

MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN LANCASTER DURING THE WAR OF 1812

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

ON January 8th, 1815, General Andrew Jackson won a brilliant victory over the English troops at the celebrated battle of New Orleans,—two weeks after the treaty of peace between England and the United States, signed at Ghent, Belgium, had ended the War of 1812, which some historians have insisted on calling, the "Second War for Independence." The battle was fought because of the lack of telegraphic communication between the two shores of the Atlantic. Many lives would have been spared could it have been promptly known in this country that the treaty had been signed.

Interest in this conflict of 1812-14 is increasing. Many organizations have been formed to perpetuate the heroic deeds of ancestors who participated in this eventful struggle in defense of a fine principle of right. In view of this growing interest, it may be well to review briefly the military activity of citizens of Lancaster city and county in connection with these hostilities.

War was formally declared by the Congress of the United States against Great Britain on June 18th, 1812; and on the following day, June 19th, President James Madison issued his famous proclamation. The martial spirit in Lancaster county was strong, almost from the beginning; indeed, there is record that military organizations were formed in this county at the first intimation that war might be declared. On May 12th, 1812, Simon Snyder, governor of Pennsylvania, issued a proclamation for the formation of twenty-two regiments, in four brigades, aggregating fourteen thousand men.¹ In less than two weeks after the date of Governor Snyder's proclamation, the services of the "Lancaster Phalanx," sixty-five strong, including the officers, were offered to the governor, through the following letter:

"Lancaster, Pa.,
"May 25th, 1812.

"To His Excellency, the Commander-in-Chief:

"During the long space of time wherein other nations, under the scourge of ambitious and profligate princes, have been the victims of destructive wars,

¹ Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Vol. 12, pp. 555-7.

our favored country, by a judicious policy, has been sustained in the almost undisturbed enjoyment of happy peace. But in this singular age of revolutions, the convulsed state of the world at length threatens to involve our peaceful regions in the general vortex; and the hostile encroachments on our sovereignty by nations arrogantly presuming power, and unmindful of right, as well as past events, yet too recent to have been forgotten, have rendered it necessary that the Republic be placed in an attitude to support its dignity and maintain its independence.

"To contribute to this end, the Lancaster Phalanx, commanded by Captain James Humes, under the impulse that led their ancestors, of glorious memory, into an arduous and, then, almost hopeless contest, have this day unanimously resolved on a voluntary tender of their services to their country.

"We, the undersigned, having been appointed a committee for the purpose, hereby, in the name and on behalf of the said corps, with pleasure tender their services to the governor, as a part of the quota to be detached from this Commonwealth; and, as such, are prepared to march, completely armed and equipped, at the required notice.

"Felicitating the Commander-in-Chief on the patriotic ardor that pervades our country at this eventful crisis, we remain,

"Your Excellency's most obedient,

"Geo. Mayer,

"Jno. F. Steinman, Jr.,

"Jno. Jefferis, Lieut.,

"Committee of the Lancaster Phalanx."

In Ellis and Evans' History of Lancaster County, published in 1883, p. 75, it is stated that, about the same time, sixty other companies in the State—including the company of Captain William Youse,³ of Elizabethtown, and that of Captain John Hubley, of Lancaster— offered their services to the governor. The Intel-

² Ibid. p. 564.

³ In the Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Vol. 12, p. 574, is a letter from Captain Youse to Governor Snyder, which is as follows:

"Elizabethtown, June 22nd, 1812.

"Sir:

"The Union Rifle Company attached to the Second battalion, Sixteenth Pennsylvania militia, under my command, have offered our services to you through the hands of our inspector; but as the greater part of the company are not able to furnish themselves with rifles, we pray your Excellency to provide us with about forty, as we have provided ourselves with the uniform, cartouch-box, scalping-knife, and tomahawk, etc. If the State does not furnish us with these rifles, I do not see how we will be able to perform, and we pray your Excellency to take our state into consideration, and be so kind as to give us an answer as soon as possible.

"Yours, etc.,

"William Youse."

ligencer and Weekly Advertiser of Saturday, June 6th, 1812, contained the following:

"With pleasure we state that the Pequea Rangers, a volunteer rifle corps, commanded by Captain John Slaymaker, Jr., of this county, and composed of gentlemen of different politics, on Wednesday last unanimously resolved to tender their services to the governor for the defense of their country, as a part of the quota of Pennsylvania."

The offer of the Lancaster county companies was not accepted for this emergency, which called into service about 2,409 volunteer militia of Pennsylvania for service on Lake Erie and the Niagara frontier.⁴

The purposes of the government were seriously hampered by the political opposition of the Federalist party, which was opposed to war. Three days before President James Madison issued his famous proclamation, declaring that a state of war existed between the United States and Great Britain, a meeting of inhabitants was held at Manheim, Lancaster county, Pa., for the purpose of expressing their sentiments relative to the alarming position of the country with reference to the embargo and measures of war, which had been lately adopted by the administration. Resolutions, opposing war and the embargo, were adopted.⁵

On the following evening, Wednesday, June 17th, 1812, a largely attended meeting of citizens was held in Lancaster borough. A memorial was presented and unanimously approved by those present. It was addressed to the Congress of the United States, and in it they appealed to that august body to "abolish the embargo and restriction upon trade and prevent the calamities of war falling upon our common country."

On Thursday, June 18th, 1812, war was declared. On Wednesday, July 1st, a large meeting of citizens of Lancaster borough and county was held in the court house for the purpose of expressing their sentiments on the important measures lately adopted by Congress. Resolutions, unanimously supporting the President and government in waging war and in compelling the British to yield to the justice of our claims, were adopted.⁶

⁴ History of Lancaster County, Pa., by H. M. J. Klein, Vol. 2, p. 593.

⁵ Lancaster Journal, Friday, June 19th, 1812.

⁶ Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser, Saturday, July 4th, 1812.

The Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser of Saturday, June 20th, 1812, stated:

"With pleasure we inform our readers, that a volunteer rifle corps has been formed in this borough, under the command of Capt. Henry Shippen, since the governor issued general orders for drafting the militia. It is composed of Federalists and Democrats, who have nobly associated to defend the rights and avenge the wrongs of their beloved country. They paraded on Monday last, completely uniformed and equipped, and tendered their services to the governor.

"The Maytown Rifle Guards, of this county, have offered their services to the governor, to a man; and are ready to march at a moment's warning."

In the Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser of Saturday, June 27th, 1812, was the following interesting news item:

"On Wednesday last, two companies of light artillery, of the new army of the United States, were marched from this place for the northward, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Fenwick, by Captains Gibson and McIntosh; each company consisting of about eighty fine, hardy-looking young men, having in train about one hundred and fifty horses, eight cannon, eight ammunition and several baggage wagons. Captain [James] Gibson's company has nearly all been recruited in this place, within a short time past; and, for good order and discipline, does him great honor. Capt. McIntosh's company arrived here about three weeks ago, from Washington city.

"Notwithstanding the heavy rain on that day, these troops were escorted some distance from town by the Lancaster Phalanx and the Lancaster Yagers, two elegant and patriotic volunteer companies of this borough. May victory attend their arms!"

The Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser of Saturday, July 25th, 1812, contained an announcement that the governor of Pennsylvania had issued a proclamation earnestly recommending, "that the people of every denomination throughout the Commonwealth, do set apart Thursday, July 30th, as a day of general humiliation, fasting and prayer." Whether or not the governor's recommendation was adopted, is not known.

Three weeks later, the Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser of Saturday, August 15th, stated that Thursday, August 20th, was recommended by Congress and the President of the United States, as a "day of public humiliation and prayer."⁷ The paper added: "From the accounts we have had of the existence of evil and turbulent passions among the people of the United States, there never

⁷ Messages and Papers of the Presidents, Vol. 1, p. 513.

was a period in our history which more loudly called for the solemn performance of this important duty."

The Lancaster Phalanx, commanded by Capt. James Humes, and the Lancaster Yagers, under Capt. Henry Shippen, were ordered to rendezvous at the court house on the morning of the fast day, with their side arms, march to Trinity Lutheran church and attend divine service.⁸

In a history of Lancaster county, published in 1924, Vol. II, page 593, appeared the following:

"On August 25th, 1812, the governor of Pennsylvania, in general orders from Harrisburg, acknowledges receipt of many patriotic offers, partly in these words: 'The governor with pleasure embraces the present occasion to perpetuate the honorable fame acquired by those gallant sons of Pennsylvania who volunteered their services, by appointing the commandants of those patriotic corps and companies. . . .' Among the commandants [from Lancaster county] were James Humes, captain, Lancaster Phalanx; William Youse, captain, Rifle Company, (Elizabethtown); Martin Bucher, captain, Rifle Company; John Slaymaker, captain, Rifle Company. The four companies were of the fourth division of Pennsylvania militia, which was commanded, in 1812, by Major-General James Whitehill, of Lancaster. The brigade commanders were, Brigadier-Generals Jacob Hibshman and Robert Miller, of Lancaster. Brigade Inspectors were, John Light, of Lancaster, and Nathan W. Sample, of Strasburg. On September 5th, the governor especially referred to 'Henry Shippen, captain, company of Yagers,' inadvertently omitted from the list of August 25th. In another communication, he names the units selected for the Niagara frontier emergency. Not one company of the fourth division was chosen for service, those of northern Pennsylvania being preferred because of their nearness to the zone of operations."

The following item was in the Lancaster Journal of Friday, November 6th, 1812:

"The brave and intelligent Capt. [James] Gibson, who recruited his fine company of light artillery in this borough and neighborhood, was taken prisoner in the late battle at Queenstown." (Canada, October 13th, 1812.)⁹

Captain (subsequently Colonel) Gibson, was killed September 17th, 1814, when bravely leading a storming party near Fort Erie.

On October 25th, 1812, Commodore Stephen Decatur, cruising in the Frigate *United States*, engaged the frigate *Macedonian*, to the southward of the Azores. The fight lasted two hours, when the

⁸ Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser, Saturday, August 15th, 1812.

⁹ A popular History of the United States, by William Cullen Bryant, Vol. 4, p. 190.

enemy struck, having lost one hundred and four men; Decatur but twelve. When the prize reached New York, Decatur was received with the greatest enthusiasm.¹⁰

The *Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser* of Saturday, November 7th, 1812, contained an announcement that a meeting would be held at Isaac Smith's tavern on Saturday, November 14th, for the purpose of raising a company of lighthouse for the Ninety-eighth Regiment of militia. Officers were also to be chosen.

The news of Decatur's victory reached Lancaster early in December, nearly two months after the famous sea-fight. In the *Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser* of Saturday, December 12th, 1812, was this reference to it:

"The pleasing news of Commodore Decatur's victory was welcomed at Lancaster by a display of flags on the cupola of the court house, the ringing of bells, martial music, the parade of volunteer corps, and the usual firings. In the evening, the court house was handsomely illuminated."

The *Lancaster Journal*, organ of the Federalist party, made no reference to the local demonstration in honor of this victory.

The *Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser* of Saturday, December 19th, 1812, stated that a meeting of the young men of Lancaster was held at the house of Mr. Slaymaker for the purpose of taking action on the death of Lieut. John Musser Funk of the United States navy. Lieut. Funk was a native of Lancaster borough and fell gloriously fighting for his country in the engagement between the frigate *United States* and the *Macedonian*. In his official report to the secretary of the Navy, after the battle, Decatur speaks of him as an "officer of great gallantry." As a tribute to his memory the men were requested to wear crape on the left arm for a period of thirty days. Captain Henry Shippen presided at the meeting and George L. Mayer was the secretary.

The *Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser* of Saturday, January 2nd, 1813, contained the following:

"We understand that Ensign Lynch, of the 14th United States infantry, opened a rendezvous in this borough a few days since and has already enlisted

¹⁰ History of the United States, by Richard Hildreth, Vol.6, p. 368. Decatur in his report of the battle dated "United States, at Sea, October 30th, 1812," says to the secretary of the Navy, "after an action of an hour and a half."

sixteen men. The passage of the late law by Congress increasing the pay of the army it appears has had a good effect; and we have no doubt that the recruiting service will be more successful than heretofore. In a pecuniary point of view the terms are inviting, and will doubtless induce brave and patriotic young men to enroll themselves among their country's defenders.

"There are also two other recruiting officers in this borough, Capt. Luckett, of the cavalry, and Lieut. Zantzinger, of the artillery; both of whom, we learn, have made several enlistments within the last two weeks."

On Sunday, January 31st, 1813, Hon. John Armstrong, secretary of War, passed through Lancaster borough on his way to Washington.¹¹

On Thursday, March 4th, 1813, the second inauguration of James Madison, as President of the United States, was celebrated in Lancaster by several dining parties, one of which was held at Mr. Whiteside's tavern. A number of toasts, appropriate to the occasion, were drunk.¹²

Thomas Landerkin, a volunteer from Chambersburg, who served at Buffalo, died in Lancaster borough on Monday, April 5th, 1813. On the following day, his remains, escorted by local volunteer companies, the United States military troops and a large concourse of citizens, were interred with military honors in the graveyard adjoining the English Presbyterian church. The services were conducted by the Rev. John Henry Hoffmeier.¹³

The *Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser* of Saturday, April 24th, 1813, contained the following:

"On Monday last, about 270 regulars of the United States army, under the command of Captain Pentland, passed through this borough on their march to Philadelphia. They were well armed and made a martial appearance."

The *Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser* of Saturday, May 8th, 1813, stated:

"A number of wagons, containing \$350,000 in specie, for the use of the north-western army, passed through Lancaster on Wednesday last, on their way to the State of Ohio."

The editor of the *Lancaster Journal*, in commenting on this item, said: "This makes about seven hundred thousand dollars that have passed through Lancaster for the support of our unprofitable

¹¹ *Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser*, Saturday, February 6th, 1813.

¹² *Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser*, Saturday, March 13th, 1813.

¹³ *Lancaster Journal*, Thursday, April 8th, 1813.

war. The money, to be sure, is all borrowed; but it must be repaid some time; and then our farmers and mechanics will be better able to count the cost."¹⁴

In order more fully to complete the outline of the part taken along military lines by citizens of the borough and county of Lancaster during the War of 1812, the following extracts are taken from Vol. 34, pp. 115-7, of the Proceedings of The Lancaster County Historical Society:

"In the spring of 1813, Sir John Borlase Warren, commander of the British fleet in Lynhaven Bay, despatched a frigate, two brigs and four prize schooners, to ravage the shores of the Chesapeake. Rear-Admiral Sir George Cockburn, commanding this fleet, sailed for the head of the bay, spreading consternation as he went. At Annapolis the drums beat to arms, the signal gun was fired, and the citizens were called out, at three in the morning. A few hours later, Cockburn's vessels were sighted from the steeple of the state house, and the inhabitants, sure that they would shortly be bombarded, began the removal of records and public papers. The enemy, however, passed on up the bay, and after having thrown Baltimore into a state of intense excitement, sailed to the mouth of the Susquehanna river. . . .

"The Lancaster Journal of Thursday, May 13th, 1813, stated, in an editorial that 'Cockburn threatens to destroy Elkton, if it should cost him a thousand men. Our troops are now collecting there in considerable numbers. Their force is about eight hundred. A French letter of marque, (a schooner) mounting twelve guns, is at Elk landing. They have two breastworks erected, which have a good command of the channel; and while this force is kept up in proper order we think the British will not attack it. The people in that neighborhood have suffered much from being compelled to desert their farms and perform military duty.

"Companies are fast arriving from Chester county, and the lower end of Lancaster county, to relieve them. Captain Ash, from Little Britain, has marched there with a small detachment.'

"On Thursday, May 13th, 1813, the infantry company known as the Lancaster Phalanx, commanded by Captain James Humes, and the rifle corps called the Lancaster Yagers, commanded by Lieutenant Doll, in the absence of Captain Henry Shippen, marched from this borough to Elkton, Maryland, having volunteered their services for thirty days at Elkton, to assist in repelling the attacks of the enemy. They consisted of nearly one hundred men and made a very handsome appearance. . . . A few miles below Strasburg they were joined by the Pequea Rangers, commanded by Captain John Slaymaker, Jr., who also have volunteered their services at Elkton.

"The Lancaster Journal of Thursday, May 20th, 1813, stated:

¹⁴ Lancaster Journal, Thursday, May 6th, 1813.

"The journey of the volunteers to Elkton was rugged and wet, but they bore it well. . . .

"The Phalanx, the Lancaster Yagers and the Pequea Rangers, are all quartered in a very convenient house, close to Elkton. Their intention is to stay about three weeks at all events, when, if no danger appears, they will return; but if necessity should require it, they will stay longer.'

"The Lancaster Journal of Thursday, June 10th, 1813, stated:

"It will be gratifying to the citizens of Lancaster to know that the volunteers from this place and from Pequea have during their short campaign [in Elkton] conducted themselves with strict propriety.'

"The citizens of Elkton, in order to express their gratitude to the volunteers from Lancaster county, gave them an excellent dinner at the house of a Mr. Alexander on Saturday, May 22nd, 1813. Brigadier General Forman presided. . . .

"The patriotic volunteers arrived in Lancaster on Thursday, May 27th, after an absence of two weeks, having been honorably discharged when their services were no longer considered necessary."¹⁵

In Vol. 12, pp. 663-4, of the Second Series of the Pennsylvania Archives, appears a letter written by N. B. Boileau, secretary of the Commonwealth, to Capt. James Humes, which is as follows:

"Harrisburg, Pa.,

"May 13th, 1813.

"To Capt. James Humes:

"Sir:

"Yours to the governor, of yesterday, was received by this day's mail. The governor highly applauds the patriotism of the volunteer companies of Lancaster in marching to assist their fellow-citizens of Maryland in repelling the wanton aggression of a cruel and vindictive enemy. Acting, as you have done, under the impulse of patriotic feeling, you merit, and most assuredly have, the applause of your country. But it is to be regretted that under existing laws the meed of virtue can be your only reward, except it be from the State of Maryland or the United States, the governor not being competent, upon his own authority, to order militia out of the limits of the State. It is presumed you did not conceive yourselves as acting under the provisions of the second section of the supplement to the military law passed March 29th last.

"Accept assurances of my most ardent desire for your success, honor and personal safety.

"N. B. Boileau,

"Secretary."

The Lancaster Phalanx consisted of sixty-three officers and

¹⁵ Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser, Saturday, May 29th, 1813.

men, as follows: Captain, James Humes; Lieutenant, John Jefferies; Ensign, D. Reigert; Sergeants, M. Musser and George Hambright; Drummer, Joseph Forrey; Privates, Joseph Hubley, H. Huffnagle, Ch. Wentz, Thos. R. Jordan, John F. Steinman, Jr., Ch. Burg, Collin McCurdy, H. Carpenter, James Crawford, S. Schwartz, Wm. Heitshue, D. Nauman, Robert Christy, Jno. Getz, Jas. Heiser, M. Gross, Jr., Jno. Eberman, J. S. Espy, F. Klein, Wm. Hambright, S. Hoverstick, Thos. W. Thomson, A. R. Trissler, G. Weaver, D. Nelson, H. Eicholtz, F. Hambright, Jasp. Slaymaker, D. Lefevre, Peter Moyer, H. Diffenbach, Peter Forney, N. Lightner, D. Carpenter, B. Ober, Wm. Glenn, J. Bauch, J. F. Voight, W. Hensel, Philip Mayer, Jno. Upperman, Peter Howman, B. Haller, Jacob Frick, Ch. Hoverstick, Jno. Wind, H. E. Heinitsch, G. Hoff, Jr., C. H. Herbst, S. Fordney, Gottlieb Hassleman, Jno. Long, Conrad Schwartz, W. Keffer, Jos. Lechler, Samuel Carpenter, G. Mayer.¹⁶

On Saturday afternoon, May 29th, 1813, the members of the Lancaster artillery company, then being organized, were requested to meet at the tavern kept by William Pitt Atlee, for the purpose of electing officers. The Lancaster Journal of Thursday, June 3rd, 1813, contained an announcement that the members of the artillery company were to meet at Mr. Atlee's on Monday, June 7th. Those who wished to become members were to call at the tavern, where the list would be open until Monday evening.

The Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser of Saturday, July 31st, 1813, contained an announcement that James Madison, President of the United States, had issued a proclamation appointing Thursday, September 9th, 1813, to be observed as a day of public thanksgiving, humiliation and prayer.¹⁷

On September 10th, 1813, Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, on Lake Erie, won a victory over a British fleet that was as brilliant as it was decisive. He announced his triumph to General Harrison in a laconic dispatch which has become famous: "We have met the enemy, and they are ours; two ships, two brigs, one schooner, and one sloop."

¹⁶ The list was found among some old papers belonging to the late John F. Steinman and published in "Notes and Queries," 1900, p. 5, edited by William Henry Egle, M. D.

¹⁷ Messages and Papers of the Presidents, Vol. 1, pp. 532-3.

The *Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser* of Saturday, October 2nd, 1813, contained the following:

"Commodore Perry's excellent letter, announcing the capture of the enemy's fleet on Lake Erie, was received here about eight o'clock on the evening of the 24th ult. About nine, the ringing of bells announced the glorious news; the joyful citizens, with martial music and lighted candles, paraded the streets till near midnight, and a number of houses were illuminated.

"At four the next morning, the cheerful bells awoke the happy citizens; about ten, the volunteer companies of Captains Humes and Shippen, with an excellent band of music, enlivened our streets by firing repeated volleys in honor of the splendid victory; and in the evening, there was a general and splendid illumination."

The price of necessities increased as the war was continued. Brown sugar sold for thirty-two cents a pound in Lancaster during the latter part of the year 1813. This was on an average of twenty cents more than was paid in normal times.¹⁸

On Saturday, March 19th, 1814,—six months after Perry's brilliant victory—a superb picture, commemorating the battle, painted by the distinguished artist, Thomas Birch, was exhibited at Slaymaker's tavern, Lancaster. An agent was in attendance to receive subscriptions for an engraving of the painting, which was to be executed by Alexander Lawson and published by Joseph Delaplaine, of Philadelphia. The size of the engraving was to be 26 by 19 inches; the price to subscribers, five dollars; to others, eight.¹⁹

In the spring of 1814 about two hundred wagons, loaded with cotton, passed through Lancaster borough. Most of the wagons were from Savannah, Georgia; and the expense of transporting the cotton over land instead of by water, to the New England states, was tremendous.²⁰

The *Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser* of Saturday, April 2nd, 1814, announced:

"On Tuesday last, upwards of one hundred United States light dragoons, under the command of S. G. Hopkins, marched through this borough, on their way to Carlisle. They are stout, good-looking men, well dressed, and mounted on good horses."

¹⁸ Lancaster Journal, Friday, December 31st, 1813.

¹⁹ Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser, Saturday, March 19th, 1814.

²⁰ Lancaster Journal, Friday, May 20th, 1814.

The Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser of Saturday, August 6th, 1814, contained an announcement that the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, recommended to all the churches under its care that the third Thursday in August be observed as "a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer." The paper also stated that Governor Snyder had issued a proclamation earnestly recommending to Christians of every denomination in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to observe this day.

In the summer of 1814, the presence in Chesapeake Bay of a British fleet of war vessels and transports created a general alarm. It was feared (a fear which proved well founded) that the enemy was preparing to attack Washington or Baltimore. In this emergency, the President, through General Winder, commanding the Tenth Military District, made the following call on Governor Snyder for additional troops:²¹

"Washington, D. C.,
"August 18th, 1814.

"To His Excellency Simon Snyder, Governor of Pennsylvania:

"Sir:

"In consequence of the arrival of a large re-inforcement to the enemy at the mouth of the Potomac, I am authorized and directed by the President to require from you immediately the whole number of the militia of Pennsylvania designed for this district out of the requisition of July 4th last, to wit, five thousand men.

"The letter of Secretary Boileau (see August 11th) has just reached me. It is to be deplored that the situation of the militia of your State is such as Boileau represents. The spirit, however, of the people will, I hope, in this awful crisis, supply all defects of laws by voluntarily rallying them around the standard of their country.

"The danger to the capital of our country is extreme; and I am authorized by the President, without regard to the designated quotas of the late requisition, to call such militia aid as may be necessary. In the present state of things, therefore, and the imminent danger which threatens my district, I must beg you to call out and send to me, from the counties nearest my district, either as volunteers or in any other manner, all the force you can detach. This requisition, from the situation of your militia and the pressing urgency of the occasion, is not clothed in the form which more leisure and a better arrangement of the militia would permit and require; but since we must rely, it seems, principally upon the voluntary form, I have been unlimited,

²¹ Ellis and Evans, p. 76.

because I fear, with all the efforts which can be made, the number obtained will be short of the demand.

"I am, Sir, with very great respect,

"Your obedient servant,

"William H. Winder.

"Brigadier-General Commanding

"Tenth Military District."

The situation was serious. In Washington, the national capitol buildings had been put to the torch shortly after the above letter was written—on August 24th and 25th—by the British forces; and Baltimore was threatened. Simon Snyder, governor of Pennsylvania, on August 26th ordered five thousand men of militia organizations to rendezvous at York on September 5th.²² In his orders of August 26th, the governor said: "The militia, generally, within the counties of Dauphin, Lebanon, Berks, Schuylkill, York, Adams, Lancaster, and that part of Chester county which constitutes the Second brigade of the Third division, and those corps, particularly, which, when danger first threatened, patriotically tendered their services in the field, are earnestly invited to rise (as on many occasions Pennsylvania has heretofore done) superior to local feeling and evasives that might possibly be drawn from an imperfect military system, and to repair with that alacrity which duty commands, and, it is fondly hoped, inclination will prompt, to the several places of brigade or regimental rendezvous that shall respectively be designated by the proper officer, and thence to march to the place of general rendezvous."²³

In Ellis and Evans' History of Lancaster County, p. 77, is the following:

"The Lancaster county troops who rendezvoused at York under the orders of August 22nd and 26th, were the companies of Captains William Hamilton, Adam Diller, George Hambright, Jacob Snyder, George Heitzelberger, Thomas Huston, Thomas R. Buchanan (from Maytown), Jacob Grosh (Marietta Grays), John Robinson and Henry Good."

When news of the burning at Washington of the government buildings of the United States reached Lancaster, a general town meeting was called.

²² Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Vol. 12, p. 739.

²³ Ibid. p. 739.

The Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser of Saturday, September 3rd, 1814, contained the following:

"At a very large and respectable meeting of the citizens of the borough of Lancaster, convened by public notice at the court house on Monday, August 29th, 1814, John Hubley was called to the chair, and Samuel White appointed secretary. The following preamble and resolutions were read and unanimously adopted:

"Whereas, it appears, by the general orders of the governor of Pennsylvania, that the capital of the United States has recently been destroyed by a haughty and powerful enemy, who threatens the conflagration of the metropolis of a sister State; and whose conduct warrants an opinion that an attack is also meditated on the shores of the Delaware; and

"Whereas, his excellency has, under these circumstances, thought proper to direct that the militia, generally, within the eastern counties of Pennsylvania, should be immediately called into actual service; and

"Whereas, it is the duty of every American, who regards the safety and happiness of his country at such an alarming crisis, to aid and assist in bringing forth the physical force of the people. Therefore,

"Resolved, That it be recommended to the free and able-bodied citizens of this borough and county, particularly, to form themselves into volunteer companies, as expeditiously as possible, to march at a moment's warning; and to the militia, to hold themselves in readiness to march, as soon as the requisite orders are issued by the constituted authorities, to any place where their services may be most wanted.

"Resolved, That the volunteer companies of this borough, commanded by Captains William Hamilton and George Hambright, be authorized to procure every necessary article of camp equipage without delay: and we who are here present do authorize the corporation to borrow any sum of money, not exceeding 2000 dollars; to be reimbursed by the governor of the Commonwealth, upon the production of the proper vouchers.

"Resolved, That the citizens of this borough, who are exempted from militia duty, or who, from peculiar circumstances, cannot leave home, will form themselves into associations for the safety of the place, and the well-being of the families of those who have stepped out in defense of our invaded country, during their absence.

"Resolved, That the spirited young men of this place, and all others who rushed, without orders, to the assistance of their fellow-citizens at Baltimore, deserve the thanks of this meeting and the gratitude of their country.

"Resolved, That a committee be appointed for each ward in the borough, to collect such military apparatus as may aid or assist the volunteers of this borough to march to Baltimore forthwith; that they be deposited at the court house tomorrow morning before ten o'clock; where such as are wanted will be receipted for and appraised, and such as are not wanted may be taken back by the owners, viz.: such articles as rifles, blankets, powder horns, knapsacks, etc.

"Resolved, That James Humes, John Bomberger, Michael Graeff and John Passmore, be the committee for the north-east ward; David R. Barton, Benj. Grimler, John Myer and George Trissler, for the north-west ward; Nathaniel Lightner, Jeremiah Mosher, Leonard Eichholtz and Henry Diffenbach, for the south-east ward; George Morry, George Krug, John F. Steinman, Jr. and John Reitzel, for the south-west ward.

"Resolved, That these proceedings be signed by the chairman and secretary; and that one thousand copies be immediately published in hand bills, and distributed through the borough and county, for general information."

The martial ardor and patriotic spirit manifested at this time in Lancaster county is indicated by the following, which is taken from a sketch of Jacob Grosh, published in Harris's Biographical History of Lancaster County:

"When Washington city was captured, the capitol and its records burned, and other cities threatened, his [Grosh's] blood boiled within him and he contributed liberally to send a company of drafted men to Baltimore. Soon after, Governor Snyder issued a proclamation calling for volunteers, and sent a copy, with a letter, appealing to Mr. Grosh to give it his influence. He at once hired a town-crier to go through the streets [of Marietta], read the proclamation, and call a town meeting for that evening. At the meeting he made a warm appeal and called for volunteers. Over eighty gave their names on the spot, uniform and name ('Marietta Greys') were agreed on, and money subscribed to equip the men and provide for needy families. The principal work and cost soon rested on Mr. Grosh, who was unanimously chosen captain; John Pedan, first lieutenant; John Huss, second lieutenant; and J. Albright, ensign. On the fourth day after receiving the governor's proclamation, 107 men were uniformed and marched for their destination. They were mustered in as 'Ninth Company, Second Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, L. Infantry,' commanded by Col. Lewis Bache. As cold weather came on, the captain [Grosh] purchased one hundred blankets at eight dollars a pair, for which he never made any claim on the government. While in camp, commanding men who were associates and friends, and some his social superiors, he lived on the same fare and bore the same privations and restraints, and thus secured their cheerful obedience to his orders and submission to the hardships of camp.

"The women of Marietta assembled in a school house and made garments and knapsacks for the volunteers in Captain Grosh's company, so that when the men left their homes to march to Marcus Hook, they went fully equipped."

The Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser of Saturday, September 3rd, 1814, contained the following:

"On Saturday last [August 27th], a number of patriotic young men of this borough, headed by Henry Shippen, Esq., mounted their horses, armed with swords, pistols, etc., and marched for Baltimore, without waiting for formal orders, to aid in defending that place.

"On Sunday and Tuesday [August 28th and 30th], about 120 volunteer riflemen, commanded by Captains Buchanan and Dickson, marched from Marietta and Maytown, for the same laudable purpose, without waiting for orders. And about 100 more, in the same neighborhood, have formed a company this week, elected Jacob Grosh, Esq., their captain, and are expected to march to-morrow, for Philadelphia.

"On Sunday, about 50, under Capt. Cloyd, marched from Columbia, for Baltimore.

"Capt. William Hamilton's Volunteer Riflemen, 110, and Capt. George Hambright's Light Infantry, nearly 100, all in uniform and well equipped, will march from this borough, for Baltimore, this morning.

"The detached militia of this county, near 1500 men, will march for York tomorrow; and thence by orders of Gen. Winder.

"May the God of armies shield all our brave fellows in battle!"

On the day following the issuance of Governor Snyder's order for the rendezvousing of five thousand troops at York, William Hamilton, editor and proprietor of the Lancaster Journal, tendered the services of his company [the Volunteer Riflemen], which the governor accepted in the following terms:

"Harrisburg, Pa.,
"August 27th, 1814.

"To Captain William Hamilton:

"Sir:

"The tender of service by you and the other gentlemen composing the corps, is cheerfully accepted by the governor, who directs me to express to you, and through you, to the company, the high sense he feels of your patriotism exhibited at this alarming crisis. You are hereby authorized to purchase the requisite number of rifles to supply the company, the expense of which will be immediately paid at the treasury, on the production of the necessary vouchers for their having been delivered to you. The earlier you march the more gratifying it would be to the governor. The commissions will be made out with the least possible delay and forwarded to you. A letter was written to Major Light yesterday requesting his immediate presence at this place for the purpose, among other things, of furnishing him with the means of defraying any expenses that may be incurred in the performance of his duties. By him I hope to have the opportunity of sending the commissions.

"Very respectfully sir,
"Your obedient servant,

"N. B. Boileau,
"Secretary."²⁴

The Lancaster Journal of Friday, September 9th, 1814, contained the following announcement:

"The printer of the Lancaster Journal having, at this interesting crisis, marched to assist in defending the country, it is hoped that those indebted to him will not hesitate to make payment at his office, in order that his agents may have funds to conduct the business in his absence."

The Lancaster Journal of this date also contained this interesting item:

"On Saturday last, the Lancaster Riflemen (about 120 in number) under the command of Captain William Hamilton, and the Lancaster Phalanx, (about 80 strong) commanded by Captain George Hambright, left this place for the general rendezvous at York. Seldom have we seen better looking or better equipped troops.

"On Sunday, the drafted militia of this borough, commanded by Captain Snyder, began their March for York, and on said day and during the week various handsomely uniformed companies of volunteers and militia from Berks county passed through here on their march to the above place. We cannot omit particularly to notice the handsome and well disciplined volunteer company of infantry from Carlisle, under command of Captain Halbert; as also the volunteer infantry company from Marietta, commanded by Captain Grosh—both of which arrived here on Tuesday last, and continued their march the following day for Philadelphia to assist in the defense of that place. Their appearance was truly martial.

"The rifle corps and infantry commanded by Captains Hamilton and Hambright, are encamped on the banks of the Codorus, near Yorktown, waiting for fresh orders. If orders do not arrive soon for the volunteer companies to march off in detachments, the volunteers will be organized into regiments."

The Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser of Saturday, September 10th, 1814, stated:

"On Saturday last, two fine companies of volunteers, under the command of Captains Hamilton and Hambright, amounting to about 200 men, marched from this borough, to assist in the defense of Baltimore. They were escorted out of town by an immense concourse of citizens, and accompanied by the best wishes of every friend to his country.

"Since Saturday last, nearly 1000 militia, and five companies of volunteers, of from eighty to one hundred stout, hardy men, each, have marched through this borough; some for York, and some for Philadelphia.

"Two companies of infantry and a troop of horse from sixty to seventy each, have marched from Carlisle. At Shippensburg, a company of ninety men was formed, and equipped at their own expense in three days, and marched on Tuesday last for Baltimore."

The Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser of Saturday, September 17th, 1814, contained the following:

"On hearing of the destruction of the capitol [at Washington], a number

of the most respectable young gentlemen of Lancaster armed themselves with swords and pistols, mounted their horses, and marched off in a few hours. They were joined by several others from Marietta and Columbia, and were the first Pennsylvania troops who entered Baltimore. They volunteered for ten days, and at the expiration thereof, for ten days more, and so on as long as Baltimore was in danger. Gen. Smith accepted their services, and ordered them under command of that brave and active officer, Major Ridgely, of the cavalry.

"All of them speak in the most exalted terms of their officers, and mention, with gratitude, the very polite and hospitable treatment they received, whilst in Maryland, as well from their companions in arms, as from the citizens. We publish the orders they received, on leaving service.

"Camp Stewart, near Washington,
"Sept. 7, 1814.

"Sir,

"The time for which your corps volunteered will have expired on the 8th inst and as we have no prospect, at present, of immediate or active service, you have permission to return to Baltimore, and report yourself to Maj. Gen. Smith.

"Permit me to tender my acknowledgments to yourself and the patriotic gentlemen of your corps, for your prompt and soldier-like conduct, since I have had the honor to command you; and accept the assurances of my highest respect and esteem.

"I am Sir, etc.

"Chs. Sterrit Ridgely, Major,
"3d Cavalry Regt. M.M."

"To Capt. Henry Shippen, commanding a corps of volunteers from Lancaster."

"Headquarters, Baltimore, Md.,
"September 8th, 1814.

"Sir,

"The term of service, for which you and the corps of volunteers under your command had engaged, having now expired, I pray you and them to accept my sincere acknowledgments for your patriotic services. Your prompt and soldier-like conduct has merited, and received, the approbation of your immediate commandant.

"I pray you to accept, for yourself and corps, the assurances of my high respect and esteem.

"I have the honor to be,

"S. Smith, Maj. Gen. Com'g."

"To Capt. Henry Shippen."

This same issue of the Intelligencer contained an announcement that was joyfully received in Lancaster. Under the heading, "Glorious News. Baltimore is Safe," appeared the following:

"Thursday evening, 5 o'clock, September 15th.

"An express has this moment arrived in Lancaster, with the gratifying intelligence that the British re-embarked, last night, on board their shipping, having found Baltimore better prepared for their reception than they expected. A smart skirmish or battle took place, at their landing; in which they sustained a considerable loss. Our loss was comparatively trifling; Fort McHenry was bombarded with vehemence, from their shipping, but without effect."

It will be recalled that on Sunday, September 11th, 1814, a British fleet of fifty sail entered the mouth of the Patapsco River, near the head of Chesapeake Bay; and the following day, a large force, under General Ross, was landed at North Point, fourteen miles from Baltimore. A battle ensued when the British forces moved forward to attack the city. They were opposed by a much smaller body of militia and volunteer soldiers of Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania, under the command of General Stricker. General Ross, the British commander, was killed and his troops repulsed. Failing in their attempt to capture the city by land, the enemy's fleet, on the evening of the next day (September 13th), began the bombardment of Fort McHenry on the Patapsco, near the Maryland metropolis, and again the attack was unsuccessful. It was on this eventful night that Francis Scott Key, temporarily detained as a prisoner on one of the British war-ships, anxiously watched through the darkness to see, by "the rocket's red glare," if "our flag was still there"—on the fort; and on the following morning, rejoicing to find that it still waved "o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave," he gave to his beloved country its noblest song of patriotism, "The Star-Spangled Banner."

The Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser of Saturday, September 17th, 1814, contained the following:

"TO THE CITIZENS OF LANCASTER.

"The company of volunteer infantry, from Landisburg, Cumberland county, which I have the honor to command, request me, in this public manner, to acknowledge their warmest and most grateful acknowledgments, for your attention shown to them, on their march to Philadelphia.

"John Creigh."

"Those patriotic ladies of Lancaster, who so generously and patriotically volunteered their services in the making of tents, knapsacks, etc., for equipping the Lancaster volunteers, will please accept the tender of their sincere acknowledgments, for their kind offices.

"The Carlisle volunteers, through their commander, Capt. Halbert, request

the citizens of Lancaster, and Messrs. Wilson and Cooper in particular, to accept their most sincere and grateful acknowledgments for the attention shown them on their march to Philadelphia."

The *Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser* of Saturday, October 8th, 1814, contained the following:

"Columbia, Pa.,

"September 30th, 1814.

"The Columbia Independent volunteers, who marched from this place on the 28th of August last, under command of Capt. James Clyde, for the defense of the city of Baltimore, were discharged from service on the 21st instant and returned to their homes on Saturday last.

"On their arrival at that city, they tendered their services to his excellency Major-General Smith, for a term not exceeding three months. They were accepted and attached to the 49th Regiment Maryland militia, under the command of Col. Veezey. After the precipitate retreat of the enemy, their services being no longer required, they were permitted, after an appropriate address from Brig. General Forman, to retire from service."

"Camp Hemstead Hill,

"Sept. 21, 1814.

"Extract from Brigade Orders.

"Capt. James Clyde, a volunteer, with 54 men from Pennsylvania, have been attached to Brig. Gen. Forman's brigade since the 2d inst. and are this day discharged by Maj. Gen. Smith, with a tender of thanks for their prompt and efficient assistance, at a moment of imminent danger. Brig. Gen. Forman, for himself, requests that Capt. Clyde and his men will accept his personal thanks, for the patience they have evinced under great fatigue and severe privations; and takes the opportunity to applaud their disposition to good order, and ready submission to military control.

"R. W. Armstrong, Brig. Maj."

On Thursday evening, September 29th, a meeting was held at Jacob Slough's White Swan tavern for the purpose of paying tribute to the memory of Col. James Gibson, of the Fourth Regiment of United States Riflemen, who was killed on September 17th, while bravely leading his men at the storming of the British batteries near Fort Erie. Out of respect for his memory those who attended the meeting promised to wear crape on the left arm for thirty days. Robert Coleman was the chairman of the meeting, and the resolutions which were passed were signed by James Buchanan.

A similar meeting of the Lancaster Borough Regiment of militia was held on the same evening at the house of Samuel Slav-

maker. The members voted to wear crape on the left arm for thirty days in memory of the late Col. James Gibson. Jeremiah Mosher, a soldier of the Revolutionary War, was chairman of the meeting, and George Mayer secretary.²⁵

The Lancaster Journal of Friday, October 14th, 1814, contained the following:

"All the Riflemen of the Pennsylvania Line, in the neighborhood of Baltimore, are formed into one corps. It is expected that they will amount to five or six hundred men. They will be detached in advance of the army under the command of Lieut. Colonel William Hamilton, who has been appointed for that purpose."

The Lancaster Journal of Friday, December 9th, 1814, contained this brief announcement:

"The Lancaster Riflemen, the Washington Riflemen, the Chester county Riflemen and the Lancaster Phalanx arrived in this place on Tuesday last from Baltimore."

The Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser of Saturday, December 10th, contained a fuller account, as follows:

"On Tuesday last, the volunteers and militia of this borough, who had been on duty at Baltimore, about three months, returned home. They were met, a few miles from town, by a number of their fellow-citizens on horseback, and, at a short distance, by many more on foot, and escorted to the court house; where, after being welcomed by the hearty huzzas of the multitude, they were dismissed.

"We observed, with pleasure, that the troops were in good health, their arms and accoutrements in complete order, and their appearance perfectly military."

Thursday, January 12th, 1815, was proclaimed by President James Madison to be observed as a day of public humiliation, fasting and prayer.²⁶

On January 8th, 1815, General Andrew Jackson was victorious at the battle of New Orleans. Owing to the slow methods of communication of that day, particulars of the battle did not reach Lancaster until Friday, February 10th,—more than a month later.²⁷ On the evening of the following day, Saturday, "the borough was handsomely illuminated by the citizens, in testimony of their joy

²⁵ Lancaster Journal, Friday, October 7th, 1814.

²⁶ Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser, Saturday, January 7th, 1815.

²⁷ Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser, Saturday, February 11th, 1815.

and gratitude to the good Governor of the universe for His extraordinary preservation of our brave defenders, under command of General Jackson, from the ferocious attack of a desperate and veteran enemy, near New Orleans."²⁸

Peace was signed in Ghent, Belgium, on December 24th, 1814, but Lancastrians did not receive the good news until nearly two months later. The Lancaster Journal of Friday, February 17th, stated that the joyful news of peace reached New York on Saturday evening, February 11th. The succeeding issue of the paper contained the following:

"The confirmation of the news of peace having arrived here on Monday night last [February 20th], the following morning was ushered in by the ringing of bells and the beat of the reveille. All business appeared to be suspended, except that of providing transparencies and decorations for the evening's illumination, which was general, and was superior in brilliancy to any we have ever witnessed.

"The jubilee was continued on Wednesday in honor of the immortal 'Father of his Country' [Washington's birthday]. The different volunteer companies paraded and performed many evolutions and firings in a truly soldier-like manner. They were accompanied by a band of music, composed of gentlemen amateurs. The ringing of bells, the repeated volleys of rifles, musketry and pistols, the variety of music and the shouts of the populace, were calculated to fill the mind with extraordinary emotions.

"An appropriate and excellent oration was delivered in the court house to the Washington Association, pursuant to their request, by Jasper Slaymaker, Esq., after which about eighty members of the association sat down to an elegant dinner at the house of Col. Slough.

"In the evening, a splendid ball was given at Mr. Cooper's [Red Lion tavern] which was attended by a large and brilliant assemblage of ladies and gentlemen.

"It gives us pleasure to add, that in the rejoicings of two or three days, no accident of importance has occurred and the utmost harmony has prevailed."²⁹

The Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser of Saturday, February 25th, 1815, contained the following account of the reception of the news of peace in Lancaster:

"On Tuesday last, having received the President's ratification of the treaty of peace, the inhabitants of this borough expressed their grateful joy, by the ringing of bells, and the display of colors, through the day; and, in the

²⁸ Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser, Saturday, February 18th, 1815.

²⁹ Lancaster Journal, Friday, February 24th, 1815.

evening, by a brilliant illumination of their houses; in many of which were exhibited appropriate mottoes, and emblematical transparencies and decorations.

"On Wednesday, being the anniversary of the birth of George Washington, the ringing of bells and display of flags were continued. About 10 o'clock, three companies of volunteer foot, and a troop of horse, paraded; and being joined by the officers of the regiment, in uniform, marched through the principal streets, performing a variety of military evolutions and firings. To enable the ladies to partake in the pleasures of the joyous occasion, a handsome ball was given in the evening."

It should cause a thrill of patriotic pride in the heart of every loyal citizen of Lancaster to read of these noble, self-sacrificing men who once walked our streets or tilled our soil, and who were willing to leave their homes and loved ones, and risk their lives, in order that their country might continue to be a free and independent nation.

It is the rare privilege of our Lancaster County Historical Society to perpetuate the memory of their devoted service; and surely it is demanded of us that we seek to emulate all that was noblest in their lives and do our utmost to make our God-favored land worthy of its inspiring traditions and of its heroic men and women of 1812-14!

THE CONESTOGA COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE AND ITS FOUNDER

By MARY J. BRUNING

THE REV. DR. H. H. BRUNING, founder and principal of the Conestoga Collegiate Institute, was born in Baltimore, Md. He was one of the first graduates of the public high school or City College, and was distinguished as a linguist, having mastered seven languages, of which he became instructor in his native city. In later years, he studied about as many more, to the extent that he was able to administer the Holy Sacraments to foreigners, in their own language, when they came to our shores. Why he came