

Unveiling of the Tablet Commemorating the Bicentennial of the James Wright House and the Sesquicentennial of the Borough of Columbia, Pennsylvania

By ELIZABETH F. G. HIESTAND

a Five Great Granddaughter of John Wright

Paraphrasing the words of the old familiar song, "The sun shone bright on the old James Wright home" on Sunday, September 25, 1938, when the Lancaster County Historical Society unveiled a bronze tablet placed on the wall of this old stone mansion during the Sesquicentennial of Columbia.

This tablet was designed and worded by Dr. Herbert H. Beck, president of the Lancaster County Historical Society; rather a difficult task wording it so as to honor the father, John Wright, through the son, James. The tablet reads as follows: "Wright Mansion, Built 1738-41 by James, a son of John Wright, 1667-1749. The enterprising and resourceful pioneer who in 1729 named Lancaster County and in 1730 founded near the present bridge Wright's Ferry, for many years the main gateway into the expanding West. Erected for the Bicentennial of this Historic House and the Sesquicentennial of Columbia by the Lancaster County Historical Society, 1938."

John Wright was a man who stood out among men in the times in which he lived. He was born in Lancashire, England, in the year 1667 of parents who had a high reputation in the community in which they lived. They were of the faith then called "Quakers" in derision. They were amongst the earliest and most prominent professors of this faith, and enjoyed the intimate acquaintance of George Fox, the founder of the sect. Their son, John, was trained in their doctrines and customs. He was educated with a view to the practice of medicine, but his tastes did not run in that direction, and he refused to pursue it. His fancy was rather in mercantile ways, and he soon entered into trade, which he pursued with some success. He also became noted amongst his brethren as a preacher, and a man of great fluency of speech, and eloquence. In 1714, hearing of the new world and its opportunities from those of his friends who were already there, he removed to Pennsylvania, and joined the community of "Friends," then located in Chester County. He brought with him a certificate of the highest character from his old friends in the community where he had lived, to those of their acquaintances in the new world. On his arrival in this country, he again entered into trade, and kept a store in Chester. Soon his high character, his fluency of speech, and oratorical powers, brought him into public notice. The people of his community elected him to the General Assembly, and this public career, so honorably begun in the year 1718, lasted with few interruptions until the year 1740. He continued to be elected to and attended the Assemblies, till broken health and an advanced age rendered such attendance difficult, and

sometimes impracticable; although the people among whom he lived, from a long experience of his services and regard to him, would not be prevailed upon, by himself or his family, to name another in his stead, but continued to return his name till he died.

Coupled with his services in the Legislature, he was appointed a Judge of the Courts of Lancaster and Chester Counties. He served in this capacity for twenty years. In his station of Judge for Lancaster County, he was noted for a prompt, honest plainness and candor, and inflexible integrity.

There is one signal instance of this in the cause and manner of his dismissal from office in 1741. During the administration of Governor Thomas, it became the custom to enlist, or rather to impress, indented or bought servants for soldiers to serve in the Spanish wars; this and other violations of the ancient usages of the Province, aroused the independent members of the Assembly to a strong opposition. John Wright was a leader of this opposition, and together with his friend, Samuel Blunston, spoke most earnestly and eloquently against these arbitrary measures, and in them, we can perceive the fire of patriotism, which a few years later, flashed up into a flame of revolution. With the notion of personal Government which prevailed at this time—Governor Thomas, determined to deprive him of his commission as Judge of the Courts. Wright, however, got news of the intention of the Governor before the commission reached the county, and so he came into Court in May, 1741, and took his leave of it in a remarkable speech, ending with these words, "For this cause, my friends and countrymen, for this cause of English liberty, for standing in civil defense of right and property, are we dismissed; and I rejoice, and am glad that I am one of those who were thought worthy of displeasure. And now to conclude, I take my leave in the words of a Judge of Israel. 'Here am I, witness against me, whom have I defrauded; whom have I oppressed, or of whose hands have I received any bribe to blind my eye therewith, and I will restore it.' May the Prince of Peace, who is the King of Kings, protect the people of this Province; from domestic foes, and foreign enemies; is my hearty desire, and so I bid you all farewell."

It would be difficult to find, in all the range of English literature, a specimen of the oratorical art, more simple, direct and finished than this address of John Wright, to the Grand Jurors of Lancaster County, twenty-five years before the Revolution began. This speech can be found published in full in the Archives of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg.

John Wright, in his capacity of preacher whilst living in Chester County, had visited the Indian settlements, and thus probably became acquainted with the section of the country which was eventually to become his home. Later in 1726, coming up the Susquehanna with Samuel Blunston and Robert Barber, and with them taking up grants of land from William Penn, and settling there in what is now Columbia. He had been largely instrumental in having this part of what was then Chester County created into a separate county called Lancaster, after the section of England from which he came. He built

his dwelling on a lovely spot overlooking the Susquehanna River, on what is now Second Street, in the Borough of Columbia. It was built of logs, hickory, white and Spanish oak, and black walnut. For many years, the house was one of the landmarks of old Columbia. It is to be regretted, that this ancient building, and so many others which marked that heroic age in our history, have disappeared to be supplanted by more pretentious, but less comfortable structures.

One of his greatest achievements was the establishing and conducting of the famous Wright's Ferry, one of the earliest over the Susquehanna River, taking out the grant for same in 1730. The first ferry was just Indian canoes lashed together, and wagons had to be unhitched and unloaded to be carried across. Later there were six flat boats, which would carry "two Conestoga Wagons, two horses and two foot passengers." His son, John, operated the Wrightsville side and conducted the hotel there. This ferry was in great demand, being part of the great highway to the West for the pioneers, and often there would be a line of teams, waiting to be ferried across, extending as far as the present site of Third and Locust Streets.

John Wright died in 1749 at his home in the 83rd year of his age. He left five children: Susannah, Patience, John, Elizabeth and James. The last of these, James, is the one whose home the Historical Society was honoring with this tablet.

The Mansion was built about 1738-1741. The original plan has not been altered. The old gray stone, with the many paned, wavy glass windows, stood among the old trees facing the Susquehanna River. As the town grew and changed, the front of the house was made the back, and the part which now fronts on Second Street was originally the back of the house. The old double wooden door is still in its place, shaded by a quaint old porch entrance with seats on either side. A hall in the center, running through the house towards the river, has rooms on either side whose broad windows look out like so many blinking eyes, and which seem to say, "Years may come and years may go, but I'll stand firm forever."

So to this old Mansion on this bright Sunday afternoon came Wright descendants and relatives, friends and members of the Lancaster County and and many other Historical Societies. More than five hundred guests were in attendance.

The tablet, described above, is placed on the left side of the entrance as you approach the house. It was covered with the American flag. The president of the Society, Dr. Herbert H. Beck, presided with his usual dignity over the ceremony. A bugler sounded the call for silence and the Rev. Douglas Cloud, pastor of the neighboring Methodist Church, gave the opening prayer. Doctor Beck then gave a short talk, saying that this was the first time that the Historical Society had honored the Hempfield Townships and the Quakers, and it seemed fitting that the name of the great Quaker, who came so early to the shores of the Susquehanna and who laid out and named the county,

should be so honored. Doctor Beck then introduced little Miss Joan Cuddy, a lineal descendant of John Wright, who would unveil the tablet. She was so tiny that she had to have help in unfastening the flag, but she smilingly reached up as far as she could and pulled it away, amid the applause of the audience.

MAJOR DETWILER PRESENTS TABLET

Owing to the absence of Major General Shannon, Major W. Sanderson Detwiler presented the tablet with the following remarks:

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Since your distinguished townsman, Major General Edward C. Shannon, is compelled to be out of the city on a military mission, I have been asked to act as his proxy in the presentation of this historical plaque. Naturally, I accepted with alacrity, as it is always an honor to serve my former commander.

For those of you who may have forgotten certain incidents in the history of Lancaster County, I might say that John Wright, Quaker, was born in Lancashire, England, in 1667, and after his arrival in this country in 1714, immediately became a respected and influential citizen.

After serving in various important positions of trust in Philadelphia, he moved westward and located on the Susquehanna River in this vicinity and became an enterprising and resourceful pioneer. In fact, it was through his foresight and energy this virgin country was developed to a high degree.

In the year 1729, John Wright had the honor of naming the county, Lancaster—erected from Old Chester. He chose Lancaster for the reason that he was proud of the shire from whence he came. Then in 1730, he founded Wright's Ferry, for many years the main gateway into the expanding west, and I might also add, into the south as well.

I shall not say more on the subject of John Wright as your distinguished guest speaker will, no doubt, give you a detailed history of this famous Quaker.

This town of Columbia has a rich historical background. It was first named Shawnee Town by the Indians, later Wright's Ferry, then on September 25, 1788, one hundred and fifty years ago today, John Wright's grandson, Samuel, named the town Columbia. Why he selected the name Columbia is not definitely known. It might have been named for the discoverer of America or after the cities of Columbus or Columbia, at least both names were popular with the colonists at that time. Then too, this thriving town was conceived to be the capitol of the United States.

The Lancaster County Historical Society has an interesting way of perpetuating the Past—so it saw fit to erect this beautiful bronze plaque

on this famous Wright mansion, in commemoration of John Wright, and in celebration of the Bicentennial of this house and the Sesquicentennial of Columbia.

Therefore, in the name of the Lancaster County Historical Society, I present this plaque to the citizens of Columbia.

The Choir of the Methodist Church sang a patriotic anthem, after which Mr. Emmett Rasbridge, son of the owner of the mansion, accepted the tablet. Mr. Rasbridge said that his mother had always desired to own the house, but had never been in a position to purchase it until some years ago, hearing it was to be torn down and the site used for a coal yard, she had accomplished her desire. She repaired the house very carefully, making few changes except the necessary ones for comfortable living. He said he had always appreciated living in the old house, but even more so after a recent visit to Williamsburg, Virginia, where he went through the old Bassett House there, and he was amazed to see how similar it was in construction to his home in Columbia, and so in the name of his mother, Mrs. Carrie Rasbridge, he accepted the tablet and thanked the Historical Society.

At this time Doctor Beck introduced the speaker of the afternoon, former Senator Joseph R. Grundy. Doctor Beck said, as we were honoring a great Quaker, that he was delighted to introduce as our principal speaker a man of Quaker descent, who would tell us about the early Quakers of a neighboring state.

WHAT AMERICAN LIBERTY OWES TO THE QUAKERS

The Hon. Joseph R. Grundy spoke as follows:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Friends of Pennsylvania are happy to participate in this Sesquicentennial of the Borough of Columbia, which has played no small part in the history of a great Commonwealth.

Many years have passed since William Penn asked the Crown of England to repay the debt which he had inherited from his father, by conveying to him this section of America which subsequently became Pennsylvania.

The noble Quaker could not have dreamed of the future of either this Nation or this State when he took title to the land south of the New York boundary, north of the Maryland line, and west of the Delaware river, on June 24, 1680. No man could have seen the America of today. No man could have foretold the part these colonies were destined to play in the history of the world. And no man could have envisioned the mighty nation of today which dominates the Western Hemisphere, to which William Penn sailed from Deal in 1682.

And so I consider it a privilege to retell in a brief address how a seeming irrelevant move of Fate—a quarrel over the division of a part

of what is now New Jersey—became one of the important factors indirectly leading to the settlement of this domain. Settlement, of course, was bound to come. But that it should have been by the Quakers, under William Penn, certainly can be traced pretty definitely to the aforesaid quarrel over what is now the southern section of our neighboring state across the Delaware.

And from this same situation there was derived, also, practically all of the fundamental principles which—more than a hundred years later—were written into the so-called Bill of Rights as a part of our Federal Constitution. We can trace briefly those facts which may be considered first to have inspired, and then to have developed and sharpened, Penn's interest in this domain.

James, Duke of York, had acquired from his brother, Charles the Second, that vast section of land south of the Hudson and east of the Delaware, which we now know as New Jersey. And in June, 1664, James deeded this land to Lord Berkeley and Carteret. Ten years later, John Fenwick and Edward Byllinge, both Quakers, bought that section which the Duke of York had sold to Berkeley. Within a short time, however, disputes arose between Fenwick and Byllinge concerning the division of this land, and William Penn was called upon to arbitrate their differences. In the carrying out of this business, Penn's letters to Fenwick show him to have been greatly put out by the attitude and utterances of the latter.

Eventually, Penn decreed nine-tenths of the tract to Byllinge, and the remaining one-tenth to Fenwick. But Byllinge, being in financial straits, was compelled almost immediately to sell his interest to satisfy his creditors, and these creditors in turn arranged that Penn should act in the matter with two of themselves as a board of trustees. Fenwick then sold his holdings to two other Friends, Eldridge and Warner. Thus they, together with Penn and his two fellow trustees, became masters of what was known then as West Jersey.

These five proprietors appointed three commissioners and gave to them certain instructions which were dated in London, August 6, 1676. These instructions were to the effect that the Commissioners should settle remaining disputes with Fenwick, purchase new territories, and build a town—this latter becoming Burlington.

It is now that we come to what may be considered the crystallization of Penn's real interest in America, which probably first was inspired during his arbitration of the Fenwick-Byllinge disputes. For it was to administer this new colony, at what was to become Burlington, that Penn drew up a constitution known as The Concessions and Agreements of the Proprietors, Freeholders and Inhabitants of West Jersey in America. And it was this Constitution, commonly called the Concessions and eventually signed by one hundred and forty names, which,

as already has been said, set forth the fundamental principles which were to be incorporated in the Bill of Rights of our Federal Constitution, one hundred and thirteen years later.

Penn had much within his own personal experience upon which to draw in the preparation of this relatively little known but historic document. Imprisoned time after time because of his courageous adherence to the principles of his faith, and dealt with harshly, cruelly and arbitrarily, Penn knew how much it could mean to human liberty and the freedom of conscience, if all men, when accused, could be assured of common justice through fair trial by jury.

For example, it was as an aftermath of his arrest for preaching in Gracechurch Street, upon his return to London from Ireland in 1670, that a jury first claimed for itself the right to decide a case in opposition to the ruling of the court. Penn saw the members of that jury punished for their revolutionary independence; but then and there, in a procedure where William Penn himself was the central figure, a new principle of justice was established.

It is not surprising, therefore, to find that the Concessions and Agreements provided for trial by a jury composed of men of the neighborhood; and further set forth the principle that no proprietor, freeholder or inhabitant of the province should be deprived of life, limb, liberty, property, privileges, freedom or franchise, without due process of law, or without trial.

Protection of the accused under indictment; the right to plead his own case, to punish false witnesses and to have his friends present in open court during the trial—these and many similar provisions threw every safeguard around an accused person. In the language of one distinguished interpreter, "these guarantees protected him from oppression and slavery." It went further than that, for the Concessions and Agreements laid the foundation for the subsequent and much more widely known Bill of Rights.

In the Concessions we find the principle that the people shall be taxed only by representatives of their own choosing, is firmly established in the prohibition against the levying of any tax, custom, assessment, or any other duties whatsoever, without the consent of the General Assembly which also was set up by the Concessions.

The later provision of the Bill of Rights against unreasonable search and seizure, was anticipated in the Concessions in the stipulation that no one should be attached, arrested or imprisoned—except in criminal or treasonable cases—without a reasonable summons, which he should have at least fourteen days to answer.

Liberty of speech was guaranteed in the Assembly, and it was provided that every member of the Assembly should be allowed "a shilling a day, in order that he may be known as a servant of the people."

But, in the words of the Hon. Edward C. Stokes, a former Governor of New Jersey, "Religious liberty provided the crowning declaration." For—and again anticipating our Federal Constitution by more than a century—it was set forth in the Concessions that no man or set of men should have the power or authority to rule over men's consciences in religious matters.

This part of the Concessions and Agreements provided that "no person whatsoever shall upon any pretense whatsoever, be called in, questioned, or in the least hurt either in personal estate or privilege, for his opinion, faith or worship toward God in matters of religion."

And again quoting Governor Stokes:

"This declaration of religious liberty shines out like a star in the darkness of the night of prejudice. Prejudice had no place, intolerance was banished; Jew, Catholic, Negro and all religions were permitted on this free Quaker soil. Nowhere else in all the world could there be found such a liberal religious spirit. These concessions were even stronger than the Bill of Rights in their details and phraseology. Neither the great charter of Virginia nor the Mayflower Compact compares with them in liberality, tolerance and the protection of individual rights.

"In Massachusetts, there were fifteen crimes punishable by death, when in this Quaker colony there were possibly two—murder and treason—and they were referred to the General Assembly for final decision. So sacred was this charter held that it was to be written in every hall of justice within the province, and read in solemn manner four times a year in the presence of the people by the Chief Magistrate of the Courts, and in the opening and dissolving of the free Assembly—a custom that might be profitably observed in the reading of our Constitution."

Although the new continent presumably was the haven of those seeking freedom from the persecutions and oppressions which were rife in Europe, the fact is that in practically every part of the new domain, except that which was taken up by the Quakers, those who had fled from the injustices arising out of bigotry and intolerance, became, in turn, themselves the persecutors and oppressors of all who did not abide by their own narrow strictures.

It was practically inevitable, therefore, that William Penn, in drafting this great charter of human rights, should so intensify his own interest in this continent and its possibilities—both spiritual and material—that it was here he should look for the opportunity to establish the civil and religious freedom which he had been so vigorously preaching in Europe.

Penn's father died September 16, 1670, at the early age of 49, leaving to his son, William, an income of 1500 pounds a year and a claim

upon the Crown for 16,000 pounds, which Admiral Penn had loaned to Charles the Second. It was six years after his father's death that Penn drew up the Concessions and Agreements, meanwhile having arbitrated the Fenwick-Byllinge differences and become one of the five proprietors of that section of New Jersey which originally had been sold to Lord Berkeley. One can imagine his crystallizing thoughts of the possibilities here in America, as Penn suffered many and varied injustices, during the long period when his preaching tours were interrupted by protracted periods of imprisonment.

Let's see, then, what perspective confronted Penn, as he mentally surveyed the eastern section of this new continent, so far as the development of it had taken place. The Puritans held Massachusetts, from which they had driven Roger Williams and the Quakers. And they were practicing persecutions worse than those from which they themselves had fled from England. For, in the name of the law and religious freedom, they were burning "witches" at the stake, lopping off ears, and indulging in many other cruel and barbarous practices.

Below Massachusetts, was what is now the State of New York, already allocated. New Jersey had been parcelled out after having been allotted to Lord Berkeley and Carteret. Maryland had come under the control of Lord Baltimore. The Cavaliers had Virginia. The Carolinas were in possession of a group of spendthrifts whose domain extended practically from Virginia to Florida, which latter area still belonged to Spain.

Only between the New York boundary on the north, and the Maryland line on the south, west of the Delaware River, was there an immense section to which no claim had been laid, to which no grants had been made. On June 24, 1680, therefore, Penn asked the Crown to repay the debt which he had inherited from his father, by conveying to him this section which subsequently became Pennsylvania. There followed some disputes with James, Duke of York, and with Lord Baltimore. But, these being ironed out, the royal signature was put to the grant under date of March 14, 1681.

That, briefly, is a sketch of the circumstances which first aroused and then formulated Penn's interest in the colonization of Pennsylvania. And we know the story of how, with one hundred comrades, he set sail from Deal, for these shores, in the ship "Welcome," September 1, 1682. It was a harrowing trip, during which one-third of the company succumbed to smallpox; but on October 27 they arrived at New Castle on the Delaware, and subsequently stopped at the Swedish settlement, Upland, which Penn re-christened Chester.

John Wright, an adherent to the doctrines and discipline of the Society of Friends, was a contemporary of William Penn. This resourceful and enterprising pioneer acquired from Penn much of that

spiritual and material enterprise which not only marked his own life, but which he imbued into the groundwork of the enduring progress and patriotism of Lancaster County.

After this address, Doctor Beck said he felt the occasion would not be complete without a greeting from our sister county of York, as John Wright had owned land and had lived on both sides of the river. He then introduced Judge Harvey Gross, of York, who had taken the place of Judge Henry Niles. Judge Gross said he was delighted to bring this greeting from not a "sister county" but from a "daughter county," as York County was really a part of Lancaster County. He spoke of the great value of the old Wright's Ferry, being the real gateway to the West for the pioneers whose wisdom and perseverance made possible our own unity and greatness. He then said we should all praise God that the Susquehanna was not the river Rhine today.

GREETINGS FROM YORK COUNTY

The address of Judge Gross follows:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am honored by having been asked by Honorable Henry C. Niles, President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of York County, and also President of the York County Historical Society, to act as his substitute on the program for this memorable historic occasion.

I regret very much that Judge Niles was not able to be here this afternoon and participate personally in these exercises. Judge Niles is a very fine historian, and I am sure his message to this audience would be very much more enlightening and beneficial than my few extemporaneous remarks will be.

I was very much pleased with the address of Senator Grundy and particularly to hear that John Wright was a staunch Quaker. I, of course, knew this fact, but the mention of it by Senator Grundy gives me the opportunity to say that I also have descended from that religious class of people. I am very happy to say that my maternal ancestors crossed the Susquehanna River on John Wright's Ferry. Staunch Quakers they were, and located in what is now known as Warrington Township, York County, where they built a beautiful stone meeting house in the early 1700's in which they worshipped their God and which, today, stands as a proud memorial to all of their traditions and their fine Christian lives, which they lived.

Your chairman, Doctor Beck, has suggested that I devote about five or seven minutes in my extemporaneous remarks to the subject, "For Many Years, the Main Gateway into the Expanding West," which appears as part of the inscription on the tablet which has been unveiled this day.

Senator Grundy has so ably and profoundly given us the history of Eastern Pennsylvania, leading up to the establishment of John Wright's Ferry that there remains little to be said on that subject.

It is true that the Susquehanna River at one time marked the western frontier of our country, and if it had not been for the inspirations, as well as the aspirations of a God-fearing people, who desired to push their civilization and their culture into the West, the Susquehanna River would, perhaps not be a western frontier, but would be the boundary line between the thirteen original colonies and some other nation, perhaps unfriendly. The brave pioneers, who crossed the Susquehanna River at John Wright's Ferry, were determined by the help of God to push their civilization and culture westward, and westward it traveled until its unceasing progress was halted only by the shores of the Pacific Ocean. It was this western trend of these pioneers that made it possible for the geography of our country to extend from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. It was the indomitable purpose of this Christian civilization, which moved westward over and through America, that prevented what is now the United States from being made up of many small independent and, perhaps, warring nations which we find in other parts of the world, particularly in Central Europe. We can, therefore, praise God this afternoon that the Susquehanna River, flowing from New York State to the Chesapeake Bay is not the Rhine River, and when we look across this beautiful river and see the primeval, pristine hills of York County, we thank God that they are not the Sudeten Mountains between Germany and Czechoslovakia.

It was the inspirations and the aspirations of our early settlers, many of whom crossed at Wright's Ferry, that made possible the solidarity of this great country of ours with its boundless limitations in agriculture and natural resources, and it is by reason of these boundless limitations and the geography of our country that we are, thank God, located at a point further from war than any country in the world.

When we think of the present alarming conditions in this world, we are reminded that the author of the Book of Job little knew that what he wrote would have deeper significance today than when he said, "Man putteth forth his hand unto the rocks; he overturneth mountains by their roots; he cutteth out rivers from among the rocks; he bindeth the floods from overflowing; that which is hidden, he bringeth forth to light, but where shall wisdom be found? Man knoweth not the price thereof."

In the last hundred years or more, the curtain veiling the mysteries of life has been raised time and again, and we have made startling and almost unbounded progress in science, invention, education and discovery.

In the history of the world, it has been said that the path of progress is marked by five great events. By the revelations of astronomy; the discovery of America; the American and French Revolutions; by inventions, such as printing press, gun powder, electricity, telephone, telegraph and the radio, and by a better understanding of the theory of evolution.

The sociologist has believed that poverty and crime would soon be abolished. The scientist felt that the diseases which afflict humanity would soon be exterminated. Engineers and Industrialists believed that modern inventions would soon lift the burdens from the shoulders of men, thus giving them more time for education and development of culture. Religion was working fast towards a realization of the Fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man, and mankind everywhere was thinking before the World War, but not since, in terms of universal peace, as taught by the Prince of Peace.

We thought we had found wisdom and that it had solved all the troubles of this world. We believed that we had reached the point in the history of civilization when man could put forth his hand unto the rocks; overturn mountains; cut rivers from among them; bind up the floods from over-flowing and bring forth that which is hidden to light. What a delusion! What a disappointment! It is sad and discouraging to confess that all this wisdom which has been revealed to man during the past century, and which ought to be used for his happiness, is now about to be mis-used and for his destruction. Where shall we find wisdom? Man knoweth not the price thereof. Might a prayer for the peace, as taught and lived by Quaker John Wright and his contemporaries in the faith, be the wisdom to apply to the hearts of mankind at this time.

It has been most delightful for me to have been with my neighbors this afternoon on this historic occasion.

I shall report back to Judge Niles the extreme pleasure which he gave me by asking me to substitute for him, and the honor which you have so graciously conferred upon me in listening so attentively to my rambling remarks.

After singing our national anthem, the "Star Spangled Banner," led by the Choir, the bugler sounded "Taps," and the assembly dispersed. Mr. Rasbridge entertained the members of the Historical Society most hospitably within the old mansion, and one more pleasant and important piece of historical work of the Lancaster County Historical Society passed into history.

THE JAMES WRIGHT TABLET COMMITTEE

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