was celebrated in Lancaster in an appropriate manner. The Temperance Society met in the court house, and a large attendance was present. The Declaration of Independence was read by Dr. John Light Atlee, after which George Washington Barton delivered a fine oration suited to the occasion. Redmond Conyngham, with brief but eloquent remarks, introduced

⁵ Lancaster Journal, Friday, May 24th, 1833.

a second declaration of independence, pledging the lives, fortunes and sacred honor of the signers to abstinence from intoxicating liquors. This was followed by a few happy and appropriate remarks by John K. Findlay, Esq. Mr. Barton's oration was printed in the Lancaster Journal of Friday, July 19th, 1833, and occupied a full page.

In the fall of 1833 it was decided to establish a publication entitled "Lancaster County Temperance Register." It was to be issued semi-monthly in Lancaster and was to be devoted exclusively to the promotion of the cause of temperance. The subscription price was fifty cents per annum.

The Lancaster Journal of Friday, January 10th, 1834, stated that a specimen number of the "Register" had been issued and that it gave promise of becoming an able supporter of the cause to which it was devoted. Mr. Philip Hammon⁶ was appointed agent of the society, for the purpose of obtaining subscriptions to the "Register." It is not known whether a copy of this publication is still in existence.

It is gratifying to record that the activities of the temperance movement were not confined to Lancaster city. Societies were organized in several towns in the county. There were two organizations in existence in Columbia as early as January, 1833. The one for the white population, held its meetings in the town hall.⁷ Thomas Lloyd was its secretary. The colored society held its meetings in the Presbyterian church.⁸

There was also a society in New Holland. On Tuesday afternoon, February 26th, 1833, a meeting of the association was held in the Lutheran church. The meeting was opened with religious exercises by the president, the Rev. J. W. Richards, after which the Hon. William Darling, of Berks county, addressed the audience on the subject of temperance. The president then stated the objects of the society, and extended an invitation to those present to sign the pledge and Constitution. Twenty-one members united with the

⁶ Lancaster Journal, Friday, January 24th, 1834.

⁷ The Columbia Spy, and Lancaster and York Record, Saturday, January 5th, 1833.

⁸ The Columbia Spy, and Lancaster and York Record, Saturday, February 2nd, 1833.

society. E. Kirkpatrick was the secretary.⁹ Two years later, a meeting of the society was held in New Holland on Tuesday, February 24th, 1835. The Rev. J. T. Marshal Davie and Rev. Mr. Tibbels were the speakers.¹⁰

The Examiner and Herald of Thursday, May 1st, 1834, contained an announcement that Isaac Zell, lately from Colerain township, had opened a house of public entertainment in East King street, Lancaster, formerly occupied by Archibald McLenegan, which he called the "Temperance Inn." He stated that he had provided himself with everything for the accommodation of travelers and others. His stable was extensive, and was attended by a careful hostler. Mr. Zell hoped that by strict attention to business to merit a share of the public patronage, especially from the advocates and friends of the cause of temperance.

Mr. Zell conducted the Temperance Inn for about six months when he was succeeded by Mordecai M. Moore. In an advertisement in the Lancaster Journal of Friday, November 21st, 1834, Mr. Moore informed the public that he had opened a "Temperance Hotel" in the house lately occupied by Isaac Zell, and formerly by Archibald McLenegan, in East King street, in the third block from the court house. He was prepared to accommodate sojourners and citizens with every necessary refreshment included within the rules of a temperance public house.

The Union of Tuesday, September 30th, 1834, contained an announcement that almanacs in the German language, sustaining the benevolent efforts to remove the curse of intemperance, were on sale at the store of George Bryan, in Lancaster. Temperance almanacs in English were soon to be received and put on sale.

In accordance with the plans of the national organization, simultaneous meetings of temperance societies were requested to be held on Tuesday, February 25th, 1834. The members of the Lancaster County Temperance Society were requested to assemble at the late Dr. Elliot's meeting house (Church of God) on Monday evening, February 24th, to prepare for the meeting which was to be held in the court house on the afternoon and evening of the following day.¹¹

⁹ Lancaster Examiner, Thursday, March 7th, 1833.

¹⁰ Examiner and Herald, Thursday, February 12th, 1835.

¹¹ Lancaster Journal, Friday, February 21st, 1834.

The annual meeting of the Lancaster County Temperance Society was advertised to be held in the session room of the English Presbyterian church on Monday evening, May 19th, 1834, for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year.¹² A public meeting in the interest of temperance, was advertised for Thursday evening, July 3rd, 1834. It was to be held in the court house and seats were reserved for ladies. On the following evening, July 4th a sermon on temperance was to be delivered in the Presbyterian church by the Rev. James Sovereign.¹³

The directors of the society informed the public that a meeting would be held in the court house on Wednesday evening, August 20th, 1834. Representatives from the county societies were urged to be present and report the progress of the cause in their districts, particularly as to the disuse of ardent liquors in the late harvest.¹⁴

The friends of temperance in Lancaster invited their friends from the country to partake of a dinner prepared by Mr. Zell at the Temperance Inn on Friday, July 4th.¹⁵

A monthly meeting of the society was to be held in the court house on Thursday evening, January 1st, 1835, at which time the following resolution was to be discussed:

“Resolved, That in the opinion of this society the practice of making and selling ardent spirits for the purpose of drink is immoral and should be discontinued.”¹⁶

The Lancaster Union of Tuesday, February 17th, 1835, announced that a meeting of the society would be held in the court house on Tuesday evening, February 24th.

The Lancaster Journal of Friday, March 6th, 1835, stated that an address by the Rev. James Sovereign, delivered in the court house on Thursday, January 1st, 1835, and subsequently at Strasburg and Marietta, had just come from the press. Copies could be secured from Dr. R. Jackson, George Bryan, or Mordecai M. Moore, proprietor of the Temperance Hotel, and at the office of the Lancaster Journal.

¹² Examiner and Herald, Thursday, May 15th, 1834.

¹³ Examiner and Herald, Thursday, June 26th, 1834.

¹⁴ Examiner and Herald, Thursday, August 14th, 1834.

¹⁵ Lancaster Journal, Friday, June 27th, 1834.

¹⁶ Examiner and Herald, Thursday, January 1st, 1835.

The annual meeting of the society was announced for Friday evening, May 22nd, 1835.¹⁷ It was held in the English Presbyterian church. At this meeting the organization, for some reason or other, failed to elect officers according to the requirements of the old Constitution. The old society was reorganized and a new Constitution adopted, which was as follows:

Article 1. This society shall be called the Lancaster Temperance Society

Article 2. Any person wishing to become a member of this society, shall first be proposed, and if he receive a majority of the votes of the members present, he shall be entitled to membership, after signing the Constitution.

Article 3. Believing that ardent spirits of every description are unnecessary and injurious, we, therefore, pledge ourselves to abstain from the use of them, and to dissuade others to discontinue their use.

Article 4. The officers of this society shall be a president, two vice-presidents, a secretary and a treasurer, who shall constitute a board of managers, to whose care the business transactions of the society shall be entrusted.

Article 5. Any person violating his pledge shall be expelled, provided the offense can be proved in a manner that will satisfy a majority of the members of the society.

Article 6. The meetings of the society shall be held quarterly. The annual meeting is to be held on the third Monday in September, at which meeting the officers of the society shall be elected.

The board of managers shall have the power to call extra meetings when in their judgment the good of the cause may require it.

Article 7. This Constitution may be altered or amended at any of the quarterly meetings if desired by a majority of the members present.

George Bryan was elected president; Peter V. S. Voorhis and Whiteman Benner, vice-presidents; Ralph Jackson, treasurer; and Dr. George B. Kerfoot, secretary. It was necessary for those members of the old society who had not signed the new Constitution to do so before they were entitled to membership in the newly organized society.¹⁸

A meeting of the Lancaster Temperance Society was held in the Presbyterian church on Saturday evening, July 4th, 1835. The exercises were commenced by the singing of an anthem adapted to the occasion. The Rev. J. T. Marshall Davie, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, addressed a solemn and fervent prayer to the Throne of Grace for a blessing on the cause of temperance generally, and especially on the labors of the newly-organized society, after which the choir sang an appropriate hymn.

¹⁷ Examiner and Herald, Thursday, May 21st, 1835.

¹⁸ The Lancaster Union, Tuesday, July 7th, 1835.

The Rev. Mr. Davie then delivered an able and eloquent address, very forcibly exhibiting the destructive consequences of the continued use of intoxicating drinks, and concluded with a solemn and affectionate appeal to the good sense, morality and patriotism of a respectable auditory, well calculated to give new energy and increased action in arresting an evil, ruinous alike to body and soul. Following the address the choir sang a temperance hymn.¹⁹

A temperance meeting was advertised to be held in the English Presbyterian church on Friday evening, January 1st, 1836.²⁰

The Lancaster Union of Tuesday, February 2nd, 1836, contained an announcement that a temperance meeting would be held in the session room of the English Presbyterian church on Tuesday evening, February 9th, 1836. Whether the meeting was held as advertised is not known.

This is a brief history of the beginnings of temperance in Lancaster. It was a movement for which the good people of this community labored devotedly from November, 1832, to February, 1836. At some future time, I propose continuing the history of this worthy cause down to the present day.

¹⁹ The Lancaster Union, Tuesday, July 14th, 1835.

²⁰ The Lancaster Union, Tuesday, December 22nd, 1835.

THE WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF LANCASTER

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

IN Vol. XXXIII, pp. 160-7, of the Proceedings of The Lancaster County Historical Society, is an article on "The Washington Association of Lancaster." Since that paper was published, my attention has been drawn to several items in old newspapers which state more fully the activities of this organization during the brief period of its existence.

Apparently, the first reference to the association in the Lancaster Journal was in the issue of Friday, October 28th, 1814. In this announcement, the members of the standing committee were notified of a meeting to be held at Col. Jacob Slough's White Swan tavern, south-east corner of Penn square and South Queen street,