

# GENERAL JEREMIAH MOSHER

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

In the summer of 1926, the committee appointed for the marking of historical sites, in connection with Lancaster county's participation in the Sesqui-centennial celebration of the Declaration of Independence, made an effort to erect a bronze tablet on the Evans Memorial chapel which stands over the old graveyard of the First Presbyterian church. On this tablet it was intended to state that General Jeremiah Mosher, a hero of the Revolutionary War, was interred in the graveyard, which is still under the chapel. Some of the shorter tombstones are in their original places; others which were too high to stand beneath the floor, were taken up and placed against the interior walls of the basement. When the chapel was built in 1889, some of the remains were disinterred and removed to other cemeteries, but, for the most part, the bones of others were left undisturbed.

A search was made for the tomb of General Mosher without success. H. Frank Eshleman, Esq., copied the inscriptions on all the stones which he could get at, but, he did not find a stone to the memory of the general.

The burial records of the First church make no reference to the interment of General Mosher and his wife, Susan, in this ancient burying ground. As the committee was without proof that the general was buried under the Evans Memorial chapel, plans for the erection of a bronze tablet were abandoned, for the time being, at least.

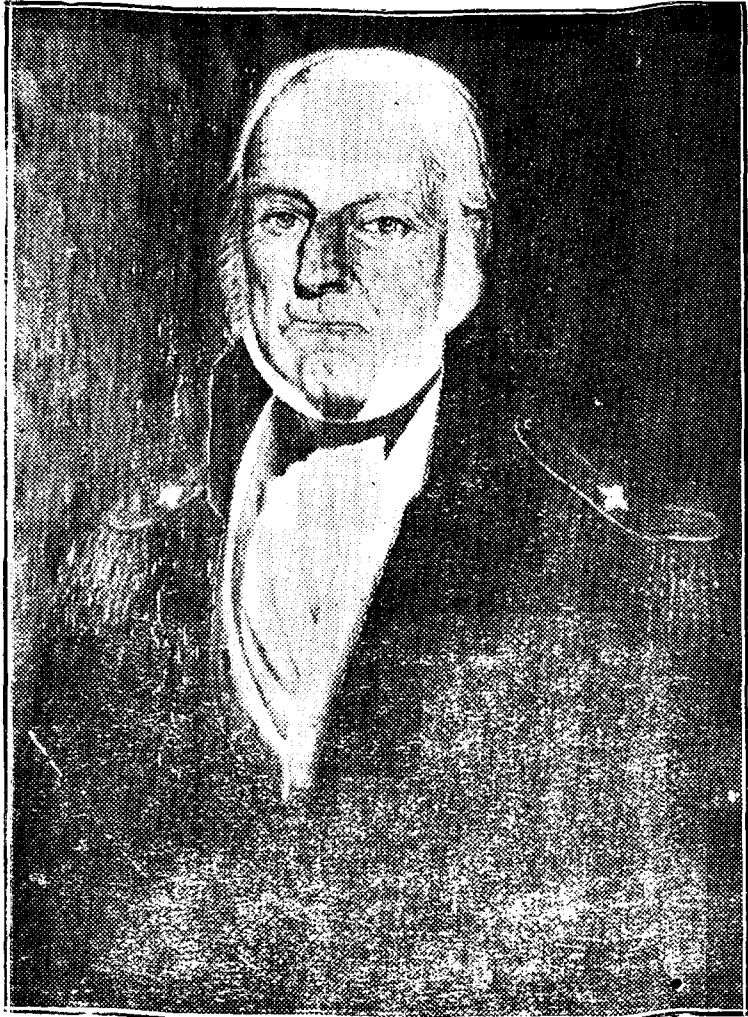
Almost five years later, The Lancaster County Historical Society acquired a file of The Anti-Masonic Herald, and Lancaster Weekly Courier, a newspaper published in Lancaster at the time that a political party was formed to break the power of the Masonic fraternity. Under date of Friday, March 12th, 1830, appeared an obituary of General Mosher in which it is stated that his remains were buried in the Presbyterian graveyard. This, so far as we have been able to ascertain, is the only paper that contains definite information as to the place of his interment. Other papers published in Lancaster at the time of his death, copies of which are still extant, make no reference to where he is buried.

The obituary in The Anti-Masonic Herald is as follows:

"Died, in this city, on Monday morning last [March 8th], Brigadier General Jeremiah Mosher, in the 77th year of his age. He was born in Roxbury, Massachusetts; and, at a very early age contributed his services to the attainment of our independence. He lived long to exult (as he did frequently) in its blessings, and, died, as he had lived, a firm patriot and disciple of liberty. In his social converse he was affable and courteous; and if he has left enemies they are secret and few; but his friends are avowed and numerous.

"His remains were deposited in the Presbyterian burying ground yesterday afternoon [March 11th, 1830] with military respect."

It is quite reasonable to believe that the above statement relative to his burial in "the Presbyterian burying ground," is true as General Mosher was a ruling elder in the First Presbyterian church.



GENERAL JEREMIAH MOSHER.

Photograph of an oil portrait of General Mosher owned by Mrs. George C. K. Sample, 57 South 6th Street, Columbia, Pa. Her husband, deceased, was a descendant of the general. It is not now known where the oil portrait is, or the name of the artist. For a biography of General Mosher the reader is referred to Vol. XXXIV, pp. 265-270, of the Proceedings of The Lancaster County Historical Society.