

fore removing to the site of Shippensburg and later permanently to the young town of York, certainly entitle the recording in the Proceedings of our Society the information herein contained; and should give to this community the honor of claiming another signer of that immortal document, at least to the extent cited in connection with Mr. Smith's life in Lancaster.

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## FLAG PRESENTED TO LANCASTER FENCIBLES IN 1841

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

In Vol. XXXV, pp. 73-89, of the Proceedings of The Lancaster County Historical Society is an article entitled, "Flag Presented to Lancaster Fencibles in 1842." Since that article was published I have discovered in a local newspaper that another flag handsomely decorated by a local artist was presented to the Lancaster Fencibles in the fall of 1841, nine months before the beautiful standard—a gift of the citizens of Baltimore, Md.,—was presented to this local military company.

The Lancaster Intelligencer and Journal of Tuesday, October 5th, 1841, contained an announcement that a beautiful flag, painted by Mr. J. H. Brown,<sup>1</sup> was presented on the preceding day by the ladies of Lancaster to the Lancaster Fencibles. The interesting ceremony took place at the door of the residence of Mrs. Brown, presumably the mother of the artist, who lived on East King street. There was a large assemblage of people present on this occasion and the ceremonies were very interesting. George M. Kline<sup>2</sup> at that time a law student addressed the company on the part of the ladies as follows:

"Lancaster Fencibles:

"The ladies of your city this day present you these colors, and it is a gratification to me that I am able, in their name, to express the feelings of pleasure this interesting occasion calls forth. It is with pride they have witnessed the spirit that induced, and the patriotism that prompted you in the formation of this company; and while they regard you now, in the calm of

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<sup>1</sup>James H. Bryson's directory of Lancaster city published in 1843, lists "Henry J. Brown, artist, south-west corner East King [street] and Centre square." This is undoubtedly the artist who decorated the flag, but unfortunately the directory lists him as "Henry J." while the newspaper account refers to him as "J. H." The directory erred in stating that he lived on the south-west corner of East King and Centre [Penn.] square because there is no south-west corner of East King street and Penn square.

<sup>2</sup>George M. Kline was admitted to the Lancaster bar in 1842. See Mombert's "Authentic History of Lancaster county," published in 1869, p. 432.

peace, as reflecting honor on your city, they know and feel, should occasion ever require you to leave your peaceful pursuits for the sterner duties of the tented field, there is not one breast but would respond with patriotic emotion and be found rallying round this sacred standard, faithful to its trust, its country, and its holy cause. In that trying hour, animated with the same immortal fire, among this gallant band, may there be found a Jasper, who, when the glorious stars and stripes of his country were swept away with the enemy's artillery heedless of impending death, leaped from the towering battlements, and seizing upon his country's standard, dearer to him than life, amid the flame and thunder of the battle, restored them to their proud stations, exclaiming, 'God save Liberty and my country forever.' To you, then, citizen soldiers, the ladies of Lancaster, entrust this sacred charge, proud of the occasion, and with the firm conviction that while the Lancaster Fencibles exist, these colors will never be dishonored; where they are, there will you be; while under your protection, either in the hour of peace or amid the din of battle and the strife of arms, they will zealously be preserved unsullied and untarnished."

John K. Findlay, Esq., a member of the local bar, and captain of the Lancaster Fencibles, replied as follows:

"For the beautiful and tasteful present which our fair townswomen have been pleased to bestow upon the Lancaster Fencibles, I beg them, to accept, through you our warm and grateful acknowledgments. The soldier's flag, the sacred emblem which waves over him when he triumphs, and falls him when he falls, is doubly sacred in his eyes when it is the gift of his virtuous countrywomen. His noblest duty is discharged when, at the call of his wronged and insulted country, he assists in preserving unmolested by the din of arms that honored sex who, as mothers, wives, or daughters, inspire the tenderest affections. You have called us 'citizen soldiers,' and we are proud of the name. It is our humble endeavor to show that the duties of the soldier may be learned without neglecting or forgetting those of the citizen, and that a voluntary submission to the strictest military discipline is not incompatible with the proud independence of an American freeman. The honor which has this day been conferred upon us imposes upon us the duty of preserving the sacred gift, pure and unsullied as the honor of the fair donors. In peace it will bind us to the performance of our moral and social duties, and if ever it should float over the cloud of war, we trust that those who continue beneath it will, by the blessing of Heaven, strike manfully for 'God and our native land.'"

The Lancaster Intelligencer and Journal of Tuesday, October 5th, 1841, contained a description of the standard which is as follows:

"The flag is of sky-blue silk, trimmed with silk and silver bullion. The staff is surmounted with a richly-chased silver spear, on one side of which, beautifully engraved, are the names of the officers, and on the other these words, 'Presented by the Ladies of Lancaster, to the Lancaster Fencibles, October 4th, 1841.' The painting is splendid; and, while we feel no desire to flatter the young artist beyond his just merits, yet we should be alone among

those who are judges, as well as among the public, who have seen this first effort, if we did not express our warm admiration of the skill, taste and judgment, which are displayed in this gorgeous banner, and say, in addition, that it is a performance that has rarely been excelled anywhere. The designs are as follows:

"On one side is 'The Downfall of Tyranny'—an original idea of Mr. Brown's. It represents the oppressor, with pale ashen countenance, extended prostrate and dead, beneath the feet of the Genius of Liberty, who stands beautifully erect, her face lit up with a smile, not of merciless triumph, but glowing with a sweet expression of confidence and pride that her own beloved land has at last overpowered the tyrant. In her left hand she holds the ever glorious 'Stars and Stripes,' the bright folds of which float in easy grace around her form, while the staff is appropriately planted on the breast of the prostrate oppressor. In her right hand she grasps a drawn Roman sword. She is arrayed in a coat of mail, with helmet and plume, sandals, etc., the full Roman costume, her countenance rendered singularly expressive by this rich dress, and the golden curls which fall on either side of her face. In the back ground is the American Eagle looking at the prostrate figure of the tyrant. The idea is rendered even more striking by the broken sceptre and shattered crown lying at the feet of the figure, while the chain of the slave, rent in twain, gives the spectator a conception at once of the impression intended to be conveyed by the painter. This design is quite an original one of Mr. Brown's. In one corner is a handsome scroll work surrounded with twenty-six stars, inscribed, '*Pro Patria.*'

"On the other side is a design which might not be inaptly termed: 'The Consummation of Liberty.' It is the Genius of Freedom (a female figure again, possessing a countenance of exquisite beauty), seated gracefully on the globe, which seems to rise from the breaking clouds, the halo encircling the brow of the figure and one side of the globe, occasioned by the American star, which, from the rich light in the distance, may be seen rising. The figure is habited in a snow white dress, holding in one hand a scroll inscribed, 'Presented by the Ladies of Lancaster, October 4th, 1841,' while the other rests lightly on the American Eagle, which with wings ready-plumed for flight, stands on the globe, at her side, holding in its beak a streamer, inscribed, '*E Pluribus Unum: Lancaster Fencibles.*' She is resting on that portion of the globe, now called the United States, while that portion which is lit with the rich light of the rising star, discloses the names of Oregon Territory and the Columbia river—the figure seeming to say, 'These too will I people with my children—here too shall my banner wave—and here shall my proud principles triumph.' The same scroll work decorates one corner of this side of the flag which we have described for the other."

It would be interesting to learn what has become of this flag. If it is still in existence it should be preserved in Lancaster County's new museum when that fireproof structure is erected.